



*Voter's*

**GUIDE**

★ **ELECTION DAY** ★  
**TUESDAY, NOV. 3, 2020**

THE  
Brookings  
**Register**

October 28, 2020



# What's on the ballot?

BROOKINGS – Brookings area voters have a lot on their ballots when they head to the polls Nov. 3, so doing their homework ahead of time is recommended.

The races include:

## Presidential Electors

Voters have three choices for presidential electors on the ballot and may choose one slate: Trump and Pence electors, with the Republican Party; Jorgensen and Cohen electors, with the Libertarian Party; and Biden and Harris electors, with the Democratic Party.

## U.S. Senator

Two candidates are on the ballot for one of the state's seats in the United States Senate: Republican incumbent Mike Rounds and Democratic challenger Dan Ahlers.

## 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 Randy "Uriah" Luallin.

## Public Utilities Commissioner

Vying for one public utilities commissioner post are Republican Gary Hanson, Libertarian Devin Saxon and Democrat Remi W.B. Bald Eagle.

## District 7 Senate

Republican incumbent V.J. Smith 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 four candidates: Republicans Tim Reed and Larry Tidemann and Democrats Louise Snodgrass and Bill Adamson.

Reed is an incumbent, and

current Rep. Doug Post was defeated in the primary race.

## District 4 Senate

Two candidates are competing for the Senate seat in District 4: Republican incumbent John Wiik and Libertarian Daryl Root.

## District 4 House

Vying for two District 4 seats in the state House of Representatives are three candidates: Republican incumbents Fred Deutsch and John Mills and Democrat Becky Holtquist.

## Brookings County Commission

Up for two four-year posts on the Brookings County Commission are Republican incumbents Ryan Krogman and Michael Bartley and Independent Tim Bauer.

## Supreme Court Retention

On the ballot for Supreme Court retention in the Fourth Supreme Court District is Justice Steven Jensen. Voters simply chose "yes" or "no" on whether Jensen should be retained in office.

## Brookings County Conservation District Supervisor

Voters may select up to two choices for Conservation District Supervisor for Brookings County, out of three candidates: Darrell Deboer, Rick Kerr and John Heylens.

## Ballot issues

Voters will have to decide on three separate ballot issues, constitutional amendments A and B, and initiated measure 26. Refer to the stories focusing on each of these ballot questions on pages 3-4 of this guide.

– From staff reports

## Campaigning in a pandemic:

# More social media, less door-to-door

By **DANA HESS**

For the S.D. Newspaper Association

BROOKINGS – Like other states, South Dakota will hold an election during the pandemic. But, like so much of daily life, it won't look the same as past elections.

Opponents and backers of three ballot measures are trying to figure out how to reach voters at a time when citizens are putting a premium on keeping their distance.

David Owen, president of the South Dakota Chamber of Commerce and Industry, is leading the No Way on Amendment A coalition that wants to defeat the measure that would legalize the use of recreational marijuana. Ballot issue campaigns are suited for a pandemic, Owen said, as they rely on coalition building and they don't rely on big rallies.

"Face-to-face debates used to be more prominent," Owen said, but likely won't be this year.

Owen's counterpart at South Dakotans for Better Marijuana Laws, Drey Samuelson, says his campaign's outreach will rely more on phone calls and texts and less on sending volunteers door-to-door.

Labor Day is the traditional start of cam-

aign season, but truncating the election calendar this year was Sept. 18 – the first day South Dakotans can request an absentee ballot. Due to the pandemic, mail-in ballots are going to be much more popular this year.

"If you want to win, you have to take that into account," Samuelson said.

Owen said he wouldn't be surprised if half of all South Dakota ballots were cast by mail.

There was some good, old-fashioned politicking going on at the State Fair in Huron. Melissa Mentele of New Approach South Dakota, backers of Initiated Measure 26 which would legalize medical marijuana, reports taking 500 yard signs to the fair and coming home with just six.

Asked how to campaign in a pandemic, Mentele replied, "From home." She said her organization will place a greater emphasis on digital media and newspaper op-eds.

Mike Rodman, executive director of the Deadwood Gaming Association, has formed Yes on B, a committee to inform voters about Amendment B which would legalize sports wagering at Deadwood casinos.

Rodman doesn't know if his luck will hold, but as of mid-September, "We know of no organized opposition," he said.

## Where do I cast my ballot Nov. 3?

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. 3. 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 2020 General Election?

**A:** Tuesday, Nov. 3

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

**A:** Yes! The vote centers will be open Tuesday, Nov. 3, 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. 2, you can vote via

absentee 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 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



# Medical, recreational marijuana on ballot

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

BROOKINGS – South Dakota voters aren't seeing double; marijuana is on the ballot twice in 2020.

Initiated Measure 26 lays out the parameters for starting and running a medical marijuana program. Constitutional Amendment A takes an omnibus approach, calling on the Legislature to make rules for medical marijuana and setting the standards for legalizing the use of recreational marijuana.

Organizers for the two ballot measures say that they complement each other, and that the passage of Amendment A would protect the initiated measure from meddling by the Legislature.

"There's always one legislator who thinks they know better than voters do," said Melissa Mentele, executive director of New Approach South Dakota, which is advocating for the medical marijuana measure.

Organizers are wary of the Legislature after its reworking of IM22, an anti-corruption measure approved by voters in 2016.

"We learned that the South Dakota Legislature is very willing and perfectly able to essentially gut a ballot issue," said Drey Samuelson, political director of South Dakotans for Better Marijuana Laws, which is championing Amendment A.

That argument is characterized as "garbage" by David Owen, president of the South Dakota Chamber of Commerce and Industry and a leader of the No Way on Amendment A coalition.

Lawmakers winnowed out the unconstitutional aspects of IM22, Owen said, and enacted legislation that provided for many of its anti-corruption features like an accountability board, limits on gifts to legislators and an increase in the time it takes to go from being a lawmaker to being a lobbyist.

