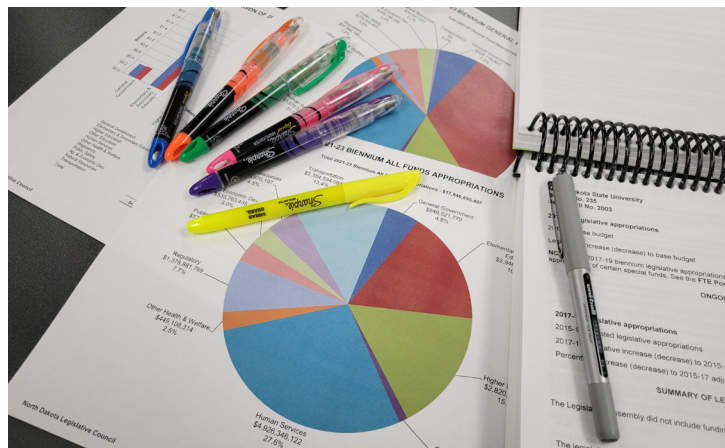


Budget Basics



Historically, before serving on the appropriations committees, legislators would serve on policy committees to gain valuable experience. With term limits becoming effective, there will be less time for legislators to develop a deep understanding of policy and the budgeting process. Legislative leadership and the Legislative Council implemented two measures during the 2023-24 interim to assist legislators with the learning process, particularly with gaining a more thorough understanding of the state budget and preparing for the 2025 legislative session.

The Legislative Council produced a series of 10 [Budget Basics](#) publications. The first edition of the series provided an overview of the state budget and the budgeting process. Subsequent editions provided overviews and summaries of general fund revenues, oil and gas tax revenues and allocations, appropriations, and

sources and uses of funds. After presenting background information, the Budget Basics focused on six of the largest state agency budgets--the Department of Public Instruction, the University System, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Information Technology Department, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, and the Department of Transportation.

The second initiative was expanding the work of the Budget Section to include appropriation division meetings after each Budget Section meeting. The division meetings included members from each of the appropriations standing committee divisions from the last legislative session. In addition, legislative leaders from each chamber met as a leadership division. The division meetings focused on receiving background information, including information on the purpose of funding included in agency base budgets, and updates regarding major budget areas. This preliminary work helped legislators be better prepared for the demands of addressing budgets during the 2025 legislative session. The Legislative Council remains committed to finding methods to provide legislators with the information and data needed to perform their constitutional duty of appropriating money for the operations of state government.



Employee Spotlight



Victoria Christian started working for the Legislative Council as a legal intern during the 2023 session before joining full-time in August 2024 as counsel. Her portfolio includes human services, health, and safety (public health, mental health, child abuse, domestic violence, protection and advocacy, civil rights, childcare, emergency medical services), probate, alcohol, tobacco, and drugs.

Victoria grew up in Grand Forks and attended the University of North Dakota where she earned a bachelor's degree in public affairs and biology and a master's degree in public administration with an emphasis in health policy. She received her juris doctorate from the UND School of Law. In her free time, Victoria enjoys spending time with her family, friends, and two cats, Oscar and Hank, experiencing new cultures and foods, gardening, and coaching pilates and strength training at Solidcore.

Employee Spotlight



Keith Mantz joined the Legislative Council in April 2024 and serves as a fiscal analyst. He previously worked as the Vice President of Finance at Dan's Supermarket and Chief Retail Officer at Capital Credit Union. Keith's portfolio includes the Department of Health and Human Services and the Insurance Department.

Keith grew up in Bismarck and, after spending 7 years living in Rapid City, South Dakota, moved back to Bismarck. He received his bachelor's degree in accounting from National College and his master's degree in business administration from the University of North Dakota. He earned his Certified Public Accountant's license in 1989. In his free time, Keith enjoys spending time with his wife, Sunny, and his three children, Alex, Andy, and Amanda, fishing, boating, hiking, traveling, and cruising around in his 1969 Chevelle SS.



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