MRES® Municipal Power
LEARNING ACADEMY

MRES & Advocating for Your Utility

Kersten Johnson
Government Affairs Liaison

Ben Gentz
Government Affairs Liaison

MISSOURI RIVER® ENERGY SERVICES

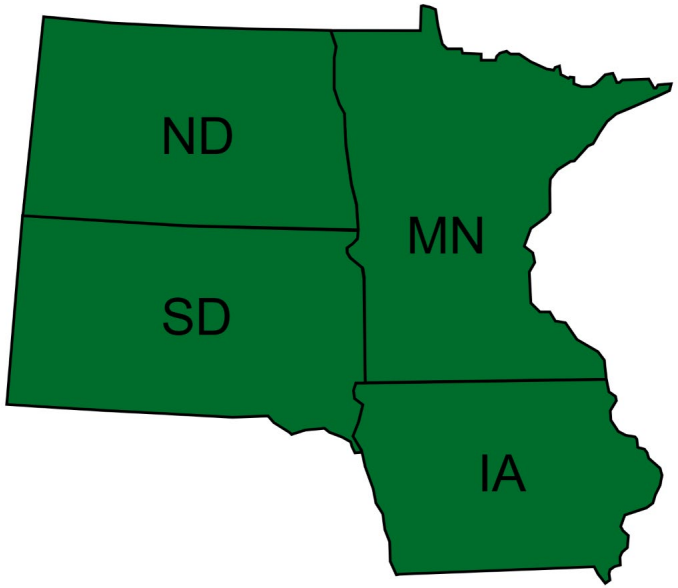
MRES Government Relations Team

GR Team

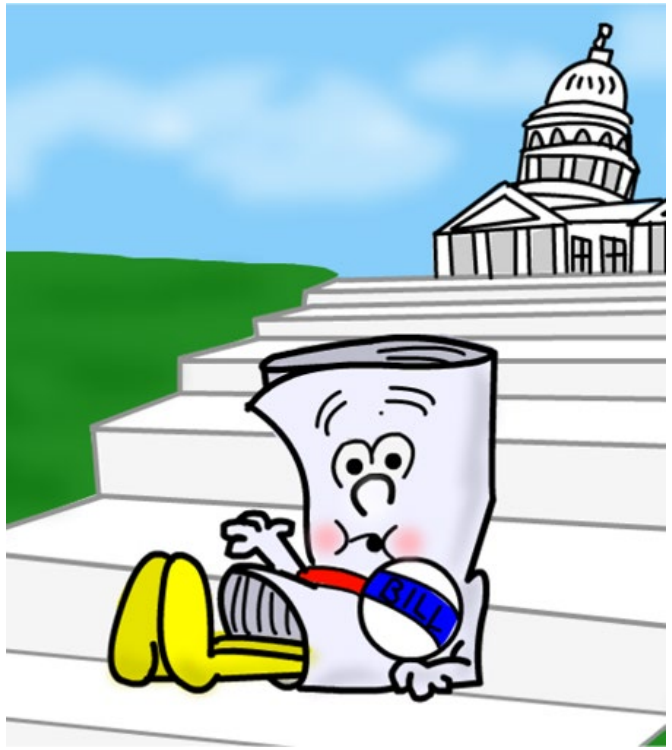
- Deb Birgen
- Kersten Johnson
- Ben Gentz

States Covered

- Iowa
- Minnesota
- South Dakota
- North Dakota



How Does It Work?





