

Statewide Coalition Launches Campaign to Preserve Local Control and Essential Services in North Dakota

Donnell Preskey | Government/Public Relations Specialist

Several county officials joined in the launch of the Keep It Local coalition to work to educate citizens on the impacts of the proposed measure to eliminate property taxes. The coalition represents various community and political subdivision groups in North Dakota. The main goal of the coalition is to preserve essential local services and safeguard local control.

The proponents have submitted signatures for the constitutional measure to be on the November general election ballot. The North Dakota Secretary of State has 35 days to review the petitions to determine validity.

If passed, the measure would significantly impact the ability of local governments to fund vital services through property tax revenue. Instead of local officials listening to the concerns of their citizens and ensuring their budget addresses the needs of the community, local government will need to go to the state legislature to request funds for a new school, additional officers, road funding, etc.

"Supporters of the measure claim that we can maintain excellent public services without paying property taxes," remarked Josh Askvig, AARP ND State Director. "They often claim that we can use the Legacy Fund to



The Keep It Local Coalition announced opposition to the measure in Bismarck and Fargo. AARP State Director Josh Askvig is at the podium. NDCCA President Joan Hollekim, Board Member Neal Messer, and Morton County Sheriff Kyle Kirchmeier can be seen behind Askvig.

cover the funding gap. However, the specifics on this funding source are limited and come painfully short of addressing the deficit."

If the measure were to pass, the state legislature would be tasked with providing annual property tax revenue replacement payments to

"There is no long term fiscal plan connected with this measure. It only commits funds to local political subdivisions at 2024 levels. Stark County can't build and maintain a mile of road or run our Sheriff's department at the same cost we did five years ago, and we certainly will not be able to provide those services five years from now at the same cost we do today." – Neal Messer, NDCCA Vice President (Stark)

political subdivisions, amounting to approximately \$1.329 billion per year to cover the funding gap.

"This proposed measure is promising a quick fix, but the consequences would be dire for our communities," remarked Traill County Sheriff Steve Hunt, president of the North Dakota Sheriffs and Deputies Association. "While no one enjoys paying taxes, property taxes are the lifeblood of our local services. From funding schools and public safety to maintaining roads and parks, property taxes ensure that our communities remain vibrant and safe places to live."

More than 60 associations and member groups have joined the Keep It Local coalition including the ND Association of Counties, ND Sheriffs & Deputies Association and the ND State Association of City and County Health Officials. You can learn more about the Keep It Local Coalition at www.keepitlocalnd.org.

Register Now for Countyfest! (a.k.a. Annual Conference)

Jeff Eslinger | County News Editor

Mark your calendars for October 20-22 for the ND Counties Annual Conference in Bismarck. There will be great sessions, exhibitors and networking!

This year's theme "Countyfest" celebrates counties in the tradition of Oktoberfest celebrating harvest. So, dust off your lederhosen, put a feather in your



Alpine hat, and join your fellow county officials to exchange ideas, learn and celebrate our accomplishments.

Our featured keynote speaker is Christopher Carter, an expert

presenter known for delivering hard-hitting content with energy and humor. Drawing upon his expertise in communication and body language, he speaks on customer service, teamwork, and developing a customer-focused mindset.

As a major bonus, Mr. Carter will dazzle and entertain from the stage on Monday evening with his amazing

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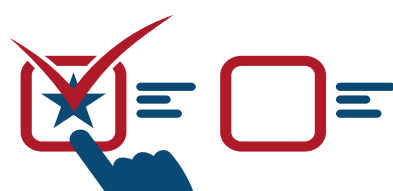
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County QUICK FACTS

Eligible Voter Turnout PERCENTAGES

2024 Primary.....	20.11%
2022 Primary.....	18.79%
2022 General.....	42.93%
2020 Primary.....	27.54%
2020 General.....	62.65%
2018 Primary.....	19.81%
2018 General.....	57.04%
2016 Primary.....	24.51%
2016 General.....	61.29%



The Integrity of North Dakota Elections

North Dakota counties play a vital role in election administration. The county auditor ensures that North Dakota's election laws are upheld and that elections are conducted securely, accurately, and with integrity. The Office of the Secretary of State is providing key election information to the readers of County News to spread the truth about our election processes and provide insight into the integrity of our election systems. This issue will feature the certification of election results.

Once polls close on Election Day, work begins to close out the location, tabulate results, securely store ballots, and certify results. On election night,

NORTH DAKOTA SECRETARY OF STATE

votes are reported as unofficial results. The results remain unofficial until they are certified by the county and state canvassing boards.

Closing Polling Locations

After polls close, a bipartisan election board at each polling site certifies results using a canvass report which provides an accounting of the votes cast for each contest. The election board reviews numbers between voter check-ins,

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From Williams to Cass
and everywhere in-
between, our team of
engineers and architects
are here to serve the
needs of your county.

Board Member PROFILE



SHIRLEY MURRAY
ND County Auditors Association
Sheridan County Auditor

What is your favorite thing about being an Auditor? It’s never boring! I like that it is always challenging.

What caused you to decide to run for office? I always liked working with numbers and in a small town, I didn’t have a lot of options until the Deputy Auditor position opened up. I served four years before the Auditor of 40 years retired and I got the job.



Family: I have been married for 40 years. My husband recently retired. We have a son in Bismarck with family (three grandchildren) and a daughter in Wilton with four stepchildren.

Other things you are involved in: Manager for low-income apartments and managed city park until recently.

Movies: Comedies, probably favorite is *Mama Mia* because you can sing along with it.

Music: 80s music like Def Leppard but also some country like Kenny Chesney and Luke Combs

Something people probably don’t know about you: I have a side gig of being an ambassador with Forever.com, <https://www.forever.com/ambassador/shirleymurray>, which is a digital photo storage and organizing company.

<div><div>NORTH DAKOTA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES</div></div> <div>NDACo Executive Committee<div>Jayme Tenneson, President Nelson/Griggs Trudy Ruland, 1st Vice President Mountrail Chad Kaiser, 2nd Vice President..... Stutsman Nick Moser, 3rd Vice President..... Cavalier Steve Lee, Past President..... McLean</div></div> <div>Directors<div>Beau Anderson..... Williams Jamee Folk..... Mercer Tony Grindberg..... Cass Steve Forde..... Nelson Becky Hagel..... Foster Lori Hanson..... Mountrail Kim Jacobson..... Agassiz Valley Erica Johnsrud..... McKenzie Wanda Knutson..... Mercer Dana Larsen..... Ward Shirley Murray..... Sheridan Scott Ouradnik..... Slope Kelly Palm..... Griggs</div></div> <div>Ex Officio Members<div>Perry Turner (McIntosh)..... NACo Board Robert Wilson (Cass)..... NACo Board Joan Hollekim (Mountrail)..... NDCCA President</div></div> <div>NRG Technology Services Staff: See page 6</div>	<div><div>NORTH DAKOTA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION</div></div> <div>NDCCA Executive Committee<div>Joan Hollekim, President..... Mountrail Neal Messer, Vice President..... Stark Glenda Collier, Treasurer..... Eddy Chad Peterson, Past President..... Cass</div></div> <div>Directors<div>Jason Arth..... Sargent Tracey Dolezal..... Dunn Cory Hanson..... Williams Jim Kapitan..... Cass Andy Zachmeier..... Morton</div></div> <div>Ex Officio Members<div>Scott Ouradnik (Slope)..... Western Interstate Region Board Perry Turner (McIntosh)..... NACo Board</div></div> <div>NDACo Staff<div>Aaron Birst..... Executive Director Alisha Adolf..... Professional Development Manager (ILG) Kaitlyn Bakken..... GIS Coordinator Cassie Braun..... Accounting Assistant Michael Casey... CEG Underwriting & Loss Control Manager Genny Dienstmann..... Operations Patrick Engelhart..... CEG Safety Specialist Jeff Eslinger..... Communications Director Ryan Gellner..... Vision Zero Outreach Program Manager Peter Halbach..... Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor Cathy Heidt..... Administrative Secretary Teanna Hintz..... Accounting Assistant Jason Horning..... Next Gen 9-1-1 Program Manager Lisa Jahner..... Research & Programs Mary Korsmo..... SACCHO Executive Director Kathy Kottenbrock..... 9-1-1 Project Manager Jennifer Morman..... CEG Claims Manager Donnell Preskey..... Government/Public Relations Specialist Linda Svihovec..... Research Analyst Michelle Tabbert..... Administrative Officer Angie Wentland..... Controller Mike Wolf..... CEG Underwriting & Loss Control Manager</div></div>
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FROM the COUNTIES

Build YOUR Network

I was recently interviewed by the *NACo News* for the “Now I Know” section of the publication and had a hard time thinking about a topic to speak about. After visiting with Charlie Ban from NACo, we came up with a clear topic of “Now I Know to Build my Network”.

When I took office as state’s attorney in 2013, I wasn’t short of confidence, but I was short of substantive and procedural knowledge and I was the only attorney in both Nelson and Griggs Counties. I didn’t have the luxury of having an in-office attorney to bounce ideas off of.

What I did know was that I like people and I’m not afraid of asking questions, so this required me to reach out to neighboring counties SA’s offices and law enforcement. Also, I had Aaron Birst’s cell number. That poor guy received phone calls early morning, late night and at all times between from me with criminal and civil questions. I always received guidance that I could trust and a reassuring vote of confidence from those who I leaned on for assistance.

Through this, I learned that I wasn’t just in Griggs County or Nelson County, but was surrounded by a bunch of great people from other counties with the common goal of success for the counties. Having peers that you know you can



Jayme Tenneson | NDACo President
Nelson/Griggs County State’s Attorney

rely on is a great feeling, and I think it’s an even greater feeling to be able to use my experience and knowledge to assist others.

I think this is fitting to tell this looking toward the summer and fall events that NDACo has approaching. We are set for county tours this summer and the annual conference in October. If you haven’t already had your chance to build your network, please plan to participate in the county tours and the annual conference.

FROM the COMMISSIONERS

Use Your Voice for Good

Our small community has been rocked by so much grief in recent weeks. Grief is difficult; and yet, we have seen so much kindness and compassion around us. It has brought our community together.

Unlike grief, political views often don’t bring out the same level of humanity. It was disappointing to see the lack of civility in many of the election advertisements and also in the conversations happening on social media platforms. Like grief, differing opinions are difficult to navigate, and yet it is an opportunity to understand one another’s perspectives and together make decisions and policies that create the most benefit for the general public, not an individual person or group. We need to come together to grow our state, not be divided.

Looking to have your voice heard? I encourage you to get involved with the ND County Commissioners Association. Please respond to Michelle Tabbert’s email sent on May 30th if you want to serve on any of the standing committees (Audit, Nominating, Resolutions and Legislative) or on the NDCCA Board. I have learned so much these past years by being involved and have thoroughly enjoyed being on the board as well as the committees.

