

## **Resolution Supporting Family Farmers and Ranchers Submitted**

by: Shane Merrill

**WHEREAS**, American Farmers and Ranchers are among the most efficient producers of food in the world; and

**WHEREAS**, American Agriculture is facing an uncertain future as we enter spring planting and calving seasons; and

**WHEREAS**, family farmers and ranchers are the backbone of our rural communities;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party strongly support our American Family Farmers and Ranchers; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party will support and encourage all efforts to help ensure the financial, mental, & physical well being of our family farmers and ranchers.

Passed by unanimous vote at the 2026 SDDP State Convention on June 6, 2026

## **Resolution Supporting South Dakotans with Disabilities Submitted**

by: Chris Baumgartner

**WHEREAS**, approximately one in four adults in South Dakota lives with some form of disability, including physical, cognitive, sensory, mental health, and developmental disabilities, representing a significant and vital part of our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, South Dakotans with disabilities deserve the same dignity, respect, opportunity, and full participation in civic, economic, and social life as every other citizen of our state; and

**WHEREAS**, people with disabilities face systemic barriers to employment, accessible housing, transportation, quality healthcare, and inclusive education that must be addressed through thoughtful public policy; and

**WHEREAS**, Medicaid, community-based care programs, and disability services are lifelines for tens of thousands of South Dakotans and their families, and cuts to these programs cause direct and lasting harm; and

**WHEREAS**, the South Dakota Democratic Party believes that a just society measures its strength by how it treats its most vulnerable members, and that investing in disability services strengthens families, communities, and our economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the voices, experiences, and leadership of people with disabilities must be centered in the development of policies that affect their lives;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party affirms its unwavering commitment to the rights, dignity, and full inclusion of all South Dakotans with disabilities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party supports the preservation and expansion of Medicaid, Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), and other programs that enable people with disabilities to live independently and with dignity in their own communities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party calls for policies that expand accessible, affordable housing and reliable transportation for people with disabilities throughout our state, including in rural areas; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party supports equitable access to quality education, employment opportunities, and workforce development programs for South Dakotans with disabilities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party opposes any efforts at the state or federal level to cut, restrict, or eliminate programs and benefits upon which South Dakotans with disabilities depend; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party commits to actively engaging with disability advocates and self-advocates across our state to ensure that the perspectives and priorities of South Dakotans with disabilities are reflected in our platform, our candidates, and our governance.

Passed by unanimous vote at the 2026 SDDP State Convention on June 6, 2026

## **Resolution Supporting the Repeal of Sales Tax on Groceries, Menstrual Products, and Over-the-Counter Medications**

Submitted by: Chris Baumgartner

**WHEREAS**, South Dakota is one of only a small number of states in the nation that imposes a sales tax on groceries, placing a disproportionate and regressive burden on working families, seniors on fixed incomes, and low-income South Dakotans who spend a greater share of their earnings on food; and

**WHEREAS**, food is not a luxury, it is a fundamental human necessity, and taxing groceries forces families to choose between feeding their children and meeting other basic needs; and

**WHEREAS**, menstrual products are a biological necessity for half the population, not a discretionary purchase, and the so-called "tampon tax" imposes an unfair financial penalty on women and girls simply for managing a natural bodily function; and

**WHEREAS**, over-the-counter medications including pain relievers, cold and flu treatments, allergy medications, and other essential health products are critical tools for managing health and reducing the need for costly medical visits, and taxing these items discourages their use and places an additional burden on those with the fewest resources; and

**WHEREAS**, repealing these taxes would provide immediate, meaningful financial relief to every South Dakota family, particularly those in rural communities and tribal nations where access to healthcare and affordable food options is already limited; and

**WHEREAS**, the South Dakota Democratic Party believes that tax policy should reflect our values: that basic necessities of life should not be taxed, and that our tax structure should not extract more from those who can least afford it;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party calls on the South Dakota Legislature to immediately repeal the state sales tax on groceries, providing direct and lasting financial relief to every family in our state; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party calls for the repeal of the sales tax on menstrual hygiene products, recognizing that these items are medical necessities and that taxing them constitutes a discriminatory burden on women and girls; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party calls for the repeal of the sales tax on over-the-counter medications, affirming that access to basic healthcare products should not be impeded by regressive taxation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party urges its elected officials and candidates at all levels to champion these tax repeals as a core economic justice priority and to work across the aisle to achieve relief for South Dakota families; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party calls on state leadership to honor the will of South Dakota voters and ensure that the most vulnerable members of our communities — families struggling with food insecurity, women and girls, and those managing chronic health conditions — are no longer taxed on the basic necessities of life.

