

# Don't Overlook the June 9 Primary Election

**EDITORIAL FROM SECRETARY OF STATE MICHAEL HOWE**

Thomas Jefferson said "We do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate." On June 9th North Dakota will conduct its state-wide Primary election. If the past is any indication, "the majority who participate" as Jefferson mentions, may only be 11% of eligible North Dakota voters.

Since 2000 North Dakota has averaged a disappointingly sparse 22% turnout for the June Primary Election. Said

a different way, nearly 80% of eligible North Dakotans have stayed home and remained silent when it comes to electing their mayors, their city councils or commissions, and deciding who shall serve on their park board. Not all school board elections are on the Primary ballot, but many are. An overwhelming majority are yielding their vote for local representation in their school districts to a fraction of the population.

Yes, there are partisan races on the June Primary ballot. Nominations for statewide and legislative candidates

will make up the front page of your ballot. But on the other side of your ballot, you will find races that determine key local leaders; 728 city council and commission seats are up for grabs; 502 spots on park boards across North Dakota are up for a vote; city mayors and commission presidents, the leading voices of our cities, 205 of them to be exact, will be decided on June 9th. In all, 1,500 races and measures will be on Primary ballots in our state.

North Dakota offers several options to make participating in our elections convenient

for the voter. Eligible North Dakotans can choose to utilize absentee, early voting, or Election Day to cast their ballot. Early voting begins June 1st in Sioux, Stutsman, and Ward Counties. Cass and Grand Forks Counties will offer early voting beginning June 2nd. Burleigh County starts early voting on June 3rd. Morton and Stark Counties will launch early voting on June 4th.

If you are voting absentee be sure to get your ballot in the mail as soon as possible or drop it off at your county office before the polls close on

June 9th. Ballots will not be accepted if they arrive after Election Day.

The June Primary isn't a warmup for November. The election results in June will have an impact on your everyday activities and quality of life.

The next election is always the most important election. Don't sit this one out.

To find a sample ballot, polling locations, early voting locations and hours go to vote.nd.gov.

Michael Howe  
North Dakota Secretary of State

## Rhoads seeking Ward 1 position on McClusky City Council

**BY ALLAN TINKER**

Debra Rhoads, a thirteen-year resident of McClusky, is seeking a position on the City of McClusky council for Ward 1

Rhoads supports family values, good work ethics, and community values that are productive and economically sound.

She has a long work history that includes restaurants, and schools as a school aide, and teacher in day care facilities.

She is skilled as a cook and once worked in Williston for an oil company out of Texas doing seismographic work.

Locally she helped organize and manage in the first years of Little Hearts Day Care and has since been employed as a

head cook at the Turtle Lake-Mercer School.

She also served one year on the McClusky Park Board but did not seek re-election.

Rhoads said, "I am seeking more community involvement in major decisions concerning taxpayer money and for financial transparency so all citizens are aware of how money will be used before final decisions are made."

"I would like to promote projects that help support volunteers and will work to complete the improvements needed in so many areas of the city."

"I feel confident that these values are what other residents would like to see in the community they call home."

**NOTICE OF TESTING OF ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEM**

I, Shirley A. Murray, Sheridan County Auditor, do hereby give notice that at 11:30 A.M., Friday, June 5th, 2026 at the Community Room, McClusky City Hall, McClusky, North Dakota, a public test of an electronic voting system will be conducted.

Dated this 28th day of May, 2026.

Shirley A. Murray, Sheridan County Auditor

(June 4, 2026)

I'd appreciate your vote.  
*Debra Rhoads*

paid for by Debra Rhoads

### Primary Election candidates

The following is the second listing in the Gazette of the city and county positions on the primary ballot for June 9. The information is also available online at the ND Secretary of State's office and that site includes statewide district candidates and legal notices.

Sheridan County	District 1	Shannon	Dieterle
County Commissioner At Large			
By District			
County Commissioner At Large	District 3	Sandra	Felchle
By District			
County Auditor		Shirley	A Murray
County State's Attorney			
County Recorder		Melissa	Lauer
County Treasurer		Connie	Werth
County Sheriff		Trent	Naser
County Official Newspaper		McClusky	Gazette
Mayor	McClusky	Bryon	Belile
Mayor	McClusky	Geraldine	Schmidt
Mayor	Goodrich	Diane	Bellecourt
Mayor	Goodrich	Brian	Galvin
Council Member	Goodrich	Steven	Barreth
Council Member	Goodrich	Steven	L Hochhalter
Council Member	Goodrich	Karen	Konschak
Council Member	Goodrich	Douglas	Lallas
Council Member	Goodrich	David	Ludwick
Council Member	Goodrich	Andrew	Walz
Council Member	Goodrich	Larry	Zeeb
Council Member	McClusky Ward 1	Jamey	Clark
Council Member	McClusky Ward 1	Debra	Rhoads
Council Member	McClusky Ward 2	Kelli	Bopp
Aldersperson	Martin		
Park Board Member	Goodrich Park		
Park Board Member	McClusky Park	Melissa	Lauer
Park Board Member	McClusky Park	Tracy	Stein
Park Board Member	McClusky Park	Shirley	Murray
Park Board Member	McClusky Park	Samantha	Roubal
Park Board Member	McClusky Park	Connie	Werth
Park Board Member	Goodrich Park	LaDonna	Erdmann
Park Board Member	Goodrich Park	Bonnie	L Hochhalter
Park Board Member	Goodrich Park	Gail	Martin
School Board Member	McClusky-Goodrich	Kim	Saueressig
School Board Member	School #29		
School Board Member	McClusky-Goodrich	Donovan	Stober
School Board Member	School #29		
School Board Member	McClusky-Goodrich	Scott	Stroh
School Board Member at Large	School #29		
School Board Member at Large	McClusky-Goodrich	Sarah	Crimmins
Judge of the District Court No. 8	School #29		
Judge of the District Court No. 2	South Central	James	S Hill
Judge of the District Court No. 10	South Central	Jackson	Lofgren
Judge of the District Court No. 7	South Central	Pamela	Nesvig
Judge of the District Court No. 6	South Central	Bonnie	L Storbakken
Judge of the District Court No. 6	South Central	Bobbi	Weiler

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