

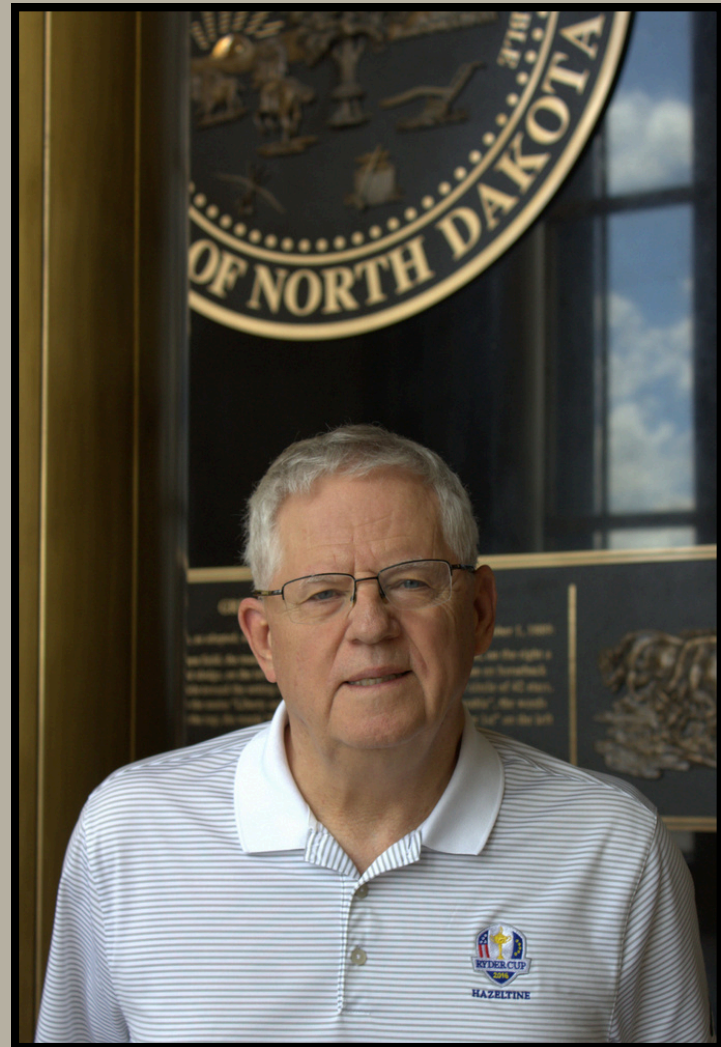
Dakota Dilemmas:

