



# Policy Update

**June 19, 2026**

## **2026 Runoff Election Voting Begins**

With no gubernatorial candidate reaching the 35 percent threshold in the Republican primary, Governor Larry Rhoden and Aberdeen businessman Toby Doeden advance to South Dakota's first-ever gubernatorial runoff election on **July 28, 2026**.

Early voting for the runoff has begun. The deadline to register to vote for the runoff is **July 13, 2026**. Click [here](#) to learn more about the July runoff election.

## **Voter Referral Deadline Draws Near**

A coalition consisting of Dakota Rural Action, Bread for the World South Dakota, and the South Dakota AFL-CIO has launched a referendum campaign to place Senate Bill 245 on the November ballot. The bill, passed by the Legislature in 2026, increases the state sales tax and uses the additional revenue to provide property tax relief.

If allowed to take effect, Senate Bill 245 will dedicate 100% of the upcoming state sales tax increase, from 4.2% to 4.5%, to owner-occupied property tax relief. The coalition groups argue that Senate Bill 245 represents a tax shift and that it should be referred.

To successfully refer the law to the voters, the coalition must submit the required signatures by June 29. More than 17,500 valid signatures are needed for the measure to qualify for the ballot.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the referral.

## **Production Costs Expected to Reach New Highs in 2027**

The latest USDA [Commodity Cost and Returns](#) report provides the first comprehensive look at how [recent disruptions](#) in global energy and fertilizer markets are filtering down to the farm level. The findings align with the American Farm Bureau Federation's recent survey of over 5,700 farmers, which found that 70% of respondents were [unable to afford all the fertilizer](#) they needed for the 2026 crop year as rising input costs continued to strain farm finances. The next update will be in November of this year.

## **Contact for Questions**

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