



SEPTEMBER 27TH

Bismarck Hotel & Convention Center

Virtual option available
GNDCPolicySummit.com

AGENDA

Engage with the panels?
Submit questions in real time via
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9:30 AM Welcome & Leadership Remarks

Remarks from Roger Reiersen – RR46 and
Governor Doug Burgum

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10:00 AM Media & Public Policy in the Era of Fake News

Moderator: Donnell Preskey – ND Assoc. of Counties

- Dave Thompson – Prairie Public
- Rep. Austen Schauer (District 13)
- Tyler Axness – Afternoons Live, KFGO

11:00 AM North Dakota Business Climate

Survey Release: Dr. John Bitzan – Challey Institute -
North Dakota State University

Moderator: Tiffany Ford, ND Small Business Development Center

- Rep. Jason Dockter (District 7)
- Dennis Johnson – TMI Systems
- Matt Chaussee – Be More Colorful

12:00 PM Lunch

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ND

1:15 PM Legacy Fund Earnings Priorities

Moderator: Pam Sharp – Olson Effertz Lobbying & Consulting

- Sen. Ron Sorvaag (District 45)
- Rep. Mike Lefor (District 37)
- Rep. Corey Mock (District 18)

2:15 PM Networking Break

2:30 PM ND's Economic Development Toolkit

Moderator: Kelvin Hullet – Bank of North Dakota

- Teran Doerr – Economic Development Assoc of ND &
Bowman County Development Corp
- Kate Blair – Marathon Petroleum
- Ryan Raguse – Bushel

3:30 PM Response to Federal Regulatory Overreach

Moderator: Carlee McLeod – Utility Shareholders of North Dakota

- Attorney General Drew Wrigley
- Andrea Travnicek – ND Dept. of Water Resources
- Matt Perdue – North Dakota Farmers Union

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4:30 PM Close

4:35 PM **ND Chamber PAC Social for PAC Contributors

LEADERSHIP REMARKS



ROGER REIERSON makes things grow. He joined Flint Group in 1976, when it employed 13 people. Today, he serves as Executive Chairman of RR46 comprised of multiple business units with more than 250 employees with offices in Fargo, Grand Forks, Duluth, remote workers in 15 states and one of North America's largest Agricultural-Marketing firms – AdFarm, with offices in Calgary, Fargo, Guelph, and Kansas City.

Over the 47 years, Roger has helped build well-recognized brands, companies, and organizations throughout North America. Roger's great strength is his ability to bring a team together to create strong communication plans that identify challenges and use strategic thinking to find solutions to help build solid brands, campaigns, and initiatives for clients. Roger has an uncanny ability to recognize ideas that work.

He is a thought leader and officer for many groups and has served on numerous boards, including as a past Chair and current board member for GNDC and a past Chair of the Fargo Chamber.



GOVERNOR DOUG BURGUM took office as the 33rd governor of North Dakota on December 15, 2016. Doug brings a business leader's approach to diversifying the economy, creating 21st century jobs, and revitalizing our main streets.

Driven by a strong belief in North Dakota's people and a powerful dream, he returned to his home state and helped lead Great Plains Software from a small startup company in 1983 into an award-winning tech firm that employed thousands of team members. Burgum led Great Plains as CEO through its initial public offering in 1997 and acquisition by Microsoft Corp. in 2001. He remained at Microsoft as senior vice president through 2007, helping the company stake a leading position in the global business applications software industry.

In 2006, Burgum founded the Kilbourne Group, a real estate development firm committed to creating smart, healthy cities through vibrant downtowns.

In 2008, Burgum co-founded Arthur Ventures, a venture capital firm that invests in ambitious, mission-driven software companies. The success of those people and businesses guided by Burgum's leadership and inspiration has created billions of dollars of shareholder wealth and thousands of jobs.

MEDIA & PUBLIC POLICY IN THE ERA OF FAKE NEWS

The media's influence and spin has become a concerning debate over the recent years. Propaganda, misinformation and fake news have the potential to polarize public opinion to promote distrust. Journalism has been revolutionized by the onslaught of digital developments including platform introductions, urgency and consumption, and performance/click thru rates. With the decline in public trust, policy developments are being impacted. Government and policy makers rely on factual, unbiased systems to report ongoings and also educate to plan forward.