"The voters' intent was preserved," Owen said. "It's a distortion to say the whole thing was repealed."

## Workforce vs. economic development

Amendment A opponents are worried about the effect legalized recreational marijuana will have on the workforce. Owen explained that manufacturers in South Dakota rely on federal contracts which require a drug-free workforce.

"We're going to see a spike in people failing drug tests," Owen said, as well as an increase in businesses having to fire the people who fail those tests.

For his part, Samuelson predicts an "economic boom" with the passage of Amendment A as marijuana-growing buildings and dispensaries are built.

A fiscal note on the attorney general's Amendment A explanation predicts that state revenues from licensing fees, sales tax and a 15% excise tax would total \$29.3



File photo

million in 2024. The revenues would be split with 50% for public schools and 50% for the state's general fund.

"That's a lot of money in a small state like South Dakota," Samuelson said.

Owen notes the many costs of legalizing marijuana which include the administrative costs of the program, increased social services and more traffic fatalities.

"There's a serious question how much of that \$30 million is going to get to schools or the general fund," Owen said. "We don't think it's the panacea proponents make it out to be."

## Balancing risks and rewards

Eleven states have legalized the recreational use of marijuana and, according to Samuelson, it remains popular in those states. He notes that legalization doesn't necessarily lead to an increase in marijuana use but rather as a way to reduce opioid and heroin overdose deaths and defund drug dealers and cartels.

"You don't have to be pro marijuana use to believe that prohibition doesn't work," Samuelson said.

The risks of legalization are too great for Owen who notes, "This is an intoxicant." Legalization will lead to putting more youth at risk, traffic fatalities and abuse.

## Medical marijuana on ballot, too

There are 37 states that have legalized medical marijuana, among them South Dakota's neighbors Iowa, North Dakota and Minnesota. It's also on the ballot in Nebraska this year.

IM26 backer Mentele said the measure was written to "help people with low incomes access medicine that can be very expensive." The measure also allows for the home cultivation of a small amount of marijuana.

Mentele's IM26 "pro" statement on the 2020 ballot question pamphlet quotes Gov. Kristi Noem on "trusting our citizens to exercise their personal responsibility to do what's best for themselves and their loved ones."

"That trust and weight should also be

applied to cannabis," Mentele said, noting that the passage of IM26 would get people who are currently circumventing the law into a legal market.

"We're just trying to keep people out of prison," Mentele said. "The narrative that this will create new users is false. Just because it's legal doesn't mean you have to do it."

## Medical group opposes IM26

"Medical marijuana is a misnomer," according to Benjamin Aaker, MD, pres-

ident of the South Dakota State Medical Association. Aaker notes that marijuana has about 400 different chemicals.

Legitimate medications are approved by the Food and Drug Administration. "We have active ingredients identified," Aaker said. "We know the dose to give."

There are no prescriptions written for medical marijuana. A patient with a chronic ailment would get a card from the doctor that would allow the patient to purchase marijuana at a dispensary.

Aaker said that voters considering legalizing medical marijuana should know that what they are voting for already exists. Marinol uses synthetic THC, the active ingredient in marijuana. It's an FDA-approved drug for the relief of post-chemotherapy nausea.

"We can give it as a legitimate drug," Aaker said. "We can already prescribe it right now."

The SDSMA also opposes Amendment A. Marijuana use has the same harmful effects as smoking, Aaker said, and can lead to decreased judgment and response time, impairs adolescent brain development and can lead to schizophrenia.

Aaker predicts that if recreational marijuana is legalized it will lead to increased traffic accidents and more psychiatric diagnoses.

Both questions – Amendment A and IM26 – are on the statewide ballot in the Nov. 3 general election.

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**DISTRICT 4**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

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I stand for ...  
**Accountability.**

**Vote for Fred Deutsch on November 3.**  
*I would appreciate your vote. Fred*

BALLOT FOR BY FRED DEUTSCH FOR HOUSE



# Deadwood bets on sports wagering

By **DANA HESS**

For the S.D. Newspaper Association

**BROOKINGS** – Deadwood casinos are once again betting on South Dakota voters to allow them to expand their gaming choices. Amendment B authorizes the Legislature to allow wagering on sporting events at Deadwood casinos. If approved, tribal casinos would also be allowed to offer sports wagering.

“We know that sports wagering is happening in South Dakota,” said Mike Rodman, executive director of the Deadwood Gaming Association. “It’s happening illegally.”

Illegal bets are placed using bookies or websites. According to Rodman, players prefer a legal way to place their bets. That was evident, he said, when Grand Falls Casino in northwestern Iowa began offering

sports betting.

“People were going across the border to place their wagers,” Rodman said.

Iowa, along with Colorado and Montana, are seen by Deadwood casinos as their main competitors. Iowa got sports betting in August of 2019 and it came to Colorado and Montana in May of this year.

“We want to continue to be competitive as a gaming destination,” Rodman said.

The biggest events for sports wagering – March Madness and the Super Bowl – take place during traditionally slow times for Deadwood casinos.

“Those are opportunities to drive more traffic to Deadwood,” Rodman said.

Deadwood gaming revenues are taxed at 9%. In 2012 a 1% tax was added that goes to the state’s general fund. The original 8% tax has 40% going to tourism, 10% to Lawrence

County and 50% going to Deadwood historic preservation until that fund reaches \$6.8 million. At that point 70% of the 50% goes to the state’s general fund, 10% to the local school district, 10% to other Lawrence County municipalities and 10% to Deadwood historic preservation.

Deadwood casinos also fund the state gaming commission, historic preservation grants and treatment programs for problem gamblers.

While the decision is up to the Legislature, Rodman assumes that sports wagering would be taxed at the same 9% rate.

