



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

AGENDA NDCCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wednesday, August 26, 2026 – 10:30 a.m.
NDACo County Office Building – 1661 Capitol Way

- | | | |
|------------|--|--|
| 10:30 a.m. | Call to Order | President Neal Messer |
| (Neal) | Pledge of Allegiance | |
| (Genny) | Roll Call | |
| (Neal) | Review/Approve Order of Agenda ACTION | |
| (Neal) | Consideration of Previous Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
April 29, 2026 POSTED ACTION | Page 4 |
| (Glenda) | Treasurer's Report (Treasurer Glenda Collier) POSTED ACTION | Page 7 |
| (Aaron) | Personnel Services POSTED
Introduction of New Employees
Carla Arndt, Member Services & Events Coordinator
Jill Breuer, 9-1-1 Project Manager Virtual Introduction
Maxine Herr, Communications Specialist | Page 11 |
| | NDACo Cooperative Services | |
| (Aaron) | NDIRF – <i>asked to review the online 2025 Annual Report</i> POSTED
County Financial Partnerships POSTED | Page 12
Page 13 |
| (Genny) | Special Operations Team Reimbursement | |
| (Aaron) | NDACo Grant Assistance Program | |
| (Genny) | NACo Edge POSTED
Nationwide Retirement Solutions – Changes
Omnia and Avera/OPUS/Premier | Page 14 |
| (Lisa) | Juvenile Justice Planning POSTED | Page 15 |
| (Alisha) | Professional Development POSTED | Page 17 |

(OVER)

	ILG Services	
(Alisha/Genny)	Scholarship Fund Report <i>POSTED</i>	Page 19
	Conference Report <i>POSTED</i>	
(Carla/Michelle)	2026 Conference Planning Status	Page 20
(Aaron/Carla)	Pre-Conference Caucus Meetings	
(Aaron)	EICG Winners	
(Neal/Aaron)	Standing Committee Appointments	
(Aaron)	Nominating Committee <i>POSTED</i>	Page 23
(Aaron)	Constitution and By-laws <i>POSTED</i>	Page 24
(Stanley)	Nat'l Participation/NACo Board/Steering Committees <i>POSTED</i>	Page 28
(Aaron)	NDCCA Mailbag <i>POSTED</i>	Page 32
	Legislative Report <i>POSTED</i>	Page 45
(Aaron)	Special Session	
(Aaron)	2027 Legislative Session	
(Aaron)	Resolutions Committee Activity	
(Aaron/Donnell)	Interim Committee Update	
	Other Business	
(Neal/Tracey/Aaron)	County Tours <i>POSTED</i>	Page 52
(Neal)	Next Board Meeting Dates	
	Annual Business Meeting – Monday, October 12	
	NDCCA Board Meeting – Wednesday, December 9	
(Neal)	Board Meeting Evaluation	
	Adjourn	

- RECOMMENDED MOTIONS -

**NDCCA BOARD MEETING
OF
AUGUST 26, 2026**

- Approve Order of Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda as presented.
- April 29, 2026 Board Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of the April 29, 2026, Board of Directors meeting.
- Treasurer's Report: Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented.

**Meeting Minutes
NDCCA Board of Directors
April 29, 2026
NDACo County Office Building**

President Neal Messer called the meeting to order at 10:30 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
Miranda Schuler	Jim Kapitan	

Member Absent:	Cory Hanson	Andy Zachmeier
----------------	-------------	----------------

Also Present:

Stanley Dick, NACo Board Member
Aaron Birst, NDACo Executive Director
Genny Dienstmann, NDACo Staff
Michelle Tabbert, NDACo Staff
Ron Henke, NDDOT Director
Lonny Bosch, NRG President
Dwight Driscoll, NRG Account Manager
Kaitlyn Bakken, NDACo Staff
Teanna Hintz, NDACo Staff
Jason Horning, NDACo Staff
Kathy Kottenbrock, NDACo Staff
Sara Cote, NDACo Staff
Peter Halbach, NDACo Staff
Mary Korsmo, NDACo Staff
Donnell Preskey, NDACo Staff
Linda Svihovec, NDACo Staff
Mike Dannenfelzer, Central Dakota Communications Center

The President asked the Board to review the proposed agenda. As there were no changes proposed, Arth moved to approve the agenda as printed. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

Aaron introduced NDDOT Director Ron Henke who joined the meeting. Ron discussed NDDOT priorities for the next biennium and gave updates on bridge updates (inspections/closures should be off county inventory) and a high-level overview of flex funds and other funding programs DOT offers. After a question-and-answer period, President Messer thanked Ron for attending the meeting.

Consideration of the minutes of the December 10, 2025, Board meeting was next considered. Schuler moved to approve the minutes as printed. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

The President requested the Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Collier provided a review of the financial statements and list of checks. Hollekim moved acceptance of the Treasurer's Report as presented. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

Lonny Bosch, NRG President, gave a review of NRG Technology Services (NRG). Dwight Driscoll continued by sharing the services NRG provides and highlighting the various contracts they currently hold. The Board was informed that NRG has also contracted with a law firm that specializes in technology master service agreements to review/update NRG's current agreement and ascertain whether the legal guidelines in the contracts are correct. The last review of the agreement template was completed in 2012.

President Messer next called for the various County Financial Partnership reports to be given. Genny gave an update on the Drug & Alcohol Program. Kaitlyn continued with an update on the GIS Program. Teanna shared numbers showing that the 9-1-1 Fee Collection and Distribution Program had another successful year. Aaron added that Teanna was leaving the Association; he and the Board thanked her for her service. Aaron then introduced the 9-1-1 Program and some of the challenges it is facing. Aaron then asked Jason to present the status and challenges of 9-1-1. Jason shared an overview and history of the program and shared proposed options reviewing the funding and providing consistent services throughout the state. He then introduced Mike Dannenfelzer from the Central Dakota Communications Center. Mike shared his involvement as a partner with the 9-1-1 Program since its inception and appreciates the partnership. He discussed the regionalization of PSAPS as several small and medium counties are unable to continue funding the current structure, and in the future may not be a viable option with the current structure. The Board agreed that more exploration should be completed on this concept to determine next steps for the program. Aaron announced that Kathy Kottenbrock who serves as the 9-1-1 Project Manager is present at the meeting and is retiring this summer. Aaron and the Board thanked her for her service. Sara followed by providing an update on the Indirect Cost Reimbursement Service and Peter reported on his activities as the Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor.

Aaron was asked to give the Personnel Services Report. He reiterated that Teanna Hintz will be leaving the Association the end of April. He stated that the Association is holding off hiring her replacement until Kathy Kottenbrock retires this summer, as there may be the potential to combine those positions. Aaron also gave an update on the search to hire a Communications/Member Services Coordinator to replace Jeff Eslinger who retired in March.

Aaron continued with the 2026 Conference Planning Status Report, noting the dates and theme ideas. He explained that Funatix will again assist with planning and some onsite conference assistance.

Moving onto the County Tours agenda item, Aaron explained that the first 2026 Tour was conducted on April 14-15. Neal and Aaron shared the discussions from those visits.

The tentative dates for the remaining Tours were shared. Board members were encouraged to attend visits to their county.

Michelle continued with an explanation of this year's process for the NDCCA Board to nominate a county commissioner for the Excellence in County Government Commissioner of the Year Award. She directed Board members' attention to the blue form in their packet, which lists the names that have been submitted for the Board's consideration and nomination. She noted that Mountrail County Commissioner Joan Hollekim's name should be added to the form. No other names were suggested. Board members who submitted names were given an opportunity to explain why they felt the commissioner(s) they submitted were worthy of the Board's nomination. Michelle explained the process to rate the commissioners under consideration. Michelle collected the forms and stated that the name of the commissioner to be the Board's nomination would be announced later in the meeting.

Genny began the Legislative Services report by giving an update on DOT Funding. Mary followed with an update on the Rural Health Transformation Program. Donnell and Linda provided updates on the various interim committees. Aaron finished the report with a discussion on data centers.

Stanley Dick was asked to provide the National Participation Report. He shared highlights from the NACo Legislative Conference held in February. The 2026 WIR and NACo Annual Conferences were noted. Aaron reported on the use of the National Participation Match Fund so far this year. It was announced that Scott Ouradnik is working to get the WIR Conference in Medora.

Aaron went on to encourage the Board to review the NDCCA Mailbag items.

Under Other Business, Donnell shared the Primary Election information on the various county races and measures on the ballot. Aaron then announced that Joan Hollekim was the top candidate for the EICG Commissioner nominee. Kapitan made a motion to move Joan's name forward as the NDCCA Board's nominee for the EICG Commissioner of the Year, the motion was seconded and passed unanimously on a voice vote. President Messer noted the date of the next Board meeting is Wednesday, August 26, 2026. He reminded the members to complete the meeting evaluation.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the President declared the meeting adjourned.

