



THE BROOKINGS REGISTER'S

# 2022 VOTERS GUIDE

# What's on the ballot?

BROOKINGS – Brookings area voters have a lot on their ballots when they head to the polls Nov. 8, so doing their homework ahead of time is recommended.

The races include:

## U.S. senator

Three candidates are on the ballot for one of the state's seats in the United States Senate: Republican incumbent John Thune, Democratic challenger Brian Bengs and Libertarian Tamara Lesnar.

## U.S. representative

Two candidates are on the ballot for South Dakota's lone U.S. representative, which has a two-year term. They are Republican incumbent Dusty Johnson and Libertarian challenger Collin Duprel.

## Governor and lieutenant governor

Voters have three choices on the state's leaders. Republican incumbents Gov. Kristi Noem and Lt. Gov. Larry Rhoden face Democrat Jamie Smith and the Dem. candidate for lieutenant governor Jennifer Keintz. Also on the ballots are Libertatrian Tracey Quint and her running mate Ashley Strand.

## Secretary of state

In the secretary of state race, Republican Monae Johnson is facing Democrat Thomas Cool.

See **BALLOT** page 3

# Where do I cast my ballot Nov. 8?

BROOKINGS – Brookings County voters can cast their ballots at any one of eight vote centers throughout the county from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Nov. 8. The eight vote centers include:

- Aurora Little Hall, 101 Nicolett St., Aurora
- Holy Life Tabernacle, 241 Mustang Pass, Brookings
- Brookings Activity Center, 320 Fifth Ave., Brookings
- Bethel Baptist Church, 714 17th Ave. S., Brookings
- Bruce Community Room, 507 Jay St., Bruce
- Elkton Community Center, 109 Elk St., Elkton
- Volga Community Center, 109 Samara Ave., Volga
- White McKnight Hall, 228 W. Main St., White

## Common questions

**Q:** When is the 2022 General Election?

**A:** Tuesday, Nov. 8

**Q:** Will I be able to vote in person?

**A:** Yes. The vote centers will be open Tuesday, Nov. 8, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. You can also vote early at the Brookings City & County Government Center from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday until Monday, Nov. 2.

**Q:** Can I see a sample ballot?

**A:** Yes. Visit the secretary of state's webpage and enter your information to see your ballot: <https://vip.sdsos.gov/VIPLogin.aspx>

**Q:** Can I vote before Election Day?

**A:** Yes. Until Nov. 7, you can vote via absen-

tee ballot or in person at the Brookings City & County Government Center from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday.

**Q:** I am unsure as to whether I asked to have an absentee ballot mailed to me when I filled out the Absentee Ballot Request Application mailed to me by the Secretary of State's Office in April. How can I know for sure?

**A:** Call the Brookings County Finance Office at 605-696-8205 and they can tell you.

**Q:** I asked for a general election absentee ballot when I filled out the Absentee Ballot Request Application mailed to me by the Secretary of State's Office in April, but now I would rather vote in person. Is that possible?

**A:** Yes. Even if you asked for an absentee ballot for the November General Election, you can still vote in person if you do not fill out the absentee ballot.

**Q:** If I vote absentee, when/how is my ballot counted?

**A:** Absentee ballots are held by the Finance Office until Election Day. They are counted starting at 7 p.m. with the Election Day ballots.

## The county finance office and elections

The County Finance Office is responsible for coordinating all countywide elections, including primary and general elections. This office is responsible for the master voter registration list for Brookings County. They are located on the first floor (suite 100) of the Brookings City & County Government Center at 520 Third St., Brookings. They can be reached at 696-8250.

– From Brookings County

# —VOTE—

# MELLISSA HEERMANN



for  
**Dist. 7  
House**  
on  
**November 8th**


## Thoughtful. Leadership.

Paid for by Heermann for District 7

BROOKINGS COUNTY COMMISSIONER

# LARRY JENSEN

RUNS FOR HIS THIRD TERM IN OFFICE



- Over 30+ Years of Dedicated Service to Brookings County
- Proponent of Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Growth
- Advocate of Mental Health Awareness
- Supporter of Improvements to Emergency Services Equipment
- Transparent and Honest Voice for All County Constituents

I would be proud to serve 4 more years as your Brookings County Commissioner.

## I ask for your Vote!

PAID FOR BY LARRY JENSEN FOR BROOKINGS COUNTY COMMISSIONER



# BALLOT: Voters face many choices on election day

Continued from page 2

## Attorney general

Republican Marty Jackley is running unopposed.

## State auditor

Three candidates are vying for the office: Libertarian Rene Meyer is facing Democrat Stephanie Marty and Republican Richard Sattgast

## State treasurer

Democrat John Cunningham is facing Republican Josh Haeder.

## Commissioner of school and public lands

Republican Brock Greenfield and Democrat Timothy Azure will face off

## PUC

For Public Utilities Commissioner, incumbent Chris Nelson, a Republican will face Democrat Jeffrey Barth

## District 7 Senate

Republican Tim Reed is unchallenged and is the lone name on the ballot for the District 7 seat in the South Dakota Senate.

## District 7 House

Vying for two District 7 seats in the state House of Representatives are



Courtesy image

three candidates: Republicans Mellissa Heermann and Roger DeGroot and Democrat Cole Sartell.

## District 8 Senate

Republican Casey Crabtree the only candidate for the District 8 seat.

## District 8 House

Two seats are open and two candidates are on the ballot, Republicans John Mills and Tim Reisch.

## County sheriff

Jeff Kollars, Republican, is challenging incumbent Martin "Marty" Stanwick, an independent.