Roadmap to the
Travel Rules



ND | ETHICS
COMMISSION

MEET THE MEMBERS OF THE ETHICS COMMISSION



Acting Chair
Ron Goodman



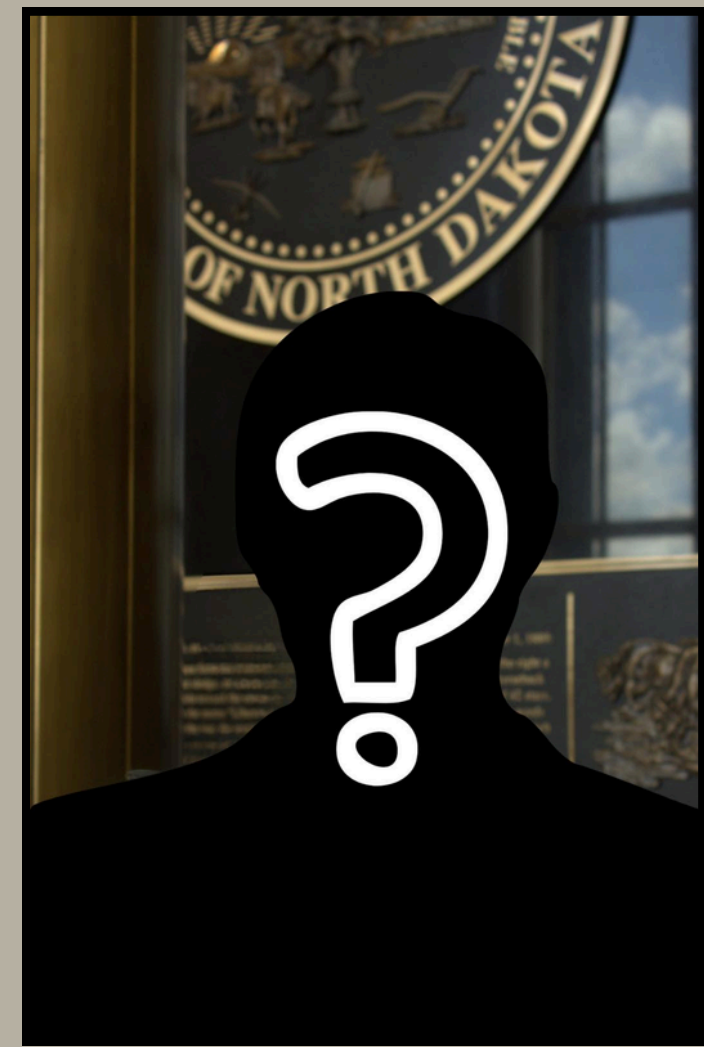
Commissioner
Pamela Sharp



Commissioner
Mark Western

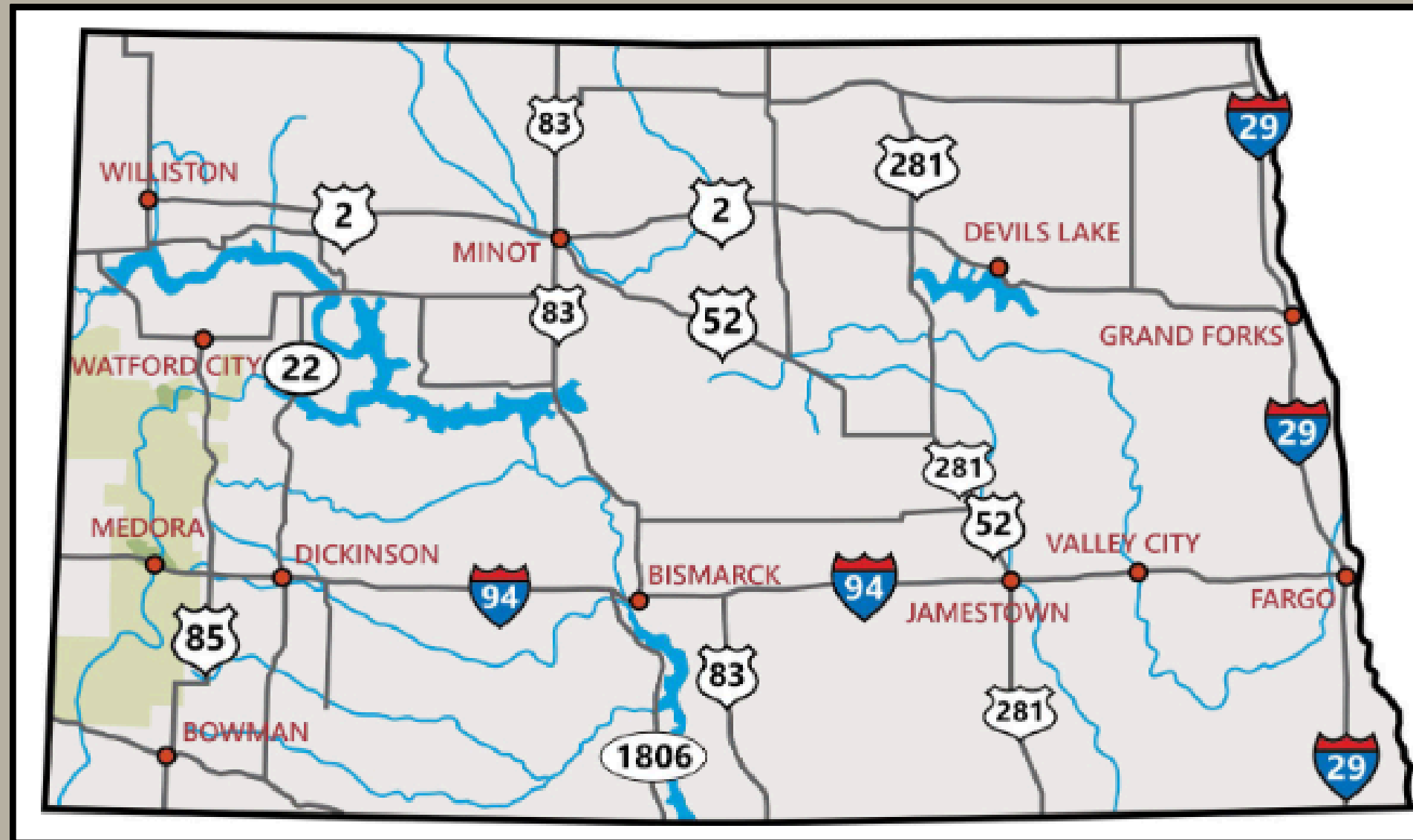


Commissioner
Jared Huibregtse



TBD

Roadmap



- 01 Article XIV
- 02 Rule Development
- 03 Travel Disclosure Rules
- 04 Filing Requirements

