

BIENNIAL REPORT 2021-2023



NORTH DAKOTA
SECRETARY OF STATE

MICHAEL HOWE, SECRETARY OF STATE

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NORTH DAKOTA TOURISM

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Former Secretary of State Alvin Jaeger (middle) was honored with an achievement award by the Notary Public Administrators Section of the National Association of Secretaries of State in July 2023. The award was established to honor the NPA's 25-year anniversary and was named the Jaeger-Marshall NPA Achievement Award in honor of his extensive contributions to the organization. Secretary Michael Howe and Beth Herzog (NDSOS Information Management Director) were on hand to celebrate Jaeger's achievement.

SECRETARY OF STATE **MICHAEL HOWE**



Michael Howe became North Dakota's 15th Secretary of State on January 1, 2023. Michael is a fifth-generation family farmer and served rural Cass County in the North Dakota Legislature for three sessions as State Representative from District 22, prior to becoming Secretary of State. In his second legislative session, he was appointed to the House Appropriations Committee and served as chairman of the interim Government Finance Committee.

Much of the 2021-2023 biennium occurred under the administration of Secretary of State Alvin Jaeger. Secretary Jaeger served as North Dakota Secretary of State for 30 years, leaving office on December 31, 2022.

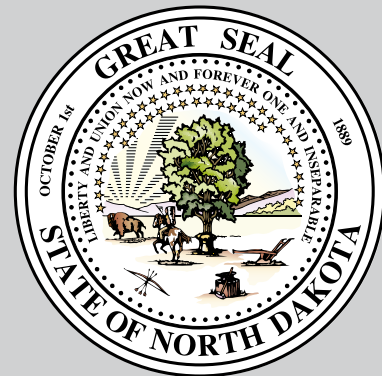
NORTH DAKOTA SECRETARY OF STATE

WHAT WE DO & WHO WE ARE

The Office of the Secretary of State conducts a wide range of licensing, regulatory, registration, and administrative functions. It serves as the office of record for certain legal documents generated by the executive and legislative branches of state government, as well as public records and notices involving various business entities.

The Office of the Secretary of State also works with North Dakota's 53 counties to administer and protect the integrity of our election process. Statewide election results are made available through the Secretary of State's elections website – Vote.ND.Gov.

As keeper of the Great Seal of the State of North Dakota, the secretary certifies the authenticity of official documents, such as acts of the Legislature, and proclamations and executive orders issued by the governor. The office is also the keeper of the original chapter laws passed each legislative session and signed by the various officers of the Legislature, such as the president of the Senate, speaker of the House, chief clerk of the House, and secretary of the Senate, as well as the secretary of state and (in most cases) the governor.



A LEGACY BEGINNING IN DAKOTA TERRITORY

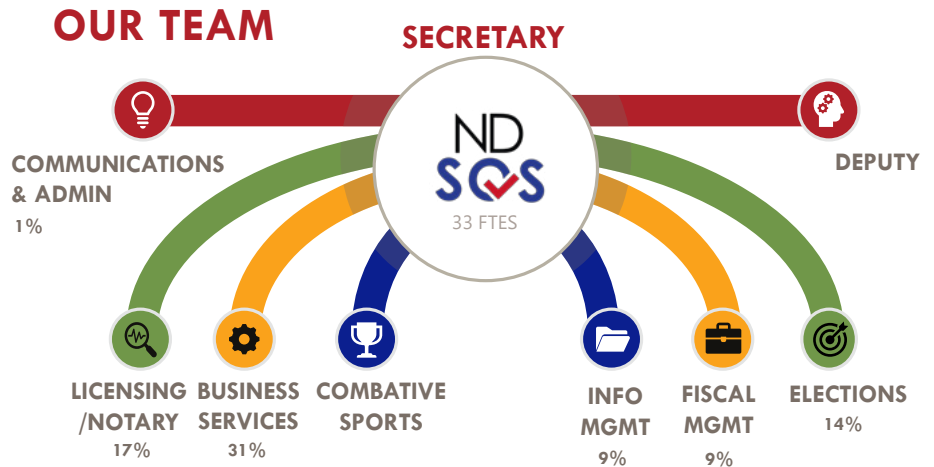
The legacy of the Office of the Secretary of State is one that predates statehood in North Dakota. When North Dakota became a state on November 2, 1889, the Secretary of the Territory had already been established with the creation of the Dakota Territory in March 1861.

The Secretary of the Territory was to record and preserve all the laws, proceedings, and acts of the Legislative Assembly and Governor, along with other roles.

The Secretary of State maintains most of those early tasks today, along with many others reflected in this report.

The Office of Secretary of State was authorized for 33 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees during the 2021-2023 biennium – 29 FTEs general fund supported, and four (4) FTEs special/federal fund supported.

With over 40 functions in these areas, here is a breakdown of the key programs and responsibilities:



ELECTIONS

The Secretary of State serves as North Dakota’s chief election officer, maintaining the integrity of the election process as provided in the constitution and laws of the state. This division is responsible for the administration of election law and partners with county auditors in the administration of statewide elections.

There are many tasks related to elections conducted by this team, but in general, they:

- Provide information on elections, military/overseas voting, absentee ballots, polling locations, and elections results.
- Maintain the Central Voter File.
- Certify voting equipment.
- Certify statewide and district candidates.
- Record campaign finance disclosures.
- Oversee initiative and referendum processes.
- Train local election officials.