Iowa General Assembly

Two Chambers

- House: 100 Members
- Senate: 50 Members

January – April/May



Minnesota Legislature

Two Chambers

- House: 134 Members
- Senate: 67 Members

January/February - May



South Dakota Legislature

Two Chambers

- House: 70 Members
- Senate: 35 Members

January - March



North Dakota Legislature

Two Chambers

- House: 94 Members
- Senate: 47 Members

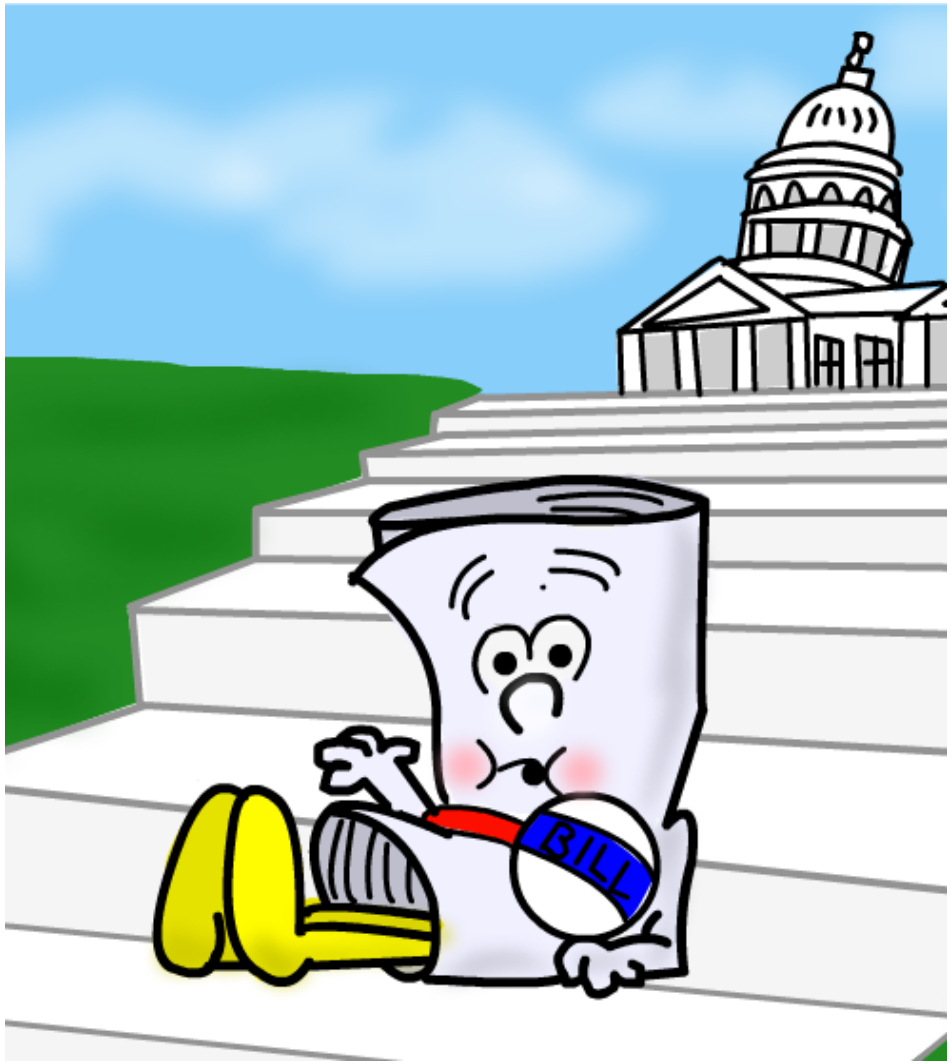
January – March

- Odd-numbered years
- Do not meet in even numbered years



How a Bill Becomes a Law

- Idea for a bill
- Bill is written and sponsored
- Subcommittee/Committee
- Voted on by House/Senate
- Subcommittee/Committee
- Voted on by House/Senate
- Sent to Governor
- Governor’s signature



Year-Round Advocacy







Why is Advocacy Important?

Develop a relationship before you need something

Advocacy is about being a local expert

Be someone your legislators know

Learn About Your Legislator

Click links on their websites

Google them

What are news outlets saying about them?

Have they written an op-ed anywhere?

Review their social media

Relationships = KEY

Tips to get started:

Send an email to introduce yourself

Sign up for your legislator's newsletter

- Newsletters are a great source for issues important to your legislator
- Identifies where they will be hosting local forums and events.

Attend your legislator's local forum

Follow your legislator's social media accounts

Year-Round Advocacy

The interim is a GREAT time to schedule a meeting

- Schedule an in-district meeting
- Meet face-to-face
  - Most effective way to build relationships
- Invite them to visit your workplace
- Meet for coffee

MRES is here to help

CONTACTING LEGISLATORS

Find your Senate and House District Numbers

Make a first point of contact

- Email or Phone

Follow up if no response

- Don’t take it personally

Confirm meeting

- Email/text/call day before

Say “thank you”

