



Cell phones ringing? Get ready to
Donate \$5 to the Scholarship Fund.

Tentative
AGENDA
NDCCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wednesday, April 29, 2026 – 10:30 a.m.
NDACo County Office Building – 1661 Capitol Way

10:30 am	Call to Order	President Neal Messer
(Neal)	Pledge of Allegiance	
(Genny)	Roll Call	
(Neal)	Review/Approve Order of Agenda ACTION	
(Aaron)	Ron Henke, NDDOT Director – <i>Invited Special Guest</i>	
(Neal)	Consideration of Previous Board of Directors Meeting Minutes December 10, 2025 <i>POSTED</i> ACTION	Page 4
(Glenda)	Treasurer's Report (Treasurer Glenda Collier) <i>POSTED</i> ACTION	Page 7
(Lonny/Dwight)	NDACo Resources Group (NRG) Update <i>POSTED</i>	Page 12
	NDACo Cooperative Services	
	County Financial Partnerships <i>POSTED</i>	Page 13
(Genny)	Drug & Alcohol Testing Service	
(Kaitlyn)	GIS Program	
(Teanna)	9-1-1 Fee Collection Program	
(Jason)	Status and Challenges of 9-1-1	
(Sara)	Indirect Cost Reimbursement Service	
(Peter)	Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor	
(Aaron)	Personnel Services <i>POSTED</i>	Page 17
	Communications/Member Services Coordinator	
	Accounting Assistant	

	Member Services	
	Conference Report <i>POSTED</i>	Page 18
(Aaron)	2026 Conference Planning Status	
(Nea/Aaron)	County Tours <i>POSTED</i>	Page 19
(Michelle)	Commissioner of the Year Nomination Process <i>POSTED</i> ACTION	Page 20
	Legislative Services <i>POSTED</i>	Page 21
(Genny)	DOT Funding Update	
(Mary)	Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP)	
(Donnell/Linda)	Interim Committee Update	
(Aaron)	Data Centers	
(Stanley)	National Participation/NACo Board/WIR <i>POSTED</i>	Page 33
(Aaron)	NDCCA Mailbag <i>POSTED</i>	Page 38
(Neal)	Other Business	
(Neal)	Next Board Meeting Date – Wednesday, August 26	
(Neal)	Board Meeting Evaluation	
	Adjourn	

- RECOMMENDED MOTIONS -

**NDCCA BOARD MEETING
OF
APRIL 29, 2026**

- Approve Order of Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda as presented.
- December 10, 2025 Board Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2025 Board of Directors meeting.
- Treasurer's Report: Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented.
- EICG Commissioner of the Year Nomination Process: Motion to nominate _____ from _____ County as the NDCCA Board of Director's Nomination for the Excellence in County Government 2026 Commissioner of the Year.

**Meeting Minutes
NDCCA Board of Directors
December 10, 2025
NDACo County Office Building**

President Neal Messer called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM. After the pledge of allegiance, the President asked for a calling of the roll. A quorum was declared.

Members Present:	Neal Messer	Tracey Dolezal
Glenda Collier	Joan Hollekim	Jason Arth
Cory Hanson	Jim Kapitan	Miranda Schuler
Andy Zachmeier		

Also Present:	Aaron Birst, NDACo Executive Director
	Genny Dienstmann, NDACo Staff
	Michelle Tabbert, NDACo Staff
	Jason Horning, NDACo Staff
	Sara Cote, NDACo Staff
	Michael Casey, NDACo Staff
	Jeff Eslinger, NDACo Staff
	Donnell Preskey, NDACo Staff
	Linda Svihovec, NDACo Staff

The President asked the Board to review the proposed agenda. As there were no changes proposed, Hanson moved that the agenda be approved as presented. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

The President introduced one new member of the NDCCA Board—Ward County Commissioner Miranda Schuler. Miranda was given an opportunity to say a few words. The President welcomed her and thanked her for her willingness to serve; he asked the remaining Board members and staff to introduce themselves to the new member.

As directed by Article III, Section 5 of the NDCCA Constitution, the office of Secretary needs to be appointed to a one-year term by the Board. Dolezal made a motion to appoint Aaron Birst as Secretary of the NDCCA Board of Directors. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Consideration of the minutes of August 27, 2025, and October 27, 2025, was requested. Hollekim moved to approve the August 27th minutes. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote. Collier moved to approve the October 27th minutes. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

The President requested the Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Glenda Collier provided a review of the financial statements. After answering questions, Arth moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

The President asked Aaron and Genny to explain a requested change regarding financial authorizations and signatures. It was recommended that authorization for checks would transition from requiring two signatures to one signature and all invoices would receive prior approval by the Treasurer or President before issuing checks. This would also include the same approval process of issuing/cashing in investments on behalf of NDCCA. Collier made a motion to approve authorization changes to one signature on checks and issuing/cashing in investments and all invoices be approved by Board Treasurer or President prior to payment. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Aaron next shared a clarification on the approval of the NDCCA budget. He noted that Article IV, Section 2 of the NDCCA Constitution & Bylaws states the Board of Directors are to prepare and adopt the budget. He noted that for some time the budget has been approved by the full membership during the Annual Business Meeting. Moving forward, approval of the budget will be the duty of the Board of Directors. Genny explained that new accounting software is being implemented at a cost to NDCCA of \$1,460 for the next biennium. The President called for a motion to amend the budget. Hollekim made a motion to amend the 2026/2027 budget to include accounting software costs of \$1,460 for the biennial budget. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

Aaron next explained the request to change the NDCCA fiscal year from October-September to a calendar year beginning in January 2028. Dolezal made a motion to approve a change in fiscal year for NDCCA from October-September to a calendar year (January-December) starting in January 2028. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Under County Financial Partnerships, Jason reported on the Next Generation 9-1-1 Program. Sara continued with an update on the Indirect Cost Reimbursement Services. Genny followed with an update on the Tractor Lease Program. Aaron continued with an update on the activities of the Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor Program that Peter Halbach oversees. Aaron continued with a recap of the work being accomplished by Ryan through the Vision Zero Outreach Program.

Michael gave an update on the work being accomplished through the County Employer Group. Aaron followed with an update on the Nationwide Retirement Solutions Report, highlighting the number of participants and plan value of assets.

Under Member Services, Jeff was invited to present the 2025 Conference Report. Attendance and registrations were highlighted, and the financial results were shared. A summary of conference feedback was noted and shared a slide show of conference photos would be shown at lunch. Aaron followed with a recap of the County Commissioners Summit that was held on December 9th.

The President called on Linda and Donnell to begin the Legislative Services Report with a presentation on the Impacts of Caps. Donnell provided updates on the activities of the interim committees that affect counties.

Aaron highlighted the NDCCA Mailbag and gave an update on National Participation. Under Other Business, President Messer directed attention to the written report on County Tours, which shows the counties that were visited in 2025 and those that will be visited in 2026 and 2027. Aaron explained that the commitment by the Presidents and NDACo staff to participate in four separate Tours is difficult and that beginning in 2026 the NDACo President and 1st Vice President will share the tours, with each member taking two of the Tours. The NDCCA Board members were encouraged to participate in county tours.

President Messer urged all members to complete their evaluation form.

There was no further business and having reached the end of the agenda, the meeting was declared adjourned at 11:02 AM.

Approved by Board Resolution: _____
Aaron Birst, Executive Secretary

Date: _____

**NORTH DAKOTA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION
REVENUE & EXPENDITURE REPORT
FOR THE MONTH ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2026**

