



Policy Update

July 12, 2024

Measure to Refer SB 201 Validated for the 2024 November Ballot

The South Dakota Secretary of State's Office recently validated the seventh ballot measure for the November 5th general election. The referendum of Senate Bill 201 will ask voters to weigh in on a newly adopted state law that deals with carbon dioxide pipeline restrictions and landowner rights. Supporters of SB 201 say that it adds more protection to landowners and keeps pipeline companies accountable. Opponents to SB 201 claim it removes local control. Either way, it is important to note that the referral of SB 201 does not include the topic of eminent domain as the bill does not address that specific issue.

After checking a random sample of signatures, the office found that 92% of the over 34,000 signatures on the petition came from registered voters in South Dakota. This means an estimated 31,432 signatures are valid, far surpassing the 17,508 needed to qualify for the ballot.

If pursued, a challenge to the validity of the signatures can occur for 30 days after the validation from the Secretary of State's Office.

To learn more about the ballot measure, please click [here](#).

SDFB Hosts Webinar on Utility-Scale Solar Contracts

Utility-Scale Solar Energy Contracts were discussed in a webinar on July 1, 2024, hosted by South Dakota Farm Bureau. The live event included a presentation by Kristine Tidgren of Iowa State University. Tidgren is an adjunct assistant professor in the Agricultural Education & Studies Department at Iowa State and the director for the Center for Agricultural Law and Taxation. Her work focuses on studying and interpreting laws impacting the agricultural industry and is well respected in her experience working with Utility-Scale Solar Energy Contracts.

The webinar was hosted by South Dakota Farm Bureau (SDFB) and county Farm Bureaus in District 4 as part of its Summer Event Series. The series includes various activities that county members organize in Farm Bureau districts to provide farmers and ranchers educational opportunities and access to top experts and thought leaders.

SDFB members can access a recording of the webinar and a solar contract tool kit. To do so, please click [here](#).

Group Forms to Oppose Initiated Measure 28

South Dakotans Against a State Income Tax, recently held a press conference highlighting the reasons to oppose IM 28 on the general election ballot. In accordance with grassroots policy, South Dakota Farm Bureau joins this group, in addition to a broad swath of organizations such as the SD Chamber of

Commerce, SD Municipal League, SD Retailers, and many more, to oppose the IM 28 for the following reasons:

1. IM-28 eliminates sales taxes on MANY items other than food, cutting at least \$176 million in annual funds to the state. IM-28 prohibits South Dakota from collecting taxes on anything sold for human consumption, except alcohol and prepared food. Other items that will NOT be taxed include tobacco, vaping products, CBD, mouthwash, toothpaste, aspirin, marijuana, beverages, toilet paper and much more.
2. IM-28 will negatively impact cities and towns, preventing them from collecting sales taxes on the same items.
3. IM-28 will reduce funding for Tribal governments via sales tax compacts with the state.
4. IM-28 is poorly written and creates major problems. South Dakota has a low, broad-based sales tax (currently 4.2%) that has worked well for decades.
5. IM-28 is deliberately setting us up for a state income tax.

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

Click [here](#) to learn more about South Dakotans Against a State Income Tax.

Contact for Questions

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