



THE 2022 SOUTH DAKOTA REPUBLICAN PARTY PLATFORM

Preamble

The fundamental principles of the South Dakota Republican Party are rooted in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the State of South Dakota. The Party supports the preservation of our Constitutional Republic, its ideals, and its institutions for the good of all Americans.

We believe the strength of our nation derives from an adherence to Judeo-Christian values. We support our nation’s heritage of religious freedom, freedom of speech, and personal responsibility. Republicans recognize we must be proactive in defending freedom at every level. We believe in equal rights and equal justice for all.

We recognize the free enterprise system and the work ethic of our people as the foundation of our economic success and security. The proper role of government is to provide for the people those critical functions that cannot be performed by individuals or private organizations. The most effective and responsible government is government closest to the people. The Republican Party’s members, leaders, and elected officials are responsible to be cognizant of and responsive to this Republican Platform and the fundamental principles of the Constitution of South Dakota and the United States of America.

We believe South Dakota is an exceptional place to live, raise a family, and pursue economic opportunity. To those ends, and for the people of our state, the South Dakota Republican Party commits itself to the following platform.

Platform Principles

INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY—The rights of American citizens proceed from God, not from government. Government authority proceeds only from the consent of the People. Individuals, including the unborn, have the intrinsic right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We affirm the sanctity of all human life.

LIMITED GOVERNMENT—Federal, state and local governments should be transparent and limited to their respective roles as essential to inherently governmental functions.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY—Individuals and families are responsible for their behavior. Public policy should encourage and empower their efforts to provide for their own health, safety, education, moral fortitude and personal wealth.

PROPERTY RIGHTS— We support private property rights as guaranteed by the fifth amendment to the United States Constitution.

TRIBAL RELATIONS— We believe the best interests of all South Dakota citizens will result from working cooperatively with tribal governments.

PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH AND THE RULE OF LAW—National security, national sovereignty, public safety, the right to self-defense, the rule of constitutional and statutory law, and civil justice should be preserved without excessive undue burdens to civil liberty.

LOWER TAXES—The State should only collect taxes to fund legitimate government functions. Government taxes, fees, and spending should be limited to essential, inherently governmental functions.

RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS—We support the right of individuals to keep and bear arms, as confirmed by the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution. And Article VI, Section 24 of the South Dakota Constitution.

FAMILY INTEGRITY AND THE AMERICAN MORAL TRADITION—Traditional American families should be encouraged and moral values supported by policies to nurture strong marriages between one man (XY) and one woman (XX).

QUALITY EDUCATION—Parents have the first and primary responsibility of educating their children. We support access to locally controlled education.

~ COMMISSIONER CANDIDATES ~

Joe Allen	Did Not Reply
Les Cope	Agree w/ Platform
Heath Greenough	Did Not Reply
Jeannine Lecy	Did Not Reply
John Staben	Agree w/ Platform
Trudy Valenzuela	Agree w/ Platform
Sandra K. Wahlert	Agree w/ Platform

Comments: I agree with the Republican Party Platform. However, it is evident that many of our South Dakota and United States Legislators, even though they claim to be Republicans, don’t adhere to it. Actions speak louder than words. You will know them by their “fruits”

~ REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATES ~

Patrick Baumann Agree w/Platform

Comments: I am a Christian conservative. As such, I look at the entire world through a Biblical lens. Additionally, I look at our local, state and national governments through a constitutional lens. My actions should always honor God and protect our constitutional rights. With you, I stand to limit government, uphold family values and protect the rights of "We the People". As you know actions speak louder than words. For years, my wife Ginger and I have taught the class, "Biblical Citizenship". We not only agree with the Platform Principles listed above, but we also instill those principles in others. We teach about our nation's forefathers, founding fathers, Declaration of independence, Constitution and Bill of Rights. We inspire others to wake up, speak up and show up to make a difference in today's world.

Tim Goodwin Agree w/ Platform

Patricia Ladner Agree w/ Platform

Matthew Monfore Agree w/ Platform

Comments: I state support by showing Contrast to Current Events. The 10th Amendment States' rights and sovereignty are pivotal because right now there is a Globalist/ Communist/Marxist/Satanic/Evil Agenda that Goes from the "Deep State"/traitorous Federal USA Agencies (including the CIA, FBI, and other Bureaucracies) to the Council on Foreign Relations members, World Economic Forum, World Health Organization, NGOs, United Nations elite and their Agenda 2030 goals. They hate everything that our South Dakota and Federal principles are, because these are primarily Christian principles. World War III (3) is here, and it includes psychological manipulation in large part (see Lt. Gen. Flynn's (Trump's NSA Director) "Intro to Fifth Generation Warfare"), also known as "information warfare" (Ronald Reagan spoke of this). You need a candidate who will stand on Platform/ Constitutional principles in the face of unprecedented evil.

Alexis de Tocqueville, the famous French Diplomat who came to America in the 1830s, wrote: "Religion in America... must be regarded as the foremost of the political institutions of that country; for if it does not impart a taste for freedom, it facilitates the use of it." Americans were mostly Protestant Christian at the time of his writing. And they have ever-been a bulwark against evil. Education and knowledge are key right now. It is hard to communicate with Republicans without people being educated. I can't explain everything here, but it is important that you get good information from PATRIOT.TV, FRANKSPEECH.COM, EPOCHTIMES.COM, AMERICASVOICE.NEWS, ONE AMERICA NEWS (OANN.COM), THE NEW AMERICAN.COM, TUCKER CARLSON.COM to name a few. Conservatives CANNOT rely on FOX NEWS or NEWS MAX, sadly. As pertains to our State Legislature, only about 20/105 Legislators were able to score 80% + on a GOP Platform/SD Constitution scorecard (sdcitizensforliberty.org) Send me, Matthew Monfore, to Pierre as one who has an "understanding of the times, to know what [the people] ought to do" (1 Chr. 12.32, NKJV) South Dakotans need to know there are two "sides" vying for power in South Dakota: Genuine Conservatives and the RINOs. President Trump said: "This is the final battle. With you at my side, we will demolish the Deep State, we will expel the warmongers from our government, we will drive out the globalists, we will cast out the communists, we will throw off the sick political class that hates our country." (North Carolina, June 10, 2023).

Stephen Saint Agree w/ Platform

Matt Smith Agree w/ Platform

Comments: If we had more candidates make an oath to the party platform and held them accountable then this state would be in a much better place. Too many take the party platform as optional though there is nothing I can see that is in opposition to the U.S. Constitution.

~ SENATE CANDIDATES ~

Forrest Foster Agree w/ Platform

Amber Hulse Did not Specify

Comments: Yes, I stand firmly with the Republican Party platform. Our party's tenants are beacons of individual freedom, economic empowerment, and timeless values. Our platform promises a future where every person can soar, unshackled by bureaucratic red tape. We champion innovation, meritocracy, and the relentless pursuit of excellence. The American Dream is still alive when Republicans who follow these main principles are in office. Looking forward, I see endless opportunities for our community. A future where our economy surges, creating boundless avenues for success, with traditional family values promoted, and quality education that empowers parents and communities to shape tomorrow's leaders. This is our moment to carve a path to greatness, where we are no longer voiceless, but heard with strength and purpose. Let's unite as Republicans to forge a tomorrow where liberty prevails, and dreams know no bounds. Embracing our platform as a blueprint for a future brimming with promise, resilience, and unwavering optimism.