Approved by Board Resolution: _____
Aaron Birst, Executive Secretary

Date: _____

**NORTH DAKOTA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION
REVENUE & EXPENDITURE REPORT
FOR THE MONTH ENDING JUNE 30, 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	4,986.30	15,000.00	33.2%
WIR DUES	14,875.00	7,500.00	15,000.00	50.0%
COMMISSIONER SUMMIT REVENUE	8,600.00	3,385.20	16,000.00	21.2%
OTHER INCOME	101.00	0.00	100.00	0.0%
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	<u>\$188,694.68</u>	<u>\$89,791.50</u>	<u>\$193,940.00</u>	<u>46.3%</u>
<u>EXPENSES</u>				
GRANT WRITING PROJECT	\$30,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$30,000.00	50.0%
REGULAR MEETINGS	22,944.11	6,864.24	25,000.00	27.5%
BOARD EXPENSES	1,445.42	849.32	2,000.00	42.5%
POSTAGE & SUPPLIES	1,516.07	83.68	300.00	27.9%
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	9,068.57	18,000.00	50.4%
WEB DEVELOPMENT	4,232.56	1,690.05	5,000.00	33.8%
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	739.18	1,500.00	49.3%
INSURANCE EXPENSES	1,228.00	614.00	1,500.00	40.9%
WATER COALITION DUES	2,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	50.0%
TOTAL REGULAR EXPENSES	<u>133,570.36</u>	<u>62,771.56</u>	<u>168,300.00</u>	<u>37.3%</u>
<u>LEGISLATIVE EXPENSES</u>				
PHOTOCOPIES	367.15	136.80	400.00	34.2%
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	110.00	1,250.00	8.8%
MEETINGS	438.74	0.00	500.00	0.0%
TOTAL LEGISLATIVE EXPENSES	<u>28,324.80</u>	<u>9,246.80</u>	<u>28,400.00</u>	<u>32.6%</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$161,895.16</u>	<u>\$72,018.36</u>	<u>\$196,700.00</u>	<u>36.6%</u>
REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	<u>\$26,799.52</u>	<u>\$17,773.14</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 JUNE 30, 2026

ASSETS

SAVINGS ACCOUNT	\$19,545.59
CHECKING ACCOUNT	100.00
INVESTMENTS	248,694.34
ELMER JESME FUND	1,849.69
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	0.00
PREPAID EXPENSES	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$270,189.62</u>

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$3,612.37
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	17,773.14
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>\$270,189.62</u>

ND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION
LIST OF DEPOSITS
MARCH 1, 2026 - JUNE 30, 2026

DATE	CUSTOMER	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
4/7/2026	BANK FORWARD	SUMMIT SPONSORSHIP	485.20
TOTAL FUNDS RECEIVED			\$485.20

**ND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION
LIST OF CHECKS & ACH PAYMENTS
MARCH 1, 2026 - JUNE 30, 2026**

CHECK #	DATE	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
INHOUSE XFR	4/8/26	ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES	BILLING	15,798.15
2757	4/29/26	NACo	BILLING	6,706.37
ACH	4/30/26	MIRANDA SCHULER	VOUCHER	270.00
ACH	4/30/26	NEAL MESSER	VOUCHER	125.00
ACH	4/30/26	JOAN HOLLEKIM	VOUCHER	361.35
ACH	4/30/26	TRACEY DOLEZAL	VOUCHER	328.00
ACH	4/30/26	STANLEY DICK	VOUCHER	444.00
ACH	4/30/26	GLENDA COLLIER	VOUCHER	328.00
ACH	4/30/26	JASON ARTH	VOUCHER	451.25
ACH	4/30/26	JIM KAPITAN	VOUCHER	125.00
ACH	5/14/26	JIM KAPITAN	VOUCHER	292.90
2758	6/8/26	INSIGHT PARTNERS	BILLING	614.00
TOTAL CHECKS & ACH PAYMENTS				\$25,844.02

SERVICE REPORT: Personnel Services

August 2026

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

PROGRAM UPDATE:

Three new NDACo employees will be introduced at the Board meeting on August 26th.

- Jill Breuer, 9-1-1 Program Manager
- Carla Arndt, Member Services & Events Coordinator
- Maxine Herr, Communications Specialist

SERVICE REPORT: ND Insurance Reserve Fund

August 2026

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

PROGRAM UPDATE:

- Please review NDIRF's 2025 Annual Report at <https://www.ndirf.com/about/financials/>. The link will also be included in the email regarding the web postings.

SERVICE REPORT: County Financial Partnerships (CFP)

August 2026

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

PROGRAM UPDATE:

- **Special Operations Team Reimbursement Fund**

The Attorney General's Drug and Violent Crime Policy Board has again granted federal "Byrne Grant" funding to support the deployment of special operations teams into those jurisdictions that request these specialized resources from other areas. The federal award is matched by \$20,000 from the counties. Each county annually contributes an amount between \$200 and \$800, based on population. Even the counties supporting their own Special Operations teams contribute, as there are times when they need backup from teams from other jurisdictions. NDACo collects the funds and remits them to the Attorney General's Office for deposit in a special fund created for this program.

The funds are used to pay direct equipment, fuel and overtime costs, as well as training, to avoid charges for these teams between counties and cities. For the last ten years, all 53 counties have participated in the Fund.

- **NDACo Grant Assistance Program**

NDACo staff is evaluating the Grant Assistance Program after three years of assisting counties with grants. Originally developed during a time when the federal government was providing numerous grants to local political subdivisions, the strategy has been shifting in Washington DC to a reduction in grants which necessitates a review of the program.

SERVICE REPORT: NACo EDGE

August 2026

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

PROGRAM UPDATE:

Nationwide Retirement Solutions

Nationwide Retirement Solutions has experienced some recent changes, including a new leader of the company. Kevin Jestice is the new President of Nationwide Financial Retirement Solutions and presented at the Finance, Pensions and Intergovernmental Affairs Policy Steering Committee at this year's NACo Annual Conference sharing his vision for the company and how to best assist members into their retirement.

There has been a "changing of the guards" in the Midwest Region and North Dakota as well. Levi Lathen, who served as the Upper Midwest Program Director for many years, retired on April 1st of this year. Steve Mahn, who was North Dakota's Senior Retirement Specialist, recently transitioned to a new position within Nationwide.

The new Midwest Program Director is Ken Keibel, who has over a 20-year career with Nationwide and worked many years with ND Retirement Specialist Carmen Toman, before her retirement. Paul Fuller filled the Retirement Specialist position for North Dakota. Paul is new to Nationwide, but not to the industry. He comes with over 25 years of experience in the retirement investment sector and is looking forward to meeting with counties.

Ken and Paul will be attending the NDACo Annual Conference this Fall and hope to meet many county members at the Nationwide Elite Booth. Nationwide will also be hosting a retirement workshop at the conference where Ken and Paul will be attending.

Omnia and Avera/OPUS/Premier

This report is showcasing one of NACo Edge's premier programs that partner with Omnia and Avera/OPUS to provide options to help simplify the purchasing process for local government agencies. Avera competitively solicits cooperative purchasing contracts in a wide range of products from office supplies to vehicles. These agreements are leveraged by the large volume purchasing power to achieve higher discounts from manufacturers, distributors and other suppliers.

OPUS is the e-commerce platform that includes the 3 million items available with real-time pricing where counties can search and purchase from multiple suppliers in one location. The OPUS website allows multiple users, sets approval limits/purchases by user, and items purchased can include separate PO's and billings and be shipped to multiple addresses if needed.

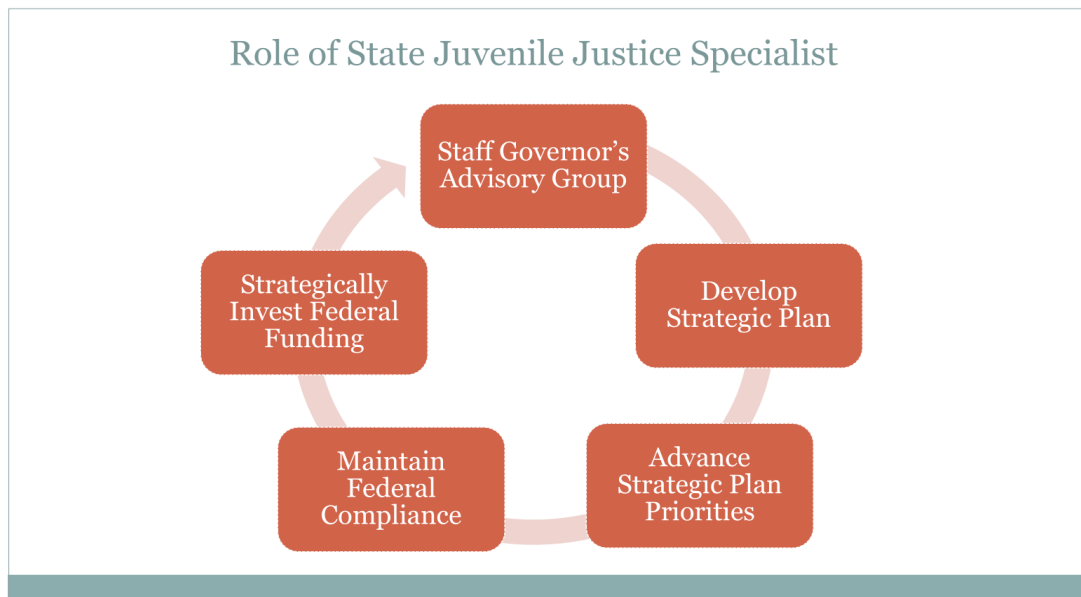
To find out more information on supplier partners, visit www.omniapartners.com and to learn more about the cooperative purchasing process, visit www.omniapartners.com/solutions/opus.

SERVICE REPORT: Juvenile Justice Planning August 2026

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

UPDATE:

NDACo administers North Dakota's statewide juvenile justice strategic planning process under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act. The North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Division of Juvenile Services, contracts with NDACo for North Dakota's Juvenile Justice Specialist, a position required as a condition of the state's participation in the JJDP Act. This contractual relationship has continued since North Dakota began participating in the Act in 1989 because it provides an effective structure for meeting federal requirements while supporting collaboration among state and local partners.