## Brookings County Commission

Up for three four-year posts on the Brookings County Commission are Republicans Shawn Hostler, Gretchen Weible and Kelly Vanderwal and independents Timothy Bauer and Larry Jensen.

## Judicial races

In non-political judicial races:

■ Carmen Means is the lone candidate for Circuit Court position A in the Third Circuit.

■ Dawn Elshere is the lone candidate for Circuit Court position B in the Third Circuit.

■ Kent A. Shelton is the lone candidate for Circuit Court position C in the Third Circuit.

■ Gregory J. Stotlenburg is the lone candidate for Circuit Court position D in the Third Circuit.

■ Robert L. Spears and Michael Moore are vying for Circuit Court position E in the Third Circuit.

■ Patrick Pardy is the lone candidate for Circuit Court position F in the Third Circuit.

## Constitutional amendment

One amendment – Constitutional Amendment D is on the ballot, which if passed would expand Medicaid eligibility in the state.

## Initiated measure

Voters will also decide on Initiated Measure 27, which if passed would allow the legalization of the possession, use and distribution of marijuana.

## Supreme Court justice retention

Two Supreme Court justices, Justice Mark E. Salter in the Second District and Justice Patricia J. DeVaney in the Third District, both have their terms expire on Jan. 1 and are up for votes to continue serving on the court.

– From staff reports

NOT JUST LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT MARTY BUT ALSO THE PUBLIC IN BROOKINGS COUNTY



DEDICATED & EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP.



RE-ELECT **MARTY STANWICK**  
BROOKINGS COUNTY SHERIFF

- ★ Believes in Openness & Experience
- ★ Emphasizes Mental Health Training including E-Care Tablets in patrol cars, for 24/7 access to Mental Health Counselors
- ★ K-9 Patrol Dog for Tracking & Apprehension
- ★ Drug & Crime Prevention Programs
- ★ Oversees a 4.2 Million Dollar Budget
- ★ Community Policing

*Marty Stanwick*



# Brookings County Commission

The Register posed four questions to the candidates. Here's how they answered.

## Shawn Hostler

**Name: Shawn Hostler**  
**Candidate for: Brookings County Commission**

**Age: 49**  
**Address: 513 Copper Mountain Circle, Brookings, 57006**  
**Occupation: Self employed (insurance industry)**

What do you see as the key issues facing Brookings County, and why are they important?

Fiscal responsibility, reliable infrastructure (roads, bridges, reliable high-speed internet to rural residents), county employee retention

There is only so much money in the "bank" and the commission needs to be good stewards of the checkbook. We also need to make sure that our residents can get from point A to B in the most direct way possible and with well-maintained roads/bridges. This is

possible, but we also need to identify which ones need to be addressed and brought up to standard and serve for years to come. Our rural residents need to also feel that they are not left out with internet service as we see



Shawn Hostler

a greater need to stay connected. Finally, employee retention goes hand in hand with being fiscally responsible. It takes a tremendous amount of time and money to continue to recruit and train employees. We need to identify why our county employees are leaving and work to correct those issues.

**How would you address those issues?**

First and foremost, it is identifying the problem areas. To do that we need communication with the residents most

See **HOSTLER**, page 5

## Larry Jensen

**Name: Larry Jensen**  
**Candidate for: Brookings County Commission**

**Age: 59**  
**Address: 47685 209th St., Aurora, 57002**  
**Occupation: Incumbent county commissioner, farmer and self-employed**

What do you see as the key issues facing Brookings County, and why are they important?

In my opinion, there are three key issues Brookings County faces: those being roads and bridges, emergency services, and economic development.

Roads and bridges are important for various reasons. They are the life-line for our rural community to bring crops and goods to market. They provide safe and reliable transportation for all school districts. And they allow our emergency services to be able to respond to all areas of the county.

Emergency services are very important to ensure the safety and well-being of our residents.

And lastly, economic development is a key issue Brookings County will continue to face. I find this important because we need to be able to provide safe, affordable housing to our constituents.

**How would you address those issues?**

With my 23 years of experience with the Brookings County Highway Department, I will take the initiative to enhance our road and bridge program efficiently. I understand the need to ensure we have the available funds for matching state and federal grants on large projects. I will continue to bring my leadership and knowledge to new projects but also make sure that the basic needs of maintaining our 400 miles of roads and 170 bridges are taken care of.

As a volunteer with over 25+ years on the fire department in White, I have firsthand knowledge of the needs our emergency services require. Recently I



Larry Jensen

have been involved with the current upgrades of needed equipment among the 911 dispatch, local volunteer fire departments and ambulance crews. I recognize communication is vital for these emergency services and law enforcement, so I

will continue to encourage that all of our "911" personnel have the needed equipment to ensure the safety and well-being of our residents.

The need for housing is also very evident not only in Brookings but also within our small towns in the county. In the near future, I'm sure there may be a need to change our zoning ordinances but I want to make sure that with trying to accommodate annexations and future growth; that we are fair and make sure that we are not inadvertently negatively affecting neighboring land owners, townships, and small communities. Brookings County is growing and we need to plan for the future.

**What is your top goal as a member of the Brookings County Commission?**

I plan to continue to be a county commissioner that is transparent, dedicated, honest, and the voice of all county constituents. My top goal is to provide a safe and affordable area for families to call home.

**What prompted your candidacy? Why should voters elect you?**

As a lifelong resident of Brookings County, I want to continue to see our county flourish. As an honest and fiscal responsible Commissioner, I think I can do just that. Voters should elect me for my experience and dedication.