Julie Frye-Mueller Agree w/ Platform

1.0 Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Energy

- 1.1 Agriculture – We support a strong and viable economy for agriculture.
- 1.2 Free Markets – We support competitive, open, and transparent markets.
- 1.3 Environment – We support the responsible use of our natural resources
- 1.4 Energy Development – We support private efforts to develop and utilize traditional, new, and renewable energy resources, striving for reliable energy independence.
- 1.5 Use of Public Lands – We support the responsible, multiple use of public lands.
- 1.6 Property Rights – We support private property rights and due process.

~ COMMISSIONER CANDIDATES ~

Joe Allen	Did Not Reply
Les Cope	Agree w/1.0
Heath Greenough	Did Not Reply
Jeannine Lecy	Did Not Reply
John Staben	Agree w/1.0
Trudy Valenzuela	Agree w/1.0
Sandra K. Wahlert	Agree w/1.0

Comments: Agriculture, specifically American agriculture, is the backbone of our country. I fully support sustainable agricultural practices. Research and/or development of energy and natural resources needs to be done in a fashion that respects good Earth stewardship and private property rights. Eminent domain for private gain is a no in my book. The climate has been changing since creation, and it will continue to change as long as Earth exists. The need for artificial carbon and methane sequestration is a lie. Plants need carbon and recycle it back into the soil, relinquishing it for soil microbes. This cycle helps improve soil and plant health, reduces flooding and water pollution due to run off, and improves viability during times of drought. Disturbing this cycle could have detrimental effects on our food production. I support many forms of energy development including oil/gas, wind, solar, nuclear, hydro, etc. with respect to above.

~ REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATES ~

Patrick Baumann **Agree w/1.0**

Comments: 1.0-1.6 I not only agree with the Platform Specifics outlined, but I have also lived them. As a third generation resident in District 30, I've lived in Fall River County (Edgemont), Pennington County (Rapid City) and Custer County (Custer). My District 30 work experience with Agriculture, Public Lands, Free Markets, Property Rights and the Environment include: Agriculture/Property Rights: assisted with our family's past potato farming and cattle ranching business on our private ranch Natural Resources/Free Markets/Public Lands: worked as a logger in the timber industry, served as reservation manager in Custer State Park, served as a field assistant for SD Game and Fish Environment/Energy: served as Environmental/Health Supervisor at the Silver King uranium mine and mill cleanup project In Wyoming, I've also served as an Environmental Mine Inspector for the Department of Environmental Quality. For the Wyoming coal energy industry, I served as an Environmental Manager and a Senior Project Manager.

Tim Goodwin **Agree w/1.0**

Comments: I served on Ag and Natural Resources committees my last 4 years in the legislature. During that time we were responsible for combining two cabinets, agriculture and natural resources and energy, into one cabinet. I thought it was important to be on this committee because these two agencies are a big part of District 30 and I felt I had an impact on policy set forth.

Patricia Ladner **Agree w/1.0**

Comments: Agriculture is the biggest industry in South Dakota and as a member of the AG and Natural Resource Committee for the past four years, I wholeheartedly support the industry, our ranchers and growers. In 2022 I was Prime Sponsor on a bill to lower taxes for Ranchers on grassland that had be reclassified incorrectly as cropland, which is taxed at a much higher rate than grassland. HB 1325 passed and was signed into law by the Governor.

Matthew Monfore **Agree w/1.0**

Comments: Government should 1. not interfere with the market 2. Protect from corruption and crime South Dakota needs to protect its food supply from tainted produce and livestock- this will in turn allow its economy to thrive because quality, clean, honestly labeled food is the DEMAND right now. Corn and soybeans are KING in South Dakota and receive substantial Federal subsidies . Sadly, with all the focus on these products, (which are grown "en masse") quality, and other produce, can be neglected (NASS.usda.gov; ewg.org) This is an example of what government shouldn't do. It isn't government's job to pick "winners and losers" and "incentivize the economy". But South Dakotans should process their own produce, livestock, etc. and not give that responsibility to foreign backed monopolies. (1.1, 1.2) WE NEED TO KNOW "WHAT IS IN" FOOD I support a similar bill to label vaccine contaminated food as a drug (Tennessee Bill HB 1894) "Edible Vaccines" are mentioned for measles, hepatitis B and cholera, into plants like lettuce, potatoes, bananas, corn, soybeans and rice. Consumers should know what they are eating, at the least. WE NEED TO BAN HARMFUL CHEMICALS LIKE GLYPHOSATE – that harm wildlife, humans, and the environment Numerous communities in different states have issued bans on Glyphosate/ingredient in Round Up - (incl. in Florida, Iowa, and Nevada) At the very least on "school

~ REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATES *continued...* ~

Matthew Monfore	<i>Continued...</i>	Comments: grounds” (Maine LD 1888, 2020)...There was a Federal Bill citing that the European Union has banned/phasing out 72 pesticides that are available in the US (S. 269 – 2023-24). We need to “save the Bees” from poison. (1.3) Also, we should pass laws that ban chem-trails, geoengineering, and weather modification- (what was done on the DAY OF the 1972 Rapid City Flood . FACT) (Tennessee HB 2063) (1.5) In South Dakota, the Legislature and Governor Noem, RAN OVER the Property Rights of many landowners with SB 201 paving the way for a GREEN NEW DEAL, PRIVATE GAIN, BOONDOGGLE, CARBON PIPELINE to force “eminent domain” on the land of innocent South Dakotans. They then gas lighted the public, calling it the “Landowner Bill of Rights” (1.6)
Stephen Saint	Agree w/1.0	Comments: Energy Development under the private sector is good, but if it violates 1.6 is such the case with Summit Carbon Solutions with the eminent domain issues not being truly for public use, then I have a serious problem with this. I would have no problems with the CO2 pipeline if it was truly private. Yet the property owners rejected this, and so the private company looked for other means to force property owners to comply.
Matt Smith	Agree w/1.0	

~ SENATE CANDIDATES ~

Forrest Foster	Agree w/1.0	Comments: I support the Republican Party's stance on agriculture, free markets, the environment, energy development, the use of public lands, and property rights. However, I emphasize private property rights as fundamental to our democracy. Additionally, national security demands prioritizing energy independence, even over green, experimental, or renewable research, unless proven reliable and cost effective. We must reduce our reliance on foreign nations for our energy needs while still being environmentally conscious and responsible stewards of our natural resources. Our future hinges on preserving these vital rights while striving for reliable energy independence and sustainable resource management. Finally, I oppose any policies that undermine the principles of individual liberty and free enterprise and free markets. We must stand united in safeguarding our property rights, promoting responsible governance, and preserving the values that have made America the beacon of freedom and opportunity for generations.
Amber Hulse	Did not Specify	
Julie Frye-Mueller	Agree w/1.0	Comments: 1.1 & 1.2 - We should add “Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling” (MCOOL) to support our local producers. 1.4 & 1.6 – As we have recently seen private benefactors potentially using eminent domain and consequently could reduce or remove private property rights with the CO2 pipeline legislation. The dangers posed by this high pressure pipeline also create risks that may be lethal. Too many Republican legislators have voted for this pipeline legislation and I question their adherence to supporting private property rights as spelled out in both our constitutions and platform.