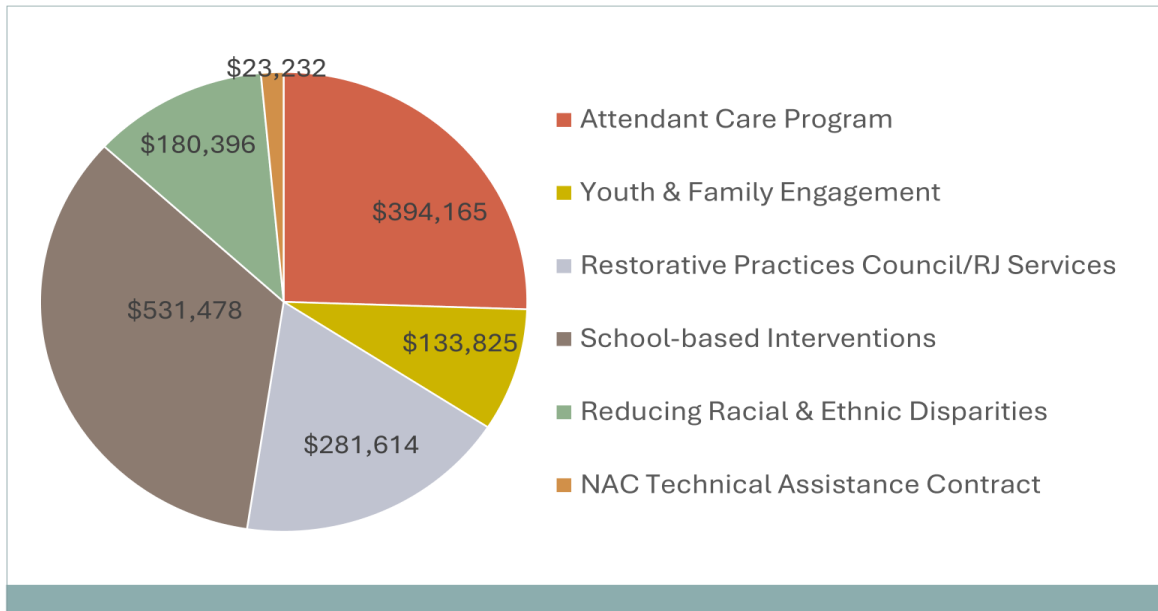
The Juvenile Justice Specialist staffs the Governor-appointed advisory group and works with its members and system partners to develop and implement North Dakota's three-year strategic plan focused on improving outcomes for at-risk youth and their families. The strategic plan is informed by statewide data, emerging needs, and system gaps and serves as the roadmap for policy initiatives and the strategic use of the federal funding received under the Act. Maintaining compliance with the JJDP Act's core requirements is essential to preserving the federal funding that supports these efforts.

North Dakota's current FY2024–2026 Strategic Plan, available at www.ndaco.org/SAG, establishes two broad statewide priorities:

- Improving outcomes for youth and families by supporting alternatives to system involvement; and
- Reducing out-of-home placement through community-based alternatives.

These priorities provide the framework for initiatives or programs designed to prevent unnecessary system involvement.

The strategic plan is implemented through cross-system collaboration, statewide initiatives, and targeted investments. Federal funding is an important tool for advancing these priorities. Since adoption of the current strategic plan, nearly \$1.6 million has been invested in statewide and local initiatives that advance the plan's priorities. The following chart details those investments.



In addition to the strategic plan priorities, NDACo has been facilitating ongoing discussions with county and city officials in the south central region to develop a long-term strategy for juvenile detention. Current efforts include evaluating detention capacity and utilization, identifying operational challenges, exploring opportunities for regional collaboration, and strengthening alternatives to secure detention.

SERVICE REPORT: Professional Development August 2026

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

PROGRAM UPDATE:

- **Examples of ILG Webinar Trainings & *Events ~ Attendance Data**

*2025 NDACo Annual Conference – 398

1099 Compliance: Avoiding those Costly Mistakes - 93

ADA Digital Accessibility Compliance: What Counties Need to Know - 148

Conditional-Use Permitting of Animal Agriculture - 106

*County Commissioner Summit – 30 (*Terrible winter storm hindered attendance.*)

County School Superintendent & County Official Training – 105

Did You Know: Determining if a Property is Centrally or Locally Assessed - 142

Did You Know: Pieces of Primary Residence Credit Are Starting to Fall into Place - 171

Financing Options for North Dakota Counties - 106

HR Basics for All Employees - 195

*HR Conference for Local Government – 59

NDIT Cybersecurity Tools and You - 87

No Tax on Overtime - 148

Sexual Harassment in County Government - 165

Tax Increment Financing - 80

Using Social Media for Community Engagement - 125

- **NDIRF Quarterly Webinars**

Recent topics included *Measure of Damages, HR Basics for All Employees, Sexual Harassment in County Government: Legal Standards, Responsibilities and Prevention, Leading During Turbulent Times: Culture as the Root Cause of Claims, Loss & Liability,*

- **ADA Digital Accessibility 4-Part Webinar Series**

The North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund (NDIRF) is hosting a 4-part webinar series in partnership with the North Dakota Association of Counties (NDACo) and the North Dakota League of Cities (NDLC). The ADA Accessibility Training Webinar Series covers key digital accessibility topics that are crucial for achieving compliance with ADA Title II requirements ahead of the 2027 and 2028 compliance deadlines.

May 13 - Getting Started: Building Your Digital Accessibility Plan

June 24 – Accessibility Basics: Simple Ways to Make a Big Difference

August 19 – Creating Accessible Documents Starting with Microsoft Word

October 7 – Creating Accessible Forms: Connecting People to Services

- **County School Superintendent & County Official Training – Sept 22**

This webinar training provides pertinent information to county superintendents, state's attorneys, and other county officials regarding basic expectations and duties, school reorganizations, school annexations, and school dissolutions. Presenters include State Superintendent of the ND Dept of Public Instruction (NDDPI) Levi Bachmeier, NDACo Executive Director Aaron Birst, Assistant Attorney General Mark Openshaw, NDDPI School Finance Officer Adam Tescher, Burleigh County Superintendent of Schools Brandt Dick, Ward County Superintendent of Schools Jodi Johnson and Chair of the State Board of Public School Education Sonia Meehl.

- **10th Year of Monthly Webinars with the Office of State Tax Commissioner**

15-minute webinars to prepare for the next month's deadlines. Below are 2026 attendance numbers to date.

Jan – 89 Feb – 83 Mar – 82 Apr – 63 May – 75 June – 77 July – 69

- **Webinar Recordings: Demand Remains Strong and Steady**

Since the beginning of this year, ILG has emailed **close to 600** webinar recordings!

- **ILG Hour Level Awards**

In 2026, ILG will honor **approximately 100+** hour-level award recipients. All levels have been achieved this year!

Level I - 30 hours

Level II – 100 hours

Level III – 150 hours

Level IV – 200 hours

Level V – 300 hours

Level VI – 400 hours

**INSTITUTE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
SERVICE REPORT: Scholarship Fund
August 2026**

(Report submitted to the Board of Directors by Alisha and Genny.)

PROGRAM UPDATE:

The recipients for the 2026 NDACo Scholarship awards (\$2,000 each) are:

Brooklyn Dockter

North Dakota State University - Freshman

Daughter of Karissa Dockter – Wells County Deputy Treasurer

Kaeden Krieg **Amy Svihovec Scholarship*

University of Mary - Sophomore

Son of Kelli Krieg – Stark County SWMCCC Behavioral Health Director

**Created in 2010, this scholarship honors the memory of Amy Svihovec, daughter of Linda Svihovec, former Auditor and Treasurer of McKenzie County, and is awarded to a scholarship recipient whose goals and achievements carry on Amy's legacy.*

Addie Robbins

Dickinson State University - Freshman

Daughter of Kimberly Robbins – LaMoure County Emergency Manager

Aubrey Rost

University of North Dakota - Sophomore

Granddaughter of Robert Rost – Grand Forks County Commissioner

Claire Weber

University of North Dakota - Freshman

Daughter of Vanessa Weber – Towner County Legal Assistant

Ava Zachmann

University of North Dakota - Freshman

Daughter of Carrie Zachmann – Golden Valley County Sheriff's Office Deputy

Currently, the Scholarship Fund has a balance of \$32,815 after paying out this year's scholarships of \$12,000.00. This is a similar balance from last year.

SERVICE REPORT: Conference & Training Services

August 2026

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

2026 Annual Conference

General Conference Information

October 11 – 13 ~ Bismarck Event Center

Important Changes:

- **NO Monday Evening Dinner / Entertainment – Social with power hors d'oeuvres and light music entertainment**
- **NDCCA Business Meeting will be in Main Floor Hall A (not upstairs)**



Workshop Topics

Staff are working on finalizing and confirming presenters on the following topics:

- Evaluating the Limits: Policy Impact Analysis for the Upcoming Session
- Tax Efficient Retirement Income
- ADA: Is Your Website as Accessible as Your Buildings?
- Innovative Approaches to Housing
- Data Centers – Planning Zoning Considerations
- Role of Emergency Managers
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – Impact of Error Rates and Why It Matters
- HR: What Every County Employee Should Know
- Drive Your Own Talent: How to Implement Your Own CDL Program
- A.I. for County Government
- The PSAP Regionalization Concept

Monday Opening General Session

EICG Awards are still in the process of being voted on.

Keynote Speaker: Danny Adams – Unlocking connection through laughter. This interactive, high-energy experience proves laughter boosts productivity, strengthens connection, and refreshes the mind and body because when we laugh together, we grow better!

Monday Lunch

ILG Hour Level Awards and Scholarship Awards

Highlighted Entertainment

Monday Evening: Slow Burn will provide music at Member Central during the Evening Social from 5pm-7pm.