Diving into the conversation of credibility, hear from local experts who have experience in the area of reporting, investigative journalism, and public policy impacts.



MODERATOR

DONNELL PRESKEY is a Government Affairs Specialist for the North Dakota Association of Counties. Prior to her work on county issues, Donnell spent a 17 year career in broadcast journalism, spending most of her career reporting for KX News in Bismarck. Preskey covered North Dakota politics including the legislature which sparked her passion in policy work. Preskey was elected to the Bismarck School Board in 2020.



TYLER AXNESS is the creator of NDx and the radio talk show host of Afternoons Live on KFGO in Fargo weekdays 2-5PM. He is a former North Dakota State Senator (District 16) as well as a former Field Representative for U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan. Additionally, Axness is a small business owner.

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When **DAVE THOMPSON** was six years old, he received a transistor radio for Christmas. At first, Thompson wanted to be a DJ, to play Beatles records. But by the time college came, he was thinking more about the news side. After graduating UND with a BA in communications, he took his first position at KBOM in Bismarck-Mandan, in 1978. In 1980, he moved to join KNOX in Grand Forks. In 1981, he was hired as the news director for Prairie Public Radio. The station was not yet on the air. Dave's was the first "live" voice heard on that frequency – Sept. 1, 1981.

Thompson has been News Director, morning anchor, and chief state government reporter since that time. Under his guidance and encouragement, Prairie Public's news department has received more than 150 awards. By the way, Dave says he doesn't plan to retire anytime soon.



REP. AUSTEN SCHAUER was first elected to the North Dakota House in 2018 representing District 13 in West Fargo. He is now seeking his second four-year term. Rep. Schauer is a member of the Industry, Business and Labor Committee, Government and Veterans Affairs Committee, Interim Retirement Committee and recently, the North Dakota Redistricting Committee. Schauer is a retired news anchor, reporter, and producer. He spent 36 years in the TV news business, mostly in Fargo. He is now a professional jobs recruiter for ProSource.



NORTH DAKOTA BUSINESS CLIMATE

North Dakota is constantly ranked and measured by the current conditions of economic outputs. The state has ranked #1, #23, #7 and so on, depending on the outside factors at play, including the price of oil or the world market conditions. These rankings don't tell the accurate story of what's happening at the policy level that can influence or encourage the business climate. GNDC, with the North Dakota State University Challey Institute, hosted a survey to examine and assess North Dakota's regulatory and business environment.



JOHN BITZAN is the Menard Family Director of the Sheila and Robert Challey Institute for Global Innovation and Growth and a professor of management at North Dakota State University. He studies transportation economics, the impacts of regulation, and market structure and performance. His research has spanned public policy issues related to railroads, airlines, motor carriers, waterways, and public transit; including examining economic issues such as transportation costs, energy consumption, pricing, profitability, and regulatory change. Dr. Bitzan's work has been published in Entrepreneur magazine, The Wall Street Journal, The Hill, Washington Examiner, and Newsweek. Dr. Bitzan has worked at NDSU since 1990. He received his master's degree in applied economics from Marquette University and his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.



MODERATOR

TIFFANY FORD is the State Director of the ND Small Business Development Centers (ND SBDC) network. She has been with the network since 2015, providing leadership, executive oversight, strategic direction, administrative compliance, and relationship management for all three programs under the UND Center for Business Engagement & Development - the ND SBDC, North Dakota Procurement Technical Assistance Center, and Veterans Business Outreach Center of the Dakotas. She is a champion and advocate for North Dakota businesses, and necessary programs – promoting the value of these services to ensure the success and growth of local businesses, and their positive impacts on our state's economy. Ford earned her MBA from UND and has been awarded Prairie Business Magazine's "Top 25 Women in Business" distinction.

