

# Governor seeks AG opinion on veto ‘mistake’

**By Peyton Haug**  
Of The Fargo Forum

A veto by North Dakota Gov. Kelly Armstrong aimed at a single line item of a budget bill ended up removing an entire funding bucket designated for affordable housing, a move the administration said was a “mistake.”

In a veto letter published Monday, May 19, Armstrong said he was striking \$150,000 that was supposed to go to a liaison to address homelessness in tribal communities, calling on the state for more “long-term” solutions to the issue.

However, instead of only line-item vetoing the \$150,000, as discussed in the letter, the entire section was nixed, including \$25 million for affordable housing initiatives and \$10 million in homeless services.

Governor’s Office staff met with Legislative Council this morning to discuss options for correcting our markup error on SB 2014 to reflect the clear intent stated in the line-item veto message, Armstrong said in a Thursday, May 22 release. “If necessary, we will call the Legislature back to ensure the appropriate funding is delivered, but we hope to avoid the expense of a special session.

“This was an honest mistake, and we will fix it.”

The section containing the \$35 million for housing needs, section 7, was part of the North Dakota Industrial Commission’s budget, or Senate Bill 2014.

North Dakota’s Legislative Council confirmed to Forum News Service that the bill it received Monday, May 19, which was also sent to the Secretary of State, did not contain section 7 — meaning the \$35 million is no longer a part of the overall budget.

Of the state’s \$20.3 billion budget,

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**N.D. Gov. Kelly Armstrong**

the allocation was the only funding to specifically target housing needs.

Now, instead of the state spending approximately one-third of what Armstrong recommended it spend on affordable housing initiatives, it is currently slated to spend nothing.

Armstrong’s administration said the dollars will be reinstated, even if it means the Legislature has to convene for a special session. According to the Legislative Council, special sessions cost the state roughly \$65,000 per day.

If legislative leadership decides to meet and override the veto, which would involve reinstating the \$150,000 and the \$35 million, at least one of the 80 legislative days allowed by the constitution would be lost. Because the Legislature used 74 days during the regular 2025 session, there are six days left for a special session.

But if the governor calls upon the body to convene, the time wouldn’t count toward the constitutional limit.

It takes two-thirds of the Legislature to approve a veto override.

To reintroduce the bill with the \$35 million and not the \$150,000 would take at least three days to be approved by both chambers.

Working around a special session would “come under some degree of

legal scrutiny,” said John Bjornson, director of Legislative Council.

In 2018, the state Supreme Court ruled the governor “has no power to withdraw a veto.”

“It’s the risk of setting a precedent where a small number of legislators would be agreeing with the executive to do something that the entire body may not necessarily be in alignment with, as well,” Bjornson added.

The Housing Finance Agency, the entity in charge of the lost funding, deferred to the Governor’s Office when asked for a comment.

A few hours after Armstrong’s office released the statement Thursday morning, during a regularly scheduled Industrial Commission meeting, the governor assured the housing agency that the state is not getting rid of the funding.

“I have a very talented staff, and I’m very proud of them 99.9 percent of the time. They, however, apparently forgot their coloring skills from grade school,” Armstrong said. “We inadvertently made the mistake, which is on us and our office.

“We are talking to everybody we can from Legislative Council, our lawyers, everybody, to figure out if there is a legal way in which we can solve this without calling them (the

Legislature) back into a special session and costing the taxpayer dollars,” he continued. “However, if that is the only alternative, it will be exactly what I am doing because we are not getting rid of the housing finance funding.”

Thursday evening, Armstrong’s office requested an opinion from Attorney General Drew Wrigley on whether the intent outlined in a veto letter can override “the visual pen marks on the bill.”

The request obtained by Forum News Service argues “the veto message reflecting the objections serves as the official notice from the gover-

nor, whereas the physical vetoed bill merely serves as a color-coded visual aid.”

If Wrigley determines the letter can override a mistake on the “color-coded visual aid,” then the Legislature would not have to meet to fix said mistake.

It could be challenged and sent to the courts to decide, according to Wrigley.

“It’s intriguing,” he said, adding the opinion could set a precedent. “One of these is right, they can’t both be right. It can’t be both.”

He said it’s a “clear question” of what officially constitutes a veto: the

letter’s written intent or the markings on the bill itself.

