



Legislative Engagement

Agenda

- Why – Importance of staying engaged in the process
- How – Tools and technology to stay plugged in
- When – Know the right time to be heard





The Power of Engagement

Making a difference in the process

The Why



- Legislators cannot be experts on everything that comes through their committees or bills that are introduced
- Township officials are closest to the issues and people that are directly impacted by state legislation
- Legislators want to hear from citizens
- Lobbyists are only part of the equation

“Every man owes a part of his time and money to the business or industry in which he is engaged.

No man has a moral right to withhold his support from an organization that is striving to improve conditions within his sphere.”



President Teddy Roosevelt
1908



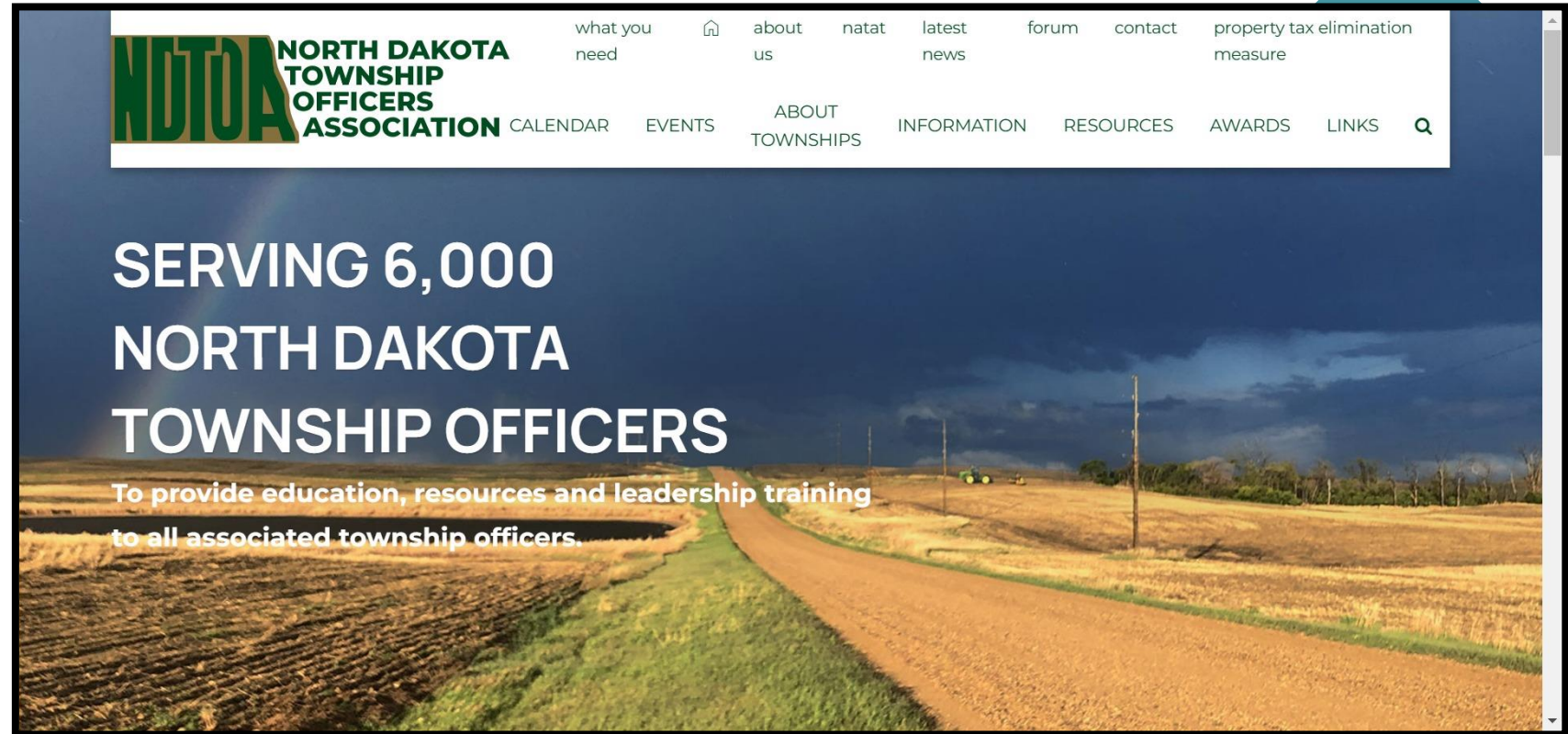
Tools for Engagement

Use the right tool for the right job

Resources

NDTOA Resources

- Website
- Grassroots Newsletter
- Facebook



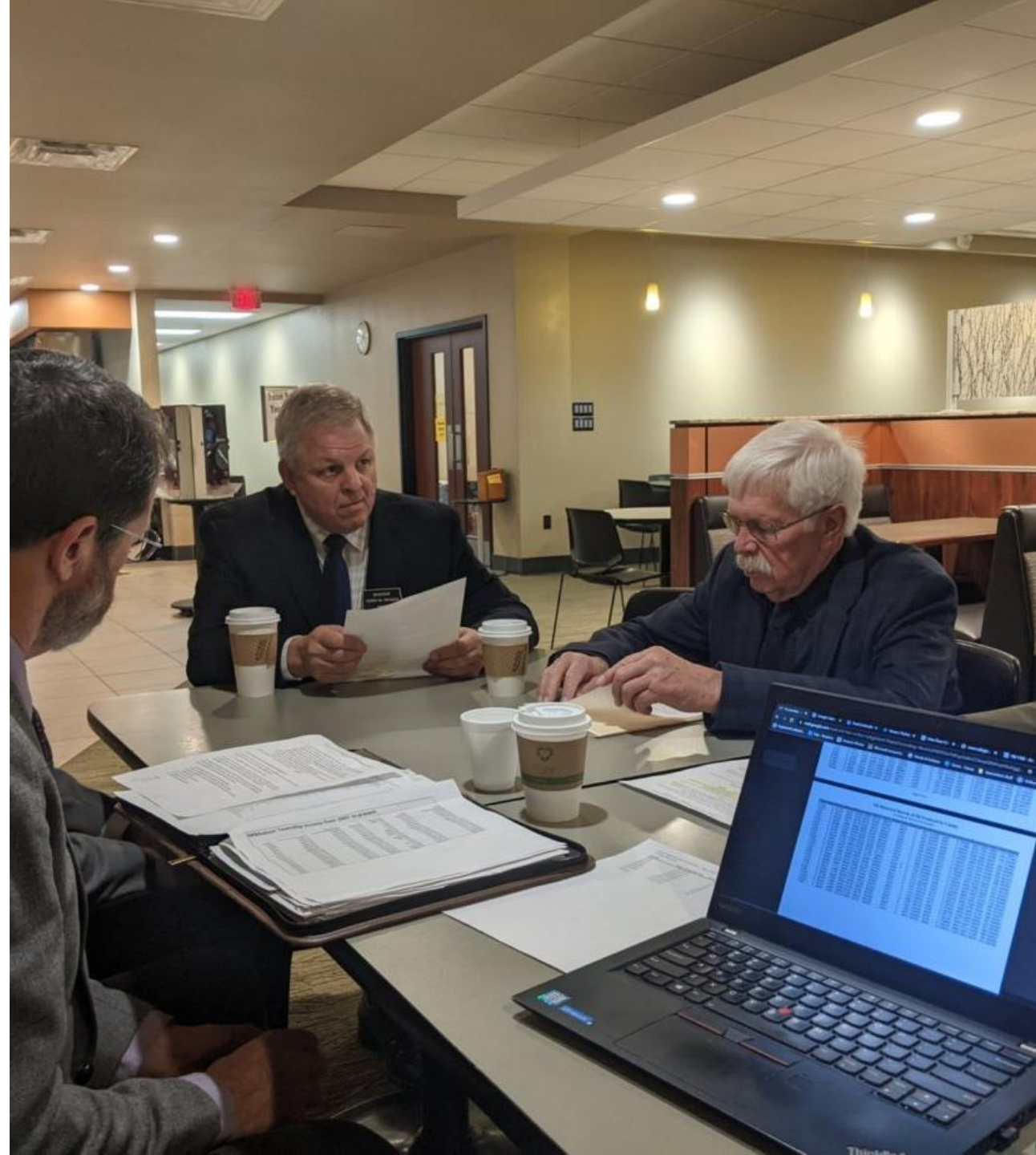
ND Legislative Branch Website

- Calendar
- Hearing Schedule
- Bill Tracking System
- Video feeds



Come to Bismarck

- Let your legislator you will be visiting
- Contact your Association lobbyists
- Know the bills and issues you are interested in
- Will you be testifying on a bill?



