

2022 South Dakota Election Results

Duncan Law Firm
November 9, 2022

*winners are highlighted

*percentages are estimated until official canvass

<u>Race</u>	<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u>Result</u>
US Senate	Brian Bengs	Dem	26%
	Tamara Lesnar	Lib	4%
	John Thune	Rep (Incumbent)	70%

Remarks: This is not a surprising result. Sen Thune has been very popular in South Dakota for quite some time and the Democrats didn't really try to challenge him in this election. Brian Bengs was not a strong candidate. Sen Thune will continue to serve in leadership in the US Senate.

US Representative	Dusty Johnson	Rep (Incumbent)	77%
	Collin Duprel	Lib	23%

Remarks: This is not a surprising result either. The Democrats completely abandoned this race. Rep Johnson is already telling supporters he is interested in the South Dakota Governors race in 2026.

Governor/Lt Gov	Jamie Smith/ Jennifer Keintz	Dem	35%
	Tracey Quint/ Ashley Strand	Lib	3%
	Kristi Noem/ Larry Rhoden	Rep (Incumbent)	62%

Remarks: The Governor was never really challenged in this race, regardless of the comments made by her campaign. The only two polls showing a close race was the Governors internal poll and a very flawed poll credited to South Dakota State University. State Rep Jamie Smith was a good, not great candidate, who got very little support from a crumbling Democrat Party without significant financial resources. He was unable to capitalize on many, if any, of the myriad issues created by the Governor and her Administration in her first term. The Governors last few campaign ads were devastating for the Smith campaign. After this decisive victory, Gov Noem will continue to travel nationally in hopes of higher office.

Secretary of State	Thomas Cool	Dem	36%
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Monae Johnson Rep 64%

Remarks: Somewhat surprising result here. Not that Ms Johnson won, but the difference in the result. She is an election denier and Mr. Cool tried mightily in his last campaign ads to highlight that fact. It did not land with voters. The result shows how much control the Republicans have in South Dakota. Ms Johnson's only prior experience in the Secretary of State's Office is as a receptionist. It is expected she will fill the Secretary of State's Office with ultra conservative political operatives bent on using election reform to gain a foothold in Republican politics.

Attorney General Marty Jackley Rep 100%

Remarks: Marty Jackley ran unopposed for the office of Attorney General. This will be his third term as South Dakota's Attorney General. Marty is a thoughtful moderate who is committed to law and order. He will run a steady administration. He continues to have his sights set on the Governor's Office in 2026.

SOUTH DAKOTA SENATE

SD Senate-Dist 1 Susan Wismer Dem 41%

Michael Rohl Rep (Incumbent) 59%

Remarks: Sen Rohl wins reelection against a tough opponent. His legislative focus has been on marijuana legalization and/or reform. With the defeat of Recreational Marijuana, he will have to transition his focus. Ms Wismer is a former Senator and former candidate for Governor. She is also a tough campaigner who spent a significant amount of money in this race.

SD Senate-Dist 2 Steve Kolbeck Rep 100%

Remarks: Steve Kolbeck is a long time lobbyist for Excel Energy and former Public Utilities Commissioner as a Democrat. His focus will be on energy issues. His party affiliation switch was done to engender himself to legislators during his time as a lobbyist for Excel. This is the first of many races where the Democrats failed to nominate a candidate.

SD Senate-Dist 3 Al Novstrup Rep (Incumbent) 100%

Remarks: Sen Novstrup is a long time legislator from Aberdeen, SD. He is a social conservative but focused primarily on business issues. He is a strong fiscal conservative. He won a Primary Election challenge and the Democrats chose to abandon this race.

SD Senate-Dist 4 John Wiik Rep (Incumbent) 100%

Remarks: Sen Wiik ran unopposed as well. He has been a member of the Appropriations Committee and that should continue. Very socially and fiscally conservative. Also, he has shown to support the business community. He is a close ally of the Governor.

SD Senate-Dist 5 Lee Schoenbeck Rep (Incumbent) 100%

Remarks: Sen Schoenbeck is a long time legislator and trial lawyer from Watertown, SD. He is a strong ally of the Governor but is also someone who is willing to speak his mind on many topics, even if that means upsetting the Governor. He was elected the President of the Senate last term and should get that role again.