	BIENNIAL ACTUAL 2024/2025	BIENNIAL ACTUAL 2026/2027	BIENNIAL BUDGET 2026/2027	% OF BUDGET
<u>INCOME</u>				
NDCCA DUES	\$146,240.00	\$73,920.00	\$147,840.00	50.0%
INTEREST	18,878.68	1,705.47	15,000.00	11.4%
WIR DUES	14,875.00	7,500.00	15,000.00	50.0%
COMMISSIONER SUMMIT REVENUE	8,600.00	3,400.00	16,000.00	21.3%
OTHER INCOME	101.00	0.00	100.00	0.0%
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	<u>\$188,694.68</u>	<u>\$86,525.47</u>	<u>\$193,940.00</u>	<u>44.6%</u>
<u>EXPENSES</u>				
GRANT WRITING PROJECT	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	\$30,000.00	0.0%
REGULAR MEETINGS	22,944.11	3,343.90	25,000.00	13.4%
BOARD EXPENSES	1,445.42	767.82	2,000.00	38.4%
POSTAGE & SUPPLIES	1,516.07	3.34	300.00	1.1%
NACo PARTICIPATION	29,643.45	13,000.00	50,000.00	26.0%
NDCCA/NDACo CONVENTION	9,000.00	4,500.00	9,000.00	50.0%
WIR EXPENSES	15,241.13	0.00	18,000.00	0.0%
WEB DEVELOPMENT	4,232.56	753.51	5,000.00	15.1%
STAFF EXPENSES	8,000.00	4,000.00	8,000.00	50.0%
COMMISSIONER SUMMIT	8,299.62	5,362.52	16,000.00	33.5%
OTHER EXPENSES	20.00	729.18	1,500.00	48.6%
INSURANCE EXPENSES	1,228.00	0.00	1,500.00	0.0%
WATER COALITION DUES	2,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	50.0%
TOTAL REGULAR EXPENSES	<u>133,570.36</u>	<u>33,460.27</u>	<u>168,300.00</u>	<u>19.9%</u>
<u>LEGISLATIVE EXPENSES</u>				
PHOTOCOPIES	367.15	101.70	400.00	25.4%
LEGAL/LOBBYING EXPENSE	9,188.75	0.00	8,250.00	0.0%
GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS	18,000.00	9,000.00	18,000.00	50.0%
COMMISSIONER PARTICIPATION	330.16	0.00	1,250.00	0.0%
MEETINGS	438.74	0.00	500.00	0.0%
TOTAL LEGISLATIVE EXPENSES	<u>28,324.80</u>	<u>9,101.70</u>	<u>28,400.00</u>	<u>32.0%</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$161,895.16</u>	<u>\$42,561.97</u>	<u>\$196,700.00</u>	<u>21.6%</u>
REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	<u>\$26,799.52</u>	<u>\$43,963.50</u>	<u>(\$2,760.00)</u>	

NOTES:

- 1) *The NDCCA Board of Directors has passed a motion that they will not accept partial payment of dues.
All dues must be paid in full for a county to be a member.*

NORTH DAKOTA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

BALANCE SHEET AS OF FEBRUARY 28, 2026

ASSETS

SAVINGS ACCOUNT	\$142,498.17
CHECKING ACCOUNT	100.00
INVESTMENTS	147,819.75
ELMER JESME FUND	1,849.69
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	500.00
PREPAID EXPENSES	0.00

TOTAL ASSETS

\$292,767.61

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$0.00
DEFERRED DUES REVENUE	0.00
DEFERRED CONF REVENUE	0.00
A/P - ELMER JESME FUND	1,849.69
FUND BALANCE	246,954.42
REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	43,963.50

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY

\$292,767.61

**ND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION
LIST OF DEPOSITS
NOVEMBER 1, 2025 - FEBRUARY 28, 2026**

DATE	CUSTOMER	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
11/24/2025	MERCER COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,725.00
11/24/2025	STEELE COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,725.00
11/24/2025	CAVALIER COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,725.00
11/26/2025	NELSON COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,725.00
11/26/2025	FOSTER COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,725.00
12/5/2025	WARD COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,725.00
12/5/2025	BOWMAN COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,725.00
12/5/2025	STARK COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,725.00
12/5/2025	BENSON COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,725.00
12/8/2025	WELLS COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,725.00
12/8/2025	WALSH COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,725.00
12/8/2025	GRANT COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,085.00
12/9/2025	MCKENZIE COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	2,182.00
12/12/2025	GRAND FORKS COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,725.00
12/17/2025	MOUNTRAIL COUNTY	SUMMIT REGISTRATIONS	100.00
12/19/2025	BOWMAN COUNTY	SUMMIT REGISTRATION	50.00
12/19/2025	ADAMS COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,085.00
12/22/2025	DUNN COUNTY	SUMMIT REGISTRATIONS	150.00
12/22/2025	BURKE COUNTY	SUMMIT REGISTRATION	50.00
12/22/2025	CASS COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,725.00
12/22/2025	EDDY COUNTY	SUMMIT REGISTRATION	50.00
12/22/2025	MERCER COUNTY	SUMMIT REGISTRATIONS	100.00
12/22/2025	FOSTER COUNTY	SUMMIT REGISTRATION	50.00
12/23/2025	NELSON COUNTY	SUMMIT REGISTRATION	50.00
12/23/2025	BARNES COUNTY	SUMMIT REGISTRATION	50.00
12/29/2025	SARGENT COUNTY	SUMMIT REGISTRATION	50.00
12/30/2025	TOWNER COUNTY	SUMMIT REGISTRATION	50.00
12/30/2025	BOTTINEAU COUNTY	SUMMIT REGISTRATION	50.00
12/31/2025	RDO EQUIPMENT CO	SUMMIT SPONSORSHIP	1,500.00
12/31/2025	RICHLAND COUNTY	SUMMIT REGISTRATION	50.00
1/5/2026	MORTON COUNTY	SUMMIT REGISTRATION	50.00
1/5/2026	GOLDEN VALLEY COUNTY	SUMMIT REGISTRATIONS	150.00
1/5/2026	STARK COUNTY	SUMMIT REGISTRATION	50.00
1/5/2026	WARD COUNTY	SUMMIT REGISTRATION	50.00
1/7/2026	MOUNTRAIL COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,725.00
1/9/2026	BURLEIGH COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED/SUMMIT REG	1,775.00
1/9/2026	WILLIAMS COUNTY	SUMMIT REGISTRATION	50.00
1/9/2026	BURKE COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,085.00
1/12/2026	GOLDEN VALLEY COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,151.00
1/12/2026	DIVIDE COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,085.00
1/12/2026	SHERIDAN COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,085.00
1/12/2026	GRIGGS COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,725.00
1/12/2026	STUTSMAN COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,725.00

1/12/2026	DICKEY COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,725.00
1/12/2026	BARNES COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,725.00
1/12/2026	EMMONS COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED/SUMMIT REG	1,775.00
1/12/2026	DUNN COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,725.00
1/12/2026	RENNVILLE COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,085.00
1/13/2026	MCHENRY COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,725.00
1/13/2026	PEMBINA COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,725.00
1/13/2026	SLOPE COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,186.00
1/14/2026	BOTTINEAU COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,725.00
1/16/2026	PIERCE COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,725.00
1/20/2026	HETTINGER COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED/SUMMIT REG	1,135.00
1/20/2026	MCINTOSH COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,085.00
1/20/2026	RICHLAND COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,725.00
1/20/2026	KIDDER COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,085.00
1/20/2026	OLIVER COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,085.00
1/22/2026	LOGAN COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,085.00
1/26/2026	TRAILL COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,725.00
1/27/2026	LAMOURE COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,725.00
1/27/2026	WILLIAMS COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,725.00
1/27/2026	RANSOM COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,725.00
2/2/2026	EDDY COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,085.00
2/2/2026	SARGENT COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,725.00
2/10/2026	BILLINGS COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,325.00
2/10/2026	MCLEAN COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,096.00
2/17/2026	RAMSEY COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,725.00
2/18/2026	MORTON COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,725.00
2/18/2026	TOWNER COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,725.00
2/23/2026	RANSOM COUNTY	SUMMIT REGISTRATION	50.00
2/25/2026	SIOUX COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,085.00
2/27/2026	ROLETTE COUNTY	DUES RECEIVED	1,725.00
TOTAL FUNDS RECEIVED			\$84,320.00

**ND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION
LIST OF CHECKS & ACH PAYMENTS
NOVEMBER 1, 2025 - FEBRUARY 28, 2026**

CHECK #	DATE	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
2756	11/17/25	ND WATER COALITION	BILLING	1,000.00
INHOUSE XFR	12/4/25	ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES	BILLING	8,500.00
ACH	12/16/25	MIRANDA SCHULER	VOUCHER	125.00
ACH	12/16/25	NEAL MESSER	VOUCHER	125.00
ACH	12/16/25	ANDY ZACHMEIER	VOUCHER	125.00
ACH	12/16/25	JIM KAPITAN	VOUCHER	125.00
ACH	12/16/25	JOAN HOLLEKIM	VOUCHER	261.10
ACH	12/16/25	CORY HANSON	VOUCHER	455.00
ACH	12/16/25	GLENDA COLLIER	VOUCHER	223.00
ACH	12/16/25	JASON ARTH	VOUCHER	462.00
ACH	12/16/25	TRACEY DOLEZAL	VOUCHER	147.00
INHOUSE XFR	1/27/26	ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES	BILLING	21,452.41
INHOUSE XFR	2/27/26	ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES	BILLING	9,000.00
TOTAL CHECKS & ACH PAYMENTS				\$42,000.51

SERVICE REPORT: NDACo Resources Group (NRG)

April 2026

(Report submitted to the Board of Directors by Lonny.)