A Constitutional Amendment

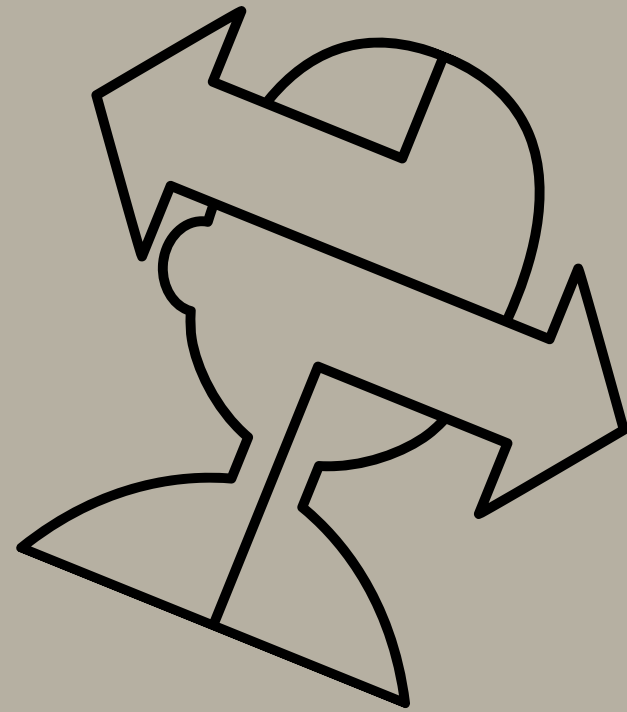
2018 General Election

Established state ethics commission in
Article XIV of the North Dakota
Constitution

