December 7, 2024

Advocacy 101

Make your voice heard in the ND Legislative Session



League of Women Voters Advocacy Team

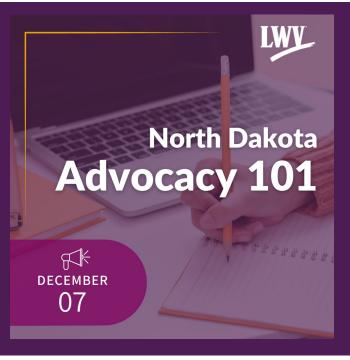
Housekeeping

- The training will be recorded
- Training & slides will be sent to you
- Please stay on mute and put your questions in the chat
- Q&A at the end



Advocacy 101 Agenda

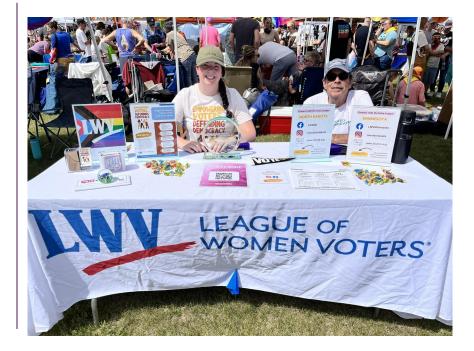
- Basics of the State Legislature
- How a Bill Becomes a Law
- Using the Legislative Website
- Preparing Your Testimony
- LWVND Advocacy & Resources
- Questions





League of Women Voters of North Dakota

- The League began in 1920 after women were granted the right to vote
- Nonpartisan, grassroots membership organization
- The League does not support or oppose candidates or political parties
- Chapters in Bismarck-Mandan, Fargo-Moorhead, and Minot, and at-large members across the state





Basics of the State Legislature 141 Citizens Making Our Laws



Three Branches of Government



Representatives





Executive

ND Governor Departments & Agencies State Employees



Judicial

ND Supreme Court District Courts Municipal Courts



What Do State Legislators Do?

- Create state laws & set the state budget
- Meet to make laws: Legislative Session
 - January April in odd numbered years
 - This is where you can take action
- Represent their constituents
 - They want and need to hear from you





Who's in Our State Legislature?

47 Senators



94 Representatives

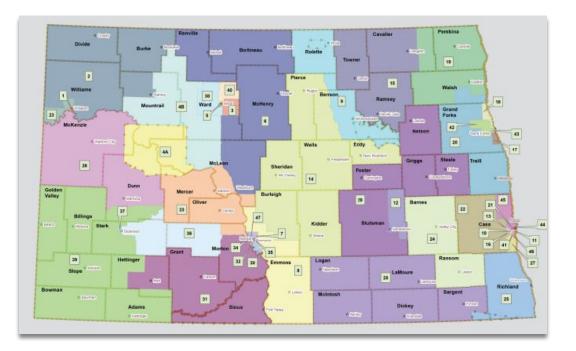


- 89% Republican and
 - 11% Dem-NPL
- 25% Women
- 4 Native Legislators
- Common Occupations: Retirees, Farmers & Ranchers, Business Owners



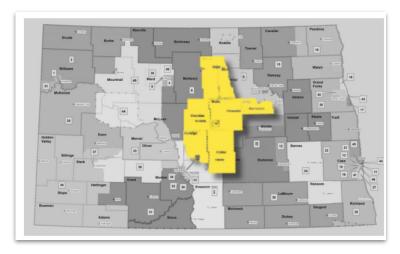
How Do Legislators Get Elected?

- 47 Legislative Districts
- 16,500+ people per district
- Elected to 4-year terms
- Limited to 2 terms in each chamber





