

News Release 20-01
For Immediate Release

Sept. 16, 2020

Contact: Dave Thiele 701-328-5322

North Dakota Ethics Commission Marks First Anniversary

BISMARCK, N.D. The North Dakota Ethics Commission, created by passage of initiated Measure 1 in 2018 and guided by provisions of [Article XIV](#) of the North Dakota Constitution, celebrated its first anniversary earlier this month. The five-member commission was appointed by Gov. Doug Burgum and the state Senate Majority and Minority leaders in Aug. 2019 after careful review of 69 applicants. With staggered terms beginning Sept. 1, 2019, members are:

- Chair Ron Goodman, retired district court judge, Oakes, N.D.
- Vice-Chair Dr. Cynthia Lindquist, President of Cankdeska Cikana Community College, Saint Michael, N.D.
- Ward Koeser, former mayor, Williston, N.D.
- Paul Richard, attorney and retired Sanford Health executive of Fargo, N.D.
- David Anderson, retired N.D. National Guard brigadier general of Bismarck, N.D.

The Commission marked the anniversary with a review of accomplishments since inception. As a new entity starting from scratch, Commission members worked effectively together to become operational as quickly as possible.

“Although it’s been challenging at times, I am extremely pleased with the Commission’s progress,” said Goodman. “Each commissioner brings a diverse background and unique perspective and we have worked together as true professionals. By promoting and ensuring transparency and accountability, we will fulfill our mandate of improving citizen confidence in state government.”

An executive director, Dave Thiele, followed by an office manager, Holly Gaugler, were hired in Jan. and April 2020 respectively.

Among the many tasks necessary to build a new organization from scratch, the Commission and staff coordinated efforts to secure office space, conducted meetings in accordance with open meetings rules, and established standard operating procedures within the commission to include record keeping in accordance with North Dakota law.

“It’s been an interesting and productive year,” Lindquist said. “We began by scheduling meeting dates as far out as possible ensuring the meeting information was properly publicized. The Commission has done its due diligence in establishing an internal code of ethics and complaint rules and is now nearing completion of gift rules. Citizens can access information on the website at <https://www.ethicscommission.nd.gov/> and, while it took longer than we liked to get it up and running, it is an important milestone for communication efforts. The Commission has more recently – and like

everyone, everything - had to work through the challenges of operating in a pandemic, which meant learning to conduct meetings online while ensuring transparency and public access. So far, so good!"

For more information on the Ethics Commission please go to <https://www.ethicscommission.nd.gov/>.

--- ### ---

"The mission of the North Dakota Ethics Commission is to strengthen the confidence of the citizens of North Dakota in their Government by ensuring and promoting transparency and accountability"