Finally, some food for thought on the proposed measure prohibiting political subdivisions from levying a local property tax. Just as student loan forgiveness



Joan Hollekim | NDCCA President
Mountrail County Commissioner

doesn’t forgive the loan, it just transfers the loan to those who never asked for the loan, transferring political subdivisions’ property tax obligation simply transfers the tax to all the taxpayers.

The majority of property tax is utilized for public services and programs voted on by people at those local levels, not by all the taxpayers. Also, what is important in one locality may not be important in another.

So, ask yourself, are you willing to take on the property tax burden for all political subdivisions for perpetuity with no plan of action other than utilizing state funds?

Further, the replacement dollars remain constant with no built-in increases for inflation. Let’s work together to find viable solutions rather than creating havoc.

FROM the ASSOCIATION

Freedom to Debate

“The Nation’s future depends upon leaders trained through wide exposure to that robust exchange of ideas which discovers truth ‘out of a multitude of tongues, (rather) than through any kind of authoritative selection.” *US Supreme Court Justice Fortas - Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School 393 U.S. 503 (1969)*

On June 28 (almost a year to the day since they began) the supporters of eliminating property tax on “assessed value” filed the necessary paperwork to potentially place the issue in front of the voters for the November election. The Secretary of State has yet to approve the petition for the ballot, but it appears likely to be on the November ballot.

Obviously, this measure would fundamentally change how local governments raise revenue. It would also fundamentally change how the legislature would appropriate money as they would need to find an estimated \$2.658 billion a biennium to pay for local government. If the voters approve, the measure requires

the state to pay all political subs’ budgets at the 2024 budget level *indefinitely*.

That 2024 state appropriation would hereinafter create a baseline of state funding. Any future additional revenue requirements would have to be provided by the legislature, or the legislature could authorize a new local taxing mechanism. Supporters say that political subdivisions could still tax property based on square/liner feet or some type of user taxes. However, outside of home rule, counties are statutorily very limited in what and how they can tax.

Additionally, it is important to note this measure is a constitutional change. Only voters can amend the Constitution – not the legislature.

NDACo’s members voted at our October convention to not support this measure. Regardless, no matter what type of tax you are talking about, there will always be questions of what is fair and equitable. (I have come to believe the only tax people really like is the one someone else pays).



Aaron Birst | NDACo Executive Director

Which brings me to my point. Democracies are made stronger when there is a robust exchange of ideas. This measure is no different. As we ponder these heavy, real-life-impacting issues, we can be thankful for living in a state and country that allows us to even have these debates. The Constitution’s enshrinement of the 1st Amendment, guaranteeing your right to speak on issues should never be taken for granted. Which is a pretty cool thing to remember this July 4th.



Aaron Birst, Managing Editor
Jeff Eslinger, Editor

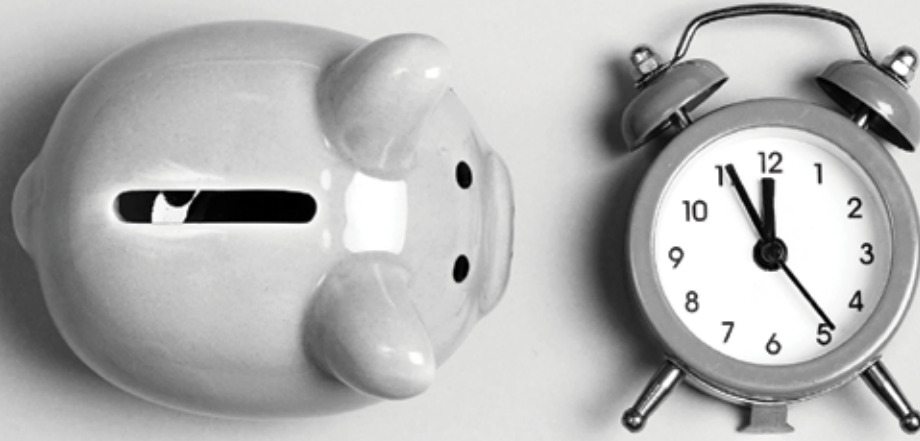
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New FLSA Overtime Rule Effective July 1, 2024

Joanna Drennen | HR Collaborative for Local Government Executive Director

The Department of Labor (Department) finalized on April 26, 2024, updates to regulations under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) regarding exemptions from minimum wage and overtime pay requirements for certain categories of employees.

Effective July 1, 2024, the final rule “will increase the standard salary level that helps define and delimit which salaried workers are entitled to overtime pay protections under the FLSA” (Looman, J., *What the New Overtime Rule Means for Workers*, accessed 2 May 2024 from <https://blog.dol.gov/2024/04/23/what-the-new-overtime-rule-means-for-workers>).

Full-time salaried workers who meet FLSA requirements and earn less than \$844 per week (\$43,888/year) will be eligible for overtime pay as of July 1, 2024, per this new rule.

This new rule also sets future eligibility limits. As of Jan. 1, 2025,



Joanna Drennen

full-time salaried workers who meet FLSA requirements and earn less than \$1,128 per week (\$58,656/year) will be eligible for overtime pay and, starting July 1, 2027, “the eligibility thresholds will be updated every three years, based on current wage data” (Looman, J.).

Additionally, this new rule as of July 1, 2024, raises the highly compensated employee (HCE) annual compensation threshold to \$132,964 per year and, as of Jan. 1, 2024, raises the HCE annual compensation threshold to \$151,164 for those who meet FLSA requirements.

Per the Department, “employees are exempt from the Fair Labor Standards Act’s minimum wage and overtime protections if they are employed in a bona fide executive, administrative, or professional capacity...To fall within the EAP [executive, administrative or professional employees] exemption, an employee generally must meet three tests:

- 1. be paid a salary, meaning that they are paid a predetermined and fixed amount that is not subject to reduction because of variations in the quality or quantity of work performed;
- 2. be paid at least a specified weekly salary level; and

- 3. primarily perform executive, administrative, or professional duties, as provided in the Department’s regulations.” (U.S. Department of Labor, *Final Rule: Restoring and Extending Overtime Protections*, accessed 2 May 2024).

Overall, this new rule addresses concerns raised by previous approaches to setting salary levels, seeking to strike a balance between ensuring fair compensation for employees and providing flexibility for employers. By aligning salary thresholds with contemporary wage data, the Department aims to uphold the integrity of the exemptions while safeguarding against unintended consequences, such as the misclassification of employees.

If you have further questions about the Department’s new rule, visit <https://www.dol.gov>.

Who will become eligible for overtime pay under the final rule?

Date:	Most salaried workers earning less than:
Currently	\$684/week (\$35,568/year)
July 1, 2024	\$844/week (\$43,888/year)
Jan. 1, 2025	\$1,128/week (\$58,656/year)

Starting July 1, 2027, the eligibility thresholds will be updated every three years, based on current wage data.

dol.gov/OT

Govify Offering a Discounted 3-Month Pilot Product for NDACO Members

In past issues of *County News*, we announced that Govify has begun automatically including our NDACO.org/jobs listings on their system. For counties that would like to take their job announcements to the next level, Govify is offering a pilot program that includes the following:

- Unlimited posting access to their national job board hosting over 3000 jobs
- Custom county career page for job-seekers, attracting top talent
- Unlimited recruiter access to their applicant tracking system (ATS)
- Beta access to their AI recruiter and talent matching portal
- Monthly Dashboarding & Analytics for recruiting pipeline management



- Integrations with major job boards (Indeed/LinkedIn/Google)
 - In addition to this: we’ll be offering staffed end-to-end management of a county’s recruiting pipeline - we’ll be your all-in-one recruiting coordinator
- For \$300/month Govify will target a 3x reduction in time-to-hire at 1/4 of the price of other HRIS systems.
- For details, contact Martin Rufo at martin@govify.us.

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The National Association of Counties (NACo) has enhanced the Live Healthy Discount Program to deliver greater healthcare savings to county residents at NO COST to the county.

No-cost Prescription Discount Program.

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Low-fee dental discounts nationwide.

- Save 15% to 50% on check-ups, cleanings, fillings, crowns, x-rays, root canals and more at over 110,000 participating providers

To learn more and enroll your county, visit NACo.org/Health

*This is not insurance. Savings may vary by drug and by pharmacy. The Prescription Discount Card is operated by CVS Caremark®. The Discount Medical Organization for NACo Health and Dental Discounts is Alliance HealthCard of Florida, Inc. All rights reserved. ©2022 CVS Caremark

How Hot is Too Hot?

Amber Schriock | NRG Technology Services

Most people worry about leaving their pets or children in the car during summer months, but what about your electronics? Have you noticed the fan on your laptop kicks into high gear when it's hot? Those get hot, too!

Most electronics can function up to 176° F, but the recommended temperature is closer to 95° F. If your device gets too hot, it may shut down on its own to avoid damage.

And it isn't just the hardware that can malfunction in excessive heat. Lithium-ion batteries are also sensitive to heat. Higher temps can increase the rate of reactions within the battery and deplete the lithium within it.

- Here are a few tips to keep your electronics safe from heat:
- Keep your electronics out of direct sunlight: don't leave them on a windowsill or the dashboard of your car.
 - Allow the air to move around your devices. Don't block any vents.
 - Keep devices clean. Fans collect dust and dirt which can eventually cause them to slow or stop. A quick blow out from a can of compressed air should knock that free.
 - When in doubt, shut down the device and allow it to cool completely before using again.



Ten Tip for Write a Great AI Prompt

Chuck Gallagher, CSP | Certified Speaking Professional

Editor's Note: Always exercise caution when using AI to create. The information it accesses can come from a variety of sources, not all of which may be accurate. Also, AI would hold the usage rights since it is the creator.

To get the most out of AI you need to write a Great Prompt. Here's how - and the following can be used as an article for your newsletter!

Creating an effective prompt for ChatGPT or any chat-based AI tool is crucial for obtaining relevant and accurate responses. Here are ten tips to help you craft the perfect prompt:

1. Be Clear and Specific

Clearly state your question or request. Avoid vague or ambiguous language that could lead to misinterpretation. For example, instead of asking, "Tell me about AI," specify, "Explain the impact of AI on healthcare in the last five years."

2. Provide Context

Briefly explain the background or context of your question. This helps ChatGPT understand the topic and generate a relevant response. For instance, "I'm writing a report on AI applications in law enforcement. How has AI been used in predictive policing?"

3. Use Complete Sentences

Write in complete sentences to



ChatGPT

ensure your prompt is well-formed and easily understandable. While incomplete sentences can still generate responses, complete sentences tend to lead to better understanding and thus, better results.

4. Ask Open-Ended Questions

Instead of yes/no questions, ask questions that encourage detailed and informative responses. For example, "What are the benefits and challenges of using AI in education?" rather than "Is AI used in education?"

5. Break Down Complex Questions

If your question is complex or multi-part, consider breaking it down into smaller, more manageable questions. For instance, "What are the ethical concerns of AI?" followed by "How can these concerns be addressed in healthcare?"