SD Senate-Dist 6 Herman Otten Rep (Incumbent) 100%

Remarks: Another uncontested race. Sen Otten's focus has been on agricultural issues, including tax issues, and the construction industry. Strong legislator, without being flashy. Well liked.

SD Senate-Dist 7 Tim Reed Rep 100%

Remarks: Remarkably, the Democrats failed to field a candidate for this Senate position in one of their strongest counties, Brookings County. Rep Reed was a smart, thoughtful Representative and will focus on education issues and business interests.

SD Senate-Dist 8 Casey Crabtree Rep (Incumbent) 100%

Remarks: Uncontested. Sen Crabtree is a rising star in the Republican party who was instantly promoted to leadership last term. He will most definitely be the Senate Majority Leader in the upcoming term. He is a political moderate and a strong business advocate.

SD Senate-Dist 9 Brent Hoffman Rep 100%

Remarks: Uncontested. Mr. Hoffman is new to the legislator. He is from Sioux Falls, SD. His District has been a Republican leaning District for some time and is typically conservative.

SD Senate-Dist 10 Liz Larson Dem 57%

Maggie Sutton Rep (Incumbent) 43%

Remarks: Certainly not a blue wave, but a pick up here for the Democrats. Maybe the only bright spot for Democrats all night. Sen Sutton was never able to gain traction in Pierre as an ultra-conservative, Appropriations Committee member. While Liz Larson is not well known in Pierre, this race was decided by Redistricting and lack of legislative accomplishments by Sen Sutton. Redistricting brought more Democrats into this District and Ms Larson took advantage.

SD Senate-Dist 11 Sheryl Johnson Dem 45%

Jim Stalzer Rep (Incumbent) 55%

Remarks: Sen Stalzer is a long serving, conservative legislator. He is a thoughtful legislator. He is anti-tax and a strong proponent of the business community in Sioux Falls. His reelection is not a surprise.

SD Senate-Dist 12 Jessica Meyers Dem 46%

Arch Beal Rep 54%

Remarks: While not known as a prolific campaigner, Rep Arch Beal was able to ride a significant voter registration advantage to victory. Couple the advantage with a strong late push by the Republican Party apparatus, the race was not quite as close as many observers thought it would be. Rep Beal should be considered for roles on the Local Government, Commerce or Tax Committees with his experience as a business owner.

SD Senate-Dist 13	Lora Hubbel	Ind	30%
	Jack Kolbeck	Rep (Incumbent)	70%

Remarks: Sen Kolbeck serves on the Appropriations Committee. He is a moderate legislator. His victory was not unexpected.

SD Senate-Dist 14	Matthew Tysdal	Dem	46%
	Larry Zikmund	Rep (Incumbent)	54%

Remarks: In a race many thought would be closer, Sen Zikmund was able to secure another term in his south central Sioux Falls District. The win will allow Sen Zikmund to continue his efforts on the Commerce Committee and the Transportation Committee. His work will undoubtedly also continue its focus on veterans.

SD Senate-Dist 15	Reynold Nesiba	Dem (Incumbent)	53%
	Brenda Lawrence	Rep	47%

Remarks: In a legislative District where the Democrats had a significant voter registration advantage, Sen Nesiba notched an unimpressive victory over an unknown opponent, new to Republican politics. With that said, the victory is critical for the Democrats who have seen their defeats outnumber their wins recently in South Dakota. Sen Nesiba's focus will continue to be tax policy, government spending and protecting workers in Pierre.

SD Senate-Dist 16	Donn Larson	Dem	26%
	Brian Burge	Ind	9%
	Jim Bolin	Rep (Incumbent)	66%

Remarks: Sen Bolin retains his seat in a District that was slightly altered. His focus is largely education and fiscal policy in the State Senate.

SD Senate-Dist 17	Sydney Davis	Rep	100%
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Remarks: Uncontested. Rep Davis moves from the State House. She is a CRNA and a strong leader on healthcare issues. She is very steady and a moderate on most issues.

SD Senate-Dist 18	Frederick Bender	Dem	35%
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Jean Hunhoff Rep (Incumbent) 65%

Remarks: Sen Hunhoff is a member of the Appropriations Committee and has been solely focused on appropriations issues for much of her legislative career. She was formerly a nurse and is also strong on healthcare issues. She has an interest in higher education issues as well. She is a well respected government operations legislator.