North Dakota’s Central Voter File is maintained through NDVOICES (ND Voting Information and Central Election System), which allows for integrated election administration. The development of the system was funded with the support of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) federal funds. North Dakota further standardized election administration across the state with the support of the HAVA funds and the 66th Legislative Assembly (2019) with its commitment of \$13 million for the purchase of election equipment for all 53 counties.



Election equipment purchased and used at all polling locations includes:

PollPads, also known as electronic pollbooks, are used to check-in voters at polling locations. PollPads read data from a voter's ID and verify that information against the Central Voter File. Once a voter checks in at a polling location, every other polling location's PollPads statewide are updated with the information, preventing voters from voting more than one time per election.



Assistive Ballot Marking Device - ExpressVote – Each polling location has an ExpressVote assistive ballot marking device that can be used by any qualified voter. A voter marks the ballot on this device by touch screen and prints a paper ballot card. A voter can review choices before the ballot is inserted into the ballot tabulator. It has accessibility features that can accommodate larger font sizes, having the ballot read aloud, contrast settings, and the ability to use devices like headphones and switches.



Ballot Tabulators – The DS200 is the ballot tabulator used at polling locations for both traditional paper ballots and ExpressVote paper ballot cards. The DS450 is the high-throughput tabulator used to tabulate absentee ballots. Results are unknown until polls close on Election Day.



BUSINESS SERVICES

Business Services grants authority to do business in North Dakota. It reviews and processes documents related to the creation and registration of businesses in North Dakota, including business name filings and searches, filing articles and renewals, and ordering copies and certificates. You can see the list of over 46 different entities/records this division services in Appendix A. Most of these filings take place through the Office of Secretary of State's business portal, FirstStop. This division accepts service of process when named as registered agent.

CENTRAL INDEXING

Central Indexing maintains records filed under UCC (Uniform Commercial Code) regarding collateral pledged to secure loans. It also administers the Central Notification System (CNS) for farm product liens and files and maintains statewide federal tax liens. The North Dakota Central Indexing System allows for any statement required under these systems to be filed and searched online.

LICENSING & NOTARY

Licensing and Notary oversees a variety of functions related to licensing and registration of certain professions, and commissioning notaries public. This team also has duties related to the legislative processes, acts by the Governor, maintenance of certain state records, and administrative responsibilities.

LICENSING

Most of the filings handled by this division take place through the Office of Secretary of State's business and licensing portal, FirstStop, and include:

- Licensing of contractors and processing of annual renewals.
- Registration of charitable organizations and processing of annual reports.
- Registration of lobbyists and processing of expenditure reports.
- Registration of home inspectors and processing of annual renewals.
- Licensing of professional employer organizations.
- Registration of athlete agents.

NOTARY

Notaries public are also commissioned through this division under N.D.C.C. Chapter 44-06.1, and they handle all complaints and renewals for those holding a commission. Notaries public may administer oaths and perform all duties as required by law, which has included remote notarization since 2019.

AUTHENTICATIONS - APOSTILLES & CERTIFICATIONS

This division provides Authentications, which includes apostilles and certifications, to confirm the origin and signature on documents to be used in foreign countries. An authentication confirms the authenticity of a signature and the capacity in which the person signing the document has acted.

ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS

The Office of the Secretary of State also maintains many government administrative functions through this division. Here is a quick summary of the duties and responsibilities that fall into this area:

- Recording any document as required by law to be deposited with the Secretary of State.
- Attesting the official signature of the Governor upon executive orders, appointments, and other public documents, and maintaining a registry of his official acts.
- Maintaining records of all conveyances of property made to the state.
- Filing oaths of office and statements of interest for appointees of the Governor.
- Maintaining legislative journals and receiving, recording, and storing all bills, resolutions, and documents created by the legislature.
- Printing and distributing public documents as provided in law, such as the North Dakota Century Code, North Dakota Administrative Code, and their supplements.
- Maintaining the website for posting of public meeting notices.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

The Information Management Division is responsible for maintaining software systems used by Office of the Secretary of State to perform its duties and to interact with the public. These systems manage both business, licensing and election functions and require robust functionality with workflows, comprehensive reporting, and user-friendly public facing platforms.

FISCAL SERVICES

The Fiscal Services Division oversees the Office of the Secretary of State's finance and operations activities. This includes the management of the office's fiscal operations such as budget, revenue tracking, accounts payable, audit, procurement, grants, reporting, human resources and payroll.

COMBATIVE SPORTS

The Secretary of State oversee the Commission of Combative Sports and sanctions all combative events, such as boxing and MMA (mixed martial arts), held within the state. Events held on tribal reservations are not under the agency's oversight.



Secretary Howes gets help from the children of military families stationed at the Minot Air Force Base in placing the state seal on the 2023 Proclamation for Military Child Appreciation Month.