2.0 Economic Development and Jobs

- 2.1 Economic Growth – We support the creation of new jobs, economic development, and job training which will encourage our youth and adults to stay in the great State of South Dakota.
- 2.2 Right-to-Work – We support the right-to-work provision in the South Dakota Constitution. We support the employee’s right to have a secret ballot in any election called to organize a union. Employees should not be coerced to pay union dues.
- 2.3 Infrastructure – We support the development of modern infrastructure to foster economic growth.
- 2.4 Government Intrusion – We believe economic activity thrives in an environment of limited government intrusion and can be stifled by government overreach and excessive taxation and overregulation. We believe government should not compete with private enterprise. We oppose the implementation of Environmental Social Governance (ESG) standards.

~ COMMISSIONER CANDIDATES ~

Joe Allen	Did Not Reply	Comments: I support infrastructure development such as roads, airports, trains, schools, libraries, hospitals, public services, utilities, etc. as needed for the greater good, but also with respect to earth stewardship, private property rights, economic resources, and fiscally responsible budgets. Economic growth is important, but it must be tempered by the individuals’ rights and environmental stewardship. As opposed to governmental subsidies to certain enterprises, I would prefer to see less taxes and/or regulations to open various markets when necessary to aid in the sustainability of crucial industries in our economy. I am against government-controlled forms of digital currency. The American people should not be banned from using cash and our Federal government needs to quit printing so much money. Ideally, any money printed would be backed by gold.
Les Cope	Agree w/2.0	
Heath Greenough	Did Not Reply	
Jeannine Lecy	Did Not Reply	
John Staben	Agree w/2.0	
Trudy Valenzuela	Agree w/2.0	
Sandra K. Wahlert	Agree w/2.0	

~ REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATES ~

Patrick Baumann	Agree w/2.0	Comments: 2.2 I've worked among modern day unions and I've seen the negative effects of coercion. No employee should be coerced or forced to participate in union activity. 2.4 Government intrusion is progressively stomping out private businesses. I've worked in companies that file regular weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual reports to over twenty government agencies. Recently, government overreach has even mandated that businesses shut down or reduce production. ESG scores are being utilized to regulate which businesses fail or succeed. Government should never compete with private enterprise (for example, campgrounds). Excessive government regulation, taxation and overreach MUST STOP NOW!
Tim Goodwin	Agree w/2.0	Comments: One agency I would like to see closed to save tax-payer money, would be the employment agency. We have more jobs than people to fill them in District 30 and statewide. This mission of employment could be easily picked up by the private sector which is privately funded and not funded by taxpayers.
Patricia Ladner	Agree w/2.0	Comments: Economic growth is vital to our small growing communities. The City of Hot Springs has been severely impacted by the road construction of Hwy 385 through town. A two-year project is now looking like it will be a 4-year project. Businesses are struggling to survive. The Downtown Business owners asked for help. I reached out to the Washington DC Department of Transportation office, who called the State and local representatives of the DOT. We had several meetings with DOT representatives and the downtown business owners. These meetings were positive. DOT listened and made accommodations where they could.
Matthew Monfore	Agree w/2.0	Comments: Economic Growth is not the government's job (2.1) Governments "job" is to ensure fair and just competition- not "messing" with the free market... (2.1, 2.3) I support by showing contrast. This section makes me sick because, South Dakota, although claiming a "Republican" majority is in actuality "open for business". This is called "corporatism", where big business runs a state "hand-in-hand". Having been in Pierre, I have seen this firsthand. Governor Noem, Lt. Gov Rhoden, the Senate, and an increasing number of House Republicans are "in on it". An example of this is the 2022 "housing infrastructure" bills that appropriated \$100s of MILLIONS of dollars. It was a "crisis" and D30 Candidate Tim Goodwin said to the effect "we need to do this". Trish Ladner voted for a similar infrastructure bill, SB 53, but did oppose SB 65. Senator Julie Frye Mueller has since apologized for voting for housing bills. This intrusion into the housing economy was basically socialized housing, and some proponents even claimed to "fix the problem", even at the same time the same "economic development"-wing of the legislature gave the sentiment "we don't know what the effect will be, but we gotta do this". Which developers were "selected" for these large sums of \$\$\$ cash? (CHALLENGE: Listen online to the great defense by Conservatives in the House [HB 1033 on the House Floor at sdlegislature.gov] The Chamber of Commerce, Elevate in Rapid City (Tim Goodwin is "their guy" with a 100% score), SD Retailers Association are not friends of Conservative Economic Principles: They are guided by \$\$\$, not God, not the Constitution, not the Platform – They are "yes men" with empty heads who "just wanna help" (listen to Rep. Mills testimony on SB 53). (2.3) Also, Call up the Conservative Christian Camp, Rainbow Bible Ranch and ask them about the GF&P Gun Range that "had to be built" near their horse camp (Tim Goodwin voted for in SB 175) Also Sickening was the 2023 Vote on "common carrier" status for hazardous carbon dioxide pipelines Green New Deal Climate Scam (HB 1133). GEVO, a South Dakota company would use the pipeline. Gov. Noem's son-in law works for Gevo. And Noem wouldn't do much of anything to fight it. It is the largest economic development project in SD history guaranteed by c. \$1 billion federal dollars. To help the economy, government, including state government, needs to get rid of bureaucratic agencies and laws. (2.3, 2.4)
Stephen Saint	Agree w/2.0	Comments: On 2.1 I support bringing back the value of apprenticeship and skills trades to our youth as well. On 2.4 As a business owner I am a strong advocate of the government not competing with the private sector.
Matt Smith	Agree w/2.0	Comments: Yes, to all of the above. Especially "We believe economic activity thrives in an environment of limited government intrusion and can be stifled by government overreach and excessive taxation and overregulation. We believe government should not compete with private enterprise. We oppose the implementation of Environmental Social Governance (ESG) standards."