6. Specify Format or Style

If you have a preference for a specific format (e.g., list, explanation, analogy, table format) or writing style, mention it in your prompt. For example, "Provide a list of key benefits of AI in agriculture" or "Explain the concept of machine learning using an analogy."

7. Provide Examples

If you are trying to emulate a particular style or structure, you can include the example right in your prompt. For example, "Write a summary similar to this example: [insert example]."

8. Use Personas

Ask ChatGPT to adopt a certain persona, such as a business coach, marketing expert, or a prosecutor. This helps set the context effectively for how it should respond. For example, "Pretend you are a business consultant and explain how startups can leverage AI."

9. Set the Tone

If you have a specific tone or style in mind for the response (e.g., formal, casual, technical), communicate that in your prompt. For example, "Explain the concept of blockchain in a casual tone suitable for beginners."

10. Iterate and Refine

It's not necessarily the goal to get a perfect draft from a single prompt. Don't hesitate to go back and forth with additional prompts to refine the output. Adjust the wording or provide additional details to improve the results. The more you practice writing prompts, the better you'll get.

Summary

- Be Clear and Specific: Avoid vague language.
- Provide Context: Give background information.
- Use Complete Sentences: Ensure clarity.
- Ask Open-Ended Questions: Encourage detailed responses.
- Break Down Complex Questions: Simplify multi-part queries.
- Specify Format or Style: State your preferences.
- Provide Examples: Show desired styles.
- Use Personas: Set context with specific roles.
- Set the Tone: Communicate the desired tone.
- Iterate and Refine: Practice and adjust prompts.

By following these tips, you can enhance the quality of your interactions with ChatGPT 4o and obtain more useful and accurate responses.

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North Dakota Elections

From page 1

ballots cast, and remaining ballots to ensure numbers balance.

Each ballot tabulator used at the polling location has an encrypted USB that stores the results of the votes cast. At each polling location, the election board secures the encrypted results USB and ballots and delivers them to the county auditor. The county auditor follows a process to import results to a computer with no internet connection. The results imported are compared to canvass reports to ensure accuracy. Ballots are delivered to the county recorder for storage for 22 months.

The county auditor then continues the process, using a one-time-use USB to transfer the results to the ND Secretary of State on another device via a secure, monitored connection. During the entire process, ballot tabulators and encrypted USBs used to tabulate results never touch a system connected to the Internet.

Results are verified at multiple levels in the process to ensure they are accurate and have not changed.

County Canvassing Board

Thirteen days after the election, the county canvassing board meets to certify election results. Members of the county canvassing board include the county

auditor, county recorder, chair of the board of county commissioners, and district party chair from each district and party in the county. The county canvassing board reviews the election results from each precinct within the county and acts on set-aside ballots and late-arriving or questionable absentee ballots.

The county canvassing board reviews each absentee ballot received after Election Day to determine if it should be included in the official results. The board also reviews absentee ballots with questionable or missing signatures. A voter can cure their questionable signature before the end of the county canvassing board meeting by providing their valid North Dakota identification and affirming they voted the absentee ballot. The canvassing board reviews each ballot in question, including verification documentation, to determine whether to include it in the vote totals.

Once the county canvassing board certifies the county and any city or school election results, they become official and are reported to the state canvassing board. If city or school elections are held in conjunction with the county election, then the appropriate officials for those entities are also notified of the results.

State Canvassing Board

The state canvassing board is made up of the clerk of the North Dakota Supreme Court, the Secretary of State, the State Treasurer, and the state committee chair of the two political parties that cast the highest vote for governor at the last general election at which a governor was elected. The state canvassing board reviews and certifies statewide, legislative, and judicial results

submitted by all 53 county canvassing boards. Once the state canvassing board certifies the results, they become the official results.

Election officials and the North Dakota Secretary of State are your trusted source for election information. If you have elections-related questions, visit vote.nd.gov, email soselect@nd.gov, or call 701-328-4146.

Countyfest

From page 1

skills as a mentalist, with stunning and hilarious demonstrations of thought reading and mental influence.

The agenda and workshop titles are still being developed and will be updated on the conference website regularly. A link to the conference information will always be prominent at www.ndaco.org.

Major change alert: ALL activities will be held at the Bismarck Event Center, including the Welcoming Social on Sunday evening. In past years, that event was held at the Radisson Hotel. Additionally, all Sunday member association meetings will be held at the Event Center, unless the organization



makes other plans. We hope this will simplify your experience (and help you avoid downtown parking).

A list of hotels honoring the state rate was sent out in June and will be sent again if there are any updates. It is also at www.ndaco.org/conference.

So don't wait! Register for the Annual Conference now!



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100 Deadliest Days of Summer

Kaitlin Atkinson | Vision Zero Regional Coordinator – Northeast Region

Every summer, teens get the taste of freedom! For them, it is a time for relaxation and time with friends. With that comes more time for teens to spend driving around town to do all the things they want to accomplish during summer break. However, those 100 days from Memorial Day to Labor Day hold the sharpest increase in motor vehicle fatalities involving teen drivers.

Teen drivers find they have more free time to drive around, and when you combine that with less driving experience, reckless behavior and more passengers, it can make for a dangerous combination. According to the AAA Foundation, “when a teen driver has only teen passengers in their vehicle, the fatality rate for all people increased 51%. In contrast, when older passengers (35 or older) ride with a teen driver, overall fatality rates in crashes decreased 8%.”

Parents play a crucial role in ensuring their teen gets from point A to point B safely.

- Help your teen reach and exceed the minimum 50 hours of supervised practice required by North Dakota Law for a permit holder to get their license.
 - Continue to ride with your teen even after they pass their driver’s license test to help provide guidance and walk them through new experiences.
 - Ensure your teen understands the safety features equipped in their vehicle such as back up sensors and lane keep assist.
 - Have conversations about how to safely and respectfully interact with vulnerable road users such as bicyclists, pedestrians and motorcyclists.
 - Be the driver you want your teen to be by displaying how you would like them to drive by following posted speed limits, keeping your phone and distractions away, wearing your seat belt and always driving sober.
 - Set rules for your teen driver and stick to them!
- Teens are ultimately the ones making the decisions when they get behind the wheel. Giving them guidelines to follow can be very simple but have a large impact!
- Drive distraction-free! This includes more than just phones. Keeping phones away, not eating while driving, limiting and having rules for passengers and keeping music down all help to make each drive safer.
 - Buckle Up! Not only is it the law, but it is also an occupant’s first line of defense in a crash. Every seat. Every trip. Every time.
 - Restrict nighttime driving to avoid limited visibility, drowsiness and impaired drivers.
 - Be sure to follow posted speed limits or reduce speed for poor road conditions. By slowing

- down, reaction time increases, forces of impact are less in a crash and crash severity can be reduced.
 - Limit your passengers and don’t allow passengers who are known to be too rowdy or distracting. The more teen passengers you have the higher the risk of a crash due to distractions and peer pressure!
 - Never drive impaired or with an impaired driver. Impairment alters a person’s ability to make decisions, their perception, coordination and reaction time.
- As we embrace summer break with our teens, please remind them of safe ways to travel and how to get where they are going without incident. Parents, Vision Zero starts with us. One conversation can make all the difference in reducing motor vehicle fatalities and serious injuries in North Dakota.

GIS and Health Districts Team Up for National Safety Month

Kaitlyn Bakken | NDACo GIS Coordinator

June was National Safety Month, so I am especially excited to share how NDACo’s GIS Program formed a new partnership that will use GIS to help improve public safety.

Earlier this year, I was approached by Traill County Health District regarding a GIS project that they wanted to complete.

The collaboration includes mapping and adding “attribute data” to points that represent different first aid and preventative health resources throughout their jurisdiction. Attribute data is the



information linked to the geographic features (spatial data) that describe the features themselves.

Those resources include a cumulative inventory of AED’s, HealthBots and NarcanONE Boxes. Some attribute data being added to the map points include location address, exact description of the resource location (i.e. inside door 5, on wall to left of entrance, etc.) and a photo of the resource in its place. Once completed, the map layer will be created into an app and weblink that will be posted for public use on the Traill County Health District’s website.

Making these potentially life-preserving resources more readily accessible to the public is incredibly important because health emergencies can occur anywhere, at any time. We’re very hopeful that this project will be the first of many and eventually become standard for local government across North Dakota because of its ability to streamline resource inventories and increase the number of lives saved, rather than lost.

Proactive Office Ergonomics

Michael Casey | CEG Underwriting and Loss Control Manager

Without a doubt we are creatures of habit, and a pitfall of this is that we won't change until something goes wrong and we *must* make changes. We can all put this to the test in our own lives within certain issues that we have endured along the way. I personally can recall when I first started having some neck and headache issues during the day and in the mornings. At first, I thought it was my pillow, so after changing pillows nine times, I still couldn't find the best fit for me. I'm still searching for MY best pillow by the way!

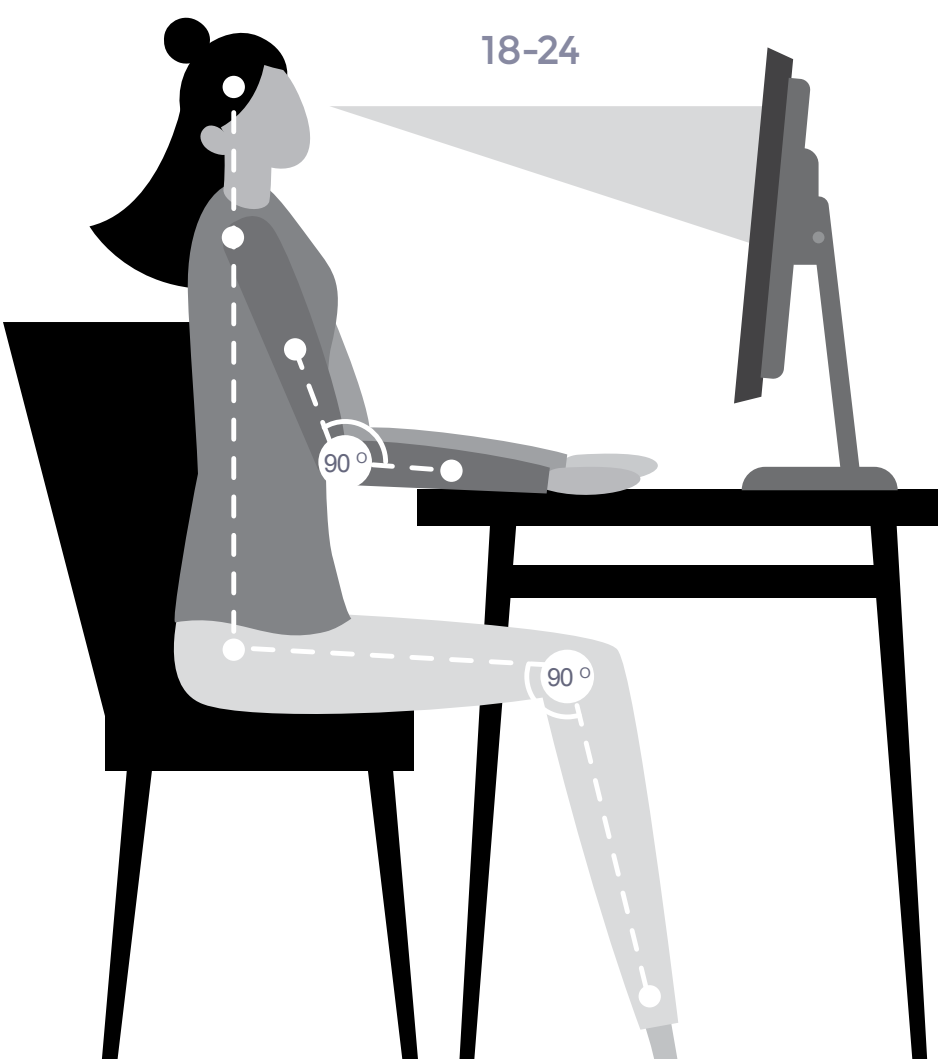
After a lot of trial and error, I came to realize that I was leaning back in my chair which caused bad posture while sitting, both in the office and the car. The result was neck pain and headaches. Although uncomfortable at first, I straightened up my chair and after a short time I started to see the neck issues fade away.

