



Sioux Falls

Green Voter Scorecard

A 2022 midterm election guide from SoDak 350

October 17, 2022

www.sodak350.org



Contents

Introduction	<u>3</u>
Candidate Scores	<u>4</u>
Methodology & Questions	<u>7</u>
Candidate Responses	<u>9</u>
Appendix I: Scoring Rubric	<u>44</u>
Appendix II: Voter Information	<u>52</u>

Introduction



SoDak 350 is a Sioux Falls-based nonpartisan grassroots organization working to mobilize South Dakotans to take action to address the climate crisis. Through education and community-building, our volunteer-led teams are promoting local and state-level climate solutions and advancing a sustainable future for South Dakota.

South Dakotan communities face the critical challenge of a changing climate that is impacting our environment, our livelihoods, and our health. We need local and state elected officials who will help our communities adapt to these changes and who are committed to reducing emissions of planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions to net zero. With strong policy leadership, we can encourage the growth of new clean industries, achieve energy independence using our state's abundant renewable energy resources, and secure a healthy environment for all South Dakotans.

SoDak 350 is proud to introduce this inaugural Sioux Falls Green Voter Scorecard to help Sioux Falls area voters elect climate leaders to public office this November. We are truly grateful to all the candidates who gave their time to share their views on this critical issue, and we hope that this election cycle will help usher in an era of South Dakotan leadership committed to protecting people and the planet.

SoDak 350



State Executive

<u>Governor</u>	<u>Lt. Governor</u>	<u>Attorney General</u>	<u>Secretary of State</u>	<u>State Treasurer</u>	<u>State Auditor</u>	<u>Commissioner of School & Public Lands</u>	<u>Public Utilities Commission</u>
Kristi Noem (R)	Larry Rhoden (R)	Marty J. Jackley (R)	<u>Tom Cool (D)*</u>	<u>John Cunningham (D)</u>	Richard Sattgast (R)	<u>Tim Azure (D)</u>	<u>Chris Nelson (R)*</u>
Jamie Smith (D)	<u>Jennifer Keintz (D)</u>		Monae Johnson (R)	Josh Haeder (R)	<u>Stephanie Marty (D)</u>	Brock Greenfield (R)	<u>Jeff Barth (D)</u>
Tracey Quint (L)	Ashley Strand (L)				<u>Rene Meyer (L)</u>		

Very Favorable
Favorable
Neutral
Unfavorable
Very Unfavorable
Did Not Respond
*Incomplete

State Legislature

<u>District 2</u> <u>Senate</u>	<u>District 9</u> <u>Senate</u>	<u>District 10</u> <u>Senate</u>	<u>District 11</u> <u>Senate</u>	<u>District 12</u> <u>Senate</u>	<u>District 13</u> <u>Senate</u>	<u>District 14</u> <u>Senate</u>	<u>District 15</u> <u>Senate</u>	<u>District 25</u> <u>Senate</u>
Steve Kolbeck (R)	Brent Hoffman (R)	<u>Elizabeth Larson</u> (D)	<u>Sheryl Johnson</u> (D)	Jessica Meyers (D)	Jack Kolbeck (R)	Matthew Tysdal (D)	Reynold Nesiba (D)	Tom Pischke (R)
		Margaret Sutton (R)	Jim Stalzer (R)	Arch Beal (R)	<u>Lora Hubbel</u> (!)	Larry Zikmund (R)	Brenda Lawrence (R)	
<u>District 2</u> <u>House</u>	<u>District 9</u> <u>House</u>	<u>District 10</u> <u>House</u>	<u>District 11</u> <u>House</u>	<u>District 12</u> <u>House</u>	<u>District 13</u> <u>House</u>	<u>District 14</u> <u>House</u>	<u>District 15</u> <u>House</u>	<u>District 25</u> <u>House</u>
Gary Leighton (D)	Nick Winkler (D)	<u>Erin Healy</u> (D)	Margaret Kuipers (D)	Kristin Hayward (D)	Sue Peterson (R)	<u>Mike Huber</u> (D)	Linda Duba (D)	<u>Dan Ahlers</u> (D)
David Kull (R)	Bethany Soye (R)	<u>Kameron Nelson</u> (D)*	Kimberly Parke (D)	<u>Erin Royer</u> (D)	Tony Venhuizen (R)	Wendy Mamer (D)	<u>Kadyn Wittman</u> (D)	David Kills A Hundred (D)
John Sjaarda (R)	Kenneth Teunissan (R)	<u>John Mogen</u> (R)	Chris Karr (R)	<u>Greg Jamison</u> (R)		Taylor Rae Rehfeldt (R)	Matt Rosburg (R)	Randy Gross (R)
		Tom Sutton (R)	Brian Mulder (R)	Amber Arlint (R)		Tyler Tordsen (R)	Joni Tschetter (R)	Jon Hansen (R)