Estimates on how much would be wagered at Deadwood vary. In December 2018 the Legislative Research Council estimated that \$2.5 million would be wagered annually.

A gaming industry study estimated bets of \$6.1 million

annually creating 152 additional jobs in Deadwood and an overall boost to Deadwood gaming of 15%.

“Adding sports betting wouldn’t be of any significant value,” according to Rep. Steven Haugaard, R-Sioux Falls. “It’s of very little value to the state. It’s a net loss if even one person becomes addicted.”

South Dakota has an estimated 15,000 problem gamblers. Haugaard, who serves as the Speaker of the House in the Legislature, predicts young people will be tempted to channel their enthusiasm for fantasy football into sports wagering.

“An obsession with sports can certainly lead to an obsession with sports betting,” Haugaard said. “It really shouldn’t be a training ground for young people.”

Technology could bring sports betting out of Deadwood casinos. Rodman said Iowa and

Colorado use “geofencing,” a technology that allows registered bettors with a phone app to place their wagers from anywhere in the state.

Montana uses pinpoint geofencing, allowing registered bettors to place their wagers if they are in one of the state’s liquor stores.

That option is available, Rodman said, “if other organizations wanted to be part of sports wagering.”

Haugaard notes that after Nevada, South Dakota is the most reliant on gaming revenues to fund state government.

“There’s a general degradation of individuals’ lives when they become obsessed with these things,” Haugaard said. “We just shouldn’t be taking advantage of vulnerable people.”

Amendment B is on the statewide ballot in the Nov. 3 general election.

# Trump, Biden brace for White House legal battle

## Attorneys for both parties already clashing in courts

By **ALANNA DURKIN RICHER**

AND **ERIC TUCKER**

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** – President Donald Trump’s and Democratic rival Joe Biden’s campaigns are assembling armies of powerful lawyers for the possibility that the race for the White House is decided not at the ballot box but in court.

They have been engaging in a lawyer’s version of tabletop war games, churning out draft pleadings, briefs and memos to cover scenarios that read like the stuff of a law school hypothetical more than a real-life case in a democracy.

Attorneys for the Republicans and the Democrats are already clashing in courts across the U.S. over mailed-in ballot deadlines and other issues brought on by the coronavirus pandemic. And as Trump tries to sow doubt in the legitimacy of the Nov. 3 election, both sides have built massive legal operations readying for a bitterly disputed race that lands at the Supreme Court

“We’ve been preparing for this for well over a year,” Republican National Committee Chief Counsel Justin Riemer told The Associated Press. “We’ve been working with the campaign on our



J. Scott Applewhite/AP

The White House is shown Monday afternoon, Oct. 5, 2020, in Washington. President Donald Trump and Democratic rival Joe Biden’s campaigns are assembling armies of powerful lawyers as they prepare for the possibility that the race for the White House is decided not at the ballot box but in court.

strategy for recount preparation, for Election Day operations and our litigation strategy.”

On the Democratic side, the Biden campaign’s election protection program includes a special national litigation

team involving hundreds of lawyers led by Walter Dellinger, acting solicitor general in the Clinton administration, and Donald Verrilli, a solicitor general under President Barack Obama, among others. Bob Bauer, a former White

House counsel to Obama, and Biden campaign general counsel Dana Remus are focused on protecting the rights of voters, who have been enduring long lines at polling places around the country on the belief that the presidential election will be decided by their ballots.

Both sides are informed by the experience of the 2000 election, which was ultimately decided by the Supreme Court in *Bush v. Gore*. But this year, because Trump has pushed unsubstantiated claims about the potential for voter fraud with increased voting by mail, sowing doubt about the integrity of the result, lawyers are preparing for a return trip before the high court.

And, in an extraordinary twist, the president has pushed for his nominee to the Supreme Court, Judge Amy Coney Barrett, to be seated as soon as possible if she is confirmed as expected on Monday, saying it’s important to have a ninth justice to decide any election disputes.

The race is already thought to be the most litigated in American history, with some 260 lawsuits arising from the coronavirus by one tally.

Behind the scenes, Trump and Republicans have been putting together a legal team that includes Jay Sekulow, one of the president’s lead attorneys during the impeachment trial and the special counsel’s Russia investigation and an experienced litigator before the Supreme Court. Republicans have hired dozens of attorneys and retained prominent national firms to challenge

# Brookings County Commission

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

## Ryan Krogman

**Name: Ryan Krogman**  
**Party: Republican**  
**Candidate for: Brookings County Commission**  
**Age: 48**  
**Address: work 323 22nd Ave., Brookings, SD 57006**  
**Occupation: Broker/owner of Century 21 Krogman & Co.**

issues?

The jail expansion is just one piece of the process to help those struggling with addiction and mental health. We will need to partner with other organizations throughout the City of Brookings and County to put together a recovery group, who would put together a path of recovery that can give direction and support to those struggling.



Ryan Krogman

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

I think the completion of the jail expansion will be an important piece to help our citizens who struggle with addiction and depression. The ability to hold an addict in a safe room rather than incarcerate them with felons will allow us to get them help and on to the path of recovery.

Another issue is the continued long-term plan of strategically updating or replacing our roads and bridges throughout the county. Our bridges are getting to an age and condition where we are seeing stricter loads limits, so we need to continue the process of leveraging state dollars and planning for the replacement of those deteriorating bridges, and get the load limits off, so producers can get their products to market in a reliable efficient manner.

How would you address those

Continue the systematic approach of our 5-year capital improvement plan for the updating and replacement of our roads and bridges while being fiscally responsible to the taxpayers. Investing in long term capital projects will hopefully bring long term benefits to all of our citizens for years to come!

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

If I'm elected in November, this would be my third term on the Commission. I think I bring the experience and knowledge to continue to lead us to a fiscally responsible manner, as we grow our economy for our citizens. I think being a small business owner allows me to make strong conservative decisions to allow our citizens to work, live and play in the best county in SD!