Commission has authority over
transparency, corruption, elections, and
lobbying

**ARTICLE XIV
ETHICS COMMISSION**

Ethics Rules



The Complaint Process

Lobbyist Gifts

Quasi Judicial - Appearance of Bias

Conflicts of Interest

Travel Disclosure

Rulemaking Process

Ethics Commission \neq Administrative Agency

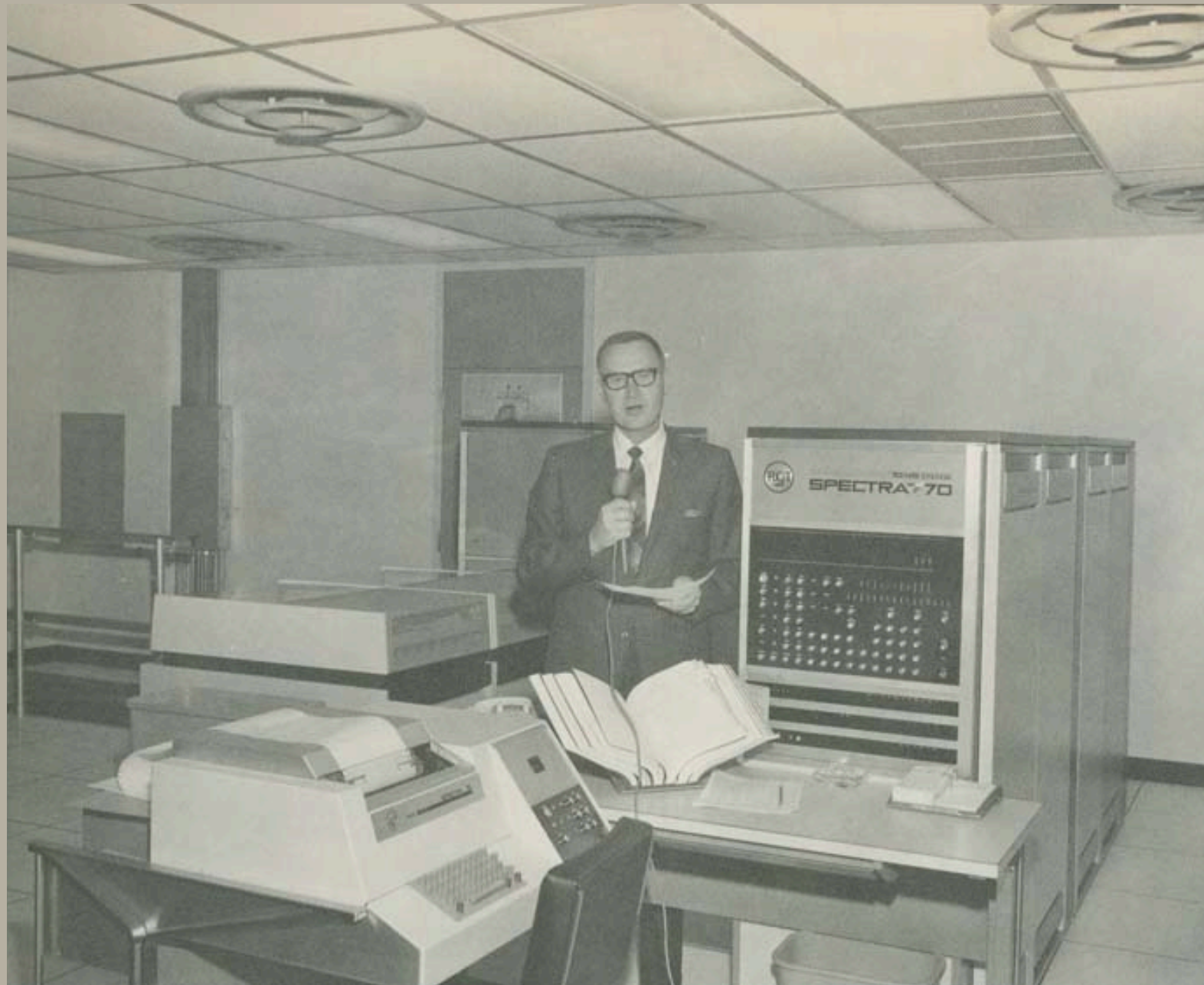
Administrative Agencies Practice Act
includes the Ethics Commission for specific sections

“Agency” and “commission”

Proposed Rule \rightarrow Notice \rightarrow Comments and Hearing
 \rightarrow Respond to Comments \rightarrow Final Approval \rightarrow
Publication



Research Project



SHSND 04006

New State Computer System - October 1968

Fall of 2023 - Commission Conducts National Review of Financial and Travel Disclosure Requirements

2025 - ND Requires Statements of Interest Annually

37 States Required Disclosure of Travel

Ethics Commission begins rule development

Rule Development

Focus of the Rules

Commission focused on avoiding duplication

Travel reported elsewhere? Two main areas:

- (1) the state's enterprise resource planning system (Peoplesoft); and
- (2) the Legislative Assembly's Report on Out-of-State Meeting form.

Focus = travel taken in relation to the public official's status as a public official that is not reported anywhere else - later defined as "third-party-funded travel"



