



# North Dakota Catholic Conference Legislative Action Network Guide

---

701-223-2519 ❖ 1-888-419-1237 ❖ [ndcatholic.org](http://ndcatholic.org)

## The North Dakota Legislature

The North Dakota Legislative Assembly consists of a **Senate** with 47 senators and a **House of Representatives** with 94 representatives. The Legislative Assembly regular session usually convenes the first week of January of an odd-numbered year.

**Standing committees** in each chamber handle most of the daily work of the legislature. They hold hearings, consider amendments, discuss the bills, and make recommendations to the full chamber. These committees are formed by subject matter, such as the Senate Judiciary Committee and the House Human Services Committee.

The **appropriation committees** are also important. They review every spending bill and most bills that have a fiscal impact. Even if a bill gets a favorable recommendation from a committee, an appropriations committee could reduce the funding or not give the bill a favorable recommendation.

By the thirty-fourth day, the chambers must vote on every bill. Bills that pass, “**crossover**” to the other chamber. The whole process then repeats itself in the second chamber.

If the second chamber defeats a bill, the bill is dead. If it amends and passes the bill, the legislation is sent, with its amendments, back to the first chamber. That chamber can either **concur or not concur** with the changes. If it does not concur, a **conference committee** is appointed with members from both chambers to try to work out the differences.

## Participating in the Legislative Process

Participation in the legislative process is an important way to exercise our political responsibility as Christians.

### To Become Informed:

- Read the newspaper and listen to radio and television news
- Attend candidate forums
- Discuss subjects with family, friends, neighbors, and clergy
- Look for websites on the issue (ndcatholic.org has information on issues of concern to the Catholic Church)
- Get the North Dakota Catholic Conference E-Newsletter (sign up at ndcatholic.org)
- Attend legislative hearings and floor sessions

### To Make a Difference:

- Join the Legislative Action Network
- Testify at the legislature
- E-mail, call, or write your legislators
- Talk to your legislators during their visits home

### Did You Know?

**In North Dakota, every bill introduced gets a committee hearing *and* a vote by the full Senate or House. In other words, committees cannot hold or “kill” bills. They can only make recommendations.**

**This is one feature that makes the North Dakota legislature a “citizens” legislature.**

## Testifying Before a Legislative Committee

All citizens have the **right to testify** before the North Dakota Legislative Assembly on any bill or resolution.

North Dakota has one of the most open legislatures in the nation. Every bill must have a public hearing, must be publicly voted upon by the committee, and then must come before the full House or Senate for still another public vote. **Your opportunity to testify on a bill comes at the committee hearing.**

Legislative committees meet in rooms at the State Capitol. You can come into a committee meeting at any time, even if the door is closed or a hearing is in progress.

Lists of the legislative committees, committee members, and the days and places committees meet are available online at [ndlegis.gov](http://ndlegis.gov) and on screens in the Capitol.

### Before the Hearing, You Should...

Find out when and where your bill will be heard. **Be on time for the hearing.** Usually, once a hearing is closed on a particular bill, no further testimony is heard. Plan your testimony. Although not necessary, it is helpful to have written copies of your comments available. See if other persons will be testifying on your bill. If so, try to **coordinate your testimony before the hearing to avoid duplication.**

### Reach Your Legislators

North Dakota Legislative  
Hotline: **1-888-635-3447**

Bismarck Area: **328-3373**

Legislative Web Site:  
**[www.ndlegis.gov](http://www.ndlegis.gov)**

### At the Hearing . . .

All people usually get a chance to speak, **but sometimes, because of large turnouts, it is not possible to give everyone a chance to speak.** If you do not get a chance to testify, your presence may be acknowledged and you might be asked if you favor or oppose the bill. And, you can always submit written testimony.

Even if you do not testify, sign the witness sheet at the lectern. Give the bill number, whether you favor or oppose the bill and your name.

The chairman will announce the beginning of the hearing on a particular bill. The first speaker is usually the bill's sponsor. The chairman then asks for testimony, first from proponents and then opponents. Wait your turn.

Plan on following the custom (**although it is not absolutely necessary**) of beginning your remarks by addressing the chairman and committee members, giving your name and address, and why you are there. For example: "Mr. or Madam Chairman, and members of the committee, my name is John Q. Public from Edwinton. I'm in favor of this bill because . . ."

Be brief. Do not repeat what others have said. The hearings are informal, so be conversational. Avoid being too technical. Avoid using acronyms or technical references unless you first explain what they mean.

Do not be nervous, or worried about doing something wrong. **There are no "rights and wrongs" about testifying.** Legislators are just your friends and neighbors who want to hear what you have to say.

Expect some questions and comments from committee members. These questions are not designed to embarrass you, but merely to get additional information.