Passed by unanimous vote at the 2026 SDDP State Convention on June 6, 2026

## **Resolution Supporting Balanced Housing Development, Responsible Growth, and Expanded Homeownership Opportunities in South Dakota**

Submitted by: Austin Wolf

**WHEREAS**, communities across South Dakota are experiencing significant residential growth, particularly in rapidly developing regions; and

**WHEREAS**, in many of these areas, growth is outpacing infrastructure capacity, housing affordability, and long-term community planning; and

**WHEREAS**, current development trends often rely heavily on large-scale multi-family housing without sufficient balance in owner-occupied housing options; and

**WHEREAS**, rising property taxes and increasing housing costs are placing financial strain on working families and long-term residents across the state; and

**WHEREAS**, homeownership remains a key pathway to financial stability, generational wealth, and long-term community investment; and

**WHEREAS**, without intentional planning, rapid growth can reduce housing diversity, limit access to homeownership, and create long-term challenges for communities; and

**WHEREAS**, policies that prioritize responsible development, infrastructure readiness, and owner-occupancy can help ensure that growth strengthens communities rather than destabilizing them;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party supports a balanced approach to housing development that prioritizes responsible growth, housing diversity, and expanded access to homeownership; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party supports policies encouraging the construction of affordable starter homes, workforce housing, and owner-occupied properties; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party supports efforts to ensure new housing development aligns with infrastructure capacity and long-term community planning; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party supports policies designed to prioritize owner-occupancy in new housing development, ensuring that working families have a fair opportunity to purchase homes in the communities where they live and work; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party affirms that strong communities are built not only through growth, but through stability, affordability, and long-term investment by the people who call them home.

Passed by 75.97% vote at the 2026 SDDP State Convention on June 6, 2026

## **Resolution Supporting Emergency Medical Services as an Essential Service**

Submitted by: Cully Williams

**WHEREAS**, when South Dakotans call 911, they expect an ambulance to show up; and

**WHEREAS**, under current state law, no one is required to send one; and

**WHEREAS**, South Dakota does not designate Emergency Medical Services as an essential service, meaning the state has no obligation to provide, fund, or ensure ambulance coverage in any community; and

**WHEREAS**, nearly 90% of South Dakota's ambulance services depend on volunteers, and nearly all rural services report serious difficulty recruiting and retaining them; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 80% of ambulance services in South Dakota do not generate enough billable transports to cover their own operating costs, and survive only through donated labor valued at over \$36 million per year; and

**WHEREAS**, half of the state's volunteer services have under 10 people on the roster; and

**WHEREAS**, one-third of rural ambulance directors in South Dakota have reported being unable to respond to a 911 call because no one was available; and

**WHEREAS**, South Dakota is one of only eight states with fewer than three ambulances per 1,000 square miles, and when a service shuts down, no state law requires any neighboring agency to cover the gap; and

**WHEREAS**, 4.5 million Americans live in ambulance deserts where response times exceed 25 minutes, and South Dakota's geography and population density place it among the most affected states in the nation;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party calls upon the South Dakota Legislature to designate Emergency Medical Services as an essential service under state law, ensuring that every resident has access to 911 ambulance coverage regardless of where they live; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party supports the establishment of a sustainable, statewide funding mechanism for EMS that does not depend on bake sales, spaghetti dinners, and the donated labor of aging volunteers to determine whether someone lives or dies; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party urges the state to develop a regional EMS planning framework that prevents coverage gaps when services close, and that invests in workforce recruitment, training, and retention to build the next generation of EMS professionals across rural and tribal communities.

