

# Thursday, September 24

*\*\* All times in Central Time Zone*

10-11 am            National Anthem  
Welcome

**Keynote: *13 Ways to Kill Your Community***  
***Doug Griffiths, President, 13 Ways Inc.***

In a presentation of his bestselling book, Doug offers valuable lessons on what really makes the difference between a prospering community and a failing one. Doug's presentation will help you:

- feel inspired and motivated;
- find a renewed sense of ownership and responsibility toward the community in which you live;
- recognize the challenges your community faces and the reasons why it is challenged;
- receive basic tools to begin moving your community toward success; and
- laugh.

11:10-Noon            **Concurrent Sessions**

**2020 Revenue Projections** – This session will provide an update on the state budget and state aid fund projections for FY 2020 and FY 2021 as cities finish out 2020 and make final adjustments for 2021.

Ryan Rauschenberger, North Dakota Tax Commissioner  
Joe Morrissette, Director, ND Management and Budget  
Brent Bogar, Consultant, Jadestone Consulting  
Geoff Simon, Executive Director, Western Dakota Energy Association

**Law Enforcement Social Media and Media Best Practices** – Join a discussion of best practices for law enforcement interactions with media and the use of social media as a communication tool.

Lt. Luke Gardiner, Public Information Officer, Bismarck Police Department  
Officer Lynn Wanner, Bismarck Police Department

**Intelligent Transportation Systems-Queue Detection System** - The Queue Detection System (QDS) is capable of measuring vehicular speeds at downstream sections of roadway and displaying warning messages on upstream Message Boards. This is used as an effort to reduce crashes in work zones. Learn how QDS might work for your city.

Bernie Southam, Transportation Engineer III-Project Manager, ND Department of Transportation

Noon-1 pm            Lunch Break

1-1:50 pm            **Concurrent Sessions**

**Preparing Your Technology Platform for Tomorrow and the Future** - COVID-19 forced most cities to have employees work from home and to use some method of virtual conferencing and we discovered it worked quite well. Now that there is a level of comfort, what does that mean going forward and what technology do you need for this new work environment.

Duane Schell, Chief Technology Officer, ND Information Technology Department  
Shawn Riley, Chief Information Officer, ND Information Technology Department

**Main Street Program Funding Resources** - Join the staff of the ND Department of Commerce to learn more about the funding programs and grants available through the Main Street Program.  
Brett Gurholt, Community Development Liaison, ND Department of Commerce

**Communication During Times of Emergency** - Cities face unique communication issues in times of emergency and crisis. This session will provide information about communication between departments, with the public and with the media and best practices for how to share information.  
John Bernstrom, Communication Specialist, City of Grand Forks

2-2:50 pm                    **Concurrent Sessions**

**ND Department of Transportation Report: A Look to the Next Session**

The ND Department of Transportation will present their vision for the future of transportation in North Dakota, projects being planned and what cities should be doing to prepare for that future.  
William Panos, Director, ND Department of Transportation

**Special Assessment Basics** – This presentation will discuss generally the process for completing a project that is funded through special assessments.  
Gabe Schell, City Engineer, City of Bismarck

**Federal Indian Law and Weaving through Legal Eras** – Join North Dakota’s Labor Commissioner for a background in Federal Indian Law, how it hasn’t assisted States and Local Jurisdictions with understanding Federal Indian Law and its many legal Eras. This session will also discuss the unique aspects of Native American Tribal culture and how it relates to city officials’ interactions with Tribal members.  
Erica Thunder, ND Labor Commissioner

3-4 pm                    **Small Cities Big Ideas**

This session is an opportunity for elected and appointed small city representatives to discuss issues common to smaller cities. Come prepared to share your city’s issues, offer ideas and suggestions and share your success stories. The conversation will be led by conference participants and League staff will be available to answer questions and provide legal background.

4:15-5:00 pm            **Wine Down Happy Hour**

Join your colleagues for a virtual networking event. This is a great opportunity to connect with other city leaders and discuss hot topics over a beverage of your choice.

## Friday, September 25

10-10:50 am

### ***Embracing Livable Policies to Benefit All*** ***Danielle Arigoni, Director of Livable Communities, AARP***

The population of North Dakota and the United States is rapidly aging. By 2030, one of every five people in the U.S. will be 65 or older. By 2035, the number of adults older than 65 will be greater than the number of children under 18. In North Dakota 9 counties currently see their median age is 50 or older. And another handful of counties are right on their heels. In this session, Danielle will talk about how the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities has served as a catalyst to educate local leaders and encourage them to implement the types of changes that make communities more livable for people of all ages, especially older adults. Learn about the successes these communities have had related to community planning, private sector investment, and awareness. Also, hear new information about how communities that are a part of the network have been able to adapt and respond more readily in the face of crisis including COVID19.