Get to Know a District: District 14





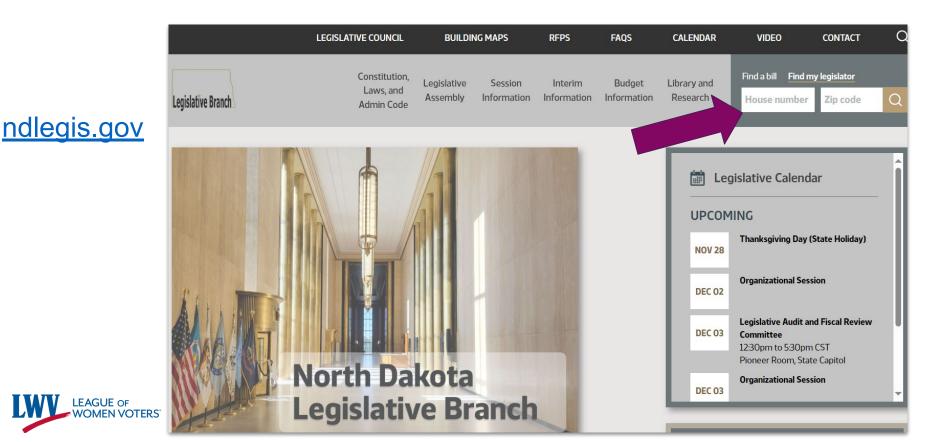
Rugby, ND. Pop. 2,509

- Rural District
- Small Towns
- LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
- Agricultural Area



Find My Legislators

LW



Find My Legislators

Search Criteria				
	*House Number Only	100	(9999999)	
	*Zip Code	58368	(99999)	
				Clear Search
Search Results				
Address			District	Legislators
100 10th St SW			14	*
100 11th St SE			14	; <u>e</u> :
100 11th St SW			14	
100 14th St SW			14	-
100 1st St NE			14	:_:



You Found Them!





Representative Robin Weisz District 14 | R



Legislator Profile

Representative Jon O. Nelson



Biography

- Retired Farmer
- Attended MSU & Dakota College at Bottineau
- Board, All Seasons Water Users; Wolford Wildlife Club, Wolford School Board (12 years); Moving the Marble Award, American Cancer Society; Behavior Health Champion Award, Consensus Council; Past Board, Heart of American Hospital; Wolford Lutheran Church Council
- Married (Shirley "Sid"); 3 children
- House since 1997

Contact Information

420 Sixth Avenue SE Rugby, ND 58368-2320 Home: 701-776-6738 Cell: 701-771-2193 Email: jonelson@ndlegis.gov



Level Up in December

- Find your Legislators on <u>ndlegis.gov</u>
- Email your Legislators to introduce yourself and share an issue or two you care about
 - **Tips:** Be polite, be brief, share your city or address, and thank them
- Help 2 friends find their Legislators' emails



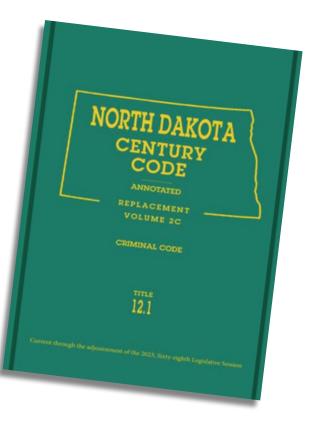


You're Ready for Level 2! How a Bill Becomes a Law



What is a bill?

- A bill is a state law in the making
- Bills create, amend (change), or repeal a law
- Approved bills become law
- Laws go in the North Dakota Century Code







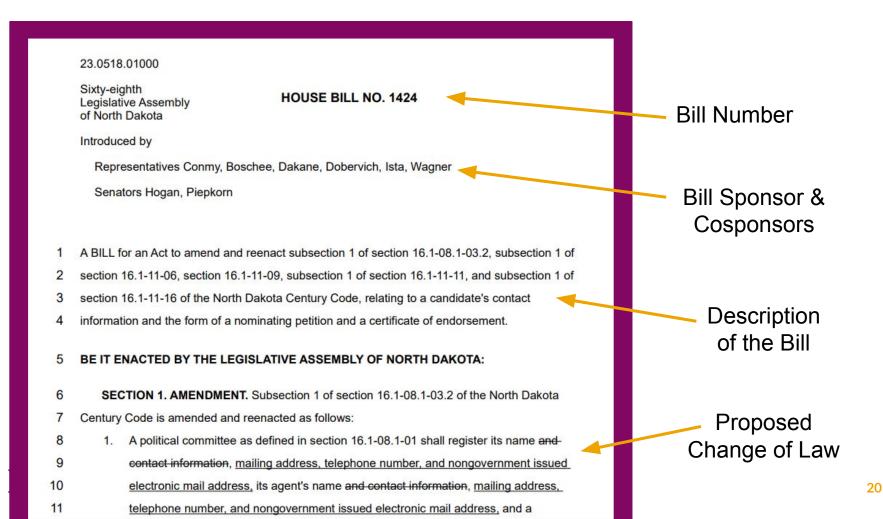
A bill is an idea for a law



Legislators have lots of ideas!