SHSND 06419

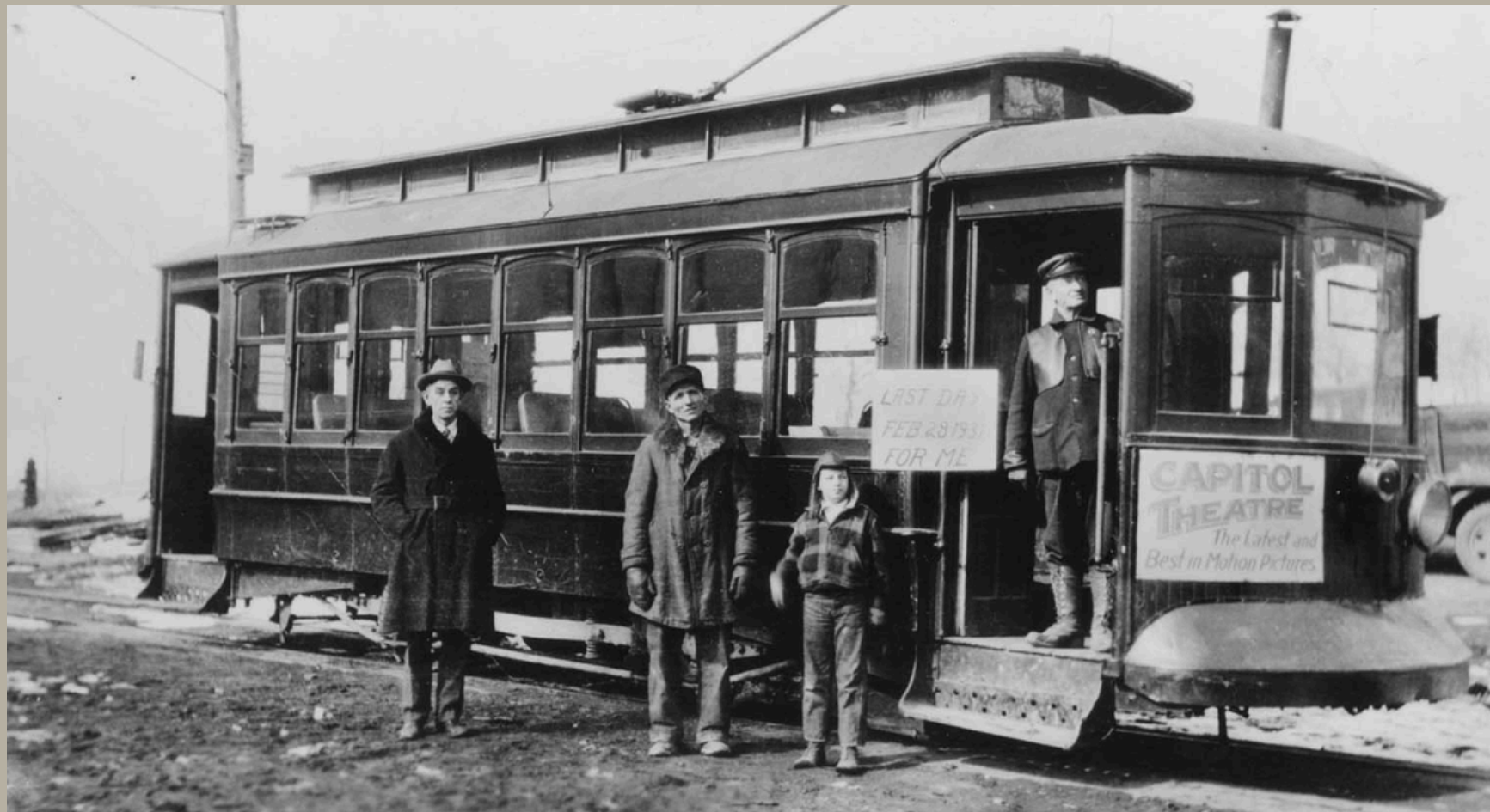
Two Automobiles Travel Between Buttes - ca. 1927

Rule Development

Non-Reported Travel

Examples of travel not reported to a central location:

- travel-exchange program for legislators to Europe;
- soybean tour;
- organizational meeting in Chicago;
- an automobile equipment show in Las Vegas
- trips to Israel; and
- a sugarbeet bus tour.



SHSND 3372_00001

Retirement of Bismarck's First Streetcar - March 1931

A Proposed Rule

May 8, 2025 - Began rulemaking process

July 14, 2025 - Public Hearing

November 19, 2025 - Commission considered comments and made revisions

November and December 2025 - Commission circulated revised version of the proposed rules

