

Medicaid Expansion

Constitutional Amendment I

South Dakota's Constitution currently requires the state to provide Medicaid expansion, no matter how much the federal government pays.

In 2022, South Dakota voters approved Medicaid expansion. At the time, the federal government agreed to pay 90% of the cost, while South Dakota would pay the remaining 10%.

Amendment I would not change anything as long as the federal government continues paying 90% of the cost; however, if Washington reduces its share, Amendment I would allow South Dakotans to decide whether the state should continue Medicaid expansion at the higher cost.

For example, every additional 10% of the cost shifted from the federal government to South Dakota would cost the state about \$36 million more each year. That additional cost could require higher taxes, spending cuts in other areas, or another source of state funding.

SDFB POLICY: SDFB is urging a **YES** vote on Amendment I. Farm Bureau policy supports limited government influence in healthcare and fiscal responsibility.

60% Vote Threshold for Changing South Dakota's Constitution

Constitutional Amendment L

Constitutional Amendment L increases the number of votes required for a proposed constitutional amendment or revision to become part of the Constitution. If passed, further constitutional amendments must receive an affirmative vote of 60 percent of the votes cast to be implemented.

Currently, the South Dakota Constitution can be changed by a simple majority vote. By contrast, the U.S. Constitution is much harder to amend. Changes to the U.S. Constitution require a 2/3 vote of the U.S. House and Senate, followed by ratification of 75 percent of the states. South Dakota's Constitution provides a framework of governance, while laws passed by the Legislature or by voter initiative outline policy within the framework. A simple majority works well for ordinary laws, but a higher threshold is needed for changing the Constitution, which is meant to protect core rights.

SDFB POLICY: SDFB is urging a **YES** vote on Amendment L. SDFB holds specific policy supporting Constitutional Amendment L. The policy states, SDFB supports "A 60 percent majority to pass a constitutional amendment."