

Chronology of North Dakota Tax Commissioners

The 1919 North Dakota Legislature replaced the three-member Tax Commission, created in 1911 with a single Tax Commissioner, appointed by the Governor for a six-year term with the advice and consent of the Senate. The first commissioner was to be appointed on or before the last Monday in February 1919 (S.L. 1919, Ch. 213).

- George E. Wallace (1873-1952) 1919-1921
Appointed, March 3, 1919 effective July 28, 1919; Removed December 31, 1921 by Governor Nestos
- C. C. Converse (1878-1961) 1922-1925
Appointed, January 3, 1922 by Governor Nestos; Removed March 27, 1925 by Governor Sorlie
- Thorstein H. Thoresen (1885-1956) 1925-1929
Appointed, March 28, 1925 by Governor Sorlie; Removed July 1, 1929 by Governor Shafer
- Iver A. Acker (1886-1969) 1929-1932
Appointed June 24, 1929 effective July 1, 1929 by Governor Shafer; Removed, effective December 31, 1932 by Governor Langer
- F. A. Vogel (1888-1951) 1933
Appointed January 3, 1933 by Governor Langer; Resigned March 15, 1933
- J. J. Weeks (1871-1936) 1933-1935
Appointed March 15, 1933 by Governor Langer; Removed March 24, 1935 following extensive litigation
- Lyman Baker (1886-1972)
Appointed August 9, 1934 by Governor Olson; Did not take office due to Week's litigation
- Ingram J. Moe (1872-1942)
Appointed January 17, 1935 by Governor Moodie; Did not take office due to Week's litigation
- Lee Nichols (unknown-1966) 1935-1937
Appointed March 25, 1935 by Governor Welford; Removed January 12, 1937 by Governor Langer
- John Kenneth Murray (1882-1960) 1937
Appointed January 13, 1937 by Governor Langer; Resigned April 10, 1937

Owen T. Owen (1890-unknown) 1937-1938
Appointed April 10, 1937 effective April 12, 1937 by Governor Langer; Resigned,
December 15, 1938

Claude P. Stone (Birth date - death date unknown) 1938-1939
Appointed December 27, 1938 by Governor Langer; Removed January 3, 1939 by
Governor Moses

William T. DePuy (1903-1982) 1939
Appointed January 3, 1939 by Governor Moses; Resigned, March 31, 1939

Lee Nichols (unknown-1966) 1939
Served as Acting Tax Commissioner, April 1 to May 17, 1939

John Gray (1877-1952) 1939-1940
Appointed May 17, 1939 effective May 18, 1939 by Governor Moses

By constitutional amendment adopted June 28, 1939, the Tax Commissioner became an
elective office with a term of four years. The measure also provided for the election of the Tax
Commissioner on a no-party ballot and the first commissioner would be elected in the 1940
general election (Article V, Section12). In 1987 the Tax Commissioner was removed from
the no-party ballot (S.L. 1987 Ch. 253) (N.D.C.C. 16.1-11-08).

John Gray (1877-1952) 1941-1952
Elected 1940, 1944, 1948; Died in office July 17, 1952

Burtis B. Conyne (1890-1974) 1952-1952
Appointed July 22, 1952 to fill John Gray's term; Defeated in 1952 general election

J. Arthur Engen (1897-1963) 1953-1963
Elected 1952, 1956, 1960; Died in office March 21, 1963

Lloyd B. Omdahl (1931-) 1963-1966
Appointed April 15, 1963 to fill J. Arthur Engen's term; Elected 1964; Resigned
May 1, 1966

Edwin O. Sjaastad (1903-1969) 1966-1969
Appointed May 1, 1966 to fill Lloyd B. Omdahl's term; Elected 1968; Died in office
March 20, 1969

Byron L. Dorgan (D) (1942-) 1969-1980
Appointed March 31, 1969 to fill Edwin O. Sjaastad's term; Elected 1972, 1976; Did
not seek re-election 1980

Kent Conrad (D) (1948-) 1981-1986
Elected 1980, 1984; Resigned December 2, 1986

Mary Kathryn ‘Heidi’ Heitkamp (D) (1955-) 1986-1992
Appointed December 2, 1986 to fill Kent Conrad’s term; Elected 1988; Did not seek
re-election 1992

Robert Hanson (D) (1947-2015) 1993-1995
Elected 1992, Defeated 1996

Rick Clayburgh (R) (1960-) 1996-2005
Elected 1996, 2000, 2004; Resigned May 2005

Cory Fong (R) (1972-) 2005-2013
Appointed June 1, 2005 to fill Rick Clayburgh’s term; Elected 2006, 2010; Resigned
December 31, 2013

Ryan Rauschenberger (R) (1982-) 2014-present
Appointed January 1, 2014 by Governor Jack Dalrymple to fill Cory Fong’s term;
Elected 2014