



South Dakota Democratic Party Platform

Adopted by the South Dakota Democratic Convention

June 15th, 2024

Agriculture and Rural Development

The South Dakota Democratic Party recognizes the integral role of the agricultural sector and its contribution to the economy in our state and nation. Democrats are dedicated to keeping our agrarian culture vibrant—from family farms, farmers market producers, Native Nations and all rural communities.

The South Dakota Democratic Party advocates for:

- The expansion of local food and farmers markets along with regional ag-producing systems that focus on diverse and sustainable practices.
- Minimizing the impact of corporate control outside of family owned and operated farms, in order to protect producers from unfair practices or inequitable concentration of profit.
- Partnerships with Native Nations, tribal leaders, and individuals to develop new agricultural processes, including hemp and renewable energy.
- Research and economic development of value-added agricultural products including hemp, perennial grains, renewable energy, and other emerging ag-based technologies.
- Programs that support and educate emerging producers, to help establish the next generation of agriculturalists.
- The proper and full implementation of a production-based tax assessment system and distribution for agricultural land in South Dakota.

SDDP Platform 2024

- Local control of planning and zoning as the right of individual counties. We support the people's right to a transparent initiated measure or referendum process at the state, county and local levels.
- Preservation and protection of farmland through soil conservation and sound sustainable ecological practices for generational purposes.
- Governmental programs that allow consumer support and creative agricultural solutions. Strongly encourage the state of South Dakota to promote and utilize youth ag programs and support family ventures.
- Regional, national, and international fair trade deals and Country of Origin Labeling for all food products.
- A voluntary, but not federally-mandated, national livestock identification program to improve animal disease control & traceability.
- Construction and maintenance of local infrastructure, including rural water, an enhanced railroad system, and high-speed broadband access to make rural businesses more competitive.
- To support renewable energy sources with climate smart practices and the expansion thereof.
- The separation of the DANR back to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Agriculture Department.
- Support individual and local landowner rights.
- Advocate against the foreign/corporate ownership of agricultural land.

Economic Development

Economic development enhances the quality of life and standard of living of all South Dakota citizens. State policies should promote innovation and long-term growth in all sectors of the economy without diminishing our state's cultural and natural environments; a sustainable diversified economy benefits all the people of South Dakota.

The South Dakota Democratic Party advocates for:

- An educated and trained workforce who earns a wage comparable to the national wage in the United States based on cost-of-living index from the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Education is essential for personal and economic development and the state has a responsibility to make it a key priority. Special attention should be paid to occupations experiencing a labor shortage, such as trades, healthcare and education.
- Facilitate expanding state and local government's role and ability in affordable living spaces that retains and attracts people to the state and promotes community sustainability.
- Access to quality affordable healthcare for all people, which will also serve as an important economic driver to the entire state's economy.
- Improve cooperation and respect with Native Americans/Tribal Nations, directed toward promoting their sovereignty and autonomy in a full range of their economic and tourism development.
- Expand investment in next generation infrastructure, including but not limited to: broadband/telecommunications, clean energy, and transportation, such as support for electric vehicles.
- Use and promote innovative South Dakota-based research to improve the state economy, especially in smaller towns and rural regions.
- Development and expansion of interstate and international business and trade on behalf of South Dakota producers and exporters.
- Training programs, tax breaks, grants, and loans which enable small businesses and entrepreneurs to establish and thrive.
- Opportunity zones and revitalization programs that promote investment in low-income and rural areas by deferring taxes.
- High quality affordable childcare and elder care, the statewide lack of which impedes economic development.

Education

The people of South Dakota have the right to a quality public education as enshrined in the South Dakota Constitution. Investing in life-long education is crucial to strengthening democracy, expanding opportunity, and supporting economic development.

The South Dakota Democratic Party advocates for:

- A strong system of public education from early learning through adult education, providing equal educational opportunities with a broad curriculum of liberal arts, STEAM, career and technical, civics, and physical education.
- Sustained resources and support for literacy.
- Public education funding that is competitive with neighboring states at all levels, with public funds staying within the public education system.
- State funding for strong public early childhood education programs for all school districts that create a solid foundation for life-long learning and success.
- High standards for teachers and education support professionals with ample opportunities for professional development.
- Regionally-competitive compensation for public educators and support staff.
- The right to due process and collective bargaining for all employees of public education, with binding arbitration if an impasse occurs.
- Academic freedom, student and faculty rights, and church/state separation in public school curriculum and funding.
- Respect for all cultures, religions, and languages across all levels of public education. Promote equal rights and treatment regardless of race, ethnicity, native language, socioeconomic status, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability levels for all students and employees.
- Comprehensive, inclusive social studies, including the Oceti Sakowin standards.
- Promotion, access to, and funding of special services in South Dakota schools, including special education and other federally mandated programs to ensure equitable education for all students.
- Access to equipment, technology, and support necessary to ensure academic success for in-person or online learning for all students and teachers.

