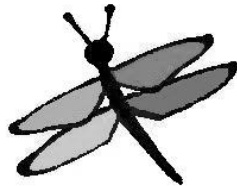


South Dakota Voter Guide

West River Progressive Candidates And Ballot Measures

September 23, 2008 — Early Voting Begins
October 20, 2008 — Voter Registration Deadline
November 4, 2008 — Election Day



Prepared, Authorized and Paid for by
Democracy in Action
P.O. Box 123, Rapid City, SD 57709
Karen Hall, Treasurer

Dear Neighbor:

South Dakota voters have critical decisions to make in the 2008 election and a tremendous opportunity to shape the future direction of our state. With our votes we set our priorities and voice our values.

Never has it been more important—or more challenging—to be a prepared and informed voter. In addition to elections for President, US Senator, US Representative and every seat in the state legislature, voters must speak their minds on four constitutional amendments and three initiated measures.

Democracy in Action believes citizen participation is essential to good government. DIA is committed to educating others—and ourselves—so that we may be more informed voters. We do this by studying the issues, consulting experts, sponsoring forums, working side by side with legislators and candidates, and examining their voting records and positions.

It is through these processes and with thoughtful deliberation that the members of Democracy in Action submit the 2008 *West River South Dakota Voter Guide*.

Democracy in Action believes that too many current office-holders in the state are not focused on the people's priorities of quality schools, affordable health care, clean, affordable energy and jobs with wages that support a family.

DIA wants representatives who share our values. We think that the South Dakota legislature needs to be more balanced and politically diverse, and that more women should represent us. Women comprise over 50% of the population, but of 105 legislators in Pierre, currently 17 are women — only 16%.

Voting is a privilege and a responsibility that places the future directly in our hands. We trust the people of South Dakota to step up to that responsibility—and vote!

The Women of DIA

Please feel free to reprint all or portions of this guide. We encourage you to share this information with friends, family and colleagues.

Democracy in Action

Democracy in Action (DIA) is a grassroots group of progressive women who formed a political action committee with the aim of changing the political climate in western South Dakota. DIA believes that political dialogue in government should be balanced, respectful and intelligent. DIA is non-partisan and our members span a wide spectrum of opinions, but we share a forward-thinking philosophy and a long-lasting commitment to our community.

DIA sent each candidate for legislative office this questionnaire and thoroughly discussed all responses. There are many quality candidates running in western South Dakota this year, people who will bring fresh perspectives and experience to Pierre. DIA is proud to endorse the following committed citizens now running for office, and we urge you to find out more about candidates running in your own legislative district.

WWW.SDDIA.ORG

2008 DIA Legislative Questionnaire

1. Should physicians and pharmacists be allowed to refuse to write or fill prescriptions because of their personal religious beliefs? Please address the rights of patients in your answer.
2. Recent statistics have shown that a significant percentage of South Dakota's teen population is sexually active. Since neither local control nor abstinence-only sexual health education is working, what can the state do to address the problem of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and unplanned pregnancy in our young people?
3. Statistics show that between 48,000 and 90,000 South Dakotans have no health insurance. What can you, as a legislator, do to make affordable health insurance available to any South Dakotan who wishes to purchase it?
4. What can you, as a legislator, do to help shape South Dakota's energy policy?
5. Should the Legislature be doing more to support public education funding? If so, what? How much control should the Legislature exert over education?
6. South Dakota's teaching force is aging, and many of our teachers will retire in the next five years. As a legislator, what will you do to help South Dakota attract qualified, experienced replacements?
7. What can you, as a legislator, do to improve education and economic opportunity for South Dakota's Indian people?
8. During the 2008 session, a transparency in government bill was passed that would have required construction of a website where detailed information about state budget and expenditures would be posted. Governor Rounds vetoed the bill and his veto was sustained. How did you vote (or how would you have voted) on the measure (HB1233) and why?
9. South Dakota is ranked 50th among states in governmental transparency. Several bills that would have made government data more available to the state's citizens were proposed in the 2008 session, but most failed. What data do you feel should be kept from South Dakota citizens—if any—and why? Should records be designated "closed" unless opened by rule or statute? Or should records be designated "open" unless closed by rule or statute? Why?
10. Given the increasing pressure of private development in close proximity to Bear Butte, should the legislature do something to protect Bear Butte? If so, what? If not, why not?

Democracy in Action Endorses the Following Candidates:

State Legislature

District 29 House:	Bob Burns Fred McPherson
District 30 Senate:	David Melmer
District 30 House:	Jacqueline Gerenz
District 31 Senate:	Nyla Griffith
District 31 House:	Kevin O'Day
District 32 Senate:	Tom Katus (Incumbent)
District 32 House:	Eric Abrahamson Bethany Wojahn
District 33 Senate:	Dennis Finch
District 33 House:	Kimberly Henderson Jeff Nelsen
District 34 Senate:	Gary Hargens Craig Tieszen
District 34 House:	Lisa Cook Ed McLaughlin (Incumbent) Bonny Petersen
District 35 Senate:	Theresa Spry
District 35 House:	Fern Johnson Mark Kirkeby (Incumbent)

Pennington County Commission

Commission District 2: Nancy Trautman

Democracy in Action carefully considered the proposed amendments and initiated measures with particular concern for the integrity of our state Constitution, the potential for significant erosion of individual freedoms, and the intrusion of government into citizens' lives and private decisions.

Initiated Measure 10: Open and Clean Government

VOTE NO

Prohibits tax revenues from being used for lobbying or campaigning, prohibits governmental bodies from lobbying, prohibits government contractors from making campaign contributions, prohibits government contracts when the contractor employs a legislator or legislative staff member, and requires contracts with governments bodies to be published.