PROGRAM UPDATE:

- **NDACo Resources Group (NRG)**
 - Working with the Law Office of Bradley Gross to update our MSA (Master Service Agreement), which was last updated around 2012.
 - At or near the end of a migration of our RMM (Remote Monitoring & Management) software from ConnectWise Automate to ConnectWise RMM.
 - Knowbe4 security awareness training rollout is complete.
 - Continuing to roll out Axcient as our new backup solution for clients. This will take a few years to complete as we have contracts with Datto into 2027.
 - Have our first client that has accepted a quote to implement Lumu. Lumu is an AI operating SIEM (security information and event management).
 - NRG is now a Nerdio customer. Nerdio is used to secure M365 tenants for our customers.
 - Have a new password vault available to clients called LastPass.

Background Information: NDACo Resources Group or NRG Technology Services (NRG) is a fully owned subsidiary of NDACo established in 2000. NRG has been around since 1992, first as NDCAT then NDACo Automation Technology and later as NRG.

NRG is an MSP, managed service provider, meaning we proactively service PCs, servers and networks for our customers. We work closely with North Dakota Information Technology (NDIT), meeting every six weeks to discuss topics that may affect all counties and human service zones.

NRG currently has 85 contracted clients. The clients consist of the following:

- 24 Counties
- 9 Cities
- 9 Human Service Zones
- 8 Public Health Offices
- 3 Associations
- 32 Other Clients (ranging from financial, retail, recreational and other non-profits)

Eight to ten counties have their own IT staff.

NRG employs 17 full-time employees.

SERVICE REPORT: County Financial Partnerships (CFP)

April 2026

(Report submitted to the Board of Directors by Genny, Kaitlyn, Teanna, Jason, Sara and Peter)

PROGRAM UPDATE:

- **Drug & Alcohol Testing Service**

This program continues to have strong participation by our members with 48 counties in the DOT pool including 584 employees and in the non-DOT pool there are 30 counties and 4 human service zones with 562 employees.

There have been some challenges with finding onsite testing partners in certain areas of the state as some have closed their operations. Global Safety Network (GSN) continues to explore opportunities to expand their onsite testing partnerships.

GSN has expertise in the federal requirements of the Clearinghouse database, which tracks the drug and alcohol violations of CDL drivers nationwide. They actively assist counties in meeting these requirements.

- **Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Program**

Since the inception of the GIS Program, the focus has always been on counties and ensuring there's access to a qualified professional. Through the last four years the program has grown to serve nine counties along with the North Dakota State Parcel Program. To broaden the scope of services, Kaitlyn is compiling resources to create a handbook of sorts that she believes would be beneficial for new hires as well as established officials at the county level to get a grasp on GIS without a large time investment. In addition to that, she is collaborating with parcel and tax roll vendors to create a vendor fact sheet for county officials to reference.

A new strategy to market the program, help build trust and overall geospatial knowledge throughout the association has been implemented. Parallel to work being done for the ND Parcel Program, a new Youtube Channel has been created (<https://youtube.com/@NDParcelProgram>). Short walkthrough videos as well as ILG Webinar recordings, which are also a part of the new marketing strategy, have been posted to the channel for public reference. Another tactic to capture attention, Kaitlyn has been submitting a series of articles for publication in *County News* and hosting ILG webinars (one in February and one in May).

- **9-1-1 Fee Collection and Distribution Program**

The 9-1-1 Fee Collection and Distribution program has had another successful year. In 2025, a total of \$18,491,395.89 in 9-1-1 fees were collected and distributed back to North Dakota counties, SORN, and the NG 9-1-1 program. Since the program's inception in 2024, total fees remitted have reached \$38,293,724.20.

The transition from the 5% administrative fee to 2.5% has been very successful, as all 174 telecommunications providers reported and remit their fees accurately and on time. As a result of the reduced administrative fee, an additional \$20,000 per month is being returned to the counties.

- **Status and Challenges of 9-1-1**

Jason will attend the April Board meeting to explain a potential opportunity for the counties.

- **Indirect Cost Reimbursement Services**

Initial drafts of the cost allocation plans, used to determine indirect costs for social services, were completed in January. Based on those calculations, North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services issued the first half of reimbursement payments to host counties. Since that time, ongoing analysis has been conducted to ensure all allowable costs were appropriately captured and allocated.

Reimbursement amounts for 2024 were approximately 15% higher than prior year plans across all counties combined. The plans are currently being reviewed with auditors, and certification forms being obtained, which will be completed by early May. In addition, requests for 2025 statistics and financial information have been initiated to allow for an early start on the 2025 plans.

- **Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor**

Peter Halbach's activities as Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor since December 2025 have included:

- Peter has provided technical assistance to law enforcement throughout the state and directly to prosecutors upon request in seven of the eight judicial districts of the state in 2026 alone, helping to obtain positive results in the trial and appellate courts of the state.
- In December 2025 and January 2026, Peter attended and presented to the Drug Recognition Expert (DRE)/Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFSTs) Instructor Inservice and the DRE School, respectively, focusing on implied

Consent law issues in impaired driving cases relating drugs or other substances.

- Peter attended the Winter Meeting of the North Dakota State's Attorneys Association (NDSAA) held from January 21 – 23, 2026, and discussed the ongoing need to update the association's website and its resources relating to impaired driving.
- To assist prosecutors in presenting toxicology information at hearings and trials, Peter has been working over the course of several months with the State Toxicologist to update and refine questions for toxicological testimony and participating in the planning of toxicology testimony training at the Crime Lab planned for June 8, 2026, with regional toxicology liaisons coming to North Dakota to assist in training forensic scientist to provide accurate and compelling testimony.
- Peter is working with a planning committee on the North Dakota Impaired Driving Conference to be held June 9 – 11, 2026, designed to deepen and renew law enforcement's understanding of the physiological and scientific foundations for standardized field sobriety testing, with emphasis on indicators of impairment, as well as information on trending impairing substances and updates on advances and challenges in the field of toxicology as well as court cases.
- Peter will again meet with and give a presentation to the hearing officers of the NDDOT on Implied Consent administrative hearings on April 29, 2026.
- As part of the Peace Officer Training Program (POTP) of Lake Region State College (LRSC), Peter provided instruction in Devils Lake in January 2026 and will in West Fargo in May and in Grand Forks in August or September.
- For the Law Enforcement Training Academy (LETA), Peter presented again in the basic academy, with sessions on April 9 and 10, 2026.
- Following the chairing of last year's meetings of the North Dakota Impaired Driving Task Force, in June and October, Peter continues to track the progress of its four subcommittees formed to work in the essential Impaired Driving program areas identified by NHTSA, all towards developing and refining the Impaired Driving portion of the State's triennial Highway Safety Plan due in July 2026. The coming weeks will see intense attention to the finalizing of the triennial plan.
- Last year, Peter and members of the Impaired Driving Task Force began coordinating with a group working on legislation on "Reducing Alcohol Associated Harms in North Dakota." These efforts to advance real solutions have continued and intensified through meetings and information exchanges during the early months of 2026.
- Peter intends to attend the Summer Meeting of the North Dakota State's Attorneys Association (NDSAA), scheduled to be held in Fargo, June 17 – 19, 2026.
- Peter attends the quarterly meetings of the DRE/SFST (Drug Recognition Expert/Standardized Field Sobriety Testing) Advisory Committee.

- Peter maintains open communication with program administrators from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) to assist with the dissemination of information and technical assistance as to CDL.
- The National Judicial College sponsored Peter's attendance and participation in a comprehensive series of traffic law presentations at a conference of municipal judges and magistrates in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in the first week of March.
- Peter will again in May attend the national TSRP Annual Conference funded by the National Association of Prosecutor Coordinators (NAPC), which is held annually for TSRPs to gather and learn from leading experts, including forensic specialists, of new developments and practices for the improvement of the prosecution of impaired driving cases.
- Peter also attends most TSRP Webinar Wednesdays, when available, which webinars are designed for professionals dealing with DUI and Traffic Enforcement.
- Peter attends monthly meetings of the DUI Prevention Subject Matter Expert (SME) team.
- The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is holding a series of "Impaired Driving Stakeholder Meetings" which Peter has attended with the third meeting set for May 17, 2026.
- Peter also participates in the NDDOT Highway Safety Division and Partners quarterly meetings.

SERVICE REPORT: Personnel Services

April 2026

(Report submitted to the Board of Directors by Aaron.)

