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## **Forbes Names North Dakota Best State to Start a Business**

**BISMARCK, ND** – For the second year in a row North Dakota was named the best state to start a business by Forbes Advisor. Forbes noted North Dakotas welcoming business environment, low formation fees, 77% business survival rate, and a low cost of living as reasons why North Dakota was selected.

Secretary of State Michael Howe was not surprised Forbes put North Dakota on top. “North Dakota has always been a great place to live and a great place to start a business. Our citizens know what hard work means and value supporting their neighbors.”

To make their determination Forbes Advisor looked at things like a businesses ability to succeed, costs, workforce, and financial accessibility. Forbes wrote, “North Dakota not only offers financial incentives but also provides a solid foundation for workforce development, ensuring businesses have access to a skilled and able workforce.”

Howe highlighted how the Secretary of State’s Office has been working hard to serve the people of North Dakota more efficiently since he took office. “In 2022 we processed filings in under 7 days, which is a great turnaround rate. In 2023 we implemented new processes to cut that time by 3 days. Now, filings are processed in under 4 days. That productivity directly impacts the people we serve, making their lives a little bit easier.”

If you need help starting a business, contact the North Dakota Secretary of State’s Business Services office at 701-328-2900.

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*The Office of Secretary of State oversees a variety of functions, including elections, business registrations, licensing for certain occupations, Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) lien filings, and combative sports, as well as serving as the custodian of the Great Seal, and attesting official documents and acts of the Governor.*