Very Favorable

Favorable

Neutral

Unfavorable

Very Unfavorable

Did Not Respond

*Incomplete

Minnehaha County

<u>County Commissioner, At Large</u>	<u>County Auditor</u>	<u>Register of Deeds</u>
<u>Nichole Cauwels (D)</u>	<u>Leah Anderson (R)*</u>	Amanda Halsey (R)
<u>Tom Holmes (D)</u>	<u>Brian Wirth (D)</u>	Chad E. Zink (R)
Gerald Beninga (R)		
Jen Bleyenbergh (R)		
Joe Kippley (R)		

Very Favorable

Favorable

Neutral

Unfavorable

Very Unfavorable

Did Not Respond

*Incomplete

Scorecard Methodology

Questionnaires were sent out to candidates that will be on the ballot in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, including candidates for statewide executive office, legislative candidates in the nine districts that represent Sioux Falls, and candidates for Minnehaha and Lincoln County public office.

Candidates were given seven questions and asked to respond to each in 100 words or less. Questionnaires were sent out via email or direct message in late September and responses were collected during a two-week period. Each candidate received multiple reminders to complete the questionnaire.

Each candidate response to each of the seven questions was scored by a committee on a five-point scale, ranging from Very Favorable (5) to Very Unfavorable (1). Each question was scored using a rubric of guidelines and sample responses (see [Appendix I](#)). Questions without a response were scored as 'Neutral'.

After each question was scored, the scores from all of the candidate's questions were added up, and an overall candidate score was assigned according to the scale to the left.

Some candidates replied to SoDak 350's email outreach but did not answer the seven questions. Their responses are recorded here marked as 'General Response' and scored either as 'Favorable,' 'Unfavorable,' or 'Neutral' with an asterisk (*) for 'Incomplete'.

35 - 32	Very Favorable
31 - 25	Favorable
24 - 18	Neutral
17 - 11	Unfavorable
10 - 7	Very Unfavorable



Candidate Questionnaire

Question 1

According to the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, an international body of the world's leading scientific experts, immediate and drastic reductions in greenhouse gas emissions are necessary to prevent environmental disaster.

What are your thoughts on this statement? Do you see the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions as a priority for South Dakota?

Question 2

How would you in your elected role support efforts to reduce economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050, including in areas such as the power sector, land use, industry, and waste?

Question 3

Extreme weather events such as drought, floods, wildfires, storms, and record temperatures have all affected South Dakota in recent years. If elected, how would you work to strengthen the resilience of South Dakota communities and infrastructure to extreme weather?

Question 4

Agricultural activities generate an estimated 60% of greenhouse gas emissions in South Dakota. Agricultural activities can also be a source of water pollution. What are one or two ways you would work to improve the environmental impact of the agriculture industry in South Dakota?

Question 5

As energy providers transition to green energy, populations left relying on fossil fuels may be impacted by increased costs. What can be done to create a fair and affordable clean energy future?

Question 6

Recent federal legislation has created new sources of funding for home energy efficiency, home electrification, green appliances, and renewable energy. These programs will help South Dakotan households and communities save money, improve air quality, and protect public health. State and local governments will play a large role in determining how these programs are implemented.

If elected, how do you plan to ensure our citizens are able to swiftly and equitably access these resources?

Question 7

What is your top environmental priority to support a sustainable future for South Dakotans?

Individual Candidate Responses

Governor

Kristi Noem (R)	Did Not Respond
Jamie Smith (D)	Did Not Respond
Tracey Quint (L)	Did Not Respond

Lieutenant Governor

Larry Rhoden (R)	Did Not Respond
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Jennifer Keintz (D)		Score
1. Do you see the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions as a priority?	Climate change is an existential threat that should be taken seriously by all of us. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions should be a priority for South Dakota, along with all states and countries.	5
2. How would you reduce GHGs to net zero by 2050?	As Lieutenant Governor, environmental issues will be one of my areas of focus. Increased efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will ultimately benefit South Dakota's economy. I would like to bring together stakeholders from industries such as agriculture, manufacturing, energy, and others to develop solutions that work for all of us.	4
3. How would you improve resilience to extreme weather?	We know that climate change is affecting weather and the increase in extreme weather events is detrimental to South Dakotans in many ways. I would also convene a group of experts and stakeholders to develop policies to address the effects of weather and look to other states and countries that have already been addressing these issues.	4
4. How would you work to improve the environmental impact of the agriculture industry?	Family farmers and ranchers are excellent stewards of their own land, which is the foundation of their livelihood. I believe we need to look more closely at the regulations surrounding large corporate farming operations. These are often out of state entities that are in business to make the largest profit, with little regard for the impact they have on South Dakota's environment. CAFOs are of particular concern and it is very short-sighted to allow these to proliferate with little to no oversight or regulation.	5