## Senators

Michelle Axtman	maxtman@ndlegis.gov	7
Jeff Barta	jbarta@ndlegis.gov	43
Todd Beard	tbeard@ndlegis.gov	23
Brad Bekkedahl	bbekkedahl@ndlegis.gov	1
Keith Boehm	kboehm@ndlegis.gov	33
Ryan Braunberger	rbraunberger@ndlegis.gov	10
Randy A. Burckhard	raburckhard@ndlegis.gov	5
Sean Cleary	scleary@ndlegis.gov	35
David A. Clemens	dclemens@ndlegis.gov	16
Cole Conley	cconley@ndlegis.gov	12
Kyle Davison	kdavison@ndlegis.gov	41
Dick Dever	ddever@ndlegis.gov	32
Michael Dwyer	mdwyer@ndlegis.gov	47
Jay Elkin	jayelkin@ndlegis.gov	36
Robert Erbele	rerbele@ndlegis.gov	28
Judy Estenson	jestenson@ndlegis.gov	15
Kathy Hogan	khogan@ndlegis.gov	21
David Hogue	dhogue@ndlegis.gov	38
Jordan L. Kannianen	jkannianen@ndlegis.gov	4
Greg Kessel	gkessel@ndlegis.gov	39
Jerry Klein	jklein@ndlegis.gov	14
Karen K. Krebsbach	kkrebsbach@ndlegis.gov	40
Curt Kreun	ckreun@ndlegis.gov	42
Doug Larsen	douglarsen@ndlegis.gov	34
Diane Larson	dlarson@ndlegis.gov	30
Judy Lee	jlee@ndlegis.gov	13
Randy D. Lemm	rlemm@ndlegis.gov	20
Larry Luick	lluick@ndlegis.gov	25
Jeffery J. Magrum	jmagrum@ndlegis.gov	8
Tim Mathern	tmathern@ndlegis.gov	11
Scott Meyer	scottmeyer@ndlegis.gov	18
Janne Myrdal	jmyrdal@ndlegis.gov	19
Dale Patten	dpatten@ndlegis.gov	26
Bob Paulson	bpaulson@ndlegis.gov	3
Merrill Piepkorn	mpiepkorn@ndlegis.gov	44
Jim P. Roers	jroers@ndlegis.gov	46
Kristin Roers	kroers@ndlegis.gov	27
Dean Rummel	drummel@ndlegis.gov	37
David S. Rust	drust@ndlegis.gov	2
Donald Schaible	dgschaible@ndlegis.gov	31
Jonathan Sickler	jsickler@ndlegis.gov	17
Ronald Sorvaag	rsorvaag@ndlegis.gov	45
Shawn Vedaa	svedaa@ndlegis.gov	6
Terry M. Wanzek	tmwanzek@ndlegis.gov	29
Mark F. Weber	markweber@ndlegis.gov	22
Kent Weston	kweston@ndlegis.gov	9
Michael A. Wobbema	mwobbema@ndlegis.gov	24

## Representatives

Bert Anderson	bertanderson@ndlegis.gov	2
Dick Anderson	dickanderson@ndlegis.gov	6
Karen A. Anderson	kanderson@ndlegis.gov	19
Landon Bahl	lbahl@ndlegis.gov	17
Larry Bellew	lbellew@ndlegis.gov	38
Mike Beltz	mbeltz@ndlegis.gov	20
Glenn Bosch	gbosch@ndlegis.gov	30
Josh Boschee	jboschee@ndlegis.gov	44
Mike Brandenburg	mbrandenburg@ndlegis.gov	28
Cole Christensen	colechristensen@nd.gov	24
Josh Christy	jchristy@ndlegis.gov	27
Liz Conmy	lconmy@ndlegis.gov	11
Claire Cory	clairecory@ndlegis.gov	42
Hamida Dakane	hdakane@ndlegis.gov	10
Jayme Davis	jdavis@ndlegis.gov	9A
Gretchen Dobervich	gdobervich@ndlegis.gov	11
Jason Dockter	jddockter@ndlegis.gov	7
Scott Dyk	sdyk@ndlegis.gov	23
Clayton Fegley	cfegley@ndlegis.gov	4B
Lisa Finley-DeVill	lfinleydeville@ndlegis.gov	4A
Jay Fisher	jayfisher@ndlegis.gov	5
Kathy Frelich	kfrelich@ndlegis.gov	15
Jim Grueneich	jgrueneich@ndlegis.gov	28
LaurieBeth Hager	lbhager@ndlegis.gov	21
Jared Hagert	jhagert@ndlegis.gov	20
Karla Rose Hanson	krhanson@ndlegis.gov	44
Patrick Hatlestad	phatlestad@ndlegis.gov	1
Dori Hauck	dorihauk@ndlegis.gov	36
Craig Headland	cheadland@ndlegis.gov	29
Matt Heilman	mheilman@ndlegis.gov	7
Pat D. Heinert	pdheinert@ndlegis.gov	32
Donna Henderson	dhenderson@ndlegis.gov	9B
Dawson Holle	dholle@ndlegis.gov	31
Jeff A. Hoverson	jahoverson@ndlegis.gov	3
Zachary Ista	zmista@ndlegis.gov	43
Dennis Johnson	djohnson@ndlegis.gov	15
Jorin Johnson	jjohnson@ndlegis.gov	41
Jim Jonas	jjonas@ndlegis.gov	13
Karen Karls	kkarls@ndlegis.gov	35
Jim Kasper	jkasper@ndlegis.gov	46
Keith Kempenich	kkempenich@ndlegis.gov	39
Dwight Kiefert	dhkiefert@ndlegis.gov	24
Lawrence R. Klemin	lklemin@ndlegis.gov	47
Ben Koppelman	bkoppelman@ndlegis.gov	16
Gary Kreidt	gkreidt@ndlegis.gov	36
Mike Lefor	mlefor@ndlegis.gov	37
Donald W. Longmuir	dlongmuir@ndlegis.gov	2

