



The Council

Energy Development and Transmission Committee

The Energy Development and Transmission Committee met on June 2 at the Energy and Environmental Research Center in Grand Forks to receive information relating to the committee's study of the impact of large energy consumers, including data centers, the electrical grid of the state, regulatory structure, and economic development. The committee also received annual reports from the State Energy Research Center regarding its research activities and accomplishments and the status and results of its salt cavern underground energy storage research project.

The committee received information from representatives of the Transmission Authority, Department of Environmental Quality, and Department of Water Resources regarding the state's role in regulating data centers.

The committee participated in a tour of Minnkota Power Cooperative facilities, including Minnkota's control center and the Walle substation. The committee also toured the Energy and Environmental Research Center and received presentations on advanced carbon capture, enhanced oil recovery, lignite coal and rare earth minerals, and salt cavern storage.

Higher Education Funding Review Committee

The Higher Education Funding Review Committee met on June 3 to receive information regarding low-completion programs at North Dakota University System institutions and to discuss potential enhancements or alternatives to the higher education funding formula. The University System office reported campuses have eliminated 112 academic programs since 2019, including 38 programs eliminated in 2026. The committee considered, but made no recommendation regarding a potential funding formula based primarily on full-time equivalent student enrollment, degree completions, and research expenditures.

North Dakota accepts four forms of identification for voting: a driver's license, nondriver ID, Tribal ID or Tribal letter, or a long-term care certificate. North Dakota voters are not required to register to vote, making it the only state in the nation without voter registration requirements.

Upcoming Meetings

June

- 10** Legislative Procedure and Arrangements
Water Topics Overview
- 11** Administrative Rules
Legislative Management
- 16** Advanced Nuclear Energy
- 17** Agriculture and Water Management
Judiciary
Legislative Audit and Fiscal Review
- 18-19** Higher Education Institutions
- 23** Tax Reform and Relief Advisory
- 24** Budget Section
(including divisions)
Tax Reform and Relief Advisory Subcommittee
- 30** Legislative Task Force on Government Efficiency

July

- 1** Information Technology
- 15** Health Care

Employee Spotlight



Daniel Egemo recently joined the Legislative Council as a Policy Analyst in the Policy and Program Evaluation Division. Originally from the South Dakota Black Hills area, he recently earned a master's degree in political science from the University of Missouri after receiving a bachelor's degree in political science from Black Hills State University. Outside of work, Daniel enjoys cooking, taking walks, and watching movies. His favorite film is *The Shining*.



Voter Turnout

Voter turnout varies significantly based on the type of election. General elections held during presidential election years typically draw more voters than those held during midterm years, while primary elections generally see lower turnout than general elections regardless of the year. In North Dakota, voter turnout was 43 percent in the 2022 general election, compared to 63 percent in the 2024 general election. Primary election turnout was considerably lower, with 19 percent of eligible voters participating in 2022 and 20 percent in 2024.

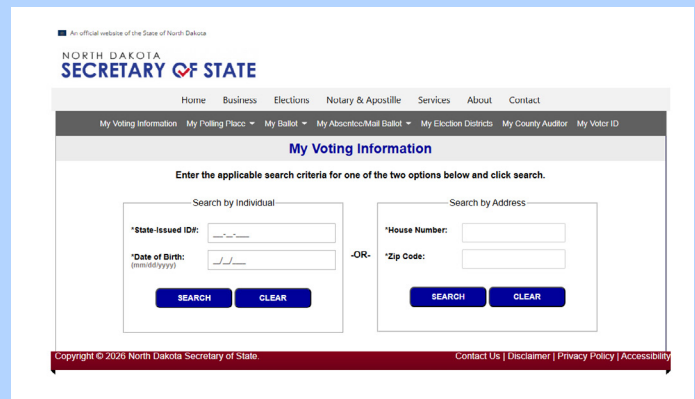
Did You Know? Voter Information

The Secretary of State's website serves as a one-stop resource for voters by providing information on the voting process. By entering a home address into the [My Voting Information](#) portal, a voter can view information specific to the voter's residence, including the polling location and a sample ballot.

Legislative district elections are conducted on a staggered, 2-year cycle. Districts elect members to 4-year terms, with even-numbered districts and odd-numbered districts alternating every biennial election. The 2024 election included the even-numbered districts; the upcoming election includes the odd-numbered districts. There are 74 seats in the Legislative Assembly up for election in 2026: 50 in the House and 24 in the Senate. A total of 149 candidates from across North Dakota have filed to run for those seats.

The North Dakota Century Code provides the primary election day is the second Tuesday in June of every general election year and the general election day is the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of even-numbered years.

Additional voter information and election resources can be found on the Secretary of State's [website](#).



Legislative Council staff members Alex Cronquist, Janet Drew, Jason Finsel, and Keith Mantz gathered in Jamestown last week to tour the State Hospital, the James River Correctional Center, and the construction site of the new State Hospital. While there, staff met with State Hospital Superintendent Aaron Olson and Medical Director Dr. Eduardo Yabut, along with James River Correctional Center Warden Chad Pringle.

During the 2025 legislative session, the Legislative Assembly approved \$300 million in funding for a new State Hospital in Jamestown. Construction on the facility began following a groundbreaking ceremony in August 2025.