Lietenant Governor

Jennifer Keintz (D) continued		Score
5. What can be done to create a fair and affordable clean energy future?	I support development and expansion of green energy options, but it is unrealistic to disregard fossil fuels entirely anytime soon. I believe these technologies can co-exist, with an eye toward increasing green energy's share of production. Many fossil fuel energy companies are already incorporating green technologies into their production methods. I would like to incentivize them to do more of this with a particular focus on not increasing costs for consumers.	2
6. How do you plan to ensure our citizens are able to swiftly and equitably access federal clean energy incentives?	As lieutenant governor, I will work with the energy companies operating in South Dakota, appliance manufacturers, and retailers to ensure they are communicating these programs to consumers. I will explore more thoroughly what other states have done and are doing, as well as best practices from similar efforts South Dakota has undertaken in the past. It may be useful to develop a one-stop website for SD consumers to visit for information and apply for rebates. I prefer to keep this as centralized as possible and coordinate with local governments so we can make this and easy and consistent process throughout South Dakota.	5
7. What is your top environmental priority to support a sustainable future?	My top environmental priority is to watch closely and proceed carefully with any new or expanding large corporate agriculture and manufacturing facilities. If they are attracted to South Dakota because they think they will be able to operate with little oversight, we run the very real and tragic risk of destroying parts of our state. These companies must be made aware that we only welcome responsible corporate partners who care about South Dakota as much as we do.	5
Total Score: 30 Favorable		

Ashley Strand (L)	Did Not Respond
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Attorney General

Marty J. Jackley (R)	Did Not Respond
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Secretary of State

Tom Cool (D)	
General Response	<p>I believe climate change is real and needs to be dealt with at all levels of government.</p> <p>However as a candidate for SD Secretary of State I am not sure what opportunities there will be to approach them from that office. I can only pledge to do what I can if those opportunities present themselves.</p>
*Favorable	

Monae Johnson (R)	Did Not Respond
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State Treasurer

John Cunningham (D)		Score
1. Do you see the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions as a priority?	Yes. Agriculture is a critical industry in South Dakota. Climate change that can bring arid conditions to eastern South Dakota could be disastrous.	5
2. How would you reduce GHGs to net zero by 2050?	The state Treasurer has no policy making power with respect to climate.	3
3. How would you improve resilience to extreme weather?	SAA	3
4. How would you work to improve the environmental impact of the agriculture industry?	SAA	3
5. What can be done to create a fair and affordable clean energy future?	SAA	3
6. How do you plan to ensure our citizens are able to swiftly and equitably access federal clean energy incentives?	The State Treasurer has a website for financial information. This should be prominent.	3
7. What is your top environmental priority to support a sustainable future?	Again, this position cannot create climate policy.	3
Total Score: 23 Neutral		

Josh Haeder (R)	Did Not Respond
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State Auditor

Richard Sattgast (R)	Did Not Respond
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Stephanie Marty (D)		Score
1. Do you see the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions as a priority?	Sadly the statement is true: however, South Dakota does not have the will nor the leadership to make the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions a priority.	4
2. How would you reduce GHGs to net zero by 2050?	The State Auditor has little sway individually to impact any of those areas directly. However, as the state's fraud investigator, verifying that state funds are spent as intended. Further, holding industry accountable, specifically through use of state funds (tax rebates, deductions), could be an immense tool to limit greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, if the state's top election officials could work in concert in a messaging campaign, it could be much more powerful than any lip service that exists today. Educating citizens that cutting greenhouse gases could actually save them money in the short and long range could be an effective tool in all of these sectors.	5
3. How would you improve resilience to extreme weather?	As a state and country, we've done a poor job of managing catastrophic weather events. Legislating the hardening of infrastructure doesn't work very well after an event, rather, incentivizing citizen action to avoid future costs could lead to better use of resources. Flooding along major waterways has always been an issue. While requiring flood insurance in the 100 year flood plain is a non-starter, but adding to the incentive that a disaster declaration will not provide funds to rebuild if that becomes necessary. That would put banks on notice that their loans aren't protected, and would incentivize conversion of those areas to greenspace. Again, the State Auditor has very little impact for those things; however, assuring that state funds are used as intended gives the Auditor significant power if they have the motivation to use the power.	5