800-900 bills (ideas) introduced each Legislative Session





Step 1: Bill Introduced in Session

- Bill is submitted by a legislator, a committee, or Legislative Management
- 2. Bill clerk assigns it a number
- 3. Bill is assigned to a committee





What are committees?

- Where the law-making work happens
- A group of legislators evaluate a bill and make recommendations to the whole chamber (House/Senate)
- **Committees Examples:** Agriculture, Education, Judiciary, Human Services





Step 2: Committee Hearing

- 1. Committee Chair schedules a public hearing on a bill
 - The schedule comes out every Thursday during session
- 2. Committee hearing starts:
 - Sponsor Introduces the Bill
 - Testimony in Support
 - Testimony in Opposition
 - Neutral Testimony
- 3. Chairperson closes the hearing





Step 3: Committee Work

- 1. Where the committee meets to discuss the bill & take action
 - Changes (amendments) are made to a majority of bills
- 2. Committee votes on a recommendation:
 - Do pass
 - Do not pass
 - Amend and do pass
 - Amend and do not pass
 - Without recommendation
- 3. Bill scheduled for a vote by the whole House/Senate

Action Point! Contact your legislators to urge them to vote yes or no



Step 4: Floor Debate & Vote



- 1. Committee member presents the bill
- 2. Speaker calls for debate
- 3. Floor vote on the bill
 - Senate = 24 Yes votes to pass
 - House = 48 Yes votes to pass
- 4. Vote outcome:
 - NO: Bill is defeated
 - YES: Bill moves forward



Steps 5 & 6: 2nd Chamber + Governor

- 1. Yes Vote in 1st Chamber: Bill goes to the other chamber
 - **Repeat:** Committee Hearing, Committee Work, Floor Vote
- 2. Passes 2nd Chamber: Bill to Governor to Consider
- **3. Governor's Signs:** It's a North Dakota law!
 - Governor's Vetoes (rejects it): Goes back to Legislature where they can override with a 2/3 majority vote



Quick Review

- 1. Bill Submitted & Assigned to a Committee
- 2. Public Hearing & Committee Work/Action
- 3. Floor Debate & Vote



- 4. If Passed, Goes to 2nd Chamber (Repeat Steps 1-3)
- 5. Passes Both House & Senate + Governor Signs = Law!



Public Testimony Share your story with a committee



What is public testimony?

- An opportunity for you to be heard by state legislators and influence state law
- Publicly express your support or opposition to a bill or to suggest changes to it
- A committee hearing is the only place you can share your public testimony



Legislators need to hear from you

- Hundreds of bills are submitted each session
- Legislators count on you to inform them on the issues
- They need to know how an idea for law would impact North Dakotans - positively or negatively
- Public testimony is a great way to let them know



Ways to Give Testimony

- Share your testimony in the committee hearing:
 - Oral (verbal) testimony in-person or virtual
 - Written testimony only
- Legislators want a written copy of your testimony
- Verbal testimony is the most powerful and effective



Starting Your Testimony

- Committee Chair and members of the Committee, my name is Jane
 Doe and I am here in support of HB 1001. I support this bill
 because... OR
- Committee Chair and members of the Committee, my name is Jane
 Doe and I am here in opposition of HB 1001. I oppose this bill because...



Written Testimony

- Be brief, simple, polite, and thank them at the end
- Outline your main points in the first paragraph and highlight important points in bold
- Give recommendations for changes to the bill if you have them
- Have someone proofread your testimony before you submit it
- Know the deadline to submit your testimony

Legislators will remember your tone as much as your content

Example Testimony



In-Person Testimony

- Plan what you'll wear ahead of time
- Be courteous and respectful to committee members and attendees
- Try not to read your testimony word for word
- Speak in plain language on topics where you have expertise
- Don't repeat what others have said previously in the hearing
- Thank the committee for their time and the opportunity to testify
- Committee members may ask you questions after you testify



Virtual Testimony

- You will be emailed instructions after you submit your written testimony online
- Be ready during the committee hearing time sometimes the hearings run behind or ahead of schedule
- Make sure your virtual background is clean or you have a filter on
- Speak slowly and clearly
- If you're having tech issues, the Chair may come back to you later if there's time left for testimony



Remember:

- If you don't feel comfortable giving public testimony, you can still email or call your state legislators to urge a yes or no vote on a bill.
- You should contact your legislators about the bill even if you give public testimony in the committee hearing.