~ SENATE CANDIDATES ~

Forrest Foster Agree w/2.0

Amber Hulse Did not Specify **Comments:** I champion economic growth by limiting government intrusion and red tape, prioritizing job creation, fostering economic development, and providing robust job training opportunities to retain our valuable youth workforce in South Dakota. Our state's future depends on keeping our young talents here, ensuring they have ample opportunities for meaningful careers and fulfilling lives. Retaining our youth in South Dakota means providing vibrant communities with thriving businesses and ample opportunities for personal and professional growth. It should be an easy choice for our kids to come home to the communities they call home. Furthermore, I recognize the urgent need to invest in infrastructure. Main Street Hot Springs is a perfect example of where infrastructure went too long without being updated and has resulted in struggling businesses. I am committed to addressing these infrastructure challenges and providing necessary resources to ensure the success of our small businesses and the vitality of our communities.

Julie Frye-Mueller Partially Agree w/2.0

Comments: 2.1 Clarification: I support private industry, not government, to find investors, create jobs, and provide job training.

3.0 Health and Human Services

3.1 Well-Being of All – We affirm our commitment to the physical, mental, social, and spiritual well-being of all South Dakotans.

3.2 Role of Parents – We affirm the rights of parents as the primary nurturers, responsible for the financial support, moral training, education, childcare, health care, and discipline of their children.

3.3 Opposition to Socialized Medicine – We support the private practice of medicine and oppose socialized medicine in the form of a universal health care system. We oppose medical mandates, coercion, and intimidation of individuals.

3.4 VA and IHS – We encourage timely, accessible, and high quality healthcare for South Dakotans served by the Veterans Administration and the Indian Health Services.

3.5 Healthcare Cooperation – We encourage working relationships with faith-based organizations to address well-being.

3.6 Caring for Others – We affirm our commitment to address the needs of citizens who are physically or mentally unable to care for themselves.

~ COMMISSIONER CANDIDATES ~

Joe Allen Did Not Reply

Les Cope Agree w/3.0

Heath Greenough Did Not Reply

Jeannine Lecy Did Not Reply

John Staben Agree w/3.0

Trudy Valenzuela Agree w/3.0

Sandra K. Wahlert Agree w/3.0

Comments: Considering the current state of affairs in the world today, what some may call “health care,” has to be tailored in light of the Judeo-Christian principles that our constitution claims to adhere to. I am adverse to calling abortion, “women’s health care,” and surgical removal of the sexual organs a child was born with, “gender affirming care.” Vaccines don’t need to be mandated. Doctors shouldn’t be controlled by legislators that lack medical training, nor should they have to be concerned about losing their license because they choose to offer a patient an “alternative” treatment. Doctors can offer, and patients can choose various treatments based on mutual agreement and informed consent. I support working relationships with faith-based organizations and helping parents and families take care of their own for as long as possible, in an effort to relieve strain on the medical care system and to help promote the family bond.

~ REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATES ~

Patrick Baumann Agree w/3.0

Comments: 3.1 I define the term, “South Dakotans” to mean legal US Citizens with South Dakota residency. Illegal immigrants should not receive State or Federal funded benefits of any kind. 3.2 The Bible is very specific about the important role of parents as leaders of the family. The government should not fill that role. 3.3 I oppose socialist, Marxist, communist or globalist forms of government. Socialized medicine and medical mandates are initial signs that these forms of government are gaining a foothold in America and that we are losing our constitutional republic. 3.4 I STRONGLY support VA and IHS services in South Dakota. 3.5 The Bible is very specific about the important role of the church in taking care of those in need. Again, government welfare programs are a sign that socialism is gaining a foothold in America.

~ REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATES *continued...* ~

Tim Goodwin	Agree w/3.0	Comments: We live in a veterans' district, having more veterans proportionately than any other district in the state. We have a state home and a VA center (both in Hot Springs) and it is imperative that we support and keep both of these facilities open. I also served on the Military and Veterans Affairs committee, which didn't exist when I arrived in Pierre in 2016. We were the only state that didn't have a Military and Veterans Affairs committee. This caused military and veterans issue to go to other committees such as State and Local Government. I led the charge to get this committee added so that military and veterans issues would go to a military and veteran's affairs committee. An example of progress was that we were able to secure a state cemetery in Sioux Falls that was federally funded. The benefit is our veterans and their spouses can now be buried in not only our state cemetery in Sioux Falls but also the national cemetery located in the black hills. Locally this will have a benefit for us veterans in the black hills to not have the national cemetery fill up as fast.
Patricia Ladner	Agree w/3.0	Comments: I support our Veterans and want all of our citizens to have access to good healthcare. This past legislative session I supported a new proposed program in District 30 that would take Veterans from across the United States, provide them counseling and a safe environment while teaching them a new skill such as welding, plumbing, meat packing, etc. In other words, teaching them how to fish and not just giving them a fish. This program would have addressed the mental and physical well-being of our veterans.
Matthew Monfore	Agree w/3.0	Comments: No Citizen in America should trust any Health Corporation or Government Health Agency. Why? The Covid 19 Vaccine is a Bio weapon, that according to the US Government's own VAERS program has killed, injured, or been reported 1.6 million times (openvaers.com; "The Real Anthony Fauci" and "The Wuhan Cover-up" by Robert F Kennedy Jr.) Ivermectin, Hydroxychloroquine, Budesonide, and monoclonal antibodies have saved thousands upon thousands, and countless lives -yet some of these medicines were "blacklisted". The CDC, WHO, and South Dakota Dept. of Health need to be held accountable for the worst "public health" catastrophe in the history of the world ("Nuremburg 2.0" Rise of the Fourth Reich: Confronting COVID Fascism with a New Nuremberg Trial, So This Never Happens Again by Deace and Horowitz) If you have been vaccinated go to Graith Care. Com americasfrontlinedoctors.org, covid19critical-care.com, myfreedoctor.com and timetofreeamerica.com I supported and testified for SB 100 in 2024 to protect children from forced vaccination. And HB 1235 in 2023 to protect from Covid Vaccination. I am at about my "word-limit" for this section. Basically, stay away from any government-mandated/forced operation/input into your body that God made (3.1 to 3.6)
Stephen Saint	Agree w/3.0	
Matt Smith	Agree w/3.0	Comments: I believe parents are solely responsible for the care and wellbeing of their children, to the point they must keep their children from "sex change" operations even if the child themselves do not identify as the sex they were born until the age of 18. Anything else is child abuse and should be criminally charged.