Closing Tuesday Lunch & General Session

NDIRF Sponsored: Closing Keynote – *This is still being confirmed.*

Hotel Room Blocks

County attendees will choose their own hotels for the annual conference. This move was prompted by two things – the complaints we’ve been getting over the poor quality of some of the chosen “official” hotels, and that we are no longer offering busing, so it seems unnecessary for us to push people to use certain hotels.

Registration Fees

Registration Fees for 2026*:

- Full Conference - \$270
- One day - \$195
- First-time Attendee - \$165

*Registration after September 25, including on-site registrations, will be assessed an additional \$50 handling fee.

Based on a Strategic Plan objective, a discount will be offered to first-time county attendees at the conference. This objective was set to help encourage counties to send an official who may not have had an opportunity to attend in the past. County attendees will be asked to note they are a first-time attendee (having never attended an NDACo Annual Conference) upon registration.

Exhibitors/Sponsors

Exhibitor registrations are steadily coming in. As of August 17, we have 22 Sponsors for various events, 27 Elite Exhibitors, 35 Traditional Exhibitors and 4 Large Equipment Exhibitors. These numbers are slightly ahead of pace compared to the last two years at this time. *Note: There is some overlap, as some companies both exhibit and sponsor.*

Board Member Attendance

We hope all Board members have made arrangements (conference registration) through their county to attend the annual conference in October. If your county will not cover your expenses to attend, please let Michelle know and she will make sure you are registered. *We want all Board members in attendance!*

Pre-Conference Caucus Meetings

NDACo will continue to conduct regional commissioner caucuses prior to the annual conference to allow more time for relevant issues and resolutions to be discussed and for elections to be held. This being an even-numbered year means the even-numbered regions will have to conduct elections for their NDACo regional representative. Region 1 will also need to hold an election since Howdy Lawlar is not running for re-election.

NDACo is working with the eight regional commissioner representatives that serve on the NDACo Board of Directors to find the date/time they'd like to hold their region's caucus. So far, Region 8 has scheduled their caucus for September 14th.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – TERMS

North Dakota County Commissioners Association As of October 11, 2026

POSITION	NAME	ELECTED TO THE BOARD	CURRENT TERM
President	Neal Messer (Stark)	2022	Oct. 2025 – Oct. 2027
Vice President	Tracey Dolezal (Dunn)	2023	Oct. 2025 – Oct. 2027
Treasurer	Glenda Collier (Eddy)	2020	Oct. 2025 – Oct. 2027
Past President	Joan Hollekim (Mountrail)	2019	Oct. 2025 – Oct. 2027
Director *	Jason Arth (Sargent)	2023	Oct. 2024 – Oct. 2026
Director	Cory Hanson (Williams)	2021	Oct. 2025 – Oct. 2027
Director	Jim Kapitan (Cass)	2021	Oct. 2025 – Oct. 2027
Director	Miranda Schuler (Ward)	2025	Oct. 2025 – Oct. 2027
Director *	Andrew Zachmeier (Morton)	2023	Oct. 2024 – Oct. 2026

National Association of Counties Board of Directors
Stanley Dick (Cavalier) – Term: 7/25-7/27 – 1st Two-year Term *

Western Interstate Region (WIR) Board of Directors
Scott Ouradnik (Slope) – Term: 11/25-11/27 – 7th Two-year Term

N.D. Insurance Reserve Fund (NDIRF) Board of Directors
Scott Ouradnik (Slope) – Term: 5/24-5/27 – 3rd Three-year Term *
Lyle Bopp (Sargent) – Term: 5/25-5/28 – 1st Three-year Term

* Positions to be filled at the 2026 NDCCA Annual Meeting.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS of the NORTH DAKOTA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

(Effective: November 19, 1981. Amended and approved by the North Dakota County Commissioners Association on October 9, 2000; September 30, 2002; October 8, 2007; October 11, 2010, October 26, 2015 and October 9, 2023.)

ARTICLE I - NAME AND PURPOSE

SECTION 1, NAME: This Association shall be known as the North Dakota County Commissioners Association.

SECTION 2, PURPOSE: The purpose of this Association shall be:

- (A) To provide a vehicle for its membership for an exchange of ideas and procedures that will facilitate them in their duties and responsibilities as county commissioners of their respective counties.
- (B) To promote and recommend Legislation that will be of mutual benefit to the citizens of North Dakota.
- (C) To be a member of the North Dakota Association of Counties.

ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1, REGULAR MEMBER: All county commissioners of this State shall be eligible for regular membership of this Association. Upon payment of the annual dues such county commissioner shall be afforded the normal membership privileges, to include offering resolutions, voting at annual membership meetings, and serving on standing committees and the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2, ANNUAL DUES: The annual dues of this Association shall be set by a majority vote of the regular members present at any annual meeting and shall remain in effect until changed by action taken at any future annual meeting.

ARTICLE III – BOARD OF DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, ELECTION, AND DUTIES

SECTION 1, OFFICERS: The officers of this Association shall be a President, a Vice President, and a Treasurer. There shall also be an office of Secretary which need not be held by a regular member of the Association.

SECTION 2, DIRECTORS: In addition to the officers, the Board of Directors shall include five directors that shall be elected statewide.

SECTION 3, ELECTION, TERM OF OFFICE:

- (A) The officers and five directors, other than the Secretary, shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Association by the votes of the majority of the regular members present. The President, Vice President, and Treasurer shall be elected in odd-numbered years and hold office for two years or until their successors are elected and have accepted their offices. The five directors shall be elected

for two year terms. Beginning with the 1981 annual convention, three directors shall be elected for two-year terms and two directors shall be elected for a one-year term as determined by lot. Thereafter, and at each ensuing annual convention, expired terms for directors shall be filled by regular members elected for two-year terms.

- (B) The representative to the National Association of Counties Board of Directors shall be elected at even-numbered year annual meetings for a two-year term. Terms run from July to July of odd-numbered years.
- (C) The representative to the Western Interstate Region Board of Directors shall be elected at odd-numbered year annual meetings for a two-year term. Terms run from November to November of odd-numbered years.
- (D) The representatives to the North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund shall be nominated for three-year terms. Terms subject to election by NDIRF members to begin the following April.

SECTION 4, NOMINATIONS: Nominations for officers of this Association, other than the office of Secretary, shall be made by a nominating committee appointed by the President. After presentation of the nominations by the nominating committee, nominations for the position of any office may be made from the floor upon nomination and second by regular members of the Association.

SECTION 5, APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY, TERM OF OFFICE: At the first meeting of the Board of Directors following the annual meeting, the office of Secretary shall be appointed by the Board of Directors to serve a one-year term.

SECTION 6, VACANCIES: Should there exist a vacancy in the office of the President, the Vice President shall succeed to the unexpired term of the President. Other vacancies occurring for any cause shall be filled by an appointment by the President, which must be ratified at the next regular meeting of the Board of Directors, for the unexpired term of the office vacated.

SECTION 7, DUTIES OF OFFICERS:

- (A) President: It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the Association. He or she shall appoint such committees as he or she deems advisable to further the work of the Association. He or she shall have such other powers and duties as are usually performed by the president of an organization.
- (B) Vice President: It shall be the duties of the Vice President to exercise the functions and perform the duties of the President in the event of his or her absence or inability to act. It shall further be the duty of the office to assist the President in such a manner the President may designate.
- (C) Treasurer: The treasurer functions of the Association shall be performed by the Treasurer.
- (D) Secretary: The secretarial functions of the Association shall be performed by the Secretary.

ARTICLE IV - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 1, MEMBERS: The Board of Directors shall include the Association officers, five directors, and the immediate Past President. In the event that the office of Secretary is filled by an individual who is not a regular member of the Association, that individual shall serve in an ex-officio capacity and be a non-voting member of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: It shall be the duty and responsibility of the Board of Directors to prepare and adopt an annual or biennial budget, perform such duties as are assigned by

the Annual Meeting, and to perform the necessary Association business during the interim of annual meetings.

SECTION 3, MEETINGS: The Board of Directors shall meet at the call of the President.

ARTICLE V - MEETINGS

SECTION 1, TIME AND PLACE: The Association shall meet annually at a time and place determined by the Board of Directors. A special meeting of the Association may be called by the Board of Directors. The time and place of a special meeting shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2, PROCEDURES: Procedures followed at the annual or special meeting shall be in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order when not inconsistent with the Constitution and By-laws of the Association.

SECTION 3, QUORUM: A simple majority will constitute a quorum of the Association or its committees.

ARTICLE VI - COMMITTEES

SECTION 1, ANNUAL: The President shall appoint the following committees to serve during his or her administration as President.

- (A) Resolutions Committee – 10 members, made up of the President, Vice President, and one representative from each of the eight regions of county commissioners.
- (B) Audit Committee – minimum of 3 members.
- (C) Constitution and By-laws Committee – The Board of Directors
- (D) Nominating Committee – no more than 7 members.

SECTION 2, BIENNIAL: Following the even numbered year annual meeting, the President shall appoint a Legislative Committee. The Legislative Committee will consist of the Board of Directors and up to six additional members.

ARTICLE VII - AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1, AMENDMENTS: This Constitution and By-laws may be amended at any Annual Association Meeting by two-thirds affirmation vote of the regular members present, provided that such amendment shall first have been submitted to the membership not less than 15 days prior to the Annual Meeting. The 15 days notice requirement may be waived by unanimous consent of all regular members present at the annual meeting.

SECTION 2, AMENDMENTS RECORDED: Should the Constitution and By-laws be amended at any future annual meeting, such amendments shall be attached to this document with an annotation showing the effective date of the amendment.

ARTICLE VIII - EFFECTIVE DATE

SECTION 1, EFFECTIVE DATE: Revised Constitution and By-laws shall become effective upon adoption by a two-third affirmative vote of the regular members present at any Annual meeting. Upon adoption of this Revised Constitution and By-laws this Association shall be governed by its contents and shall supersede any other document or minutes relating to governing this organization.