Passed by unanimous vote at the 2026 SDDP State Convention on June 6, 2026

## **Resolution Supporting the Enforcement of the Fourth, Fifth, and Fourteenth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution**

Submitted by: Lawrence Novotny

**WHEREAS**, SD Democratic Party supports the U.S. Constitution, and the protections that have been enshrined therein for the entirety of the existence of the USA, including the right to due process and rights against unreasonable search, seizure, and detainment; and

**WHEREAS**, the partisan One Big Beautiful Bill passed in 2025 allocated \$45 billion to expand Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), nearly tripling ICE's annual budget; and

**WHEREAS**, ICE has acted with impunity through the summer and fall of 2025, causing terror around our country and operating as an unaccountable private, masked force deporting long-time residents and citizens of the US; and

**WHEREAS**, ICE has been acting in contradiction with the Fifth Amendment rights to due process of the US Constitution by frequently using administrative warrants, which are not signed by a judge, to search private homes and workplaces, as well as arresting and detaining people without warrants; and

**WHEREAS**, ICE has been acting in contradiction with the Fourth Amendment rights against unreasonable search, seizure, and detainment of the US Constitution by denying detainees the right to an attorney, and holding people without explanation of the charges made against them; and

**WHEREAS**, the Trump Administration is pushing to not recognize birthright citizenship which is guaranteed under the Fourteenth Amendment; and

**WHEREAS**, these actions are frequently based on racial profiling, causing terror in communities in the US;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party stands with the communities targeted and impacted by the unconstitutional and racially biased actions of ICE, and demands the immediate release and return of individuals being held without due process or explanation of charges; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the South Dakota Democratic Party calls upon Congress to implement oversight and accountability over ICE and any other enabling actors, and to rapidly enforce constitutional limits upon the agency.

Passed by unanimous vote at the 2026 SDDP State Convention on June 6, 2026

## **Resolution Demanding the United States Department of Agriculture Cease Interference in Checkoff Board Elections**

Submitted by Lary Olsen

**WHEREAS**, the USDA surprisingly has the “latitude” to override and negate the results of free and fair Commodity and Livestock Checkoff Board election; and

**WHEREAS**, the USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins, appointed by the Trump Administration, has used the “latitude” to negate free and fair election results and appoint an alternative to the elected position; and

**WHEREAS**, the override of a duly elected candidate in a free and fair election is nothing less than a politicizing, corrupting, and circumventing the non-partisan election process for clearly partisan reasons; and

**WHEREAS**, the South Dakota State Democratic Party supports our Farmers and Ranchers of the State of South Dakota and all the States and Territories along with their efforts to promote the products they produce; and

**WHEREAS**, the South Dakota State Democratic Party supports the integrity of all free and fair elections and condemns the corruptive practice and politicizing of the Commodity and Livestock Checkoff Board elections;.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party strongly objects to this outright flagrant abuse of the Commodity and Checkoff Board election overrides by USDA and supports the removal of USDA’s “latitude” of override without cause and for partisan purposes; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party supports the right of any Farmers and Ranchers whose Commodity and Livestock Checkoff Board has had its duly elected Member overridden and replaced by USDA to request a full refund of all their individually deducted Checkoff contributions.

Passed by unanimous vote at the 2026 SDDP State Convention on June 6, 2026

## **Resolution Protecting South Dakota Farmers, Workers, and Consumers Through Stronger Antitrust Enforcement and Accountability**

Submitted by: Chance Whidby

**WHEREAS**, the concentration of corporate power in key industries has accelerated dramatically in recent decades, reducing competition and harming South Dakota families, farmers, and small businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, South Dakota law under SDCL Title 37-1 prohibits contracts, combinations, and conspiracies in restraint of trade and grants the Attorney General authority to enforce these protections, yet enforcement has not kept pace with the scale of corporate consolidation harming South Dakota families, farmers, and small businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, restoring fair and competitive markets is essential to the economic vitality, health, and self-determination of South Dakota communities;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party calls on the Attorney General to prioritize aggressive enforcement of antitrust law under SDCL 37-1; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party supports legislation to amend SDCL 37-1 to explicitly authorize structural injunctive remedies including divestiture; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party supports legislation to amend SDCL 37-1 to substantially raise or eliminate the fifty thousand dollar cap on civil penalties for antitrust violations, ensuring that penalties serve as a meaningful deterrent against the anticompetitive conduct of large corporations for whom the current cap represents a negligible cost of doing business; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party urges its elected officials and candidates to champion these reforms as part of a broader commitment to fair markets, economic justice, and the wellbeing of all South Dakotans.