SDDP Platform 2024

- Sustained resources and support for technological literacy.
- Access to professional mental and physical health services for faculty, staff, and students, including trauma-informed practices across all levels of public education.
- Universities and technical colleges with affordable tuition, fees, and other costs regardless of socioeconomic status.
- Restoring and enhancing resources in order to re-establish fully-funded diversity offices on all regental university campuses.
- Research and scholarship programs for higher education institutions including the South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship Program, Build Dakota Scholarship, and South Dakota Freedom Scholarship.
- Funding of school lunches for Pre-K to 12, including the summer food program.
- Teaching accurate, peer-reviewed climate education at all education levels.
- Equitable enforcement of discipline, truancy, attendance, and behavior programs.
- Freedom for the Board of Regents faculty, staff and students to identify with appropriate pronouns and Tribal affiliations in official communications
- Increased funding and resources for Federally-funded tribal schools and tribal colleges.

Health Care

The healthcare of all South Dakotans is critical to the safety and economy of the state. Like clean air, water, and food security, access to healthcare is a fundamental right regardless of geography or financial means. South Dakotans deserve access to high quality, affordable, evidence-based healthcare.

The South Dakota Democratic Party advocates for:

- Ensuring Medicaid is fully funded in South Dakota.
- Nationally funded, community-based comprehensive and affordable healthcare for all, with particular emphasis on underserved and vulnerable populations.
- Publicly led health initiatives throughout the life cycle including preventive medicine, health monitoring research, and disease control and prevention.
- Adequate provision for the needs of physically, mentally, or emotionally challenged persons, including in-home services, community support providers, and institutional care services.
- Programs and support for individuals caring for friends and family in their home setting.
- Preventive, trauma-informed mental health and substance abuse treatment programs and services that provide equal access, continuity of care, and protection of patient rights.
- Programs and funding to ensure access to prenatal, labor and delivery, and postpartum care.
- Safe, legal, and affordable contraception, fertility services, in-vitro fertilization, STI testing, abortion, and other preconception services regardless of age or income.
- Expedited research funding for infectious diseases and social factors that determine health, and care for the afflicted and immunocompromised.
- Prescription services, dental, vision, and hearing benefits.
- Access and education for culturally sensitive end-of-life and palliative care.
- Private and public funding for trained emotional or physical service animals in home, community-based settings, or the workplace.
- Support of infrastructure and workforce development and retention to meet healthcare needs, including inpatient, outpatient, and emergency services.

SDDP Platform 2024

- Improved coverage, access, and training for telehealth and web-based health care.
- Gender-affirming treatment, with informed consent, for people of all genders as well as provider training in best practices for LGBTQIA2S+ patients.
- Medical providers performing their duties, including abortion access and gender affirming care, without fear of retaliation from their employer or the government
- Addressing the worsening shortage of prehospital care and closure of ambulance services.
- Birth to Five services for children to ensure their healthy start in life and continued development.
- Full legalized use of medical cannabis for a patient working with a qualified medical professional.
- Protecting patients by using the full authority of the Division of Insurance to reduce care delays caused by unnecessary insurance procedures, improve transparency in cost of care, and ensure coverage of services mandated by statute.
- Access to comprehensive healthcare for those with transportation or mobility limitations, including residents of long term care facilities or incarcerated persons.
- Measures to improve access to senior housing, long term, and skilled nursing care, including removing the moratorium on new nursing homes.
- Measures to reduce binge drinking in South Dakota.

Human Rights

The South Dakota Democratic party believes in the inherent rights and dignity of each human and the equitable treatment of all.

