

Your Vote Matters Survey Results

For a few months, we circulated a survey statewide seeking input from voters with disabilities. This work has been supported by a grant from Disability Rights South Dakota. Below are the results based on the receipt of 163 surveys.

Question 1: Did you vote in the 2016 General Election? Yes 52% No 48%

Question 2: If you voted in the 2016 General Election, did you vote (choose one):

In person on election day at the polls?	75%
Early by mail?	12%
Early by going to the County Auditor's Office?	13%

Question 3: If you did not vote in the 2016 General Election, why not?

Not registered	36 responses
I didn't like the candidates	4 responses
Don't know why	3 responses
No interest	3 responses
Chose not to	2 responses
I couldn't get to the polls (e.g., needed a ride)	2 responses
I didn't think my vote mattered	2 responses
Didn't understand	2 responses
I never thought about it	1 response
Not a citizen	1 response
Too busy - two jobs	1 response

Question 4: Are you planning on voting in the 2018 General Election?

Yes	65.4%	No	34.6%
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Question 5: How did you learn about candidates and ballot issues (choose all that apply)?

#1 - Ads; #2 - Family; #3 - Friends; #4 - Candidate Forums; #5 - Political Parties; #6 - Co-workers

Thanks to all who took the time to participate!

Remember - Vote! Your Vote Matters!

How to Register to Vote

To register to vote in South Dakota, you must:

- Be a United States citizen
- Reside in South Dakota
- Be at least 18 years old on or before the next election
- Not currently serving a sentence for a felony conviction which included imprisonment, served or suspended, in an adult penitentiary system
- Not judged mentally incompetent by a court of law

You may also register to vote at the following locations:

- County auditor's office
- Driver's license station (when you are renewing or applying for a driver's license you may also register to vote on the driver's license application)
- City Finance Office
- Public assistance agencies providing food stamps, TANF or WIC
- Department of Human Services offices which provide assistance to the disabled
- Military recruitment offices

Voter registration for the November 6th General Election ends **October 22nd**.

What if I'm Not Sure If I'm Registered, or If it's Current?

The Voter Information Portal (V.I.P.) is provided as a public service by the Secretary of State in cooperation with the County Auditors in each of South Dakota's 66 counties.

This search shows your voter registration information, polling place location and your sample ballot. Sample ballots that may be available are: Primary, General and some municipal and school ballots. The municipal and school ballots will only show on this site if the municipality and school are combining their election with the county for the State June Primary Election.

If you are voting by absentee ballot, this search will also provide you with tracking information regarding the date your absentee ballot application was received, the date your absentee

ballot was sent to you, and the date your absentee ballot was received.

To access the Voter Information Portal (V.I.P.) go to: <https://vip.sdsos.gov/vipLogin.aspx>

Absentee Voting in South Dakota

"As the Chief Executive Officer for South Dakota, it is my responsibility to ensure the integrity of the elections process. **Nearly 30%** of all ballots cast in South Dakota are done by **absentee voting**. Any registered South Dakota voter can vote an absentee ballot **by mail or in-person** at their county auditor's office **up to 45 days prior** to a primary and general election without having to provide a reason. We want your experience to be **fair, transparent and secure.**" - **Shantel Krebs, Secretary of State**

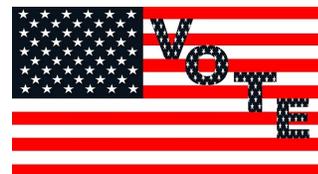
How do I absentee vote by mail? All voters wanting to vote absentee by mail must complete and submit a signed absentee ballot application to the county auditor in the county he/she is registered to vote in. The application must include a copy of a valid photo ID or the voter's signature must be notarized, except for overseas and stateside military, overseas citizens, or a spouse or dependent of the same. An application for absentee ballot is only good for the calendar year it is signed in.

Where do I get an absentee ballot request form? Visit your local County Auditor's office or the Secretary of State's website: SDSOS.GOV

How do I absentee vote in person? Registered voters can vote in person once absentee voting begins at their County Auditor's office by bringing along a valid photo Identification Card (ID). If a voter does not have a photo ID, they must be given the option to sign a personal identification affidavit and vote a regular ballot.