## Michael Bartley

**Name: Michael Bartley**  
**Party: Republican**  
**Candidate for: Brookings County Commission**  
**Age: 68**  
**Address: 1929 25th Ave., Brookings, SD 57006**  
**Occupation: Owner of Brookings Hearing Associates**

issues, are moving forward with new equipment that allows for more work to be accomplished in the seasonal time frame available. Funds were



Michael Bartley

made available for townships to help with culvert replacements in areas needing attention due to flooding events and aging structures. Applying our highway funds in the most effective manner for the best results.

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

Infrastructure replacement of bridges, roads, equipment, and mental health funding to address these needs.

Transportation is critical for county residents and agricultural and commercial businesses to operate effectively. The system is in good shape. However, we need to keep maintaining and improving it.

The county mental health need for additional resources increased as a result of COVID-19. The Ivy Center – Brookings Behavioral Health is researching for a new facility that will require funding help.

**How would you address those issues?**

The Commission has funded grant applications to a level needed to be awarded Bridge Improvement Grants to rehabilitate and replace structures on the five-year strategic plan. Road improvements that have been delayed due to flooding, and other

The county increased funding for The Ivy Center – Brookings Behavioral Health and Wellness over the last three budgets, and our 2021 budget included money for a new facility fund.

The detention center expansion, when completed, will have facilities to handle emergency and inmate mental health issues on site more effectively.

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

Public service, for me, has meant getting involved and making a difference for the public good. Keeping informed by researching both sides of an issue, using a common sense approach to resolving and moving forward to a resolution.

I will listen and commit to using my 22 years of public service experience to keep Brookings County well managed for the future. I'm asking for your early vote, absentee vote or Nov. 3 vote.

## Tim Bauer

**Name: Tim P. Bauer**  
**Party: Independent**  
**Candidate for: Brookings County Commission**  
**Age: 56**  
**Address: 48360 213th St., Elkton, SD 57026**  
**Occupation: Farmer**



Tim Bauer

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

I feel that Brookings County is not represented very well because the majority of the commissioners live in the City of Brookings. There

are 805 square miles in the county that includes seven other towns with approximately 35,000 people as of 2019.

**How would you address those issues?**

I would like to get the county to possibly set up wards or districts like some cities have for better representation.

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

My main reason to run for County

Commission is so the voters have someone else who actually lives out in the county that knows and understands the way things are out in the country.

I have lived in the Elkton area my entire life, farming plus working in town.

I have served on the Elkton School Board for the past 18 years and on the Brookings County Weed and Pest Board for the past eight years.



# State Senate – District 4

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

## Daryl Root

**Name: Daryl Root**  
**Party: Libertarian**  
**Candidate for: District 4 Senate**  
**Age: 62**  
**Address: Clear Lake, SD**  
**Occupation: Self-employed (DL Root Flooring, Camp Ridger seasonings)**



Daryl Root

laws allowing those who could benefit from it to exercise their personal freedoms. Someone using medicinal marijuana in the privacy of their own home to treat PTSD, Dravet's Syndrome, or chronic pain has no effect on my life, or any politician's life. Politicians

should mind their own business and quit playing the role of God by pretending they know what is best for people they've never met. Equality is another issue South Dakota has problems with; we're behind the rest of the country and need to address it.

**How would you address those issues?**

See **ROOT**, page 7

**What do you see as the key issues facing District 4 and the state, and why are they important?**

The biggest issue I see at all levels of government is the invasion into our personal lives and the tendency to control our actions when we are causing no harm to others. Medicinal marijuana is an example. The issue finally made it onto the ballot after legislators refused to pass

## John Wiik

**Name: John Wiik**  
**Party: Republican**  
**Candidate for: Senate District 4**  
**Age: 48**  
**Address: P.O. Box 95 Big Stone City, SD 57216**  
**Occupation: Parts manager**



John Wiik

a new normal will look like after all the stimulus money wears off.

**How would you address those issues?**

I serve as chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and I will be centrally

involved in the work of appropriating funds for efficient operation of our state. I will be involved with any discussions on meat processing legislation.

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

I am seeking re-election based on the

See **WIİK**, page 7

**What do you see as the key issues facing District 4 and the state, and why are they important?**

COVID is going to dominate the news until either a cure is found or we find some other way to learn to live with it. We have to find ways to decentralize the processing of meat and find ways to inspect our own South Dakota meat for local sale. Budgets are going to be strained, and we need to figure out what

**Vote TIM REED**  
For District 7 State House




**"The coronavirus pandemic has put economic and social burdens on our lives. If re-elected, I will use my 17 years of experience in public service and government to make sure South Dakota recovers as soon as possible"**

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- LEADERSHIP**
- EXPERIENCE**
- INTEGRITY**

**LARRY TIDEMANN**  
★ DISTRICT 7 HOUSE ★

Paid for by Tidemann for House, Jeff Lee, Treasurer



# BRACE: 2000 much different

Continued from page 4

Democratic efforts to expand ballot access in key battleground states.

Thousands of volunteer lawyers are prepared to assist with Election Day operations and poll watching and other issues, Riemer said. A group called Lawyers for Trump, whose advisory board includes Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and Trump attorney Rudy Giuliani, is recruiting retired lawyers and law students. Jones Day is among the prominent global law firms expected to play a role. Attorney Will Consovoy, who has represented Trump in such cases as his long-running fight to prevent a top New York prosecutor from getting his tax returns, is also likely to be a key player in any election legal fights.

Riemer said it's not as though the party is going to call up a random attorney on Election Day and say, "Hey, are you busy? Do you want to litigate a recount?"

That's close to what happened in 2000. Barry Richard, who represented Bush in the 2000 Florida recount, got a call the morning after the election asking if he could help and had to scramble to quickly pull a team together, he said.

