

**City of Drayton
Notice of
Tax Equalization Meeting**

The City of Drayton will hold its equalization meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at the Johnson Community Center, 105 Almeron Ave at 7:00pm. Anyone with queries or appeals may present these to the board. The board will also allow submissions via email or regular mail to the following addresses:

Assessor – Lisa Keney, 301 Dakota Street W. #1, Cavalier, ND 58220 or email lkeney@nd.gov

Submissions by email or regular mail must be received by the assessor by April 13, 2025 in order to be considered by the board and entered into the minutes of the equalization meeting on April 14th.

Sonia Misialek
City of Drayton Auditor

P&A releases report on poll site accessibility

In the United States, one in six eligible voters have a disability. Federal law mandates that voters with disabilities have the same opportunity to vote as people without disabilities. This includes ensuring physical accessibility at poll sites. The North Dakota Protection & Advocacy Project (P&A) partnered with the North Dakota Centers for Independent Living to examine poll site accessibility leading up to the 2026 election cycle.

The purpose of this project was to assess and identify improvements for poll site accessibility. Eighty-seven voting sites, spanning 29 counties were surveyed across North Dakota. Accessibility surveys were conducted at municipal, county, and privately owned locations used for voting.

A public report released on April 3 identified that many sites had at least one barrier that could limit access for voters with disabilities. Overall, parking was identified as the biggest accessibility challenge, with an average compliance rate of 66 percent. Photos and surveys for each location are available upon request. The full report is available at <https://www.ndpanda.org/resources/voting>.

The right to vote for all citizens, especially those with disabilities, is critical, with every ballot cast being an opportunity to shape our communities. P&A recognizes the North Dakota Secretary of State's Office and county auditors who diligently work each day to ensure North Dakotans can participate in the electoral process.

The North Dakota Protection & Advocacy Project is a federally mandated, independent state agency established in 1977 to advance the human and legal rights of people with disabilities. P&A's mission is to champion the equality and inclusion of people with disabilities where we live, work, and play.

Time to renew your license

By Doug Leier, NDGF outreach biologist

If you haven't picked up your new fishing or combination license yet, consider this your friendly reminder. The old one expired at the end of March, and the new license year began on April 1. If you're like most, it's on your to-do list ... just not necessarily at the top. You meant to take care of it earlier, but "one of these days" has a way of sneaking up on all of us.

This year, like the last couple, I renewed mine using the North Dakota Game and Fish app. And I'll say it right up front; it's like most things in life. It'll probably be even quicker the second time or third time around. Familiarity helps and the app remembers a lot of what you've already done.

The app, by the way, is about more than just buying a license. There are some genuinely handy tools built into it, including sunrise and sunset times, along with wind information. And if you allow location services, it updates automatically based on where you are. For anglers and anyone who spends time outdoors, that information is just as useful. For hunters, legal shooting hours are critical, and the app removes all the guesswork. Want to report a tagged fish? Looking for contact information to report an observation to your local game warden? It's in there.

If you're old like me, you may remember using the North Dakota OUTDOORS calendar or the hunting rules guide for checking sunrise and

sunset times based on Bismarck, then adjusting a minute for every 12 miles east or west. I've still got one of those calendars hanging in my office. You can absolutely still do it that way if you want, though the younger generation will probably verify your math in about two seconds with their phone.

Once you open the app, head to "Buy and Apply." Because I've purchased licenses online before, much of my information is already saved. If you've switched phones or haven't logged in for a while, you might need to re-enter some details. That can be a little frustrating, but it's also part of keeping personal information secure, and occasionally technology just wants to double-check who you are.

Every year, when I type in my name and date of birth, I'm reminded there are two Doug Leier's in the system. We've had our share of crossed wires over the years, but the electronic system uses multiple identifiers, which has actually reduced problems instead of creating them. And for everyone with a more common last name – Olson, Anderson, Johnson – you can be confident it works.

Back in "Buy and Apply," you can select who you're purchasing licenses for. My dad and my daughter are saved there, which cuts down on re-entering information. After a quick proof-of-residency check and confirming contact details, I was looking at the license options, including the



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combination license many folks still call the "sportsmen" license.

From there it was a familiar sequence: answering a few questions for Harvest Information Program certification, deciding whether to subscribe to North Dakota OUTDOORS magazine, and having the option to donate to the Private Land Open To Sportsmen program. A short fishing survey, a trapping question, acknowledgment of electronic posting – and next thing you know it's time to check out.

As usual, it took me longer to find my wallet than it did to enter my credit card number. I even mistyped one digit, but the system flagged it immediately and showed me exactly where to fix it.

With the card processed, the license activated, and an email confirmation landed in my inbox. I saved the license on my phone and printed copies for my wallet and the glove box. Extra copies aren't a bad idea. If you're checked in the field, it's your responsibility to produce a license, and the faster that happens – digitally or on paper – the quicker everyone gets back to what they were doing. Cell service isn't guaranteed everywhere, and nobody wants to wait on a spinning signal icon.

All told, the whole process took less than 10 minutes. If I can do it, so can you. And if the app isn't your thing, there are still plenty of license vendors across the state. No matter how you choose to do it, make sure you're licensed and ready because the season waits for no one.

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