

- **A Review of 2024 Election**
- **Preview of the 2025 Legislative Session –**
 - **By the Numbers**
 - **Potential Issues – Chamber Positions**
- ***Does the Election Set Us On a Clear Path Forward?***



**Official
Political
Party
Registered
Voter
Numbers
(as of Oct 21st)**

Total Active Voters = 624,186
(+12,000 from Oct 1st)

Republican = 316,493 (50.7%)

Democrat = 145,990 (23.3%)

NPA/IND = 157,686 (25.2%)

Libertarian = 2,976

Voter Turnout

Statewide

- 624,186 Registered
- 436,452 Votes Cast
- 69.9% Turnout

County Turnout

Highest =

Jones 82.3% (677)

Harding 81.3% (1,022)

Lincoln 76% (48,000)

Lake 77% (8,000)

Lowest = Oglala Lakota 38.8%

Absentee Ballots = 59.3%

- **Mail-In**
 - Ballots Sent = 150,595
 - Ballots Received = 141,554 (9,041- Not Returned)
- **Walk-In Voters = 113,895**
- **Military Voters (UOCAVA)* = 3,469**
- **Total_ = 258,918**
- **258,918 of 436,452 = 59.3% Turnout** *Uniform Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act

Voter & Absentee Turnout History

Blue Ink with * Indicates Presidential Election Years

Year	Total Votes	Overall Turnout	Absentee Votes	Absentee Percent
2024*	436,452	70%	258,918	59.3%
2022	354,670	59%	178,063	50.2%
2020*	427,524	74%	219,015	51.2%
2018	351,546	63%	89,329	26.2%
2016*	378,995	69%	108,733	28.7%

There Were Seven Ballot Measures

7 Ballot Questions

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

Is Seven Ballot Measures a Record?

Most ballot measures recently was in 2006* = 11 of them

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- 1994 had 7
- 1998 had 9
- 2000 had 7
- 2006* had 11
- 2008 had 7

The most ever was 1926 with 14; and 1928 had 13

Voter Participation Rates

Overall – 436,452 of 624,186 or 69.9%

Absentee Votes – 59.3%

-
- Pres – 428,682
 - IM 29 – 426,905
 - Marijuana
 - Amend G – 426,707
 - Abortion
 - Amend E – 422,898
 - Gender Language
 - Congress – 421,218
 - Amend F – 421,009
 - IM 28 – 419,999
 - Human Consume Tax
 - Amend H – 411,393
 - Open Primaries
 - RL 21 – 407,920
 - Pipeline
 - PUC – 401,032

The 2025 Legislature

- **Senate: 32(R) – 3(D)** (Was 31-4)

 - 15 Re-elected; 6 Crossovers; 4 Return; 10 New
- **House: 64(R) – 6(D)*** (Was 63-7)
 - 40 Re-elected; 2 Crossover; 6 Return; 22 New
- **Totals:**
 - 55 Re-elected; 8 Crossovers; 10 Return; 32 New
 - In 2023 – 63 Re-elect; 7 crossovers; 2 Return; 33 New
 - 39 Women – a new record
 - * One possible recount



Leadership

House

- **Jon Hansen** – Speaker
- **Karla Lems** – Speaker Pro Tempore
- **Scott Odenbach** – Majority Leader
- **Marty Overweg** – Assistant Majority

- **Erin Healy** – Minority Leader
- **Eric Emery** – Assistant Minority

Senate

- **Lt. Gov** serves as President
- **Chris Karr** President Pro Tempore
- **Jim Mehlhaff** – Majority Leader
- **Carl Perry** – Assistant Majority

- **Liz Larson** – Minority Leader
- **Jamie Smith** – Assistant Minority

2025
Legislature –
Summer
Studies

- Property Tax Assessment Methodology
 - Dealt with process of assessing value – variations
 - Crisis is building from results
 - I'll bet **Most** Taxes DIDN'T increase
 - Some of increase driven by insurance
 - Expand idea of individual relief programs??
- Reform Requirements – Decreasing taxes for some
 - Infusion of money
 - Shift to others –
 - Increase revenue from Homeowner/Comm revenue from growth
 - Budget cuts

2025 Legislature Summer Studies

- **Committee on AI & Internet Access by Minors**
 - What can technology do on its own
 - Who is responsible
 - Sign up when device is purchased
 - Internet service providers
 - Role of parents

Other Issues

- **CO2 pipeline – Defeat of RL 21 (SB 201)**
 - Pipeline will apply for permission build
 - Eminent Domain – Common Carrier status
 - Needed by ethanol – credits affect price
 - Next step in aviation fuel
- **Budget**
 - Missing \$100 million from reduced rate
- **Econ Development**
 - Leaders critical of incentives

- **Thank You**
- **Business Day will be Thursday February 20th**
 - **Your participation helps strengthen our collective influence on legislative decisions that affect all South Dakota businesses**