April 24, 2026 - Commission made slight revisions and adopted the rules

July 1, 2026 - Effective Date of Rules

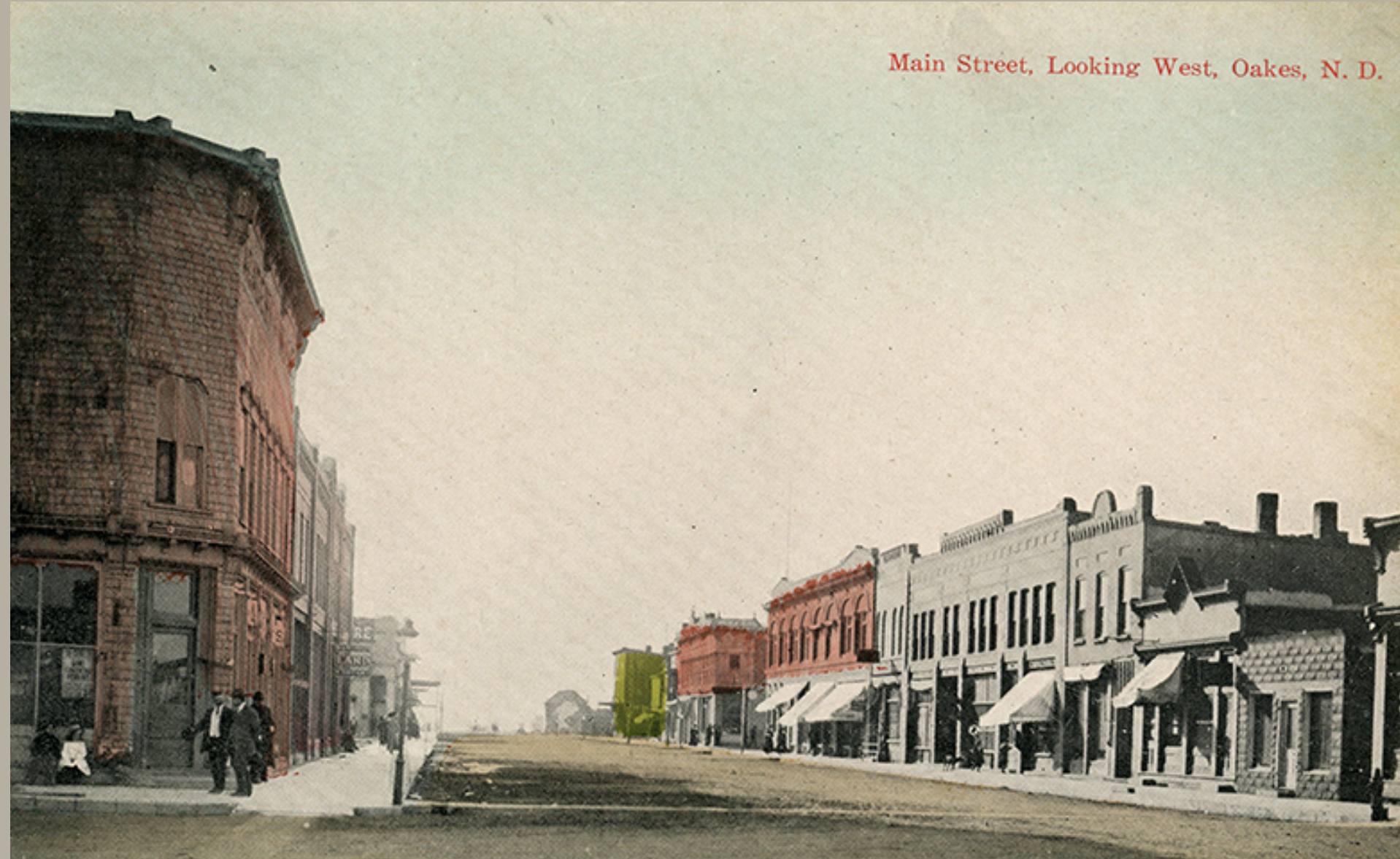
**ABBREVIATED NOTICE OF
INTENT TO ADOPT NORTH
DAKOTA ETHICS COMMISSION
RULES RELATING TO TRAVEL
DISCLOSURE**

TAKE NOTICE that the North Dakota Ethics Commission will hold a public hearing to address proposed travel disclosure rules at 9:30 am on July 14, 2025, at 600 E Boulevard Ave, Sakakawea Room, Bismarck, ND and on Microsoft Teams. These are not emergency rules.

A copy of the proposed rules and a link for the hearing may be found at www.ethicscommission.nd.gov or obtained by calling (701) 328-5325. Written comments may be submitted on the Ethics Commission's website or to 600 E Boulevard Ave, Dept 195, Bismarck, ND 58505 until July 28, 2025. If you plan to attend the public hearing and will need special facilities or assistance relating to a disability, please contact the Ethics Commission at the above telephone number at least 14 days prior to the public hearing. Dated this 8th day of May, 2025.

Rebecca Binstock, Executive Director,
North Dakota Ethics Commission
5/14 - COL-ND-1544

Travel Disclosure Rules



SHSND 04975

Main Street, Looking West, Oakes

Five Sections

- (1) Definitions
- (2) Travel Disclosure Statement
- (3) Filing and Format
- (4) Public Access and Retention
- (5) Sanctions

Public Official



SHSND 0310_00005

Travel disclosure rules apply only to public officials.

