

# ELECTION COVERAGE

## Wishek Council from front: Measure on ballot asks voters whether to reallocate sales tax funds

opportunities for the city.

Opsahl is the McIntosh County Road Superintendent.

Whittney Lipp, the council's current president, has filed to retain her seat. First elected in 2014, she holds the streets and sidewalks and Library portfolios. "I'll forever feel like there are things to do, and I'm happy to keep serving," she said. Lipp said she has received a lot of encouragement from residents to continue sitting on the council. "I'm one of Wishek's biggest cheerleaders, and I feel I've gained a lot of confidence and experience in my three terms that can benefit the city." Lipp owns Salon Envy in Wishek.

Greg Salwei was appointed in 2025 and is seeking election to complete the two remaining years of that term. He oversees the city hall portfolio which includes the emergency siren and electronic sign projects.

Salwei has a storied history of community service that includes sitting on the school board, hospital board, Tri-County Fair board, the N.D. Long-Term Care Assn., Catholic Charities of N.D. at the state levels, and is a 40-year member of the Wishek Fire Department. He is retired but remains involved in a number of organizations.

Jessica Welder chose not to seek re-election, which leaves two more open seats to be filled. These seats will be filled either by write-in candidates or appointments by the council after the election.

Perry Turner could well be among the longest-serving elected officials in the state. He's served 11 terms as Wishek Municipal Judge, and is seeking election to his 12th four-year stint. He is running unopposed.

Since his first election in 1982, Turner said he has logged 300-350 hours of training to serve in his capacity as city judge. The position requires the ability to support peoples' rights while upholding the law, he added. "The city has made a big investment in me. It's a tough job sometimes, but I feel like I know what I'm doing, my health is good and I'm up for another four years. After that, we'll see."

### WISHEK PARK BOARD

Five seats need to be filled on the Wishek Park this election. Incumbents Sara Gross and Mary Ann Weber have filed petitions to fill a pair of two-year unexpired terms. Tyler Welder and Eric Piatz filed their petitions to fill two of the three four-year terms up for election.

Piatz, the current board president, is completing his first full term. He carried the baseball program portfolio for three years and the Green Lake portfolio for one year after the resignation of some board members. "I like to see stuff get done, and our parks looking nice and welcoming," he said of his reason for running. Piatz said he is not one to sit still. "It doesn't hurt to do good deeds for our small town." He runs spraying equipment for Simplot in Wishek.

Welder has served one year on the park board, filling the remainder of a term vacated by a member who resigned. He holds the baseball portfolio. His love for baseball is driving his decision to run. "I want to see the fields taken care of so the kids have a nice field. I also coach baseball, so I thought it would be a good fit." Welder currently works for Outlaw Construction.

A third four-year term is also up for election, which will have to be filled by a write-in candidate or appointment by the board.

Mary Ann Weber was appointed to the board in October 2025 to fill a vacant seat. In her first attempt at public office, Weber carries the swimming pool portfolio. The park board is spearheading the construction of a new pool slated to be open for the 2027 season.

"I'm running because I believe in Wishek. It is a family community," she said. "We owe it to generations past and future to be involved. If we sit back and wait for someone else to do something, our legacy ceases to exist." And, if that doesn't inspire people to vote for Mary Ann, she claims to swim a pretty mean half mile American front stroke. So, there's that.

She is retired, however is involved with the operation of the swimming pool,

is president of Dollars for Scholars and substitute teaches at Wishek Public School.

Sara Gross will seek her second four-year term to the park board. She has the park portfolio. "I have enjoyed being on the board the past four years," she said. "Being on the board keeps me involved with the community."

Gross was elected as the board was seriously pursuing the construction of the new swimming pool, which is underway, and she wants to be involved in seeing that project through. "I am proud of the time and effort we as a board have put in, and I would like to continue being involved and assist as needed," she said.

Gross is the infection control and quality assurance nurse at the Wishek Living Center.

### MEASURES

Wishek voters will also determine the allocation of

the city sales tax revenue currently dispersed to the park board, Job Development Authority, the swimming pool project and the City of Wishek. After several rounds of negotiations between the city, park board and JDA officials, Measure No. 01 will amend the city's Home Rule Charter to reallocate the sales tax revenue for four years (2027-2030). If voters approve, funding will be divided as such: 20 percent to the Park Board; 40 percent to the park board's pool project; 15 percent to the JDA and 25 percent to the City of

Wishek's general fund.

Should the measure fail, the current allocation will remain in place, in which the city, park board, pool project and JDA each receive 25 percent of collected revenue.

There will be one state-wide Constitutional Measure on the ballot as well. The measure would change the North Dakota Constitution to state that a constitutional amendment proposed by lawmakers or citizen group can only deal with one topic. It is common for amendments to include more than one issue in the same document, which means voters sometimes have to vote for something they may not support to get approved what they do support.

Positive aspects of this change prevents "bundling" unrelated issues and makes voting clearer. It increases accountability and gives oversight to the Secretary of State. A no vote could limit

grassroots efforts that will become more costly, forcing the need to run several campaigns instead of one. Another concern is that the measure could be perceived as political or subjective since the Secretary of State's office will determine what counts as one issue.

See a letter from Mayor Dohn on page 12.

### Wishek Special Meeting

The Wishek City Council met for a special meeting on April 20th, 2026 at 5:00 pm. Mayor Dohn called the meeting to order and Councilpersons Welder, Lipp, Opsahl, Salwei, Eiseman & Roth-VIA phone answering roll call. Also present was Andy Tunheim, Josh Kiefer & Tom Lovik.