PROGRAM UPDATE:

- **Communications/Member Services Coordinator**

The search is still ongoing for Jeff Eslinger's replacement after his recent retirement. Numerous interviews have been conducted but the right individual has not been identified. The hope continues to find someone with experience to lessen the supervision duties; but like many counties have noticed, finding experienced workers in the current market isn't always so easy. Hopefully, we'll have an exciting announcement soon.

- **9-1-1**

NDACo is also losing one of our newest employees. Teanna Hintz has accepted an excellent opportunity with Farm Credit Services. Teanna was instrumental in rolling out the 9-1-1 Fee Collection and Distribution Program. She will be missed, and we wish her the best in her new endeavor. The accounting and 9-1-1 teams have been meeting to discuss ideas for filling both Teanna's position and that of Kathy Kottenbrock who is retiring this summer.

SERVICE REPORT: Member Services

Annual Conference Report

April 2026

(Report submitted to the Board of Directors by Aaron and Michelle.)

2026 Conference Planning Status

2026 Annual Conference
October 11 - 13 Bismarck Event Center

General Conference Information

NDACo again renewed its contract with Funatix to run the annual conference. Aaron and team have been meeting with Funatix, and they are currently in the process of identifying the keynote speaker and the conference theme. This year's theme will be patriotic in conjunction with America's 250th Anniversary. More to come!

Pre-Conference Caucus Meetings

NDACo will again conduct preconference caucus meetings in all eight regions prior to our annual conference October 11-13. This being an even-numbered year means the even-numbered regions (Region 2 – Jarret Van Berkom, Region 4 – Aaron Mork, Region 6 – Becky Hagel and Region 8 – Scott Ouradnik) will have to conduct elections for their NDACo regional representative. A member of NDACo will begin coordinating with each region's county commissioner representative to find a time that works best for that region. Hybrid meetings are planned so that commissioners unable to attend in person can participate virtually.

SERVICE REPORT: County Tours

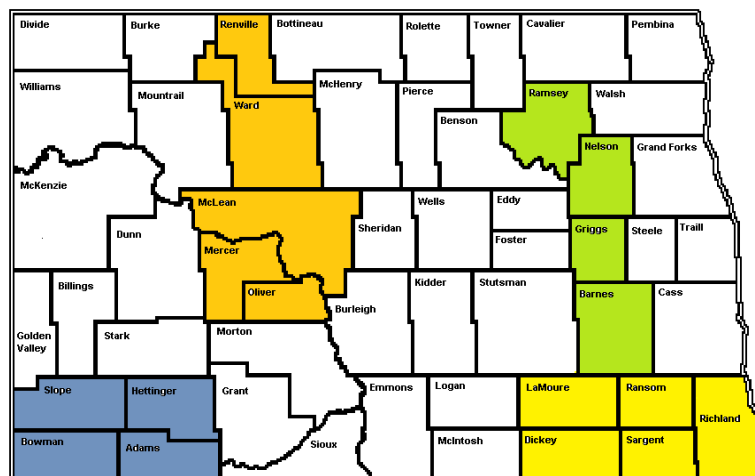
April 2026

(Report submitted to the Board of Directors by Michelle.)

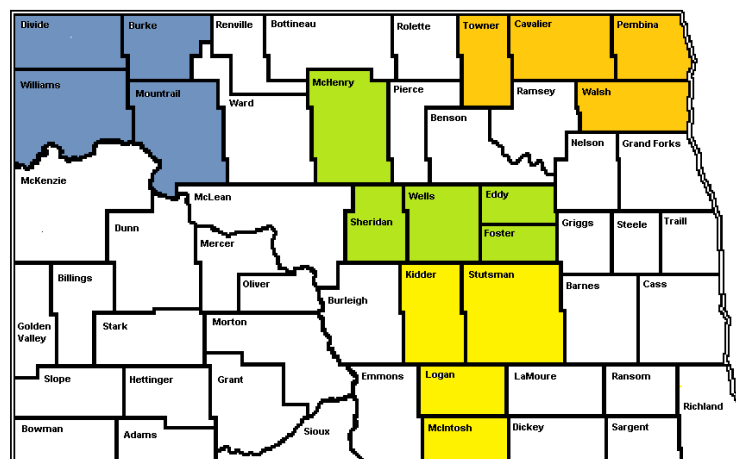
PROGRAM UPDATE:

- Of the four County Tours planned for 2026, one has been completed. Cass, Grand Forks, Steele and Traill Counties were visited on April 14-15. Due to the June Primary Election, the June Tour has been pushed back to June 24-25. Below is a list of the counties that will be visited on the three remaining Tours, as well as maps showing the counties to be visited in 2027 and 2028.
- **June 24-25, 2026** – Billings, Dunn, Golden Valley, McKenzie and Stark
- **August 12-13, 2026** – Benson, Bottineau, Pierce and Rolette
- **October 27-28 OR 28-29, 2026** – Burleigh, Emmons, Grant, Morton and Sioux

2027 County Tours – Proposed



2028 County Tours – Proposed



NDCCA Board of Directors Nomination for *Commissioner of the Year*

Commissioners Under Consideration - 2026

Please rate your top 3 choices - 1, 2 and 3

[illegible]

SERVICE REPORT: Legislative Services

April 2026

(Report submitted to the Board of Directors by Genny, Mary, Donnell and Aaron)

This meeting's Legislative Report contains updates on DOT Funding, the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) and interim committee activities, as well as a discussion regarding data centers.

DOT Funding

The first round of Flex Fund Grants was awarded to 103 local projects totaling \$119M, with seven of those projects going to counties. Prioritization for the grant awards included projects that have match funds (FEMA, discretionary grants, private, etc.), improve local corridors and if a project received prior Flex Funds for Professional Engineering (PE) costs for a project. Projects that focused on non-maintenance expenses that reduced operating costs, improved safety and efficiency were given higher consideration as well. Prairie Dog Grant Funds were also awarded to local projects with 17 county projects selected. These projects will be held in a ranked queue with NDDOT until funds are available. Qualified projects under both funding sources require a minimum cost of \$250k.

Bridge Grant Funds were also awarded to counties with \$6.6M allocated for 24 bridge removal projects and \$35.1M allocated to 21 bridge reconstruction projects. All the bridge removal projects are scheduled to be completed this year, while the reconstruction projects are scheduled for 2026, 2027 and 2028.

NDDOT received 674 applications totaling more the \$560 million in requested project costs. They have two dedicated staff for the Flex Fund/Prairie Dog Grant Programs and have worked closely with counties, cities and townships during the grant process. NDDOT has an interactive map that shows the location of the awarded projects with Flex Funds and Bridge Funds. You can view it at www.dot.nd.gov/flexfund.

Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP)

The Federally created Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP), administered by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), is a five-year program to improve rural health care access, quality, and sustainability. Funding will be awarded annually based on several criteria including expenditure of funds. North Dakota's application consists of four pillars: Strengthen and Stabilize Rural Health Workforce; Make North Dakota Healthy Again; Bring High-Quality Health Care Closer to Home; and Connect Technology, Data and Providers for a Stronger ND. North Dakota was awarded nearly \$199 million for these activities in year one.

Three grant opportunities correlated to the Make North Dakota Healthy Again pillar became available on April 22. The funding opportunities total \$3.6 million and are outlined specifically:

Zero-Hour Physical Education (PE) Initiative

- Deadline to apply: May 22, 2026, at 5:00pm CT
- Funding eligibility is restricted to North Dakota's rural and tribal, public and private schools, regional education associations and/or school consortiums.
- Technical Assistance Conference Call – May 4, 2026, at 3:30pm CT
- Approximately \$700,000 in year one, estimated 10 awards of roughly \$70,000 each
- [zero-hour-pe-application.pdf](#)

Community Gardens Project

- Deadline to apply: May 22, 2026, at 5:00pm CT
- Funding eligibility is open to leaders of North Dakota's rural and tribal communities, including but not limited to 4-H youth development programs, civic groups, municipalities, tribal councils, tribal colleges, tribal health departments, health care facilities, senior centers, worksites, public health units, schools, Head Start programs, cultural centers, after-school programs, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, communities of faith and nonprofit organizations.
- Technical Assistance Conference Call – May 5, 2026, at 3:00pm CT
- Approximately \$300,000 in year one, estimated 10 awards of roughly \$30,000 each
- [community-gardens-project.pdf](#)

Community-Based Walking Program

- Deadline to apply: May 22, 2026, at 5:00pm CT
- Funding eligibility is restricted to North Dakota's rural and tribal communities
- Groups that are encouraged to apply include, but are not limited to, tribal programs/tribal partners, hospitals, cultural centers, communities of faith, municipalities, chambers of commerce, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, parks and recreation, libraries, nonprofit organizations, public health units, civic groups and community centers. It is also conceivable that an entire community could join to apply for one of these grants with many of the groups listed above partnering together to deliver this program
- Technical Assistance Conference Call: May 6, 2026, at 3:00pm CT
- Approximately \$2,500,000 in year one, estimated 20 awards of roughly \$125,000 each
- [community-based-walking-program.pdf](#)

The first grant application was released March 18, 2026; deadline to apply is 5:00pm CT on April 30, 2026. The grant focuses on the Strengthen and Stabilize Rural Health Workforce pillar and is available to the Critical Access Hospitals and their Owned and Operated Clinics for workforce retention. The funding amount is approximately \$10 million, estimated 37 awards of approximately \$270,000 each in year one of the grant cycle.

