LEGISLATIVE ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION
Under Constitution and Statute
FIRST DAY - TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2026

9:00 - 11:15 a.m. New legislators meet in the Brynhild Haugland Room for presentations on the following topics:

- Legislative Council services to legislators (15 minutes) - *John Bjornson, Director, Legislative Council*
- Division of powers and duties among the three branches of government - Responsibilities of the legislative branch (15 minutes) - *Emily Thompson, Legal Division Director, Legislative Council*
- Legislative branch structure - Committees, officers, employees (10 minutes) - *Shannon Fleicher, Policy and Program Evaluation Division Director, Legislative Council*
- Affiliated organizations:

  Council of State Governments and Council of State Governments Midwest (20 minutes) - *Joseph Dell'Olio, Policy Analyst and North Dakota Liaison*

  National Conference of State Legislatures (15 minutes) - *Karmen Hanson, Senior Fellow and North Dakota Liaison*

  Midwestern Higher Education Commission (15 minutes) - *John Burczek Dreier, Vice President of Policy and Research*

  Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (15 minutes) - *Demaree Michelau, President*

  Education Commission of the States (15 minutes) - *Deven Scott, Senior Director, State and Board Relations, and Kinsey Kutilek, State Relations Strategist*

9:00 - 10:30 a.m. Returning legislator laptop computer training session in the Roughrider Room. The session is 90 minutes in length and is limited to 15 legislators. Training courses also are available online as video training that may be taken at your convenience. The Legislative Council Information Technology staff encourages returning legislators to use the video training instead of signing up for classroom training courses. Signup lists are at the Legislative Council reception desk. Training includes a refresher on the laptop computers, virtual private network (VPN), legislative applications, Legislator's Automated Work Station (LAWS) system, document synchronization between laptop and tablet computers, email quota and archive, correspondence templates, printing, and remote desktop support network access.

9:00 - 10:30 a.m. Returning legislator tablet computer training session in the Harvest Room. The session will be 90 minutes in length and is limited to 15 legislators. Training courses also are available online as video training that may be taken at your convenience. The Legislative Council Information Technology staff encourages returning legislators to use the video training instead of signing up for classroom training courses. Signup lists are at the Legislative Council reception desk. This training includes VPN, legislative applications, operating system and application updates, creating and editing documents, note taking, document synchronization between laptop and tablet computers, remote network access, and other topics.

1:00 p.m. Senate and House convene in respective chambers

Order of Business

Senate	House
1. Call to order by the Lieutenant Governor	1. Call to order by Acting Speaker (See NDCC Section 54-03-04)
2. Prayer by Pastor Keith Ritchie, Cornerstone Community Church	2. Prayer by Pastor Bruce Irwin, Gospel Home Church
3. Certification of members by Secretary of State	3. Certification of members by Secretary of State

4. Roll call
5. Chief Justice Lisa K. Fair McEvers administers Oath of Office to newly elected members
6. Adoption of temporary rules
7. Explanation and distribution of legislators' packets and other materials - *John Bjornson*

4. Roll call
5. Justice Jarod E. Tufte administers Oath of Office to newly elected members
6. Adoption of temporary rules
7. Explanation and distribution of legislators' packets and other materials - *Emily Thompson*

1:45 p.m. Recess

2:00 p.m. Caucuses of respective parties for discussion of organizational matters in assigned rooms:
Senate Majority - Pioneer Room
Senate Minority - Fort Lincoln Room
House Majority - Brynhild Haugland Room
House Minority - Prairie Room

2:20 p.m. Senate and House reconvene

Senate

8. Election of Secretary of the Senate
9. Election of Journal Reporter
10. Election of Sergeant-at-Arms
11. Lieutenant Governor administers Oath of Office to Secretary of the Senate, Journal Reporter, and Sergeant-at-Arms
12. Election of President Pro Tempore
13. Selection of seats
14. Appointment of procedural committees:
    a. Temporary committee to inform Governor and House that Senate is organized (3)
    b. Committee on Committees (8)
    c. Delayed Bills (5)
    d. Committee Rooms (3)
    e. Employment (5)
    f. Correction and Revision of the Journal (3)
    g. Rules (8)

House

8. Election of Chief Clerk of the House
9. Election of Journal Reporter
10. Election of Sergeant-at-Arms
11. Acting Speaker administers Oath of Office to Chief Clerk of the House, Journal Reporter, and Sergeant-at-Arms
12. Election of Speaker and administration of Oath of Office by Acting Speaker
13. Selection of seats
14. Appointment of procedural committees:
    a. Temporary committee to inform Governor and Senate that House is organized (3)
    b. Committee on Committees (11)
    c. Delayed Bills (5)
    d. Committee Rooms (3)
    e. Employment (5)
    f. Correction and Revision of the Journal (5)
    g. Rules (7)

15. Committee and administrative announcements:
    a. Each legislator must meet with the photographer to take an official photograph before adjournment.
    b. Training courses for returning legislators also are available online as video training that may be taken at your convenience. The Legislative Council Information Technology staff encourages returning legislators to use the video training instead of signing up for classroom training courses scheduled for Wednesday. Signup lists are at the Legislative Council reception desk.