SD Senate-Dist 19 Russell Graeff Dem 19%

Kyle Schoenfish Rep (Incumbent) 81%

Remarks: Sen Schoenfish cruises to re-election. He will continue to serve on the Education Committee and State Affairs, presumably. It is also rumored that Sen Schoenfish will run for a leadership position as well.

SD Senate-Dist 20 Joshua Klumb Rep (Incumbent) 100%

Remarks: Uncontested. Sen Klumb is strong on agricultural issues. Rumors circulating have him running for a leadership position in the Senate Republican caucus.

SD Senate-Dist 21 Dan Andersson Dem 19%

Erin Tobin Rep (Incumbent) 81%

Remarks: Sen Tobin is a popular elected official in her District. She easily won re-election. She will continue her role on the Health Committee and is mounting a bid for Assistant Majority Leader in the Senate.

SD Senate-Dist 22 David Wheeler Rep (Incumbent) 100%

Remarks: Sen Wheeler is a strong legislator. He is an attorney from Huron, SD. His focus is the Judiciary Committee, and he should also see a move to the Senate State Affairs Committee.

SD Senate-Dist 23 Bryan Breitling Rep (Incumbent) 100%

Remarks: Uncontested. Sen Breitling is a hospital administrator from a very rural District. His focus is the Appropriations Committee where he served as the Vice-Chairman last term.

SD Senate-Dist 24 Jim Mehlhaff Rep 100%

Remarks: Uncontested. Mr. Mehlhaff will be new to the Legislature but not to State Government. He is a former State Government employee who will be concerned with state workers, low taxes and energy issues. He was a former City of Pierre Councilperson.

SD Senate-Dist 25 Tom Pischke Rep 100%

Remarks: Another uncontested race. Rep Pischke comes over from the SD House where he was a very conservative, Tea Party Republican. Rep Pischke has clashed with leadership in his own caucus. His legislative interests center on child custody/support reform and ultra conservative causes.

SD Senate-Dist 26	Shawn Bordeaux	Dem	58%
	Joel Koskan	Rep	42%

Remarks: Rep Bordeaux is moving over from the SD House. This District largely consists of the Rosebud Sioux Reservation is south central South Dakota. Rep Bordeaux will be significantly outnumbered in party affiliation in the Senate but will focus his efforts on issues important to the Native communities in South Dakota. Mr. Koskan's campaign was affected by serious criminal charges late in the campaign.

SD Senate-Dist 27	Red Dawn Foster	Dem (Incumbent)	51%
	David Jones	Rep	49%

Remarks: Sen Foster's terms in the South Dakota Senate have been very quiet. The result in this race mirrors Sen Foster's service. Even with a significant voter registration advantage, Sen Foster narrowly defeated a political novice. Sen Foster focuses her attention on issues important to the Native communities and that focus will not change in the next term. Sen Foster has been plagued by absenteeism during her time in the Legislature.

SD Senate-Dist 28	Ryan Maher	Rep (Incumbent)	100%
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Remarks: Uncontested. Sen Maher is a long serving legislator. In his last term he served on the Appropriations Committee, where he is very effective due to his experience.

SD Senate-Dist 29	Dean Wink	Rep	100%
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Remarks: Uncontested. Rep Wink comes over from the House of Representatives as well. He is a very experienced legislator who has served in leadership in both Chambers in the past. He is focused on tax and agricultural issues.

SD Senate-Dist 30	Julie Frye-Mueller	Rep (Incumbent)	100%
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Remarks: Uncontested. Sen Frye-Mueller survived a very competitive primary in her District. She is certainly one of the most conservative legislators in South Dakota and has been outspoken in her opposition to the Governor and the majority of the Legislature. She is an outspoken denier of the 2020 election and has focused most of her recent efforts on election reform.

SD Senate-Dist 31	Randy Deibert	Rep	100%
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Remarks: Uncontested. Not a lot is known about Mr. Deibert at this point as he is a political newcomer.

SD Senate-Dist 32	Nicole Heenan	Dem	44%
	Helene Duhamel	Rep (Incumbent)	56%

Remarks: Senator Duhamel was appointed by Governor Noem to fill a vacant Senate position roughly three years ago. She has been a strong supporter of law enforcement and has focused her attention on the Judiciary Committee. She served in leadership last term and would be in line to do so again in the next term.