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REP. JASON DOCKTER (District 7), a North Dakota native, attended Bismarck State College and the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, graduating with degrees in economics and social science education. Presently, Dockter is President and owner of Fronteer Professional Services. In 2012, Rep. Dockter was elected and currently serves in the State Legislature. He is on the finance and taxation committee and is the chairman of political subdivision committee.



DENNIS W. JOHNSON is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of TMI Corporation, a manufacturer employing about 250 people located in Dickinson. Johnson is a graduate of North Dakota State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering and a Master of Science degree in Industrial Engineering. He is a member, since 2001, of the board of directors of MDU Resources Group Incorporated, currently serving as board chair. He is a member of the Bank of North Dakota advisory board and is a past director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. He served as President of the Dickinson City Commission from June 2000 through October 2015.



MATT CHAUSSEE is CEO of Be More Colorful, the company behind CareerViewXR, the region's first and only career exploration platform designed to harness the power of virtual reality and 360-degree imaging technology. As CEO, Chaussee leads an innovative team of virtual experience creators who believe the best stories are multidimensional, educational, and innovative. CareerViewXR is currently being launched in multiple ND schools and select districts around the country. Chaussee and his team's passion for experiential learning is helping students make more informed decisions about career choice.



LEGACY FUND EARNING PRIORITIES

The upcoming Legislative Session will be the first session that will authorize the use of earnings from the Legacy Fund for projects versus general government operations. While a blueprint was established in the previous session, many debates continue to surface to discuss the priorities of these dollars. These conversations have focused on if these dollars should be allocated towards tax relief, infrastructure investments, workforce development programs or attractions, further diversification of our economy, or continuing to save for a rainy day.

What is the next step and what are legislators expecting or hoping to see?



MODERATOR

PAM SHARP, Olson Effertz Lobbying & Consulting, LLC, served as Director of the North Dakota Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for fifteen years, serving under three governors.

As OMB Director, she oversaw the fiscal administration of the executive branch of state government which included accounting, budget, payroll, financial reporting, facility management, human resources, risk management, state procurement, and central services. Prior to becoming Director, she served for five years as Deputy Director; six years as budget analyst; also served in the Tax Commissioner, Auditor, and State Treasurer's offices. Sharp has a bachelor's degree in accounting and business administration, a master's degree in Management and is a Certified Public Accountant.

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SEN. RON SORVAAG was elected to the North Dakota Senate in 2010. He represents District 45 which includes the parts of Fargo, West Fargo, and northern Cass County. Senator Sorvaag is a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee. During this interim is Vice-Chair of Legacy Fund Earnings Committee, a member of redistricting, government finance, water topics overview, budget section, and water drainage committees. He holds a BA in sociology from Concordia College. Sorvaag grew up at Argusville and farmed there from 1976-1999. He is the owner of First Choice Apparel & Embroidery in Fargo.



REP. MIKE LEFOR (District 37) has served in the ND House of Representatives since 2014. Currently he serves on the Energy and Natural Resources committee, is the chair of the Industry Business and Labor and the interim Retirement Committees. He is the president of Blackridge Capital, LLC and other entities which invests in several businesses. In his community, he has served on the park board, city commission, planning and zoning commission, hospital board and other entities.



REP. COREY MOCK (District 18) has served Grand Forks in the ND House of Representatives since 2008. Currently ranking member of the Appropriations Committee, Mock's colorful legislative career has focused on issues related to education, energy and natural resources, information technology, political subdivisions, and government finance, to name a few. Mock's guilty pleasure is legislative rules and procedure, earning him the reputation as the de facto House Parliamentarian and least entertaining dinner guest.

Beyond the legislature, Mock is a senior Realtor with NextHome Legendary Properties, and an organizational and leadership consultant.





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ND'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TOOLKIT

Economic development is the critical component of quality of life. If done effectively, these programs, policies, or activities can retain and grow jobs as well as further the tax base adding to growth and investment to attract and retain citizens. For North Dakota to remain competitive in attracting businesses who are the key generators of wealth, there must be a full arsenal of resources to deploy. These incentives must be utilized in a strategic manner to not only invite conversations of interest but seal the deal for development.

