

North Dakota Supreme Court tosses ballot measure, finding term limits proposal unconstitutional

By Amy Dalrymple and Michael Achterling

North Dakota Monitor

The North Dakota Supreme Court on Thursday, June 25 found a term limits ballot measure advanced by state lawmakers to be unconstitutional and directed the secretary of state to not place it on the November ballot.

Legislators in 2025 adopted Senate Resolution 4008, which aimed to ask voters whether to amend lawmaker term limits they approved in 2022.

North Dakota lawmakers can serve no more than eight years in the House and eight years in the Senate after the passage of Article XV of the state constitution.

The proposed amendment that was headed to voters sought to allow lawmakers to serve up to 16 years in either chamber. It also sought to make it so partial terms don't count against term limits.

The ballot measure was challenged by former Minot Republican lawmaker Sen. Oley Larsen and Grand Forks County commissioner Terry Bjerke, who were members of the sponsoring committee for the 2022 ballot measure.

The Supreme Court sided with the challengers, finding that the ballot measure violates a clause in Article XV of the state constitution that bars the Legislature from proposing any constitutional amend-

ments to term limits.

Chief Justice Lisa Fair McEvers authored the unanimous opinion. Southeast Judicial District Court Judge Cherie Clark heard the case in place of Justice Mark Friese, who recused.

Larsen said Thursday he was pleased with the court's decision.

"It feels good," Larsen said. "When you know what's right, and you stick with what's right, sometimes good things happen."

Larsen said he hopes lawmakers will move on from trying to eliminate or change the term limits law approved by North Dakotans.

U.S. Term Limits, a national group that advocates for term limits, especially at the congressional level, funded the challenge of the ballot measure, said Scott Tillman, chief operations officer.

Sen. Michael Dwyer, R-Bismarck, chief sponsor of the legislative resolution, said he wasn't surprised by the Supreme Court's ruling based on what he heard during oral arguments.

"I'm disappointed. I thought there was a slim chance since the constitution already provides for the legislative assembly to put measures on the ballot," Dwyer said.

Legislators who favored the ballot measure said it honored the intent of voter-approved term limits while giving lawmakers more flexibility.

During an April hearing, an attorney for

the state Legislature argued that the Supreme Court should dismiss the case, in part because the measure had not yet had an effect because it had not gone before voters.

Secretary of State Michael Howe said the only effect the ruling will have for his office is relabeling the other ballot measures that will be put to voters this fall.

A ballot measure requiring approval from 60% of voters for future constitutional measures will become Measure 1 and the free school meals ballot measure will become Measure 2, he said.

Howe said the Supreme Court saw that his office followed the correct process.

"The secretary of state can't determine whether or not a ballot measure is constitutional," Howe said.

Attorney General Drew Wrigley, whose office represented the secretary of state, said he appreciates that the court resolved the matter in a timely fashion.

Attorneys for the Legislature referred a request for comment to Legislative Council. Director John Bjornson said his office was reviewing the opinion.

This story was updated with information from U.S. Term Limits.