SD Senate-Dist 33	Darren Friedel	Lib	24%
	David Johnson	Rep (Incumbent)	76%

Remarks: Sen Johnson serves on the Appropriations Committee but is also very focused on tourism and housing issues. He is a moderate and works well with Senate leadership. The only thing surprising about this result was the size of the advantage.

SD Senate-Dist 34	Michael Diedrich	Rep (Incumbent)	100%
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Remarks: Uncontested. Sen Diedrich was elected to be the Assistant Majority Leader last term and will run for that position again. He is a lawyer by training who is focused on general tax policy and healthcare issues. He works for the major hospital system in Rapid City, SD. He is quiet but effective. His peers respect him.

SD Senate-Dist 35	Jessica Castlebury	Rep (Incumbent)	100%
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Remarks: Uncontested. Sen Castlebury is largely concerned about child safety issues and early childhood education. She sees herself as a potential statewide candidate in future years but has yet to garner much attention in the Republican Party.

Republicans in the State Senate: 31
Democrats in the State Senate: 4

Overall thoughts: The Republican supermajority in the Senate continues. The Democrats had a gain of only one seat. The Republicans have to be thrilled to hold on to as many seats as they did. The Senate remains the Chamber with the biggest share of political moderates.

SOUTH DAKOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (top two)

SD House-Dist 1	Steve McCleerey	Dem	23%
	Kay Nikolas	Dem	18%
	Joe Donnell	Rep	28%
	Tamara St John	Rep (Incumbent)	31%

Remarks: The Republicans win both seats in a District that is very even from a registration perspective. The real surprise here is the poor performance of Steve McCleerey who served in the Legislature two terms ago. The Democrats get out the vote effort in this District was weak.

SD House-Dist 2	Gary Leighton	Dem	22%
	John Sjaarda	Rep	38%
	David Kull	Rep	40%

Remarks: Two political newcomers win in a legislative District directly east of Sioux Falls that includes Brandon, South Dakota.

SD House-Dist 3	Brandi Schaeftbauer	Rep	50%
	Carl Perry	Rep (Incumbent)	50%

Remarks: Rep Perry is the incumbent in this uncontested general contest. He has served on the Health and Commerce Committees.

SD House-Dist 4	Stephanie Sauder	Rep	50%
	Fred Deutsch	Rep (Incumbent)	50%

Remarks: Rep Deutsch has served on and off in the Legislature for approximately ten years. His focus is primarily conservative social issues, mainly abortion. He has also found a niche fighting medical and recreational marijuana initiatives. Ms Sauder was supported by the Governor in her primary.

SD House-Dist 5	Kahden Mooney	Dem	22%
	Byron Callies	Rep	33%
	Hugh Bartels	Rep (Incumbent)	45%

Remarks: Rep Bartels cruised to victory. He will be making a run for Speaker of the House and will have a good chance at obtaining that position. Mr. Callies is a political newcomer.

SD House-Dist 6	Aaron Aylward	Rep (Incumbent)	50%
	Ernie Otten	Rep (Incumbent)	50%

Remarks: Rep Aylward is a former Libertarian who has transitioned to the Republican Party. He is quiet and focuses his attention on limited government and tax issues. Rep Otten is a seasoned legislator who is very respected. He served last term on the Tax and Transportation Committees.

SD House-Dist 7	Cole Sartell	Dem	27%
	Mellissa Heermann	Rep	35%
	Roger DeGroot	Rep	37%

Remarks: Both legislative newcomers in this race.

SD House-Dist 8	Tim Reisch	Rep	50%
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	John Mills	Rep (Incumbent)	50%
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Remarks: General Reisch is a former military officer but is new to politics. He did serve the Administration under Governor Dennis Daugaard in a military role. Rep Mills was a former construction management company owner who is deeply conservative. He has butted heads with the Governor and his own caucus. He is strongly against video lottery and strongly supports limiting access to abortion and other conservative causes.

SD House-Dist 9	Nick Winkler	Dem	26%
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	Kenneth Teunissen	Rep	34%
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	Bethany Soye	Rep (Incumbent)	41%
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Remarks: This legislative District encapsulates the northwestern side of Sioux Falls and the surrounding rural areas, including Hartford, South Dakota. Rep Soye is a far right leaning Republican with a legal degree. She was quiet in her first term in Pierre. Mr. Teunissen has been around Republican politics for quite some time and will get the opportunity to serve in Pierre with his second place finish.