## Timothy Bauer

**Name: Timothy Bauer**  
**Candidate for: Brookings County Commission**

**Age: 58**  
**Address: 48360 213th St. Elkton, 57026**  
**Occupation: Farmer**

What do you see as the key issues facing Brookings County, and why are they important?

I feel if recreational marijuana is approved by the voters, it will be hard on the law enforcement in our area.

**How would you address those issues?**

By making sure that county law enforcement has the ability to get the proper training and have the skills needed to handle the situations.

**What is your top goal as a member of the Brookings County Commission?**

My main goal is to help keep Brookings County maintained within the budget and to learn more about the county.



Tim Bauer

I am a lifelong resident of Brookings County. I feel that with my 18 years of experience on the Elkton School Board and my common sense approach, I can make a good candidate for the Brookings County Commission.

**What prompted your candidacy? Why should voters elect you?**

I would like to get the eastern side of Brookings County represented.

Your community newspaper.

**THE Brookings Register**

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# Brookings County Commission

The Register posed four questions to the candidates. Here's how they answered.

## Gretchen Weible

**Name: Gretchen Weible**  
**Candidate for: Brookings County Commission**

**Age: 51**  
**Address: 803 Elk St., Elkton**

**What do you see as the key issues facing Brookings County, and why are they important?**

Infrastructure is a key issue facing our county. As our county continues to grow and prosper, the roads (paved and unpaved) and bridges need to be maintained and be safe for our farmers, businesses, and residents to travel on.

Law enforcement is another key issue in our county. We need to make sure we have enough deputies and other resources to handle the rising illegal drug trafficking coming into our county.

Eminent domain I see as a potential issue down the road, when the CO2 pipeline intensifies with it eventually impacting our county. I am for private property rights and against using the power of the government to take over property for financial gain, especially in our rural communities.

Mental health is a major issue facing our county. We need to make sure we are working with nonprofits, law enforcement, schools, etc. to help those who are struggling and get the help they need.

**How would you address those issues?**

By working with our county department heads and sheriff's department on the issues relating

to infrastructure, law enforcement, and mental health. On the eminent domain work with my fellow commissioners to come up with an ordinance to protect private property owners rights for our county residents.



**Gretchen Weible**

**What is your top goal as a member of the Brookings County Commission?**

My top goal is to serve my county...you the resident of Brookings County. I'm wanting to be a public servant and be your ears and eyes on the commission board. I want to give you a voice and be your representative, especially in our rural communities.

**What prompted your candidacy? Why should voters elect you?**

I was involved in volunteering while I lived in Minnesota. I was a police reserve officer as well as on the city planning commission board plus a band mom. When I moved to SD in 2018, I got involved with Option 1 and decided to go back as a reserve officer, however before that could happen, I fractured my foot, COVID hit, and moved to Elkton. When I found out these spots for county commission would be coming up, I decided to take a chance and put my name in the race.

First of all, I'm wanting to serve you. I have never run for any political office before and bring a common sense, logical approach when making decisions.

**of the Brookings County Commission?**

Curbing the turnover we have seen in recent years when it comes to county employees.

**What prompted your candidacy? Why should voters elect you?**

I have been approached by several

## Kelly VanderWal

**Name: Kelly VanderWal**  
**Candidate for: Brookings County Commission**

**Age: 50**  
**Address: 106 Lincoln Lane, Volga**  
**Occupation: Manager at Volga Ag Center**

**What do you see as the key issues facing Brookings County, and why are they important?**

I would say that Brookings County will have several items that commissioners will need to stay on top of.

One of those items will be how future growth is handled and how that growth will affect all residents of Brookings County. Infrastructure, staffing for all departments and public safety will be at the top of my concerns

**How would you address those issues?**

Commissioners must be good stewards of the Brookings County taxpayers' resources.

**What is your top goal as a member of the Brookings County Commission?**

My top goal is to represent all of Brookings County residents, Aurora, Brookings, Bruce, Bushnell, Elkton, Sinai, Volga, White and rural resident alike. I do understand that there is much to learn as a county commissioner, but I am up for that challenge.



**Kelly VanderWal**

**What prompted your candidacy? Why should voters elect you?**

I have been encouraged to run for County Commission by several residents throughout Brookings County and

after visiting with my family, I felt that now is the right time.

I have lived or worked in Brookings County my whole life. My wife and I have raised our four children here. I have served on the Volga Fire Department for more than 20 years and had the privilege of serving on the Volga City Council for 12 years. I have served on our church board in Volga as well. I feel that I understand and appreciate those who serve in local government.



## HOSTLER: Wants to curb turnover among workers

Continued from page 4

affected. Once the issues are identified then we need to get a plan as to how to correct the problems with the least fiscal impact to our residents.

**What is your top goal as a member**

current and past county employees and community members to run for elected office since I retired from the sheriff's office. I feel that it is a good time to continue my service to Brookings County in a new and challenging role.

I feel that my commonsense approach

to everyday life makes me an excellent candidate to help lead our county into the future. I have never been afraid of asking the hard questions, but I feel my prior service in the sheriff's office made me an effective listener. I will be available for all of Brookings County.



# State House – District 7

The Register posed four questions to the candidates. Here's how they answered.

## Roger DeGroot

**Name: Roger DeGroot**  
**Party: Republican**  
**Candidate for: House of Representatives, District 7**  
**Age: 70**  
**Address: 1925 Oriole Trail, Brookings**  
**Occupation: Retired educator – teacher, principal and superintendent**



Roger DeGroot

What do you see as the key issues facing District 7 and the state, and why are they important?

