

Really? This
Again?
Elections
and Summer
Studies



The Election - Looking at the basics

- **Tuesday November 5th** – General Election
 - The first Tuesday after the first Monday in November
- **October 21st** – Deadline to register to vote
- **September 20th** – Absentee voting begins
- **Current voter registrations = 612,508**
(91% of 18+ yr olds)
 - Republicans – 310,745
 - Democrat – 144,190
 - IND/NPA – 153,612
 - Libertarian – 2,937

There Are 7 Ballot Questions –

- **Amendments = 4**
 - Placed by Legislature = 2
 - Placed by Signature = 2
- **Initiated Measures = 2**
- **Referred Law = 1 (SB 201)**

Amendment E:

Updating References to Certain Officeholders and Persons

- **Placed by the 2023 legislature** (SJR 505)
- **Summary:** Changes the language in the South Dakota Constitution more gender neutral, Governor (he), Lt Gov, Supreme Court Judges, Circuit court judges, Right to worship (his), Criminal prosecutions, voting (each elector as he), Lease holder on school and public lands, legislator pay during term, Governor's budget address, impeachment, corporate elections for directors,

Amendment F:

authorizing the state to impose work requirements on certain individuals who are eligible for expanded Medicaid.

- **Placed by the 2024 Legislature**
 - (SJR 501)
- **Summary:**
 - Does **NOT** impose work requirement.
 - Enables the Legislature.
 - Expanded Medicaid only (passed 2022).

Being Presented Today



- Placed by Initiative (signatures).

- **Summary:**

- First trimester a woman's decision to obtain an abortion may not be regulated
- Second trimester - regulation of abortion must be related to the physical health of the pregnant woman.
- Third trimester - allows the regulation or prohibition of abortion, except in cases necessary to preserve life/health as determined by Dr.

- Recommend no position



Amendment G:

*Establishing a
Right to
Abortion in the
State
Constitution.*

- 
- **Placed by Initiative (signatures).**

- **Current Primaries:**

- Republican – Only for registered republicans
- Democrat – For democrats and independents (not republicans)
- Minor parties – Primary or convention.
Unaffiliated = Gen election only

- **Proposed:**

- One primary (listed offices) – All candidates listed with party affiliation (if any)
- Top two candidates – move on to general election (Hse, top 4).
 - Could be from same party.

- **Being Presented Today**



Amendment H:

*Establishing
Top-Two
Primary
Elections.*

**Initiated
Measure (IM) 28:**
*Prohibiting
Taxes on
Anything Sold
for Human
Consumption*

- **Placed by initiative (signatures)**
- **Summary:**
 - “Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the state **may not tax** (emphasis added) the sale of anything sold for human consumption, except alcoholic beverages and prepared food. Municipalities may continue to impose such taxes”
 - Prohibits cities from collection tax, comment notwithstanding.
 - Human consumption is more than groceries – tobacco??
- **On record as opposed**

**Initiative Measure
(IM) 29: *Legalizing
the Recreational
Use, Possession,
and Distribution
of Marijuana.***

- **Placed by Initiative (signatures).**
- **Summary:**
 - Individuals 21 years of age or older to possess, grow, ingest, and distribute marijuana or marijuana paraphernalia.
 - Restricts where marijuana may be consumed/used
 - Allows employers to restrict employees use
 - Pot still illegal under federal law
- **Previously opposed – Have not been asked this year**

Referred Law (RL) 21:

New Statutory Requirements for Regulating Linear Transmission Facilities, to Allow Counties to Impose a Surcharge on Certain Pipeline Companies

- **Placed by referendum (signatures).** *Signatures for referendums are due 90 days after a session adjourns sine die.*
- **Summary:**
 - New tax \$1/foot – half property tax relief/half landowner
 - CO2 pipelines 4 ft deep, fix damage,
 - Operations must start w/in 5 yrs
 - Landowner bill of rights
 - Referendum delays effective date by a year (July 2025)
 - Issue of common carrier and eminent domain
- **Supported during session – continue support.**

Property Tax Assessment Methodology

- **Representatives:**

- [Fitzgerald, Mary \(R\)](#);
- [Ladner, Trish \(R\)](#);
- [Otten, Ernie \(R\)](#);
- [Overweg, Marty \(R\)](#);
- [Peterson, Drew \(R\)](#);
- [Reisch, Tim \(R\)](#)

- **Senators:**

- [Deibert, Randy \(R\)](#);
- [Hunhoff, Jean \(R\)](#);
- [Larson, Liz \(D\)](#);
- [Novstrup, Al \(R\)](#);
- [Zikmund, Larry \(R\)](#)

Methodology is NOT taxes

Related

All taxpayers are NOT increasing

Reassessments

Reducing taxes takes:

More/new money

Shifting tax payments

Cutting spending

Technical Changes

Artificial Intelligence & Regulation of Internet Access by Minors

- **Representatives:**

- [Arlint, Amber \(R\)](#);
- [Callies, Byron \(R\)](#);
- [Duffy, Steve \(R\)](#);
- [Emery, Eric \(D\)](#);
- [Karr, Chris \(R\)](#);
- [Soye, Bethany \(R\)](#);
- [Venhuizen, Tony \(R\)](#);
- [Weisgram, Mike \(R\)](#)

- **Senators:**

- [Duhamel, Helene \(R\)](#);
- [Foster, Red Dawn \(D\)](#);
- [Kolbeck, Steve \(R\)](#);
- [Larson, Liz \(D\)](#);
- [Mehlhaff, Jim \(R\)](#);
- [Walsh, Michael \(R\)](#);
- [Wheeler, David \(R\)](#)

- AI has benefits as well as perils
- Control of access – debate about who/how
 - Parents
 - Providers