Contracts to provide community coordination and technical assistance have been issued to North Dakota's eight Regional Councils.

The local public health units, self-organized into 13 regional service groups, have submitted plans and have pending contracts under review for \$80,000/year for five years. These applications cannot emphasize big cities, e.g., Fargo, Bismarck, as they must be rural focused. The 13 service groups are:

- **Upper Missouri District Health Unit (UMDHU)** – 4 counties—Javayne Oylo Contact
- **First District Health Unit (FDHU)** – 7 counties—Holly Brekhuis Contact
- **Southwestern District Health Unit (SWDHU)** – 8 counties—Sherry Adams Contact
- **Western Plains Health Unit** – 5 counties, plus Emmons and Kidder Health Districts—Erin Ourada Contact
- **Bismarck–Burleigh Public Health** – 1 county—Renae Moch Contact
- **Lake Region District Health Unit** – 4 counties—Denton Heisler Contact
- **Rolette, Towner, Cavalier Health Units** – 3 counties—Barb Frydenlund Contact
- **Grand Forks Public Health** – 1 county, plus Walsh and Pembina Health Units—Tess Wall Contact
- **Central Valley Health District plus Logan and Barnes (City/County Health District) Counties** – 3 counties – Kara Falk Contact
- **Dickey, McIntosh, LaMoure, Foster, Wells Counties** – 5 counties—Roxanne Holm Contact
- **Traill, Nelson-Griggs, Steele Counties** – 4 counties—Brenda Stallman Contact
- **Fargo–Cass Public Health** – 1 county—Jenn Faul Contact
- **Richland, Ransom and Sargent Counties** – 3 counties—Kayla Carlson Contact

Grants will be used for various activities as identified but without funding.

Application notices for the remaining pillars are being formalized, and the state is hoping to put forth a few opportunities per week soon. The RHTP link is [Rural Health Transformation | Health and Human Services North Dakota](#); from that homepage, there are links to funding opportunities and community meetings.

TAX REFORM & RELIEF ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NDACo along with other local government associations were asked to present on the impacts of HB 1176 and the property tax limitations (3% Cap). NDACo surveyed counties on the impacts during their 2026 budget setting process. 51 of the 53 counties responded providing valuable insight on the associated challenges. Charts seen below illustrate the data challenges and concerns moving forward. The greatest concern voiced by counties is the dependence on using reserves to fill gaps in the budget and that is unsustainable into the future.

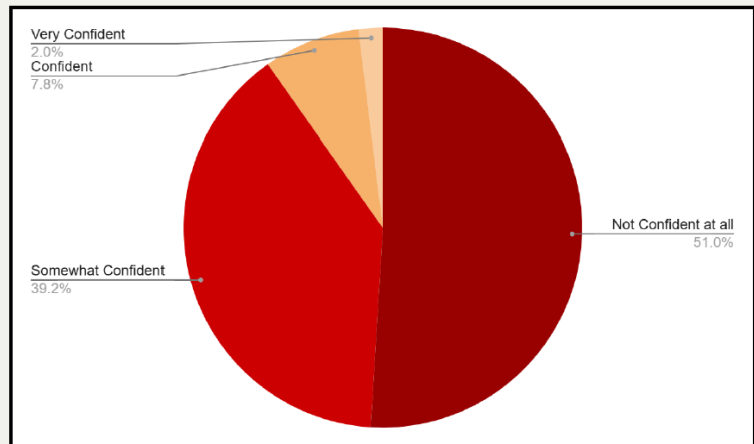
NDACo presented the committee with a list of potential options to provide local government with greater flexibility in the future. This list was generated from feedback provided in the survey.

NDACo also provided a list of technical corrections that should be strongly considered when the Legislature meets in 2027.

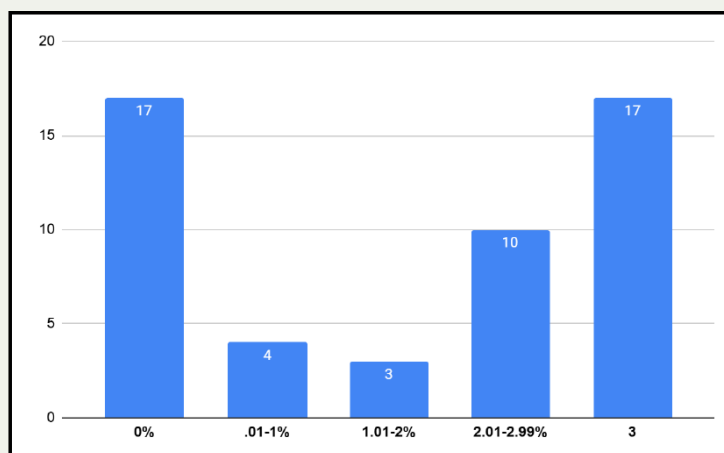
The committee chair has authorized a special sub-committee to study the tax statement and possible revisions. NDACo along with county officials will be involved in this future discussion.

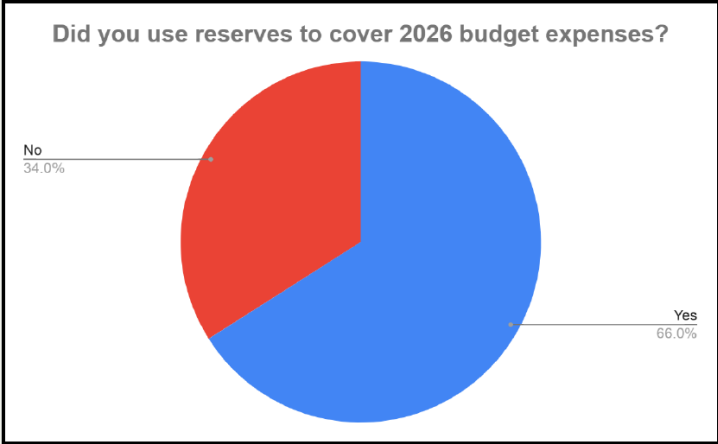
UNDER 3% CAP RESTRICTION: HOW CONFIDENT ARE YOU THAT YOUR COUNTY CAN MEET NEEDS OF CITIZENS IN NEXT 5 YEARS?

**90% of Counties Lack Confidence that
Needs Can Be Met in Future with 3% Cap Restriction**



PERCENTAGE OF UNUSED CAP TO CARRY FORWARD





RESERVES

33 Counties
Used Reserves to Fund
2026 budget

13 Counties
Used Reserves + ALL \$
Allowed Under 3% CAP

20 Counties
Used Reserves +
Forwarded % of
Unused CAP

COUNTY BUDGET CUTS & CHALLENGES

C
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- 1 Salary Increases
- 2 Employee Benefits
- 3 Road Projects
- 4 Law Enforcement
- 5 Equipment Purchases
- 6 Capital Projects

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- Depleting reserves in order to fill gap is unsustainable
- Unable to provide adequate/ competitive salary increases
- Limits ability to budget for large projects
- Unable to keep up with costs of maintaining or repairing county buildings
- Inflation costs are greater than 3%



CONSIDERATIONS FOR 2027

Survey reveals an overarching deep concern for the future without changes to the 3% Levy Limitation in 2027.

- **Expand Exemptions**
 - Elections
 - Health Care Premiums
 - Corrections
 - Unfunded Mandates or other costs counties can't control
 - Prior voter approved levies
- **Public Safety Levy Authority**
- **Adjust CAP Upward to 5%**
- **Adjust CAP that Reflects Inflation**
- **Eliminate Current Mill Rate Limitations**
- **State Appropriation for Programing Costs Associated with Tax Statement Changes**
- **Additional Revenue Sharing from State**



Judiciary Committee

NDACo was requested to present on behalf of Sheriffs on fees and costs associated with the 24/7 Sobriety Program. While the survey was sent to all 53 counties, only 27 responded (8 of the 10 most populous counties responded). The 24/7 Sobriety Program is a state mandated program with revenues and costs split between the state and counties. The purpose of the information requested is to explore the state picking up a greater share of the cost of the program. The data collected from the responding counties illustrates that under the current structure of the program, counties incur more expenses than the fee revenues generate by almost \$1 million.