WHO WE SERVE

The Office of the Secretary of State serves the citizens of North Dakota through the following functions:

BUSINESSES

- Individuals and entities transacting business in the state
- Professionals such as attorneys, accountants, and medical professionals
- Farmers and ranchers operating in the state
- Registered agents
- Nonprofits and charities
- General public and private entities verifying the existence, standing, and status of businesses

LICENSEES

- Athlete Agents (registrations)
- Combative Sports roles (licenses)
- Charitable Organizations (registrations)
- Contractors (licenses)
- Home Inspectors (registrations)
- Lobbyists (registrations)
- Notaries Public (commissions)
- Professional Employer Organizations (licenses)
- Professional Fundraisers (registrations)

LENDING COMMUNITY – Through the Central Indexing System:

- Lenders
- Debtors

VOTERS & CANDIDATES

- Voters in North Dakota
- North Dakota military and overseas voters
- Candidates
- Political parties and political committees

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS – Through election guidance and administration:

- County auditors and election staff
- Jurisdictions (legislative, judicial, cities, counties, and school districts)

ALL CITIZENS – Through protection of records:

- Certain Legal Documents
- Public Records
- Public Meeting Notices

OTHER STATE ENTITIES – As the Office of Record for:

- Laws and proceedings of the Legislative Assembly
- Acts and proceedings of the Governor
- Oaths of Office

WHAT WE ARE PROUD OF

The 2021-2023 biennium was an eventful one at the Office of the Secretary of State. The team accomplished many important objectives during the past two years which included modernization of business filings, reorganization of business services, and several legislative changes. The office also saw a change in administration for the first time in 30 years with Secretary of State Michael Howe taking over office from Secretary of State Alvin Jaeger on January 1, 2023. Secretary Howe now serves as the state's 15th Secretary of State.

SECRETARY/ADMINISTRATION

Since taking office on January 1, 2023, Secretary of State Michael Howe has been working to expand the agency's outreach and collaboration.

SUCCESSFUL LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The 2023 session included over 100 bills that impacted the Office of the Secretary of State, with over 40 directly connected to elections. The office worked with lawmakers on several issues and was able to secure staffing and funding to support critical systems in elections and business.

MOVING FORWARD WITH A PROACTIVE MINDSET

The Office of the Secretary of State team is actively engaging with our stakeholders and partners to grow awareness and synergies in messaging. Secretary Howe is connecting with stakeholder groups and the team is proactively creating resources to better inform county election officials and the public. With budget support during the past legislative session, the team is also seeking to enhance and upgrade current systems and processes across the agency.

ACTIVELY BUILDING VOTER TRUST

The last few elections have seen a large amount of misinformation circulating about election processes across the country. The Office of the Secretary of State is the trusted source for election-related information and is continuously working to educate voters about our election systems and processes.



Secretary Howe and Business Services Director Mike Monroe visit with entrepreneurs at Start-Up Brew in Fargo about steps to establishing businesses in North Dakota.

RESTRUCTURING & SKILL BUILDING

During this biennium, the Office of the Secretary of State worked to address structure and equity issues. The launch of FirstStop in 2019 moved most agency filings from paper to digital. This resulted in a change in skill sets for our teams and created the need for broader knowledge across the agency. A restructuring of our business units – registration and information – into one overarching Business Services Division has created efficiencies and deepened knowledge.

The agency also worked to address equity issues related to the skill set changes that occurred with digital filings. This included reclassification of positions, revision of job descriptions, and equity adjustments to bring staff salaries in line with job duties. Through schedule flexibility, the agency was able to address workload issues, reduce the number of days to work filings, and greatly reduce overtime use in the agency.

COMMISSION OF COMBATIVE SPORTS

The Commission of Combative Sports licensed 199 individuals and provided oversight for one (1) boxing event and five (5) mixed martial arts events in the 2021-2023 biennium. The Office of the Secretary of State has worked over the biennium to develop process documents to aid in clarity for those wishing to hold contests in North Dakota.

FUTURE VISIONING

The Office of the Secretary of State will continue efforts to expand its outreach and awareness efforts across all stakeholder groups over the coming biennium (2023-2025). Efforts to increase voter awareness and create guidance for business filers is already underway. The leadership team will work on visioning and goal setting to determine ongoing priorities.



INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

The Office of the Secretary of State maintains several software systems to perform its duties, provide information to the public, and allow for the filing of various documents by stakeholder groups.

FirstStop, the system used for most business and licensing filings, was first launched in January 2019. During the 2021 – 2023 biennium, in addition to several smaller modifications, two main enhancements were made to the system:

- January 2022: State banks and state credit union records were added to the system as a continued effort to have one system for processing all business and licensing records.
- September 2022: The process for a customer to obtain access to a record was enhanced to allow a customer to request a PIN when a current authorized user exists for a record. This enhancement reduced the number of phone calls received by team members from customers trying to obtain access to records.



The Central Indexing System is the online portal used by the lending community to file secured liens and to allow for the search of liens filed with the Office of the Secretary of State against individuals and businesses. In July 2021, the system was updated to allow a user to subscribe to receive notifications for a selected debtor when a future filing that includes that debtor is submitted by another user. This notification serves as an alert to the user to review the new filing to view the collateral being secured or the new level of indebtedness.



NDVOICES (North Dakota Voting Information and Central Election System) is the election management system used for the administration of various elections in North Dakota.



FISCAL SERVICES

The Fiscal Services Division is responsible to direct, integrate, and implement the Secretary of State office's finance and operations activities. This includes policies, budget, and systems. Areas of responsibility include the management of the office's fiscal operations such as budget, revenue tracking, accounts payable, audit, procurement, grants, reporting, human resources, and payroll.

FISCAL RECONCILIATION IMPROVEMENTS

In response to a repeat audit finding on revenue reconciliation, the Secretary of State implemented additional reconciliation steps.

Immediate action was taken to address the audit finding upon the conclusion of the June 30, 2020, audit. In May/June of 2021, the agency completed a review of the deposit recording steps and implemented changes effective for FY2022. Throughout FY2022, the

reconciliation was tested and verified to be only partially effective. The reconciliation was successful for cash, checks, and money order receipts, but not for the recording of credit card transactions.