~ SENATE CANDIDATES ~

Forrest Foster	Agree w/3.0	
Amber Hulse	Did not Specify	Comments: My first exposure to politics began with the Save the VA movement, when I saw how the government flick of a pen in Washington D.C. could change our lives and area as we knew it in a flash. As young as 7 th and 8 th grade, I began advocating for our heroes' right to the highest standard of care. It's a belief rooted in our commitment to the well-being of all South Dakotans, encompassing their physical, mental, social, and spiritual health. Parents play an irreplaceable role in nurturing and shaping our future generations. They have the sole right and responsibility to provide for their children's welfare and upbringing. I staunchly oppose socialized medicine or government run healthcare- as the issues within the VA and IHS demonstrate what happens when government is in charge of providing care. We must ensure timely, accessible, and quality healthcare for our veterans and Indigenous communities served by the Veterans Administration and Indian Health Services.
Julie Frye-Mueller	Agree w/3.0	

4.0 Education and Cultural Affairs

- 4.1 Quality Education – We support our state’s commitment to quality education consistent with Republican values. We support public, private, and home school educational opportunities and we encourage policies that would allow families to direct the use of their education tax dollars.
- 4.2 Local Control – We support returning control of the school curriculum to the parents and communities that fund it. We support the elimination of all federally mandated requirements.
- 4.3 Parental Rights and Responsibilities – We support the rights of parents in the education of their children. We believe parents have the right to personally observe classroom instruction, access their children’s instructional materials and records at no cost to them, and to have a voice regarding their children’s involvement in assessments. We believe in a wholesome educational setting, free from inappropriate sexual and/or cultural information in our curriculum and classrooms. Furthermore, we believe that participation in school sponsored sex education ought to be entirely a parental opt-in.
- 4.4 Value of Abstinence – We encourage instruction to students on the social, psychological, economic, and health gains to be realized by abstinence from sexual activity until marriage.
- 4.5 Educational Accommodations—We affirm the sex at birth, male (XY) or female (XX), shall determine one’s participation in or use of restrooms, locker rooms, sports teams or other accommodations.
- 4.6 Cultural Importance – We recognize the relevance of history and heritage in South Dakota. Our greatness results from diverse individuals assimilating into our American Heritage. “Out of the many we are one.” We support the English language as a unifying factor to this end.
- 4.7 Historical Foundation – We support the teaching of the Mayflower Compact, the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, the South Dakota Constitution, the Federalist Papers, and the historical role of faith and the Bible. We support further emphasis on the principles and values upon which our nation was founded, such as a constitutional republican form of government and the benefits of capitalism.
- 4.8 Key Texts – We support the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in our schools and oppose deletions, changes, or amendments to the Pledge. We support the display of the South Dakota Motto, “Under God, the People Rule,” in our schools. We support display of the Ten Commandments in schools.
- 4.9 Data Protection – We support the protection of personally identifiable information. We oppose the unethical collection of personal information. Such information should not be obtained without legal consent.
- 4.10 Free Speech –Free speech in education is critical to the expansion of thought.
- 4.11 The Scientific Method—We recognize that to “trust the science” is inherently unscientific, and that proper science requires that science be questioned in accordance with the scientific method.

~ COMMISSIONER CANDIDATES ~

Joe Allen	Did Not Reply
Les Cope	Agree w/4.0
Heath Greenough	Did Not Reply
Jeannine Lecy	Did Not Reply
John Staben	Agree w/4.0
Trudy Valenzuela	Agree w/4.0
Sandra K. Wahlert	Agree w/4.0

Comments: I support legal immigration. We are all one race, the human race. (Can you imagine our diets without all the cultural diversity of food that we have in America.) Yum! Yum! I am a homeschool mom and support homeschooling. We need to teach unadulterated history. With the exception of rare genetic anomalies, a person is born either male or female as God created them. XX or XY. I believe that creation/intelligent design should be taught in schools as an alternative to the theory of evolution. I believe the Bible should be read in school at least as a literary text/historical document. Bible verses, Bible reading, and prayer should be encouraged and not prohibited in schools and other public places. Free speech is paramount to our republic. If an individual uses hate speech, it makes them look the north end of a south bound donkey.

~ REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATES ~

Patrick Baumann	Agree w/4.0
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Comments: 4.1-4.6 Government has gone well beyond constitutional boundaries by making a strangle hold upon education. Power needs to be returned to parents and local communities. Parents have the right to choose what type of education their children have. Further, English, reading, writing and math need to be the focus rather than DEI, sexual orientation, race theories or political agendas. 4.7-4.10 My actions should always honor God and protect our constitutional rights. With you, I stand to limit government, uphold family values and protect the rights of “*We the People*”. As you know actions speak louder than words. For years, my wife Ginger and I have taught the class, “Biblical Citizenship”. We not only agree with the Platform Specifics, but we also instill those principles in others. We teach about our nation’s forefathers, founding fathers, Declaration of independence, Constitution and Bill of Rights. We inspire others to wake up, speak up and show up to make a difference in today’s world.

~ REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATES *continued...* ~

Tim Goodwin	Agree w/4.0	Comments: Local control is always a hot issue. I believe government should be pushed down to the lowest level possible. We must remember when we pass a bill in Pierre, it is one-size-fits-all because it affects every citizen in the state. By having the government down to the lowest level possible, many issues can be handled by the school boards, the city councils, and by the county commissioners. 4.7: Historical Foundation. I do not believe in the “woke” agenda headed by the Biden administration that is deliberately trying to erase history. Examples: tearing down civil war statues and changing names of military posts such as changing Fort Bragg in North Carolina where I was a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division to Fort Liberty. The reason given was General Bragg, a civil war general owned slaves.
Patricia Ladner	Agree w/4.0	Comments: As a legislator, I am in contact with all of the superintendents in District 30, keeping my finger on the pulse of issues and getting their input on upcoming legislation as it relates to our communities. I am a big proponent of parental rights especially when it comes to our children’s education. Our children are our future! I was proud to support the legislation for the Fairness in Woman’s Sports bill that passed and was signed into law by the Governor.
Matthew Monfore	Agree w/4.0	Comments: I testified before the South Dakota Board of Education Standards in 2022- 2023 season, a couple times, for the New Standards that are more conservative and rigorous (4.1, 4.2) I opposed the Critical Race Theory, Oceti Sakowin Standards that are racist and “revisionist” history I supported bills/rules to get rid of pornography in schools and libraries and communities. I testified on HB 1163 in 2023 to prohibit obscenity in schools and libraries (4.3) I am producing the first Documentary about the Christian History of South Dakota, which includes Christian Dakota Indians, Missionaries, and statesmen. I support a similar bill to Iowa’s School Choice Bill (HF 68) which allows for a voucher and \$\$ to follow students to private schooling.(4.1 and 4.3) Abstinence - Also Bill Federer (American Minute) shared this recently: "In his 1934 book Sex and Culture, Oxford anthropologist J.D. Unwin explained, that after studying 86 civilizations over 5,000 years, including Sumerians, Babylonians, Greeks, Romans, Teutons, and Anglo–Saxons, that sexual promiscuity always precedes the decline of a civilization." (4.4) (partial 4.4 because Exceeded 1500 word limit.
Stephen Saint	Partially Agree w/4.0	Comments: On 4.4 I believe that this should fall on the parents and not the school system. We cannot say in section 4.3 that the parents should have a say in what their child learns and not say the same thing for 4.4. On 4.8 I believe that displaying the Ten Commandments brings a very specific religion into the classroom. You can teach values but religion should be taught with the parents.
Matt Smith	Agree w/4.0	Comments: The Dept. of Education needs to be abolished, as it started under Jimmy Carter in 1979, and it’s done nothing good to further us as a strong nation. I believe our tax dollars, when our kids are in school, should go to the school of our choice. We need full competition between private and public schools. Public schools have failed us, though we have some good teachers in the public schools, my parents having been among those, I do believe public schools have outlived their usefulness and it is evident by the number of families who have decided to pull their children out of the system. We also need to require Civics instead of Social Studies in order to graduate from High School. Our children will not learn about the US Constitution if left to the public school system.