Review: Steps to Public Testimony

- 1. Decide which bill(s) you want to track
- 2. Check every Thursday evening to see if the bill has a hearing
- 3. Write your testimony in a Word/Google Doc & save as a .PDF file
- 4. Submit it on the Legislative Website by the deadline
- 5. Share your public testimony verbally during the committee hearing in person or virtually or watch the hearing online as an observer



The Legislative Website Where all the cool kids hang out



ND Legislative Website

ndlegis.gov

- Watch a hearing or floor vote
- 2. Track a bill
- 3. Submit public testimony

Legislative Branch Constitution, Laws, and Admin Code Assentition Information	Find a bill Find my legislator Year Pinter bill number	
Nov 28 DEC 02 DEC 03 DEC 03 DE	INC Thanksgiving Day (State Holiday) Organizational Session Legislative Audit and Fiscal Review Committee 12:30pm to 5:30pm CST Pioneer Room, State Capitol Organizational Session	



Session Information

- 1. Bill Information
- 2. Calendar & Hearing Schedule

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	LEGISL	ATIVE COUNCIL	BUILDING M	IAPS RFPS	FAQS	CALENDAR	VIDEO	CONTACT	Q
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Find a Bill: If You Have the Bill Number

Enter the bill number at the top right

Example: Enter 1001 for House Bill 1001

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Find a Bill: Search by Topic

 Go to the Session Information Tab
 Click Major Topic Index

Q LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL RFPS FAOS CALENDAR CONTACT BUILDING MAPS VIDEO Find a bill Find my legislator Constitution, Legislative Session Interim Budget Library and Laws, and Assembly Information Information Information Research Enter bill number .egislative Branch Year \vee Admin Code SESSION HOME **BILL INFORMATION CALENDAR & HEARING SCHEDULES** 69th Legislative Assembly - Regular Session Major Topic Index House Floor **Bill Tracking System** Senate Floor Bills And Resolutions Standing Committee Hearings ORIENTATION AND ORGANIZAT lournals Printable Daily Calendars **Bills Introduced On The Floor** Conference Committee Hearings Organizational Session Agenda (Tentative) **Employee Orientation Agenda (Tentative)** POSTSESSION INFORMATION COMMITTEES SESSION INFORMATION Final Bill Status Session Effective Dates Of Legislation Interim Deadlines (Tentative) Session Laws Statutory Rules **Title Summaries** Ethics **Bill Histories** Harassment Policy LEGISLATOR INFORMATION **Order Of Business** Legislators **Bill Sponsors** PRESESSION INFORMATION Roll Call Votes Legislator Video Recommendation Of The ND Uniform Laws Standing Committee Hearing Conflict Of Interest Commission Floor Session Conflict Of Interest Prefiled Bills



Legislative Drafting Manual



Find a Bill: **Search by Topic**

Click on any topic listed to see the list of bills



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Find a Bill: Search by Topic

Click on a bill link on the right to see the bill's info



← All Major Topics

2023 Regular Session (68th Legislative Assembly) Elections

HB 132 SB 214
SB 214
SB 228
HB 13
HB 120
SB 230
HB 14:
SB 231
HB 12
HB 15
SB 23
HB 15
SB 231
HB 15
HB 14
HB 11
HB 14
HB 11



Find a Bill: Search the List of Bills

- 1. Go to the Session Information Tab
- 2. Click Bills And

Resolutions

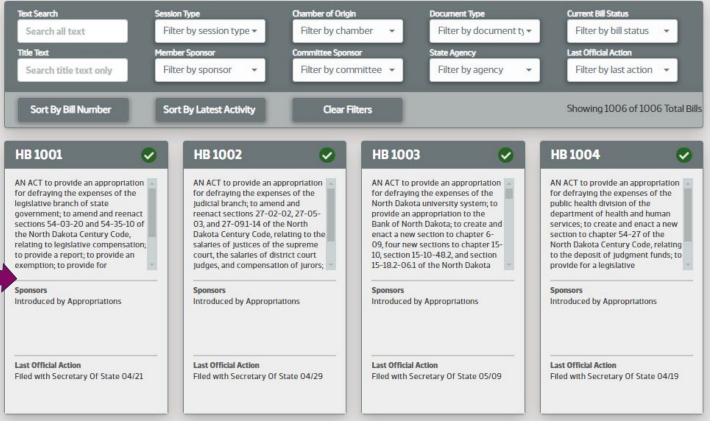
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Find a Bill: Search the List of Bills