This session will look at perspectives of those engaging in intentional investments in our state. Are the necessary tools available? Are the right players coming to the table? What more could be done? Are we losing out or leaving money on the table or are we giving away the farm? How are other states doing?



MODERATOR

KELVIN HULLET became the manager for the Economic Development and Government Program Market at the Bank of North Dakota in January of 2016. In his role, Hullet leads the Bank's programs to finance the infrastructure needs of local governments, coordinates interaction with other state agencies and economic development organizations, and assists the Bank in evaluating and implementing economic development programming with a goal of diversifying the state's economy.

Prior to BND, Hullet served as the president of the Bismarck-Mandan Chamber for 13 years. He holds an undergraduate degree in history and pre-law from Kansas State University and a master's in community and regional planning with an emphasis in policy analysis and program evaluation from the University of Nebraska.

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Born and raised in a small town, **TERAN DOERR** has a heart for rural. She has a Bachelor's in Business Administration and is raising three children with her husband. Her driven personality and passion for making a difference have always led her towards taking on new things with enthusiasm. She's passionate about her family, faith, work, community, goals, health, relationships, music, and living her best life. Doerr is the Executive Director of the Bowman County Development Corporation and serves as President of the Economic Development Association of North Dakota Board.



KATE BLAIR is State Government Affairs Manager covering seven states across the Midwest- Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Nebraska, and Missouri. Prior to moving to St. Paul, MN for her current role, Blair lived in Alaska and she served as the Government and Public Affairs Manager for Tesoro (then Andeavor). From 2014 to 2016, she was the Committee and Project Coordinator for the Alaska Oil and Gas Association (AOGA), where she worked on a \$15m statewide referendum, oversaw arctic-specific policy issues, and led the association's advocacy and outreach efforts. Before moving into oil and gas policy, Blair worked for Pfizer in Alaska for 8 years, and prior to that, was a division 1 women's college hockey coach at the University of Maine and Mercyhurst University. She holds a Bachelor of Science from Rochester Institute of Technology, and a Master of Science from Mercyhurst University.



RYAN RAGUSE is the Co-Founder and President of Bushel, an independently owned software company and leading provider of software technology solutions for growers, grain buyers, protein producers and food companies, headquartered in Fargo, N.D. Raguse is a speaker, author, and entrepreneur. A self-proclaimed day-dreamer and life-long farm kid, he is always ready to discuss the exciting future of Ag Tech. Having grown up on a farm, Raguse can't shake the feeling of a hard day at work in the field and he returns to the farm for field work in the spring and fall.



RESPONSE TO FEDERAL REGULATORY OVERREACH

There is a delicate balance between the powers of federal government and state government. When that balance is upset, whether from presidential executive orders or proposed rules by federal agencies, the impacts are felt by the business community. From energy to water to healthcare, North Dakota has felt the swings of each administration change and has had to flex in response. These shifts in response to federal reach and regulations result in an unsteady path for businesses to navigate filled with uncertainty.

This panel will discuss the real and potential consequences of federal overreach and response strategies for North Dakota and its businesses.



MODERATOR

CARLEE MCLEOD is a Bismarck lawyer specializing in government relations and policy development. Since 2011, she has served as the president of the Utility Shareholders of North Dakota (USND), which is an association comprised of ALLETE, MDU, Xcel Energy, Otter Tail Corporation and their shareholders. Carlee started her career as a legislative intern; she served as Deputy State Treasurer and has taught business law and business ethics at the University of Mary. In her current position, she focuses on energy and tax policy. McLeod earned her B.A. at Concordia College and her J.D. at the University of North Dakota, School of Law.



MATT PERDUE is the Government Relations Director for North Dakota Farmers Union, where he leads the organization's advocacy efforts on state and federal issues. Before joining NDFU, he worked in a similar role at the national level and had a brief stint at the United States Department of Agriculture. Matt is also engaged in his family's farming operation near Ray, ND, where they raise small grains, minor oilseeds and pulse crops.

He has a master's degree in agricultural economics from Purdue University and two bachelor's degrees from Dickinson State University.