~ SENATE CANDIDATES ~

Forrest Foster	Agree w/4.0	
Amber Hulse	Did not Specify	Comments: As a proud product of South Dakota's public education system—from K-12 to my undergraduate degree—I've personally witnessed the state's commendable efforts despite limited resources, including funding for teacher salaries. However, recent trends towards politicized curriculum and "woke" content threaten the integrity of our education system. We must prioritize teaching civics and safeguarding our children from inappropriate material, ensuring a focus on core subjects. It's unbelievable that we must fight to ensure only girls compete in girls' sports. The daily recitation of the pledge is crucial for instilling patriotism and unity. Protecting free speech on college campuses is non-negotiable, especially within the Board of Regents. The South Dakota Constitution requires we provide a public school system. We must stay good on that promise to our students and ensure they receive the quality education they deserve, while protecting alternative options including homeschooling and school choice, as long as educational standards are maintained, and no students fall through the cracks.
Julie Frye-Mueller	Agree w/4.0	Comments: We need to have input on what books are in our school and public libraries. Also, we need to remove all Drag Queen events from schools and any other tax payer funded facilities. This is not education!

5.0 Government Affairs

- 5.1 Lower Taxes—We support a lower tax burden, limited and effective spending at all government levels, as well as limiting growth of government.
- 5.2 State's Rights—We support the 10th Amendment to the United States Constitution and oppose government mandates.
- 5.3 Balanced Budgets—We support balanced government budgets.
- 5.4 American Flag—We respect the American flag and encourage flag etiquette.
- 5.5 Entitlement Reform – We support entitlement reform at the federal level in order to put federal entitlement programs on a sound fiscal basis.
- 5.6 Election Integrity—We support all efforts to guarantee the integrity of our elections. We believe South Dakota voters should be the informed of the source of political ads. We support a voting system that requires the vote to be verifiable by paper balloting. We support using physical presentation of state- and tribal-issued photo IDs. We oppose internet voting and same-day voter registration.
- 5.7 Judges— We support the appointment of state and federal judges with an originalist interpretation of the Constitution.
- 5.8 Freedom of Information—We believe the free flow of information empowers and energizes a republic and serves to keep government accountable. We support the federal Freedom of Information Act.
- 5.9 Legal Immigration—We support the rights of immigrants to enter our country legally and support the rights of legal immigrants to work in our state. It is the responsibility of the state and federal governments to enforce immigration laws and to protect our borders.
- 5.10 Foreign Law –We expect the courts of South Dakota to refrain from relying upon foreign law.
- 5.11 Candidates and Public Officials— The Republican Party's members, leaders, and elected officials are responsible to be cognizant of and responsive to this Republican Platform and the fundamental principles of the Constitution of South Dakota and the United States of America. We encourage the county Central Committees to use these documents as a means to educate the public.
- 5.12 Electoral College – We support the Electoral College. We support a party system as the best way to engage the voting public.
- 5.13 Local Elections—We believe the presence of conservative principles is vital to flourishing communities, including non-partisan offices such as school boards and local governments. County party organizations should help to maintain the integrity of the Party by interviewing, evaluating, and encouraging local candidates and school choice based upon the principles set forth in this platform.

~ COMMISSIONER CANDIDATES ~

Joe Allen	Did Not Reply
Les Cope	Agree w/5.0
Heath Greenough	Did Not Reply
Jeannine Lecy	Did Not Reply
John Staben	Agree w/5.0
Trudy Valenzuela	Agree w/5.0
Sandra K. Wahlert	Agree w/5.0

Comments: I believe in showing a valid ID before voting as well as maintaining reasonable residency policies for voters. A candidate should only be allowed to represent the district they live in and voters should only be able to vote from one address after fulfilling residency requirements. Elections need to be transparent which may entail smaller precincts, hand counting, or at the very least proof of votes such as CVRS (cast vote records).

~ REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATES ~

Patrick Baumann	Agree w/5.0
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Comments: 5.6 Not only do I agree with election integrity, but I also work to defend it. I have worked with the county auditors in Fall River, Custer and Pennington to insure the integrity of our elections. After the 2022 General Election, I was part of the first hand count audit of random precincts, in Custer County. This audit was conducted to verify the validity of the machine counts. If we expect our banks to be audited regularly, why shouldn't we expect the same for our elections? 5.9 America currently has an open border policy. According to the US Customs and Border Protection Agency (CBP), over 8 million illegal border crossings have occurred during the past 3 years. The actual number is FAR greater than that. Illegal immigrants have been bussed and flown all over our nation, including into South Dakota. According to the CBP, illegal immigrants are coming from over 150 other countries. They are primarily young adult males, not family groups. With them, they bring fentanyl, child sex trafficking and crime. They are allowed to enter and travel without identification, vaccinations or health screening (unlike Americans that have been forced to vaccinate or lose their jobs). Some states are joining our federal government in providing illegal immigrants with free lodging, cell phones, gift cards, education, medical care and travel accommodations. I stand firmly AGAINST ANY state or federal support for illegal immigrants. Build the wall.

Tim Goodwin	Agree w/5.0
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Comments: 5.1 Lower taxes. The reason I am running is that our property tax system is out of control and needs to be fixed. 5.2 States Rights. When sworn into office, we take an oath to the constitution of the United States and the state of South Dakota against all enemies foreign and domestic. In our state constitution it talks about term limits so our two senators and our one congressman can only serve two terms or twelve years. Our senators serve a 6-year term and our congressman serves a 2-year term. This was ruled unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court. If elected, I will present a bill that takes our state constitution before the U.S. Supreme Court and asks for another ruling. Keep in mind our U.S. Supreme Court has turned over since 1999 and I would expect a favorable ruling honoring the 10th amendment states' rights.

~ REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATES *continued...* ~

Patricia Ladner	Agree w/5.0	Comments: This past legislative session, I spearheaded a tax reform bill that would have reset the property valuations for owner-occupied homes back to 2020 (pre COVID), and then cap increases at no more than 3% per year. The bill made it through Senate Tax Committee, but was defeated in the Senate. However, it got the conversation started. I have continued meeting with Legislators and Department heads and they now admit that something needs to be done. Senator Kolbeck and I requested an Interim Property Tax Study for this summer which was approved. Members of the committee will be assigned at the end of April. All parties involved, home-owners, legislators, Department of Revenue, and lobbyists need to work together in order to find a viable solution.
Matthew Monfore	Agree w/5.0	Comments: Exceeded Word Limit
Stephen Saint	Agree w/5.0	
Matt Smith	Agree w/5.0	Comments: Amen to all of the above, praise God and pass the ammo!