- Legislators do not hear this enough

Identifying Legislators to Contact

www.legis.iowa.gov

www.leg.mn.gov

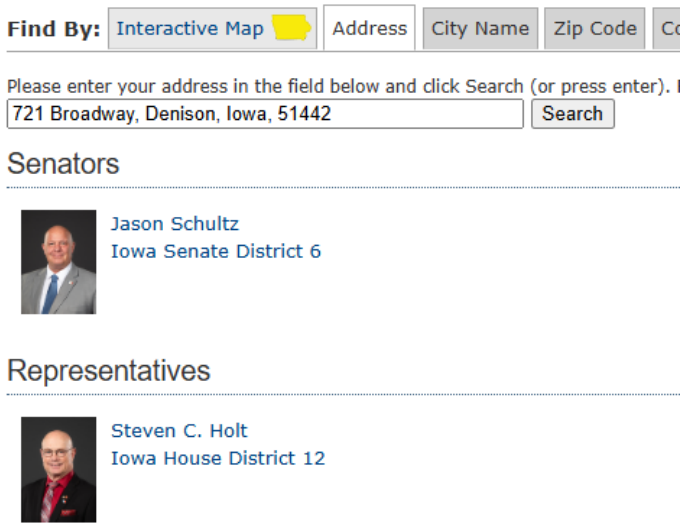
https://ndlegis.gov

https://sdlegislature.gov

IOWA



Enter your address





Senator Jason Schultz

General Assembly: 91 (01/13/2025 - 01/10/2027)

This photograph is provided for official informational purposes only. The image may not be copied, reproduced, distributed, or otherwise used
General Assembly. Requests for permission to use this image must be submitted to the Chief Clerk of the House for House members or the Se

State Senator
Republican
District 6

Standing Committees

- Commerce
- Judiciary (Chair)
- Natural Resources and Environment
- State Government
- Ways and Means
- Workforce (Vice Chair)

Legislation

- Bills
- Amendments
- Floor Manager
- Subcommittee Assignments

Permanent Statutory Committees

- Public Retirement Systems Committee
- State Government Efficiency Review Committee

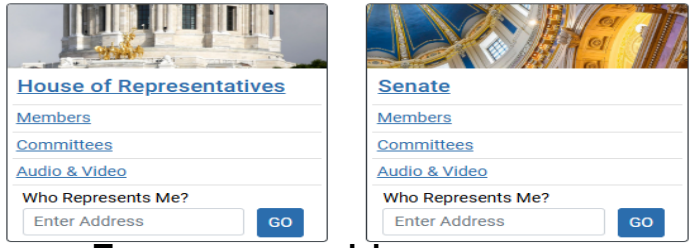
Other Information

Legislative Email:	jason.schultz@legis.iowa.gov
Business Address:	1007 E Grand Ave, Des Moines, IA 50319
Capitol Phone:	515.281.3371
Occupation:	Farmer

Additional Information about Jason Schultz

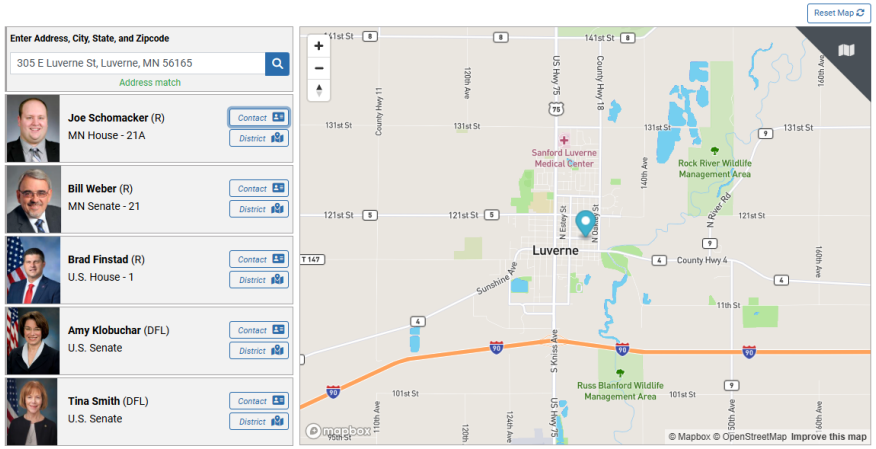
Subscribe to Jason Schultz's Newsletter

MINNESOTA



Enter your address

Geographic Information Services |



Senator Bill Weber (21, R)



95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 2211
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-5650
E-mail: Use Mail Form

Subscribe to My Newsletter

Legislative Assistant: Ryan Thornton 651-296-5070
District Map
District 21 Demographic Details

Committee Assignments:

Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate
Ranking Minority Member Taxes

Bills Authored:

Chief Author Bills

2025-2026 Biennium Regular Session Status Report (With Details)
2025-2026 Biennium Regular Session Status List