"Things were much different then. We had no history of candidates lawyering up for presidential elections, so everything hit the fan the night of election night," Richard said.

Another team that's fighting voter access issues in courts across the coun-

try is headed by well-known election lawyer Marc Elias of the law firm Perkins Coie, who is prominent in Democratic circles and has become a bête noire of Republicans.

"When Democrats want to tilt elections in their favor outside the ballot box, who do they call? Marc Elias and Perkins Coie," an RNC website says.

Republicans accuse Elias and Democrats of trying to use the coronavirus pandemic to rig the election by doing away with safeguards against fraud.

Elias and his team at have filed lawsuits seeking to force states to extend mailed-in ballot collection deadlines and other things. In one case, the Supreme Court this week allowed Pennsylvania to count mailed-in ballots received up to three days after the Nov. 3 election, rejecting a Republican bid to block the extension.

Elias has long been the public face of Democratic legal contests, serving as general counsel to Hillary Clinton's campaign in 2016 and John Kerry's in 2004. He pushes regular updates about developments in his lawsuits to nearly 150,000 followers on Twitter, as well as guidance for voting and the occasional jibe at the president and his Republican counterparts.

"Being called a 'partisan hack' by a lawyer for Donald Trump is a badge of honor I will wear proudly for a lifetime," he wrote in a tweet this week.

But lawyers on both sides say they are preparing to be ready for much more than a fight on Twitter.

# Root: A nanny society

Continued from page 6

Whenever a bill crosses my desk, I will have three questions: 1) Does this give people more freedom/protect what they already have, or does it take away freedoms? 2) Does said freedom cause direct harm to others? 3) Does it treat people equally, or does it smack of favoritism? If it attacks freedoms, causes harm to others, or plays favorites, it's a no go for me.

What prompted your candidacy? Why

should voters elect you?

Too much of this country is over regulated and over taxed. We are becoming a nanny society where you need permission or a license to do more and more things every passing year, including many jobs that have nothing to do with public safety. While South Dakota may be better than many states, we can do better. I trust the people to know what is best for them. A vote for me is a vote for more freedom and less government.

# Wiik: Keep taxes low

Continued from page 6

experience I bring to the office. I have a good track record of doing exactly what I ran to do. I have worked to keep taxes low, operate our state efficiently and pass laws that make a difference.

The Move Over law and awareness of it are my biggest achievement of the 2020

session, and our committee just got the special session resolution passed and the small business and healthcare relief grants are open for application now at covid.sd.gov. I believe I have a track record that shows I have been a good steward of the people of District 4's Senate seat, and I hope they will send me back for two more years.

**MIKE BARTLEY**  
RE-ELECT  
**COUNTY COMMISSIONER**  
Paid for by Mike Bartley

**REMEMBER TO VOTE**  
**JOHN MILLS**  
for District 4 State House  
on November 3.

*Faith, family and freedom are the foundation and strength of America and South Dakota. I will fight to protect them. I'm a dedicated conservative Republican on both fiscal and social issues.*

**I believe:**

- Good government is small government
- Local control is best
- Agriculture and small businesses are the backbone of our economic prosperity
- In fair taxation at the lowest possible rates

Follow the campaign at:  
John Mills for District 4 House

*Paid for by John Mills for District 4.*

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# State House – District 4

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

## John Mills

**Name: John Mills**  
**Party: Republican**  
**Candidate for: South Dakota House of Representatives, District 4**  
**Age: 65**  
**Address: 21730 464th Ave., Volga, SD 57071**  
**Occupation: Construction, real estate development, agricultural producer**

issues?

1) This is an uncertain time for everyone. We need to be listening and ready to adapt quickly to meet the needs that are appropriate for government to fill.



John Mills

I believe that the state should utilize CARES Act funds to support and preserve small businesses and provide extra help to our schools, hospitals, care facilities and ag producers wherever there is a demonstrated

need. By filling the gap of unanticipated and unavoidable revenue losses and costs due to COVID-19, vital businesses and services can be retained and ready to serve when the pandemic subsides.

2) It's important to have people at the table with knowledge and connections back home when state government decisions are made. Here is one example. I was pleased to strongly support the precision ag project at SDSU because it positions South Dakota at the very front of the innovation that will lead the next big change in agriculture. A change that I believe could transform the world. By being out front of this exciting change, we will have more jobs and opportunities close to home for our kids and grandkids. I watch for opportunities like this and look for any way possible to keep

What do you see as the key issues facing District 4 and the state, and why are they important?

1) The impact of COVID-19 on our families, towns, schools, businesses and ag-producers is top of mind for everyone. The survival of our schools, Main Street businesses and ag producers in a manner that positions them for growth and success is crucial to sustain our communities and treasured way of life.

2) Maintaining healthy and thriving rural economies amid the changing dynamics and realities of rural South Dakota is a challenge. How do we sustain what we have and best position ourselves for growth? It is important to do all we can so that our children have the opportunity to find productive and fulfilling work close to home, if they wish to.

How would you address those

See MILLS, page 10

## Fred Deutsch

**Name: Dr. Fred Deutsch**  
**Party: Republican**  
**Candidate for: House, District 4**  
**Age: 63**  
**Address: 16452 449th Avenue, Florence, SD 57235**  
**Occupation: Retired Chiropractor**

What do you see as the key issues facing District 4 and the state, and why are they important?

The most significant issues are the ramifications from the COVID-19 pandemic. The virus has affected just about every aspect of life, impacting our health, businesses, schools, and more.

The good news is the advances made in medical research. Treatment is improving. Today, most of the people who are hospitalized for COVID are not getting as sick or staying as long in the hospital. But the Legislature will be challenged to answer future medical requests.