~ SENATE CANDIDATES ~

Forrest Foster	Agree w/5.0	
Amber Hulse	Did not Specify	Comments: As a budding election and political law attorney, I understand that the integrity of our electoral process is paramount. Without secure elections and public trust in our election system's integrity, all other policy issues fall to the wayside. I have dedicated my career to ensuring free and fair elections, recognizing that they are the cornerstone of our democracy. I believe lower taxes, limited government spending, and balanced budgets are crucial for fostering economic growth and ensuring fiscal responsibility. Our federal debt is alarming. I firmly support the protection of states' rights through our system of federalism. While I am a strong supporter of legal immigration, the crisis at our southern border must be handled. The federal government and the Biden Administration are committing a dereliction of duty. We need more judges who uphold the Constitution's original intent, not engage in judicial activism, or legislate from the bench.
Julie Frye-Mueller	Partially Agree w/5.0	Comments: 5.1 This plank would be enhanced by adding: All political subdivisions must create budgets by "ZERO BASED BUDGETING METHODS EVERY YEAR". Taxpayers cannot continue to pay for the budget increases because of the "use it or lose it" thought process. 5.6 We could improve election integrity by reducing the early voting timeframe, tightening requirements for mail in ballots, and passing legislation such as SJR511 from 2024 session, which only allows a citizen to vote. 5.11 The words in this plank "responsible to <u>be cognizant of and responsive to</u> this Republican Platform" needs to be changed to "responsible to <u>adhere and support</u> this Republican Platform". 5.13 At the end we should add "and the use of scorecards for accountability of voting records".

6.0. Tribal Relations

- 6.1 Cooperation—We affirm our commitment to work cooperatively with Tribal Governments.
- 6.2 Commitment— We are committed to improving the State-Tribal Relationship to enhance the lives of our state's tribal members.

~ COMMISSIONER CANDIDATES ~

Joe Allen	Did Not Reply
Les Cope	Agree w/6.0
Heath Greenough	Did Not Reply
Jeannine Lecy	Did Not Reply
John Staben	Agree w/6.0
Trudy Valenzuela	Agree w/6.0
Sandra K. Wahlert	Agree w/6.0

~ REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATES ~

Patrick Baumann	Agree w/6.0	Comments: Although we are all South Dakotans, I recognize the sovereignty of our tribal governments. I am committed to working with these governments to address the unique problems they face. Some of the biggest issues I see are chemical dependency and a dependence upon a socialistic type of government welfare program.
Tim Goodwin	Agree w/6.0	Comments: I am aghast of the amount of fraud, waste and abuse that is happening on our nine reservations. I agree with Gov. Noem on having the Federal Government conduct a full audit of all their expenditures.
Patricia Ladner	Agree w/6.0	Comments: I believe that effective legislation is all about relationships. I have cultivated relationships with Senator Red Dawn Foster, District 27, and Senator Shawn Bordeaux, District 26. It is my belief that by listening to each other, we can have the important, yet respectful conversations and openly discuss the pros and cons of an issue in order to find common ground.

~ **REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATES** *continued...* ~

Matthew Monfore Agree w/6.0
Stephen Saint Agree w/6.0
Matt Smith Agree w/6.0

Comments: Exceeded Word Limit

Comments: The reservations are a socialist hell hole. They need more freedom, less hand outs and a will to live! I have talked to too many who live on the reservation and this isn't life, it's not even an existence, it's a living hell brought on by government. However, we should be committed to working at building stronger relationships.

~ **SENATE CANDIDATES** ~

Forrest Foster Agree w/6.0
Amber Hulse Did not Specify

Comments: As a candidate running to represent a district bordering Indian Country, I prioritize fostering stronger partnerships with Tribal Governments. My commitment to cooperation and improving the State-Tribal Relationship isn't just rhetoric—it's a fundamental aspect of serving our diverse community. Fall River County shares services with Oglala County. One of the reasons I took a semester of law classes at the University of South Dakota was to delve into Indian Law, recognizing the importance of understanding the unique challenges faced by tribal members in our district as well as the complicated jurisdictional matters that can arise in tribal contexts. By working together with Tribal Governments, we can address issues such as law enforcement, mental health, and addiction, ensuring that every member of our community can thrive. We must attempt to build bridges of trust and cooperation and work together to build a brighter future for all residents, regardless of background or heritage.

Julie Frye-Mueller Agree w/6.0

7.0 Public Safety and Security

7.1 Justice – We support the fair and equal administration of justice to protect the public and their property, to assist victims of crime, punish as well as rehabilitate offenders, and assist in the transition of offenders into society.

7.2 Law Enforcement – We support law enforcement and their work to provide citizens with a crime-free environment. We applaud and appreciate those involved with public safety in South Dakota.

7.3 Right to Bear Arms—The Right of Citizens to bear arms in defense of themselves and/or their property and the state shall not be denied nor infringed.

7.4 Homeland Security – We support a strong and reasonable approach to homeland security that protects our safety, our borders, and our liberties.

7.5 Armed Forces- We support with all our hearts those men and women and their families in all branches of the armed forces, past and present, who have sacrificed their time and lives for our country.

~ **COMMISSIONER CANDIDATES** ~

Joe Allen Did Not Reply
Les Cope Agree w/7.0
Heath Greenough Did Not Reply
Jeannine Lecy Did Not Reply
John Staben Agree w/7.0
Trudy Valenzuela Agree w/7.0
Sandra K. Wahlert Agree w/7.0

Comments: The key here is equal administration of justice, not rules for thee and not for me. Very few if any restrictions on the right to bear arms: However, if you abuse that right, there should be consequences. Of course, one should have the right to defend oneself (life and property) without adverse repercussions.

~ **REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATES** ~

Patrick Baumann Agree w/7.0

Comments: 7.2 I support our law enforcement officers and believe that they are the foundation of keeping peace in our state. 7.3 I not only believe in the right to keep and bear arms... I also fight to defend it. Many of the people in Pennington, Custer and Fall River Counties have seen me at commissioner meetings and public forums speaking against gun control laws and supporting our Second Amendment Rights. 7.4 Refer to comment for 5.9. 7.5 Like most of you, I have family and friends that have been injured or have lost their life defending this country. I support our armed forces, veterans and their families. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. John 15:13

~ REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATES *continued...* ~

Tim Goodwin	Agree w/7.0	Comments: 7.2 Law Enforcement. During the recent uprising in the S.D. Penitentiary in Sioux Falls, some correctional officers were assaulted, one to the point of being hospitalized. I agree with Attorney General Jackley that those responsible for these actions should be accountable to the fullest extent of the law. 7.5 Armed Forces. I currently serve as President of the Black Hills Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). We represent all ranks and all branches of service. Our three issues this year are recruiting (because all numbers are drastically down), affordable housing for junior military personnel, and retirement medical benefits being reduced. Regarding recruiting, on April 20, 2024 I had the opportunity to give the Oath of Enlistment to one of my granddaughters. She enlisted into the SD National Guard as a Combat Medic. This was a proud moment for Grandpa!
Patricia Ladner	Agree w/7.0	Comments: I believe in the 2 nd Amendment and have an A rating with the NRA
Matthew Monfore	Agree w/7.0	Comments: Exceeded Word Limit
Stephen Saint	Agree w/7.0	
Matt Smith	Agree w/7.0	Comments: We need the rule of law to be strong. Justice for all. I support law enforcement, but I do not support the militarization of the law enforcement. I believe in the right to bear arms, the 2A is not for hunting, it is to keep tyranny at bay, everything else is secondary. Homeland security, yes, but not when it's turned on our own citizens. The Patriot Act is an abomination to this country! I am a US Navy Vet, my dad is a retired Army Col., my grandfather US Navy Vet. I can continue down my family tree to the Revolutionary War. I respect the military, and it should not be a petri dish on social or medical experiments.