Lipp declared a conflict. Public works position-Kiefer recommended Cody Vetter, motion by Opsahl 2nd by Welder to hire Cody at \$20 an hour, roll call vote 5-0.

Data center was discussed, reps will be at the City Council meeting May 6th @ 5:00pm, at the Civic Center for a presentation.

On a motion by Opsahl to adjourn meeting at 5:36 pm 6-0. Attest: Mary Vickers, Auditor Brenda Dohn, Mayor (April 29, 2026)

**PRIMARY ELECTION 2026**

Applications for mail ballots have been mailed by the County Auditor's office to each person who is listed in the central voter file for the county. In the event that a county elector did not receive an Application, you may complete the application below and mail or deliver it to the McIntosh County Auditor, PO Box 39, Ashley, ND 58413, or obtain an Application by calling the Auditor's office at 701-288-5140 Ext 1.

<b>ABSENTEE/MAIL BALLOT APPLICATION</b> SECRETARY OF STATE SFN 51468 (10-2023)	<b>For Office Use Only</b> Precinct Part _____								
For reference, see North Dakota Century Code, Chapter 16.1-07.									
Application must be for at least one of the following elections: (check all that apply)									
<input type="checkbox"/> June (Primary) election <input type="checkbox"/> City or city special election <input type="checkbox"/> State or county special election <input type="checkbox"/> November (General) election <input type="checkbox"/> School or school special election									
<b>Applicant Information: (ALL FIELDS REQUIRED)</b>									
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">Voter's name</td> <td style="width: 15%;">Date of birth</td> <td style="width: 15%;">Daytime telephone number</td> </tr> </table>		Voter's name	Date of birth	Daytime telephone number					
Voter's name	Date of birth	Daytime telephone number							
North Dakota ID type used: (check one)									
<input type="checkbox"/> Driver's license <input type="checkbox"/> Non-driver's ID <input type="checkbox"/> Long-term care certificate (include with application) <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal ID <input type="checkbox"/> Passport (only for voters living outside the United States) or military ID** <input type="checkbox"/> Applicant without ID*									
ID number (required only if driver's license, non-driver's ID, tribal ID, passport, or military ID is selected above)									
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Residential address</td> <td style="width: 10%;">City</td> <td style="width: 10%;">State</td> <td style="width: 20%;">ZIP code</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ballot delivery address (if different from residential address)</td> <td>City</td> <td>State</td> <td>ZIP code</td> </tr> </table>		Residential address	City	State	ZIP code	Ballot delivery address (if different from residential address)	City	State	ZIP code
Residential address	City	State	ZIP code						
Ballot delivery address (if different from residential address)	City	State	ZIP code						
I do solemnly affirm that I have resided or will reside in the precinct where my residential voting address is located for at least 30 days next preceding the election and will be a qualified elector of the precinct.									
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">Signature (required)</td> <td style="width: 20%;">Date</td> </tr> </table>		Signature (required)	Date						
Signature (required)	Date								
<b>Applicant Unable to Sign:</b>									
If the applicant is unable to sign the applicant's name, the applicant shall mark <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or use the applicant's signature stamp on the application in the presence of a disinterested individual. The disinterested individual shall print the name of the individual marking the "X" or using the signature stamp below the "X" or signature and shall sign the disinterested individual's own name following the printed name together with the notation, "witness to the mark."									
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;"> <input type="checkbox"/>  <b>Voter's Mark</b> </td> <td style="width: 20px;">           Printed name of person making mark or voter's signature stamp            _____         </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">           _____            Signature of "witness to the mark"         </td> <td style="width: 20px;">           _____         </td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Voter's Mark</b>	Printed name of person making mark or voter's signature stamp _____	_____ Signature of "witness to the mark"	_____					
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_____ Signature of "witness to the mark"	_____								
<b>*Applicant Without ID:</b>									
If the applicant does not possess or cannot secure an approved form of identification due to a disability with which the individual lives and which prevents the individual from traveling to obtain, another qualified elector of the state may attest that the applicant is a qualified elector of that precinct by signing below and providing his or her approved North Dakota identification number. <b>NOTE:</b> A qualified elector may not attest the qualifications of more than four applications in an election.									
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">Printed name of attester</td> <td style="width: 30%;">Driver's / non-driver's / tribal ID number</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Signature of attester</td> <td>Date      Daytime telephone number</td> </tr> </table>		Printed name of attester	Driver's / non-driver's / tribal ID number	Signature of attester	Date      Daytime telephone number				
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Signature of attester	Date      Daytime telephone number								
<b>**Active Military and Overseas Voter:</b>									
Check <b>ONE</b> (if applicable):									
<input type="checkbox"/> Citizen living outside of the United States <input type="checkbox"/> Uniformed service or family member living away from the voter's residence, yet <b>within</b> the United States <input type="checkbox"/> Uniformed service or family member living away from the voter's residence, yet <b>outside</b> the United States									
If one of the check boxes above applies to you, please indicate your preferred ballot delivery method:									
<input type="checkbox"/> Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email (provide email address): _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Fax (provide fax number): _____									
<b>Mail or submit to the auditor of your county of residence or appropriate election officer</b> (The signature on this affidavit will be compared to the signature on the affidavit on the envelope in which the absentee ballot must be placed.)									