

The Council

The Long Run

As the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Capitol approaches in 2034, the Legislative Assembly continues to upgrade areas of the Capitol under the jurisdiction of the legislative branch to keep the historical building accessible to visitors and looking attractive. Since 2020, significant investments have been made in legislative committee rooms and the House and Senate Chambers to serve the public and the Legislative Assembly for the long run.

In 2020, committee rooms were constructed in areas of the judicial wing when executive branch agencies transitioned to remote work. Four large committee rooms were added in the judicial wing, which brought the total number of committee rooms in that area of the Capitol to six. In addition, to accommodate video in the House and Senate Chambers, the voting boards were replaced which allows members to attend floor sessions remotely and be visible to their colleagues.

Upcoming Meetings

February

- 11 Human Services
- 12 Health Care
- 23 Child Custody Review Task Force
- 25 Emergency Response Services
- 26 Energy Development and Transmission

March

- 4 Special Education Funding
- 12 Administrative Rules
- 24 Legislative Audit and Fiscal Review
- 26 Water Topics Overview
- 31 Agriculture and Water Management



PET SPOTLIGHT

Poppy conducts impact assessments on tennis balls and specializes in benefit analysis of treats. Strong support every time!

Dog lovers may have spied Poppy's littermates in front of the judges at the 2026 Westminster Kennel Club Dog show.

Can you guess my human?



Tail-Wagging Returns

North Dakotans spent \$50 million on pets in 2024.¹

Nationwide, pet industry spending is projected at more than \$150 billion annually, and pet spending continues to outpace many other consumer expenditure categories.²

¹ American Pet Products Association.

² U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

The Long Run continued

During the 2021-23 biennium, \$7 million in federal funds was allocated to fund improvements to the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems of the House and Senate Chambers and the Brynhild Haugland room. While that project was being completed, the ceilings in both chambers were painted.

During the 2023-25 biennium, cosmetic upgrades to the chambers included replacing carpet, which was about 2 decades old; replacing chairs, which also were about 25 years old; refinishing the rostrums; and upgrading the outlets on the desks. The Brynhild Haugland room also underwent major renovations, including removal of the stage, installation of an accessibility ramp and removal of the wheelchair lift, renovation of the ceiling, upgrades to the audio/visual systems, and installation of new carpeting. In addition, doors were replaced on most committee rooms and automatic openers were installed to provide greater accessibility.

During this biennium, additional work has been undertaken relating to the heating in some committee rooms and common areas in the legislative wing. Also completed is a major upgrade of the lighting in the chambers and Legislative Hall to replace lights that were a fire hazard and to replace switches and dimmers that were obsolete and failing. Soon, work will begin on replacing the windows in the Capitol, which is expected to last through the summer.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Jamie Steriotti

Jamie joined the Legislative Council as a Front Desk Specialist, bringing more than 25 years of administrative experience across a variety of industries. She grew up in Omaha and completed 8 years of coursework at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. After spending 7 years living just outside of Chicago, she relocated to Bismarck. Balancing two jobs leaves her with little free time, but she enjoys staying busy and takes pride in being someone others can rely on.

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