While there are many key issues affecting District 7, there is one critical priority that can and should be addressed during the upcoming ses-

sion. As a life-long educator, seeing the challenges faced by our schools and universities, we must take action now. Our schools and universities are struggling to recruit and retain quality educators. Strong action needed is to address improvement of salaries for teachers and other K-12 staff, as well as our faculty at the university level. Our South Dakota schools and universities are unable to be competitive with other states and critical positions are being left unfilled that affect the future of the children of our state. Teaching professionals should at least be able to

See **DEGROOT**, page 7

## Mellissa Heermann

**Name: Mellissa Heermann**  
**Party: Republican**  
**Candidate for: House of Representatives, District 7**  
**Age: 43**  
**Address: 860 Regency Court, Brookings**  
**Occupation: Revenue cycle director at Brookings Health System**



Mellissa Heermann

What do you see as the key issues facing District 7 and the state, and why are they important?

Issues I would like to focus on moving into the upcoming legislative session include education, mental health and workforce shortages. These are

all issues that greatly impact South Dakotans and have been top of mind during conversations with constituents.

How would you address those issues?

Participate in the committee process to support bills that are well written and support improving the root cause of issues. Work hard to research and grow my knowledge areas by continuing to speak with experts and constituents on the issues.

What is your top goal as a

See **HEERMANN**, page 7

**JEFF KOLLARS**  
BROOKINGS COUNTY SHERIFF  
Paid for by Jeff Kollars for Sheriff Joel Perry, Treasurer

# Cole Sartell

**Name:** Cole Sartell

**Party:** Democrat

**Candidate for:** District 7 State House of Representatives

**Age:** 30

**Address:** 1014 22nd Ave. S. Apt 2A, Brookings

**Occupation:** Retired



**Cole Sartell**

in the state, even before voters get it on the ballot.

**What is your top goal as a member of the state House of Representative for District 7?**

To work together with representatives of all parties, to improve the relationship between themselves and our constituents.

**What prompted your candidacy? Why should voters elect you?**

After deep consideration and hearing hate speech from both state legislators, our governor and public comments at local meetings, I decided I wanted to try and take action and become a voice of representation for the state's LGBTQ community instead of letting it destroy me. I believe voters should elect me, if they want a representative that will fight for the will of the people, and not his own self interests.

**What do you see as the key issues facing District 7 and the state, and why are they important?**

Childcare, mental health, LGBTQ representation and abortion access.

**How would you address those issues?**

Work to bring forth incentives for workplace childcare, add more counseling options and highlight youth mental health, be a voice for the LGBTQ community at the capital in light of current anti-LGBTQ rhetoric. I would also like to pass law enacting Roe

# Medicaid expansion on Nov. 8 ballot

**BY DANA HESS**

For the S.D. Newspaper Association

**BROOKINGS** – Expanding Medicaid in South Dakota is either a prudent use of tax dollars designed to enhance health care coverage or a disaster that will bust the state budget. Those are the arguments offered by backers and opponents of Amendment D, a measure that would expand access to Medicaid in the state.

Funded by the state and the federal governments, Medicaid provides medical coverage for low-income people. Amendment D expands Medicaid benefits to any person age 18 or under 65 whose income is at or below 133% of the federal poverty level. Amendment D is on the Nov. 8 general election ballot. Early voting began Friday, Sept. 23.

Tax dollars South Dakotans already pay into the federal government would be funneled back to the state if the expansion is approved, according to Zach Marcus of South Dakotans Decide Healthcare, a group that is advocating for the passage of the amendment.

"It's important to keep in mind that this is about keeping our tax dollars here in South Dakota for use by working South Dakotans to access affordable care," Marcus said. "That's what this is about."

Medicaid expansion has been approved in 38 other states, and not always with the best results according to John Wiik, who is leading the opposition to Amendment D. The Republican state senator from Big Stone City said states consistently fail to predict the usage of Medicaid

See **MEDICAID**, page 8

# HEERMANN: Aims to serve as advocate for S.D. families

Continued from page 6

**member of the state House of Representatives for District 7?**

To listen intently, to represent District 7 well, to be well-versed in the issues of

the session, and to work hard for our district by advocating for the families of South Dakota.

**What prompted your candidacy? Why should voters elect you?**

Serving others is key to who I am as

a person.

After spending eight years in publicly elected positions and 14 years in various leadership roles in the manufacturing and health industries, I have been able to learn firsthand

the importance of servant leadership, responsibility, dedication, and commitment.

I want to take the experience I have gained and put it to work for District 7.

# DEGROOT: Will work to address workforce shortages

Continued from page 6

expect a salary that allows them to live and work without needing a second job to make ends meet. I would propose an increase of at least 6% for all educators across our state. This can be, and should be, addressed during the upcoming session.

Workforce shortages are not just affecting education. During my campaign, I have visited with numerous business owners and heard their concerns. We have a lack of qualified workers and, in many cases, the lack of any available workers. Workforce development is vital to the success of District 7, as well as the state. To educate, and maintain our best and brightest, we must work collaboratively between state and private businesses to foster creative solutions that ensure Brookings and the surrounding area thrive and grow our businesses, small and large.

And finally, another key issue facing District 7 is affordable housing. This has been an ongoing concern for many years.

To support the growth of business and the economy, families must be able to live where they work.

Once again, the state and city must partner with developers to make it easier for anyone that wants to own a home to be able to do so. This is necessary for our community to continue to grow and be successful.