If your work involves sitting at a desk, discomfort doesn't have to be part of the job. You may be able to avoid some of the health issues by being proactive and evaluating if you're using proper office ergonomics.

I have started the process of learning more and more about office ergonomics and the things that play the most important roles in having a proper workspace environment – things like chairs, desk space and setup, keyboard and mouse, monitor, laptop, lights, file cabinets, phone, stapler, daily activity, stretches, and breaks – play roles in our long-term health.

One of the keys to long-term health is being proactive early, and if you are having some issues, taking the time to evaluate how you go about your day to day is important. Here at NDACo, we offer comprehensive ergonomic assessments for our members to help them with office ergonomics. It is our mission to ease stress on our bodies, protect our joints and help us all stay comfortable as we work our daily careers.

If you would like to take advantage of our ergonomic assessments, please get in contact with either me or Michael Wolf here at the North Dakota Association of Counties.



Introducing our New CEG Employee, Michael Casey

Ann Estvold | NDACo Communications Intern

Michael Casey began working at NDACo in early June. Michael is currently training to be the County Employer Group (CEG) underwriting and loss control manager. In this position, he will oversee safety training, ergonomic assessments, underwriting and claim management for the counties.



Michael Casey

The current CEG underwriting and loss control manager, Mike Wolf, is helping train in Michael. Mike will be working part-time for a year to help with the training, as there is a wide scope of things to learn.

Michael looks forward to meeting and working with the risk managers in all the counties and helping members with safety and ergonomic training.

Michael worked in an Edward Jones office for three years and then moved into advertising. He worked as the ad director for the North Dakota Newspaper Association (NDNA) for 18 years. At NDNA, he was able to meet with many different people at the state and county level.

In his free time, Michael likes to spend time with family. He also officiates football, basketball, softball and fast pitch at both the high school and college level. His favorite sports to officiate are fast pitch and football (when it isn't cold).

His favorite movie genre is rom-com, with his favorite being Bed of Roses. His favorite book is Compound Effect by Darren Hardy.

Fun fact: Michael grew up in New Mexico.

CEG is the overall employer group for North Dakota counties. Formed in 1996, the program consolidates individual county workers compensation accounts into a single employer group account. CEG has initiated risk management, increased speed and efficiency in claims management, reduced workers compensation premiums and implemented safety programs in all 53 counties. You can learn more about CEG at www.ndaco.org/ceg.



Join Us!

2024 RURAL DEVELOPERS ASSEMBLY

A gathering of rural people interested in new concepts to strengthen our rural communities

Tech4Communities: Empowering Rural Development

Thursday, August 1 | 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Lunch will be provided

Attend in person: NDAREC headquarters
3201 Nygren Dr. NW | Mandan, ND 58554

A virtual attendance option is available upon registration.

Scan this QR code or visit ndarec.com/2024-rural-developers-assembly to learn more and to register!



Registration fee will be a nonrefundable \$25 donation to the North Dakota Rural Electric Cooperative Foundation 501(c)3 Charity.



NDAREC is committed to providing inclusive and accessible programs, services and events. The event will be held in an ADA-compliant, accessible facility. For reasonable accommodations requests, please contact Mary Helvig at mhelvig@ndarec.com.

Congratulations ND High Performance Leadership Academy Graduates

We would like to acknowledge and congratulate the January NACo Leadership Academy graduates from North Dakota. They join over 300 graduates and current participants from across North Dakota and 11,000 across the country benefiting from the 12-week online program enabling existing and emerging county leaders to achieve their highest potential.



- Alyssa Barclay, Public Health Administrative Coordinator, Grand Forks County
- Angela Bedgood, 2nd Deputy Recorder, Cass County
- Angela Eagle, Auditor, Sioux County
- Jill Schafer, Legal Assistant, Cass County
- Kari Hatzenbuehler, Treasurer, Morton County
- Kim Kasian, Recorder, Stark County
- Lacy Fox, Administrative Assistant, Sioux County
- Lana Jahner, Deputy Auditor, Stark County
- Lisa Keney, Tax Director, Pembina County
- Renata Selzer, Assistant State's Attorney, Cass County
- Vernetta Iron Eyes, Treasurer/Recorder, Sioux County

Invest in your team with Leadership Training!

Celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the High Performance Leadership Academy with us - each county can enroll 10 participants for \$15,000 when booked in 2024! (reserved seats can be used into 2025). Our next cohorts start August 5th and September 16th.

High Performance Leadership (12 weeks)

Next dates: August 5 - November 8, September 16 - December 20, January 13 - April 18
Provides best practices in leadership, organizational development and change management, negotiation and collaboration, effective business communication, and delivering value within high performance management. Video that helps explain the value of the program from Alumni.

Leading on Purpose (8 weeks)

Next dates: October 21 - December 20
Leading on Purpose unpacks workplace culture, individual belonging, and the movement from intention to impact as it pertains to leadership in organizations.

Leading in Analytics (8 weeks)

Next dates: October 21 - December 20
Provides insights on the best ways to identify and overcome the challenges of analytics to harness data as an asset that can address the increasingly complex environments leaders navigate today.

Cybersecurity Leadership (12 weeks)

Next dates: August 5 - November 8
Collaborative readiness program led by Fortune 500 CISOs and peers who deliver their proven frameworks and insights on how to lead and secure a network and an organization – protecting data assets and the enterprise brand. This program coaches participants on what it means to think and act as a cybersecurity leader. To learn more and enroll, go to www.naco.org/page/high-performance-leadership-academy.

Upcoming ILG Courses

July 17, 2024

CEG Monthly Safety Moment: Flammable Liquid Storage

July 19, 2024

Planning & Zoning Workshop (Hosted by Vision West ND)

July 31, 2024

VA Education Benefits While on the Job

August 06, 2024

CEG Monthly Safety Moment: Fire Extinguishers in the Workplace

August 26, 2024

Did You Know?! The Agricultural Land Review Process Requires a Variety of Information



Office of Good Government Launched Through State Auditor's Office

The North Dakota State Auditor's Office has launched The Office of Good Government. The primary purpose of the office will be to provide another avenue of education and outreach to help local governments across North Dakota run smoothly.

During the 68th Legislative Assembly, lawmakers passed Senate Bill 2004. The bill allowed the Auditor's Office to hire a Training and Education Coordinator to serve as a primary point of contact for local government accounting related questions. This office will also:

- Provide training to local government on completing their annual financial reports,
- Answer technical questions related to preparing financials,
- Provide updates to local governments on changing accounting standards or laws that will affect them,

- Create resources to help local governments improve internal controls, procurement practices, financial reporting and more.

The Office of Good Government, under the direction of the State Auditor's Office, will primarily serve local governments that receive less than \$2,000,000 in annual revenues. These are local governments, or political subdivisions, like small cities, park districts, water resource districts, soil conversation districts, and many more. For the full list, see N.D.C.C. 54-10-13.

The outreach provided through this initiative is free of charge for appointments over the phone, in person, or online. To schedule an appointment, e-mail ndsao@nd.gov or call 701-328-2241.

Today 8:35 AM

I could really use NDPIO's expertise

Sure, what's up?

I have to get some info out quickly and it's a lot to manage! 😓

Happy to help! I'll give you a call!

Today 10:54 AM

Thank you for all your help! I'd love to belong to NDPIO. How do I begin?

You're welcome! It's what we're here for. Check out ndpio.org to join us! ❤️

WE NEED TO TALK.

If you're responsible for sharing public information for your agency, we invite you to belong to the North Dakota Public Information Officer Association.

Membership is open to any government professionals seeking best communication practices, valuable expertise, and monthly training sessions.

Become a member at ndpio.org

NDPIO
NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER ASSOCIATION

ND Sheriffs Testify in U.S. House Judiciary Committee Hearing on Border Crisis

Donnell Preskey | NDACo Government/Public Relations Specialist

In a rare occasion, the U.S. House Judiciary Committee held a subcommittee field hearing in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Cass County Sheriff Jesse Jahner and Renville County Sheriff Roger Hutchinson were asked to provide information to the subcommittee on immigration integrity, security, and enforcement. The hearing was titled: “The Biden Border Crisis: North Dakota Perspectives,” focused on the effects of the border crisis on North Dakota residents and communities. Their testimony focused on what they are experiencing with illegal immigrants, the lack of response from U.S. Border Patrol Agents, and drug trafficking.

Sheriff Jahner discussed how North Dakota is seeing increases in narcotics trafficking and overdoses. There is a draw to traffic fentanyl in North Dakota because a pill may be sold for 25 cents near the southern border but can be marked up and sold in North Dakota for \$80.

“This is not a southern border issue. This is a national security issue and a national drug trafficking issue and an inability to protect our country and our citizens issue,” Jahner told the committee.

Hutchinson, whose county borders Canada, focused on the dwindled



Sheriffs being sworn in to testify before the U.S. House Judiciary Committee.

Border Patrol presence, resources and the subsequent lack of assistance from Border Patrol Agents. There are 18 ports of entry along the northern border in North Dakota. Illegal crossings along the northern border have dramatically increased in the last four years.

Both Hutchinson and Jahner shared examples of the decrease in assistance from federal partners when it comes to dealing with situations where officers encounter illegal immigrants.

“The majority of the nationalities we have come across are Nigerians,

Romanians and Indians; however, our greatest concern is who we did not catch,” said Hutchinson. “We have a wide-open, vast border with no natural physical barriers and very few man-made ones. Our northern border is open and not secure.”

A day before the hearing, media reported the US Border Patrol seized three abandoned backpacks filled with 67 abandoned handguns at a port of entry along the northern border.

Pembina County Sheriff Terry Meidinger provided a ride along the northern border to Rep. Scott Fitzgerald of Wisconsin. Several sheriffs attended the hearing.

