



Legislative Agenda

2026 Governing Principles

- We are opposed to any state income tax. The absence of a state income tax gives South Dakota an advantage in business attraction, expansion, and retention.
- We are opposed to property tax legislation that disproportionately shifts the burden to commercial property or negatively impacts public school funding.
- We support tax policy and incentives that allow South Dakota to remain competitive in encouraging ongoing capital investment and job creation.
- We support legislation that will enhance video lottery and allow South Dakota video lottery establishments to compete more effectively with gaming in neighboring states.
- We support appropriate funding for K-12 and higher education, including technical institutes.
- We support the personal property rights of South Dakota employers.
- We support the right of employers to make their own operational decisions rather than being forced to follow federal and state mandates.

2026 Legislative Priorities

Flood Mitigation Plan

The current flood mitigation plan, originally done in 1977 and updated in 2015 by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), is in need of review and revision given the unprecedented 1,000 year flood on the Big Sioux basin this year. We support the development of a new comprehensive plan that not only addresses North Sioux City but also addresses the entire watershed, including points to the north in South Dakota and to the south in Iowa.

Workforce Housing

In order to attract skilled workers to South Dakota and support job growth, we encourage the State to continue to participate in the development of affordable workforce housing, both single-family homes and multi-family homes. Without local and state financial support, projects like these are less attractive investments for developers to undertake. In addition, we support continued enhanced investment in South Dakota's infrastructure.

Education

With the growing demand for a skilled workforce, we support the promotion of workforce training initiatives and the technical trades as early as middle school and throughout high school. Since high school graduates are increasingly becoming an immediate source of the skilled workforce, we urge the legislature to provide the necessary K-12 funding according to the state formula, mindful that the state needs to provide a competitive wage to attract and retain the best and brightest teachers. We continue to encourage private-sector internships in the education and job training process. We also support competitive high-quality education in South Dakota and local control of school districts.

Workforce Development

We support initiatives that will provide the South Dakota workforce (both existing and future) with the skill sets required by the companies that will provide South Dakota a strong economic base. We also support the continuation of public/private partnerships in an effort to actively recruit and/or train a skilled workforce to the area.

Child Care

We support policies to increase access to quality and affordable child care assistance and allow more employees to enter the workforce. We further support policies and programs that incentivize businesses, communities, and non-profits to develop solutions that address child care accessibility and staffing shortage, and increase affordability.

Economic Development

We support the ongoing implementation and funding of the economic development funds including: the Future Fund, REDI Fund, Build Dakota Scholarship Fund, Economic Development Partnership Program, the Reinvestment Payment Program, South Dakota Jobs Grant Program, Tax Increment Financing, and the Local Infrastructure Improvement Program.

Transportation and Infrastructure

Transportation systems and other infrastructure (water and sewer) are significant components of economic development. Therefore, maintaining and improving the state's infrastructure is critical and providing sufficient funding should be a priority. Transportation needs continue to exceed available funding. In addition, the State needs to participate in the transportation needs of counties, townships and municipalities.

Healthcare

We support expanded access to healthcare insurance in the state of South Dakota.

Behavioral Health

We support equitable access to behavioral health care services to all South Dakotans.

Unemployment Insurance

It is critical to have a solvent unemployment insurance fund in the state, while maintaining the most stringent guidelines allowable by State and Federal law.