The South Dakota Democratic Party advocates for:

- The equitable treatment of all people regardless of age, culture, disability, education, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, immigration, native language, race, sexual orientation, religion, spirituality, socioeconomic, veteran, marital, tribal political status.
- Ensuring that all people are able to participate and engage in civic or social events, through mobility access, hearing and visual impairment strategies, language, medical, and socioeconomic accessibility and resources.
- Efforts to eliminate the abuse of power including, but not limited to, physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual abuse at any level and all forms; and to hold elected and government officials, educators, healthcare providers, and public safety personnel accountable.
- Striving toward the elimination of systemic injustice and discrimination in law enforcement, education, healthcare, workforce, and housing.
- Accessible and affordable housing.
- Food accessibility and security.
- The acceptance and welcoming of immigrants and refugees.
- The support of the Hands Off Our Bodies Movement and the removal of governmental regulation on gender affirming healthcare and body autonomy.
- The protection, welcoming, love, and support of LGBTQ+ and Two-Spirit people.
- The separation of church and state, and respect for individual conscience. Religious ideology shall not infringe on one's basic human rights.

Labor & Employment

The South Dakota Democratic Party is committed to improving the lives of South Dakota's workers and their families through policies that promote full employment, good wages and benefits, union participation, and equal treatment in the workplace.

The South Dakota Democratic Party advocates for:

- Improvement in wages and benefits, regardless of full time, part time or seasonal employment status, with a living minimum wage of **\$22.50** per hour indexed to inflation, **per fiscal year.**
- Eliminate exemptions to the minimum wage for individuals receiving subminimum wage.
- Continued efforts toward equal pay for equal work for all workers and eliminating wage collusion.
- **Eliminate Right-To-Work laws to allow workers to organize and collectively bargain.**
- **For the use of any and all federal funds and regulation to create a long-term infrastructure modernization plan; including but not limited to expansion of high-speed internet, investment in public transportation to increase productivity, living standards and wages for all workers.**
- **Ensure the ability of all citizens and residents of South Dakota to participate in the democratic process through elected offices. Further, ensuring the prevention of harassment, discrimination or workplace repercussions for the pursuit of said offices.**
- **Paid family medical leave (FMLA) for all workers**
- **Six months paid parental leave to be used when the parents see fit, including adoptive, biological and foster parents.**
- Legislation to ensure that pregnant and nursing mothers have appropriate workplace accommodations without fear of harassment or discrimination.
- Fair, impartial and expeditious consideration of claims by the South Dakota Department of Labor.
- **The inclusion of Labor** participation in state and local boards and commissions regarding South Dakota labor policy.
- Safe, accessible and affordable child care and elder care for all South Dakota workers.
- **Legislation that facilitates wage transparency** for both exempt and nonexempt employees, an effort to reduce wage disparity.



SDDP Platform 2024

- We support labor unions as they protect and empower our workforce. The South Dakota Democratic Party recognizes their historical contribution to laying the foundation of today's worker's rights.
- We support the \$124 million South Dakota will receive from the infrastructure investment and Jobs Act. This act, brought forth by Congressional Democrats and signed by President Biden will improve public transportation options and infrastructure across the state.
- **We oppose the dilution of existing child labor standards including expansion of working hours and potentially dangerous working environments.**
- **We support Election Day being a paid state-wide holiday.**

Natural Resources & Environment

The South Dakota Democratic Party recognizes that protection and restoration of our water, air, land, and other natural resources is both essential and beneficial to responsible economic development and our quality of life. Our natural resources and climate must be protected for present and future generations.

The South Dakota Democratic Party advocates for:

- Recognition of the effects of human caused climate change and a commitment to utilizing the United Nations IPCC report and findings.
- Effective recycling, waste reduction, and replacing single use plastics with biodegradable products.
- The protection of sacred sites designated by Tribal and State Historic Preservation Offices.
- Environmental and climate education at all levels in our schools and communities.
- The production and distribution of safe, clean, renewable energy, especially wind and solar, to reduce or eliminate CO2 emissions.
- Net metering for utility customers who produce renewable energy.
- The protection and conservation of our ground and surface water.
- The development of electric vehicle infrastructure to include personal, agricultural and industrial applications.
- Enhancing and expanding access to public hunting and fishing, and other outdoor recreation, while conserving our natural resources.
- Conservation districts and the use of their services for the development of each community's natural resources.
- Reform of federal mining law to protect national forest lands and water resources.
- The elimination of destructive mining practices, and restoration and remediation of land and water that has been damaged by mining.
- The prevention of the use of eminent domain for the transport, extraction, or disposal of fossil fuels, including CO2 pipelines.
- The creation of sustainable and accessible transportation networks, including Amtrak, within and between communities.
- Ecologically sustainable conservation programs that promote natural biodiversity control and the elimination of bounty hunting programs targeting predator species.