Hutchinson assured the committee, “Please leave here knowing our North Dakota sheriffs will keep doing their part to keep our citizens safe.”



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Introducing our Summer Intern!

Jeff Eslinger | County News Editor

University of Mary Communications Major Ann Estvold began an internship with NDACo at the end of May. She will be working on feature stories for the *County News* and helping us map out some longer-term projects, including videos.

Ann hails from Lakota in Nelson County, where she also interned and worked as a reporter at the official county newspaper, the *Lakota American*. She enjoys reading, trying out new recipes in the kitchen, hanging out with friends, watching movies and being creative. We even put her photography skills to use at the Records Convention June 18-20, as you can see in this issue.

Ann also enjoys traveling. She studied in Rome in 2022 and recently went on a school-related trip to Ireland. If you have plans to tour Italy, you might want to check out the travel guide she developed at



Ann Estvold

<https://amestvold1.myportfolio.com/capstone>.

If your county has some recent accomplishments or future projects of interest, feel free to reach out to Ann at 701-425-0736 or ann.estvold@ndaco.org.

Introducing our New TSRP: Peter Halbach

Ann Estvold | NDACo Communications Intern

Peter Halbach started as the Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor in June of 2024. As a former prosecutor and hearing officer, Peter will provide training, education and technical assistance to law enforcement and county state's attorneys, as well as other traffic safety partners throughout the state.

In law school and the years following, Peter worked for the Minnesota Attorney General for five years, first as a law clerk and then as a Special Assistant Attorney General. Peter met his wife, Maren, while in law school and they moved to North Dakota in 1988. While in private practice, he and his wife served as assistant state's attorneys for Ramsey County.

He became the municipal judge in Devils Lake in 2002 and a hearing officer with the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) in 2003. Peter was a hearing officer for the NDDOT for over 20 years, serving as the Chief Hearing Officer for nine years.

In his free time, Peter enjoys following Minnesota Twins baseball and was able to attend the Seventh Game of the 1987 World Series. He also enjoys cooking and traveling to locations rich in history, geography, culture and art with his wife.



Peter Halbach

Peter's favorite movie genres include British crime, detective dramas and American Film Noir. He also enjoys reading biographies and other books about history, both fiction and non-fiction, church history and theology. His favorite music genres include country and folk rock.

"I am looking forward to working with other traffic safety professionals throughout the state who share the goal of saving lives," said Peter.

Burgum Names Housing Initiative Advisory Council, Holds Listening Sessions in Bismarck and Fargo Includes Three County Officials

In May, Gov. Doug Burgum appointed a North Dakota Housing Initiative Advisory Committee to lead the development of a comprehensive housing strategy for North Dakota. The governor also hosted listening sessions recently in Bismarck and Fargo to gather input from stakeholders on how to improve housing availability, affordability and stability across the state.

Burgum announced the Housing Initiative in January in his 2024 State of the State Address, building on the success of a similar effort last biennium to tackle another major roadblock to workforce participation – child care. The legislature ultimately approved, and Burgum

signed, a \$66 million package to address child care availability, affordability and quality.

The state also launched a North Dakota Housing Initiative website: www.hhs.nd.gov/nd-housing-initiative. The website includes data about housing, examples of local housing plans and a link to a public input survey.

The Advisory Council is comprised of members across the state, including Steve Kemp, Williams County Commissioner; Chad Peterson, Cass County Commissioner and Nathan Berseth of Bell Bank, a Richland County Commissioner.



Sherry Adams, along with others who have received the ND National Guard "Always Ready Always There" Award in the past: Major General Michael Haugen, Major General Keith MacDonald, Col. Shirley Olgeirson, ret. and ESGR State Chair Delton Steele.

ND ESGR Honors Sherry Adams for Outstanding Service to North Dakota's Military

North Dakota's Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) is proud to recognize Mrs. Sherry Adams for over 10 years of dedicated, professional, and exemplary support to the North Dakota National Guard.

Sherry's commitment extends far beyond her roles as the 131st Military Police Battalion Honorary Commander and Executive Officer of the Southwest District Health Unit.

Here are just a few highlights of Mrs. Adams' incredible service:

- 11 Strategic Engagements:

Mrs. Adams actively participated in 11 strategic engagements in West Africa, supporting the North Dakota National Guard's State Partnership Program.

COVID-19 Hero: Her efforts during the Governor's COVID-19 response were exemplary, demonstrating exceptional leadership and planning skills.

Shoulder-to-Shoulder with the Guard: Mrs. Adams tirelessly worked alongside North Dakota National Guard personnel, particularly the 81st Civil Support Team, actively participating in over 30 COVID-19 testing events across the state.

Continued Commitment: As the newly nominated North Dakota State Chair for ESGR, Mrs. Adams' dedication to service and support for our state's military will only grow stronger.

Thank you, Sherry, for your unwavering dedication to the North Dakota National Guard and our state's military community!



Where Are They Now

By Ann Estvold

A new feature for County News profiles past scholarship winners

Annette Bendish, daughter of former Morton County Commissioner Richard Bendish, was one of the first two recipients of the NDACo Scholarship, which were awarded for the first time in 1999. She graduated from the University of North Dakota in 1999 and the University of North Dakota School of Law in 2002.

Annette worked in private legal practice briefly and then spent most of her legal career working for the state of North Dakota. Annette now lives in Minnesota and works in Editorial at Thomson Reuters. She recently transferred to a position in Codes and will be working with statute and administrative rule content for Westlaw Find and Print.

Most of Annette's free time is spent as a soccer, basketball, tennis and dance mom to her two busy kids. She also likes to exercise, craft and travel.

"Growing up as the daughter of a County Commissioner taught me the value of service to others, and a love for the law and the legislative process which ultimately led to my career. I am grateful for this path and the lessons I have learned along the way. Thank you

to NDACo for awarding me one of your first scholarships to help with my education."

The NDACo Scholarship Fund is supported by county donors from across the state and corporate sponsors like Nationwide Retirement Solutions. Thanks to their generosity, annual awards have grown from \$500 to \$2,000, totaling more than \$100,000 in scholarships.

The scholarship program was created in 1998 to assist county families with college costs. At the time of application, students must be a child or grandchild of a current North Dakota county employee or county official. They also must be registered as a full-time undergraduate student in an accredited North Dakota university, college or vocational/technical certification program. Further details can be found at www.ndaco.org/scholarship.

If your child or grandchild earned a scholarship in the past and you would like us to profile them in a future *Where Are They Now?* please send their name and contact details to Jeff Eslinger at jeff.eslinger@ndaco.org.



Annette Bendish with her husband Michael Frey and children Zachary and Marissa.

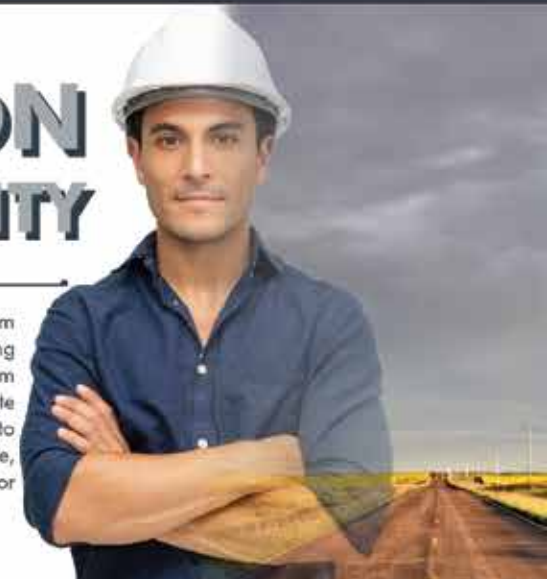


Logical Solutions With Local Connections



BUILT ON COMMUNITY

Embracing a collaborative team approach, Interstate Engineering focuses on building for tomorrow. From projects to career paths, Interstate Engineering knows the best approach to any accomplishment is to collaborate, celebrate success, and grow for tomorrow.

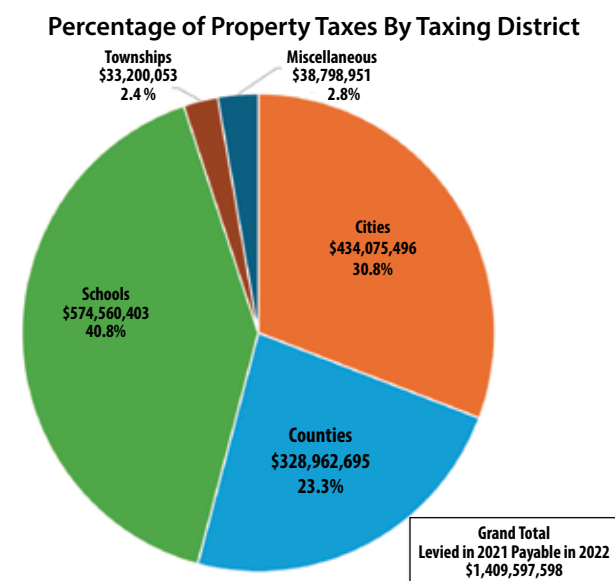


ND Counties Reduce Property Taxes in 2022

Donnell Preskey | NDACo Government/Public Relations Specialist

Tax policy is at the center of legislative discussions in preparation for the 2025 Session. The conversations are fueled by the potential property tax elimination measure and pressures to improve the tax system. Interim legislative committees recently met and discussed tax exemptions along with impacts of potential limitations on local political subdivision budgets and levies.

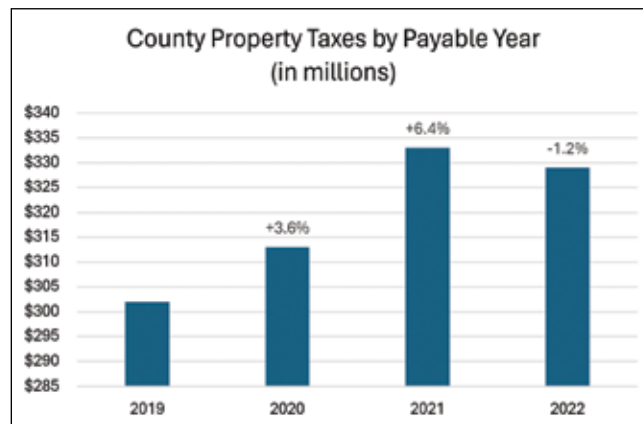
In preparation, NDACo dove into county property tax data, which provides accurate information on the level of taxation, changes to those amounts and how counties are using those dollars. The total amount of property taxes levied in ND in 2022 was \$1.4 billion with counties levying 23% of the total property taxes.



When looking at property values, the information isn't separated out by taxing district but is representative of statewide values for all property classes. From 2019-2022 property values have increased 11% or an average of 3.6% each year.

