

# The Council

Legislative Council

## Questionable Judgment

At the conclusion of each legislative session, Legislative Council staff members often question their sanity after enduring the long hours during the months leading up to and during the session. Then, most get some rest and start preparing for the next session. A group of the staff members went through a similar experience last weekend.

Six runners and our dedicated coach and van driver participated in the Ragnar Sprint, running over 60 miles from Willow River to Duluth, Minnesota. Brady Mueller, John Olheiser, Patrick Walker, Kyle Cosman, Grant Gader, and John Bjornson departed Duluth at 3:45 a.m. Saturday morning, with Ron Zarr at the wheel of the van, to be ready for the 5:30 a.m. start in Willow River. After 11 hours of running and probably some walking and crawling, as well as some blood and sweat, the team arrived at the finish line in Duluth. Although no records were broken, no bones were broken--all in all, survival meant victory for the team! Similar to the post-session reflection, after a day or two of recovery the team is looking forward to improving their time next year.



## NCSL Executive Committee Appointment

At the Annual Summit of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), the Legislative Council's Legal Division Director, Emily Thompson, was selected to serve on the NCSL Executive Committee. Emily will be one of 16 legislative staff members nationally who will serve as an at-large member of the Executive Committee. With her appointment to the Executive Committee, Emily also will serve as a member of the NCSL Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee (LSCC), which is a group of legislative staff who serve in an advisory capacity to the Executive Committee and who oversee the legislative staff division of NCSL. The LSCC promotes professional development of legislative staff and reviews and evaluates NCSL services to over 30,000 legislative staff nationwide.

In the 50-year history of NCSL, only three other Legislative Council staff members have served on the NCSL Executive Committee. During that time, eight North Dakota legislators have been selected to serve on the Executive Committee. Congratulations, Emily, on this great achievement!

## Employee Spotlight



**Shannon Fleischer** joined the Legislative Council on August 11, 2025, as the Division Director for the Legislative Council's new Policy and Program Evaluation Division. She brings with her 18 years of experience from the Tax Department. Most recently, she worked as an Associate Director of Tax Administration for the Tax Commissioner.

Shannon grew up in northern Minnesota and graduated from the University of Minnesota Crookston with a bachelor's degree in accounting. She moved to Bismarck to pursue a career with state government. In her free time, Shannon enjoys spending time with her husband, Jon, and their children, Mason, Mads, and Rowan. She enjoys being outdoors, working in her garden, and solving puzzles, whether it be jigsaw, Sudoku, or crosswords.

## Upcoming Meetings

### August

- 18 Health Care
- 19 Tribal and State Relations
- 20 Emergency Response Services  
Information Technology
- 21-22 Higher Education Institutions
- 26 Judiciary  
Legislative Task Force on Government Efficiency
- 27 Energy Development and Transmission  
Higher Education Funding Review

### September

- 2 Administrative Rules
- 3 Advanced Nuclear Energy  
Special Education Funding
- 4 Human Services
- 11 Agriculture and Water Management
- 18 Water Topics Overview
- 30 Protection and Victim Services

### October

- 30 Employee Benefits Programs



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