**How would you address those issues?**

We are fortunate in South Dakota to have one of the best economies in the nation. Due to our state's strong fiscal responsibility, over \$100 million in excess funds was banked into the reserves. This means our state fund balance reserve is now over \$400 million. As a responsible steward of taxpayer dollars, we avoid recommending allocating our reserve funds to ongoing state expenses. However, due to the health of South Dakota's economy, we will most likely end this year once again with more excess dollars. The time is now to use these funds to address the critical needs observed in our state and provide educa-

tors and state employees with a respectable salary increase, which will make our state competitive with other states, help retain our valuable employees and support the private sector. Additionally, as noted previously, continuing to grow through state support of private industry and removing barriers to the success of small businesses are also tools we can use to affect positive change.

**What is your top goal as a member of the state House of Representatives for District 7?**

As you might expect, after spending my entire career in education and trying to balance the budget on revenues from the state, my top priority will be focused on increasing revenues when possible, through strong fiscally responsible legislation that supports schools, business and our state as a whole.

But, in addition to these priorities, I feel strongly that as leaders, we need to bring people together, rather than apart. Over the past 40 years, building relationships has been at the core of everything I

have done, whether it was working as a school administrator, helping a neighbor or supporting a small business in my community. When we work together, there is almost nothing that we cannot do.

**What prompted your candidacy? Why should voters elect you?**

Our state needs people who are willing to invest their time and energy to leave a legacy for the future.

I am fortunate enough to be at a time and place in my life where I am able to give back. South Dakota has been good to me and my family, and I want to ensure a strong future for the next generation.

As anyone who has ever planted a tree knows, we do not always get to see the fruits of our labor, but everything we do is an investment for the future. I care deeply about our community and our state, and I would be honored to bring my skills and ability in service to you, as your District 7 representative.



# Biden juggling long list of issues to please Dem coalition

WASHINGTON (AP) – President Joe Biden wants to tame inflation. He wants Congress to protect access to abortions. He wants to tackle voting rights. And he's taking on China, promoting construction of new factories, addressing climate change, forgiving student debt, pardoning federal marijuana convictions, cutting the deficit, working to lower prescription drug prices and funneling aid to Ukraine.

Biden is trying to be everything to everyone. But that's making it hard for him to say he's focused on any single issue above all others as he tries to counter Republican momentum going into the Nov. 8 elections.

"There's no one thing," Biden said Wednesday when questioned about his top priority. "There's multiple, multiple, multiple issues, and they're all important. ... We ought to be able to walk and chew gum at the same time. You know, that old expression."

Biden's exhaustive to-do list is a recognition that the coalition of Democratic voters he needs to turn out Election Day is diverse in terms of race, age, education and geography. This pool of voters has an expansive list of overlapping and competing interests on crime, civil rights, climate change, the federal budget and other issues.

The Republican candidates trying to end Democratic control of Congress have a far more uniform base of voters, allowing them to more narrowly direct



President Joe Biden speaks about student loan debt relief at Delaware State University, Friday, Oct. 21, 2022, in Dover, Delaware

AP Photo/Evan Vucci

messaging on the economy, crime and immigration toward white voters, older voters, those without a college degree and those who identify as Christian.

In the 2020 election, AP VoteCast suggests, Biden drew disproportionate support from women, Black voters, voters younger than 45, college graduates and city dwellers and suburbanites. That gave Biden a broader base of support than Republican Donald Trump and it also is a potential long-term

advantage for Democrats as the country is getting more diverse and better educated.

But in midterm elections that normally favor the party not holding the White House, it requires Biden to appeal to all those constituencies.

"Coherence and cohesion have always been a challenge for the modern Democratic Party that relies on a coalition that crosses racial, ethnic, religious and class lines," said Daniel Cox, a senior fellow in polling

and public opinion at the conservative American Enterprise Institute. "It takes considerable political talent to maintain a coalition with diverse interests and backgrounds. Barack Obama managed to do it, but subsequent Democrats have struggled."

Biden devoted his public remarks this past Tuesday to abortion, Wednesday to gasoline prices, Thursday to infrastructure and Friday to deficit reduction, student debt forgiveness and historically Black col-

leges and universities. In most of his public speeches, Biden says he understands the pain caused by consumer prices rising 8.2% from a year ago and that he's working to lower costs.

Cox said there are signs that Biden's 2020 coalition is fracturing, with younger liberal voters not that enamored with him, and he does not appear to have done much to shore up Hispanic support.

But compared with 2016, when Trump won the presidency, Biden made relative progress with one prominent bloc that generally favors Republicans: white voters without a college degree, as he won 33% of their votes compared with 28% who supported Hillary Clinton in 2016, according to a 2021 analysis by the Pew Research Center.

Keeping those voters in the Democratic coalition could be essential for maintaining control of the Senate.

Biden has traveled repeatedly to Pennsylvania, campaigning on Thursday for Senate nominee John Fetterman with the goal of picking up a seat in the state. Fetterman, with his sweatshirts and shorts, exudes a blue-collar image, a contrast with the Republican nominee, Dr. Mehmet Oz, who rose to fame as a TV show host.

"Democrats need to hold on to as much of that bloc as possible, especially in key whiter states like Pennsylvania, Ohio and Wisconsin," said William Frey, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.

## MEDICAID: Weighing in on both sides of Medicaid issue

Continued from page 7

expansion, leading to budget shortfalls.

"Every one of our neighboring states, they underestimated utilization," Wiik said, predicting that passage of Amendment D would lead to state budget cuts by fiscal year 2026 or 2027 just like the state had to do in 2010. "I don't remember that being particularly popular with people."

Wiik's also concerned about writing a federal program – Medicaid – into the state constitution.