SD House-Dist 10	Erin Healy	Dem (Incumbent)	32%
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	Kameron Nelson	Dem	25%
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	Tom Sutton	Rep	21%
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	John Mogen	Rep	22%
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Remarks: Rep Healy wins and will be counted on by the Democrat Party to be their voice in Pierre in the next legislative term. She is experienced and thoughtful, but significantly outnumbered. In the last legislative term, she served on the Health and Education Committee. Ms Nelson is new to politics but was an effective and energetic campaigner. She campaigned hard on reproductive rights and other liberal issues in a District where the Democrats have a voter registration advantage.

SD House-Dist 11	Margaret Kuipers	Dem	22%
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	Kim Parke	Dem	21%
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	Chris Karr	Rep (Incumbent)	28%
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	Brian Mulder	Rep	29%
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Remarks: Rep Karr, the incumbent, was able to win his seat back in Pierre. What remains to be seen is whether or not enough ultra conservatives were elected in the House to give him back his assignment as the House Appropriations Chair. Mr. Mulder is relatively new to South Dakota politics.

SD House-Dist 12	Kristin Hayward	Dem	21%
	Erin Royer	Dem	22%
	Greg Jamison	Rep (Incumbent)	28%
	Amber Arlint	Rep	28%

Remarks: Rep Jamison was reelected in an affluent District in southern Sioux Falls. Ms Arlint, a State Farm insurance agent with a long family history in business and politics in South Dakota, was elected to her first term. Both Jamison and Arlint were aggressive campaigners.

SD House-Dist 13	Tony Venhuizen	Rep	50%
	Sue Peterson	Rep (Incumbent)	50%

Remarks: Mr. Venhuizen is former Chief of Staff to both Governors Dugaard and Noem. He is a very intelligent, moderate candidate with designs on higher office. He is a lawyer by training and will focus a lot of his energy on education issues. He will almost immediately be trusted by leadership. Rep Peterson has recently served on the Appropriations Committee and the Education and Judiciary Committees. She is strongly conservative and is interested in leadership, with limited support.

SD House-Dist 14	Wendy Mamer	Dem	21%
	Mike Huber	Dem	23%
	Tyler Tordsen	Rep	26%
	Taylor Rehfeldt	Rep (Incumbent)	31%

Remarks: Speaking of aggressive campaigners, both Mr. Tordsen and Rep Rehfeldt were very active in their Districts. Mr. Tordsen is employed by US Senator Mike Rounds and will serve his first term in Pierre. He is no stranger to SD politics, though, as his Mother serves in the House of Representatives and he has interned in Pierre previously for the Republican Party. Rep Rehfeldt will continue her ascent in her caucus with this victory. Political rumors have her running for Assistant Majority Leader in the upcoming leadership elections.

SD House-Dist 15	Linda Duba	Dem (Incumbent)	28%
	Kadyn Wittman	Dem	25%
	Matt Rosburg	Rep	22%
	Joni Tschetter	Rep	25%

Remarks: One of the few races in the election where a recount might take place. Ms Wittman defeated Ms Tschetter by less than one hundred votes for second in this District. However, the real news here is

that Rep Linda Duba wins reelection. She will continue to be a strong voice for the Democrats in Pierre on education, reproductive rights and the budget.

SD House-Dist 16	Matt Ness	Dem	19%
	Kevin Jensen	Rep (Incumbent)	40%
	Karla Lems	Rep	41%

Remarks: Rep Jensen, chair of the House Health Committee, and Karla Lems win this election. Both are very conservative and their focus will be social issues.

SD House-Dist 17	Bekki Engquist	Dem	29%
	William Shorma	Rep	32%
	Chris Kassin	Rep	39%

Remarks: Mr. Shorma formerly served in the State House and will be back. Mr. Kassin is a political newcomer. Both will be moderates and business friendly. This District contains the University of South Dakota and higher education will be a focus for the legislators.