State Auditor

Stephanie Marty (D) continued		Score
<p>4. How would you work to improve the environmental impact of the agriculture industry?</p>	<p>Agricultural methods have improved dramatically in recent years; however, bad actors still exist. For example, farmers use drain tiles to drain wetlands to increase their crop lands, creating damage where the water is dumped and decreasing wetlands. Using the office as a punitive tool could help bring the bad actors in line or force them to implement more costly measures. Again, this would not be a direct effort from the auditor, but an indirect effort through other agencies holding those agencies directly accountable. Further, outdated packing plants pollute our waterways and air with at best a slap on their hands for exceeding acceptable levels. Ensuring that fines are assessed at levels allowed under state law could be an effective tool used by the Auditor.</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>5. What can be done to create a fair and affordable clean energy future?</p>	<p>While this is probably a deviation from party, the good of the country sometimes needs to take priority over vocal local residents. For example, when a county can hold an election to ban wind energy production because it's not esthetically pleasing, the state should be able to use its power to override (in this case, the landowners). Developing a modern electrical grid that touches even the most rural parts of the state would be a giant step toward fair and affordable energy. It will be difficult to bring automotive charging stations to the more remote areas of the state unless we take it upon ourselves to bring all communities green charging stations, and to strategically place them along major highways.</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6. How do you plan to ensure our citizens are able to swiftly and equitably access federal clean energy incentives?</p>	<p>I believe this ties to making sure that funds are used as they are intended. That power is probably the greatest tool available to the State Auditor. While that power is limited to how funds are spent, it also assures that funds are used as they were intended. Think use rather than squirrel away funds as South Dakota is know for.</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>7. What is your top environmental priority to support a sustainable future?</p>	<p>I've been an environmentalist since my early days as a Scout. One top is closing coal fired power plants, while at the same time we need to do more to make housing carbon neutral as well. We need to incentivize, insulating homes with energy efficient windows, useing solar power, and energy efficient appliances like heat pumps, taking the decision from power companies and putting the decisions with those direcctly impacted.</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>Total Score: 34 Very Favorable</p>		

State Auditor

Rene Meyer (L)		Score
1. Do you see the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions as a priority?	This is a media created hoax to facilitate a shortage of goods and direct peoples energy where its not needed. Quit poluting the skys with the chem trails and poluting the forests and farmland with all the chemicals being pumped into the atmosphere by the planes to manipulate the weather	1
2. How would you reduce GHGs to net zero by 2050?	i would inform the people of the truth and quit with media hoaxes and talking points.	1
3. How would you improve resilience to extreme weather?	these events are being created by harp and weather manipulation.	1
4. How would you work to improve the environmental impact of the agriculture industry?	Again abunch of BS.	1
5. What can be done to create a fair and affordable clean energy future?	Again its just a reason to transfer money to the politicians pockets for something they are manipulaing.	1
6. How do you plan to ensure our citizens are able to swiftly and equitably access federal clean energy incentives?	We need to have free energy and not stop people from utilizing solar and other technologies being held back from the people. The utilities are charging way too much for services and keeping technologies from the people that can provide cheaper ways of providing energy and water.	3

State Auditor

Rene Meyer (L) continued		Score
7. What is your top environmental priority to support a sustainable future?	<p>The truth to the technologies being held back from the public.</p> <p>I am a Libertarian with Conservative Values. The L I B on the ballot stands for freedom and Liberty.</p> <p>I am a successful real estate agent, life coach and former small business owner with a background in bookkeeping with a civil engineering degree from School of Mines.</p> <p>Let's return the power back to us, the citizens of South Dakota.</p> <p>I support farmers, ranchers, small businesses and vets. Let's turn the table on big corporate and government interests by voting for me, Rene Meyer, for South Dakota State Auditor.</p> <p>Self funded.</p>	1
Total Score: 9 Very Unfavorable		

