



Wade Romfo

A memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 11, 2026, with visitation starting at Noon at United Lutheran Church in Langdon, N.D., for Wade Romfo, 53, of Hannah, N.D., who passed away March 26, 2026, in Wales, N.D. Inurnment will be at Lebanon Cemetery in Langdon, N.D.

Wade William Romfo was born June 29, 1972, in Langdon, N.D., to Willis and Sheri (Krumweide) Romfo. He attended school in Hannah, Border Central and Langdon. He farmed near

Hannah, N.D., with his dad and other extended family members. Wade married Tanya Reisenauer on February 22, 2014. They made their home near Hannah. After the death of his father, he continued to farm with his wife.

Wade was a very thoughtful, friendly person and believed in helping others. He had a sense of humor that touched everyone and had a friend everywhere he went. Wade was a devoted father to his three children, and upon marrying Tanya, he proudly gained two bonus daughters and four

grandchildren. He stepped into the role of loving father and grandfather with unwavering care and dedication. Wade volunteered with the Hannah Fire Department and served on the Linden Township Board, giving back to the community he loved. He was a man of integrity, faith, and love for his country. Wade enjoyed tinkering on his cars, riding his Harley, and wintering in Arizona.

Surviving Wade are his wife, Tanya, of Hannah, N.D.; children: Tanner (Sadie) Romfo, Briana Romfo, Neveah

Romfo, Myranda (Mike) Hotten, and Tesa Klesalek; grandchildren: Emma, Colt, Waylon, and Jameson; mother Sheri Romfo; sisters Cindy Romfo (Terry McDonald) and Denise (Dan) Lothspeich; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his father, Willis; nephew Maxwell William Kunkel; and niece Ember McAllister.

Online condolences available at www.brooksfuneralhomelangdon.com.

State

Rep. Fedorchak says Republican brand 'never stronger' after skipping ND convention

By: Michael Achterling, North Dakota Monitor



Rep. Julie Fedorchak, R-N.D., speaks to reporters at the Capitol on April 2, 2026, before turning in petition signatures to gain access to the 2026 Republican primary election. (Photo by Michael Achterling/North Dakota Monitor)

U.S. Rep. Julie Fedorchak pushed back against recent actions by the North Dakota Republican Party and signaled her support for the Iran war Thursday as she submitted signatures to compete in the June primary. Fedorchak, a Republican, did not seek the party's endorsement last weekend, skipping the NDGOP convention along with every other statewide office incumbent.

Delegates at the NDGOP state con-

vention voted to remove the party's brand from candidates who skipped the endorsing convention, but the action does not change state law, which allows candidates who submit signatures to access the primary ballot and identify their political party.

Fedorchak, a former Public Service Commissioner who worked in the administrations of former Gov. Ed Schafer and Sen. John Hoeven, said she's spent most of the last 30 years of her

professional life trying to build the Republican Party.

"I think our Republican brand has actually never been stronger, and I think you are going to see that reflected in the results of this election again," Fedorchak said before submitting petition signatures to the Secretary of State's Office. "We deliver the kind of government, the kind of policies, that North Dakotans want."

She said President Donald Trump is the leader of the national Republican Party, and he endorsed her reelection campaign in August.

"I like my chances in the primary," Fedorchak said. "And I'm super excited to get started on this just to continue reaching out to North Dakotans and spread the message of success this term and all I want to accomplish in the next term."

Fedorchak, during a brief news conference Thursday, also talked about her support for the Iran war. She said the goals of the war have "largely been accomplished," through the destruction of more than 9,000 targets, the country's leadership and Iran's

ballistic missile capability.

"I hope that it winds down sooner versus later," she said. "I think that we are already much safer as a nation and as a world with the basic decapitation of Iran's abilities to host and advocate terror all over the world."

Fedorchak added that Trump receives intelligence briefings on the conflict and she will support him to decide when he thinks the "time is optimal" to conclude hostilities between the two countries.

During the convention, NDGOP delegates endorsed Alex Balazs for North Dakota's lone U.S. House seat. Balazs pledged to hold regular, in-person town halls, which contrasted with Fedorchak's online events. Fedorchak defended her virtual forums, which she said allow her to reach a greater number of North Dakotans.

"We get thousands of people on those calls at one time and much more than you'd be able to connect with in an in-person town hall," she said. Fedorchak defeated Balazs during a five-way Republican primary in 2024 with 46% voter support.

Fedorchak said she's held more than 1,100 meetings with North Dakotans during her first term between events in North Dakota and Washington, D.C., including many with agriculture and energy producers as well as chambers of commerce across the state. Some have criticized Fedorchak and other members of the delegation for holding events that are open to invited guests but not the general public. The next Fedorchak virtual forum will take place on April 17, she said.

Matt Simon, chair of the North Dakota Republican Party, said in a Thursday interview with KFGO's Joel Heitkamp, that the state party will not support candidates who did not seek the NDGOP endorsement, including races that did not have candidates.