Scott Louser	sloser@ndlegis.gov	5
Andrew Marschall	amarschall@ndlegis.gov	16
Bob Martinson	bmartinson@ndlegis.gov	35
Carrie McLeod	cmcleod@ndlegis.gov	45
Lisa Meier	lmeier@ndlegis.gov	32
Alisa Mitskog	amitskog@nd.gov	25
Corey Mock	crmock@ndlegis.gov	18
David Monson	dmonson@ndlegis.gov	19
Mike Motschenbacher	mmotschenbacher@ndlegis.gov	47
Eric James Murphy	emurphy@ndlegis.gov	43
Mike Nathe	mrathe@ndlegis.gov	30
Jon O. Nelson	jonelson@ndlegis.gov	14
Anna S. Novak	anovak@ndlegis.gov	33
Emily O'Brien	eobrien@ndlegis.gov	42
Jeremy Olson	jolson@ndlegis.gov	26
SuAnn Olson	solson@ndlegis.gov	8
Mitch Ostlie	mostlie@ndlegis.gov	12
Todd Porter	tkporter@ndlegis.gov	34
Brandon Prichard	bprichard@ndlegis.gov	8
Brandy Pyle	bpyle@ndlegis.gov	22
David Richter	dwrichter@ndlegis.gov	1
Nico Rios	nrrios@ndlegis.gov	23
Shannon Roers Jones	sroersjones@ndlegis.gov	46
Karen M. Rohr	kmrohr@ndlegis.gov	31
Dan Ruby	druby@ndlegis.gov	38
Matthew Ruby	mruby@ndlegis.gov	40
Mark Sanford	masanford@ndlegis.gov	17
Bernie Satrom	blsatrom@ndlegis.gov	12
Mike Schatz	mischatz@ndlegis.gov	39
Austen Schauer	aschauer@ndlegis.gov	13
Mary Schneider	mschneider@ndlegis.gov	21
Randy A. Schobinger	rschobinger@ndlegis.gov	40
Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	cschreiberbeck@ndlegis.gov	25
Vicky Steiner	vsteiner@ndlegis.gov	37
Greg Stemen	gstemen@ndlegis.gov	27
Michelle Strinden	mstrinden@ndlegis.gov	41
Steve Swiontek	sswiontek@ndlegis.gov	10
Paul J. Thomas	paulthomas@ndlegis.gov	6
Kelby Timmons	ktimmons@ndlegis.gov	26
Nathan Toman	nptoman@ndlegis.gov	34
Bill Tveit	btveit@ndlegis.gov	33
Lori VanWinkle	lvanwinkle@ndlegis.gov	3
Steve Vetter	smvetter@ndlegis.gov	18
Don Vigasaa	dwvigasaa@ndlegis.gov	29
Scott Wagner	swagner@ndlegis.gov	45
Jonathan Warrey	jwarrey@ndlegis.gov	22
Robin Weisz	rweisz@ndlegis.gov	14

### Governor

Doug Burgum

### Auditor

Joshua Gallion

### Lt. Governor

Tammy Miller

### Agricultural Commissioner

Doug Goehring

### Attorney General

Drew Wrigley

### Insurance Commissioner

Jon Godfread

### Treasurer

Thomas Beadle

### Tax Commissioner

Brian Kroshus

### Superintendent of Public Instruction

Kirsten Baesler

### Public Service Commissioners

Sheri Haugen-Hoffart  
Julie Fedorchak  
Randy Christmann

## The North Dakota Catholic Conference

The North Dakota Catholic Conference is the voice of the Catholic Bishops of North Dakota on public policy matters. It addresses matters affecting the life and dignity of human persons, the family, religious liberty, the poor, and the common good, as well as those policies impacting the church's public ministry in health care, education, and social services. To help others shape a public policy consistent with the Gospel message, the North Dakota Catholic Conference provides:

- A website with information on bills, legislative alerts, testimony, and legislative updates
- An e-newsletter with up-to-date information on legislative developments
- A Legislative Action Network, working with parishes and volunteers, through which people can make their voices heard

For more information, contact the North Dakota Catholic Conference at 1-888-419-1237 or look at our website at: **[ndcatholic.org](http://ndcatholic.org)**. You can also e-mail the conference at: **[ndcatholic@ndcatholic.org](mailto:ndcatholic@ndcatholic.org)**.

North Dakota Catholic Conference  
103 South Third Street, Suite 10  
Bismarck, ND 58501