Passed by unanimous vote at the 2026 SDDP State Convention on June 6, 2026

## **Resolution Supporting the Farm Link Program**

Submitted by: Arlene Brandt-Jenson

**WHEREAS**, farmland ownership by corporate investors—pension funds, investment firms, trusts, etc.—is increasing and the number of institutionally owned farmland properties has tripled from 2009 to 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, land prices are skyrocketing largely due to corporate investors who can outbid local farmers; and

**WHEREAS**, young farmers in the US say finding affordable farmland is their number one challenge (according to National Young Farmers Coalition); and

**WHEREAS**, in South Dakota, farmers age 65 and older outnumber farmers 35 and younger by 6:1 according to the 2023 Farm Census data and the state has lost an average of four family farms per week in the last three decades, according to the Ag Census; and

**WHEREAS**, when independent producers control farmland, they support the local economy, purchase inputs locally, have children in the local school district, strengthen rural vitality, and give back to the local community; and

**WHEREAS**, Farm Link is an existing initiative designed to connect landowners with non-family aspiring farmers and ranchers. This program helps facilitate the transfer of farmland through leases, sales, or other arrangements, aiming to support both beginning farmers and aging landowners, using a large online directory; and

**WHEREAS**, the Food and Land Committee (FLC) of Dakota Rural Action has worked diligently to promote Farm Link at several statewide conferences and met with stakeholder groups; and

**WHEREAS**, the FLC established a working group with SDSU Extension to build out the detailed structure of Farm Link and ensure it effectively supports retiring and aspiring producers across the state, and

**WHEREAS**, the FLC spoke directly to legislators on both sides of the aisle during the 2026 session, who all recognized the need for Farm Link to help preserve South Dakota family farms and ranches;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party acknowledges the land access crisis and works toward solutions for land transfer to local beginning farmers; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party works with the FLC of Dakota Rural Action to establish state funding for the Farm Link program.

Passed by unanimous vote at the 2026 SDDP State Convention on June 6, 2026

## **Resolution Establishing a Beverage Container Deposit Program in South Dakota**

Submitted by: Chance Whidby

**WHEREAS**, beverage container litter along South Dakota's highways, rivers, lakes, and public lands degrades the natural landscapes that define the character of our state and support our tourism economy; and

**WHEREAS**, ten states have enacted container deposit legislation, and states with such programs achieve an average beverage container recycling rate of 74% compared to the national average of 26%; and

**WHEREAS**, container deposit programs are largely self-financing, as unredeemed deposits cover program administration costs and can be directed toward environmental programs; and

**WHEREAS**, South Dakota has previously considered but failed to enact such legislation, leaving the state without one of the most proven and cost-effective environmental policy tools available;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party supports the establishment of a beverage container deposit program in South Dakota, requiring a refundable deposit on recyclable beverage containers at the point of sale; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party supports directing unredeemed deposit revenue toward environmental protection and conservation programs benefiting South Dakota's natural landscapes and waterways; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party urges its elected officials and candidates to champion this legislation as part of a broader commitment to environmental stewardship and the preservation of South Dakota's natural heritage.

Passed by unanimous vote at the 2026 SDDP State Convention on June 6, 2026

## **Resolution Supporting Clean Water and Air**

Submitted by: Frank Kloucek

**WHEREAS**, the South Dakota Democratic Party strongly supports sound science and strong proven environmental practices in terms of soil conservation methods, clean air and water anti-pollution practices; and

**WHEREAS**, the South Dakota Democratic Party strongly supports ethanol & Bio-diesel production if proven to reduce greenhouse gases; and

**WHEREAS**, the South Dakota Democratic Party strongly supports solar and wind energy development of all shapes and sizes; and

**WHEREAS**, the South Dakota Democratic Party encourages corn-based ethanol production facilities to develop safer alternatives to CO2 pipelines; and

**WHEREAS**, the South Dakota Democratic Party encourages continued development of long-term alternatives to fossil fuels; and

**WHEREAS**, the South Dakota Democratic Party strongly encourages continuation of USDA Conservation programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program, Wetlands Reserve and others to protect our soil and water resources long term; and

**WHEREAS**, the South Dakota Democratic Party strongly supports new technology to reduce carbon to try to reduce the effects of global warming;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party firmly supports any efforts to promote clean water and air, including conservation efforts.