SDDP Platform 2024

- No new exploitation or exploratory drilling or mining without the expressed, informed consent of the nine federally recognized tribes sharing the boundaries of South Dakota
- Game Fish and Parks and National Forest service be given the resources to enforce rules and regulations regarding off road vehicle use on public lands

Senior Issues

South Dakota seniors deserve the right to live with dignity and be treated with respect. They experience unique circumstances that require specific solutions, such as addressing the cost of long term care close to home, finding affordable housing that accommodates their needs, and ensuring a quality of life reflective of a lifetime of hard work and continued contribution to society.

The South Dakota Democratic Party advocates for:

- Infectious disease control testing, screening, and comprehensive contact tracing for South Dakotans, especially vulnerable populations.
- Reestablishment of the federal Global Health Security and Biodefense unit to develop pandemic preparedness plans.
- Increased funding for Medicaid providers and expanded access to affordable prescription drugs.
- Establishment of a public long term care insurance system to guarantee all South Dakotans the right to receive long term care at an affordable cost.
- Encourage financial sustainability by annually rebasing the costs of nursing homes to prevent closures and receive care in local communities.
- Advocate to expand flexible and affordable long term housing options.
- The fair and impartial treatment of seniors by state agencies charged with the duty of providing services to them, including the vigorous enforcement of the American Disabilities Act
- Education, enforcement and promotion of laws and services that protect seniors from consumer fraud, identity theft and elder abuse.
- Promotion of medical, government, financial literacy, and property tax relief programs for seniors.
- Adequate funding and promotion of senior nutrition programs.
- A living will and advance directive registry available for all residents.
- The right to end-of-life decisions that includes a person's right to die.
- Establishment of a state-managed retirement fund with auto-enrollment available for employers and their employees who do not receive a retirement benefit as a part of their work.
- The right to work and shop without age discrimination.

State & Local Government

The South Dakota Democratic Party believes in equitable taxation, state budgets which reflect the priorities of South Dakota, and government operations that are open and participatory.

The South Dakota Democratic Party advocates for:

- A fair and equitable tax system for all South Dakotans.
- An end to unfunded mandates from state government to county and local governments.
- Appropriate oversight mechanisms to keep public officials at all levels of government accountable
- At all levels of government, follow the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) standards.
- Ethical standards and conflict-of-interest rules for government officials, including anti-nepotism rules.
- Transparency in all levels of government.
- Same-day voter registration and a secure electronic voter registration process.
- Access to voting for all eligible South Dakotans, whether voting in-person, early, or by absentee ballot.
- An end to gerrymandering by supporting an independent non-partisan redistricting commission.
- Fair and equitable compensation and benefits for state employees.
- Reestablish funding for institutions and organizations that protect inclusive excellence.
- Cooperation and coordination between all levels of government.
- Improving and maintaining state and local infrastructure.
- Increasing investment in cultural institutions and the arts in South Dakota.
- The protection of the referral and initiated measure processes, which South Dakota was the first state to adopt.
- Elected public officials respecting the will of the voters in the referral and initiated measure processes.
- The protection of nonviolent free expression, including peaceful assembly and peaceful protest.
- Repeal state sales tax on groceries

Tourism

Tourism enhances the quality of life and standard of living of all South Dakota citizens. State policy should promote innovation and long-term growth in all sectors of the tourism industry without diminishing our state's cultural and natural environments as this benefits all the people of South Dakota.

The South Dakota Democratic Party advocates for:

- Tourism and hospitality industry that earns a wage comparable to the national wage in the United States based on cost-of-living index from the Bureau of Economic Analysis.
- Promoting eco-tourism and agro-tourism to diversify South Dakota's tourism offerings and attract a wider range of visitors.
- Enhancing collaboration with Native American/Tribal Nations directed towards promoting their sovereignty and autonomy in full range of tourism development and activities
- Increasing investment in tourism promotion with a focus on clean energy and sustainable transportation solutions.
- Advocating for immigration policies that offer workforce options in the tourism industry.
- Utilizing and promoting South Dakota-based research to enhance tourism, particularly in smaller towns and rural areas.
- Increase promotion of year-round recreation, natural, historic, artistic, and cultural tourism in regional, national, and international business.
- Development, expansion and promotion of interstate and international tourism to South Dakota.
- Using tax incentives to recognize and invest in tourism opportunity zones
- Facilitate state and local government's role in attracting people to the state and promoting community sustainability.