What is the deadline to request and vote an absentee ballot? The deadline to request and vote is 5:00 pm the day prior to the election.

Absentee voting for the November 6th General Election begins September 21st.



President's Message

Greetings from your President! I'm looking forward to Fall, when we see our children back at school, and we all get back to our routines following all of those summer activities. We hope that you had a great summer with your family and friends.

We, the Board of Directors, are working very hard to develop strategic and policy plans for the organization. We've had meetings to discuss the future of the organization, focusing on how we can improve and expand the Coalition's scope and stabilize our financial foundation. We also are working on our succession plans for when our Executive Director retires. We have not reached a point where we can present the plan as yet. WE WILL keep you posted as the plan becomes clearer. We are very grateful to have our staff and for all they do on behalf of the organization and the disability community.

We will have our annual membership meeting on September 26th, and we hope you can participate. It will be by conference call. You all received information when you received the board election ballot.

For the upcoming mid-term election for our Congressional seat, our Governor and ballot issues, be sure to pay attention to what potential candidates have to say about our issues and concerns and their ideas on how to improve the quality of life in this state. Be sure that you VOTE for who and what you believe is the best for yourself, as well as for the State of South Dakota.

Thank you for your continued support of Coalition activities. It is very important to us to have your support and involvement, as we all work to protect our civil rights. Let's keep our focus on the best for the remaining part of 2018. We are here to support all of you all the way to the top. And we can't do our work without your SUPPORT of the organization. See you next time.

Tom Kober

Thank You

Three community support providers - CSPs - supported individuals they serve in completing the "Your Vote Matters" survey. They also ensured these surveys became part of our data by mailing them to our office.

Thank you staff of Volunteers of America - Dakota, Lifescape and Dakota Milestones for assisting those you serve to participate so their voices became part of this important dialogue!



Begins September 21st!

Executive Director's Notes

Maybe it's turning 65, maybe it's starting to seriously think and talk about retirement or maybe it's just something in the air. Whatever it is, I find myself looking back while looking forward. And I'm blessed to say, "Life has been good! Life is good! I expect Life will continue to be good!"

That may seem strange when you learn that I'm approaching the conclusion of my 25th year with the Coalition (in January) and 41 years of serving people with disabilities in one way or another. Yet, when I was growing up and someone asked me what I wanted to do or be - I can't say I ever thought I'd be a rehabilitation counselor, a manager of special services or an executive director of a non-profit advocating for people with disabilities... Teacher, preacher, school counselor, mental health counselor, missionary, writer - yes! Rehab counselor and the rest - I hadn't even heard about those careers.

I finished my Masters and started applying for jobs, and guess what? I was hired to be a rehabilitation counselor with the Division of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired. I served the central third of the state, staying in Winner one week and working between Pierre and there. Then staying in Mobridge the next week and doing likewise. And as they say, "the rest is history."

Prior to that - my parents, brother and I lived in Wahpeton ND, three places in the Bay Area of California, and when I was going into the 5th grade, we moved back to Java SD. Java is where Mom and Dad were born and raised, and we moved back to support my Grandparents, who's youngest - a son - died at the age of 23.

As a result of these many moves, my brother was born in CA, I was born in MN (across the river from Wahpeton) and all four of us graduated from Java High School. Recently I was telling this to someone I had just met, and they responded with, "Were you Gypsies?" I laughed and said, "No! We were life led us."

Some people plan their lives. Some people walk along and follow where they feel led... I guess we were the latter. I know I'm the latter. And I can honestly say, "It's been good!" It's been good for many reasons—one being because along the way I've had teachers - family, friends,

foes - who led me to lessons that have served me well:

Treat others the way you want to be treated!

Work hard! Play hard!

Live in a way that makes a difference for others!

All we have is today!

There are no strangers - only friends waiting to be made!

We learn more from our failures than our successes!

How others react to us says more about them than about us!

All we have is a gift!

Now don't get me wrong, I didn't learn these lessons easily, nor quickly! The days haven't all been sunny and bright. Yet, these lessons have served me well in my career, in life. And I continue to learn.

Recently, I made the decision to "cut the cable" at home. I wanted to decide what is news in my life and not have it dictated by the networks - whichever ones I chose to watch. I now look at BBC and CNN and choose the stories I will read or listen to and those I will not. I do the same with local news. And life is better!