Search at the top or scroll down the list and then click on a bill card

68th Legislative Assembly (2023-25) Bills & Resolutions Index





Bill Profile: Everything You Need

Bth Legislative Asse	moly (2023-25)				H.	J House Journal	SJ	Senate Jou
Overview	Versions	Actions	Video	Hearings	Testimony			
Sponsors Introduced by Rep	. Conmy, Rep. Bosc	hee, Rep. Dakane, R	ep. Dobervich, Sen.	Hogan, Rep. Ista, So	en. Piepkorn, Rep. V	/agner		
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Versions Tab: Current Text of the Bill

Overview	Versions	Actions	Video	Hearings	Testimony	
				9	Search:	
VERSION				DESCRIPTION		
23.0518.01000	INTRODUCED					
23.0518.02000	Enrollment					

Current version of the bill will be at the bottom of the list.



Actions Tab: What's Happened to the Bill

 ← View All Bills 68th Legislative Asse HB 1424 	embly (2023-25)				() () () ()	Amendment Engrossment House Journal	 Marked Up Fiscal Note SJ Senate Journal
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01/30	н		Second reading, passed, yeas 83 nays 11	23.0518.01000	83-11-(0	HJ 436
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02/13	S	enate	Introduced, first reading, referred to State and Local Government	23.0518.01000			SJ 559



Video Tab: Watch What's Happened

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01/27	09:00 AM	17	House Political Subdivisions	Call to Order		
01/27	09:01 AM	17	House Political Subdivisions	HB 1424		
01/27	09:02 AM	17	House Political Subdivisions	Representative Conmy introduction to HB 1424 - Support		
01/27	09:06 AM	17	House Political Subdivisions	Jack McDonald - NDNPA - Support		
01/27	09:10 AM	17	House Political Subdivisions	Matt Garden - ND League of Cities - Opposition		
01/27	09:13 AM	17	House Political Subdivisions	Close Hearing on HB 1424		
01/27	09:13 AM	17	House Political Subdivisions	Representative Klemin Motion to DO PASS on HB 1424		



Testimony Tab: Read Written Testimony

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01/27	09:00 AM	House Political Subo	divisions	Barbara	Headrick		of Women f North Dakota	Board President	Fargo	, ND	In Favor		17334
03/16	10:00 AM	Senate State and Lo Government	ocal	Barbara	Headrick		of Women f North Dakota	Board President	Fargo	, ND	In Favor		24792
03/16	10:00 AM	Senate State and Lo Government	ocal	Liz Con	ny	House o Represe		Representative	Fargo	, ND	In Favor		24960
03/16	10:00 AM	Senate State and Lo Government	ocal	Jack Mo	Donald	ND New Broadca Associat		ND Newspaper & Broadcasters Associations	Bismarc	ck, ND	In Favor		25489
03/16	10:00 AM	Senate State and Lo Government	ocal	Bill Woo	ken	ND Leag	ue of Cities				In Oppositio	on	25562





Hearings Tab: Submit Testimony

Submit Your Testimony

When a hearing is scheduled, you'll see a link to submit testimony.

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DATE -	TIME	HEARING TYPE 🖨	COMMITTEE \$	ROOM 🖨	DE	ESCRIPTION 🗢			
02/02	9:30 AM	Bill Hearing	House Political Subdivision	s 327B	Relating to random audits	after the certification	of an election	Submit	Testimony





- 1. Go to Session Information Tab
- Click Standing Committee Hearings

	LEGIS	LATIVE COUNCIL	BUILDING M/	APS RFPS	FAQS	CALENDAR	VIDEO	CONTACT	Q
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- 1. Search for your bill number
- 2. Click Submit Testimony

House Committees			Se	enate Committee	es		White
Agriculture Education Finance and Taxation Human Services Judiciary Transportation	Governm Industry,	ations ad Natural Resourd ent and Veterans / Business and Labo ubdivisions	ces Affairs or	Agriculture and V Education Finance and Taxa Industry and Busi State and Local G Workforce Develo	tion iness iovernment	Energy	riations and Natural Resources Services Y
Committee Hearings				J		2023 t	o January 21, 2023
BILL \$	DATE/TIME 👻	COMMITTEE \$	SUB-	ROOM \$	DESCRIF		
HB 1209	01/16 8:30 AM	House Appropriations - Education and Environment Division	(EE)	Prairie	A BILL fo to provid appropri the depa of com opera ho restorati grant pro	de an ation to ortment ourc ouse on	Submit Testimony by 7:30 AM on 01/16/20.