Timing is **EVERYTHING**

- Your contact with legislators, especially on a key township bill can make a HUGE difference
- Emails, phone calls/texts
- Where is the bill, what is the next step in the process

Legislative Process Basics



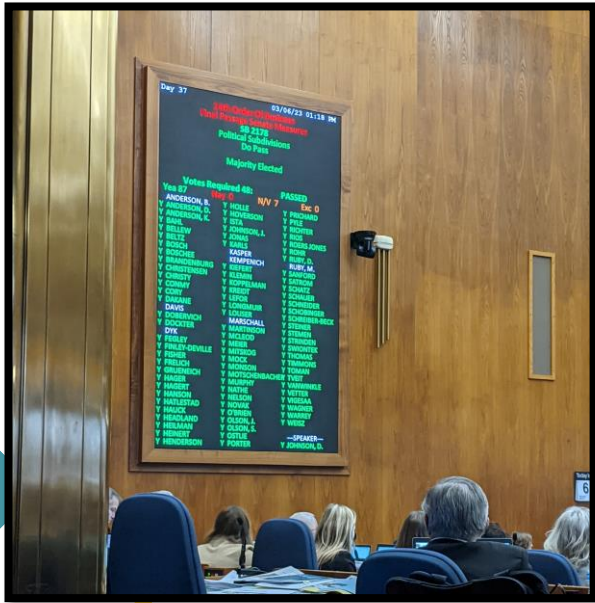
Bill introduced, assigned bill number and committee

Public hearing scheduled

- Submit testimony
- Email legislator on the committee
- Deliver personal testimony
- Watch hearing online
- Committee vote

- Bill sent to the floor and scheduled for a floor vote
 - Communicate with your legislator
- If bill passes (48 House, 24 Senate) it is referred to the opposite chamber and the process starts over

Unique North Dakota legislative quirks



- Bills can only be passed during the 80-day Session every two years
- ALL bills get a vote in committee AND a vote on the floor of the originating chamber

Save THE Date

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CAPITOL CONNECTION

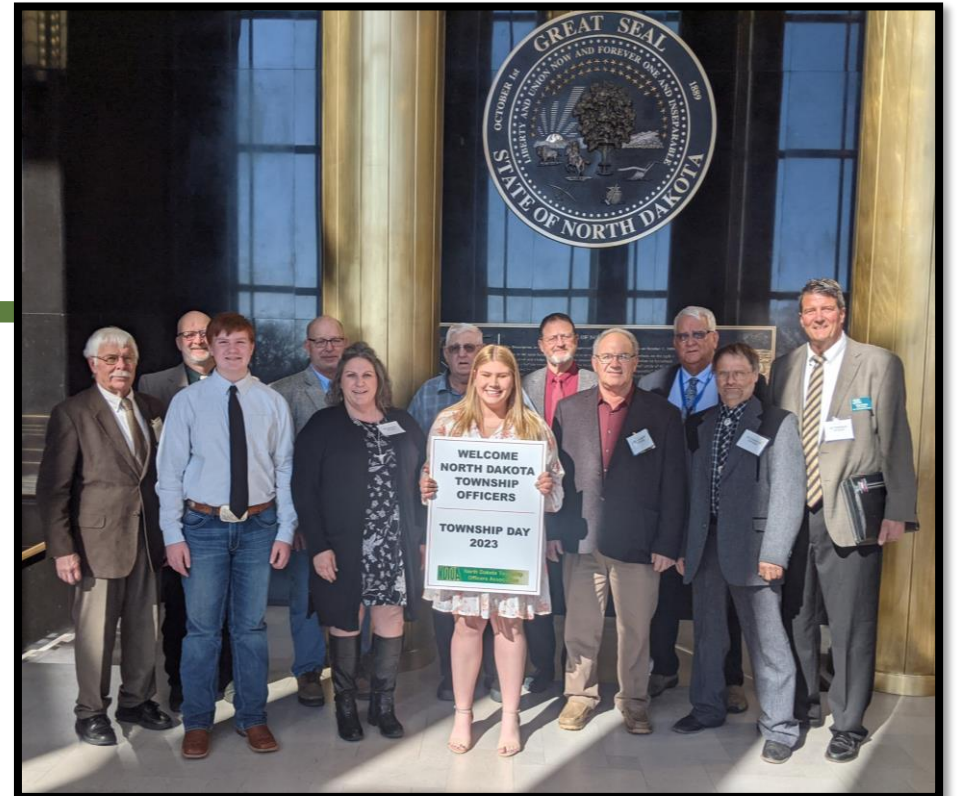
FEBRUARY 18, 2025

FEBRUARY 19, 2025

BISMARCK EVENT CENTER | CAPITOL

Hosted by NDACo, NDLC, NDRPA, NDSBA, & NDTOA

Mark your calendars





Questions?



North Dakota Township
Officers Association

Thank you

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