

- 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 21<sup>st</sup>)**

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**Total Active Voters = 624,186**  
(+12,000 from Oct 1<sup>st</sup>)

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**Republican = 316,493 (50.7%)**

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**Democrat = 145,990 (23.3%)**

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**NPA/IND = 157,686 (25.2%)**

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**Libertarian = 2,976**

# *Voter Turnout*

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## 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%

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- 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 7 ballot measures

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## 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?

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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

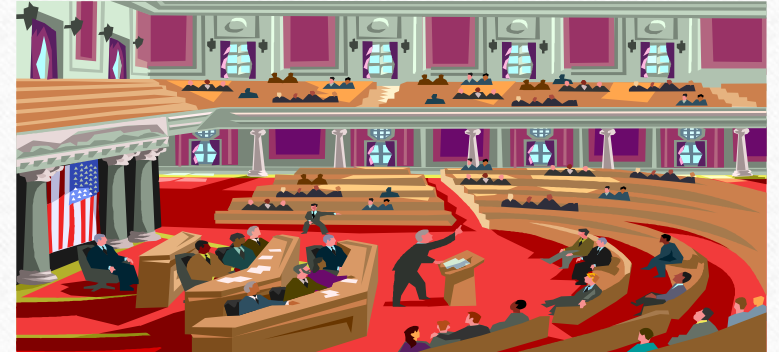
Overall – 436,452 of 624,186 or 69.9%

Absentee Votes – 59.3%

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- 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





# Leadership

## House

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- **Jon Hansen** – Speaker
- **Karla Lems** – Speaker Pro Temp
- **Scott Odenbach** – Majority Leader
- **Marty Overweg** – Assistant Majority
  
- **Erin Healy** – Minority Leader
- **Eric Emery** – Assistant Minority

## Senate

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- **Lt. Gov** serves as President
- **Chris Karr** President Pro Temp
- **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



# Property Taxes



Based on the value of the property



Use Comparable sales  
in the area

Use Replacement Costs  
Commercial use income  
model



Agricultural land use  
production – what  
can land produce

This is what is used to  
pay the taxes – since 2009  
Ignored market sales for  
years



Taxes are not proportioned by class

# Property Tax Dollars Collected

| Year               | Agriculture       | Owner<br>Occupied | Commercial        |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 2007               | 211,381,559 (24%) | 330,332,434 (39%) | 267,236,569 (31%) |
| 2016               | 345,426,962 (28%) | 481,760,248 (38%) | 371,483,979 (29%) |
| 2023               | 365,459,648 (22%) | 707,987,255 (42%) | 509,546,122 (30%) |
| Housing Units 2016 |                   | 393,375           |                   |
| Housing Units 2023 |                   | 417,220 (+23,845) |                   |



# The Beginnings of a Solution

*I Think*

In order to give tax relief:

- Put money into the system
- Shift taxes to other taxpayers
- Cut Spending/budgets

Not all properties have taxes increasing

- Reassessments done every 3 years or so.
- Some increased payments driven by insurance – in part

System to limit increases for all properties will distort values

There are programs to limit taxes, individual basis

- *Need to create new programs to protect people's homes*

# 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 20<sup>th</sup>**
  - Your participation helps strengthen our collective influence on legislative decisions that affect all South Dakota businesses