SECTION 2, FILING CONSTITUTION: Within thirty days after the adoption of this Constitution and By-laws, the Secretary shall file a copy of same in each of the fifty-three county auditor's office, also any amendments adopted will be handled in the same manner.

ARTICLE IX – CONFLICT OF INTEREST

SECTION 1, CONFLICT OF INTEREST: A member of the Board of Directors who has a direct and substantial personal or pecuniary interest in a matter before the Board of Directors must disclose the fact to the body of which that person is a member and may not participate in or vote on that particular matter without the consent of a majority of the rest of the body.

SECTION 2, FAILURE TO DISCLOSE: If the Board of Directors has reasonable cause to believe a member has failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, it shall inform the member of the basis for such belief and afford the member an opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose. If, after hearing the member's response and after making further investigation as warranted by the circumstances, the Board of Directors determines the member has failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, it shall take appropriate corrective action.

SERVICE REPORT: National Participation August 2026

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

PROGRAM UPDATE:

National Participation/NACo Board

NACo Annual Conference: The NACo Annual Conference was held in Orleans Parish (New Orleans) LA July 17-20. Below is a list of the 14 county officials from North Dakota who attended:

- Kim Jacobson, Agassiz Valley Human Service Zone Director
- Missy Hanson, Burleigh County Recorder
- Tony Grindberg, Cass County Commissioner
- Sarah Heinle, Cass County Finance Director
- Jim Kapitan, Cass County Commissioner
- Tracy Peters, Cass County HR Director/Assistant County Administrator
- Robert Wilson, Cass County Administrator
- Stanley Dick, Cavalier County Commissioner
- Nick Moser, Cavalier County Commissioner
- Tracey Dolezal, Dunn County Commissioner
- Danielle Petersen, Renville County Recorder *
- Barb Frydenlund, Rolette County Public Health Administrator
- Scott Ouradnik, Slope County Commissioner
- Chad Kaiser, Stutsman County Sheriff

* Danielle Petersen won the free trip to the NACo Annual Conference at our annual conference last year.

National Participation Match Program

Regions 5, 6 and 7 have been awarded their NDACo 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 used the program to attend the NACo Annual Conference in New Orleans.

Region 6 was awarded their NDCCA National Participation Match Program dollars in 2026. Stutsman County Commissioner Benjamin Tompkins was going to use the program to attend the NACo Legislative Conference in February, but he has decided to not submit his expenses.

Following is Stanley Dick's National Participation Report for August 2026:

The NACo Annual Conference in New Orleans was held July 17-20. As a member of the Board of Directors, we passed on to the full floor all resolutions. I think for the first time ever there was very little to no discussion on any particular issue. A lot of the Board's time was spent on the new OMB legislation, data centers, and AI.

In the Agriculture Committee meeting we had a guest speaker from the Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry. The Commissioner gave us an update on the Farm Bill. (Since the convention, the Senate Ag Committee failed to pass out of committee the mark up of the Farm Bill. Sticking point is trying to delay SNAP benefits for one or two years to try to get states' error rates in coordination to what the federal government wants.) His focus was also on how we can have more of our input costs mined, manufactured, or produced here in the U.S. The war in Iran and the conflict over the Strait of Hormuz has directly affected our fertilizer, fuel, and pesticide products. Keeping these input costs all in the U.S. should keep our costs down and always make sure they are available and abundant.

Another topic from the Agriculture Committee was a discussion on federal crop insurance. A resolution came from our committee that all rules and regulations concerning federal crop insurance shall be the same in all states. Our friends from Montana pointed out a few irregularities that differ from state to state.

In the Rural Action Caucus, rural development was addressed. USDA has a lot of programs available concerning clean water, housing, business opportunities, and community infrastructure. USDA state leaders were in attendance to share their perspective on how to utilize the programs and how to make things better. A lot of great ideas were presented and maybe North Dakota could be more active in this area.

The new President of NACo is George Dunlap from North Carolina. His Presidential Spotlight is *Building Better Futures*. He is focusing on youth priorities and building a strong future for local government. This in time will reap benefits for state and federal governments.

It was hard to say some final farewells as I've gotten to know a lot of people over the last seven years in NACo. The organization is strong. Matt Chase and his staff have worked hard in trying to not fall into the partisan trap seen across our country. I feel they have succeeded in leadership on making this a priority. Very little back and forth contentious conversations. Overall, it was a very good convention.

Last minute plug for NACo. We still need NDACo and North Dakota to stay plugged in. Once we are involved, there is so much they can offer us, and so much we can offer them.

Following is Robert Wilson's National Participation Report for August 2026:

North Dakota county officials attended the NACo Annual Conference July 17-20 in New Orleans, LA. Consistent with tradition, the annual conference is a mix of networking opportunities, federal policy & association updates and educational sessions. As one of two North Dakota representatives on the NACo Board, my comments focus on Board updates and activities:

Executive Message / 'We Are Counties': The Association is fortunate to have strong leadership in Executive Director Matt Chase. Matt and his leadership team recognize and leverage trends they see nationally and in Congress and the Administration to ensure counties are well-positioned. In his comments to the Board Mr. Chase pointed out that trust is currently declining in all organizations. The decline in trust is less in local government than other organizations, but it still exists. NACo is being proactive to address this with the 'We Are Counties' campaign. In the absence of a strong message, others will tell our story. Last December the Board of Directors approved funds to kick start the campaign. Based on early success, in New Orleans the Board extended funding through 2030.

Data Collection & Organization: For years NACo has made collecting and organizing county-related data a huge organizational priority. If you haven't done so, please review the 'County Explorer' page on the NACo website, look at the information about your county – and use it when helpful. At the Annual Conference it was reported that congressional offices are now making regular use of the county data in their presentations and research. NACo has made a strategic decision that they want to be a trusted source for county and local government-related information across the political spectrum.

NACo Edge: Public Promise Procurement, Public Promise Insurance, High-Performance Leadership Academy, Nationwide, ClearGov, CashVest, Mental Health First Aid and Savi are NACo brands and partnerships that bring revenue into the organization and support the advocacy and member services efforts that we utilize. Please become familiar with these tools – and know that if your county utilizes them. You're not only supporting your county's work but also supporting NACo's advocacy on behalf of counties.

'Most Significant Federal Policy Shift in 30 Years: The Federal Office of Management & Budget is in the process of re-writing the rule regarding local use of federal funds. The re-write includes a 45-day comment period that is not enough time to evaluate the full impacts and provide substantive feedback. Ultimately, with this change, all federal grant decisions will be up to political appointees vs. career professionals. A doomsday scenario is that if your county allows an event to take place in a county park or courthouse square that doesn't align with the current administration's philosophy, any federal funding the county receives could be revoked – even mid-project. This is an evolving conversation. The new rules are scheduled to take effect October 1st. NACo is at least hoping to have implementation delayed until January 1st.

Following is Scott Ouradnik's National Participation Report for August 2026:

I had the opportunity to attend the NACo Annual Conference and Expo in Orleans Parish, New Orleans, La. July 17-20.

I sit on the Public Lands Steering Committee and Western Interstate Region (WIR) Board of Directors. At the Public Lands Steering Committee, we heard from USDA Rural Development and learned that they offer over 70 programs through their office, but only about ½ of them are ever used. From affordable housing to funding community facilities, to disaster funds. The important takeaway was for us to get to know your State Director! We spent the afternoon going over 30 pages of proposed Policy Resolutions and Platform Changes.

The Western Interstate Region Board Meeting was amazing, as usual! Much of the meeting was spent discussing the new PILT calculator that can be found on the National Center for Public Lands Counties website. This new, interactive tool assists counties with estimating PILT payments for the following year, which should significantly aid counties during the budgeting process. I was able to visit with NACo staff to get a better understanding of the Bankhead Jones funding formula that several counties in ND that contain National Grasslands are affected by. Additionally, I visited with Zeke Lee, our NACo lead for WIR, and he indicated that following the Annual Conference, the search committee would complete the job of selecting the location for the 2028 WIR Conference. Aaron and I did a presentation at the May WIR Conference putting our name in the hat to host the 2028 event in Medora. The committee will be deciding between us, and Albuquerque, New Mexico. Stay tuned!

As always, there were several great educational opportunities at the conference. One that I particularly enjoyed was regarding Roberts Rules of Order. While not all counties use Roberts Rules, I believe all would benefit from the workshop!

Presidential Appointments and Steering Committee Members

NACo is a grassroots-driven organization that encourages member engagement. Currently, more than 1,100 individual county elected and appointed officials from every region of the country serve on ten policy steering committees, ad hoc and standing committees and various caucuses and task forces. From North Dakota, fourteen different county individuals serve on fourteen different committees. Below is a list of who serves on what committees in 2026-2027.

Find out more about the various committees, caucuses and task forces at <https://www.naco.org/page/committees-caucuses>.

