

July 3, 2026

Fourth of July cookout costs reflect inflation

As Americans prepare to celebrate the Fourth of July and mark the nation's 250th anniversary, many families will gather in a familiar way: around the grill with burgers, sides, lemonade, and dessert. According to the American Farm Bureau Federation's 2026 Summer Cookout Cost Survey, a classic Independence Day cookout for 10 people will cost \$73.82, or about \$7.38 per person. That is an increase of \$2.90, or 4%, from last year.

The basket includes summer cookout staples such as cheeseburgers, chicken breasts, pork chops, potato chips, pork and beans, fresh strawberries, homemade potato salad ingredients, fresh-squeezed lemonade ingredients, chocolate chip cookies, and ice cream.

While this year's total is the highest since Farm Bureau began conducting the summer cookout survey in 2016, the increase closely reflects broader inflation. The cost of the cookout basket rose about 4%, while overall inflation in the United States increased 4.2% over the 12 months ending in May. That means families are seeing higher prices at the grocery store, but this year's cookout cost is generally moving in line with the broader economy.

You can read more about this year's July Fourth Cookout survey at [FB.org/4thofjuly](https://fb.org/4thofjuly)



Republicans nominate Constitutional Officers at Convention

Recently, the South Dakota Republican Convention was held in Rapid City. Unlike many states, South Dakota does not have a primary election for constitutional officers, except for Governor. Constitutional offices include Secretary of State, Auditor, Attorney General, Treasurer, Public Utilities Commission, and Commissioner of School and Public Lands. Instead of a primary election, county delegates, precinct committeemen and committeewomen, and county GOP leadership vote to select the Republican nominee. In some circumstances, some constitutional officers needed only to convince convention delegates to vote for them in order to secure the office, due to the Democrats and Independents not having a candidate representing them in November.

Below are Republican nominees as a result of the party convention. An asterisk indicates the individual does not have a general election contest.

- **Attorney General:** Lance Russell*
- **Secretary of State:** Heather Baxter
- **State Treasurer:** Melissa Hull
- **State Auditor:** Catherine Barranco
- **Public Utilities Commission:** Don Hagggar
- **Commissioner of School and Public Lands:** Brock Greenfield

The Republican nominee for Governor will be decided by registered Republican voters in a statewide primary election on July 28, 2026.

Groups fail to gather enough signatures to refer state law

An effort to refer to the voters a tax law passed during the 2026 legislative session fell short of the required number of signatures. The law, [SB 245](#), uses an increase in sales tax to offset a reduction in property taxes. The referral was pursued by South Dakotans for Fair Taxation, which included the organizations Dakota Rural Action, Bread for the World South Dakota, and the South Dakota AFL-CIO.

The group needed to gather a little over 17,500 signatures to successfully place the law on the ballot in November. Because the group was not successful, the law will be enacted and the revenue from the 2027 scheduled sales tax increase from 4.2% to 4.5% will be dedicated to lower owner-occupied properties.

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

Contact for Questions

Krystil Smit
SDFB Executive Director
Email: k.smit@sdfbf.org
Cell: (605) 261-2960

Matthew Bogue
SDFB State Public Policy Director
Email: Matthew@sdfbf.org
Cell: (605) 377-8833