



The Council

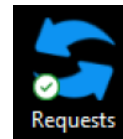
Legislator Prefiling Deadline is Coming Up!



The bill prefiling deadline is quickly approaching. Legislators may prefile bills they wish to introduce for the 2025 legislative session through **Friday, December 20, 2024**. Bills must be prefiled using the Legislator Requests Application. By logging into your Requests Application ([full user guide linked here](#)), you can see all the bill drafts you requested during the interim

under your "Draft Requests" tab on your dashboard. Bill drafts that are complete will have a hyperlinked blue LC number.

If you would like to prefile a bill without adding any cosponsors, you can click the blue "Prefile" link to the far right of the bill draft LC number. If you would like to add cosponsors before prefiling, you can click on the "Request Cosponsors" tab and then the "Add/Edit" button to the right of your listed bill draft. Up to 5 cosponsors may be added on Senate bills and up to 11 cosponsors may be added on House bills. You can set the deadline by which you would like your cosponsors to respond to your cosponsor request. Once you have received confirmation from the desired number of cosponsors, you may prefile your bill by clicking on the "Requests Overview" tab and then on the blue "Prefile" link to the far right of your listed bill draft. This action will generate a pop-up summary box that lists any individuals who have agreed to cosponsor your bill and contains the final button to click to officially prefile your bill.



Desktop Icon

If you miss the prefiling deadline, you may resume filing bills on the first day of the legislative session. You may not add or remove cosponsors after you have prefiled your bill and prefiled bills only may be withdrawn from the floor after the legislative session begins. Prefiled bills will begin posting to the Legislative Branch website as they are processed.

Employee Spotlight



John Bjornson started at the Legislative Council in 1988 and has served as director since 2018. He grew up in Edinburg and attended UND and the UND School of Law. When he's not working, he enjoys traveling with his wife Jodi. Their trip to Iceland last summer ranked as the top destination so far. He stays active by running (not very fast) and walking his dog. But, he has no problem spending summer nights in the backyard watching sports on TV.

Being the holiday season, John's inner Clark Griswold comes out and he loves to decorate his house. He also counteracts his exercise by enjoying holiday treats and claims to be able to whip up a pretty good batch of fudge.

Employee Spotlight



Allen Knudson began working at the Legislative Council in 1987 and became the Legislative Budget Analyst and Auditor in 2008. Before joining the Legislative Council, Allen grew up in Glenburn, and attended Minot State University.

When not at work, Allen enjoys family activities with his wife Kari, four daughters, two sons-in-law, and two grandchildren (with two more on the way). He enjoys playing volleyball (fortunately the younger ones on the team do most of the work), gardening, playing most any game, currently Sorry (competitive, speed style) is near the top of the list, being involved in church activities with Riverstone Church, and helping with a summer youth Bible Camp at Circle C Ranch.

After so many disappointing seasons supporting the Minnesota Vikings, he is extremely optimistic that this is the year for the Vikings to win the Super Bowl.

Important Dates

Prefile Deadline: Dec. 20

Holidays: Dec. 24-25; Jan. 1

Session Begins: Jan. 7

From the Director

Welcome to the first edition of *The Council*. Our goal is to share timely information regarding the legislative process and the activities of the Legislative Council. Also, we intend to include employee spotlights to help you better get to know the Legislative Council staff.

Because we know we will have to do some arm twisting to get staff members to "volunteer" for the spotlight, we are starting with the old-timers on the staff, Allen Knudson and me. With our 48 full-time employees, we have a little over 300 years of experience. Allen and I account for nearly a quarter of those years with almost 75 years between us.

Because the most common questions being posed to me recently have related to the number of bill drafts being requested, my messages in the next few weeks likely will include updates on bill draft requests and introduced bills. We have received about 750 requests for bill drafts, which is similar to the number received by the first week of the 2023 legislative session. For several months, we have been trending about 1 to 2 months ahead of the previous interim's bill draft count. One area in which we have seen a decrease is the number of bills submitted by the judicial and executive branches through the agency bill introduction privilege.

We look forward to continuing with weekly updates and we welcome your comments and input.

John Bjornson, Director