Tribal & Native American Issues

The SDDP recognizes the inherent sovereignty of the people and Tribal Nations of the Oceti Sakowin, the original inhabitants of this land. The Lakota, Dakota, and Nakota people reside in nine tribal nations and diverse communities throughout South Dakota.

The SDDP is unwavering in its commitment to inclusivity and actively seeks to hear the voices of all Indigenous people living in SD. We pledge to work in close partnership with all tribal people, valuing their unique perspectives and contributions, to advance causes and issues through civic engagement and political leadership. The SDDP respects the autonomy of the nine federally recognized Tribal Nations that share borders with the State of SD, and the party acknowledges each tribe's right to self-governance.

The South Dakota Democratic Party advocates for:

- Advancing the binding language of treaties and how the agreements create obligations that provide Tribal citizens access to – healthcare, education, and housing.
- Acknowledgment that Oceti Sakowin's history is South Dakota history.
- Good faith and transparency in the stewardship of state-administered resources intended for tribal people, communities, and nations.
- Consultation must be a central element of all actions concerning tribal, state, and federal interests, and it must be conducted in good faith between tribal, state, and federal officials.
- A fully funded healthcare system that provides first-class care to Native people.
- Promoting and educating further on Tribal water rights.
- Critical infrastructure development and maintenance on tribal lands.
- An immediate and improved response to the public safety emergency on Tribal lands in SD and to assist with the development of solutions to combat the over-representation of Native people currently incarcerated.
- Indian Child Welfare Act is a federal law – and the state of SD should work with tribes to ensure that it is followed and honored.
- Acknowledging the existence of boarding schools and the generational trauma and related adverse childhood experiences generated by these schools.

SDDP Platform 2024

- A vigorous education model for all students that teaches an accurate representation of the Oceti Sakowin people, language, culture, and practices, including the effects of historical trauma.
- A renewed commitment between the State and Tribal Educators to prioritize the education and the futures of Tribal youth – can start by moving Indian Education back under the SD Department of Education.
- Resources to prioritize Native language and cultural practice preservation.
- Food sovereignty for appropriate nutrition among the Oceti Sakowin people.
- Sustained funding and education to minimize domestic violence, prevent missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and people, and track those lost.
- High-quality health care for incarcerated Native American people in state, tribal, and federal institutions.
- Developing a better understanding of Tribal citizens by helping to raise awareness about tribal citizens – dual citizenship. Observing, recognizing, and respecting the unique distinction
- To address and combat dissolution and misunderstandings between the State of SD and the nine federally recognized tribes, the state should immediately reinstate the Indian Affairs Commission at the SD State Legislature.
- The compassionate release of Leonard Peltier.
- Free college education for all Tribal students up to the bachelor level at the South Dakota Board of Regental and Technical colleges.

Veterans Issues

The South Dakota Democratic party is proud of our military as the best-trained and equipped force in the world. Members of our military must be ready to meet the new threats of the 21st century. As our veterans have met the threats of the past, we honor their service and sacrifice, and believe they deserve efficient and compassionate lifelong care. We advocate for their physical and emotional well-being as well as their economic security.

The South Dakota Democratic Party advocates for:

- Outreach to all veterans concerning health care, educational, and economic services.
- Quality services for mental health treatment, suicide prevention, substance abuse, PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder), and traumatic brain injury.
- Recognition and treatment for exposure to toxic chemicals (such as Agent Orange and Burn Pits).
- Adequate funding for efficient transportation to medical services for veterans from rural and urban areas.
- Education for law enforcement and health care professionals on how to recognize and approach veterans with PTSD and/or traumatic brain injury.
- Educational and training benefits.
- Advocacy in civilian employment markets to transfer veteran's military skills into civilian opportunities.
- Improved medical and mental health services for women veterans, particularly pertaining to gender.
- Funding for veteran support when funding is appropriated for conflicts or wars.
- The modernization of the Veterans Administration so that services can be provided quickly and alternative therapies can be included.
- Recognize the improvement of the VA healthcare facilities and advocate the continued expansion of available services.

Women's Issues

Women's rights are human rights. We all prosper when we actively promote the principles of dignity, self-determination, equal opportunity, justice, and quality of life for all.