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DREW WRIGLEY is a fourth generation North Dakotan with family roots in Walsh County and Burke County. He graduated from the University of North Dakota with honors in Economics and Philosophy, and received his law degree from the American University, Washington College of Law. Wrigley spent five years as an Assistant District Attorney in Philadelphia before he returned home to North Dakota. In 2001, Wrigley was nominated by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the United States Senate as North Dakota's 17th United States Attorney. Later he was nominated by President Donald J. Trump to serve as North Dakota's 19th United States Attorney. This was after serving as North Dakota's Lieutenant Governor, from 2010 - 2016. In February 2022, Wrigley was appointed as the state's 30th Attorney General by Governor Doug Burgum,



Gov. Doug Burgum appointed **ANDREA TRAVNICEK** to lead the newly created Department of Water Resources in August 2021. Travnicek was previously appointed as director of North Dakota Department of Parks and Recreation May 29, 2020. Travnicek returned to North Dakota after nearly three years of service in top leadership positions at the U.S. Department of the Interior, where she most recently served as deputy assistant secretary for land and minerals management. Travnicek also served as Interior's principal deputy assistant secretary for fish and wildlife and parks, overseeing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. National Park Service. Travnicek earned a bachelor's degree in natural resource management and zoology, a master's degree in natural resources management and a doctorate in philosophy, all from North Dakota State University.

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GNDC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2022

OCTOBER

- 11** Industry Outlook Webinar Series: Technology
- 26** Morning MeetUp: Succession Planning, Bismarck

NOVEMBER

- 3** MFG Virtual Meeting:
Controlling Business Costs
- 16** ND Transportation Forum, Fargo
*Premier sponsor MDU Resource Group



DECEMBER

- 13** Industry Outlook Webinar Series: Retail
- 14** Business Roundtable: Legislative Prep, Fargo



2023

JANUARY

- 12** MFG Virtual Meeting: Implementing Change to Control Business Costs
- 25** Succession Planning Webinar, Part 1

FEBRUARY

- 7** Industry Outlook Webinar Series: Entertainment
- 22** Succession Planning Webinar, Part 2

MARCH

- 7** Legislative Halftime Report [MEMBER EXCLUSIVE]

APRIL

- 11** Industry Outlook Webinar Series: Construction

MAY

Infrastructure Week! (Webinar series)

JUNE

- 6** Legislative Recap and Report with Chamber Champion Announcement [MEMBER EXCLUSIVE]
- 13** Industry Outlook Webinar Series: Healthcare

AUGUST

- 8** Industry Outlook Webinar Series: Education

SEPTEMBER

- 27** Policy Summit, Bismarck



OCTOBER

- 10** Industry Outlook Webinar Series: Air Service

NOVEMBER

- 15** ND Transportation Forum, Fargo



DECEMBER

- 5** Industry Outlook Webinar Series: Communications



UPCOMING REPORT ON BUSINESS ISSUES



Fall: Election & Policy Impacts

Winter: Economic Development

Spring: Cybersecurity

Summer: Salute to GNDC Board

Fall: DEI [Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion]

Sponsorship opportunities are available to promote your organization.

Our audience is decision makers – both in business and government.

Visit with *Chris Kalash, chris@ndchamber.com*

REGISTER TODAY FOR THE ND TRANSPORTATION FORUM!

NOVEMBER 16 – FARGO

Virtual option available.

This day-long event dives deeper into how transportation and associated policies play a role in all industries and our state's economics. Experts will provide updates on trends and data impacting their organization, industry, and our state.

Agenda with registration online at ndchamber.com



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The ND Chamber PAC is a non-partisan, pro-business political action committee that...

Supports candidates who support North Dakota's job creators

Supports causes that protect free market principles

Advances policies to ensure North Dakota remains the best state in the nation to do business

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Join other business leaders by contributing today and be part of our ND Chamber PAC Capitol Club.

To become a member, simply make a contribution of \$141 (one dollar for each member of the legislative assembly).

Membership levels are:

Capitol Club:	\$141 or more
Captain:	\$250 - \$499
Champion:	\$500 +

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PAC contributors are invited to attend exclusive social following Policy Summit at 4:35