DIA: The title sounds good, but unfortunately the measure itself is fatally flawed. Both major political parties have come out AGAINST this measure. In the name of "open government," this measure restricts political participation of many South Dakota voters. Proponents of this measure won't divulge the sources of their funding, and passage of this measure would result in fewer restrictions on political participation by out-of-state groups, yet would restrict many long-time, mainstream lobbying groups from expressing their opinions.

VOTE NO on Initiated Measure 10.

Initiated Measure 11: Prohibition of Abortion

VOTE NO

Prohibits abortions except in cases where the mother's life or health is at a substantial and irreversible risk, and in cases of reported rape and incest.

DIA: DIA believes that reducing abortion is best done through accurate public sex education and affordable health care services. Also, South Dakota's Attorney General has noted that this measure will likely be challenged in court and may be declared to be in violation of the U.S. Constitution. The citizens of South Dakota should not have to pay for this expensive national legal battle.

South Dakota already has the most restrictive abortion laws in the United States, and this measure adds burdensome and unneeded layers on top of what is already in statute. It gives government control over difficult, private medical decisions. This measure would make women carry to term a fetus that cannot survive on its own after delivery. In cases of incest or rape, it requires that fetal tissue be collected for DNA testing, and also requires the woman to identify and swear out a complaint against her rapist.

VOTE NO on Initiated Measure 11.

Democracy in Action has chosen to refrain from making recommendations regarding the following Constitutional Amendments and Initiated Measures. Condensed explanations are given below. We encourage voters to find more complete information at www.sdsos.gov.

Constitutional Amendment G — Repeal Mileage Reimbursements

This amendment repeals the 5¢ per mile reimbursement paid to legislators for travel to and from Pierre for the beginning and end of the legislative session. A vote "Yes" will change the Constitution.

Constitutional Amendment H — Corporations

This amendment repeals certain provisions relating to corporations. The old provisions would be replaced by those in a newly-passed law (HB 1139); they would allow a corporation to restrict cumulative voting by stockholders and to issue corporate stock for any price determined to be adequate by its board of directors. A vote "Yes" will change the Constitution.

Constitutional Amendment I — Legislative Session Length

The state constitution limits the length of regular legislative sessions held during odd-numbered years to no more than forty legislative days, and those held during even-numbered years to no more than 35. This amendment would set **all** regular legislative sessions to a maximum of forty legislative days. A vote "Yes" will change the Constitution.

Constitutional Amendment J — Repeal Term Limits

This amendment would eliminate term limits for legislators, which are currently set at 8 years in the House of Representatives and 8 years in the Senate. Proponents feel that, with term limits in place, too much institutional knowledge is lost and too much power given to lobbyists when experienced legislators cannot run again. Opponents feel that turnover of legislators provides fresh perspectives and new ideas, and provides for a more open government where the consolidation of power is not in the hands of a few long-time legislators; instead, it keeps legislators honest and accountable to the voters. A vote "Yes" will change the Constitution.

Initiated Measure 9 — Unlawful Securities Practices

A common stock market transaction is a "short sale" where, for example, an investor who believes a publicly traded stock is over-priced will borrow that stock from an owner, sell the borrowed stock, and repurchase the stock later at a lower price to repay the loan, thereby making money if the price has fallen. If the price goes up, the investor must repurchase the stock at the higher price to repay the loan, and will lose money. Measure 9 would prohibit short sales. State law currently does not regulate the time frame for the delivery of securities upon sale. Measure 9 would prohibit anyone from routinely taking longer than three business days to deliver securities they have sold. A vote "Yes" will adopt this proposed law.

How Do Incumbent Legislators Stand on the Issues?

During the 2008 legislative session, Democracy in Action tracked the voting records of incumbent legislators in four specific areas:

- Women's Health
- Energy and the Environment
- Education
- Open Government

DIA gave each bill a value from -3 to +3 (poor to excellent, according to DIA values), noted each incumbent's vote, and calculated a number for each bill. Then we totaled the numbers and calculated a percentage "grade" (A to F) in each of four areas for each incumbent.

Here are the grades we calculated for legislators running for re-election in Districts 29 through 35 (Meade, Lawrence, Pennington, Fall River and Custer Counties). Our endorsed candidates are in bold.

For a list of bills and "grade" calculations, write to Democracy in Action at Post Office Box 123, Rapid City, SD 57709.

Name	Dis-trict	GRADE			
		Women's Health	Energy & Environ-ment	Educa-tion	Public Access to Government Records
Larry Rhoden	29	F	F	F	C
Thomas Brunner	29	F	F	F	C
Gordon Howie	30	F	F	F	F
Charles Turbiville	31	A	F	F	F
Tom Katus	32	A	C	A	A
Brian Dreyer	32	A	D	F	F
Brian Gosch	32	F	D	F	F
Dennis Schmidt	33	F	F	F	F
David Lust	34	A	F	F	C
Ed McLaughlin	34	A	F	A	C
Jeff Haverly	35	F	F	F	F
Mark Kirkeby	35	A	F	A	D

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Your Rights as a South Dakota Voter

To Register to Vote: You must be a citizen of the U.S. and a resident of South Dakota; you must be 18 years old by Election Day; and if convicted of a felony, you must have completed the terms of your sentence.

Where to Register: You can register at the county courthouse, at driver's license stations and state agencies that provide public assistance. You can also get an application online at: www.sdsos.gov.

Register to Vote by October 20th

When to Vote: Election Day is on Tuesday, November 4, but you can **VOTE EARLY** at the courthouse any weekday starting September 23, 2008.

Where to Vote: Call your county auditor or check www.findmypollingplace.com to find out.

Bring Photo ID, although it's not required and you may vote without ID on a provisional ballot.

VOTE EARLY AND TAKE A FRIEND!