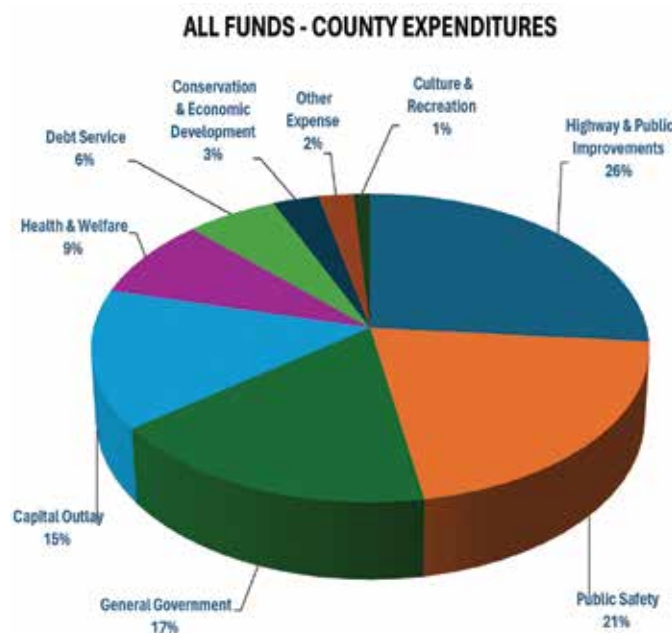
"Property values going up reflects growth, that's a good thing. But when values increase because of growth and development so does the increase in need for services," said NDACo Executive Director Aaron Birst. "Counties are very much opposed to capping any kind of value increases. It is our opinion that would be a disaster and cause inequities between homeowners that in the long haul, citizens would not appreciate. As you look for solutions, caps on valuations are not the way to go."

Just because values went up does not mean property tax and county budgets increased. Counties, on average since 2019, saw a 3% increase in growth. "What county folks don't get credit for is that there were counties that reduced their budgets. In fact, from 2021 to 2022 counties saw a **decrease of 1.2% in property taxes** collected," Birst explained. It's also important to note that during that same time frame the Consumer Price Index grew from 4.7% to 8%.



WHAT DO COUNTIES PAY FOR?

One-third of county expenses are funded by property taxes. Nearly half of county expenditures are dedicated to roads and public safety.



CITIZENS APPROVE MEASURES TO INCREASE TAXES

Despite what many may think about North Dakotans' view of property taxes, recent measures on the ballot to increase taxes to pay for specific local services illustrate that citizen's support. In the 2022 and 2024 election cycles, there were 57 county measures on the ballot to approve additional or increasing levies. 52 of the 57 measures passed, that's a **91% approval rating**. This strongly signifies that if citizens believe the service benefits their community, they support it.

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

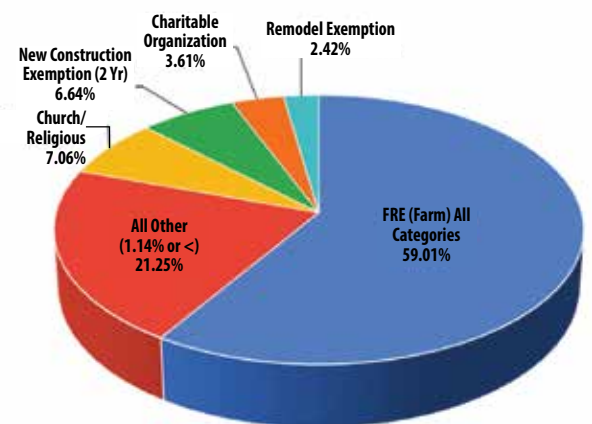
NDACo was also asked to provide information on property exemptions. A survey was sent to all County Tax Directors, 52 out of the 53 counties responded. Throughout the state there are 25,000 parcels that are exempt from paying taxes. NDACo traditionally has opposed expanding property tax exemptions as these exemptions spread the tax burden to other taxpayers in the county. Of note, the data shows nearly 60% of the exemptions are farm related.

Other interesting findings are:

- Cass County has the highest number of exempt parcels at 3,031

- Renville County reported the fewest number of exempt parcels at 124 (121 are farm related)
- New Construction/New Business exemptions account for 50% of total count in Cass County
- 73% of Stutsman County's exemptions are farm related
- Walsh County reported the highest number of Charitable Organization exemptions

Exemptions - Tax Year 2023



FURTHERING TAX RELIEF & POLICY CHANGES

NDACo has been asked about caps to valuation along with limiting the growth of property taxes collected and budgets and what the impacts would be on counties. Birst explained that when considering caps as a potential mechanism, it's realistic that most political subdivisions will take that percentage every year regardless of whether they need to or not because the next year is unknown. In addition, because counties are not equal in population, economic activity or budget, a percentage cap is going to impact counties differently. "Caps may not be the answer in satisfying those who are upset with property taxes," said Birst.

Leading up to the 2025 Legislative Session this discussion is sure to continue. There are many ideas and thoughts on potential tax relief and policy changes. NDACo has been involved in numerous discussions with legislators, other associations representing political subdivisions and the business community on these concepts. NDACo will continue to partner in these discussions to improve the system.

It's also important to highlight the significant relief approved in the 2023 Legislative Session. Lawmakers approved a \$500 property tax credit for primary residences, expanded the homestead tax credit by increasing eligibility for those 65 and older and reduced the state's income tax. The Tax Foundation recently reported that North Dakota had the 7th lowest state-local tax burden in the nation in 2022.

This article and graphics are also available at www.ndaco.org/newsletters/common-ground, in the June issue.

Purchasing Pulse

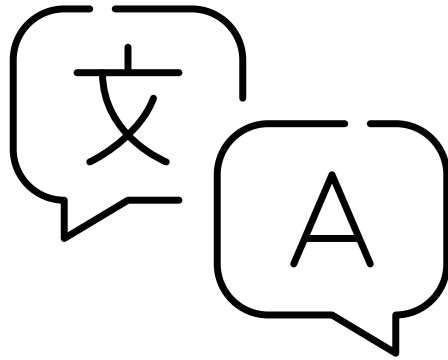
State Contract for Interpreting Services

By Sherry Neas and Abby Dschaak, Office of Management and Budget, State Procurement Office

As government entities, we must be prepared to accommodate situations when interpreter services are needed.

The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) State Procurement Office (SPO) has a state contract for on demand remote interpreting and document translation available for use by all North Dakota political subdivisions.

The contractors under this contract provide over-the-phone language interpreter services for customers and their clients who need immediate interpreter assistance. These services are required to assist Limited English Proficiency (LEP) clients uncomfortable speaking English, or whose English is not clearly understood. Immediate telephone-based interpreter services will facilitate communication between clients and customers at a service provider



facility when an on-site interpreter is not available or is cost prohibitive.

American Sign Language (ASL) through Video Remote Interpretation (VRI) and Written Document Translation are also available through this state contract.

Please see the state contract user summary for more information on how to use this contract and vendors

available. Go to www.omb.nd.gov/cooperativepurchasing, select the state contracts list and locate contract #489 - On-Demand Remote Interpreting and Document Translation (NASPO ValuePoint). If you have any questions related to this contract, contact Sara Bilden at sbilden@nd.gov.

Visit the OMB website at www.omb.nd.gov/procurement for a list of all available state contracts. Questions about a state contract? Contact the State Procurement Officer listed on the OMB website.

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Free Virtual Audit Training Conference Offered by Auditor's Office for Third Year

The State Auditor's Office is excited to announce its third annual free virtual audit conference on Wednesday, July 24, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. CT. The Audit Summit aims to provide essential training and resources to local governments.

This year's conference will cover:

- Laws for Government Accounting
- How to Create a Budget
- Topics That Could Impact Your Audit
- The Single Audit
- Public Procurement
- Question and Answer Panel

"The Audit Summit is an excellent free learning opportunity for North Dakota local governments," said North

Dakota League of Cities Executive Director Matt Gardner. "What's great about this virtual conference is that it allows for attendees to join from wherever they are located."

To learn more and to sign up, visit: www.nd.gov/auditor/office-good-government/2024-annual-audit-summit. The event will be recorded.

The North Dakota State Auditor's Office conducts audits to improve government. With a vision to empower North Dakota citizens through outreach and education, the office is committed to transparency by sharing information with the people they serve, the citizens of North Dakota.

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HHS shares healthy summer reminders

BISMARCK, ND - Summer activities such as camping, swimming and sports are in full swing in North Dakota. North Dakota Health and Human Services (HHS) is sharing tips and reminders to help North Dakotans enjoy summer in a healthy and safe way.

OUTDOOR SAFETY

North Dakotans spending time outdoors should be aware of diseases that can be spread by insects, wildlife and the sun.

Most skin cancers are caused by too much exposure to ultraviolet (UV) light. To prevent skin cancers, avoid midday sun when the sun's rays are the strongest. Stay in the shade as much as possible when outdoors and use a broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of at least 30. Apply sunscreen every two hours. Remember, even on cloudy or cool days, UV rays can still be strong.

Mosquitoes may carry West Nile virus. Grand Forks, North Dakota, has recently detected West Nile virus in two mosquito pools. To avoid mosquito bites, use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered insect repellent and wear light-colored

clothing outdoors such as long-sleeved shirts, long pants and socks.

Cases of tickborne disease are highest during summer months and peak in July. Ticks can carry diseases such as Lyme disease, anaplasmosis and Rocky Mountain spotted fever. To prevent tick bites, avoid wooded and bushy areas with high grass, use EPA registered insect repellent and check the body and clothing for ticks after coming indoors. Check pets daily.

WATER SAFETY

Swimming in pools, lakes or rivers is one of the most popular activities during the summer, but it comes with health and safety risks such as swimming-related illnesses and drowning. Learn more about safe swimming and how to prevent injury at www.hhs.nd.gov/behavioral-health/prevention/water-safety.

FOOD SAFETY

Foodborne illnesses frequently occur during the summer months due to the warmer temperatures in which germs thrive. Avoid leaving food out too long at room temperature and never leave

unrefrigerated for over two hours. Learn more about food safety and foodborne illnesses at www.hhs.nd.gov/health/diseases-condition/foodborne-illness.

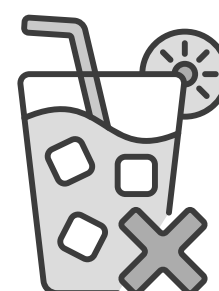
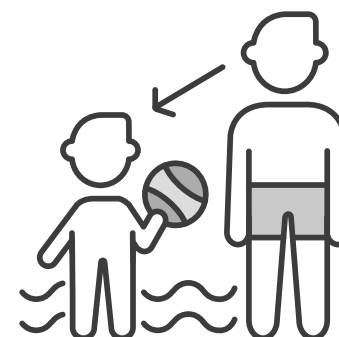
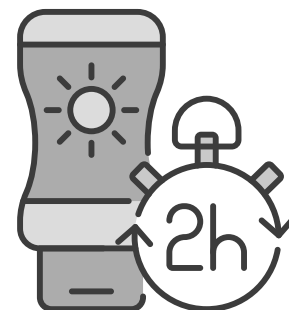
CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY

Road trips are another popular activity during summer months in North Dakota. To ensure children are using the proper car seat or seat belt for their size, age and development, find a car seat checkup event at www.hhs.nd.gov/health/child-passenger-safety/events.