The Office of Secretary of State has met compliance with the reconciliation requirement beginning in FY2023. Since March of 2023, the Office of Secretary of State has been successful in fully reconciling daily deposit reports for each system to ConnectND general ledger reports for all three revenue recording systems.

The monthly reconciliation has been implemented and is currently in the testing phase to evaluate if dates on journal entries need to be applied back to a previous period or if adjustments need to be made to daily naming conventions to accommodate a monthly reconciliation when system data is compared to ConnectND GL data.

FINANCIALS

2021-2023 APPROPRIATION

The work of the Office of Secretary of State generates approximately \$14 million in revenue from our business and licensing services. Approximately \$12 million stays in the general fund, and \$1.5 - \$2 million is transferred to the agency’s special fund for use based on specific fees allowed to be retained by the agency in statute to aid in supporting technology.

Final revenues for the 21-23 biennium totaled \$14,950,331, approximately \$2.45 million ahead of forecast. A total of \$2,433,342, from fees allowed to be retained by the agency under statute, was transferred to the General Services Special Fund to be utilized to support agency technology costs.

	Appropriation	Expenditures	Balance Remaining
Salaries and Wages	5,531,554	4,820,709	710,845
Operating Expenses	3,798,711	2,424,251	1,374,460
Construction/Capital Carryforward (Business & Licensing System)	3,469,448	3,001,315	468,133
Grants	25,000	0	25,000
Petition Review	8,000	1,548	6,452
Election Reform	5,699,689	161,745	5,537,944
Subtotal	18,532,402	10,409,568	8,122,834
Expenditures by Funding Source			
General Funds	5,757,045	5,704,113	52,932
Federal Funds	7,143,630	2,553,297	4,590,333
Special Funds	5,631,727	2,152,157	3,479,570
Subtotal	18,532,402	10,409,568	8,122,834
Public Printing	293,856	293,856	0
Grand Total	18,826,258	10,703,424	8,122,834

SALARY

General and special fund salary expenditures compared to budget through the end of June 2023 reflected savings of approximately \$710,000 with an estimated \$21,479.09 canceling to general fund.

Class	2021-2023 Cancellation
Salaries and Wages	27,479.09
Operating Expenses	0.39
Construction Carryover	
Grants	25,000.00
Petition Review	6,452.43
Election Reform	
Public Printing-Operating	
Subtotal	52,931.91

HAVA (HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT) FUNDS

The Office of Secretary of State receives Federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funds to continue to improve voter access and election administration. The Secretary of State had \$7,143,630 to start the 2021-2023 biennium, expending \$2,553,297, for an ending biennium balance of \$4,590,333. A transfer of \$200,000 of general funds was made to meet federal matching requirements in 2022. The purpose of the funds is to improve the administration of elections for Federal office, including to enhance election technology and make election security improvements to the systems, equipment, and processes used in federal elections.



Spending projections for the currently available \$4,000,000 in HAVA funds are broken down below. If general fund support for staffing is provided, staff dollars will be redirected to education/training efforts.

	Federal Advance	State Match
2020 HAVA	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 600,000
2022 HAVA	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 200,000
Total Remaining	\$ 4,000,000	\$ 800,000

ESTIMATED HAVA SPENDING FOR COMING BIENNIUMS

2023-25 Biennium - \$2 million (estimated)

- Elections Software/Equipment - \$1.65 M
- Staffing - \$330,000
- Supplies/Support - \$50,000

2025-27 Biennium - \$2 million (estimated)

- Elections Software/Equipment - \$1.65 M
- Staffing - \$330,000
- Supplies/Support - \$50,000

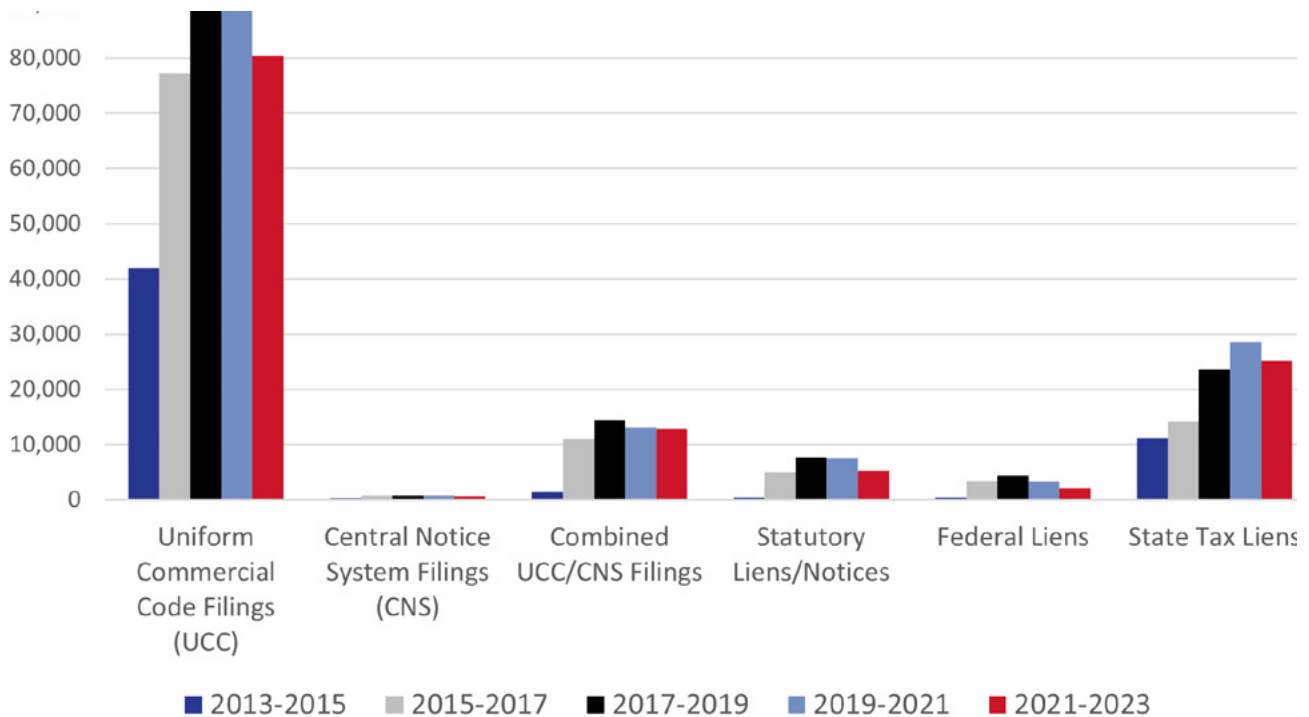
LICENSING | NOTARY | CENTRAL INDEXING FILINGS

