

Governor calls Special Session; Legislators correct misstep in three days

On September 28, 2023, The North Dakota Supreme Court ruled that Senate Bill 2015 (the Office of Management and Budget – OMB) violated the single issue provision for legislation and must be corrected before it can be fully enacted. In its ruling, the Supreme Court says that – under Article Four, Section 13 – the Constitution said no bill “may embrace more than one subject.” The Court said to choose which sections meet Constitutional muster and which don’t would “improperly inject it into the Legislature’s domain.”



As originally passed, SB 2015 contained 70 different sections. On October 23, the full Legislature convened in Bismarck and took up seven appropriations bills and seven policy bills, each stemming from the original SB 2015. After just three days, all of the bills were passed by both houses. A joint resolution supporting Israel passed, and a \$93 million income tax reduction bill proposed by Governor Burgum failed.



Interim Committees Begin Meeting; NDDOT launches Flex Funding Process

The Model Zoning Ordinance task force pertaining to animal feeding operations has been meeting. **NDTOA President Lee Brandvold and NDTOA Executive Secretary Larry Syverson** represents township interests on the task force. The group will meet again in February.

The Interim Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee is studying the National Flood Insurance Plain issues particularly among townships in North Dakota. The Insurance Dept and the Dept of Water Resources is aiming to ensure that townships within a designated flood plain are participating in the NFIP. The Legislative Council background memorandum that outlines the issue in detail can be [found at this link](#).

Flexible Transportation Fund guidelines and grant deadline

The 68th Legislative Assembly as part of the NDDOT biennial budget, passed the “Flexible Transportation Fund” to allow political subdivisions (including townships) and tribes access to more infrastructure funding options. The DOT released their guidelines and a deadline for applying as December 31, 2023. [Full guidelines and instructions can be found at this link](#).

Groups lining up to oppose Property Tax Measure

In 2012, the “Keep it Local” coalition defeated the property tax ballot measure. Most observers believe this time the battle will be tougher to preserve local government control over property taxing authority. Both the ND League of Cities and the ND Association of Counties have passed resolutions in opposition to the proposed measure. [Governor Burgum publicly opposes the effort](#).