Chief and Co-Author Bills

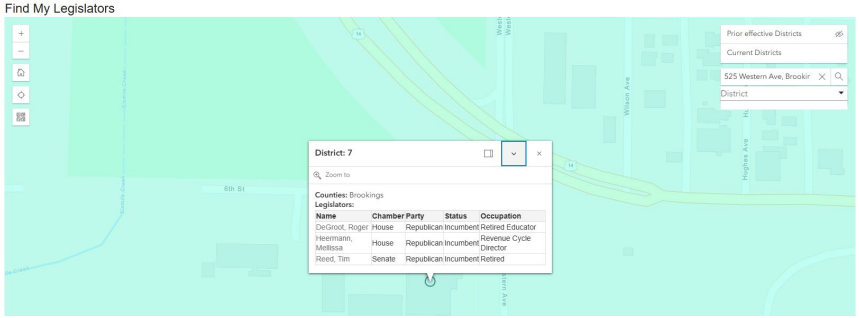
2025-2026 Biennium Regular Session Status Report (With Details)
2025-2026 Biennium Regular Session Status List
2025 one Special Session Status Report (With Details)
2025 one Special Session Status List

Legislative Service:

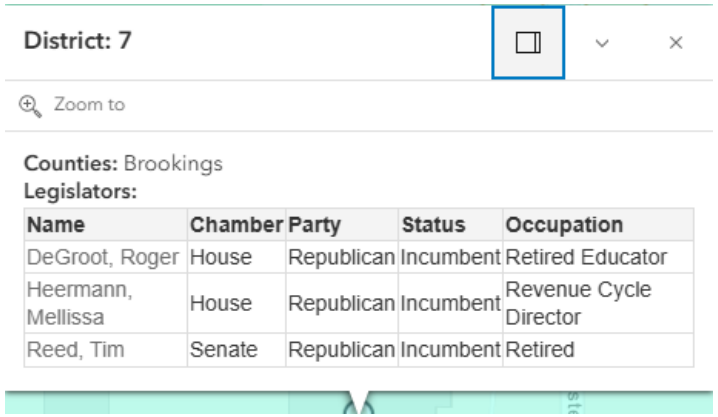
Elected: 2012, re-elected 2016, 2020, 2022
Term: 4th

SOUTH DAKOTA

Find My Legislators



Enter your address



Senator Tim S. Reed - 2026

DETAIL COMMITTEES BILLS HEARINGS

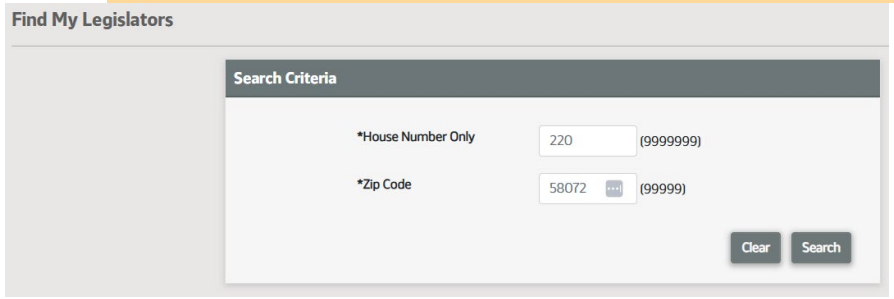


Party: Republican
Term: Incumbent
District: 07
Counties: Brookings
Occupation: Retired

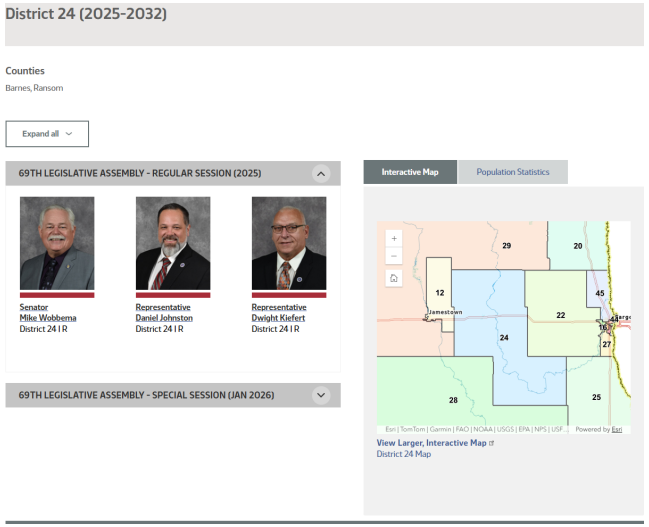
Capitol: 605-773-3821
Business: 605-691-0452