NAME	COMMITTEE	POSITION
Helen Askim (Williams)	Programs and Services	Member
Helen Askim (Williams)	Rural Action Caucus	Member
Nichole Degenstein (Ward)	Community, Economic & Workforce Development	Member
Stanley Dick (Cavalier)	Rural Action Caucus	Member
Barb Frydenlund (Rolette)	Health	Member
Barb Frydenlund (Rolette)	Rural Action Caucus	Member
Joel Vettel (Cass)	Justice & Public Safety	Member
Bob Henderson (Cass)	Telecommunications & Technology	Member
Kim Jacobson (Agassiz Valley)	Human Services & Education	Member
Chad Kaiser (Stutsman)	Justice & Public Safety	Member
James Kapitan (Cass)	Midsize County Caucus	Member
James Kapitan (Cass)	Rural Action Caucus	Member
James Kapitan (Cass)	Transportation	Subcommittee Chair
James Kapitan (Cass)	Veterans and Military Services Advisory Council	Vice Chair
Dana Larsen (Ward)	Transportation	Member
Scott Ouradnik (Slope)	Public Lands	Member
Tracy Peters (Cass)	Retirement Readiness Advisory Council	Member .
Jayme Tenneson (Griggs)	Agriculture & Rural Affairs	Member
Robert Wilson (Cass)	Community, Economic & Workforce Development	Member
Robert Wilson (Cass)	Membership	Member
Robert Wilson (Cass)	Midsize County Caucus	Vice Chair
Robert Wilson (Cass)	Rural Action Caucus	Member

NACo steering committees annually review and make recommendations on public policy issues and legislation. The policy development process initiated by the steering committees is the foundation for the American County Platform, which drives NACo's advocacy work.

Future NACo Conferences

Following are the dates and locations of the 2027 NACo Conferences:

- Legislative Conference February 19 – 23 Washington DC
- Western Interstate Region May 25 – 28 Douglas County NV
- Annual Conference July 23 – 26 Savannah GA

**NDCCA Board Meeting
August 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!**

Subject:

FW: 2026 Safety & Ergonomic Initiative- 1st Email

From: Nicole Wandler <nrwandler@starkcountynd.gov>

Sent: Monday, June 29, 2026 3:04 PM

To: Michael Casey <michael.casey@ndaco.org>; Patrick Engelhart <patrick.engelhart@ndaco.org>

Cc: Jennifer Morman <Jennifer.Morman@ndaco.org>

Subject: RE: 2026 Safety & Ergonomic Initiative- 1st Email

Thank you so much for the update and, more importantly, for all of the time and effort you've invested in researching every possible funding opportunity for us.

I truly cannot express how much I appreciate your willingness to make phone calls, reach out to multiple agencies, and continue searching for solutions. Knowing that you're advocating on our behalf and leaving no stone unturned means more than you know.

While it may be a long road, I sincerely appreciate your persistence and optimism in finding potential funding sources. Every lead you have pursued gives us hope that we may eventually be able to provide our deputies with the equipment they need to safely perform their duties.

Thank you again for everything you are doing. I truly appreciate it and look forward to hearing if any additional opportunities become available.

Have a wonderful week, and please stay safe as well!

Nicole Wandler

Stark County Sheriff's Office

66 West Museum Drive | Dickinson, ND 58601

701.456.7610

From: Patrick Engelhart <patrick.engelhart@ndaco.org>

Sent: Monday, 29 June 2026 14:48:56

To: Nicole Wandler <nrwandler@starkcountynd.gov>; Michael Casey <michael.casey@ndaco.org>

Cc: Jennifer Morman <Jennifer.Morman@ndaco.org>

Subject: RE: 2026 Safety & Ergonomic Initiative- 1st Email

Just wanted to loop everyone into where we are currently at with this. I spoke on the phone with Nicole earlier today and we discussed that the amount for the external carriers, which would qualify for our safety and ergo grant money, greatly exceeds the amount available for Stark County.

Also, the federal grant program for ballistic vests, [Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership \(BVP\)](#), excludes purchases of just external carriers, and is only a 50/50 split. I have a call into Representative Fedorchak's office to see if there is a work around or another grant opportunity, or if, frankly, she can guilt the Feds into coughing up the cash.

I reached out to several folks at WSI, but, as I suspected, there is nothing there for grant money for this.

I spoke to Deanna at the Office of the Attorney General (ND) grant management department and here might be a glimmer of hope. “The [Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant \(JAG\) Program](#) allows states, tribes, and local governments to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime based on their own local needs and conditions.” Of course, that is not free of problems either. Last years grants haven’t been made available yet, having supposed to have been funded in January. Deanna says this year’s grant applications aren’t even open yet but hope to be in the next several weeks (they closed August 15 last year). So this route, which it looks like you would be qualified for, may be a very long road to see any money from: six months or so at best, year or two at worst, assuming grant approval and available funds, which means, who knows? Oh, and it’s a 65/35 split, which ain’t bad.

The AG’s office also confirmed that using lottery grant money is only for multi-jurisdictional narcotics taskforces and would not fund these carriers.

- I’ll keep digging around and will let you know if I get any help from our congressional delegation.

Have fun, stay safe.

pve

From: Nicole Wandler <nrwandler@starkcountynd.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2026 11:15 AM

To: Michael Casey <michael.casey@ndaco.org>

Cc: Patrick Engelhart <patrick.engelhart@ndaco.org>; Jennifer Morman <Jennifer.Morman@ndaco.org>

Subject: RE: 2026 Safety & Ergonomic Initiative- 1st Email

Thank you very much, Michael. I truly appreciate you including both Patrick and Jennifer. I’m familiar with both of them and have always enjoyed working with them. They are tremendous resources, and I appreciate everyone taking the time to explore possible options.

The estimated amount I provided is fairly close, although the final cost may vary slightly since shipping expenses will also be included.

Just to clarify, an external vest carrier is the item that holds an officer’s ballistic panels. The ballistic panels themselves are not being replaced—only the carriers that hold them. External carriers provide mounting space and easier access to duty equipment while distributing weight more ergonomically. Our current carriers were designed around our previous utility setup and no longer provide adequate space to effectively accommodate the new Axon body camera system and related equipment. Replacing the carriers will allow us to continue using our existing ballistic panels while safely and efficiently integrating the new technology.

I have also included an image to provide a better idea of what an external carrier looks like, along with a link to our local vendor, Balco Uniform Co., which has been a great partner to work with. Their website for this particular carrier can be found here:

<https://www.balcouniform.com/Detail.aspx?PROD=1364533&CAT=12414>.



Thank you again for your willingness to look into this and for all that you, Patrick, and Jennifer do to support counties across North Dakota. I sincerely appreciate your assistance and look forward to hearing what the team comes up with after you've had an opportunity to discuss possible options.

I hope you have a great week! Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions. You can reach me at my office at 701-456-7850 or on my work cell at 701-260-6298.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Nicole Wandler

Stark County Sheriff's Office
66 West Museum Drive | Dickinson, ND 58601
701.456.7610

From: Michael Casey <michael.casey@ndaco.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2026 10:00 AM
To: Nicole Wandler <nrwandler@starkcountynd.gov>
Cc: Patrick Engelhart <patrick.engelhart@ndaco.org>; Jennifer Morman <Jennifer.Morman@ndaco.org>
Subject: RE: 2026 Safety & Ergonomic Initiative- 1st Email

Good morning Nicole,

Appreciate the email and the news is exciting for the safety of the officers. I am attaching my team members, Patrick, and Jennifer onto this email as they have a wealth of knowledge that I am going to tap into on this one. The 2026 safety and ergonomic initiative that I run certainly can help with this type of need, but the total dollars needed is not there. You are looking at \$12,000 - \$13,000 dollars if my math is correct. I will be honest, I don't 100% understand what the "replacement external carriers" are exactly, but I am willing to learn. Let the CEG team do a little work on this and see if we can't find out what/if any of our overall options are to help within this scenario. We may uncover some technology grants or something else that we may be available to assist with. Patrick has a really good pulse on these types of things so I am going to hopefully rely on his expertise on this and see if we can help in any way. Patrick is

on vacation until next week, and then the next week is a short week, so maybe give us some time to discuss and we can get back with you.

Thank you,

Michael Casey

Michael Casey

CEG Underwriting &
Loss Control Manager
701-202-6039 (Cell)

michael.casey@ndaco.org



From: Nicole Wandler <nrwandler@starkcountynd.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2026 10:11 AM

To: Michael Casey <michael.casey@ndaco.org>

Subject: RE: 2026 Safety & Ergonomic Initiative- 1st Email

Hello Michael,

I hope you are doing well. Thank you to the ND Association of Counties and the County Employer Group for continuing to provide this outstanding safety initiative and for the continued investment in employee safety throughout the state.

I have some exciting news to share. Stark County recently held a special commission meeting, and the Stark County Sheriff's Office was approved to move forward with the implementation of Axon body cameras. We are very excited about this advancement and the benefits it will provide to our officers and the community.

As we prepare for implementation, we have identified a safety-related need. Our current external body armor carriers were configured to accommodate our previous Utility system, which required modifications that now limit the available mounting space needed to effectively support the new body camera system and associated equipment. To properly equip our officers, we are in need of replacement external carriers only, as our ballistic panels will continue to be utilized.

Replacement carriers are approximately \$350 each, and we have approximately 30 licensed peace officers who would require them. We are currently participating in the BJA Body Armor Grant Program to assist with the cost of the ballistic panels; however, that grant does not provide funding for replacement external carriers.

Would the purchase of external body armor carriers be considered an eligible safety item under the 2026 Safety Initiative? If so, I would be happy to provide additional information, specifications, or a prioritized request list.

Thank you again for all that you, Jennifer, and Patrick do to support counties across North Dakota. We truly appreciate the resources and opportunities provided through this program.

Sincerely,

Nicole Wandler

Stark County Sheriff's Office
66 West Museum Drive | Dickinson, ND 58601
701.456.7610

Michelle M. Tabbert

Subject: FW: Survey's - Leadership

From: Brown, Denise <denise.brown.1@ndsu.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2026 7:39 PM
To: Genny M. Dienstmann <gdienstmann@ndaco.org>; Fuchs, Bryon <bryon.fuchs@ndsu.edu>
Cc: Wing, Tracy <tracy.wing@ndsu.edu>
Subject: RE: Survey's - Leadership

It is always a pleasure working with you Genny. Your partnership with NDLTAP is very valuable. We also appreciate your NDLTAP advisory board membership. I look forward to attending the next Leadership – Skills to Live By training.

