



Policy Update

May 22, 2026

2026 Primary Election Is June 2

Early voting for the 2026 primary election is underway and the official primary election day is less than two weeks away – June 2, 2026. In South Dakota, only registered Republicans can vote in the Republican primary. Registered Democrats and Independents can vote in the Democratic primary. The primary will determine who will be on each respective party's ticket for the general election in November.

SDFB encourages members to vote in the primary election, and to support candidates who will be advocates for agriculture. In 2024, unfortunately, the statewide voter turnout for the primary was only 17%. In some counties, the percentage was less than 10%!

[Click here](#) for information on the 2026 primary election. [Click here](#) to check your voter registration.

AG Jackley Releases Final Explanation for Constitutional Amendment

South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley released the final ballot explanation for a Constitutional Amendment proposed by the State Legislature that will appear on the 2026 general election ballot. The proposed amendment would require that any future proposed Constitutional Amendment or Revision receive an affirmative vote of at least 60 percent of the votes cast to be approved.

Language for the final explanation of the initiated ballot measure can be found [here](#).

Battery Storage Project Announced for Codington County

The Public Utilities Commission recently received an application for an Energy Facility Permit from Crowned Ridge Energy Storage I, LLC for an energy conversion facility in Codington County, SD. Specifically, the applicant proposes to construct a 120 megawatt (MW), four-hour duration battery energy storage system.

The Crowned Ridge Wind project would be situated on approximately 53 acres within the existing Crowned Ridge Wind project area, of which the battery energy storage system would occupy approximately 7.8 acres. The project would connect to the existing Crowned Ridge Wind Collector Substation. Cost for project is estimated at \$174 million and is expected to be in commercial operation in May 2028.

There will be a public input meeting on the application on Wednesday, July 1, 2026 at 6 p.m. - at Waverly South Shore School Gymnasium, 319 Mary Place, Waverly, S.D. Click [here](#) to learn more about the project.

U.S. House Recently Passes Year-Round E15

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall recently commented on House passage of the Nationwide Consumer and Fuel Retailer Choice Act, which will allow for year-round sales of fuels blended with 15% ethanol, known as E15.

“Farmers applaud the House of Representatives, which proved what is possible when lawmakers work together on behalf of the American people. The bipartisan vote to allow the sale of year-round E15 will benefit drivers and farmers at a time both are desperately in need of good news. Fuels blended with 15% ethanol will increase demand for corn, which will help a struggling farm economy. America’s drivers will also have the choice to fill their tanks with fuel that is typically 10 to 30 cents cheaper per gallon.

“We urge the Senate to follow the House’s lead and get this to the desk of President Trump, who has already signaled his support for E15. It’s a win-win for farmers, and for all of America.”

Click [here](#) to read a letter from AFBF on E15.

Contact for Questions

Krystil Smit

SDFB Chief Executive Officer

Email: k.smit@sdfbf.org

Cell: (605) 261-2960

Matthew Bogue

SDFB State Public Policy Director

Email: Matthew@sdfbf.org

Cell: (605) 377-8833