Passed by unanimous vote at the 2026 SDDP State Convention on June 6, 2026

## **Resolution Demanding Reasonable Restrictions on Data Centers**

Submitted by: Cully Williams

**WHEREAS**, the 2026 Legislature took a responsible first step by passing SB 135 and HB 1038, which require large data centers to pay their own infrastructure costs and preserve the authority of local governments to regulate or prohibit data centers within their jurisdictions; and

**WHEREAS**, those laws left significant gaps that still expose South Dakota communities to risks that other states have already moved to address; and

**WHEREAS**, South Dakota has no state noise standard applicable to data center operations, even though hyperscale facilities can produce noise routinely exceeding 90 decibels; and

**WHEREAS**, the South Dakota Environmental Policy Act applies only to state agency actions, and a corporation can build an industrial facility with no environmental impact review; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2026 Legislature rejected a proposed 50-year sales tax giveaway for large data centers, and the pressure to give away taxpayer money will likely return; and

**WHEREAS**, South Dakota's rural communities depend on finite groundwater from the same aquifers that hyperscale data centers would tap, and the residents of South Dakota deserve to know that their water supply will not be drawn down to cool a server farm; and

**WHEREAS**, South Dakota has no comprehensive data privacy law, and without one, hyperscale data centers sited in this state could be used to process mass data with no legal obligation to disclose what is being stored, processed, or sold within our state;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party calls upon the Legislature to establish statewide minimum standards for data center noise, including enforceable decibel limits at residential property lines and mandatory noise mitigation plans; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party calls upon the Legislature to require a statutory environmental impact review for any data center project exceeding 50 megawatts of peak demand, including analysis of water drawdown on local systems, air quality impacts, noise and light pollution, effects on wildlife habitat, and cumulative impacts when multiple facilities are proposed in the same region; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party calls upon the Legislature to enact baseline data privacy protections and to require that data center operators disclose the general categories of data processing conducted at their facilities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party opposes any future proposal to offer long-term tax exemptions, rate subsidies, or other taxpayer funds to hyperscale data center developers, and supports instead a cost-causer-pays framework in which data center companies bear the full cost of the infrastructure, water, and energy their facilities require; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party calls upon the Legislature to require decommissioning bonds or equivalent financial assurances from data center operators, so that if a facility closes or a company walks away, the cost of site remediation does not fall on local taxpayers.

Passed by unanimous vote at the 2026 SDDP State Convention on June 6, 2026

## **Resolution for Consumer Protection and Regulatory Clarity in Digital Assets**

Submitted by: Cully Williams

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature took a responsible step by passing SB 98, which requires licensing of cryptocurrency kiosk operators, caps daily transactions, and mandates fraud refunds; and

**WHEREAS**, Americans lost \$11.4 billion to cryptocurrency-related fraud in 2025, with adults over 60 accounting for \$4.4 billion of those losses; and

**WHEREAS**, SB 98 addresses one fraud channel but South Dakota still lacks a comprehensive legal framework for digital assets, leaving consumers, banks, and legitimate businesses without clear rules for how digital assets are classified, custodied, and regulated in this state; and

**WHEREAS**, HB 1091, which would have established such a framework by defining digital asset categories and setting custodial standards for banks, died without a floor vote in 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature again rejected a proposal to invest state funds in Bitcoin, and using taxpayer money to speculate in volatile digital assets exposes South Dakota's reserves to unacceptable risk; and

**WHEREAS**, the absence of a clear regulatory framework does not protect South Dakotans, instead protecting bad actors by forcing legitimate digital asset businesses to operate in legal ambiguity while scammers exploit the same vacuum;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party calls upon the Legislature to pass a comprehensive digital asset regulatory framework that defines asset classifications, establishes custodial standards, and gives consumers, financial institutions, and legitimate operators clear rules of the road; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party calls upon the Legislature to strengthen consumer protections beyond SB 98, including enhanced penalties for schemes targeting elderly and vulnerable adults and adequate funding for the Attorney General's office and Division of Banking to investigate and prosecute digital asset fraud; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party opposes the use of state funds to purchase or speculate in cryptocurrency, and holds that taxpayer money belongs in established investments; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party supports allowing the responsible exploration of blockchain technology in areas where it can serve South Dakotans under frameworks that protect privacy, ensure accountability, and are subject to public oversight.