NDACo offered recommendations to the committee to address the county cost of operating the program including adjusting the fee schedule, legislation prohibiting the waiving of fees (5 counties reported this occurred in 37 cases), and establishing an indigent fund to pay fees when waived.

Fee Collection – County Vs State

24/7 Sobriety Program Participation Type	Participant Cost	Equipment Expense	Fee Revenue
2/Day Breath Test	\$2/Day	County	County
Remote Breath Test	\$5/Day	State	State (\$4) / County (\$1)
SCRAM Bracelet	\$6/Day	State	State (\$5)/ County (\$1)
Urinalysis	\$5/Test; \$25 Lab	County	County
Drug Patch	\$60/Patch	County	County

Note: Fees were waived in 5 of the 27 counties responding to the survey (Burleigh, Cass, Richland, Sheridan, and Stark), with the highest number in Stark (32 cases)

4

NDACo 2025-26 Interim Legislative Activities

25-26 Interim Legislative Tasks	Committee	Date	Chair
Study feasibility, siting & development of advanced nuclear power plants in the state	Advanced Nuclear Energy	4/21-22	Sen. Patten
Consider studying water and wetlands regulations and the taxation of inundated lands in the state.	Agriculture & Water Mgt	6/17/26	Rep. Hauck
Approve DOT projects utilizing more than \$10m from flex fund	Budget Section	6/24/26	Rep. Vigasaa
Review Budget Data - REPORT	Budget Section		
Behavioral health beds grant funding - REPORT	Budget Section		
Attorney General technology grants to LE - REPORT	Budget Section		
Status of Flexible Transportation Fund - REPORT	Budget Section		
Status of Opioid Settlement Fund - REPORT	Budget Section		
DOCR prison population plan - REPORT	Budget Section		

Study various issues related to child custody	Child Custody Review Task Force		Sen. Clemens
Study volunteer emergency responder recruitment & retention	Emergency Response Services		Rep. Grueneich
Study grant funding for emergency services & public safety	Emergency Response Services		
Study evolving fire service operational & response needs	Emergency Response Services		
DES on Security threats posed by foreign adversaries - REPORT	Emergency Response Services		
DHHS on status of distressed ambulance service program - REPORT	Emergency Response Services		
Retirement program proposals	Employee Benefits Programs	5/7/26	Sen. Cleary
Review measures & proposals impacting NDPERS	Employee Benefits Programs		
Approve terminology adopted by PERS to comply with federal requirements	Employee Benefits Programs		
NDPERS Status of Defined Contribution plan - REPORT	Employee Benefits Programs		
Develop comprehensive statewide energy policy	Energy Development & Transmission		Rep. Novak
Study impact of large energy consumers including data centers on electrical grid, regulatory structure & economic development	Energy Development & Transmission		
Review state budget info	Government Finance	tentative: 6/25/26	Sen. Burckhard
Study costs & benefits of regional correctional facilities, deferred admission & prioritization	Government Finance		

Legacy Fund Earnings Status - REPORT	Government Finance		
DOCR on new minimum security prison - REPORT	Government Finance		
Study unmet oral health needs of low income children	Health Care		
DHHS on fentanyl deaths - REPORT	Health Care		
DHHS on legislative recommendations - REPORT	Health Care		
ND Legislative Health Care Task Force - REPORT	Health Care		
Study accessibility of state & local services for individuals deaf, hard of hearing as req by federal law	Human Services	5/27/26	Sen. Davison
Study laws, rules & policies relating to child care provider licensing	Human Services		
Evaluation of DHHS child care services program	Human Services		
Study of homelessness in state	Human Services		
Various REPORTS	Human Services		
Study fees collected for technology services including SORN, 911, 988, emergency communications	Information Technology		Rep. Bosch
ITD on Statewide Longitudinal Data System - REPORT	Information Technology		
Emergency Services Communications Coordinating Committee - REPORT	Information Technology		
Study court fines & fees including 24/7	Judiciary		Sen. Myrdal
Study costs & savings related to pre-trial services	Judiciary		
Study of sentencing, correctional & parole systems. Includes review of sentencing requirements	Judiciary		
DHHS on juvenile justice diversion services task force - REPORT	Judiciary		
Attorney General on Law Enforcement appreciation grant - REPORT	Judiciary		

Attorney General on civilly forfeited property - REPORT	Judiciary		
Status of recruitment program for rural attorneys - REPORT	Judiciary		
DOCR on tracking uniform data including proposal to develop portal related to medicaid status of offenders - REPORT	Judiciary		
DOCR & 3 pilot counties on prosecution-led diversion program - REPORT	Judiciary		
Develop recommendations for investments in Legacy Fund & Budget Stabilization Fund	Legacy & Budget Stabilization Fund Advisory Board		Rep. Warrey
Review with State Auditor updates to audit standards	Legislative Audit & Fiscal Review	6/17/26	Sen. Magrum
Study & review audit reports submitted by State Auditor	Legislative Audit & Fiscal Review		
Determine when State Auditor is to perform audits of political subdivisions	Legislative Audit & Fiscal Review		
Order State Auditor to audit or review political subs accounts	Legislative Audit & Fiscal Review		
Various reports from State Auditor related to policies and processes - REPORTS	Legislative Audit & Fiscal Review		
Study to identify areas to increase efficiency & methods to implement cost-saving measures	Legislative Task Force on Government Efficiency		Rep. Toman

Study state laws related to crimes against children	Protection & Victim Services	5/13/26	Rep. Satrom
Study human trafficking victim service and re-entry programs	Protection & Victim Services		
AG on human trafficking grant program - REPORT	Protection & Victim Services		
Office of Guardianship & Conservatorship Office - REPORT	Protection & Victim Services		
Federal Funding - Special Session Prep	Rural Health Transportation Committee		Sen. Bekkedahl
Impacts of HB 1176 - Property Tax Relief, Limitations & Implementation	Tax Reform & Relief Advisory	tentative: 6/23/26	Sen. Bekkedahl
Study oil extraction tax exemption for stripper wells	Tax Reform & Relief Advisory		
Tax Commissioner on analysis of HB 1176 impacts - REPORT	Tax Reform & Relief Advisory		
Tax Commissioner on statewide property tax increases - REPORT	Tax Reform & Relief Advisory		
Study tribal-state issues includes human services & corrections	Tribal & State Relations	5/13/26	Rep. Holle
Study tribal land taxation issues	Tribal & State Relations		
Study establishing a wastewater project fund for grants	Water Topics Overview	6/10	Rep. Swiontek
Study management authority of waters to watershed vs political sub	Water Topics Overview		

Data Centers

The development of data centers in North Dakota has become a point of contention in many communities. It's safe to say some of the pressure being applied to county commissioners and other officials has been a recent unprecedented development. Just recently, longtime community-minded and Oliver County Commissioner Dave Berger resigned his seat after numerous falsehoods were being circulated about him. This is a disturbing trend that counties need to be prepared for, and more thought needs to be given regarding falsehood campaigns.

SERVICE REPORT: National Participation April 2026

(Report submitted to the Board of Directors by Robert, Stanley and Michelle.)

PROGRAM UPDATE:

National Participation Match Program

Regions 5, 6 and 7 have been awarded their NDA Co National Participation Match Program dollars in 2026. Agassiz Valley Human Service Zone (Region 5) Director Kim Jacobson and Griggs County (Region 6) State's Attorney Jayme Tenneson used the program to attend the NACo Legislative Conference in Washington DC in February. Burleigh County (Region 7) Recorder Missy Hanson is using the program to attend the NACo Annual Conference in New Orleans LA in July.

Region 6 has been awarded their NDCCA National Participation Match Program dollars in 2026. Stutsman County Commissioner Benjamin Tompkins used the program to attend the NACo Legislative Conference in Washington DC in February.

National Participation/NACo Board

Following is Stanley Dick's report from the NACo Legislative Conference:

I again concentrated on the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Policy Steering Committee. After a lot of debate and discussion the committee passed three resolutions which will be voted on in July at the Annual Conference in New Orleans. The three titles were 1) Securing Increased Reimbursement for Rural Emergency Medical Services, 2) Urges USDA to Prioritize Farmer and Rancher Mental Health and Include Counties as Key Partners in the Program Development and Implementation, and 3) Support Water Reliability for Agriculture and Food Security. Some other priorities of the committee were the Farm Bill and E-15 mandates, announcement of the Bridge Disaster payments (12 billion appropriated), and the estimated 66 billion investment in Agricultural program payments. Information on the One Big Beautiful Bill and how this affects the Farm Bill was discussed as well. Markup of the Farm Bill in the House of Representatives was to take place while we were in Washington DC. Due to weather (snowstorm on the east coast) this was pushed back one week. I believe this is now complete but still has not been taken up by the full floor of the House.

