



# The Council

## Can't Stop, Won't Stop



Session may be over, but the legislature's work is not as preparations begin for the 2025-26 interim. In the coming weeks, the Legislative Management will meet to review the list of studies passed during the 2025 legislative session and decide which proposed studies, in addition to the mandatory studies, will be taken up for review during the interim. Once the Legislative Management finalizes its selected list of proposed studies, the subject matter of the selected studies will dictate which interim committees will be formed. These subject-specific interim committees will be in addition to the list of committees which are required to form pursuant to statute.

The eight statutorily mandated committees include the Administrative Rules Committee, Budget Section, Employee Benefits Programs Committee, Energy Development and Transmission Committee, Information Technology Committee, Legislative Audit and Fiscal Review Committee, Tribal and State Relations Committee, and Water Topics Overview Committee. Once the interim committee structure is established, legislators will be sent a questionnaire on which they may rank their preferred interim committees. The Legislative Management will review these preferences when assigning legislators to interim committees.

Committees generally will hold their first meeting in July or August and will enlist the help of the Legislative Council to provide staff services to the committees and conduct any research or bill drafting requested by the committees. Each committee will have roughly 16 months to complete its work conducting its assigned studies and receiving required reports.

In addition to the work of interim committees, work on measures for the next legislative session starts almost immediately upon the conclusion of the current one. The Legislative Council already has received the first bill draft request for the 2027 regular session. So, although session is over, the work of legislators and the Legislative Council certainly isn't!

## Employee Spotlight



**John Olheiser** joined the Legislative Council in 2021 as a legislative IT developer. He first started working for the state at the Information Technology Department in 2014, assisting with projects from various executive agencies. During his time with the Legislative Council, John has worked on developing and maintaining most applications in use by the Legislative Council and recently rewrote the bill tracking application and part of the accompanying North Dakota legislative daily mobile application.

John is a North Dakotan through and through, growing up in Mandan and earning his associate's degree from Bismarck State College and bachelor's degree in computer information systems from the University of Mary. When he's not in the office, John enjoys spending time with his wife, Nicole, and son, Bennet, tinkering with technology (mostly software), coaching his son's soccer team, and cooking.

## Session Statistics

<b>1,089</b>	Measures Introduced
<b>633</b>	Measures Enrolled
<b>566</b>	Measures Signed by Governor
<b>4</b>	Measures Vetoed
<b>0</b>	Veto Overrides
<b>9</b>	Pending w/ Governor

## Employee Spotlight



**Robert Tallman** joined the Legislative Council in 2015 and serves as a senior legislative administrative specialist. He assists with workflow, staff training, proofreading, and engrossing and enrolling.

Robert grew up in Mandan and attended the University of North Dakota, where he earned a bachelor's degree in computer science. Outside of work, he enjoys spending time with his two cats and playing fantasy football.