Addressing the COVID-related needs of South Dakota's 149 school districts will also be a major challenge for the 2021 legislature.

The pandemic has left schools looking and feeling much different.

Parents face difficult decisions with information changing often about what is happening and when. I've heard from parents who tell me they are concerned about their children being exposed to COVID-19 at school. Yet, at the same time, I heard from others who tell me they are concerned about their children missing instructional time.

The state can do more to provide

schools additional latitude they need to deal with issues unique to their district, to provide teachers additional training and resources necessary to meet the needs of our children, and provide reasonable solutions to calm the fears of parents.



Fred Deutsch

How would you address those issues?

I've not yet decided which COVID-related bills

I will introduce, but

if re-elected I plan to dedicate the bulk of my time working on solving health and education problems caused by COVID-19.

What prompted your candidacy? Why should voters elect you?

I am running for another term to continue to give back to the people of South Dakota. I have spent my life dedicated to caring for people and public service. I am asking for your vote to continue to serve you in the state legislature.

I learned early in my chiropractic practice that if I can take away someone's pain I have been successful. I believe good government should function the same way by taking away pain and not creating it.

I believe the experience I've gained over the past four years serving in the Legislature, the nine years prior to that serving on the Watertown School Board, and the nearly 40 years of experience working as a chiropractor will be helpful in addressing many COVID-related issues, especially relating to health and education.

## Becky Holtquist

**Name: Becky Holtquist**  
**Party: Democratic**  
**Candidate for: District 4 House**  
**Age:**  
**Address: 48248 146th St., Milbank, SD 57252**  
**Occupation: Retired**



Becky Holtquist

What do you see as the key issues facing District 4 and the state, and why are they important?

As a former teacher, I see our state's lack of education support as a main issue. We need to make sure

our children, our future, are educated in a healthy, safe, top-of-the-line learning environment.

How would you address those issues?

First of all, funding needs to follow the law; that's not happening. Education did not get the increase mandated by the funding formula. Next, let's put educational funding at the

beginning of the session instead of giving education the leftovers.

What prompted your candidacy? Why should voters elect you?

I want to be an advocate for those who are vulnerable and high risk, whom aren't being taken care of. I don't do politics. I think that gives me an edge on getting things done in Pierre.



# State House – District 7

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

## Bill Adamson

**Name: Bill Adamson**  
**Party: Democrat**  
**Candidate for: State House of Representatives**  
**Age: 68**  
**Address: 619 Powderhorn Pass, Brookings**  
**Occupation: Retired economics professor**



Bill Adamson

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

1. The COVID-19 pandemic and potential deepening of the national recession is the most serious issue. Even with a vaccine, the pandemic will still persist into 2021. It will take months to achieve the needed immu-

nization. Because of the increasing infections and no second-round fiscal stimulus package, we risk a deepening recession with higher unemployment and small business losses.

2. South Dakota currently is experiencing a disturbing trend of a 23% positivity rate on COVID-19 tests, and an increasing infection and death rate. If the increasing infection rate continues, we will overwhelm our hospitals and have to shut down the economy to flatten the curve, causing serious economic damage.

3. The Legislature routinely under-

See **ADAMSON**, page 10

## Tim Reed

**Name: Tim Reed**  
**Party: Republican**  
**Candidate for: District 7 State House of Representatives**  
**Age: 55**  
**Address: 627 Medary Ave., Brookings**  
**Occupation: Retired**



Tim Reed

What do you see as the key issues facing District 7 and the state, and why are they important? And how would you address those issues?

Recovering from COVID-19 will be a top priority, as Brookings and the whole state are feeling the economic and social effects of the pandemic and will continue to feel the effects into the future. Short term, we need to make

sure businesses and nonprofits that have struggled to survive are provided grants from the federal CARES Act. Making sure our schools and universities can safely stay open is another priority. For the long term, we need to increase fund-

ing for our schools so they can help students that may have fallen behind during the pandemic.

Brookings and the state's economy can benefit from the research and product development accomplished at SDSU. Last year, I was part of a group of legislators who led a success-

See **REED**, page 10

## Louise Snodgrass

**Name: Louise Snodgrass**  
**Party: Democrat**  
**Candidate for: District 7 House**  
**Age: 25**  
**Address: 3603 Medary Ave., Apt. 201, Brookings**  
**Occupation: Brookings Farmers Market manager**



Louise Snodgrass

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

South Dakota needs to prioritize providing affordable health care. Due to our state's failure to expand Medicaid, many South Dakotans lack comprehensive access to health care. Expanding Medicaid would reduce infant mortality rates, provide more mental health treatment, and lower rates of alcoholism, among other issues.

Regarding education, South Dakota has the lowest funding per pupil of all

neighboring states and received an F from the Education Law Center for the amount of money it spends to support public school systems. Additionally, teachers' salaries in South Dakota are historically the lowest in the nation. It's crucial

that we provide better support for our state's educators, staff and faculty.

Finally, I believe the conservation of our state's natural resources is essential. Systems that protect our soil health, waterways and wildlife ensure our state's economy and communities will thrive for many generations.

How would you address those issues?

I am committed to proactively engaging in conversation to seek understanding and consensus. I am

See **SNODGRASS**, page 10

## Larry Tidemann

**Name: Larry Tidemann**  
**Party: Republican**  
**Candidate for: District 7 House**  
**Age: 72**  
**Address: 251 Indian Hills Road, Brookings**  
**Occupation: Retired – SDSU associate dean of agriculture and director of the Cooperative Extension Service**



Larry Tidemann

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

One word – coronavirus – has become the key issue facing District 7, the state and the world. The major challenge in the Legislature will be responding to the impacts, both direct and indirect, of this pandemic, and it will be the key driver of the 2021 Legislature. Identifying how the pandemic has affected business, educa-

tion, health care delivery, nursing homes, assisted living facilities and other entities in our state will be the primary issue. We have seen the initial /short-term impacts, but the months ahead will tell us more about how it will change

how we operate and the long term implications.