I was also involved in the NACo Board of Directors meetings, where we approved 39 of the 41 resolutions submitted by the 10 policy steering committees. One resolution went back to committee to be resubmitted. This

resolution centered around gun violence and 3-D printing of ghost guns and the possibility to trace them.

A special treat for my wife and I was to be invited, along with the Board of Directors, to the Embassy of Ireland.

Overall, it was a good conference. The more people I'm getting to know the easier it is for me to express ideas and concerns from the counties of North Dakota.

Following is Robert Wilson's report from the NACo Legislative Conference:

North Dakota county officials attended the NACo Legislative Conference February 20-24 in Washington D.C. As always, this was a federal policy focused convention that provided attendees with updates on federal activities and association priorities.

Property Tax Review

Because of the number of states that have considered or passed property tax reforms recently NACo decided to break from its normal practice of only focusing on issues that have federal implications. It is devoting significant research focus to property taxes. Working with state associations, NACo has seen very similar property tax-related legislation popping up around the country. NACo has tracked 115 property tax actions (legislatively) in 34 states between 2020 – 2025. Seventy-three of the 115 actions are reductions. Eleven states have had some discussion about removing property taxes.

For comparison, annually \$200B is collected in state/local property taxes, \$140B is collected in sales taxes and \$1.3T is collected in federal income taxes. As we understand, property taxes directly link to the autonomy of local governments. At the conference there was a session discussion of examples of repeal or reduction efforts in North Carolina, Florida, Texas, Missouri, Kansas, Indiana and Ohio. NACo's research shows generally people move to places where government is paying for infrastructure – if citizens feel the money is being spent responsibly.

Supreme Court/Legal Update

The NACo Board was provided an update on cases before the U.S. Supreme Court with potential impacts on Counties:

Pong v. Issabella focuses on foreclosed property. A former property owner whose property was seized for non-payment of taxes and then auctioned to pay the back-due taxes seeks full market value above tax debt instead of what the property sold for at auction. A decision in this case is expected before the end of June.

Birthright Citizenship: Does an Executive Order void birthright citizenship? The implications for counties are considerable in areas like vital records. This case was argued several weeks ago and an opinion is pending.

Federal Policy Updates

NACo sees a trend of Executive Orders turning into state legislation. Generally, the trend is in the direction of national standards over local authority.

The current Surface Transportation Bill expires in September 2026. NACo has drafted the 'Basis Act' (it has sponsors and has been introduced). The hope is to get it incorporated into the Surface Transportation Bill renewal. The Basis Act would require states to sub-allocate funds and it expands project eligibility. One result is to make sure rural counties have access to funds they didn't previously have access to.

A FEMA Review Council continues to work. They were supposed to submit recommendations in December. The timeframe was then moved to March. It appears there's a considerable amount of internal federal butting of heads about what the recommendations should look like. NACo has written legislation it hopes to have considered. NACo's proposal would include up front grant-based assistance and a universal disaster application to streamline the application process, provide more transparency and include a dashboard to track the status and utilization of assistance.

ADA Compliance

All websites for cities and counties over 50,000 must be compliant in April 2026. Counties and cities under 50,000 must be compliant by April 2027. This is expected to be a cost of \$1B to counties across the country.

Western Interstate Region (WIR)

The 2026 WIR Conference will be held May 5-8 in Maui County, HI. The following county officials and NDACo staff plan to attend:

- 1) Tony Grindberg, Cass County Commissioner (NDACo Board Member)
- 2) Jim Kapitan, Cass County Commissioner (NDCCA Board Member)
- 3) Robert Wilson, Cass County Administrator (NACo Board Member)
- 4) Stanley Dick, Cavalier County Commissioner (NACo Board Member)
- 5) Nick Moser, Cavalier County Commissioner (NDACo 1st Vice President)
- 6) Scott Ouradnik, Slope County Commissioner (WIR Board Member & NDACo Board Member)
- 7) Chad Kaiser, Stutsman County Sheriff (NDACo President)
- 8) Aaron Birst, NDACo Executive Director

Scott is working to get the WIR Conference in Medora in an upcoming year.

NACo Annual Conference

Registration for the 2026 NACo Annual Conference, scheduled for July 17-20 in Orleans Parish, New Orleans, LA is now open at <https://www.naco.org/event/2026-naco-annual-conference-exposition>. The following county officials and NDACo staff are currently registered to attend:

- 1) Kim Jacobson, Agassiz Valley Human Service Zone Director (NDACo 2nd Vice President)
- 2) Tony Grindberg, Cass County Commissioner (NDACo Board Member)
- 3) Sarah Heinle, Cass County Finance Director
- 4) Jim Kapitan, Cass County Commissioner (NDCCA Board Member)
- 5) Tracy Peters, Cass County HR Director
- 6) Robert Wilson, Cass County Administrator (NACo Board Member)
- 7) Stanley Dick, Cavalier County Commissioner (NACo Board Member)
- 8) Nick Moser, Cavalier County Commissioner (NDACo 1st Vice President)
- 9) Tracey Dolezal, Dunn County Commissioner (NDCCA Vice President)
- 10) Danielle Petersen, Renville County Recorder (Winner of NACo Free Trip)
- 11) Barb Frydenlund, Rolette County Public Health Nurse
- 12) Scott Ouradnik, Slope County Commissioner (WIR Board Member and NDACo Board Member)
- 13) Chad Kaiser, Stutsman County Sheriff (NDACo President)
- 14) Aaron Birst, NDACo Executive Director
- 15) Genny Dienstmann, NDACo Operations Director

Committee Membership / Appointments

Michelle is working to make sure everyone from North Dakota interested in serving on a NACo committee, whether in a leadership position or as a member, gets their name submitted. The deadline to apply for a presidential appointment to a committee is May 8, 2026.

General membership on NACo's ten steering committees is not a part of the presidential appointment application process. These appointments are made each year after the NACo Annual Conference. Other than in-person meetings held during the NACo Legislative and Annual Conference, monthly meetings are held virtually. Committee terms run for one year from July to July. All county elected officials and staff can apply. Any Board member who wishes to be newly nominated to one of the committees should notify Michelle. The ten committees are listed below.

- Agriculture & Rural Affairs
- Community, Economic & Workforce Development
- Environment, Energy & Land Use
- Finance, Pensions & Intergovernmental Affairs
- Health

- Human Services & Education
- Justice & Public Safety
- Public Lands
- Telecommunications & Technology
- Transportation

2027 NACo Conferences

Following are the dates and locations of the 2026 NACo Conferences:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| ○ Legislative Conference | February 19-23 | Washington, DC |
| ○ Western Interstate Region | <i>May 2027</i> | <i>To Be Announced</i> |
| ○ Annual Conference | July 23-26 | Savannah, GA |

**NDCCA Board Meeting
April 2026**

NDCCA Mailbag



**The NDCCA
Mailbag is an
opportunity for
the board to
see letters
received by the
Association
that relate
opinions of
how well we
are doing or
aren't doing
our job. Happy
reading!**

Sara Cote

From: Jessica Alonge <jalonge@stutsmancounty.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2026 4:10 PM
To: Sara Cote
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL]FY2024 Cost Allocation Plan
Attachments: 2026 0416 Stutsman County Certificate of Indirect Costs.pdf

Hi Sara,

I apologize for the delay. Attached is the signed certificate.

For the allocation, is it 25% of the total under social services on the summary schedule? And is this effective for 2026 or 2027? I am just thinking ahead for budget purposes!

Thank you for all your hard work. This process has been so smooth and less frustrating than previously! (At least from an auditors perspective 😊)

Jessica Alonge
Auditor/COO
511 2nd Ave SE
Jamestown, ND 58401
(701) 252-9035

From: Sara Cote <sara.cote@ndaco.org>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2026 2:27 PM
To: Jessica Alonge <jalonge@stutsmancounty.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL]FY2024 Cost Allocation Plan

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. If in doubt, contact the IT department.