RESPONSIBLE DRINKING

Not all drinks are created equal. Those of age and aiming to drink responsibly can learn the volume of alcohol in drinks to make informed decisions and reduce risk. The Alculator tool speaks volumes by identifying the alcohol content of beverages through a browser-based interactive app. Check it out at www.hhs.nd.gov/speak-volumes.

For more helpful summer safety reminders, visit www.hhs.nd.gov/behavioral-health/prevention/summer-safety.





North Dakota

Livestock Alliance

ndlivestock.org



The North Dakota Livestock Alliance is a non-profit organization led by farmers and ranchers focused on transparency with North Dakota's Counties about:

- *The economic and community benefits to welcoming livestock operations to your county*
- *What to expect when a livestock operation is proposed in your community*
- *State and local livestock zoning procedures*
- *Modern livestock management, barn design and environmental stewardship*




Contact us or invite NDLA to your next County Commission meeting at ndlivestock.org or 701-712-1488 Follow us on Facebook @LivestockND

2024

ELECTION RESULTS

2024 Primary Election Ballot

COUNTY MEASURES

Road Levy Measures		Yes %
Eddy #1	Increase road levy from 20 to 30 mills	39.61%
Emmons #1	Replace expiring 5 mill road levy	55.50%
Foster #1	Increase road levy from 12 to 25 mills	60.92%
Extension Levy Measures		
Hettinger #1	Up to 4 mills for extension (Automatic recount-1 vote)	50.10%
Mercer #1	Up to 4 mills for extension	27.37%
Pierce #1	Up to 3 mills for extension	50.97%
Ransom #1	Up to 4 mills for extension	54.33%
Sioux #3	Up to 4 mills for extension	31.88%
Other Fees & Measures		
Logan #1	911 Fee increase to \$2	51.62%
Oliver #1	Increase Commission from 3 to 5 members	49.69%
Sargent #1	Increase Historical Levy to 1/2 mill	51.43%
Sargent #2	Make Auditor & Treas/Clerk/ Recorder Appointed	30.70%
Sioux #1	Make State's Attorney appointed	55.45%
Sioux #2	911 Fee increase to \$2	33.65%
Wells #1	Merge County & Harvey Library	61.25%
Wells #2	Make State's Attorney appointed	46.08%
Home Rule/Sales Tax Measures		
Burleigh #1	Home Rule Charter Amend - Sales Tax Increase	59.36%
Williams #1	Home Rule Charter Amend - Extend Sales Tax 10 years	58.68%

2024 Elections

2-YEAR UNEXPIRED TERMS

Position		Candidate-Current Office Holder	Other Candidate
Barnes	Auditor	Julie Mindt	
Dunn	Auditor/Treasurer	Sally Whittingham	
Benson	Clerk of Court	Emily Yri	
Adams	Recorder	Sheri Uecker	
Traill	Recorder	Debra Guest	
Emmons	Recorder/Clerk	Kathy Dosch	Robin Mosset 52%
Hettinger	Recorder/Clerk	Robin Ulrich	
Burke	Sheriff	Nick Throntveit	
Cavalier	Sheriff	Matt Wright	
Griggs	Sheriff	Michael Beaver	
McIntosh	State's Attorney		
Oliver	State's Attorney	Patrick Waters	

2024 COUNTY COMMISSION RACES

County/District	Candidate - (i) Incumbent	Candidate	Incumbent Not on Ballot
Adams Vote for 2	Anthony Larson(i) Dustin Laufer (i)	Tyler Erickson Steven West	
Barnes 1 Barnes 5	Mike Schwehr Peter Paulson (i)		Cindy Schwehr
Benson 2 Benson 4	Dick Horner (i) David M Davidson (i)	Myra Ertelt	
Billings 1 Billings 3	Lester Iverson (i) Dean Rodne (I)	James Haag/ Ben Simons John Hild	
Bottineau 2 Bottineau 4	James Pollard Lance Kjelshus (i)	Tim Monson/ A.Pederson	Jeff Beyer
Bowman Vote for 3	Pine Abramhamson (i) Rick Braaten (i) Jerry Jeffers (i)	Nathan Miller	
Burke 1 Burke 3	Shannon Holter (i) Jerret Van Berkom (i)		
Burleigh Vote for 2	Brian Bitner (i) Steve Baaken (i)	Amelia Doll Gregory Heilman	
Cass 1 Cass 3 Cass 5	Tim Flakoll Jim Kapitan (i) Keith Gohdes	Joel Vettel/ Mark Johnson	Chad Peterson Mary Scherling
Cavalier Vote for 2	Greg Goodman (i) Shane Gallagher	Chris Sanders	Dave Zeis
Dickey 2 Dickey 4	Jerry Walsh (i) Marke Roberts (i)		
Divide 2	Rodney Johnson (i)		
Dunn Vote for 2	Cody Buehner (i) JoAnn Marsh Brew (i)	Al Heiser Dave Olson	
Eddy (At Large)	Glenda Collier (i)	Joanna Lason/ Dave Schaefer	
Emmons 1 Emmons 3 Emmons 5	Craig Miller (i) James Gartner Jim Vander Vorst		Gary Hulm Don Eberle
Foster 1 Foster 3 Foster 5	Pat Copenhaver (i) David Utke (i) Becky Hagel (i)		
Golden Valley 2	Adam Smith (i)		
Grand Forks Vote for 2	Cynthia Pic (i) David Engen (i)	Terry Bjerke/ Ryan Graf Ron Barta/ Kyle Kvamme	
Grant 1 Grant 2	(no filers) AlRoy Hochhalter (i)		Marty Meyer
Griggs 2 Griggs 4	Stephanie Edland (i) Scott Tranby (i)	Connie Swenson Troy Olson	
Hettinger 1 Hettinger 3	Todd Lutz (i) Tom Geerts (i)		
Kidder (At large)	Dan Mittleider (i)	Friez/Kolanek/ Mittleider/ Pfaff/Schultz	
Lamoure 1 Lamoure 3 Lamoure 5	Lee Miller (i) Keith Heidinger (i) Jason Weigel (i)	Wayne Wald	
Logan Vote for 2	Charlie Johs (i) John Wald (i)	Bryan Batsch/ Eric Hoberg Keith Lindenberg	

2024 COUNTY COMMISSION RACES

County/District	Candidate - (i) Incumbent	Candidate	Incumbent Not on Ballot
McHenry 2 McHenry 4	Bryan Bruner (i) Brady Nelson (i)		
McLean 2	Curt Olson		Barry Suydam
Mercer Vote for 2	Neil Seibel Travis Frey (i)	Jon Schlender /Mark Pierce Casey Voight	Liza Taylor
Morton Vote for 3	Nathan Boehm (i) Raymond Morrell (i)		Ron Leingang
Mountrail 1 Mountrail 5	Wayne Olson (i) Jason Rice (i)		
Nelson 2 Nelson 4	Cody Johnson (i) Doug Flaagen	Brian Nelson	Steve Forde
Oliver 1	Blake Wilkens (i)	Robert Schmidt/ Paul Metz/ Gary Smith	
Oliver 3	Darrell Berger (i)	Burt Isaak/ Dave Berger/ Brad Meckle	
Pembina 2 Pembina 4	Kelly Gratton Scot Becker	Patrick Hardy Jeffrey Stevenson	James Benjaminson Laverne Doyle
Pierce 2 Pierce 4	Joel Berg Terry Hoffert (i)		Mike Christenson
Ramsey Vote for 3	Lee Gessner (i) Blaine Volk (i) Jeff Firth (i)		
Ransom Vote for 3	Todd Anderson Andrew Beerman Greg Schwab (i)	C.Greenley/ S.Johnson Tim Jordan/ Sye Olson Thad Witte	Connie Gilbert Joe Mathern
Renville 2	Robert Marmon (i)		
Richland Vote for 2	Tim (Soup) Campbell (i) Perry Miller (i)		
Rolette Vote for 3	Cam Mickelson (i) Chick Larocque (i)	C.Counts/R.Zaste Betty Swain Allen Schlenvogt (i) L.Lunday	
Sargent Vote for 2	Mark Breker (i) Jason Arth (i)	K.Martinson R.Ruch J.Peterson J.Waswick	
Sheridan 2	Rod Schilling (i)		
Sioux 2	Larry Silbernagel (i)	Everett EJ Ironeyes	
Slope 2	Scott Ouradnik (i)		
Stark 1 Stark 3 Stark 5	Bernie Marsh (i) Dean Franchuk (i) Neal Messer (i)		
Steele 2 Steele 4	Richard Strand (i) Brandon Krueger (i)		
Stutsman Vote for 2 2-yr Term	George Barnes Paul Belzer Amanda Hastings	Mike Hansen Levi Taylor (i)	Mark Klose (i) Joan Morris (i) Levi Taylor (i)
Towner 1	Lance Teubner (i)	Todd Klingenberg	
Towner 3 Towner 5	Bob Hallaway (i) Matt Odermann (i)		



2024 COUNTY COMMISSION RACES

County/District	Candidate - (i) Incumbent	Candidate	Incumbent Not on Ballot
Traill 2 Triall 4	Kurt Elliott (i)	D.Fugleberg/L. Hanson/C. Moen/J.Wilson	
	Larry Young (i)	Todd Zimprich	
Walsh Vote for 2 2-yr Term	Paul Houdek	Craig Jarolimek	Karen Anderson
	Kristie Brintnell (i)	Brandon Mathiason	
	Ernie Barta (i)		
Ward Vote for 3	Jedidiah Rader Shelly Weppler (i)		Howard Anderson Jim Rostad
Wells 1 Wells 3 Wells 5	Boone Maxwell (i) Stan Buxa (i) Bryan Lautt (i)	Leon Klocke	Stan Buxa Bryan Lautt
Williams 2 Williams 4	Steve Kemp (i) Chris Walstad		David Montgomery

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Better participant experiences



Administrative simplicity



Values that translate to service

Extensive access and assistance to help participants feel confident and at ease.



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- No talk time limits
- No pressure
- No cross-selling
- No hidden agendas



We're available when you need us most:

- More than **200 registered representatives**
- Average speed to answer is **17 seconds***
- Six-day **availability**
 - Mon – Fri: 8 am – 11 pm ET
 - Sat: 9 am – 6 pm ET

We offer better participant experiences that deliver meaningful outcomes through:

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- **100% U.S.-based** Solution Center Representatives providing one of the highest support availability rates for participants in the industry.
- **Industry-leading¹ digital tools and technologies** that help participants plan for and live in retirement while also protecting data and assets with features like Nationwide Account Lock.
- **Participant Engagement Program** that delivers personalized education and nudges, motivating more participants to engage with their plan and take action.
- **Comprehensive financial planning** provided by professionals who have earned and maintain the CFP® designation at no cost to the participant, regardless of account size.