Have a great day and enjoy the summer weather,

Denise Brown

NDLTAP Program Manager

(701) 220-0101

denise.brown.1@ndsu.edu

www.ndltap.org

608 E Blvd Ave., Bismarck ND 58505



"Don't just count your years, make your years count. - George Meredith

From: Genny M. Dienstmann <gdienstmann@ndaco.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2026 2:23 PM
To: Fuchs, Bryon <bryon.fuchs@ndsu.edu>
Cc: Wing, Tracy <tracy.wing@ndsu.edu>; Brown, Denise <denise.brown.1@ndsu.edu>
Subject: RE: Survey's - Leadership

It looks like we did alright. 😊 When you condense a training session, you hope that it still makes the impact and provides enough take aways for people and it seems we still hit the mark on that. I truly enjoy working with you and your team and appreciate you letting me be a part of it. Always glad to help out where I can. Thanks again for sharing the results; have a great rest of your week!

Genny Dienstmann, CAE
ND Association of Counties
(701) 425-0815 – w
(701) 391-4375 - c

From: Fuchs, Bryon <bryon.fuchs@ndsu.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2026 7:51 AM
To: Genny M. Dienstmann <gdienstmann@ndaco.org>

Cc: Wing, Tracy <tracy.wing@ndsu.edu>; Brown, Denise <denise.brown.1@ndsu.edu>

Subject: Survey's - Leadership

Genny,

Attached are the Survey results from yesterday's training. Thank you for helping out with this class again! Looks like we did OK on the surveys and we nailed the content for time. As they say, sometimes it is better to be lucky than good.

You bring a lot of experience and examples to the class that everyone can relate too. We certainly appreciate you being part of this training.

Have a good day!

Bryon

Bryon Fuchs, P.E.
NDLTAP Director/NTTAP Co-Director
NDSU-UGPTI
608 East Boulevard Ave
Bismarck, ND 58505-0700
701-371-3483 (m) / 701-224-3801 (o)
[North Dakota Local Technical Assistance Program \(NDLTAP\) - Home](#)



Michelle M. Tabbert

Subject: FW: Common Ground: May 2026 - Counties Impacted by Levy Limitations

From: Lee, Judy E. <jlee@ndlegis.gov>

Sent: Monday, May 4, 2026 5:15 PM

To: NDACo <ndaco@ndaco.org>

Subject: RE: Common Ground: May 2026 - Counties Impacted by Levy Limitations

You don't often get email from jlee@ndlegis.gov. Learn why this is important

This is very concerning, which does not surprise me.

There are legislators who do not see this cap the same way as the folks who pushed through the 3% cap. It's a bad idea, especially in this inflationary time and especially for growing cities and school districts. Cuts being proposed are painful.

Senator Judy Lee

1822 Brentwood Court

West Fargo, ND 58078

Home phone: 701-282-6512

Email: jlee@ndlegis.gov

From: ndaco@ndaco.org <ndaco@ndaco.org>

Sent: Monday, May 4, 2026 2:31 PM

To: Lee, Judy E. <jlee@ndlegis.gov>

Subject: Common Ground: May 2026 - Counties Impacted by Levy Limitations

Is this email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)



Common Ground

Legislative Newsletter of the North Dakota Association of Counties

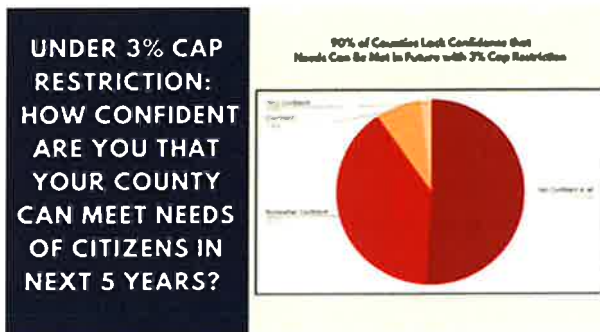
05/05/2026 Other Issues

Poll Shows County Leaders Concerned about Future Budgets in Cap Environment

ND Counties Report Budget Challenges Under 3% Cap Restriction

With the first year of budgeting under the 3% cap in the rearview mirror, counties indicate while they may have been able to make ends meet for 2026, they are very concerned about future budget cycles. A tax reform package passed by lawmakers in the 2025 Legislative Session restricts political subdivisions by capping annual property tax increases to 3% each year. The North Dakota Association of Counties (NDACo) developed a survey for counties to complete with the goal of capturing the impacts of the restriction on county budgets. 51 of the 53 Counties responded. The survey provides insight into how counties managed their 2026 budgets with the mandated limitations along with their outlook on how the 3% cap will impact the well-being of the county in the future.

Survey Findings Regarding 2026 Budget



The survey highlights how a great majority, **90% of the counties, lack confidence that their county can meet the needs of citizens in the next five years.** That's because most counties tapped into their reserves to fund their 2026 budgets, which will deplete quickly in the cap environment. Counties reiterated that the use of reserves to fill the gap in budgets is unsustainable. In dollars, the allowed revenue calculated from the 3% cap limit varies significantly depending on the property tax base a county has. For example, in Slope County, the 3% cap equaled only \$18,000 in revenue growth from property taxes compared to Cass County where the cap allowed an increase of \$1.8 million.

The legislation allows counties to carry forward unused percentages of the 3% cap for up to five years.

- **34 counties had a portion of the 3% that was unused**
- **17 counties used the full 3% allowed**
 - **Of those 17 counties, 13 used full 3% allowed plus used reserves to fund their budgets**

Counties Make Budget Cuts

There are real fiscal impacts as a result of the property tax limitation. Numerous counties reported a loss in funding where levies are tied to state grants, with road funding seeing the greatest impact. Counties also reported that they were forced to defer equipment purchases. Overall, counties prepared their 2026 budgets to the best of their abilities, but the comments and results of the survey illustrate a bleak outlook for budgeting and planning in the future.

Counties indicated they made **budget cuts** in several areas including:

- Salary increases
- Employee retirement benefits

- Road projects
- Equipment purchases
- Capital projects

These cuts highlight challenges counties see as they prepare for the next budget cycle and into the future.

These **challenges** include:

- Depleting reserves
- Providing adequate and competitive salary increases
- Deferring large projects including maintaining or repairing county buildings
- Financial pressures compounded by inflation costs greater than 3%

The legislation allows local governments to exceed the 3% cap if voters approve it in the general election. NDACo is not aware of any counties bringing this issue to their voters in 2026.

NDACo Offers Future Considerations

NDACo offers a list of future considerations for lawmakers as they prepare for the 2027-28 Legislative Session. Many suggestions are related to expanding exemptions for the 3% cap. The primary exemption suggested is for health care premiums, as NDPERS is set by the state and saw a 15% increase in rates from the last biennium. Other suggested exemptions include elections, corrections, and unfunded state mandates. NDACo also suggests that prior voter approved levies should not be subject to the 3% cap. Other proposals are adjusting the 3% cap either to reflect inflation or to a higher percentage, creating a public safety levy authority, eliminating current mill rate limitations, providing a state appropriation for programming costs associated with tax statement requirements and providing additional state revenue sharing.

In addition, NDACo has presented the Interim Tax Reform and Relief Advisory Committee with a list of technical items that should be addressed in the 2027 Legislative Session that have been identified by counties when implementing HB 1176.

You are subscribed to Common Ground with the e-mail jlee@ndlegis.gov. If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, [unsubscribe here](#).

North Dakota Association of Counties | P.O. Box 877 | 1661 Capitol Way | Bismarck, ND 58502-0877 | 701-425-0808

© Copyright North Dakota Association of Counties. All rights reserved.



Subject: DOJ compliance audit

From: Bjergaard, Lisa J. <lbjergaa@nd.gov>

Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 9:12 AM

To: Colby Braun <cobraun@nd.gov>; Juntunen, Rachelle <juntunenrachel@nd.gov>

Cc: Lisa Jahner <ljahner@ndaco.org>; Charvat, Joseph G. <jcharvat@nd.gov>; Kozojed, Anthony E. <akozojed@nd.gov>; Walters, Corey W. <cwalters@nd.gov>

Subject: DOJ compliance audit

Colby and Rachelle,

We just finished our exit briefing with the compliance monitors from the DOJ, OJJDP.

Although the report is not finalized, it appears there will be no findings. This is entirely due to the daily diligence of the team; Lisa Jahner with the Association of Counties, and the DOCR compliance team of Joe, Tony and Corey. These guys monitor every jail, juvenile detention, law enforcement (county and city) and every prison or correctional center across the entire state and ensure that the core protections for juveniles are robust. It is a huge, huge amount of work. It is a cooperative effort between the counties and the state and I cannot say enough about the professionalism these four bring to this task. It involves hours on the road, navigating prickly conversations at times, making sure documentation is in order, and manualizing processes to insure continuity of compliance. It is invisible, behind the scenes work that is critically important but doesn't ever get the spotlight it deserves.

I just want to give these people, and these processes, the shout out they deserve! It was a job very well done



Lisa J. Bjergaard

Director, Division of Juvenile Services

701.328.6674 • lbjergaa@nd.gov • www.docr.nd.gov



-----Confidentiality Statement-----

This transmission is intended only for the use of the individual to whom it is addressed and may contain information that is made confidential by law. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified any dissemination, distribution, or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please respond immediately to the sender and then destroy the original transmission as well as any electronic or printed copies. Thank you.

