



# The Council

## Legislative Management Updates

### Interim Committee Structure

On Thursday, the Legislative Management finalized committee membership for 26 interim committees for the 2025-26 interim. The full committee structure and membership details are available [here](#). In addition, the Legislative Management received information regarding the impact of scenarios involving lower than forecasted levels of oil production and lower oil prices, the impact of proposed federal funding reductions and rescissions, the status of redistricting litigation, and the opinion of the Attorney General relating to the veto errors.

### 2025-27 Biennium Estimated Oil and Gas Tax Allocations



The [memorandum](#) identifies the potential reduction of more than \$1.1 billion of oil tax collections and allocations if oil production and prices would decline during the 2025-27 biennium. The information is based on data presented by S&P Global in March 2025 indicating that oil production could decline below 1 million barrels per day due to exhaustion of the most productive areas of the Bakken, restrained oil development due to company mergers, market uncertainties, or a combination of these factors. Also, oil prices and production could decline due to price decreases related to excess oil supply in the global markets causing oil producers in North Dakota to decrease production, shutdown of the Dakota Access Pipeline limiting export capacity and discounting North Dakota oil prices associated with increased rail transportation costs, or a combination of these factors.

### Federal Funding Reductions and Rescissions

The memorandum entitled [Proposed Federal Funding Reductions and Rescissions](#) details the fiscal impact of the federal legislation and other reductions in federal funding. The federal budget reconciliation bill under consideration in Congress includes proposed changes to Medicaid and the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) that could result in the state receiving less federal funding. Federal funding rescissions and expirations identified for the 2023-25 biennium to date total nearly \$104 million.



### Attorney General Opinion Regarding Veto Errors

On June 10, 2025, the Attorney General released an opinion regarding the errors in the Governor's veto on Senate Bill No. 2014. The opinion indicated the Governor's objection letter, rather than his markings on the bill, demonstrated the intent of the line item veto.

The Legislative Management, in addition to the [legal analysis](#) previously provided by the Legislative Council, requested a [memorandum](#) analyzing the June 10, 2025, opinion.

## Employee Spotlight



Ron Zarr began his information technology career as a server administrator at Bismarck State College in 1999. His next career move was to the Information Technology Department, where he took on a desktop support role and then steadily advanced through positions in server support, team lead of desktop support, and desktop support manager. In 2021, Ron brought his experience to the Legislative Council as a legislative IT administrator. His areas of expertise include server infrastructure, email and user administration, cybersecurity, and device management.

Originally from Williston, Ron attended Bismarck State College and earned a bachelor's degree in applied science from Dickinson State University. Ron and his wife, Betsy, have two daughters, Brittany and Ambriella, and are proud grandparents to Kobe and Arianna. When he's not testing or writing reviews on the latest Apple product or software updates, Ron enjoys cycling, watching movies, and indulging his not-so-secret obsession with the Hulk.

## Redistricting Litigation Update

On May 14, 2025, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit issued a significant decision in *Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians v. Howe*, holding that private plaintiffs may not bring lawsuits to enforce Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act through 42 U.S.C. § 1983. As a result, the appellate court vacated the district court's prior judgment, which had imposed a redistricting map proposed by the plaintiffs, and ordered the case be dismissed for lack of a cause of action.



If the ruling stands, it will effectively reinstate the legislative district boundaries adopted by the Legislative Assembly during the 2021 special session, altering the current boundaries of Districts 9 and 15.

A memorandum entitled [Redistricting Litigation Update](#) provides additional information on the potential legislative implications.

