

Legislative Report

This water Legislative Report is sent to subscribers of *Week in Water* as part of the *Week in Water* subscription.

I. 2019 Legislative Leaders Chosen

The legislative leadership for the 66th Legislative Assembly has been chosen. Republican and Democratic House and Senate members have selected the following leaders for the 2019 legislative session. There are 79 Republicans and 15 Democrats in the House of Representatives and 37 Republicans and 10 Democrats in the Senate. The leadership of the two parties include:

Senate

- President – Lt. Governor Brent Sanford (R)
- President Pro Tempore – David Hogue (R)
- Majority Leader – Rich Wardner (R)
- Assistant Majority Leader – Jerry Klein (R)
- Majority Caucus chair – David Hogue (R)
- Minority Leader – Joan Heckaman (D)
- Assistant Minority Leader – John Grabinger (D)
- Minority Caucus chair – Erin Oban (D)

House of Representatives

- Speaker of the House – Lawrence Klemin (R)
- Majority Leader – Chet Pollert (R)
- Assistant Majority Leader – Scott Louser (R)
- Majority Caucus chair – Shannon Roers Jones (R)
- Minority leader – Josh Boschee (D)
- Assistant minority leader – Karla Hanson (D)
- Minority Caucus chair – Gretchen Dobervich (D)

Committee chairs for the 2019 legislative session:

Senate Committees

- Agriculture – Larry Luick
- Appropriations – Ray Holmberg
- Education – Donald Schaible
- Finance and Tax – Dwight Cook
- Government & Veterans Affairs – Kyle Davison
- Human Services – Judy Lee
- Industry, Business and Labor – Jerry Klein
- Judiciary – Diane Larson
- Energy & Natural Resources – Jessica Unruh
- Political Subdivisions – Randall A. Burckhard
- Transportation – David Rust

House Committee

- Agriculture – Dennis Johnson
- Appropriations – Jeff Delzer
 - Education and Environment – David Monson
 - Government Operations Division – Don Vigesaa
 - Human Resources Division – Jon Nelson
- Education – Mark S. Owens
- Finance and Taxation – Craig Headland
- Government and Veterans Affairs – Jim Kasper
- Human Services – Robin Weisz
- Industry, Business and Labor – George Keiser
- Judiciary – Kim Koppelman
- Energy & Natural Resources – Todd Porter
- Political Subdivisions – Jason Dockett
- Transportation – Dan Ruby

II. Governor's Budget: General

The Governor's Budget Recommendation priorities include infrastructure, tax relief, education and economic development. On December 5th, Governor Burgum presented the Executive Budget Recommendations to the Legislative Assembly, which included revenues totaling \$14.3 billion and \$14.3 billion in ongoing expenditures.

Governor Burgum's full budget recommendations, including the text of the budget address and PowerPoint presentation, is available on the [OMB website](#).

The [2019-2021 Revenue Forecast](#), along with Moody's Analytics' economic report, was presented by the Office of Management and Budget following the organizational session.

III. Governor’s Budget: Water

The initial Governor’s Budget Recommendation includes \$464 million for one “bucket” of essential water projects under the State water Commission, of this amount \$403 million would state funds for water project funding.

On December 7th the State Water Commission adopted a 2019-2021 funding priority list totaling \$478 million, which includes \$75 million of debt for the Northwest Area Water Supply project. The SWC priority list has many of the same project areas, but the targeted funding amounts differ from the project funding needs identified by the North Dakota Water Coalition for water project needs in 2019-2021 which total \$552.4 million which would entail \$150 million of credit:

	Total Project Cost	Water Coalition 2019-2021 state funding targets	State Water Commission adopted 2019-2021 funding Targets
Fargo Moorhead Diversion	\$2.75 B	\$66.5 M*	\$166.5 M
Red River Valley Water Supply Project	\$1.03 B	\$50.0 M	\$30 M
Irrigation Infrastructure		\$1.0 M	
Mouse River Flood Control	\$1.028 B	\$100.0 M	\$70 M
Municipal Water Supply (cities)	\$125-150 M	\$75.0 M	\$20 M
Rural Water (systems)		\$50.0 M	\$30 M
General Water Management/Conveyance		\$45.0 M	\$10 M
Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS)	\$411 M	\$86.0 M	\$75 M ²
Sheyenne River Flood Control for Valley City/Lisbon	\$143 M	\$10.9 M	\$11 M
Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP)	\$370.99 M	\$30.6 M	\$16.5 M
Western Area Water Supply (WAWS)		\$37.5 M	\$35 M
Devils Lake Outlet Operations			\$8 M
Other Flood Control and Conveyance			\$6 M
Total		\$552.4 M³	\$478 M
*Legislative Intent ² Represents a line of credit ³ Includes \$150 million line of credit			

IV. How to Contact Your Legislators

During a legislative session, a legislator can be reached at the State Capitol through e-mail or by leaving a message with the legislative telephone message center at (888) NDLEGIS (635-3447). That number can also be used to obtain information on bills under consideration. A legislator can also be reached by mail or e-mail and address rosters are posted at the on the [legislative website](#).

Addressing Mail Correspondence

To a Senator:

Honorable (full name)
State Senator
600 E Boulevard Ave
Bismarck, ND 58505
Dear Senator (last name)

To a Representative:

Honorable (full name)
State Representative
600 E Boulevard Ave
Bismarck, ND 58505
Dear Representative (last name)

V. 2019 Legislative Deadlines and Dates

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
January 3	Session begins with the Tribal-State Relationship Message, State of the Judiciary, and State of the State Address
January 14	Deadline for representatives to introduce bills
January 21	Deadline for senators to introduce bills
February 12	Rural Water/North Dakota Water Coalition Legislative Social
February 22	Crossover for bills
February 25-26	Recess
March 6	Crossover for resolutions
April 30	Session is limited to 80 legislative days (The Legislature may not meet each day, which could extend this deadline)

VI. 2019 Water Day

Water Day at the Capitol will on February 12. In conjunction with Water Day at the Legislature, the North Dakota Water Coalition and the North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association will host a social for water leaders and North Dakota Legislators on **Tuesday, February 12** from **5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.** at the **Ramkota Hotel**.

Please plan to attend this event and educate your legislators about the state's important water needs.

VII. E-mail Version of Weekly Legislative Reports

If you receive this report by mail or fax, please send your email address to jellingson@ndwater.net, for the weekly updates to be more efficiently delivered electronically.

VIII. Legislative Bills

Some bill numbers have not yet been assigned, but the following issues are anticipated:

1. APPROPRIATION BILLS

SB 2020 The appropriation bill for the State Water Commission. A hearing date has not announced.

2. WATER POLICY BILLS

Bills regarding restoration of cost-share for snagging and clearing, as well as adjustments to tile drainage permit processes, and extending the mill levy for Southwest Water Authority are anticipated to be

introduced in the 2019 session. As of this date, bills have not been introduced.