

Introduction to District 24 Dem-NPL Platform-2026

In 1956, the Democratic-Nonpartisan League Party of North Dakota was founded on the conviction that wealth and privilege shouldn't be an entitlement to rule, and the belief that the values of hardworking families are the values that should guide us. We got here by rewarding hard work and responsibility, by investing in people, and by growing our country from the bottom up. We promote the rights of all workers and an economy that lifts up not just some Americans, but all Americans.

District 24, which is made up of Barnes and Ransom Counties, is an area dependent on agriculture, rural schools and small businesses.

Thus, we support Health Care for All with Respect for Personal Choice; a Strong Public Education System; a Thriving Rural Economy; Strong Protections of Personal Freedoms; Safe, Secure Communities; and the Guarantee of Clean Water and Air. We believe in an independent judiciary, the strict separation of church and state, and the right to privacy. Above all, we believe in the rule of law and encourage all qualified ND voters to participate in local and state politics and urge concerned citizens to seek elected positions.

District 24 Dem-NPL Platform . . . We endorse actions that will:

I. Affordable Health Care Everywhere - "Health care shouldn't depend on your Zip Code or Tax Bracket"

1. Support universal, single-payer health care that respects and protects personal choice and privacy.
2. Protect and strengthen North Dakota's rural hospitals and clinics.
3. Expand mental health, PTSD, opioid and other addiction treatment services statewide.
4. Reduce prescription drug prices by authorizing Medicare to negotiate.
5. Support veterans, seniors, and people with disabilities with care close to home.
6. Support science-based immunization recommendations with guidance from professional medical associations.
7. Dedicate North Dakota's tobacco settlement money to proven, effective tobacco prevention, and behavioral healthcare.
8. Implement an equitable medical marijuana law to reduce barriers to care.
9. Enact laws under which any medical provider who determines the need is medically appropriate and consistent with national licensing board standards and subsequently performs an abortion shall be free from prosecution.
10. Continue the equalization of rates system in nursing facilities, keeping Medicaid and self-pay rates the same.

II. Strong Public Schools, Strong Communities – “Public schools are the heart of our towns”

11. Fully fund public schools so every community can retain their quality teachers and programs.
12. Support our local higher education institution, Valley City State University, in ensuring that they help create career pathways in all the fields for which they provide education.
13. Rescind legislation that diverts tax dollars to non-public schools (including vouchers/ESAs and charter schools) which drains money and resources away from public schools.
14. Recruit and retain teachers with competitive, fair pay and support.
15. Support the Sheyenne Valley Area Career & Technology Center (SVACTC), which provides hands-on Career and Technical Education connecting high school students to local careers in the trades, agriculture, health sciences, and technical fields.
16. Expand Head Start, early childhood education, and Career and Technical Education programs.
17. Provide state funding of school meals for all public-school students.
18. Provide state funding for all public-school children with consistent access to qualified health professionals, including mental health services.
19. Ensure that our highly qualified teachers are allowed to teach without political interference.
20. Reinstate a defined benefit retirement plan for teachers and public employees.

III. A Thriving Rural Economy – “Main Street, not Wall Street”

21. Prioritize resident ownership over corporate consolidation in all agriculture-related legislation.
22. Support local processing, co-ops, and farm-to-school/nursing-home efforts that strengthen the rural economy and keep jobs and dollars in our communities.
23. Expand broadband and childcare availability so young families can stay in rural North Dakota.
24. Diversify energy production beyond fossil fuels.
25. Define minimum wage as a “living wage” high enough to maintain a normal standard of living.
26. Protect local infrastructure (roads, water, power, housing) from all abuse/exploitation.
27. Ensure local control over permitting/siting of any Artificial Intelligence projects, and mandate public education regarding infrastructure impacts, including water and power rate hikes.
28. Protect landowners' surface and mineral rights and clearly oppose the use of eminent domain for private or corporate profit.
29. Mandate responsibility (both financial and health) for products used and sold in the state; no immunities from product liability.
30. Research and develop non-GMO (Genetically Modified Organism) crops to assure non-GMO seed availability for the future.

31. Research and develop production of perennial grains (such as Kernza), and other strategies for making North Dakota agriculture sustainable for future generations.
32. Urge the ND State Board of Agricultural Research and Education to focus their efforts on regenerative and sustainable practices for future generations.
33. Encourage the State Mill and Elevator to buy only domestic grains whenever possible.

IV. Protecting Your Freedoms – “Freedom thrives when we protect it”

34. Oppose Government interference with private moral and religious choices.
35. Advocate for the exercise of equal rights by vulnerable and marginalized people.
36. Oppose procedural barriers that disenfranchise and discourage particular classes of voters.
37. Protect Home Rule which preserves local control for cities, townships and counties.
38. Safeguard local landowners’ rights by prohibiting the use of eminent domain for private or corporate projects and profits.
39. Support individuals’ rights to make personal choices related to their own healthcare without government interference.
40. Oppose government censorship of public libraries and other public institutions.
41. Honor our Native communities, their treaties and their cultural contributions.
42. Support the establishment of a non-partisan redistricting commission responsible for drawing congressional and state legislative districts.
43. Advocate for more transparent financial disclosure requirements for both candidates and parties.
44. Fight for an effective and fair North Dakota Ethics Commission.
45. Call for no further funding of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP); an investigation conducted by Minnesota authorities as lead investigators of the killings of Renée Good and Alex Pretti; and advocate for the removal of ICE from our cities.
46. Oppose the brutal tactics of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Department of Homeland Security, and Customs and Border Protection.

V. Safe, Secure Communities – “Safety means knowing help will come”

47. Support EMS, firefighters, and local law enforcement in every corner of the state.
48. Provide health benefits and North Dakota Workforce Safety and Insurance to volunteer firefighters and emergency responders.
49. Expand mental health services, addiction treatment, and drug courts.

50. Promote common-sense gun safety such as universal background checks and trigger locks.
51. Protect seniors and other vulnerable adults from scams, neglect, and abuse.
52. Support transit system funding for local/rural busing/taxi services provided by Adult/Senior Services.
53. Make North Dakota a safe and welcoming place for immigrants, migrants, and refugees to resettle and legally enter the workforce.
54. Hold law enforcement officials accountable for mistreatment of people in North Dakota, regardless of crime committed or citizenship status.

VI. Clean Water & Air; and Mitigating Climate Change – “No longer a distant threat”

55. Implement science-based actions to reduce the harmful impacts of human-caused climate change.
56. Establish a North Dakota oil extraction tax of at least 6.5%.
57. Reinstate the trigger tax and remove the tax break given to oil companies for re-fracking wells in North Dakota.
58. Require oil companies to disclose the chemicals used in fracking operations in North Dakota.
59. Oppose any government preferences or subsidies for coal, oil or natural gas over other energy products.
60. Reduce methane pollution by strengthening regulation of oil drilling and flaring in North Dakota.
61. Oppose oil and gas drilling on public-owned lands in the North Dakota Badlands.
62. Significantly increase State funding for research/development of new, cleaner and/or renewable fuels.
63. Oppose State of North Dakota investing in developing natural-gas and crude-oil refining facilities.
64. Establish local control, not state mandates, over permitting and placing any confined animal feeding operations (CAFO), factory farms, carbon-sequestration pipelines, and high-voltage lines.
65. Increase oversight and enforcement of laws on dumping of toxic and radioactive waste.
66. Establish utility pricing that more fully rewards consumers who practice energy-efficient and decentralized production of non-polluting energy.