The months of isolation, job loss, fear of illness, and other concerns are having an impact on the mental health of all age groups. Each day, people share their stories of things they "no longer are doing" or are afraid to do. The Legislature will need to do its part in helping people get back to a "new normal" where they can work and go about their lives in a safe and productive manner.

This year, South Dakota received \$1.25 billion in CARES Act funds

See **TIDEMANN**, page 10



# MILLS: Chance at success

Continued from page 8

us in the lead on changing technology and innovation.

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

I am grateful to have been chosen to represent District 4 the past four

years and am asking to be re-elected to continue to serve. It's important to me to defend the freedoms, the rights and the boundless opportunities that have made America great. I want every South Dakota child to have the best chance at a successful and fulfilling life – right here at home. I work hard every day for that purpose.

# ADAMSON: COVID policies

Continued from page 9

funds the K-12 funding formula and the university system. The cost of running K-12 and university systems increases due to rising operating expenses. Consequently, school districts raise local property taxes and universities increase tuition. By underfunding the K-12 and university system, the Legislature is shifting the tax burden to local communities and increasing student loan indebtedness.

## How would you address those issues?

1. The deepening national recession will likely cause state tax revenues to decline in 2021. We must avoid deep spending cuts that result in a substantial layoff of state workers, especially in education. That would cause further declines in output. We should use the budget reserve funds to offset tax revenue loss and minimize job losses.

2. Due to an increasing infection rate, a statewide indoor mask policy, a social distancing policy, and a testing and contract tracing policy will be necessary to flatten the infection curve and prevent exceeding hospital capac-

ity. By implementing simple proactive measures, we can minimize the damage of a second economic shutdown that will increase unemployment and small business closures.

3. The state routinely underestimates state tax revenue which determines budgetary expenditures and results in a budget surplus. The surplus goes into the budget reserve. The excess revenues are then used as one-time monies for the governor's spending priorities. The revenue forecasts must be more accurate to fully fund education.

## What prompted your candidacy?

We deserve a government that provides necessary state services and represents the public interest. The Legislature has become dysfunctional and over-represents a narrow right-wing political agenda at the detriment of the majority.

## Why should voters elect you?

I am a moderate and will try to reflect the majority views of South Dakotans. More Democrats in the Legislature will increase moderate alliances, which will advance the best interests of South Dakotans.

# REED: More accountability

Continued from page 9

ful effort to allocate planning funds for a new Bio-Processing Institute to be located on the Research Park at SDSU. For the 2021 session, I will be advocating more funding to start up the institute that will add high-paying jobs to South Dakota's economy and add value to South Dakota-grown products.

We also need to continue to improve access to mental health-care services. With the help of local community members, we have been successful in passing bills to help caregivers and increase mental health care services.

Additionally, in the last four years, I worked with victim advocates to strengthen the laws that protect victims of sexual assault and hold their

violent offenders accountable. But after successfully passing these laws, we still have more work to do. If re-elected, I plan to introduce legislation that provides more accountability to repeat domestic abusers and work to fix a rape law that would allow victims to find justice.

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

For close to two decades, I've served this community as a council member, mayor, and for the past four years as your representative in the South Dakota State House. If re-elected, I will use that experience and proven leadership and work with you to guide the recovery from the pandemic, improve our economy, improve mental health care and strengthen our violent crime laws.

# SNODGRASS: Shape change

Continued from page 9

committed to listening and creating spaces for others to be heard. I will develop relationships across the state and the aisle in order to work in collaboration to solve many of these key issues.

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

I made the decision in the first week of February amidst the 2020 legislative session, with the giant ask from my neighbors, to run for office. I am not running for office for the accolades or to make change after years of political experience, I am running to shape change NOW. South Dakota deserves leadership that serves with the mindset of rising to the moment. My 13

years in Brookings have taught me that this community values championing positive change for our neighbors. It starts in Brookings, but it impacts the entire state. We are imagining a government that serves everyone regardless of their race, gender, sexuality, religion, economic class or any other identity.

Over the years, I've collaborated and consulted on a variety of projects and programs within our community. I have grown up with the values of our community, and I recognize Brookings' mission to create a safe, sustainable, inclusive community where ALL are welcome to bring their dreams. The optimism and motivation I have in my spirit I can attribute to the empowerment of working alongside my wonderful community.

# TIDEMANN: Back to work

Continued from page 9

from the federal government to help address coronavirus issues and we will need to evaluate the effectiveness of how those dollars were spent.

## How would you address those issues?

Addressing critical issues requires a comprehensive and collaborative approach. I have the experience, and have helped the state manage its budget during difficult times before. Twelve years ago, during the recession it was extremely challenging with businesses suffering and we were faced with large unemployment numbers. During that time, the state had to "tighten its belt" and find ways to provide the resources and services the people needed most. We did just that, and we emerged with a AAA bond rating, a fully-funded state retirement system, and became recognized as

one of the best states to live in the country. That is how I will address issues during this legislative session, by using a "common sense approach" to provide the support people need while enabling our businesses to grow stronger.

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

South Dakotans and District 7 residents have challenges before us. I am willing to roll up my sleeves and get back to work. I believe serving as a representative is an honor and means that when elected – you have to truly represent the people in your district. I have the experience and have been in leadership positions in the past which ensured that Brookings, SDSU, state employees and the citizens of the state have been fully represented. I would appreciate your vote for District 7 House.





# Election could stoke U.S. marijuana market, sway lawmakers in Congress

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD  
Associated Press

Voters in four states from different regions of the country could embrace broad legal marijuana sales on Election Day, and a sweep would highlight how public acceptance of cannabis is cutting across geography, demographics and the nation's deep political divide.