The Democratic-NPL Party endorsed Trygve Hammer during its state convention in March. Fedorchak defeated Hammer with 69% voter support during the 2024 general election.

North Dakota Monitor reporter Michael Achterling can be reached at machterling@northdakotamonitor.com.

ND Republican delegates vote to remove party brand from officials who skip convention

By Jacob Orledge and Michael Achterling, North Dakota Monitor

MINOT, N.D. – Tensions between factions of the North Dakota Republican Party reached a new high Saturday as state convention delegates narrowly approved a motion removing the party brand from candidates not in attendance.

The debate came as all statewide elected officials, including those not on the ballot, skipped the convention, a move political observers have called unprecedented. A total of 707 delegates participated Saturday, about half the size of the crowd two years ago.

Jerol Gohrick, chair of the District 2 GOP, proposed to strip the Republican Party brand from any incumbent elected officials who did not attend the convention. Supporters of the motion called incumbents RINOS, or Republicans in name only, and said their absence showed they don't care about their constituents.

"You want to thumb your nose at the Republican state convention, how can you expect its endorsement?" said Clint Feland of Bismarck, a delegate from District 8.

Crystal Dueker, a long-time Republican from District 46 in Fargo, passionately opposed the proposal and criticized the "poison" and "venom" being directed within the party.

"If we divide our party, we're going to be lost in the wilderness," Dueker said in a later interview. "It's just a battle between conservatives and Republicans, and I don't want to see that battle. We need to work together."

The absent statewide elected officials, including Gov. Kelly Armstrong, were the target of significant criticism from speakers, panelists and delegates in attendance on Saturday. No incumbents received the state party's endorsement during the convention. The U.S. House endorsement will be discussed Sunday, though incumbent Rep. Julie Fedorchak will be among those absent. A sign posted at the convention called out officials who were "missing in action."

Senate Majority Leader David Hogue, R-Minot, who participated as a delegate, said the incumbents' decision to skip the convention was a "missed opportunity," but he did not support Gohrick's proposal to strip the officials of the Republican brand.

"The short answer is no. The long answer is hell no," Hogue said in an interview. The attorney said he believes the effect would be only "symbolic" and is unnecessarily divisive. "A house divided against itself cannot stand," he said.

The motion passed 318-312, with several delegates absent by the time the vote was taken late Saturday.

Rep. Karen Karls, R-Bismarck, was disappointed by the result and said "party law does not supersede state law." Sen. Chuck Walen, R-New Town, said he plans to introduce 2027 legislation to ensure the party-endorsed candidate is always in the general election. Sen. Claire Cory, R-Grand Forks, said it's unclear whether the motion affects legislators as well as statewide officials.

Rep. Bernie Satrom, R-Jamestown, said he believed North Dakota Republicans may have damaged the party with that motion.

"We just put a nail in the coffin of the NDGOP," Satrom said. "In my opinion, that was really a stupid move."

Aimee Copas, chair for NDGOP District 30, said the delegates spent three hours talking about an issue that is in law and can't be changed by an action of a political party.

Some incumbents pointed to frustrations over how the convention was handled in 2024 as their reason for skipping this year. Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring, who has sought the state endorsement several times, cited "back-biting and infighting" within the party. Armstrong is participating in a friend's wedding this weekend.

Sens. John Hoeven and Kevin Cramer did not appear at the convention Saturday. The convention opened on Sunday with a recorded message from Cramer. Neither senator responded to requests for comment ahead of the convention.

No floor nominations

The party only had two endorsements to consider, the U.S. House race and

a six-year term on the Public Service Commission, the two races with candidates who met a deadline for seeking the party's support.

Some delegates wanted to provide a "letter of recommendation" for Chris Olson, of Baldwin, for a two-year seat on the Public Service Commission. Olson was deemed to be ineligible for an official endorsement because he did not file with the party ahead of time. He spoke against Summit Carbon Solutions' plans to build a carbon dioxide pipeline in the state.

"We should not be trampling private property owner rights," Olson said in a floor speech.

The motion to provide a letter of recommendation proved controversial as several speakers warned against violating the party's rules and setting a poor precedent. Others spoke in favor of providing a second candidate for the two seats on the commission. Republican incumbent Jill Kringstad, who submitted signatures to run for the two-year term, was among candidates not at the convention.

"A lot of us were insulted by the incumbents that weren't coming," said Sen. Jeff Magrum, R-Hazleton. "That's why some of these guys have stepped up."

The motion to provide a letter of recommendation failed.

Some delegates were unhappy with the methods used to vote. Votes were judged by the number of people standing up for "aye" and "no" votes, a process that was at times tedious when votes were close.

"I'm a little disgusted with how things have been ran so far," said Clint Hetved, a delegate from Robinson in District 14 who favored the letter of recommendation. "It seems like

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