10-YEAR COMPARISON | 2013-2023

	2013	2023	2013-2023 Increase	Percentage Change
Licensing Unit				
**Active at end of biennium or issued during biennium				
Contractor Licenses	11,701	12,170	469	4%
Home Inspector Licenses	124	231	107	86%
Lobbyists (for biennium)	736	708	(28)	-4%
Charitable/Prof. Fundraisers	1,343	3,022	1,679	125%
Notary Commissions	13,873	14,559	686	5%
Official Acts of Governor	493	1,371	878	178%
Authentications/Apostilles		1,968		
Central Indexing Unit				
Total Filings - UCC/Liens/etc.	50,055	126,461	76,406	153%

CENTRAL INDEXING – FILINGS

FILINGS PER BIENNIUM



LICENSING & NOTARY – FILINGS

STATISTICS FOR THE LEGISLATIVE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS FILED WITH THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE DURING THE BIENNIUM CAN BE FOUND AT:

WWW.NDLEGIS.GOV/ASSEMBLY/68-2023/REGULAR

BUSINESS SERVICES

GAINING EFFICIENCIES

Restructuring of the Business Services Division has continued to improve efficiencies in filing turn around. In 2020, filings were taking about 14 days to turn around for customers. By creating scheduling flexibility under the new administration, the division was able to create focused work time to address workloads. The team now is able to address most filings within one to three working days.

AUTHORIZED LIVESTOCK FARMS

House Bill 1371 created a new entity for business in North Dakota. Authorized Livestock Farms can now be formed as limited liability companies or corporations as of May 1, 2023. The Business Services Division has put in place manual processes to accept these filings as the agency works to expand digital platforms to include these new entity types.

SB 2210

During the 2021 Legislative Session, Senate Bill 2210 was a housekeeping bill for business services, addressing 15 NDCC chapters to streamline processes, clarify requirements, promote consistency among entity and filing types, and support automation.



GOOD SERVICE MATTERS

A recent customer was working to return their business to "good standing" by filing an annual report. The business needed to change its registered agent and couldn't gain access to its filing.

Our office was able to provide support and offer step-by-step information on how to regain access to its filing. The customer stated that the interaction was "the best" they had ever worked with and that our teams' exceptional kindness, patience, and attention detail was unparalleled.

THE FIRST STOP FOR DOING BUSINESS IN NORTH DAKOTA

The Office of the Secretary of State's FirstStop Business Portal serves as the hub for many business interactions with the agency. Whether an individual is looking to start a new business, register to do business in North Dakota, renewing a license, register as a lobbyist, or submit any number of reports to the agency, FirstStop is quite literally the first stop to doing business in North Dakota.

FirstStop

North Dakota Secretary of State

SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE: FirstStop will be unavailable Sunday, November 26, 2023, from 12:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. (Central) for scheduled monthly maintenance.



ATTENTION - New Federal Reporting Requirement for Businesses: Beginning January 1, 2024, businesses formed or registered to do business in the United States must file a beneficial ownership report with the federal government. More information regarding these requirements is available on the Office of the Secretary of State's [website](#).

WARNING - Email Messages: Official email messages from the Office of the Secretary of State are sent from an "nd.gov" email domain (e.g., sos@nd.gov). Be aware of email messages that are sent from alternate email domains. If you are unsure whether an email message appearing to be from this office is legitimate, contact this office to verify whether it was sent by this office.

Enter PIN

NDLogin FAQs

Request Certificate of Good Standing

Check Status of Submission

Data List Requests

Verify Apostille/Certification

Business

Search for a business
Start a business

File annual report
Amend business
Update address
Update registered agent
Terminate business

Trademark

Search for a trademark

Register new trademark
Renew registration
Assign registration
Cancel registration
My records

Contractor

Search for a contractor

Apply for new license
Renew license
Amend license
My records

Lobbyist

Search for a lobbyist
2023 - 2024 Registered Lobbyists
Lobbyist authorization
Non-lobbyist expenditure report

