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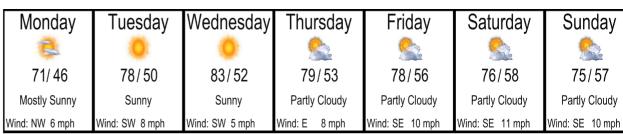
StormTRACKER Forecast

Mostly sunny and mild. Highs near 70°, light winds today. Lows in the 40s tonight, highs in the 70s tomorrow.

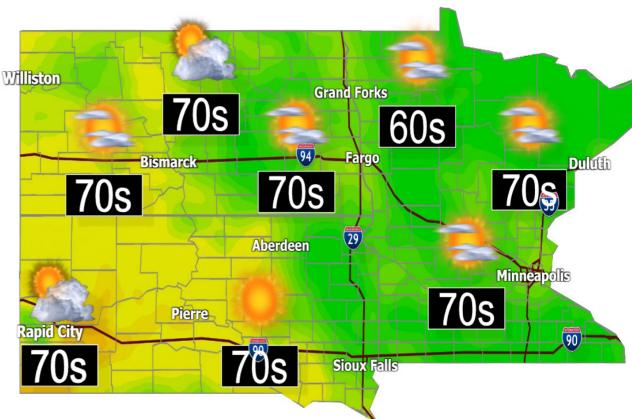
Almanac Through 12 AM Sunday

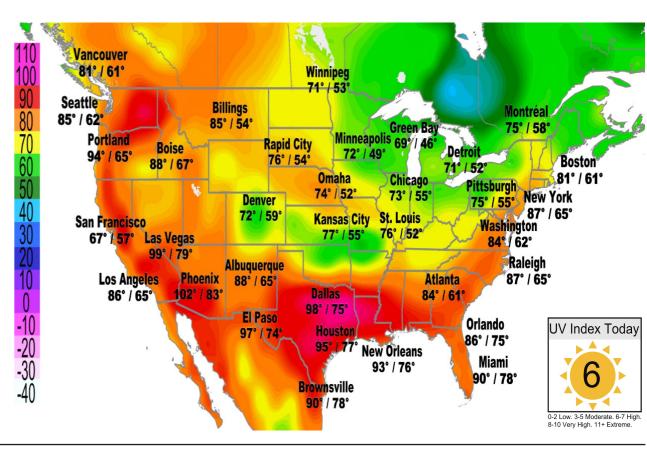
Temperature			High		Low
Saturday			69°		51°
Normal			79°		54°
Record	103°	in	1929	34°	in 1908
Precipitation Saturday Month To I Departure Year To Departure Departure	Date From A ate	Ŭ		To Date	3.06" 3.06" 3.06" 1.30" 14.23" -0.35"
Sunrise: 6:41	5 a m			Suncat: 8:2	6 n m

Sunrise: 6:45 a.m.		Sunset: 8:26 p.m.			
		Today		Tomorrow	
North Dakota	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo	
Bismarck	74	49	82	54	
Fargo	70	48	74	53	
Medora	78	48	85	52	
Minot	75	50	81	54	
Williston	76	47	83	52	
				morrow	
Minnesota	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo	
Alexandria	70	46	75	52	
Duluth	70	50	74	56	
International Falls	68	42	75	56	
Minneapolis	72	49	76	54	
Rochester	69	46	72	50	



*Average wind speed for each day





LEGACY

to be used for the general

CONTINUED from A1

fund. Schafer said a concern he has with the continued tapping into the earnings off the Legacy Fund is that commitments keep getting extended, currently to another decade out.

If oil revenues that the Legacy Fund relies on drop, those earnings could shrink. "Instead of each legisla-

tive session setting their priorities, they are expending it out and anticipating spending it out on estimated revenues for years and years and years ahead," Schafer said. "That's not the way

Yes on school meals

it should be set up.

no on charter schools Asked if they would like to see the Legacy Fund tapped for universal school meals, 70% supported that proposal and 26% opposed, according to the poll.

During the past session, House Bill 1553 proposed using around \$140 million from the Legacy Fund to cover meals for all K-12 students in the state, but was defeated in the House by a 74-14 vote against the bill.

