

The Council

Employee Benefits Programs Committee

The Employee Benefits Programs Committee held its final meeting on October 28 to receive reports on the July 1, 2026, actuarial valuations of the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) Fund, Highway Patrolmen's Retirement System Fund, public safety funds, Job Service North Dakota Retirement System Fund, Retiree Health Insurance Credit Program Fund, and the Teachers' Fund for Retirement.

The committee was informed the funded ratio of the PERS main system defined benefit retirement plan was 73.1 percent and the unfunded actuarial accrued liability for the plan was $1.67 billion on July 1, 2026. The funded ratio was 71.3 percent and the unfunded actuarial accrued liability for the plan was $1.73 billion on July 1, 2025.

In addition to the $65 million of oil and gas tax revenue designated for transfer to the PERS Fund each biennium, PERS estimates $13.3 million of state funding will need to be transferred to the PERS Fund during the 2027-29 biennium to maintain the plan's projection of reaching 100 percent funded status by 2056.

The committee also approved a motion to provide a favorable recommendation on a bill draft relating to orthotic and prosthetic devices benefits coverage under the Uniform Group Insurance Program.



Upcoming Meetings

November

12-13 Legislative Management

Important Dates

November

3 General Election

25 Deadline for agencies and Supreme Court to prefile bills

30 New legislator training day

December

1-3 Organizational Session

11 Deadline for legislators to submit health insurance mandate bills

18 Deadline for legislators to prefile bills

Legacy and Budget Stabilization Fund Advisory Board

The Legacy and Budget Stabilization Fund Advisory Board met on October 28 to join a portion of the State Investment Board meeting. The Retirement and Investment Office presented information on a newly developed website for the Legacy Fund pursuant to North Dakota Century Code Section 21-10-06.3. The website provides information on Legacy Fund investments, including investment holdings by type and country, along with information regarding the history of the fund, uses of distributions from the fund, and frequently asked questions.

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Employee Spotlight



Yasmine Bakhti joined the Legislative Council as a Legislative Administrative Specialist I in the Administration and Operations Division. Prior to joining the Legislative Council, she spent 3 years teaching English in South Korea.

Yasmine grew up in Santa Cruz, California, and earned her bachelor's degree in humanities and a double minor in linguistics and anthropology from Washington State University. In her free time, she enjoys reading, knitting, and crocheting. She is currently reading An American Tragedy by Theodore Dreiser and highly recommends it.

Did You Know?

General Election Voter Information

Voters can head to the polls on Tuesday to cast their votes. The 2026 statewide ballot includes seven executive branch races, two seats on the North Dakota Supreme Court, and one seat in the United States House of Representatives.

Voters also can vote on two statewide ballot measures. Measure 1, a constitutional amendment proposed by the Legislative Assembly, would increase the percentage of votes required to approve future constitutional amendments from 50 percent to 60 percent. Measure 2, a citizen-initiated constitutional amendment, would require public schools and public charter schools to provide one breakfast and one lunch to students, with costs reimbursed by the state. Nonpublic schools, Bureau of Indian Education schools, and other tribal schools would have the option to opt-in to the program. Funding would come from the Legacy Earnings Fund if the Legislative Assembly cannot identify another funding source.

Additional items on the 2026 ballot include 75 seats in the Legislative Assembly, district court judgeships, county offices, and local ballot measures.

The Secretary of State's website serves as a one-stop resource for voters by providing information on the voting process. A voter can view information specific to the voter's residence, including the polling location and a sample ballot, by entering their house number and zip code in the My Voting Information portal.



The Legislative Council staff embraced the spirit of Halloween with a costume contest while raising money for the United Way. Staff also decorated the 15th floor with balloon arches.



A New Era for Bill Drafting

This week, the Legislative Council is officially rolling out its new bill drafting system. The new drafting system will replace the outdated drafting system and includes a variety of time-saving features, including automated document checks and title generation. The new system also is programed to include the caption to a Century Code section when a bill is amending less than a full section of Century Code, which provides the reader helpful context regarding the section being amended. As a result of needing to redraft all existing bill drafts to transition them to the new system, legislators may notice some subtle differences in the bill drafts previously linked to their legislator dashboards, such as the addition of these captions. We appreciate your patience as we finalize the redrafting and roll over to the new system.