Register new lobbyist
Renew registration
Amend registration

Charitable Organizations

Search for a charitable organization

Register new charitable organization
File annual report
My records

Notary Public

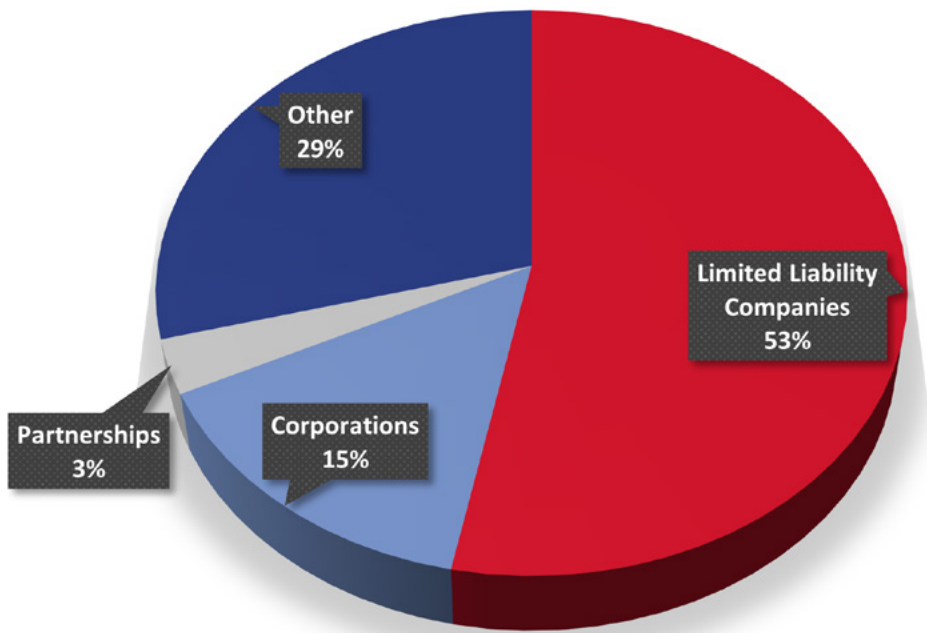
Search for a notary
Verify Apostille/Certification

Apply for new commission
Renew commission
Update information
Resign commission
My records

BUSINESS SERVICES FILINGS

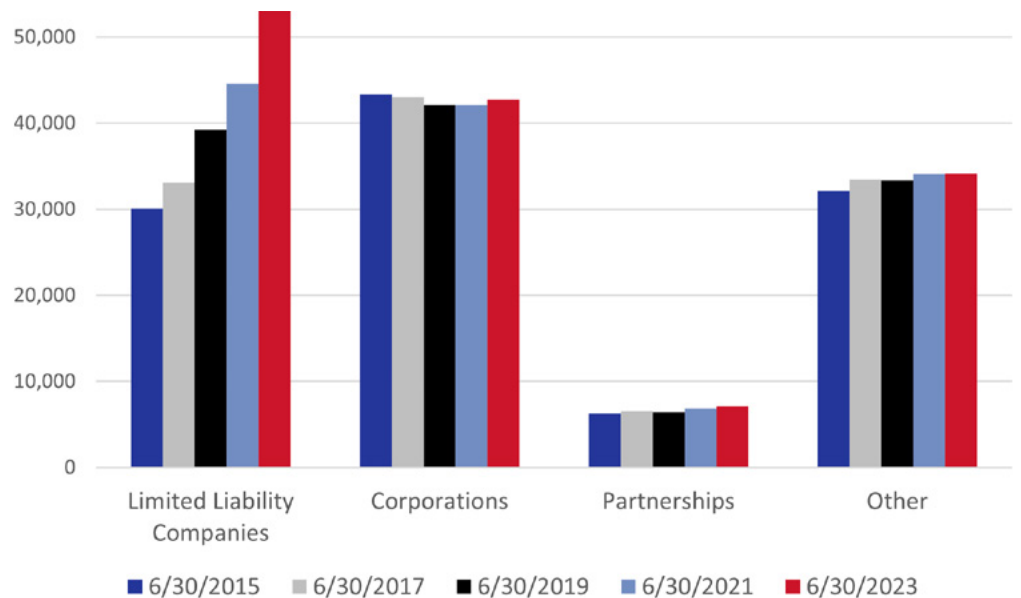
10-YEAR COMPARISON | 2013-2023

	2013	2023	2013-2023 Increase	Percentage Change
Business Services Unit				
Corporations	50,882	42,736	(8,146)	-16%
Limited Liability Companies	27,365	53,121	25,756	94%
Partnerships	5,931	7,112	1,181	20%
Other	28,796	34,142	5,346	19%



2023 NEW BUSINESS FILINGS

2023 ACTIVE BUSINESSES





ELECTIONS

TRIBAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATIVE GRANTS

The 2021 Legislative Session appropriated \$25,000 from the general fund for the purpose of providing grants to each federally recognized tribal government located in the state during the biennium. Tribal government could access up to \$5,000 on a reimbursement basis for administrative costs incurred to issue addresses and identification for voting purposes to tribal members. There were no requests for these funds received in 2021-2023 and they remain available.

ELECTION SECURITY ASSESSMENT

In 2022, the North Dakota Office of the State Auditor did a security assessment on North Dakota's election equipment. Any areas of vulnerability identified were labeled "low" risk. It was the determination that for the North Dakota election system to be exploited, unprecedented collusion would have to occur. It was found that it would be exceptionally unlikely that the results of an election in North Dakota would be fraudulently influenced. "We looked at any potential weaknesses in the election system of our state that could be exploited by someone with nefarious intent," said State Auditor Joshua Gallion. "The determination after extensive review from our contractor was that our election systems are incredibly secure across our state."