"If expanding Medicaid is really the goal," Wiik said, "we can do it under law. I really don't want it in the constitution. It's not something that's going to stand the test of time like our constitution has done."

Expanding Medicaid through a constitutional amendment rather than an initiated measure ensures that the Legislature won't be able to tinker with

the program once voters have approved it, Marcus said.

"I think it's always important to keep in mind that fundamentally things that are placed in state statute can change," Marcus said. "The purpose of a constitutional amendment is to ensure that South Dakota voters get what they vote for."

South Dakota already has a good system, Wiik said, where Medicaid recipients get prompt, quality care. The state estimates an increase of 42,500 recipients if Medicaid is expanded.

"I can't guarantee that we have enough providers to keep up with the level and quality of service we are able to provide to those who desperately need it right now," Wiik said.

An expanded program, according to Wiik, would mean that people on the Affordable Care Act's silver plan and others who use a Farm Bureau insurance plan could lose that coverage and be

forced on to Medicaid.

"We're taking health care away from people that have coverage that they like and works for them," Wiik said. "I don't think that's ever a good idea."

Marcus counters that any changes would result in savings for the state without a loss of coverage for individuals. "It would be more efficient and cheaper for the state in the long run, which is part of the savings, to have all those programs consolidate through Medicaid," Marcus said. "There are certain programs that would change, but nobody is losing health care as a result."

In their "pro" argument in the Secretary of State's 2022 Ballot Question brochure, Amendment D backers say Medicaid expansion would be good for the health of citizens as well as the state's economy. They cite one economic study that forecasts \$3.5 billion in new economic output by 2025 with \$800 million of that generated in 2023.

The amendment backers also make a case for expanded Medicaid coverage strengthening rural hospitals and clinics. Wiik doesn't see it that way.

"If you look at the statistics, the rural hospitals and smallest hospitals close faster once states have expanded Medicaid," Wiik said. "It puts more of a burden on the hospitals because everything is a fixed rate from the government."

Marcus sees Medicaid expansion as a way for workers in rural areas to set their sights on better jobs without the fear of losing their health care coverage.

"Folks being able to access health care while they're working multiple jobs and trying to make ends meet gives them confidence to be able to go out and improve themselves," Marcus said, "seek that promotion rather than worrying about whether you can afford to risk your health."



# Brookings County Sheriff

The Register posed four questions to the candidates. Here's how they answered.

## Jeff Kollars

**Name: Jeff Kollars**  
**Candidate for: Brookings County sheriff**  
**Age: 39**  
**Address: 46784 220th St., Brookings**  
**Occupation: DCI agent**



Jeff Kollars

occurring all around us.

Relationships are key in law enforcement success both with the public who trusts us to do a job and other professional criminal justice agencies that we depend on to connect the dots and follow through with

our work to protect the public. Without trust and relationships, no matter how good we are at a job, we are ineffective.

Recruitment and retention in 2022 are everyone's problems. People are our assets and what give us the ability to provide good service in law enforcement. The more well-rounded and

See **KOLLARS**, page 10

## Marty Stanwick

**Name: Martin "Marty" Stanwick**  
**Candidate for: Brookings County sheriff**  
**Age: 69**  
**Address: 20548 471st Ave., Brookings**  
**Occupation: Brookings County sheriff**



Marty Stanwick

The budgeting process is quite challenging for the sheriff's office and the newly expanded detention center. With increased size and added employees, this has significantly increased the overall budget.

**How would you address those?**

Each patrol car has an E-Care tablet that allows 24 hour access to counselors. Specialized training such as mental health first aid and Crisis Intervention Techniques (CIT) helps the Deputy Sheriffs and Correctional Officers to identify individuals that

See **STANWICK**, page 10



I understand the need for common sense.  
I believe in treating people fairly. *I ask for your vote!*

**www.reelectjudgespears.com**

Paid for by Re-elect Judge Spears Campaign, Matt Kranz, Chair

# Voters to decide again on recreational marijuana

## ■ Initiated Measure a shorter, simpler version of Amendment A

By **DANA HESS**  
For the S.D. Newspaper Association

**BROOKINGS** — It may seem like déjà vu for South Dakota voters this year as they will once again be deciding whether or not they want the state to allow recreational marijuana.

Initiated Measure 27 is a scaled-down version of the Amendment A that voters approved in the last election. Despite finding favor with voters, the amendment was challenged in court and defeated. That scenario still rubs Matthew Schweich the wrong way. He's the campaign manager for

Yes on 27 for South Dakotans for Better Marijuana Laws.

It's not the Supreme Court's ruling that rankles Schweich so much as the timing.

The court got the case on April 28, 2021, and didn't make its ruling until the day before Thanksgiving 2021.

"The worst part of the Amendment A case as the South Dakota Supreme Court took so long and deprived us of guidance as to how we should draft our 2022 initiative," Schweich said. "I think that was a pathetically shameful act. It was an attack on the initiative process, that delay."

Schweich describes Initiated Measure 27 as a shorter, simpler version of Amendment A. It allows for the possession of one ounce or less of marijuana by people over age 21, the possession of a limited number of

plants for home growing and sets civil penalties for the violation of marijuana-related restrictions.

Unlike Amendment A, Initiated Measure 27 does not include the regulation and licensing of retail outlets or a formula for the taxation of marijuana sales.

No matter how the measure is written, Jim Kinyon thinks it's a bad idea. He is the chairman of Protecting South Dakota Kids which opposes IM27. Kinyon notes that South Dakota voters turned down chances to legalize recreational marijuana in 2006 and 2010.