The Nov. 3 contests in New Jersey, Arizona, South Dakota and Montana will shape policies in those states while the battle for control of Congress and the White House could determine whether marijuana remains illegal at the federal level.

Already, most Americans live in states where marijuana is legal in some form and 11 now have fully legalized the drug for adults – Alaska, California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Colorado, Michigan, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maine, and Vermont. It's also legal in Washington, D.C.

In conservative Mississippi, voters will consider competing ballot proposals that would legalize medicinal marijuana, which is allowed in 33 states.

Nick Kovacevich, CEO of KushCo Holdings, which supplies packaging, vape hardware and solvents for the industry, called the election "monumental" for the future of marijuana.

New Jersey, in particular, could prove a linchpin in the populous Northeast, leading New York and Pennsylvania toward broad legalization, he said.

"It's laying out a domino effect ... that's going to unlock the largest area of population behind the West Coast," Kovacevich said.

The cannabis initiatives will draw voters to the polls who could influence other races, including the tight U.S. Senate battle in Arizona.

In Colorado, one supporter of legal cannabis could lose his seat. Republican Sen. Cory Gardner, who is struggling in an increasingly Democratic state where some in the industry have lost faith in his ability to get things done in Washington.

Despite the spread of legalization in states and a largely hands-off approach under President Donald Trump, the Republican-controlled Senate has blocked cannabis reform,



Joe Ahlquist/The Argus Leader via AP

In this Oct. 16, 2015, file photo, Jonathan Hunt, vice president of Monarch America, Inc., shows a marijuana plant while giving a tour of the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe's marijuana growing facility, in Flandreau, S.D. Voters in four states could embrace broad legal marijuana sales on Election Day, setting the stage for a watershed year for the industry that could snowball into neighboring states as well as reshape policy on Capitol Hill. The Nov. 3, 2020, contests will take place in markedly different regions of the country, New Jersey, Arizona, South Dakota and Montana and approval of the proposals would highlight how public acceptance of cannabis is cutting across geography, demographics and the nation's deep political divide.

so under federal law marijuana remains illegal and in the same class as heroin or LSD. That has discouraged major banks from doing business with marijuana businesses, which also were left out in the coronavirus relief packages.

"Change doesn't come from Washington, but to Washington," said Steve Hawkins, executive director of the Marijuana Policy Project. "States are sending a clear message to the federal government that their constituencies want to see cannabis legalization."

The presidential election could also influence federal marijuana policy, though the issue has been largely forgotten in a campaign dominated by the pandemic, health care and the nation's wounded economy.

Trump's position remains somewhat opaque. He has said he is inclined to support bipartisan efforts to ease the U.S. ban on marijuana but hasn't established a clear position on broader legalization. He's appointed attorneys general who loath marijuana, but his administra-

tion has not launched crackdowns against businesses in states where pot is legal.

Joe Biden has said he would decriminalize – but not legalize – the use of marijuana, while expunging all prior cannabis use convictions and ending jail time for drug use alone. But legalization advocates recall with disgust that he was a leading Senate supporter of a 1994 crime bill that sent droves of minor drug offenders to prison.

Even if there are lingering doubts about Biden, the Democratic Party is clearly more welcoming to cannabis reform, especially its progressive wing. Vice presidential nominee and U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris of California has said making pot legal at the federal level is the "smart thing to do."

Familiar arguments are playing out across the states.

Opponents fear children will be lured into use, roads will become drag strips for stoned drivers and widespread consumption will spike health care costs.

Those backing legalization

point out the market is already here, though in many cases still thriving underground, and argue that products should be tested for safety. Legal sales would mean tax money for education and other services, and social-justice issues are also in play, after decades of enforcement during the war on drugs.

An added push this year could come from the virus-damaged economy – states are strapped for cash and legalized cannabis holds out the promise of a tax windfall. One Arizona estimate predicts \$255 million a year would eventually flow for state and local governments, in Montana, \$50 million.

Despite the pandemic and challenges including heavy taxes and regulation, marijuana sales are climbing. Arcview Market Research/BDSA expects U.S. sales to climb to \$16.3 billion this year, up from \$12.4 billion in 2019.

In New Jersey, voters are considering a constitutional amendment that would legalize marijuana use for people 21 and over. It's attracted broad

support in voter surveys. If approved, it's unclear when shops would open. The amendment also subjects cannabis to the state's sales tax, and lets towns and cities add local taxes.

The Arizona measure known as Proposition 207 would let people 21 and older possess up to an ounce or a smaller quantity of concentrates, allow for sales at licensed retailers and for people to grow their own plants. Retail sales could start in May. State voters narrowly rejected a previous legalization effort in 2016.

If Montana voters approve, sales would start in 2022. Montana passed a medicinal marijuana law in 2004 and updated it in 2016. The proposed law would allow only owners of current medical marijuana businesses to apply for licenses to grow and sell marijuana for the broader marketplace for the first year.

Perhaps no other state epitomizes changing views more than solidly conservative South Dakota, which has some of the country's strictest drug laws.

The sparsely populated state could become the first to approve medicinal and adult-use marijuana at the same time. However, legalizing broad pot sales would be a jump for a state where lawmakers recently battled for nearly a year to legalize industrial hemp, a non-intoxicating cannabis plant.

Meanwhile, a confusing situation has unfolded in Mississippi, after more than 100,000 registered voters petitioned to put Initiative 65 on the ballot. It would allow patients to use medical marijuana to treat debilitating conditions, as certified by physicians. But legislators put an alternative on the ballot, which sponsors of the original proposal consider an attempt to scuttle their effort.

Hawkins is among those already looking toward 2021, when a new round of states could move toward legalization, including New York and New Mexico.

"There is clearly a tide," Hawkins said. "We are moving toward a critical mass of states that ... will bring about the end of federal prohibition on cannabis."





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