HB 1253

House Bill 1253 was introduced in the 2021 Legislative Session as a comprehensive election administration bill with 114 Sections which modernized terminology, addressed remedies required by recent litigation, increased election security and accessibility, and addressed options that allow the state to step forward into the future appropriately and securely. One change of note was the addition of language in N.D.C.C § 16.1-07-08(3) to allow qualifying electors with disabilities to be able to cast and return a ballot electronically to be printed and tabulated once technology for this purpose is available. The agency is currently working to procure a solution to meet this requirement.

ELECTIONS BY THE NUMBERS

PRIMARY ELECTION – JUNE 14, 2022

- 398 Precincts
- 166 Polling Locations
- Voter turnout 18.80%
- Total cost \$1,444,739

GENERAL ELECTION – NOVEMBER 8, 2022

- 398 Precincts
- 166 Polling Locations
- Voter turnout 42.93%
- Total cost \$1,387,119

CONTESTS ON THE BALLOT

Federal-Congressional Offices

- United States Senator – 6 year term
- Representative in Congress – 2 year term

Statewide Offices (Party)

- Secretary of State – 4 year term
- Attorney General – 4 year term
- Agriculture Commissioner – 4 year term
- Tax Commissioner – 4 year term
- Public Service Commissioner – 4 year un-expired term
- Public Service Commissioner – 6 year term

Statewide Offices (No Party)

- Justice of the Supreme Court – 10 year term

Judicial District Offices

- Judges of the District Court (18 judgeship positions) – 6 year term
- Judges of the District Court (4 judgeship positions) – 4 year term

TRUSTED ELECTION INFORMATION

Elections are a topic that get a lot of public interest, however there is much misinformation that creates confusion and uncertainty for many North Dakotans. Many of the election bills brought forward during the 2023 legislative session sought to “correct” issues from misinformation that were already part of North Dakota law.

One such example is wanting North Dakota to only use paper ballots for voting when the state already has in place law that requires this exact thing. Outreach efforts and information on processes to expand voter awareness has been a key goal of the new administration that began in this biennium and will continue.

ELECTIONS BY THE NUMBERS – CONTINUED

State Legislative Seats (Party)

- 24 seats Senate (all odd numbered districts) – 4 year term
- 48 seats House of Representatives (all odd numbered districts) – 4 year term
- District 8, 10, 20, 26, 28, 36, and 44 (one Senate member & two House members each) – 2 year term
- Subdistricts 4A and 4B (for one House member each) – 2 year term
- District 6 (for one Senate member) – 2 year term
- District 24 (for two House members) – 2 year term

County Offices (No Party)

- County Commissioners – 4 year term
- County Auditor – 4 year term
- County State’s Attorney – 4 year term
- County Recorder – 4 year term
- County Treasurer – 4 year term
- County Sheriff – 4 year term
- County Clerk of District Court – 4 year term
- Director, Southwest Water Authority (June Election only) – 4 year term
- Supervisor, Soil Conservation District (November Election only) – 6 year term
- Director, Garrison Diversion Conservancy District – 4 year term
- Official County Newspaper – 4 year term

City Offices (June Election Only)

- Positions varied depending on the form of governance

BALLOT MEASURES (NOVEMBER)

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Related to: Term Limits of the Governor and the Legislature

- Placed on the November 8, 2022, ballot as Initiated Constitutional Measure No. 1
- Voters passed the measure 150,363 (63.43%) to 86,674 (36.57%)

INITIATED STATUTORY MEASURE

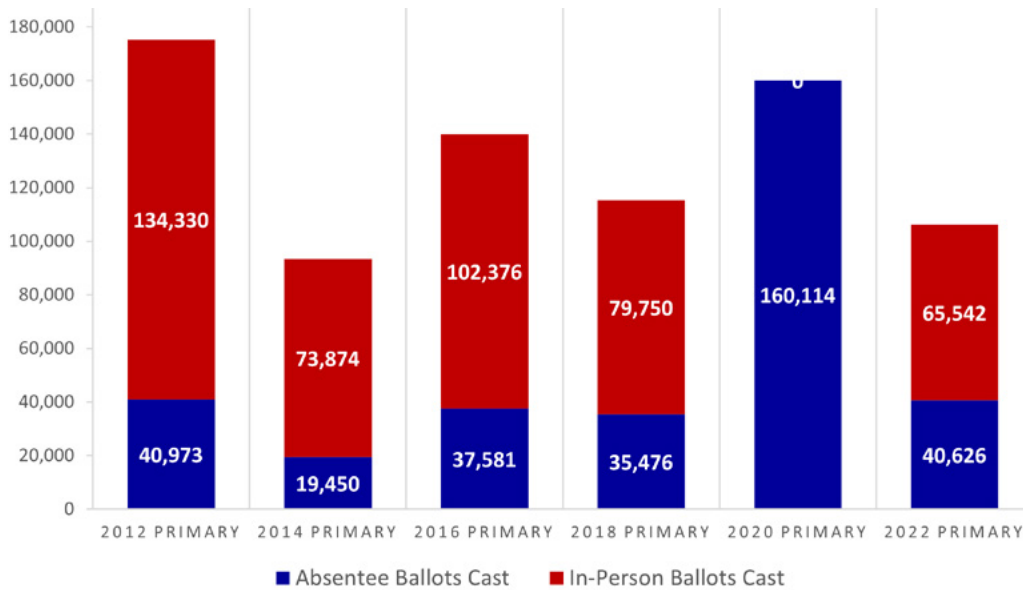
Related to: Legalization, Production, Processing, Sale, and Possession of Cannabis