The Legislature expanded eligibility to cover more, but not all, students later in the session.

"We see again that voters in North Dakota are

Undecided Note: Pollsters called 625 North Dakota voters Aug 4-6. The poll has an error margin of +/- 4% Source: North Dakota News Cooperative, Mason-Dixon Polling & Strategy strongly in favor of that,"

This spring, the North Dakota Legislature

passed a property tax relief bill supported

state's existing primary residence property

18%

Oppose

10%

by Governor Armstrong. It increases the

tax credit from \$500 per year to \$1.600 per year and

puts a 3% cap on future property tax increases. This

will be paid for through the state's Legacy Fund. Do

you support or oppose this legislation?

Support

said House Minority Leader Zac Ista, D-Grand Forks. "It's one of those things that will take a financial obligation off their plates and help our students and teachers do better in the classroom."

Respondents went the opposite direction on using the Legacy Fund for paying for school choice initiatives like private school vouchers: 58% opposed while 35% were in favor.

Strong support for Armstrong property tax plan

Most North Dakotans also back Gov. Kelly Armstrong's property tax relief package, which ended up being the choice of the Legislature during

the last session. That plan increased the existing primary residence property tax credit from \$500 to \$1,600 per year, with a 3% cap on future property tax increases

NORTH DAKOTA PROPERTY TAXES

property taxes are

further reduced or eliminated.

would you support or oppose

increasing state sales taxes

or income taxes to maintain

the funding that property

emergency services and

infrastructure

taxes generate for schools.

A total of 72% of the 625 respondents polled supported that plan, while 18% opposed. Support was relatively even across all political affiliations, though 32% of those identifying as Democrats opposed the plan.

Ista said he is happy to see the popularity of the property tax measure that was passed.

"Voters are saying, 'Hey, can we get a break here?" Ista said. "Can we ease that financial pressure of you know, our

property tax bill, whether you're paying that once a year or every month with your mortgage payment, people see it going up and up, and they want that relief to come their way."

Graphics by Troy Becker / The Forum

9% Undecided

Oppose

Would you support or oppose the use of the

state's Legacy Fund to provide additional

property tax relief in North Dakota?

25% Oppose

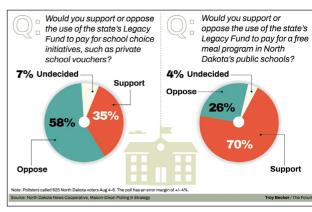
69% Support

53%

Support

Rick Becker, a former state legislator who drove a statewide measure to essentially abolish property taxes in 2024 that was eventually defeated, said dissent likely came from those who didn't benefit beyond the residence property tax relief.

"One category would be one where they didn't go far enough, and that would include farmers who got no relief, and small business or businesses, since property tax relief was left to residential only," Becker said.



No new tax increases

Most respondents, however, drew the line at raising sales or income taxes to generate revenue to pay for schools, emergency services and infrastructure if property taxes are further reduced.

A total of 53% opposed those increases, 38% supported, and 9% were unsure. Republicans had the highest level of support for raising those other taxes, with 43% in favor.

Becker thought the answers could be interpreted several ways and that the numbers are hard to dissect.

One interpretation is "they would rather not have their property taxes go down if it means sales taxes go up," he said. Another way to look at it would be "the property tax could go down, but we don't need sales tax since the local (political subdivisions) are already getting too much money,' Becker added.

"This question leaves open, I think, more questions than it has answers," he said.

The North Dakota Poll, initiated by the North Dakota News Cooperative, was conducted by Mason-Dixon Polling & Strategy, Inc. of Jacksonville, Flori da. From Aug. 4-6, a total of 625 adult regular voters were interviewed statewide by phone. The margin of error is no more than plus or minus 4%, according to the polling firm.

A total of 155 respondents were in Fargo-Cass County, 155 in eastern North Dakota, 120 in the Bismarck-Mandan region and another 195 in western North Dakota. Quotas were assigned to reflect

voter turnout by county. Of the 625 respondents, 135 identified as Democrat (22%), 271 as Republican (43%) and 219 as independent (35%).

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