SD House-Dist 18	Ryan Cwach	Dem (Incumbent)	28%
	Jay Williams	Dem	12%
	Julie Auch	Rep	29%
	Mike Stevens	Rep (Incumbent)	32%

Remarks: This is a very surprising result. Rep Cwach was the considerable favorite to get one of the two positions in this District. He would have presumably been the new House Minority Leader. His loss is devastating for the Democrats in South Dakota. Rep Stevens is an attorney who specializes in trial work. He supports the SD Trial Lawyers and his time is spent primarily on the Judiciary Committee. He is a moderate. Not much is known about Ms Auch at this point.

SD House-Dist 19	Jessica Bahmuller	Rep	50%
	Drew Peterson	Rep	50%

Remarks: Uncontested. This District will have two new Representatives. Both have been around the legislative process but neither has served. Both will be largely moderate and focused on business and agriculture issues. Both have lots of leadership potential.

SD House-Dist 20	Ben Krohmer	Rep	50%
	Lance Koth	Rep (Incumbent)	50%

Remarks: Uncontested. Rep Koth has served on the Tax Committee and Transportation Committee in the past. I would look for that to continue. Very steady, moderate legislator.

SD House-Dist 21	Rocky Blare	Rep (Incumbent)	50%
	Marty Overweg	Rep (Incumbent)	50%

Remarks: Uncontested. Both incumbents return. Rep Blare is a main street Republican. He is an independent insurance agent who has been a driving force in both property and casualty and health insurance issues in the last few terms. Very smart. Very dedicated legislator. Rep Overweg was appointed by Governor Noem two terms ago and has shown to be a very conservative legislator. His focus is primarily on agriculture and social issues.

SD House-Dist 22	Shane Milne	Dem	18%
	Roger Chase	Rep (Incumbent)	38%
	Lynn Schneider	Rep (Incumbent)	44%

Remarks: Two very solid legislators here. Rep Chase has been focused on affordable housing in the legislator for some time. He is respected in his caucus. Focused on both tax and agriculture issues in addition to housing. Rep Schneider is a retired banker who has shown significant promise on the Commerce Committee. Has become a trusted voice on finance issues as well. Both are quiet, effective, moderate legislators.

SD House-Dist 23	James Wangsness	Rep	50%
	Scott Moore	Rep	50%

Remarks: Uncontested. While not much is known about Mr. Moore, Mr. Wangsness is a former one term legislator. His interests will be in agriculture and will center in the short term on pipelines and other energy siting projects.

SD House-Dist 24	Mike Weisgram	Rep (Incumbent)	50%
	Will Mortenson	Rep (Incumbent)	50%

Remarks: Uncontested. Both solid legislators here as well. Rep Mortenson is the front runner for the House Majority Leader position. He is an attorney. Rep Weisgram is an expert in municipal matters. Both are very well respected, moderate legislators. Consider both for State Affairs Committee positions.

SD House-Dist 25	Dan Ahlers	Dem	23%
	David Kills A Hundred	Dem	11%
	Jon Hansen	Rep (Incumbent)	34%
	Randy Gross	Rep (Incumbent)	32%

Remarks: This is a District that saw some change through Redistricting. Rep Gross' home county was added to this District. He was able to overcome the lack of name ID to pick up another term. Rep Hansen will run for Speaker of the House and may be the favorite for that position. Rep Hansen is extremely conservative and is focused on abortion.

SD House-Dist 26A	Eric Emery	Dem	67%
	Joyce Glynn	Rep	33%

Remarks: District 26 was split by Judicial Order some time ago. There is only one winner. The District contains a large amount of Reservation land and most of the voters are Native American. The Democrats hold a significant voter registration advantage in this District and Mr. Emery was able to take advantage of that.

SD House-Dist 26B	Rebecca Reimer	Rep (Incumbent)	100%
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Remarks: Uncontested. District 26 was split by Judicial Order some time ago. There is only one winner. The east half of this District is largely south central South Dakota, without much, if any, Reservation area. Rep Reimer was unopposed. She is interested in leadership and may be in the mix for one of the leadership positions in the House. She is a financial advisor and mildly conservative. Her legislative interests are broad, but agricultural issues and financing are obvious interests. She served on the Judiciary and State Affairs Committee last term. That may change depending on the results of the leadership election.