- Placed on the November 8, 2022, ballot as Initiated Statutory Measure No. 2
- Voters rejected the measure 131,192 (54.94%) to 107,608 (45.06%)

ELECTION STATISTICS

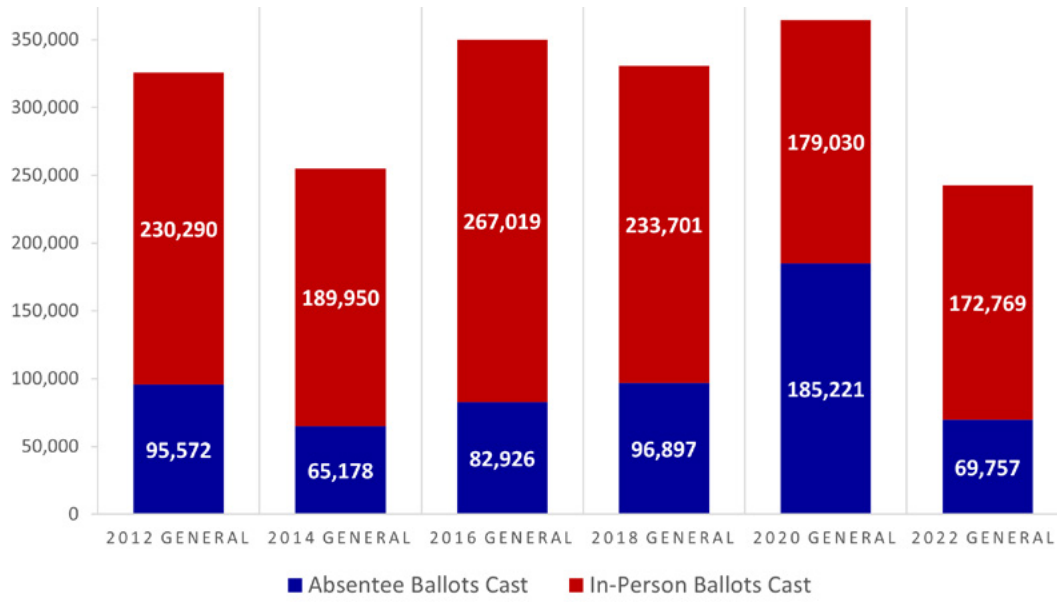
Year	Type	Number of Precincts	Total Votes Cast	Absentee Ballots Cast	In-Person Ballots Cast	Population	Eligible Voters	Absentee Voters	Percent Turnout	Election Expenses	Cost per Vote
2012	Primary	426	175,303	40,973	134,330	672,591	532,776	40,973	33%	1,352,114	7.71
2012	General	426	325,862	95,572	230,290	672,591	532,776	95,572	61%	1,047,767	3.22
2014	Primary	427	93,324	19,450	73,874	723,393	545,020	19,450	17%	1,174,500	12.59
2014	General	427	255,128	65,178	189,950	723,393	545,020	65,178	46%	1,096,398	4.3
2016	Primary	432	139,957	37,581	102,376	723,393	570,955	37,581	24%	1,219,104	8.71
2016	General	432	349,945	82,926	267,019	723,393	570,955	82,926	61%	1,248,307	3.57
2018	Primary	424	115,226	35,476	79,750	760,077	581,641	35,476	19%	1,138,801	9.88
2018	General	424	330,598	96,897	233,701	760,077	579,621	96,897	57%	1,210,056	3.66
2020	Primary	422	160,114	160,114	0	760,077	581,379	160,114	27%	1,249,906	7.81
2020	General	422	364,251	185,221	179,030	760,077	581,379	185,221	62%	2,091,311	5.74
2022	Primary	398	106,168	40,626	65,542	779,094	564,935	40,626	19%	1,444,739	13.61
2022	General	398	242,526	69,757	172,769	779,094	564,935	69,757	43%	1,387,119	5.72

ELECTION TURNOUTS



**PRIMARY ELECTIONS
2012 - 2022**

**GENERAL ELECTIONS
2012 - 2022**



APPENDIX A

Entities for which records are filed and maintained by the Office of the Secretary of State Business Services Division.

Airport Authorities

Churches

City Home Rule Charters

Cooperatives

- Domestic Associations
- Electric Associations
- Foreign Associations
- Grazing Associations
- Mutual Aid Associations

Commercial Registered Agents

Corporations

- Authorized Livestock Farm (domestic & foreign)
- Business (domestic & foreign)
- Certified Nonprofit Development
- Farm/Ranch (domestic & foreign)
- Nonprofit (domestic & foreign)
- Professional (domestic & foreign)
- Publicly Traded (domestic)

County Home Rule Charters

Credit Unions

Fictitious Partnership Names

Fiduciaries

General Partnership Statement

Limited Liability Companies

- Authorized Livestock Farm (domestic & foreign)
- Business (domestic & foreign)
- Farm/Ranch (domestic & foreign)
- Nonprofit (domestic & foreign)
- Professional (domestic & foreign)

Limited Partnerships (domestic & foreign)

Limited Liability Partnerships (domestic & foreign)

Limited Liability Partnerships – Professional (domestic & foreign)

Limited Liability Limited Partnerships (domestic & foreign)

Insurance Agencies

Irrigation Districts

Municipal Power Agencies

Real Estate Investment Trusts

Special Registered Agent Records

Soil Conservation Districts

State Banks

Trademarks

Trade Names

Vector Control Districts

Water Resource Districts



NORTH DAKOTA
SECRETARY OF STATE

MICHAEL HOWE, SECRETARY OF STATE

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