



Policy Update

June 5, 2026

2026 Primary Election Results

The South Dakota Primary Election was held on June 2, 2026, and the results reflect a significant increase in voter turnout as well as significant changes in the Legislature. Statewide turnout reached 34.55%, an increase that can likely be attributed to three key factors:

- The consolidation of local elections under a new state law.
- A higher number of contested legislative races.
- A competitive Republican primary for governor.

The legislative results were especially significant, with 16 incumbent legislators losing their reelection bids in the primary. In addition, we already know that 20 State Senate districts and 8 State House districts are positioned to serve in Pierre next session, as they do not face opposition in the General Election.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the 2026 Primary Election.

Rhoden and Doeden head into primary runoff

With no gubernatorial candidate reaching the 35 percent threshold in the Republican primary, top vote getters Governor Larry Rhoden and Aberdeen businessman Toby Doeden now advance to South Dakota's first-ever gubernatorial primary runoff election on **July 28, 2026**. For South Dakota Republicans, the next eight weeks will serve as an extension of the June primary.

In the election this past Tuesday, Rhoden won 25 counties, while Doeden carried 28 counties, including the state's two largest population centers: Pennington and Minnehaha Counties. While the county-by-county results are interesting to analyze, the defining question heading into the runoff will be voter turnout and which candidate can best motivate their supporters to return to the polls.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the July runoff election.

Speaker lineup announced for 2026 Governor's Ag Summit

The Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) announced the speaker lineup and tour locations for the 2026 South Dakota Governor's Agricultural Summit. The keynote speaker will be Pierre native and Super Bowl LX champion Grey Zabel.

Hosted by Governor Rhoden, the two-day event will be held June 25–26 at the Larkspur Event Center in South Dakota's capital city. The Summit brings together agricultural leaders, producers, industry partners, and stakeholders from across the state to connect, collaborate, and address key challenges and opportunities shaping South Dakota agriculture.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the Governor's Ag Summit or visit [this link](#) to register.

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