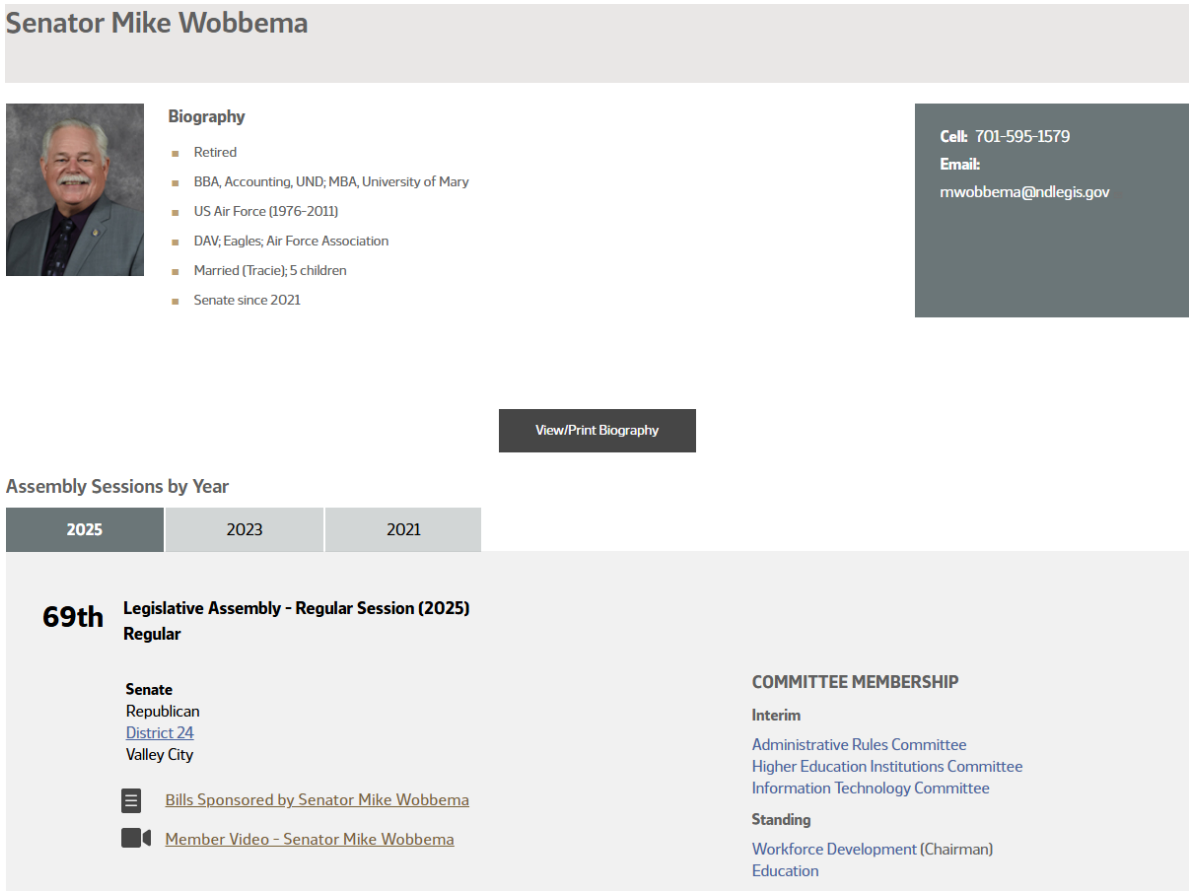
Tim.Reed@sdlegislature.gov

NORTH DAKOTA



Enter your address





Tips for Your Interim Meeting

Invite them to your office and introduce them around! They like meeting constituents

Don’t have an ask, this is all about building connection

Use key language and terms that they use

There will be a time to bring up specific issues later, this is just introduction

Let the legislator talk

Ask them follow up questions

Find your “in” (what is your connection to them)

Follow Up



Evaluate the conversation



Provide any supporting materials discussed



Figure out your next steps



Send a thank you!!

Meetings & Materials

Meetings

MRES legislator meetings

MRES SD Power Lunch

IAMU Energy Conference

MMUA Legislative Conference

ND Legislative Dinner

APPA Legislative Rally

Materials

MRES Legislative Guides

MRES Legislative Newsletter

MRES Website

MRES® Municipal Power
LEARNING ACADEMY

Questions?

Kersten Johnson

Government Affairs Liaison

Kersten.Johnson@mrenergy.com

605-338-4042

Ben Gentz

Government Affairs Liaison

ben.gentz@mrenergy.com

605-338-4042

MISSOURI RIVER® ENERGY SERVICES