11-11:50 am

### **Concurrent Sessions**

**NDIRF: North Dakota Public Health Insurance Trust (NDPHIT)** – NDIRF is rolling out NDPHIT, and after a review of how it works, the presenters will answer questions so you can determine if your city should participate and how to do so.

Randall Johnson, Senior Vice President, Hays of Utah Insurance Services  
Brennan Quintus, CEO, North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund

**2021 Legislative Session: Hot Topics and Staying Engaged** - This will be a wide ranging session to discuss possible uses of the Legacy Fund, the future of the Prairie Dog funds and a general overview of how to stay engaged in the Legislative process under new requirements of social distancing and virtual hearings.

Senator Rich Wardner  
Representative Chet Pollert

**Drug and Alcohol Testing and Government Employers** - The laws and restrictions that apply to government employers performing drug and alcohol testing on employees will be discussed.

Tara Brandner, Assistant Attorney General for ND

11:50 am-1 pm

Lunch Break

1-1:50 pm

### **Concurrent Sessions**

**Infrastructure and Capital Project Funding Options** – This session will focus on project financing and/or refinancing so you can make the best use of limited tax dollars, fund additional projects and lower your risk of running into debt service issues.

Kelvin Hullet, Economic Development and Government Program Market  
Manager, Bank of North Dakota

Deann Ament, Executive Director, ND Public Finance Authority

Shannon Fisher, Manager, Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, ND  
Department of Environmental Quality

Elizabeth Tokach Duran, Manager, Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program,  
ND Department of Environmental Quality

Bonnie Malo, Community Services Director, ND Department of Commerce

Mark Wax, Community Programs Director, Rural Development ND

**Extra Territorial Zoning Panel** – Join our panel to discuss how cities can use their extra territorial zoning jurisdiction to facilitate orderly and more cost-efficient growth.

Daniel Nairn, Planner, City of Bismarck

Tim Solberg, Director of Planning & Zoning, City of West Fargo

Natalie Pierce, Planner, Morton County

**Dangerous Buildings** – This presentation will discuss the process the city of Fargo has used to identify and address dangerous buildings in the city.

Alissa Farol, Assistant City Attorney, Fargo

2-3 pm

**Awards and Passing of the Gavel**



## Monday, September 28

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11:30 am -12:30 pm

**Internet of Things** - This presentation will cover three important areas:

1. What is the Internet of Things (“IoT”)?
2. The use of small cells (small wireless facilities) in City Right-of Way to transmit 5G service
3. How to become a Smart or Smarter City

Bob Duchen, Co-Founder and Vice President, River Oaks Communications Corp.

1:30 -2:30 pm

**Legislative Forecast & November Ballot Issues** – Get a preliminary look at legislation that may be introduced in the 67<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session.

Blake Crosby, Executive Director, ND League of Cities

Stephanie Dassinger, Deputy Director/Staff Attorney, ND League of Cities

Terry Traynor, Executive Director, ND Association of Counties

## Tuesday, September 29

11:30 am -12:30 pm

**Can Our City Start a Police Department?** – Join representatives from the city of Garrison to discuss the process they used to implement a new city police department.

Jim Wilson, Garrison City Attorney

Stu Merry, Garrison Mayor

Chief Travis Tesch, Garrison Police Department

Keith Witt, retired Bismarck Police Chief

1:30 -2:30 pm

**Community Incentives for Businesses** – This session will highlight North Dakota cities that have innovative incentive programs for businesses. They will share how their incentives work and why they have been successful.

Brad Barth, Executive Director, Forward Devils Lake

Lindsay Bofenkamp, Executive Director, Garrison Area Improvement Association

## Wednesday, September 30

11:30 am -12:30 pm

**Child Care Best Practices** – Cities across North Dakota have implemented innovative and unique programs to address their child care needs. Hear from two of these cities as they highlight their programs and how they might work for your city. We will also have an update from the ND Department of Health on regulatory changes that may impact child care in your city.

KayCee Lindsey, Community Development Director, Divide County JDA

Vawnita Best, Director, Watford City Community Development

Chris Jones, Executive Director, ND Department of Human Services

1:30 -2:30 pm

**Home Rule** – The what, the why and the how along with uses for Home Rule besides enacting a sales tax.

Brittany Hatting, Lies, Bullis and Hatting, PLLP