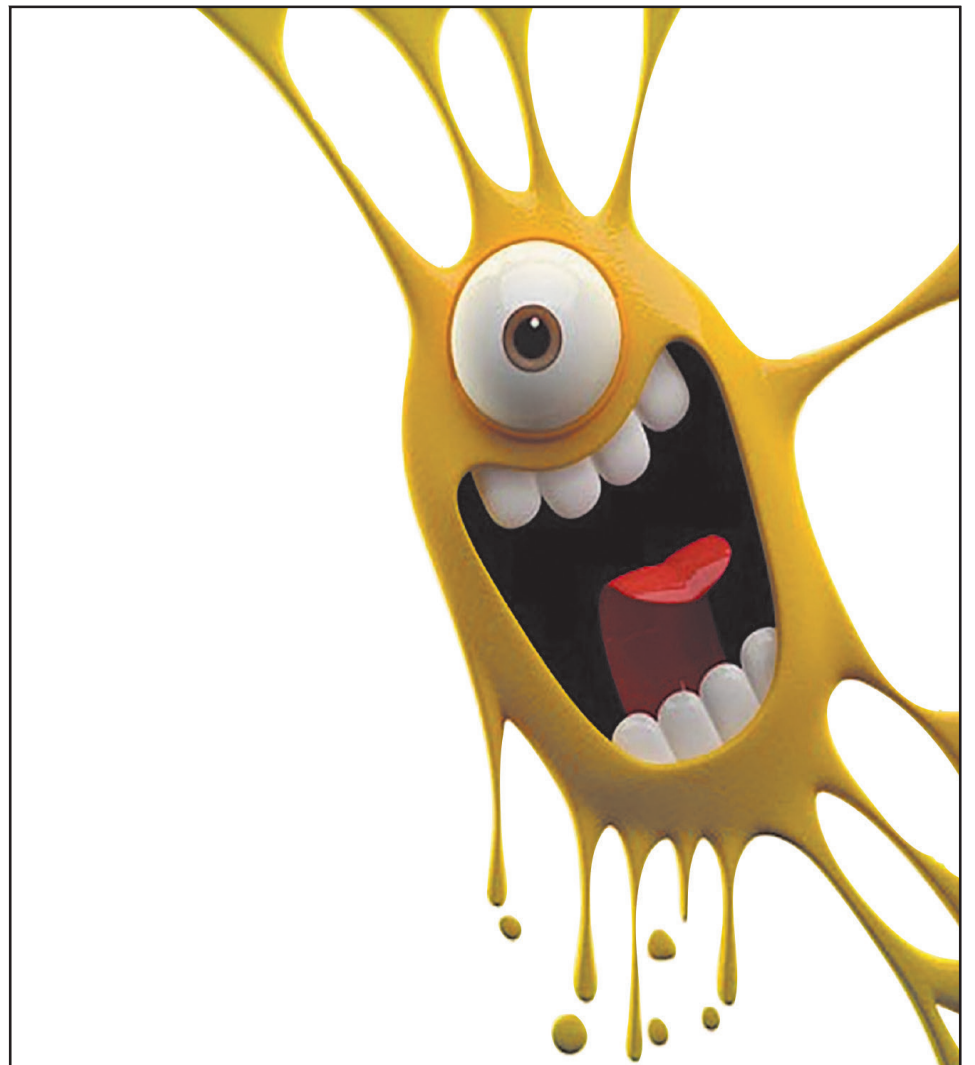
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MEMBERS OF THE North Dakota House of Representatives participate in a special session of the Legislature on Jan. 22, 2026.



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NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT LIST \$2,783,012.65 FOR 2025 STREET & UTILITY PROJECT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. 2024-04 AND 2024-05

NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Assessment List setting forth the amounts assessed against each lot or tract of land benefited by the improvement for 2025 Street & Utility Project Special Assessment Districts 2024-04 and 2024-05 was confirmed by the Special Assessment Commission on June 1, 2026, and is on file with the City Auditor and open to inspection by the public.

Notice is further given that the governing body of the City of Beach, North Dakota, will meet at City Hall in Beach, North Dakota, at 7:30 p.m., on July 20, 2026, to act upon the foregoing Assessment List. Prior to the meeting, any aggrieved person may appeal from the action of the Special Assessment Commission by filing with the City Auditor a written notice of appeal stating therein the grounds upon which such appeal is based.

CITY OF BEACH, NORTH DAKOTA
Kimberly Gaugler, City Auditor
(Published June 25 & July 2, 2026)

Notice of Hearing

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF GOLDEN VALLEY COUNTY, STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

In the Matter of the Estate of RICHARD M. YUELLS, deceased.
17-2026-PR-00012

NOTICE OF HEARING PETITION FOR FORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Richard A. Youells has filed herein a petition for formal probate of will and appointment of personal representative.

Hearing has been set upon said petition on the 27th day of August, 2026 at 8:30 o'clock a.m., at the Courtroom of the above-named Court in the City of Beach, County of Golden Valley, State of North Dakota.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that any person appearing for the purpose of objecting to any matter or item contained within the above-mentioned petition for formal probate of will shall file herein and serve upon the undersigned counsel for the Petitioner their written objections to the same not later than seven (7) days prior to the above scheduled hearing.

Dated this 12th day of June, 2026.

/s/ Olivia L. Krebs
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