Hi Jessica,

I am attaching a few different documents; the certification form, pdf, and excel versions of the 2024 plan. Once you have had a chance to review the plan, please sign and return the certification form. A few items of note:

- In the PDF file, the summary schedule with the social services total is on page 4
- In the excel file, the cost of social services is listed on the Summary Schedule tab, cell C19
- The reimbursement amount is 25% of the total cost allocation

Thank you so much for all of your help in preparing the plan! Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sara Cote
Indirect Cost Program Manager

Sara Cote

From: Steph Pappa <stephp@co.mountrail.nd.us>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2026 3:43 PM
To: Sara Cote
Subject: RE: Cost Allocation Plan - Mountrail County
Attachments: 20260409152317830.pdf

Good Afternoon Sara,

Thank you so much for the ease of working with you. You've done a great job!

Stephanie A. Pappa
Mountrail County Auditor
PO Box 69/101 N Main St.
Stanley ND 58784-0069
Ph: 701-628-2145
Fax: 701-628-4750

From: Sara Cote <sara.cote@ndaco.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2026 10:42 AM
To: Steph Pappa <stephp@co.mountrail.nd.us>
Subject: (Caution External Email) RE: Cost Allocation Plan - Mountrail County

That sounds great! The certification form, pdf, and excel versions of the 2024 plan are attached. Once you have had a chance to review the plan, please sign and return the certification form.

A few items of note:

- In the PDF file, the summary schedule with the social services total is on page 4
- In the excel file, the cost of social services is listed on the Summary Schedule tab, cell C20
- The reimbursement amount is 25% of the total cost allocation
- The reason for the large increase this year is due to addition of building maintenance costs and building depreciation for the Memorial Building
- For comparison purposes, the 2023 and 2024 figures are below:

2023 Total	Reimbursement
\$343,198.00	\$85,799.50
2024 Total	Reimbursement
\$563,278.00	\$140,819.50
Difference	\$55,020.00

Thank you so much for all of your help in preparing the plan! Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sara Cote

From: St. Germaine, Julie A. <justgermaine@nd.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2026 10:47 AM
To: Julie Larsen; Sara Cote
Cc: Kristi Hanson
Subject: RE: 2024 Cost Allocation Plan - Williams County

You don't often get email from justgermaine@nd.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

Thank you all for your work on this!

Julie A St Germaine

Director

North Star Human Service Zone

Serving Burke, Divide, Renville, and Williams Counties

110 West Broadway, Suite 202

Williston, ND 58801

701.774.6300



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From: Julie Larsen <jlarsen@co.williams.nd.us>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 2:27 PM
To: Sara Cote <sara.cote@ndaco.org>
Cc: Kristi Hanson <kristih@co.williams.nd.us>; St. Germaine, Julie A. <justgermaine@nd.gov>
Subject: RE: 2024 Cost Allocation Plan - Williams County

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Sara,

Thank you very much for your hard work on this plan. Attached is the signed certification. Please let me know if you need anything else. I will start compiling 2025 information as soon as I'm sure we've closed out the year.

Thanks,



Julie Larsen

Senior Staff Accountant

701-577-4506 (d) • 701-713-3502 (Finance)

jlarsen@co.williams.nd.us • www.williamsnd.com

206 E Broadway • PO Box 2047 • Williston, ND 58802-2047

From: Sara Cote <sara.cote@ndaco.org>

Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2026 12:33 PM

To: Julie Larsen <jlarsen@co.williams.nd.us>

Subject: 2024 Cost Allocation Plan - Williams County

Hi Julie! The certification form and pdf and excel versions of the 2024 plan are attached. Once you have had a chance to review the plan, please sign and return the certification form to me. A few items of note:

- I found an error in cell K14 of the Treasurer PAR. Once the correction was made, this changed the General Government % slightly. I updated the plan which increased the reimbursement amount.
- In the PDF version of the plan, the summary schedule with the social services total is on page 4
- In the excel file, the cost of social services is listed on the Summary Schedule tab, cell C20

Thank you so much for all of you help in preparing the plan!

Sara Cote

Indirect Cost Program Manager

ND Association of Counties

Direct - (701) 425-0823

Subject:
Attachments:

FW: ITD Award
Image.jpeg

From: Ryan Gellner
Sent: Thursday, December 18, 2025 12:19 PM
To: Mongeon, Karin L. <kamongeon@nd.gov>; Keller, Chris <chriskeller@nd.gov>
Subject: ITD Award

I wanted to share a message with you that I sent the coordinators this morning. What a group. I've attached the award to this message.

Hi All,

I wanted to share some unexpected and exciting news with you. While attending the Impact Teen Drivers Bi-Annual event, I fully believed I was simply there to present on our outstanding program. To my surprise, I was honored with the Community Champion Award from ITD.

That said, this award is *not* about me. It is truly a reflection of the incredible work our team has done across the state. Every conversation, every school visit, every partnership, and every mile traveled adds up to real impact—and that impact is because of you.

I made sure to brag about this team and the work you do while I was there, because our success belongs to all of YOU!

I am proud to work alongside such dedicated and passionate people who put others first.

Thank you for what you do every single day. This recognition belongs to each of you.

Have a very Merry Christmas, and take some time for yourself when you can. You all deserve a breather.

Thank you for what you do!

RG



Impact
Teen Drivers

Community Champion

Ryan Gellner

Advancing Shared
Roadway Responsibility



North Dakota WATER COALITION

PO Box 2254
Bismarck, ND 58502
(701) 223-4330
FAX (701) 223-4645

Barnes Rural Water District
Cass County Government
Cass County Joint Board
City of Bismarck
City of Devils Lake
City of Fargo
City of Grafton
City of Grand Forks
City of Lisbon
City of Mandan
City of Minot
City of Valley City
City of West Fargo
City of Williston
Department of Environmental
Quality
Department of Water
Resources
Devils Lake Basin Joint Board
East Central Regional Water
District
Fort Berthold Rural Water
Garrison Diversion
Conservancy District
Lake Agassiz Water Authority
McLean-Sheridan Rural Water
Mercer County Water Resource
District
Missouri River Joint Water
Board
Morton County Water
Resource District
North Dakota Association of
Counties
North Dakota Irrigation
Association
North Dakota League of Cities
North Dakota Public Finance
Authority
North Dakota Rural Water
Systems Association
North Dakota Water Resource
Districts Association
North Dakota Water Users
Association
North Dakota Weather
Modification Association
North Prairie Regional Water
District
Northwest Area Water Supply
Red River Joint Water Board
Souris River Joint Board
South Central Regional Water
District
Southwest Water Authority
Stutsman Rural Water District
Western Area Water Supply

March 25, 2026

Aaron Birst
ND Association of Counties
PO Boc 877
Bismarck, ND 58502-0877

Dear Aaron:

Thank you for supporting efforts to complete North Dakota's water infrastructure for economic growth and quality of life with your 2026 membership in the **North Dakota Water Coalition**.

We are fortunate that the state has provided substantial resources for water development, but the ebb and flow of the demands on water and anticipated costs make the efforts of the North Dakota Water Coalition more important than ever.

The North Dakota Water Coalition testified in support of water funding (HB 1020) during the 2025 North Dakota Legislative Session. Ensuring adequate allocation of state funding in the future is essential. One major concern during the session was a serious effort to reduce the amount of water funding available through the Resources Trust Fund. This attempt was not successful, but the issue will likely arise again in the future. The Water Coalition is monitoring talk about the Resources Trust Fund closely. It is imperative that the funding remains at the current level in order for the state's water infrastructure goals to be met.

Your participation and support are appreciated as we work together to address water challenges and opportunities. We need every generation to understand, appreciate, and help protect our water resources.

If you have any questions regarding the North Dakota Water Coalition, please call Annika Plummer at 701-223-4330 or email aplummer@ndwater.net.

Sincerely,



Loren DeWitz
Chairman

Cathy Heidt

From: Kaia Lill <Kaia.Lill@NHSHotels.com>
Sent: Friday, December 12, 2025 9:35 AM
To: Cathy Heidt
Subject: Thank You from the Holiday Inn

Good morning Cathy,,

I hope you are having a great week so far 🤖

On behalf of the entire team at the Holiday Inn, I want to sincerely thank you for choosing us as your host this past week. It was a pleasure having your group stay with us!

We hope our accommodation and service helped make your stay smooth and memorable. Your group was a joy to work with, and we'd be honored to welcome you back anytime in the future.

Please let us know if there are any future needs, we can assist with!

Thank you,

Kaia Lill
Senior Area Sales Manager

National Hospitality Services
3903 State Street, Bismarck, ND 58503
701.214.9421 – Direct
kaia.lill@nhshotels.com

Holiday Inn
3903 State St.
Bismarck, ND 58503

Candlewood Suites
4400 Skyline Crossings
Bismarck, ND 58503