3:00 p.m. Adjournment until 8:30 a.m. Wednesday

3:15 p.m. Meeting of Rules and Employment Committees of each house in announced rooms
Meeting of Senate Committee on Committees and House Committee on Committees
Meeting of any other committee at the call of the chairmen as announced prior to recess

3:15 - 5:00 p.m.	Returning legislators meet with the photographer to take an official photograph
3:15 - 5:15 p.m.	New legislator tablet computer distribution and training session in the Brynhild Haugland Room. The session will be 2 hours in length and is required to receive equipment.

SECOND DAY - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2026

8:30 a.m.	Reconvene in respective chambers Prayer by chaplain Senate - Pastor Rich Wyatt, Living Hope Church of the Nazarene House - Pastor Keith Ritchie, Cornerstone Community Church Roll call and announcements
8:40 a.m.	**Joint Session - House Chamber** Report of findings and recommendations of interim committees by the Chairman of the Legislative Management, the Director of the Legislative Council, the Legislative Budget Analyst and Auditor, and the Legal Division Director of the Legislative Council (20 minutes) Presentation on the workplace harassment policy and legislative ethics and laws, social media, and rules governing the activities and conduct of public officials (10 minutes) - *Liz Fordahl, Counsel, Legislative Council* Presentation on workplace harassment and legislative ethics (35 minutes) - *Video* Remarks on workplace harassment and legislative ethics (10 minutes) - *Majority and Minority Leaders* Training session on legislator security and best practices (30 minutes) - *Highway Patrol*
11:00 a.m.	Adjournment until 8:00 a.m. Thursday
11:10 - 11:40 a.m.	Majority and Minority Leaders and other interested individuals meet in the Prairie Room for training on receiving and processing workplace harassment complaints (30 minutes) - *Emily Thompson and Liz Fordahl*
11:10 a.m.	New legislators meet in the Brynhild Haugland Room for presentations and a question and answer session on the legislative process: • Explanation of the daily routine of the House and Senate - Floor procedures, orders of business, "carrying" bills (10 minutes) - *Leah Costik, Policy Analyst, Legislative Council* • Explanation of the procedure a bill follows to become law - Introduction, hearings, amendment, crossover, conference committee, final passage, presentation to Governor (10 minutes) - *Video* • Explanation of unique statutory requirements for certain bills (5 minutes) - *Victoria Christian, Counsel, Legislative Council*
12:30 - 2:00 p.m.	New legislators meet with the photographer to take an official photograph
12:30 - 2:00 p.m.	Returning legislator laptop computer training session in the Roughrider Room. The session is 90 minutes in length and is limited to 15 legislators. Training courses also are available online as video training that may be taken at your convenience. The Legislative Council Information Technology staff encourages returning legislators to use the video training instead of signing up for classroom training courses. Signup lists are at the Legislative Council reception desk. Training includes a refresher on the laptop computers, VPN, legislative applications, LAWS, document synchronization between laptop and tablet computers, email quota and archive, correspondence templates, printing, and remote desktop support network access.
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2:15 p.m. Caucuses of respective parties for discussion of legislative rules amendments:
Senate Majority - Pioneer Room
Senate Minority - Fort Lincoln Room
House Majority - Brynhild Haugland Room
House Minority - Prairie Room
Meetings of committees at call of the committee chairmen

2:45 p.m. Legislators not otherwise occupied meet in the Brynhild Haugland Room for presentations on the purpose and use of legislative documents:

- Bills, resolutions, amendments (committee reports), Session Laws, and North Dakota Century Code - *Austin Gunderson, Council, Legislative Council*
- Daily calendars, weekly committee schedules, journals, and bill status - *Daniel Egemo, Policy Analyst, and David Dempsey, Policy Analyst, Legislative Council*
- Revenues, the budgeting process, budget status reports, fiscal notes, and executive budget report - *Legislative Council Fiscal Staff*
- Library orientation - Legislative Council's library and records - *Kylah E. Aull, Research and Archives Manager, Legislative Council*

2:45 - 4:15 p.m. New legislators meet with the photographer to take an official photograph

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THIRD DAY - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2026

8:00 a.m. Call to order in respective chambers
Prayer by chaplain
Senate - Pastor Bruce Irwin, Gospel Home Church
House - Pastor Rich Wyatt, Living Hope Church of the Nazarene
Roll call
Recess

8:10 a.m. Caucuses of respective parties for discussion of committee assignments:
Senate Majority - Pioneer Room
Senate Minority - Fort Lincoln Room
House Majority - Brynhild Haugland Room
House Minority - Prairie Room

8:40 a.m.	Reconvene Committee reports (including announcements of standing committee appointments) Selection and administration of oath of any officer not selected on Tuesday Adoption of permanent rules All other unfinished business Announcements
9:40 a.m.	Recess
9:55 a.m.	Reconvene in House Chamber
10:00 a.m.	**Joint Session - House Chamber** Presentation by the Governor of the executive budget and revenue proposals
10:45 a.m.	Adjourn
11:15 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.	Budget Section convenes in the Senate Chamber to receive detailed information regarding the executive budget and to conduct other business. All legislators named to the Appropriations Committees, the Majority and Minority Leaders and their assistants, and the Speaker of the House serve on the Budget Section. Other legislators also may attend the Budget Section meeting.
12:00 noon - 5:00 p.m.	Returning legislators meet with the photographer to take an official photograph
3:00 - 3:30 p.m.	New committee chairmen meet in the Prairie Room to review the desk manual for committee chairmen - *Megan J. Gordon, Code Revisor and Kylah E. Aull*
3:30 - 4:00 p.m.	Mentorship opportunity - Question and answer session for new and returning committee chairmen