

How to Form an LLC in North Dakota Yourself (2026 Costs and Steps)

A free step-by-step guide from BusinessOwner.com. State information verified from official sources on September 15, 2026.

Quick answer

The filing fee is \$135 when filed online. File your Articles of Organization with the North Dakota Secretary of State, Business Services at <https://firststop.sos.nd.gov/forms/new/523>.

Step 1: Check that your LLC name is available

Search the agency's business name records before filing to ensure your desired name is available.

Step 2: Choose a registered agent

You may choose an individual from the business, such as a member, to serve as a noncommercial registered agent if they reside in North Dakota. The LLC itself cannot be its own registered agent. You must obtain the agent's approval before naming them and include a complete physical North Dakota address for the agent in the filing.

Step 3: File your Articles of Organization

Submit your Articles of Organization through the FirstStop Portal. The filing fee is \$135 when filed online.

Step 4: Create an operating agreement

Create an operating agreement to outline ownership, roles, voting procedures, and what happens if a member leaves.

Step 5: Get your EIN from the IRS

Get your Employer Identification Number for free from the IRS at <https://www.irs.gov/ein>.

Step 6: Keep your LLC in good standing

File an Annual Report every year by November 15. The fee is \$50. The first report is due in the year following the calendar year in which the LLC was formed. File the report through the FirstStop Portal. Failure to file places the LLC in Not Good Standing and it may be involuntarily

terminated. No initial report is required.

Frequently asked questions

How much does it cost to form an LLC in North Dakota?

The filing fee is \$135 when filed online.

When is the first annual report due?

The first annual report is due in the year following the calendar year in which the LLC was formed.

Can I serve as my own registered agent?

An individual from the business may serve as a noncommercial registered agent if they reside in North Dakota, but the LLC itself cannot be its own registered agent.

What happens if I do not file my annual report?

Not filing places the LLC in Not Good Standing and it may be involuntarily terminated.

Want us to file it for you? \$249 plus state fees.

Want the whole business set up? Book a call with BusinessOwner.com.

Sources

Official sources, last verified September 15, 2026:

- [Secretary of State](https://firststop.sos.nd.gov/forms/new/523)
<https://firststop.sos.nd.gov/forms/new/523>
- [Limited Liability Company \(LLC\) | Secretary of State | North Dakota](https://www.sos.nd.gov/business/business-services/business-structures/limited-liability-company-llc)
<https://www.sos.nd.gov/business/business-services/business-structures/limited-liability-company-llc>
- [Register a Business | Secretary of State | North Dakota](https://www.sos.nd.gov/business/business-services/register-business)
<https://www.sos.nd.gov/business/business-services/register-business>
- [Maintain Registration | Secretary of State | North Dakota](https://www.sos.nd.gov/business/business-services/maintain-registration)
<https://www.sos.nd.gov/business/business-services/maintain-registration>
- [Registered Agents | Secretary of State | North Dakota](https://www.sos.nd.gov/business/business-services/registered-agents)
<https://www.sos.nd.gov/business/business-services/registered-agents>
- [www.ndlegis.gov: t10c32-1.pdf](https://www.ndlegis.gov/cencode/t10c32-1.pdf)
<https://www.ndlegis.gov/cencode/t10c32-1.pdf>
- [IRS: Get an employer identification number](https://www.irs.gov/ein)
<https://www.irs.gov/ein>

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