

Senator **Joan Heckaman** (D) – District 23

Senator Heckaman completed her 4th session in the North Dakota Senate including service on the Education and Agriculture Committees. She is honored to have been elected as Assistant Minority Leader for the ND Senate and to the Legislative Management Committee. Her interim Committee assignments include the Budget Section, Administrative Rules, Health Services, and Education Funding. She is the legislative representative on the Governor's Autism Task Force and has attended the Darden School for Emerging Leaders as well as other national legislative meetings. She was recently appointed to the Department of Public Instructions College and Career Ready Coalition and to the Secretary of State's Voting Machine Committee. Senator Heckaman is also the State Director for Women in Government.

Senator Heckaman has a Bachelors Degree in Education from Valley City State University and a Masters Degree in Special Education from Minot State University. Following her retirement from teaching in 2004, she was called to return to the classroom as a case manager for students in special education on the Spirit Lake Native American Reservation near Devils Lake, ND, where she worked for 4 years. Since 2009, she has been teaching high school mathematics at the Alternative High School at Spirit Lake but recently retired to devote more time to her legislative responsibilities.

Senator Heckaman and her husband, Dewey, live in New Rockford, ND, and have 4 children and 10 grandchildren.