Passed by unanimous vote at the 2026 SDDP State Convention on June 6, 2026

## **Resolution Supporting Stable Agricultural Trade Policy and a Reliable Farm Safety Net**

Submitted by: Jace Woodward

**WHEREAS**, South Dakota's economy is built on the work of approximately 28,000 farm and ranch families who feed our nation and depend on export markets for nearly a third of their agricultural income; and

**WHEREAS**, nearly 60 percent of South Dakota soybeans are sold to China, making our state's farm families uniquely vulnerable to the consequences of unpredictable and retaliatory trade policy; and

**WHEREAS**, the repeated cycle of tariff threats, retaliations, and last-minute deals has created the kind of uncertainty that family operations cannot absorb the way large corporate farms can; and

**WHEREAS**, South Dakota farmers deserve a government that negotiates trade agreements with their livelihoods in mind, not as bargaining chips in broader geopolitical contests;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party calls on Congress and the administration to pursue stable, rules-based trade policy that protects existing agricultural export markets; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party calls for a robust and dependable farm safety net that does not force South Dakota's farm families to absorb the financial shocks of policy decisions made in Washington far from their fields.

Passed by unanimous vote at the 2026 SDDP State Convention on June 6, 2026

## **Resolution Defending the Initiated Measure Process and Direct Democracy**

Submitted by: Jace Woodward

**WHEREAS**, South Dakota was the first state in the nation to adopt the initiative and referendum process in 1898, establishing a proud tradition of citizens governing themselves; and

**WHEREAS**, South Dakota voters have used that process to expand Medicaid, raise the minimum wage, and decide other matters of personal and community concern — often with broad, bipartisan support; and

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature has repeatedly moved to repeal, undermine, or substantially alter measures passed by the voters, substituting the preferences of a political supermajority for the expressed will of the people; and

**WHEREAS**, from 2018 to 2024, South Dakota passed eleven laws making direct democracy more difficult — more than any other state in the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2025 Legislature continued this pattern by shortening signature collection windows, tightening address-matching requirements for petitions, proposing geographic distribution rules that would have given any single county veto power over whether a measure reaches the ballot, and referring to voters in 2026 a measure that would raise the approval threshold for constitutional amendments from a simple majority to 60 percent while that very measure would itself pass with only a simple majority; and

**WHEREAS**, one-party control of 91 percent of the Legislature makes the initiated measure process one of the last meaningful checks available to ordinary South Dakotans, regardless of party;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party affirms the fundamental right of South Dakota citizens to make law through the ballot initiative process; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we call on all elected officials to stop erecting barriers between South Dakota voters and their own democracy, and to respect the results of initiated measures rather than using legislative power to override or gut the decisions of the people.

Passed by unanimous vote at the 2026 SDDP State Convention on June 6, 2026

## **Resolution Supporting Ranked Choice Voting and the Repeal of 2023's Senate Bill 55**

Submitted by: Jace Woodward

**WHEREAS**, democracy is best served when every voter's voice is heard and every vote counts; and

**WHEREAS**, Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) allows voters to rank candidates by preference, producing winners with broader electoral support, reducing the spoiler effect, and encouraging more civil and issues based campaigns; and

**WHEREAS**, RCV has been successfully adopted in cities and states across the country; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2023, Governor Noem signed Senate Bill 55, banning RCV in South Dakota without a public referendum, removing a legitimate democratic option from voters and local governments; and

**WHEREAS**, the justifications for this ban are contradicted by evidence from jurisdictions where RCV has worked well;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party supports Ranked Choice Voting as a reform that strengthens democracy; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party calls for repeal of 2023's Senate Bill 55 and urges the Legislature to restore the right of voters and local governments to adopt RCV; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Democratic Party will support public education on RCV.

Passed by unanimous vote at the 2026 SDDP State Convention on June 6, 2026