~ SENATE CANDIDATES ~

Forrest Foster	Agree w/7.0	
Amber Hulse	Did not Specify	Comments: As the daughter of a disabled Vietnam veteran, former deputy sheriff, FFL dealer, and gunsmith, and having owned my first gun at age 4, I deeply value justice, law enforcement, and our Constitutional 2nd Amendment right. The right to bear arms is fundamental to our freedom, and I will fiercely defend it. We must ensure the fair and equal administration of justice. I am an advocate for assisting and protecting victims, punishing as well as and rehabilitating offenders, and supporting their transition back into society. I wholeheartedly support our law enforcement officers and other first responders who work tirelessly to keep our communities safe. Lastly, my heartfelt support and thanks goes out to all members of our armed forces, past and present, who selflessly dedicate themselves to protecting our country. We must honor their sacrifices and uphold the values that make our nation strong.
Julie Frye-Mueller	Agree w/7.0	Comments: 7.3 Add pass "Anti-red flag laws" legislation. Also, in this section we need to add the content included in SJR506 from 2024. This would have added accessories, ammunition, lawful hunting, defending family and property to our 2 nd Amendment Rights. This also prohibits unlawful taxation or confiscation.

8.0 Family and Community Values

- 8.1 Families – We recognize the family as the central core of society. We recognize parents and parental rights as the foundation and proper authority for South Dakota families.
- 8.2 Free Exercise of Religion – We support the free exercise of religion as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.
- 8.3 Exploitation and Abuse – We oppose exploitation, trafficking or abuse of adults, children and the unborn.
- 8.4 Marriage – We believe marriage is the union of one man (XY) and one woman (XX). We affirm it is in the best interest of children to be raised by a mother and a father.
- 8.5 Sanctity of Life – We believe that life begins at conception. We affirm the sanctity of all human life, including the unborn, those with congenital abnormalities, the elderly, the chronically ill, the terminally ill, and differently abled. We oppose abortion and assisted suicide in all forms.
- 8.6 Ethics in Medical Research – We support ethical practices in medical research and oppose any medical research that exploits human embryos or living human beings, including embryonic stem cells.
- 8.7 Adoption—We support the streamlining and simplifying of adoptions and support for expecting mothers to choose life.

~ COMMISSIONER CANDIDATES ~

Joe Allen	Did Not Reply	
Les Cope	Partially Agree w/8.0	Comments: I partially agree in that I believe there should be an abortion exception for incest and rape.
Heath Greenough	Did Not Reply	
Jeannine Lecy	Did Not Reply	
John Staben	Agree w/8.0	
Trudy Valenzuela	Agree w/8.0	

~ **COMMISSIONER CANDIDATES** *continued...* ~

Sandra K. Wahlert **Agree w/8.0** **Comments:** Life began at creation and presently is perpetuated by 2 living cells, an egg and sperm, that combine at fertilization/conception to create an entirely new life. Nuclear families are the core of our society and provide a nurturing, yet disciplined environment for children to mature in. Exploitation of anyone, but especially women and children, including the unborn, is wrong and should have consequences. Free exercise of religion has to be viewed in the light of Judeo-Christian values. There are some "religious" rituals that are harmful and contradict the basic principles of a moral Christ-centered life.

~ **REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATES** ~

Patrick Baumann **Agree w/8.0** **Comments:** 8.1, 3&4 Families are one of the seven mountains of influence in any society. Currently, global elites are attacking families, and their God given rights, because if families fall, nations fall. As a family man, I stand to protect family values and most importantly, our children. Yes, our children are under attack from all directions. Abortion, child porn, false teaching about multiple genders, systemic racism and much more. I stand firmly to protect families and children. 8.2 I stand first and foremost, to honor God in all that I do and to protect South Dakota's religious freedom. 8.5, 6, 7 I believe that life begins at conception and ends in natural death. I believe in the sanctity of life and will oppose any legislation to stop it. I oppose medical research that exploits humans at any stage of development. I support making adoption more available.

Tim Goodwin **Agree w/8.0** **Comments:** The family structure is the basic building block of our Judeo-Christian faith. I will do everything I can to support the family structure.

Patricia Ladner **Agree w/8.0** **Comments:** As a Christian, a Mother, and Grandmother, I believe in the sanctity of all life from conception to death. I have a 100% rating from Family Voice, (formerly Family Alliance) and I am a strong supporter of South Dakota Right to Life (scorecard comes out next week).

Matthew Monfore **Agree w/8.0** **Comments: Exceeded Word Limit**

Stephen Saint **Agree w/8.0**

Matt Smith **Agree w/8.0** **Comments:** I have my Masters Degree in Christian Ministry from an accredited seminary, though I do not lead with this, nor do I call myself a pastor, it is part of who I am. I will always fight for the 1st Amendment! How can I not with my opinions? Life absolutely begins at conception! Therefore, that life has the same rights and privileges as any person does to Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. Your body, your choice.... Sure, but that life has the same right even if it cannot speak up for itself, so stronger people must!

~ **SENATE CANDIDATES** ~

Forrest Foster **Agree w/8.0**

Amber Hulse **Did not Specify** **Comments:** In South Dakota, the scourge of sex trafficking persists, yet little action has been taken to combat it. The breakdown of nuclear families exacerbates this issue, leaving vulnerable individuals susceptible to exploitation. As a community, we must prioritize the preservation and strengthening of nuclear families, recognizing their pivotal role in providing stability and protection. Strengthening parental rights and streamlining the adoption process are essential steps toward ensuring the well-being of children and supporting families. Furthermore, protecting the sanctity of human life is paramount. It's imperative that we advocate for policies that uphold the dignity and worth of every human being. Every person and every life, deserves to be treated with utmost respect and safeguarded. Together, let's stand against the horrors of sex trafficking, champion the nuclear family unit, and affirm the inherent value of every life, ensuring a safer, more compassionate future for all.

Julie Frye-Mueller **Agree w/8.0** **Comments:** 8.0 This set of planks is the core of our society and we need to reinforce the traditional family from all angles. Too many times a slight shift of priorities let another evil influence break down our family values and therefore hurt our society. If we as Republicans could support these planks 100% of the time, our world would be incredibly better.