We offer administrative simplicity that relieves your burdens and improves efficiency.

- Dedicated administration that gives you **direct access** to the plan's assigned Account Manager
- **Same-day request response** from our 100% U.S.-based team
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2. Assumes requests are received in good order

3. <https://fortune.com/ranking/best-companies/>

4. <https://people.com/human-interest-people-100-companies-that-care-7749999>

5. Nationwide Financial (Dec. 31, 2023)

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PNM-20089AO (05/24)

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Divide County Commissioners voted to approve the \$55,000 payment to the Divide County Job Development Authority, a \$20,000 increase from their contribution to last year's budget. Community Development Director KayCee Lindsey presented a projected budget for next year to show how that money could be used. Lindsey also mentioned the status of the Arts Across the Prairie program. She said the search for a location for the earthwork installation by Thane Lund is "more solidly moving forward," which means the project grant the JDA received from the National Endowment of the Arts could still be available. "I will be emailing the JDA for approval to request an extension on that from the NEA," she said. When it was first awarded, the \$75,000 grant was contingent upon the installation being completed by June 2024. The JDA is also required to match the grant. "Which is made up of some monies from the state and the Andrist Grant," Lindsey said. The John and Elaine Andrist Charitable Trust awarded \$50,000 to the project in 2022.

– Crosby Journal

Clay Cameron, Director Development and Sarah Montone, Project Director for NextEra Energy Resources gave a brief presentation to the **Burke** County Commissioners at their Tuesday, May 21 meeting. NextEra Energy has purchased 20 acres of land to house a battery storage substation adjacent to their wind farm collector substation in Burke County. The substation would house a 100-megawatt, four-hour battery storage (enough electricity to power approximately 82,000 North Dakota homes for four hours). NextEra is targeting December 2026 for commercial operation, submitting permits by the end of this year. Construction can take up to 12 months due to North Dakota's winter weather. Montone answered the question, "Why battery energy storage?" with basically one word, "reliability." Battery energy storage helps optimize the way the power grid delivers electricity to customers. It extends the hours a renewable energy project can operate, i.e. even if the wind stops blowing. It allows customers to enjoy renewable energy more hours of the day. A battery energy storage system typically includes the following components: *Individual battery cells (often the size of an iPad) are separated and pressure-sealed.

* These cells are put into battery modules and stacked on racks.

* The racks fill containers, not unlike a storage container you'd see on a ship or truck.

* The containers are paired with inverters to convert direct current to alternating current electricity.

* The system includes heating, ventilation and air conditioning.

* Can be paired with a renewable energy asset or stand-alone.

Montone stressed their battery energy storage projects are engineered to meet the highest standards of safety and fire protection to minimize risk. It is continuously monitored by an on-site system and off-site 24 hour control room which can shut down the system remotely and alert local support. NextEra will coordinate with first responders and fire officials to develop an appropriate emergency response plan. The project is an approximately \$120 million capital investment. Cameron explained how this is a first for the State of North Dakota, and the state has no rules or regulations at this time.

– Burke County Tribune

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) may literally come to the rescue of the **Bowman** Regional Library. The ARPA is a \$1.9 trillion stimulus package that was passed in 2021 and was designed to help restart an economy hobbled by the global pandemic. That may be one answer to the planned project for the property just south of the library. The director of the Bowman Regional Library sought some help from Bowman County officials with its proposed greenscape project when she addressed the County Commission May 7. "We started out two years ago with a plan from Brosz Engineering to work on the back of the library in that alley space that is not really an alley," Sarah Snively told the commissioners. "It is on the south side of the library property. We raised some money. We knew we needed a retaining wall. We knew we needed some things that were not on that Brosz plan." One possibility discussed was the county looking at using the federal ARPA money rather than send it back to the federal government. "We may as well give it to you, rather than give it back," one commissioner said. Snively admitted that she doesn't yet know the total contributions that may come from the different companies and the different grants.

– Bowman County Pioneer

A proposed wind power project and its impact on local roads during construction was the focus of a meeting April 16 between **Bowman** County

Commissioners and representatives of Apex Clean Energy. According to several commissioners, they were getting questions about the status of the project, its planned transportation analysis and were asking for clarifications they could pass on to their constituents. Apex Clean Energy is exploring the feasibility of constructing Bowman Wind. According to the company, the wind energy project is projected to generate 200 megawatts of clean, homegrown energy. Located in rural Bowman County near Rhame, there is local wind data that confirms the area under consideration is ideal for a project of this size, which will produce enough safe, pollution-free energy to power up to 99,500 homes, the company stated on its website. The company has projected that there could be up to 75 slowly-spinning wind turbines on the site and up to about 15 full-time jobs when it is fully operational. But during the meeting Monday, the focus was more on the need for better communication and how to handle the impact the construction would have on local roads. Scott Jansen, the Senior Development Manager for Apex Clean Energy, was joined at the meeting by Jeremy Spaeth. Part of the study is doing video recording of the roads all the way from the state line on the haul routes to the project, Jansen said. "There are three phases here - the pre-construction improvements that we are going to be doing to get the roads ready to receive components especially on the township roads adding gravel as needed, the plan for during construction. Lastly, the biggest question from the commissioners is the post construction improvement plan. "The road agreement that the county is holding us to is a pretty robust agreement. At the end of the day, we need to bring these roads back to at least as good of condition as when we started the project. The purpose of bringing the post-construction plan to the commissioners is to give everyone a baseline understanding of what our process and thought was," he said.

– Bowman County Pioneer

Donations from eight area businesses and the family of a former **Trail** County Sheriff could allow authorities to reach stranded motorists on Interstate 29 next winter. Traill County Sheriff Steve Hunt told county officials Tuesday that the vehicle could allow deputies to perform searches over uneven terrain in the summer, although its main purpose will be helping authorities reach stranded motorists in the winter. "This winter was good but (during) the previous one we struggled trying to get to people struck on the interstate," Hunt told the Traill

County Board of Commissioners. "We had a couple medical situations pop up and we had a helluva time getting to them. In one case it took us two hours to get to the person." Hunt began reaching out to businesses and potential donors in December attempting to raise about \$38,000 to buy a Polaris Ranger with a UTV track system and a pull-behind trailer. Installing emergency lights would add another \$8,000 to the total cost, he said. The Traill County Sheriff said he had raised nearly enough money in private donations to allow his department to purchase a Polaris Ranger utility vehicle. He has collected more than \$35,000 donations and expected to receive another \$7,000 contribution in the near future. Those figures still left the sheriff's department about \$3,000 to \$4,000 short of its fundraising goal but Hunt received permission to tap into his departmental budget to cover the remaining amount.

– Hillsboro Banner

Sometimes, just one vote does make a difference. A measure to continue a mill levy for the **Hettinger** County Extension Service squeaked through by just one vote in the June 11 election, qualifying the measure for an automatic recount.

– Hettinger County Herald

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Now I know ... How to Build Your Network

Jayme Tenneson | Nelson County and Griggs County

When Jayme Tenneson took over as Nelson County and Griggs County, N.D.'s state's attorney, he leaned on his friends, colleagues and law school classmates to help him learn the ropes.

While I was in law school, I thought about pursuing family law or maybe being a prosecutor. It seemed like something I could manage while continuing to farm.

About 11 years ago, there was some turmoil over a courthouse construction project in my county and residents proposed a recall.

A few candidates running to replace the commissioners asked me if I would be interested in serving as state's attorney if they won. They ended up sweeping the recall and I became a county prosecutor.

I came into the position really green and had to learn how to navigate and I figured I'd end up going to the Law School of Hard Knocks, a lot of long nights at the office. But during those nights, I started making calls to my colleagues. I'd call law school classmates, I'd call Aaron Birst, who

was the general counsel at the state association, and I received a lot of guidance from them.

I didn't even realize at the time how strong my network was. So, when I'd have a problem I either couldn't figure out on my own or needed some outside perspective, I'd make a call. I started meeting other prosecutors from other counties and they became a part of my network.

There's another North Dakota prosecutor who I've known since high school, but I also meet people through the state association or in continuing legal education classes.

Sometimes, I'm calling about technical aspects of the law, but a lot of times it's a soft skills question or a work-life balance question. I have friends that are in larger communities, and they can walk into a grocery store or restaurant and the server or whoever is helping them, they don't care who they are, they're anonymous. I walk into the grocery store, the gas station, and if I'm wearing a suit, everyone in there knows I'm going to court. I can't be anonymous.



NDACo President Jayme Tenneson (center), with colleagues on the association's Board of Directors (l-r): Nick Moser, third vice president (Cavalier County), Trudy Ruland, first vice president (Mountrail County), Tenneson, Chad Kaiser, second vice president (Stutsman County) and Steve Lee, past president (McLean County).

When I started, I just wanted to make it through a year without being recalled myself. Then I started getting some calls from young attorneys and I realized things had come full circle. I've been doing this for more than 10 years and I never want to get complacent. So you always try to learn more; but

I realized I was now someone people called to ask for advice and bounce ideas off of. I'm one of the experienced guys now.

Now I Know explores experiences that have shaped county officials' approach to their work; as told to Senior Writer and Digital Editor Charlie Ban.

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- SURVEY & GIS MAPPING
- PROJECT FUNDING ASSISTANCE

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2024 COUNTY CALENDAR

July

- 4 _____ Independence Day
- 9-11 _____ ND Auditors & Treasurers Association Conference, Holiday Inn, Fargo
- 9-11 _____ Human Service Zone Directors Annual Meeting, Hampton Inn & Suites, Bismarck
- 11 _____ Human Services Committee Meeting, Roughrider Room, Capitol
- 12-15 _____ NACo Annual Conference, Tampa, FL
- 24-25 _____ County Tour to Ward, Renville, Oliver, Mercer and McLean Counties

August

- 12-15 _____ ND Association of Assessing Officers Annual Meeting, Ramada Hotel, Bismarck
- 14-15 _____ County Tour to Barnes, Ramsey, Nelson and Griggs Counties
- 28 _____ NDCCA Board of Directors Meeting, NDACo County Office Building
- 29 _____ ILG/NDACo Board of Directors Meeting, NDACo County Office Building

September

- 2 _____ Labor Day
- 9-11 _____ ND Emergency Management Association Annual Conference, BSC National Energy Center of Excellence
- 10 _____ Information Technology Committee Meeting, Harvest Room, Capitol
- 10-11 _____ County Tour to Dickey, LaMoure, Ransom, Richland and Sargent Counties
- 11 _____ Retirement Committee Meeting, Roughrider Room, Capitol
- 16 _____ Health Services Committee Meeting, Roughrider Room, Capitol
- 17 _____ Government Finance Committee Meeting, Roughrider Room, Capitol
- 18-20 _____ ND League of Cities Annual Conference, Grand Forks Alerus Center



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Fargo, Bismarck, Minot & Williston, ND ▲ Sioux Falls & Rapid City, SD ▲ Duluth & Shakopee, MN ▲ Urbana, IA