The South Dakota Democratic Party advocates for:

- All who identify as women of all races, backgrounds, beliefs, and ages regardless of citizenship and immigration status.
- Contraceptive research, privacy of reproductive healthcare, comprehensive family life education, and policies that support healthy childbearing and rearing.
- Reproductive freedom and professional medical privacy regarding access to education, information, advice, referral, and care.
- The right of people who can become pregnant and to make medical decisions for their own bodies.
- Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.
- The right for women to live free from gender-based violence, inequality, and harassment in their personal and professional lives, and the promotion of healing, justice, and safety.
- Policy and programs that support families as they care for children, parents, and other family members through all stages of life.
- Candidates who reflect the diversity and breadth of experience of all South Dakotans.
- Paid parental leave policies that support the health and well-being of parents and children for postpartum and adoptive parents.
- Sustained State financial investment to offset childcare costs and create stability in South Dakota's childcare industry.

Youth Issues

The South Dakota Democratic Party's Youth Platform aims to create a brighter future for young people by addressing their needs and empowering them to lead. By focusing on education, job creation, healthcare, social justice, and environmental sustainability, this platform seeks to build a state where young people can thrive and contribute to a prosperous and equitable society by incentivising youth in South Dakota.

The South Dakota Democratic Party advocates for:

- **Affordable and Accessible Education:** Continue to advocate for policies that reduce the cost of college and technical education, including increased funding for scholarships, grants, and affordable student loans.
- **Promote Vocational Training:** Continue the expansion of access to vocational and technical training programs that align with the needs of South Dakota's growing industries.
- **Digital Literacy:** Advocate for increasing funding for the development and expansion of Computer Science and Cybersecurity programs throughout the regental and technical schools.
- **Youth Employment Programs:** Improve collaboration between employers and higher education in programs that create job opportunities for young people.
- **Support for Small Businesses:** Provide youth-specific grants and low-interest loans to young entrepreneurs looking to start or grow small businesses in South Dakota.
- **Minimum Wage Increase:** Advocate for a livable minimum wage to ensure young workers can support themselves and invest in their futures.
- **Renewable Energy Investment:** Prioritize the development of wind and solar energy projects, creating green jobs and reducing the state's carbon footprint.
- **Conservation Programs:** Support conservation efforts to protect South Dakota's natural landscapes, including its prairies, waters, and parks.
- **Mental Health Services:** Increase funding for mental health programs in schools and communities, providing resources for early intervention and support.

SDDP Platform 2024

- **Substance Abuse Prevention:** Expand programs focused on preventing substance abuse and providing treatment and recovery options for young people struggling with addiction.
- **Racial and Gender Equity:** Implement policies that address systemic racism and promote gender equality, including equal pay and anti-discrimination laws.
- **LGBTQ+ and Two Spirit Rights:** Ensure that LGBTQ+ and two spirit youth have equal rights and protections, including safe and inclusive schools and healthcare services.
- **Criminal Justice Reform:** Advocate for reforms that address emerging adult justice, focusing on rehabilitation rather than incarceration for young offenders.
- **Voter Education and Registration:** Continue to support initiatives that educate young people about their voting rights and the importance of political participation, including automatic voter registration at 18.
- **Youth Representation:** Encourage the inclusion of young voices in political decision-making by supporting young candidates and creating advisory boards or councils for youth issues.
- **Civic Education:** Continue to support civic education in schools to prepare students to be informed and engaged citizens.
- **Affordable Housing Initiatives:** Support policies that increase the availability of affordable housing for young people, including education on first-time homebuyer programs and rental assistance.
- **Community Investment:** Support community development projects that create safe and vibrant neighborhoods with access to public amenities and services.
- **Homelessness Prevention:** Develop programs to prevent and address youth homelessness, providing resources for housing, job training, and mental health support.
- **Support for Young Farmers:** Provide grants and training programs for young people interested in farming, promoting sustainable agricultural practices.
- **Rural Health Services:** Continue to improve healthcare services in rural areas to ensure that all young people have access to quality care, regardless of where they live.
- **Public Transit Expansion:** Advocate for improved and expanded public transportation options to increase mobility for young people.

SDDP Platform 2024

- **Sustainable Infrastructure:** Invest in infrastructure projects that promote sustainability, such as bike lanes and electric vehicle charging stations.
- **Road Safety Programs:** Implement programs to reduce road accidents and promote safe driving practices among young people.
- **Tech Education Programs:** Support initiatives that introduce young people to technology and innovation, including coding classes and STEM education.
- **Innovation Hubs:** Continue to support innovation hubs and coworking spaces where young entrepreneurs can collaborate and develop new ideas.
- **Youth Retention:** The continued creation, support and education of opportunities within South Dakota to combat the mass exodus of young South Dakotans