In the 2020 election "they spent millions of dollars to confuse and make it unclear what they're doing and what their intention is," Kinyon said. "All I need is a handkerchief and I think I can wipe enough lipstick off this pig."

Schweich said most IM27 support-

ers are concerned about how arrests for violating marijuana laws can disrupt or ruin lives. He said legalizing cannabis will free up law enforcement and the courts to work on other crimes while ensuring that patients who need medical marijuana can get it without fear of arrest.

"Not everybody that's got a legitimate need for medical cannabis is able to get a card right now," Schweich said. "By passing Measure 27, we'll eliminate the threat of arrest for all medical cannabis patients in South Dakota over the age of 21."

According to Kinyon, emphasizing the fear of arrest is a scare tactic. "Has anyone talked to their sheriff or their local police department or their judges?" Kinyon asked. "We don't lock up anyone in the state of South Dakota for an ounce of marijuana."

# STANWICK Seeking another term as county sheriff

Continued from page 9

may be having a mental health crisis and get the help they need.

Retention and Recruitment of Deputies and Correctional Officers is an increasing challenge.

The demands of working night shifts, weekends and holidays take a toll on officer wellness. It is also very important to provide counseling for employees that may be struggling.

Competitive wages and benefits will

help in recruitment and retention of qualified applicants.

We are contracting with other agencies to hold their inmates to help offset some of the costs of operating the new facility. Grants have also helped to offset the 2022 budget of \$4.2 million.

**What is my top goal as sheriff?**

I have three top goals for my department.

1. The Sheriff's office received a COPS Grant from the Department of Justice to hire a deputy who will focus on commu-

nity policing. This will help us to better address the needs of all communities in the county.

2. The need to start a drug task force along with other area law enforcement to combat illegal drugs coming into our county.

3. Set up a program in the Detention Center to offer inmates education on personal finances, resume writing and help with applying and interviewing for job placement. This will help them to be productive citizens once they are

released.

**What prompted your candidacy? And why should voters elect you?**

I love my job and I enjoy serving all of the residents of Brookings County. In these ever changing times I feel it is important to keep experience in the Brookings County Sheriff's Office. As your sheriff, I will continue to bring leadership, dedication and fiscal responsibility. I am humbled and grateful for your support for the last 23 years, and I ask for vote on Nov. 8.

# KOLLARS Wants to build relationships and trust

Continued from page 9

healthier the employee, the better the service provided. We also need to make sure that we are practicing the best practices in hiring those trusted employees.

Implementing technology is a constant. We need to stay with the curve and use technology to give us the edge to meet your expectations and standards.

**How would you address those?**

Assigning a dedicated drug investigator, working on building relationships to lead a regional drug task force for Brookings, and working toward a drug detection K-9 position again in the county that is patrol based. These together will put pressure on dealers and deter use of meth in our area.

Leading by example in building relationships to work seamlessly and cohesively with other professional law enforcement agencies. Joining active groups in the area that provide great service like the area joint SWAT team and working towards an affiliate position with the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force to build profession-

al relationships and sharpen our technological services.

Building a positive workplace where people can bring solutions and think outside the box to fix future problems. Being open to small changes like 12-hour shifts vs. eight-hour shifts or allowing spots on the SWAT team to allow for growth could have prevented several deputies from leaving which we invested heavily in to train and equip with knowledge.

Adopting best practice for hiring sworn personnel, which is conducting a background check, psychological exam and pre-employment polygraph. These are in practice in most of the larger areas in the state. All three aspects are needed together to aid in administrative decision support.

If we are missing one, we are missing them all. This also aids in retaining the public's trust by ensuring high standards are met and reduces future risk and liability for bad actors which can erode the public's trust.

Implementing technology is a continual process. We need to keep an eye on technology trends that can be imple-

mented to give us an edge in meeting the public's expectation to solve crimes and prevent issues. Things like using license plate readers that we could partner with agencies to share costs can bring big investigative edges in some of the crimes we face like the lug nut loosening or ATM thefts that have occurred this summer.

These are not "red light cameras" but cameras that log license plates and could be used to go back and generate witnesses or identify suspects. These have been implemented in smaller areas around us and are very successful. Technology is always changing. We need to stay with the curve to meet your expectations and standards.

**What is my top goal as sheriff?**

Building relationships and trust both with other professional groups and the public at large is my top goal. Many of the ideas I bring to the table are interlaced in the aspects of building relationships. From joining the area SWAT team again, to building an area drug task force to combat meth or working towards being an affiliate for the Internet Crimes

Against Children Task Force, or ensuring trust by following best practices for hiring sworn personnel, all are steps towards earning trust and building relationships. If we are not building, we are losing.

**What prompted your candidacy? And why should voters elect you?**

I am running for Sheriff because I found myself in a spot where I have a lot to offer the public in this field and our future is important to me. I believe that if you have something to offer the public, you are obligated to do so. I believe in competition and that all public offices should be challenged. The public deserves the best which only comes from competition and not from monopolies.

My competitor has done a good job in the past and built a good base. I want to build off that base for our future success. It is time to think about the future. What I offer is a fresh set of eyes for the same problems we have been facing and a new level of energy to face tomorrow's problems. Please vote for the future, vote for Jeff Kollars.



# GOP campaigns against the IRS, vowing to slash its funding

WASHINGTON (AP) – IRS pleas for more funding from Congress – made over the years by one leader after another – finally paid off this summer when Democrats tucked an \$80 billion boost for the agency into their flagship climate and health care law.

Fortified with a new funding stream, the IRS is making plans to clear a massive backlog of unprocessed tax returns, upgrade technology that is decades out of date and, yes, hire more auditors.

