



NORTH DAKOTA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

Good Citizen 101

It is hard to believe that North Dakota is already one month into the 67th Legislative Session! With the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting precautions, there have been many changes to the way the assembly operates.

In order to best assist our NDAR members across the state, we have put together a helpful guide of how-tos. This information will help you, the citizen, to navigate the various challenges of this session and ensure that you are able to make an impact in North Dakota's politics.

What we will cover:

- What can you do to make an impact?
- How to track bills
- How to stream the committee meetings and floor sessions
- How to testify
- Who are *your* legislators?

What Can You Do to Make an Impact?

The best way to make an impact is to get involved! You can do this by:

- Staying up to date on what's happening in the legislature
 - Follow the news
 - Track bills
 - Live stream committee meetings and floor sessions
- Testifying on bills you care about
- Contacting your legislators to make your voice heard

How to Track Bills

The Legislative Bill Tracking System is an online web application for tracking bills through the legislative process. There is no user fee for this application. The application is available for Internet users and state agency users.

In order to login and view the Legislative Bill Tracking System, you will be required to go to [this link](#) and select “Create Account.” You will then be asked to complete a form with your personal information, and once that is submitted you will have an account with access to the bill tracker.

In order to view bills, you will login with the username/password you selected when you created your account. Once you have logged in, you can then search for a specific bill, view today’s calendar of bills, and more. This bill tracking system is updated live as the clerks input information, so you will always be able to view the most up-to-date information for each bill.

NDAR also has bill tracking for bills that are specific to the real estate industry. To access the NDAR bill tracking, [go here](#).

How to Stream

Thanks to modern technology, the legislative assembly is able to offer live streams of their committee meetings and floor sessions. These streams are also archived after the live stream ends and available to view at any time as videos. Click [this link](#) to access the streaming platform. This will direct you to a list of all streams that are happening today, sorted by stream time and divided by committee/session. To view any streams from committees or sessions that have already adjourned, you can click on “Recordings” in the left-hand navigation panel.

How to Testify

During the legislative session, committee hearings are open to testimony for anyone who wishes to speak on a particular bill. You can provide testimony that is in support, in opposition of, or neutral to the bill you choose to address. Due to COVID-19 precautions, there have been some changes to how testimony has been done in the past.

All testimony, whether for written or oral presentation, must be submitted online before it is presented at the hearing. Your testimony must be submitted at least one hour before the committee meeting begins that day. For example, if you wish to submit testimony for a Public Hearing that meets from 8:15am-12:00pm, the testimony submission link will close at 7:15am (one hour before the hearing begins). This year you also have the option to testify virtually via a Zoom Webinar, but you are also welcome to testify in person at the Capitol if you are comfortable doing so.

For more information on the steps to submit testimony online, please follow [this link](#) to view a video tutorial posted on the legislative website.

For more information on the process of testifying before a committee, please [go here](#) to view a brochure explaining the process. Please note that this brochure was written before the COVID-19 pandemic, and some of the process has changed (as stated above).

Who Are *Your* Legislators?

The State of North Dakota has 47 Legislative Districts, and 67th Legislative Assembly consists of 47 senators and 94 representatives. The legislative website has valuable tools to help you determine who *your* legislators are. If you are unsure of what district you fall into, you can go to [this link](#) and enter your house number and postal code. If you already know what district you live in, you can [go here for a list of assembly members by district](#). These tools will help you determine which legislators are yours, and therefore which legislators you should contact in the event that you have any thoughts you would like to voice.

Do you personally know any legislators? Let us know by completing these forms: [Districts 1-16](#), [Districts 17-32](#), and [Districts 33-47](#).