Scroll down
 Fill out the form

Only add an organization if you are officially representing one

Regi	strant Information				
	*Name Agency/Organization	First Name	MI	Last Name	
,	Agency/Organization Role				
	*Email Address				
	*Confirm Email Address				
vou e	*Phone Number	() *If you plan to c would use to ca		meeting, enter the Pho ote meeting.	one Number you
	*City/State	City		Select State	~
	Denotes required field				



BILL for an Act to provide a	n annoncriation to the d	 epartment of commerce for a historic opera house re 	- Clear/Remove Testimony
estimony Provided:	O In support of	O In opposition to O Neutral	
Testimony Format:	O Written only	O Written and Oral (Remote Meeting)	O Written and Oral (In-Person)
Browse Files_	*Accepts odf or	txt files only; No more than 5 files allowed	

- 1. Scroll down
- 2. Select if your testimony is in support or opposition to the bill
- 3. Select your Testimony Format
- 4. Browse your files for your saved testimony (.pdf file type)
- 5. Click Submit

You did it!



ND Legislative Website

ndlegis.gov

- Watch a hearing or floor vote
- 2. Find a bill
- 3. Submit public testimony





LWVND Advocacy & Resources Voting and election bills all day



LWVND 2025 Legislative Priorities

- 1. Voting Rights
- 2. Ethics and Transparency in Government
- 3. Campaign Finance/Money in Politics

Our team tracked **39 voting & election bills in 2023.** We'll be back at it again in 2025!

Our Bill Tracker



Stay Informed: Join us!

For legislative updates on Voting Rights & Democracy Issues, **become a member!**

- Anyone of any gender age 16+ can join
- Legislative email updates
- Monthly legislative update calls

Join us: www.lwvnd.org/membership





Resource: League in Action

Download the app: https://vc0.co/LPW

- Action alerts
- Legislative updates
- Legislative events

Take action, then share our customizable texts & emails with your friends

Download Our App

North Dakota legislative action alerts sent right to your phone







Resource: Citizen's Guide to Lobbying

lwvnd.org/citizen-guide





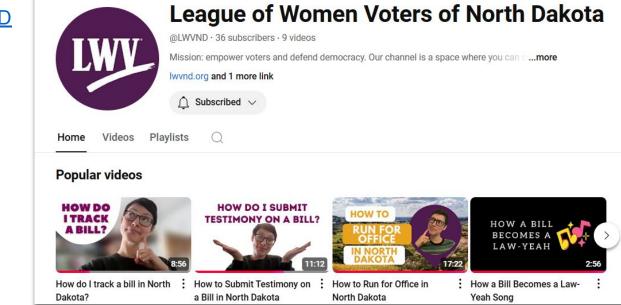
Resource: YouTube Videos



voutube.com/@LWVND

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MEN VOTERS



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Let's Review! You're ready to take action



Prepare for the Session

- Look up your State Legislators & save their contact info
- Email your Legislators to introduce yourself and share about an issue you care about
- Practice using the Legislative Website (<u>ndlegis.gov</u>)
- Follow organizations working on issues you care about



During the Legislative Session

- Track bill(s) on the legislative website
- Take Action on Bills:
 - Email your legislators urging a yes or no vote on a bill
 - Submit your public testimony when the bill has a committee hearing scheduled
 - Share the bill with friends & show them how to take action



2025 Legislative Session Calendar

January 7: Legislative Session Begins January 20: Bill filing deadline for the House January 27: Bill filing deadline for the Senate February 28: Bills go over to the other chamber (crossover) March 3-4: Session recess May 2: Session ends on or before this date

The committee hearing schedule comes out every Thursday evening



Thank you!

League of Women Voters of North Dakota

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