Michelle M. Tabbert

Subject: FW: Mailbag Item
Attachments: Pub.HealthConf..pdf

Good afternoon, Michelle!

I wanted to forward this to you for future Board Mailbags; I received a nice card after presenting at the ND Public Health Conference this morning.

If you have questions, please let me know!

Thank you! ☺

Kaitlyn Bakken

GIS Coordinator
ND Association of Counties
kaitlyn.bakken@ndaco.org
701-425-0819

Kaitlynn-

Thank you for sharing your expertise with us at the ND public health conference! We greatly appreciate the time, energy, and thought you put into your presentation. We are grateful for your role in helping ensure the conference is a success.

Thanks! -NDPHE Planning Team

SERVICE REPORT: Legislative Services

August 2026

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

Special Session

The beginning of this September is bringing an unexpected Special Session. Governor Armstrong announced a Special Session to address the public health crisis caused by an unregulated drug being sold in C-Stores around the state. Kratom (and whatever else is added to it from less than honorable foreign companies) has led to an increase in hospital visits and in a number of cases, death to North Dakota citizens.

This Special Session will focus on how to treat this new drug. The Session will also address a complicated issue that has been a problem in delivering property tax relief. Where in the process the primary residence credit gets placed affects the amount of relief. Should the credit be applied to the actual tax or the tax if someone pays earlier and receives a 5% discount. The bill originally was applied pre-discount and the Special Session in January changed that credit to post-discount. Unfortunately, the software contracts could not find an easy way to automate the post-discount which has caused significant problems. Legislative Management authorized a bill to move the credit back to the pre-discount and NDACo will be supporting that effort.

Resolutions

2025 RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY NDACo AND NDCCA

2025-01. Local Government Budget Restrictions. Recently the Legislature capped the property tax dollars that can be spent on local services. One size fits all solutions are rarely effective or fair. Local ELECTED officials know their communities' needs better than anyone and should be left with the most flexibility in financial decisions. This Association supports efforts to remove 3% caps enacted in 2025 to better suit the local communities. **New Resolution**

2025-02. Cooperative Services. Restrictions on local governments' budgets continue to highlight the need to deliver services in new ways. Sharing services between governments is not always feasible for financial or administrative reasons. This Association supports policies and financial incentives which would help overcome such obstacles. **New Resolution**

2025-03. Local Correctional Funding. Counties play a critical role in maintaining public safety. The current state of local jails and juvenile detention facilities require significant financial investment to facilitate bed space and replace aging infrastructure. Several local correctional facilities need to build new facilities, expand or renovate to meet the public safety needs in our state. This Association supports legislative funding initiatives that include state grants to assist counties in building new, expanding or remodeling correctional and juvenile detention facilities. This Association also urges the Legislature to exempt local correctional costs associated with construction and operation from the current cap on property tax dollars levied. **New Resolution**

2025-04. Public Employees Retirement System. North Dakota's public retirement system has been critical to provide county employees with a comfortable life at the completion of their careers. However, many employees wish to continue to serve their communities in a different role by being elected to a position within that county. Certain rules may put their retirement funds in jeopardy if

they exercise their right to run for office. This Association supports finding a solution to allow retired employees to continue to serve in an elected capacity without losing their retirement revenue stream. **New Resolution**

2025-05. Engineering and Architectural Costs. Private engineering and architectural firms are critically important for counties to fulfill their statutory responsibilities. However, the professional service fees continue to climb, making many projects cost prohibitive. This Association supports raising the dollar threshold requirements for professional services to a more reasonable level. **New Resolution**

2025-06. Commercial Driver's License for County Road Workers. Counties are responsible for snow removal and maintenance on thousands of miles of roads. CDLs provide an essential safety measure to the motoring public. However, county highway workers operate significantly differently than normal commercial operators. This Association supports efforts to streamline or reduce CDL requirements for county workers while operating within the county. **New Resolution**

2025-07. 911 Services. The ability to communicate with emergency services is critically important to saving lives. Citizens have come to rely on 911 services in their most desperate time of need. Unfortunately, the current tax structure is no longer sufficient. This Association supports structural changes along with increased funding for 911 services to ensure its viability for the future. This Association also supports elimination of voting requirements for 911 services which only unnecessarily add to the costs. **New Resolution**

2025-08. Child Welfare Workers. The protection of children from dangers is one of the most fundamental aspects of human life. Sadly, many children face dangers from those who are supposed to protect them. Whether it is by way of neglect or unspeakable criminal acts some children face dangers in which society has a duty to intervene. Child welfare workers play an essential front-line role helping these children and families while at many times placing themselves at risk. This Association supports child welfare workers as being recognized as vital public safety members. **New Resolutions submitted by the Human Service Zone Directors Association**

2025-09. Social Services Redesign. North Dakota Counties recognize the Legislature's outstanding commitment to social services redesign and remain supportive of changes that improve service, retain local access, and provide property tax relief through social service financing. This Association supports ongoing efforts to ensure eligible North Dakotans have access to local human services and the costs of delivering those services continue to be funded by non-property tax sources. **New Resolutions submitted by the Human Service Zone Directors Association**

2025-10. Auditing plans. North Dakota Century Code 11-11-11 requires county governments to perform audits under the generally accepted account principles (GAAP). GAAP audits are a significant cost to counties in which other acceptable accounting practices such as modified cash audits would suffice. This Association supports more flexibility in auditing standards to help reduce costs for the taxpayers while maintaining accountability. **New Resolution**

2025-11. Wetland Mitigation. Protecting North Dakota's wetlands and the wildlife they support is an important government function. However, the current use of NonGovernmental Organizations and the costs associated with wetlands mitigation programs are making many projects cost prohibitive. This Association supports looking for alternative funding and mitigation processes to ensure local infrastructure can continue to be developed while protecting our natural resources. **Continued Resolution from 2021.**

2025-12 Law Enforcement Recruitment & Retention. Counties experience continued challenges in recruiting and retaining sheriff's deputies and correctional officers. This Association supports legislative focus on this issue and urges the adoption of strategies that will help counties address the problem without greatly increasing the property tax burden. **Continued Resolution from 2021**

NDACo 2025-26 Interim Legislative Activities

SEPTEMBER SPECIAL SESSION		9/2-9/4	
Bills to address: Kratom (2), Construction Funding for Military Gallery, Ban on NDA for Data Centers & Industrial projects, Reverse Action on Discount Application Change made in January			
25-26 Interim Legislative Tasks	Committee	Date	Chair
Study feasibility, siting & development of advanced nuclear power plants in the state	Advanced Nuclear Energy	8/19	Sen. Patten
Consider studying water and wetlands regulations and the taxation of inundated lands in the state.	Agriculture & Water Mgt	9/8	Rep. Hauck
Study regulation of AI, Review development of Data Centers including the siting	Artificial Intelligence & Data Center Committee	8/31	Rep. Warrey
Approve DOT projects utilizing more than \$10m from flex fund	Budget Section	ten. 9/30	Rep. Vigesaa
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	10/1	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	ten. 10/1	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	9/9	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 SIRN, 911, 988, emergency communications	Information Technology	9/24	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	8/18	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	8/12	Rep. Warrey
Review with State Auditor updates to audit standards	Legislative Audit & Fiscal Review	9/22	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	9/29	Rep. Toman
Study state laws related to crimes against children	Protection & Victim Services	10/1	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		
Impacts of HB 1176 - Property Tax Relief, Limitations & Implementation	Tax Reform & Relief Advisory	8/26	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 the feasibility and desirability of revising the property tax statement	Tax Reform & Relief - Property Tax Statement Subcommittee	8/10	Rep. Headland
Study tribal-state issues includes human services & corrections	Tribal & State Relations		Rep. Holle
Study tribal land taxation issues	Tribal & State Relations		
Study establishing a wastewater project fund for grants	Water Topics Overview	8/17	Rep. Swiontek
Study management authority of waters to watershed vs political sub	Water Topics Overview		

SERVICE REPORT: County Tours

August 2026

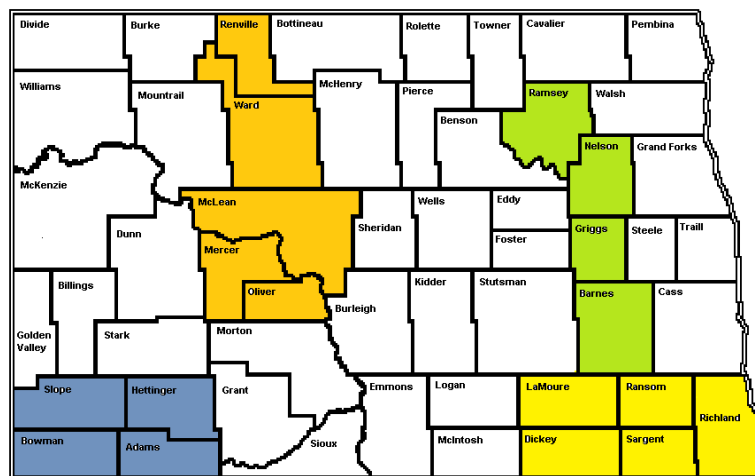
(Report submitted to the Board of Directors by Michelle.)

PROGRAM UPDATE:

- Of the four County Tours planned for 2026, three have been completed.
 - Cass, Grand Forks, Steele and Traill Counties were visited in April.
 - Billings, Dunn, Golden Valley, McKenzie and Stark Counties were visited in June.
 - Benson, Bottineau, Pierce and Rolette Counties were visited in August.

The final Tour of 2026 will be conducted on October 27 and 28. It will visit Burleigh, Emmons, Grant, Morton and Sioux Counties. The maps below show the counties to be visited in 2027 and 2028.

2027 County Tours – Proposed



2028 County Tours – Proposed

