The Council

Legacy and Budget Stabilization Fund Advisory Board

On August 12, the Legacy and Budget Stabilization Fund Advisory Board reviewed the status of the Legacy Fund, including the Bank of North Dakota's CD Match Program, which is an investment under the fund. As of May 31, 2026, the Legacy Fund had a balance of $15.05 billion and returned 17.4 percent for the fiscal year to date compared to a benchmark of 16.5 percent. The Retirement and Investment Office estimates the 2027-29 biennium distribution from the Legacy Fund may total $895 million, an increase of $208 million compared to the 2025-27 biennium distribution of $687 million. In compliance with North Dakota Century Code Section 21-10-06.3, a new Legacy Fund website is anticipated to go live in October 2026. The advisory board selected Senator Jerry Klein to serve as Chairman and Representative Jonathan Warrey to serve as Vice Chairman for next year.

Legislative Council Staff Volunteer During United Way Day of Caring

Staff from the Legislative Council volunteered at the Great Plains Food Bank as part of MSA United Way Day of Caring on August 12, sorting and repackaging bulk food items into household portions.

United Way Day of Caring brings volunteers together to support organizations and projects throughout the community. We were glad to spend part of the day lending a hand and supporting the work of the Great Plains Food Bank and MSA United Way!

Upcoming Meetings

August

- **18** Judiciary
- **19** Advanced Nuclear Energy
  Higher Education Funding Review
- **26** Tax Reform and Relief Advisory

September

- **1** Artificial Intelligence and Data Center
- **2** Special Session convenes
- **8** Agriculture and Water Management
- **9** Human Services
- **14** Administrative Rules
  Legislative Procedure and Arrangements
- **16** Special Education Funding
- **17** Water Topics Overview
- **21-22** Higher Education Institutions
- **22** Legislative Audit and Fiscal Review
- **24** Information Technology
- **29** Legislative Task Force on Government Efficiency

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Kratom Working Group

The Kratom Working Group, created by the Legislative Management Chairman in preparation for the upcoming special session, held its second meeting on August 12. The working group heard testimony from members of the public regarding kratom. The testimony ranged from support of the use of kratom to the need for regulation of or prohibition on the sale and possession of kratom or synthetic derivatives of the product. In addition, there was testimony relating to the dangerous effects of kratom and synthetic derivatives of kratom.

The committee also received testimony from scientific and clinical experts. A representative of the Crime Laboratory Division provided information on kratom, including its major and minor alkaloids and the impacts associated with kratom use. A practitioner at Sanford Health provided anecdotal information on kratom cases seen in pediatric practice and neonatal abstinence syndrome. A health care provider from the western part of the state provided testimony on the nature of kratom use in a rural community. Additionally, addiction medicine health practitioners provided information regarding their experience with kratom use disorder and treatment. A representative of the Public Health Division of the Department of Health and Human Services provided information regarding deaths and health care visits associated with kratom and kratom derivatives.

Employee Spotlight

Brittany Larghe recently joined the Legislative Council as a Front Desk Specialist. Before joining the Legislative Council, she worked as a Member Engagement Manager for Girl Scouts Dakota Horizons.

Brittany grew up in Wilton and graduated from Wilton High School.

Outside of work, she enjoys camping, competitive archery, spending time with her family, and reading. She recommends the book "Packing for Mars: The Curious Science of Life in the Void" by Mary Roach.

Artificial Intelligence and Data Center Committee

The Artificial Intelligence and Data Center Committee held its second meeting of the interim on August 13, at Minot State University. The meeting focused on artificial intelligence impacts on children, including sexual exploitation and chatbots.

The committee received information from the Legislative Council staff and the Bureau of Criminal Investigation on child exploitation crimes involving artificial intelligence. The committee also received information from a former commander of the United States Air Force Global Strike Command regarding national security implications associated with artificial intelligence.

The committee received testimony from the Superintendent of Public Instruction and state university professors regarding the effect of artificial intelligence on education, including the challenges faced by students and educators in navigating the use of artificial intelligence. Additionally, the committee received information from representatives of the Future of Life Institute and the Center for Responsible Technology regarding the impact of digital technologies on children.

Tax Reform and Relief Advisory Committee - Property Tax Statement Subcommittee

The Tax Reform and Relief Advisory Committee - Property Tax Statement Subcommittee met for its second and final meeting on August 10, 2026. The subcommittee received information regarding potential changes to the content of property tax statements, including the impact of applying the early payment discount before the primary residence credit. After discussing the content of the property tax statements, the subcommittee recommended a bill draft relating to the removal of the legislative property tax relief calculation from property tax statements and a supplemental property tax information grant program to reimburse participating counties for costs to provide supplemental property tax and budget information when the property tax statements are distributed.