Wrigley called the governor “wise” to “not just go along with an assessment made by Legislative Council,” because the Attorney General’s Office has the “authority and expertise” to determine if a special session is needed to fix the error.

According to Wrigley, the request has taken top priority, and an opinion will be issued in the coming weeks.

Legislative leaders are likely to discuss how to proceed during a Legislative Management meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 28, in Fargo.

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department announces the following summary of regulations and changes for the 2025-2026 Deer Hunting Proclamation.				
Apply online at <a href="http://gf.nd.gov">gf.nd.gov</a> . The deadline for submitting applications is June 4, 2025.				
SEASON	OPENS	CLOSES	AREAS	RESTRICTIONS
DEER BOW	August 29 12:00 noon (CT)	January 4	Statewide	Residents - Any deer is legal. No unit restrictions. Nonresidents - Restricted to species of deer described on license. No unit restrictions. Orange clothing required of all bow hunters during regular gun season.
DEER GUN	November 7 12:00 noon (CT) 16 1/2 Day Season	November 23	All units	Restricted to type of deer and unit described on license. Type of deer includes species and whether antlerless or antlered (at least one visible antler). Note exception for white-tailed deer hunters in units 4B, 4C, 4D and 4E. Orange clothing required.
MUZZLELOADER	November 28 12:00 noon (CT)	December 14	Statewide	Restricted to white-tailed deer only and type of deer described on license. No unit restrictions. Orange clothing required.
YOUTH DEER	September 19 12:00 noon (CT)	September 28	Statewide	11-, 12- and 13-year-olds – Any antlerless deer is legal.* 14- and 15-year-olds – Any deer is legal.* Orange clothing required. <i>*Hunting units 4A-4F, 3B1 and 3B2 a special license is required to hunt mule deer. These licenses are valid only in the unit specified on the license.</i>
SPECIAL DEER-BOW HERD REDUCTION	August 29 12:00 noon (CT)	January 31	See Proclamation	Restricted to any-antlerless deer as described on license.
SUMMARY OF CHANGES FROM LAST YEAR				A complete 2025 deer hunting proclamation is available from the North Dakota Game & Fish Department, 100 North Bismarck Expressway, Bismarck, ND 58501-5095, (701) 328-6300 or online at <a href="http://gf.nd.gov">gf.nd.gov</a> .
• The 2025 North Dakota deer hunting season is set with 42,300 licenses available, 7,800 less than last year. • A total of 806 muzzleloader licenses will be available in 2025, 150 less than last year.				

## Four more cases of measles found in North Dakota

It's been nearly two weeks since measles cases were reported at the West Fargo and Fargo Essentia clinics. As of Thursday, two more cases have been reported in Cass County.

“Once you have a few cases of measles, you always expect more because this is one of the most infectious diseases known to us. For every person who gets infected with measles will have 15 to 20 cases,” said Dr. Avish Nagpal, Infectious Disease Physician and Medical Director for Infection Prevention at Sanford Health.

Since the start of 2025, 17 cases in total have been reported throughout the state. And Dr. Nagpal believes due to the low numbers of people receiving vaccinations, the numbers will continue to grow.

“We do anticipate that this will become a more regular feature. Measles is here to stay for the next few weeks, months,” said Dr. Nagpal.

North Dakota Health and Human Services reported the new cases on their social media and stated that the two new cases reported in Cass County are not linked to the previous cases. “Check your vaccination records, talk to your doctor, contact your doctor's office, see if you need to be brought up to date. The vaccine is very safe and effective,” said Dr. Nagpal.

If you were born before 1957, you are considered immune to measles.

For all others, the best way to prevent measles is to receive one MMR vaccine.



## GENERAL ELECTION NOTICE

### ST. JOHN SCHOOL DISTRICT #3

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday the 10th of June, 2025, the annual election of the St. John Public School District #3 will be held at the St. John Public School in the Media Center.

The purpose of the election is to elect two members of the School Board, one from the rural population, and one from the city population, each for a term of three years. The polls will be open at 11:00am and will close at 7:00pm on that day.

Also on the ballot shall be the question of publishing the proceedings of the Board of Education in the official newspaper of the district.