SD House-Dist 27	Peri Pourier	Dem (Incumbent)	29%
	Norma Rendon	Dem	22%
	Liz May	Rep (Incumbent)	27%
	Bud May	Rep	22%

Remarks: This is one of South Dakota's most rural Districts, and also one of the poorest. Electors in District 27 continue to split their representation between Democrats and Republicans. Neither of the incumbents here have been overly successfully legislatively in their careers.

SD House-Dist 28A	Oren Lesmeister	Dem (Incumbent)	51%
	Ralph Lyon	Rep	49%

Remarks: District 28 was split by Judicial Order some time ago. There is only one winner. Rep Lesmeister holds his seat. His focus has been agriculture during his time in Pierre.

SD House-Dist 28B	Calvin Reilly	Ind	19%
	Neal Pinnow	Rep	81%

Remarks: District 2 was split by Judicial Order some time ago. There is only one winner. Mr. Pinnow will serve in Pierre for the first time.

SD House-Dist 29	Sean Natchke	Lib	17%
	Gary Cammack	Rep	38%
	Kirk Chaffee	Rep (Incumbent)	45%

Remarks: Very solid legislators here. No surprise either was victorious again in this District. Sen Cammack comes over from the State Senate where he has been in leadership for quite some time. He is well respected and very seasoned. Focused on agriculture issues and is a strong supporter of the SD Retailers Ass'n. Rep Chaffee is a former County Official and bar owner. He is strongly focused on tax issues, a topic on which he is an expert. Both moderates.

SD House-Dist 30	Bret Swanson	Dem	17%
	Dennis Krull	Rep	40%
	Trish Ladner	Rep (Incumbent)	43%

Remarks: Rep Ladner was the incumbent and she acted like it, winning a decisive victory. Her focus was the Commerce Committee and agricultural tax issues last term. Mr. Krull is new to South Dakota politics.

SD House-Dist 31	Mary Fitzgerald	Rep (Incumbent)	50%
	Scott Odenbach	Rep (Incumbent)	50%

Remarks: Uncontested. Both very conservative legislators. Both focused on limited government, election reform, and tax issues. Rep Odenbach will be running for leadership.

SD House-Dist 32	Johnathan Old Horse	Dem	23%
	Christine Stephenson	Dem	25%
	Becky Drury	Rep (Incumbent)	26%
	Steve Duffy	Rep	27%

Remarks: Mr. Duffy, husband of State Senator Helene Duhamel, wins election on his first try. Rep Drury is reelected. She proved to be a moderate and serious legislator last term.

SD House-Dist 33	Vince Vidal	Dem	24%
	Curt Massie	Rep	36%
	Phil Jensen	Rep (Incumbent)	40%

Remarks: Rep Jensen is most known in South Dakota politics as the legislator who was affiliated with the Oath Keepers. He has had numerous legislative failures throughout his time in Pierre, however he continues to get elected in his District where Republicans have a significant voter registration advantage. Mr Massie is new to South Dakota politics.

SD House-Dist 34	Darla Drew	Dem	21%
	Jay Schultz	Dem	15%
	Jess Olson	Rep (Incumbent)	30%
	Mike Derby	Rep (Incumbent)	33%

Remarks: Both incumbents win reelection. Rep Olson is rumored to be running for Speaker of the House. She has battled on the Education Committee for much of her time in Pierre. Rep Derby was the high vote getter in this District and is a tireless campaigner whose focus was marijuana reform last term.

SD House-Dist 35	Pat Cromwell	Dem	16%
	David Hubbard	Dem	15%
	Tony Randolph	Rep (Incumbent)	34%
	Tina Mulally	Rep (Incumbent)	36%

Remarks: Both winners in this District, which encompasses eastern Rapid City and the Ellsworth Air Force Base, are ultra conservatives. Both have been instrumental in starting and participating in an alternative Republican caucus in the House of Representatives. Neither is seen as overly effective and neither should find themselves in leadership.

Republicans in the State House: 63
Democrats in the State House: 7

Overall Thoughts: Somehow the Democrats lost a seat in the State House as the Republicans expand on their supermajority. The real intrigue in the House is whether or not the ultra conservatives will remain in the general House Republican caucus or completely separate and form their own, public caucus. That threat has hung over the House Chamber for much of the last term and nothing with this election will change that. Already significantly hobbled, the Democrats look to be an afterthought in policy discussions with their smaller than expected numbers.