- elected or appointed officials in the executive or legislative branch
- members of the Ethics Commission
- members of the governor's cabinet
- employees of the legislative branch

Third-Party-Funded Travel

- (1) travel within or outside the state;
- (2) undertaken by the public official, or the public official's immediate family*;
- (3) in relation to the public official's status as a public official; and
- (4) includes travel paid with federal, state, tribal, or local public funds

*Immediate family = parent; sibling; child by blood, adoption, or marriage; spouse; grandparent; or grandchild.



SHSND 01576

Third-Party-Funded Travel Cont.

Does **NOT** Include

- (1) travel taken unrelated to the public official's status as a state public official;
- (2) travel paid with a public official's personal or campaign finances;
- (3) travel that is confidential under state law;
- (4) travel to actively support or oppose a candidate or political party; and
- (5) policy-monitored travel



SHSND 00540

Policy-Monitored Travel

REPORT ON OUT-OF-STATE MEETING



Not reported to the Commission as part of the travel disclosure rules.

(1) travel expenses reported within the state's enterprise resource planning system (Peoplesoft); and

(2) legislator travel reported on the legislative assembly's report on out-of-state meeting form

Travel Disclosure Statement

- (1) the purpose of travel;
- (2) the destinations visited;
- (3) the dates of travel;
- (4) the sources of funds used;
- (5) estimate or actual amount expended;
- (6) whether the expenses were for air/ground transportation, lodging, meals, entertainment, or other activities; and
- (7) number of accompanying family members, if any



Sanctions



SHSND 00015

Broadway & 2nd ST Bismarck - 1920s

“The sanction may include nonmonetary directives or an order to pay a penalty.”

Late or Voluntarily Amended

- Within 6 days - \$25
- Within 11 days - \$50
- After 11 days - \$100

Amendment Required for Incorrect or Incomplete

(10-day deadline before sanctions may apply)

- Within 6 days - \$50
- Within 11 days - \$100
- After 11 days - \$200

Sanctions Cont.



SHSND 0693_00001

Broadway and Northern Pacific Ave - Fargo

- When public official knowingly fails to file or knowingly falsifies information**
- First Violation - up to \$500
 - Second and Subsequent Violation - up to \$1000
 - If warranted for effective deterrence - costs of investigation for knowing violation.

Collected sanctions - placed to the credit of the general fund

Travel Disclosure Rules

Filing and Format

The screenshot shows the ND Ethics Commission website. The header features the logo on the left and navigation icons (email, Facebook, YouTube) and a search bar on the right. The main navigation menu includes Home, Meetings & Events, News, About Us, Resources, Commission Action, Education, Public Input, FAQs, and Forms. The Forms menu is expanded, listing Advisory Opinions, Complaints, Conflicts of Interest, Meeting Notices, Quasi-Judicial Proceedings, and Travel Disclosure Form Resources. The page title is 'Travel Disclosure' and the breadcrumb is 'Home / Travel Disclosure'. The main text explains that as of July 1, 2026, public officials must disclose third-party funded travel, and the page provides resources for this purpose. A note states that the form is currently a draft to be finalized by July 1, 2026.

ND | ETHICS COMMISSION

Home Meetings & Events News About Us Resources Commission Action Education Public Input FAQs Forms

Home / Travel Disclosure

Travel Disclosure

On July 1, 2026, rules requiring public officials to disclose third-party funded travel take effect. The Ethics Commission staff is here to ensure you have the resources and confidence needed to complete your travel disclosure forms. In addition to housing the Travel Disclosure Form, this page will serve as your evergreen, all-in-one travel disclosure resource. From webinars and office hours to TLDR guides and real-world examples, you'll find everything in one place, making each time you complete your travel disclosure form easier than TSA PreCheck.

Note: This form is currently a draft and will be finalized July 1, 2026.

Advisory Opinions
Complaints
Conflicts of Interest
Meeting Notices
Quasi-Judicial Proceedings
Travel Disclosure Form Resources

www.ethicscommission.nd.gov/Travel-Disclosure

Filing Requirements

Public Access and Retention

Public access for completed forms on
Commission website

Retention period for forms = three years

Similar to how the Commission hosts completed
meeting notices and conflict forms



SHSND 00007

Effective Date - July 1, 2026



Travel Disclosure Rules adopted April 24, 2026

Effective Date = July 1, 2026

Estimated first submissions in mid-July

Advisory Opinions

Questions regarding a specific trip?
Public official may consider requesting an
advisory opinion.

Advisory opinion information is available
on the Commission's website.



Questions?





Thank
you!

ethicscommission@nd.gov

or

701.328.5325

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