**Anyone who is 18 years of age and has resided in St. John School District #3 for at least thirty (30) days is entitled to vote. You must have a valid picture form of ID with you.**

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# Church Directory

**Assembly of God - Rolette**  
Sunday School at 9 a.m.  
Sunday Worship at 10 a.m.  
Evening Service at 6:00 p.m.  
Pastor Gene Wilson 246-3250

**Ebenezer Lutheran Brethren - Rolette**  
9:00 a.m. Morning Worship  
and 10:15 a.m. Sunday school/Bible Class  
Pastor Gene Wilson 246-3488

**Sacred Heart Catholic Church Rolette**  
1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays at 11 a.m.  
2nd and 4th Sundays at 9 a.m.  
Fr. Petro Ndunguru 246-3449

**Valle Lutheran Church - Rolette**  
Children/Adult Sunday School 10:45 a.m.  
Worship at 8 a.m. • 246-3574  
Mountain View Ministry

**Salem Mennonite Church**  
3 miles south of Mylo  
Sunday School at 10 a.m.  
Sunday Worship at 11 a.m.  
Sunday Evening at 7 p.m.  
Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 8 p.m.

**Harvest Church**  
Nondenominational  
4635 78th Street Wofford, ND 58385  
Sunday Fellowship 9AM  
Sunday Service 10 AM  
Wednesday Worship 7 PM  
office@harvestchurchnd.com  
Pastor Jonathan Frohms 701-550-0577

**Turtle Mountain Baptist Church, Rolla**  
Sunday Worship at 11 a.m. & 5 p.m.  
Sunday School at 10 a.m.  
Wednesday Worship at 7 p.m.  
Pastor Frank Sheridan - 477-3213

**Presbyterian Church - Rolla**  
Sunday Worship at 11:00 a.m  
ACT, Wednesdays at 6:30 pm  
477-5376

**Immanuel Lutheran Church Rolla - L.C.M.S.**  
Sunday Worship at 11 a.m.  
Sunday School at 10 a.m.  
Holy Communion:  
Observed 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month  
Rev. Scott Ramey - 477-5122

**Our Savior's Lutheran Rolla**  
Wednesday Youth Group at  
Presbyterian Church at 7:05 p.m.  
Sunday Worship May and August - 10 a.m.  
June, September and October - 12 noon  
July, November and December - 8 a.m.

**St. Joachim Catholic Church Rolla**  
Saturday Mass at 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday Mass Schedule at 8:30 a.m.  
Jan., March, May, July, Sept. Nov.  
Sunday Mass Schedule 10:30 a.m.  
Feb., April, June, Aug., Oct, Dec.  
Rev. Thai Arul 477-5277

**United Methodist Church - Rolla**  
Worship at 8:30 a.m.  
Rick Craig, Pastor • 968-3361  
[www.rollaumc.com](http://www.rollaumc.com)

**Anishinabe Church of God - Dunseith**  
Sunday Worship at 11 a.m.  
Kidz Zone at 11 a.m.  
Prayer & Communion, Tuesday at 6 p.m.  
Pastor Daniel Bean 228-2056

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints - Rugby**  
Sunday services at 10 a.m.  
202 2nd St. West, Rugby  
President Val Christensen- 246-3579

**Dunseith Jesus Name Church of the Apostolic Faith**  
111 Main Street in Dunseith  
Sunday Worship at 11 a.m.  
Sunday School at 6 p.m.  
Wednesday Worship at 7:30 p.m.  
Pastor Todd Belgarde - 244-2230

**Peace Lutheran Church and United Methodist Church Joint Worship - Dunseith**  
Combined Sunday Worship at 12 noon  
Children/Adult Sunday School 10:00 a.m.  
244-5781  
Mountain View Ministry

**St. Michael The Archangel Catholic Church, Dunseith**  
Saturday Mass at 5 p.m.  
Sunday Mass at 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.  
Rev. Michael Slovak, S.O.L.T. 244-5738

**St. Sylvan's Episcopal - Dunseith**  
10 a.m. on the First and Third Sundays  
Father Paul Zaharia 701-720-2880

**Christian & Missionary Alliance - Turtle Mt. Alliance Church, Dunseith**  
Pastor Gary Dorn • Youth Pastor Joel Musser  
Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.  
Church Service at 11 a.m.  
Youth Group, Wednesday 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
244-0532

**All Nations Lutheran Church Rock Lake - L.C.M.S.**  
Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.  
Rev. Scott Ramey- 266-5361

**Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church - Rock Lake**  
Sunday Mass Schedule at 10:30 a.m.  
Jan., March, May, July, Sept. Nov.  
Sunday Mass Schedule 8:30 a.m.  
Feb., April, June, Aug., Oct, Dec.  
Rev. Thai Arul 477-5277

**United Methodist Church Rock Lake**  
Sunday Worship at 9:45 a.m.  
Rick Craig, Pastor • 968-3361

**Holy Rosary Catholic Church, Bisbee**  
1st Sunday at 9 a.m.  
2nd, 3rd, and 5th Sundays, Saturday at 5 p.m.  
4th Sunday at 11 a.m.  
Fr. Petro Ndunguru 246-3449

**St. Ann's Catholic Church - Belcourt**  
Saturday Mass at 5 p.m.  
Sunday Mass: 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m., 5 p.m.  
Confessions: Sat. 9:30 am & 4-6:30 pm, Sun. 8-11 am.  
4:30-6 pm and before or after daily Masses  
Monday - Friday Morning Mass: 6:30 AM QOP  
Monday - Friday Evening Mass: 5 PM QOP  
Tuesday: 11th and 12th grade Youth Group 6:30 to 8 p.m.  
Wednesday: 6th-12th Open Youth Room 4:30-6 p.m.  
Thursday: 4th-5th Grade Open Youth Room 4:30-6 p.m.  
Friday: 6th-12th Open Youth Room 6:30 to 8 p.m.  
Saturday: No Youth Group  
Rev. Michael Slovak, S.O.L.T. Rev. Dave Brokke, S.O.L.T.  
Rev. Fred Alexander, S.O.L.T. Rev. Anthony Hession, Deacon Francis Davis • 477-5601 ext. 0

**St. Anthony's Catholic Church Belcourt**  
Sunday Mass at 11:30 a.m.  
Fr. Michael Slovak, S.O.L.T • 477-5601 ext. 0

**St. John the Baptist Catholic Church - St. John**  
Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday Mass at 10:30 a.m.  
Confession Saturdays 4:15 to 5:15 p.m.  
Rev. Richard Fineo 477-3081

**Presbyterian Church, St. John**  
Sunday Worship at 9:00 a.m  
477-5376

**Emmanuel Chapel - PCG, St. John**  
Sunday School and Sunday Worship, 6:30 p.m.  
218 Grace Street, St. John  
Rev. Wayne Hanson - 477-8578

**St. Benedict's Catholic Church Rural Belcourt**  
Sunday Mass at 8:30 a.m.  
Confession: Sundays 8 to 8:30 a.m.  
Rev. Richard Fineo 477-3081

**Assembly of God - Belcourt Turtle Mountain Worship Center**  
Prayer Meeting Wednesdays at 6 p.m.  
Bible Study Wednesdays at 7 p.m.  
Sunday Worship at 11:00 a.m.  
Curtis Patnaude, pastor  
Phone 477-6017

**Notre Dame Catholic Church Willow City**  
1st and 4th Sundays, Saturday Evening at 5 pm;  
2nd Sunday at 11 am; 3rd and 5th Sundays at 9 am. Weekday Mass is Thursday at 9 am.  
Fr. Petro Ndunguru 246-3449

**Wofford Lutheran Church**  
Sunday Worship at 8:30 a.m.  
Coffee: 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.  
Rev. Barb Haugerud

**Church on a Mission Pentecostal Church of God**  
19th 1st St., 3rd Ave. SE, Dunseith  
(701) 244-0268  
Rev. Lloyd and Rae Flansburg

**Emmanuel Church - Dunseith**  
Sunday School and Sunday Worship, 10 a.m.  
3rd Avenue South - Dunseith  
Rev. Wayne Hanson - 477-8578

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Phone 477-3174

**JOHNSON OIL CO.**  
Tesoro Products  
Rolette - 246-3771

**HARLOW'S BUS SALES & SERVICE**  
Harlow Hageness, owner  
Rolette 246-3700

**DACOTAH BANK**  
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First State Insurance of Rolla

**ROLETTE STATE BANK**  
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**LEEVERS FOODS**  
Rolla's Full Service Grocery

**SMP ST KATERI HOSPITAL**  
Rolla • 477-3161

**ROLETTE INSURANCE AGENCY**  
at Rolette State Bank - 246-3395

**MUNRO MOTOR COMPANY**  
Phone 477-3124 - Rolla