But, as GOP candidates across the country are making clear, the battle over IRS funding has only just begun. They are making attacks on a larger IRS a central part of their midterm election pitch to voters, warning that the Democratic legislation will bankroll an army of auditors that will harass middle-class taxpayers rather than help them.

“If you pass it, they will come – after you,” says an ad running in an Iowa House race that spoofs a scene in the “Field of Dreams” movie. Instead of baseball players emerging from a field of corn, it’s black-suited IRS agents.

The GOP’s warnings are generally alarmist and misleading. The agency is not hiring an army of 87,000 “new agents” to target low- and middle-class Americans. Many hires will be used to replace some 50,000 IRS employee retirements in coming years. Others will become customer service representatives answering taxpayer phone calls.

Some of the IRS hires will be added to the ranks of sophisticated auditing teams that spend thousands of hours poring over complicated returns, but the Biden administration has also made clear that small business or households earning \$400,000 per year or less will not see an increase in their chances of being audited.

“The purpose of the funding is to modernize a severely underfunded agency to provide the American people with the customer service they deserve,” said Natasha Sarin, Treasury’s Counselor for Tax Policy and Implementation.

But campaign politics has a way of becoming policy. With GOP ads against the IRS blanketing campaign airwaves, funding for the agency appears far from safe and could come under threat as soon as the next Congress is sworn in.

House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, the speaker-in-waiting, has promised that if Republicans take the majority, passage of a bill to repeal the new IRS funding will be their first legislative act.

While such a bill stands little chance of becoming law – President Joe Biden will retain veto power even if the GOP

wins control of Congress – Republicans are unlikely to abandon the issue. Their greatest leverage over IRS funding will come when Congress takes up must-pass spending bills to finance government agencies or to avoid a government default on its debt.

Douglas Holtz-Eakin, an economist and president of the American Action Forum, a center-right think tank, doubts that lawmakers will go so far as to force a government shutdown in a demand for less IRS funding.

“If it was important enough to shut the government over it, the government would be shut,” Holtz-Eakin said. He noted that lawmakers passed a short-term measure last month to finance the government into December and largely skipped the IRS fight.

Still, some proponents of the additional IRS funding are concerned by the Democratic response to the GOP ads, or to be more precise, the lack thereof. Instead, Democratic groups and candidates are largely focusing their campaign ads on non-economic issues such as abortion rights.

“There’s crickets, is exactly the word, a crickets response from Democrats on this issue,” said Frank Clemente, executive director of Americans for Tax Fairness, a liberal-leaning advocacy group.

“This is a story about messaging,” Clemente said. “... Candidates need to be talking about it. They need to be running ads on it. They need to be telling people how they’re going to benefit, not just personally benefit by an improved IRS, but how rich and corporate tax cheats are going to have to pay the taxes that they owe.”

The IRS is still working on the details about how it would spend the extra \$80 billion, but it has emphasized that resources would be directed at improving customer service and scrutiny at the high end of the income scale.

Among other things, the IRS says its new funding will be devoted to remedying longstanding customer service issues – like answering the phone. The problem is so pervasive that a bipartisan group of lawmakers wrote to the IRS last November to complain about phone calls being answered only 9% of the time during the 2021 filing season.

The IRS will also be tasked with coming up with how to move forward with an expanded free-file system for taxpayers.

Nina Olson, a former head of the Office of the Taxpayer Advocate, said if funds are cut, taxpayers who have been hoping for better customer service will be most negatively impacted.



AP Photo/Susan Walsh/filei

The exterior of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) building in Washington on March 22, 2013. IRS pleas for more funding from Congress finally paid off this summer.

## Roger DeGroot

### for State Representative

- Supporting Education
- Economic Development
- Workforce Development

I would appreciate your vote on Nov. 8!

Common Sense Leadership For District 7.

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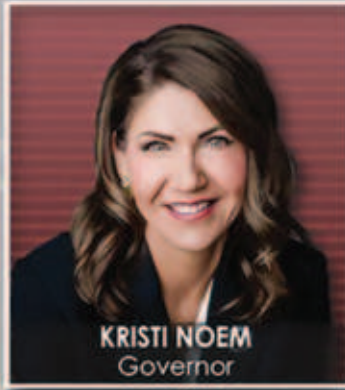




# 2022 REPUBLICAN TICKET

CONGRATULATIONS  
TO OUR REPUBLICAN  
CANDIDATES RUNNING  
UNOPPOSED IN THE  
GENERAL ELECTION.

MARTY JACKLEY - S.D. ATTORNEY GENERAL  
TIM REED - DISTRICT 7 SENATE  
CASEY CRABTREE - DISTRICT 8 SENATE  
JOHN MILLS - DISTRICT 8 HOUSE  
TIM REISCH - DISTRICT 8 HOUSE



**KRISTI NOEM**  
Governor



**LARRY RHODEN**  
Lt. Governor



**JOHN THUNE**  
United States Senate



**DUSTY JOHNSON**  
United States Congress



**CHRIS NELSON**  
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**RICH SATTGAST**  
Auditor



**JOSH HAEDER**  
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**BROCK GREENFIELD**  
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**MONAE JOHNSON**  
SD Secretary of State



**MELLISSA HEERMANN**  
District 7 House



**ROGER DEGROOT**  
District 7 House



**JEFF KOLLARS**  
Brookings County Sheriff



**SHAWN HOSTLER**  
Brookings County Commission



**GRETCHEN WEIBLE**  
Brookings County Commission



**KELLY VANDERWAL**  
Brookings County Commission