We are heading into the closing months of what is bound to be a contentious election. Not only in terms of statements about candidates - also in terms of positions on ballot issues, points of views and much more. And when this happens, when disagreements occur - it may become personal and ugly. That's been the pattern!

During these days, I hope we'll all turn to lessons we've learned over the years. I hope we use those lessons to filter the noise around us. If we need to, I hope we cut the cable from the noise. I hope we contemplate what is important to us and how that impacts our decisions when it comes to voting.

We have the privilege, right and responsibility to vote! It is a gift many in this world do not have. May we exercise it wisely. Once done, may we find common ground and move forward as a community - for that is what we are!

Shelly

Ballot Issues for 2018...

The November 6th ballot will have three constitutional amendments and two initiated measures for voters to consider and vote upon. Advertisements are already running on some of these issues.

The Secretary of State has compiled the **2018 Ballot Question Pamphlet**. The text of this pamphlet is available on the Secretary of State website at www.sdsos.gov and also available in large print, Braille, or on tape by calling the SD State Library at 1-800-423-6665.

The title, explanation and effect of a vote for each ballot question was provided by the Attorney General. No other statements on this pamphlet reflect the opinion of the State or the Attorney General.

The information was compiled by the Secretary of State as supplied by the writers, was not verified by the Secretary of State and does not reflect the position of the State regarding the legality or effect of the amendments or measures. The Secretary of State is not responsible for the contents, objectivity or accuracy of the statements written by the proponent and opponent writers in this brochure.

Voters are invited to photocopy and distribute the pamphlet. They may also bring the pamphlet to vote at their polling place.

The five ballot issues are:

Constitutional Amendment W - An initiated amendment to the South Dakota Constitution changing campaign finance and lobbying laws, creating a government accountability board, and changing certain initiative and referendum provisions.

Constitutional Amendment X - An amendment to the South Dakota Constitution increasing the number of votes needed to approve a constitutional amendment.

Constitutional Amendment Z - An amendment to the South Dakota Constitution establishing a proposed constitutional amendment may embrace only one subject, and requiring proposed amendments to be presented and voted on separately.

Initiated Measure 24 - An initiated measure prohibiting contributions to ballot question

Committees by non-residents, out-of-state political committees, and entities that are not filed with the Secretary of State.

Initiated Measure 25 - An initiated measure increasing the State tobacco tax and creating a postsecondary technical institute fund for the purposes of lowering student tuition and providing financial support to the State postsecondary technical institutes.

As noted earlier, the pamphlet contains the Attorney General Explanation of each ballot issue, along with a statement from a proponent of the issue and an opponent of the issue. Some issues also include a fiscal note, and in one case there is a prison/jail population cost estimate statement.

Constitutional amendments, initiated and referred measures approved by majority vote will become effective on the first day of July after the completion of the official canvass by the State Canvassing Board. SDCL 2-1-12

America's Workforce Empowering All

is the theme for the 2018 National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). October is NDEAM each year. Again this year, the Board of Vocational Rehabilitation, Board of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired, Statewide Independent Living Council and the Divisions of Rehabilitation Services and Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired are working with local community planning groups throughout the state to host events celebrating the talents and value people with disabilities bring to our workforce.

Events are being planned in Aberdeen, Brookings, Madison, Mitchell, Mobridge, Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Sisseton, Vermillion, Watertown and Yankton. Watch for more information as October draws closer.

2018 Governor's Awards Ceremony and Reception

Tuesday, September 25th, is the date. The ceremony will be held at 10 AM in the Capitol Rotunda (second floor). The reception will follow at the Casey Tibbs South Dakota Rodeo Center in Ft. Pierre.



SOUTH DAKOTA

COALITION

OF CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES

**2019 Membership Renewal Notices
Are in the Mail!
Together we're making a difference!**

Equality



The assumption is that **everyone benefits from the same supports.** This is equal treatment.

Equity



Everyone gets the supports they need. This is the concept of affirmative action, thus producing equity.

Justice



All 3 can see the game without supports because **the cause(s) of the inequity was addressed.** The systemic barrier has been removed.

Contact information to learn more about the election process:
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elections@state.sd.us or 605.773.3537