Commissioner of School & Public Lands

Tim Azure (D)		Score
1. Do you see the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions as a priority?	<p>NO, I do not see our legislature addressing climate change as a priority! For a state that prides itself in technology and sciences, it's hard for me to understand why we ALL don't listen to these scientific facts. We are causing un-reversible harm to the environment each day that we ignore the science.</p>	5
2. How would you reduce GHGs to net zero by 2050?	<p>Over the next 28 years we need to do it incrementally. Without a written and approved plan we go nowhere. Give the task of planning this to an independent commission made up of some farmers, scientist, economists, private people and business people. Take it out of the hands of the legislators until it's been hashed out and vetted by the public.</p>	4
3. How would you improve resilience to extreme weather?	<p>I will do what I can, each and every day.</p>	3

Commissioner of School & Public Lands

Tim Azure (D) continued		Score
4. How would you work to improve the environmental impact of the agriculture industry?	By establishing goals incrementally throughout the next 30 years that have been complied by a commission made up of all who are contributing and all who are being affected by this issue. Its needs to be out of the hands of the legislators and into the hands of a commission whose recommendation are made from public input and folks who are contributing to the issue.	4
5. What can be done to create a fair and affordable clean energy future?	It's going to be up to state and federal governments and leadership to fund these efforts and let the public work up the solutions. The legislators need to get out of the why because in the state of South Dakota 60% of the issues are created by agriculture and our legislature is made up of 60% or more agricultural folks. It's clearly a conflict of interest and they should be (wo)man enough to remove themselves from proposing policy while making policy.	4
6. How do you plan to ensure our citizens are able to swiftly and equitably access federal clean energy incentives?	By making sure our local agencies who have a similar mission are well educated, well-funded and are monitored to make sure they are getting the scientific word out to communities, this includes the farming community.	4
7. What is your top environmental priority to support a sustainable future?	By getting the state legislature out of creating policies that are conflicted by their interests.	4
Total Score: 28 Favorable		

Brock Greenfield (R)	Did Not Respond
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Public Utilities Commission

Chris Nelson (R)	
General Response	<p>I would offer a couple of things to consider which reflect my demonstrated track record on the commission. First, during my nearly 12 years as a public utilities commissioner I have voted to approve siting permits for a total of 2084 MW of wind generation in this state. These votes have helped total wind generation capacity grow five-fold during my time on the commission. In addition I have voted to approve two siting permits for a total of 238MW of solar generation in this state. These are the first large-scale solar projects in the state one of which will begin construction this month.</p> <p>Second, in 2013 65% of the electricity generated in this state was from carbon free sources. Last year that had grown to 82% and was the first year ever that the majority of the electricity produced in SD came from wind generation. I believe that ranks SD #2 in the nation for the percentage of electricity generation that is carbon free. That percentage will continue to increase as the above mentioned solar projects are constructed and become operational.</p>
*Favorable	

Jeff Barth (D)	Score
1. Do you see the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions as a priority?	We need to work on it. Leadership at every level is required, from top to bottom. 5
2. How would you reduce GHGs to net zero by 2050?	Solar needs to be on top of our list for energy generation. Net-metering has been discouraged by private Utilities and the Public Utilities Commission has gone along with it. 4
3. How would you improve resilience to extreme weather?	Again, net-metering with resilient personal electrical storage seems prudent. I intend to use my years of work in telecommunications to look at the engineering being used to supply electricity. 4

Public Utilities Commission

Jeff Barth (D) continued		Score
4. How would you work to improve the environmental impact of the agriculture industry?	<p>Many animal operations are "grandfathered" in and little can be done to improve their operations. Meanwhile, great advancements have been made in the technology that is used.</p> <p>We are not driving grandpa's tractor anymore and that isn't your grandma's phone in your hand.</p> <p>Some manure pits now have domes built over them that collect the methane and directs it to productive use. Note, that this is not fossil fuel and it's conserved use is a strong benefit to the planet. People need to understand that manure is a better fertilizer than alternatives derived from petroleum. But it does have odor.</p>	4
5. What can be done to create a fair and affordable clean energy future?	<p>The current PUC is a "rubber stamp" for utilities. When have they ever turned down a rate hike?</p> <p>Fossil fuels have proven themselves volatile as supply shocks and political activities disrupt the market.</p>	4
6. How do you plan to ensure our citizens are able to swiftly and equitably access federal clean energy incentives?	<p>The spread of electrical charging stations will lead the transition to EV transportation. Cultural and educational changes will smooth the process.</p>	4
7. What is your top environmental priority to support a sustainable future?	<p>More solar electrical generation.</p>	4
Total Score: 29 Favorable		

District 2 - State Senate

Steve Kolbeck (R)	Did Not Respond
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District 2 - State House

Gary Leighton (D)	Did Not Respond
David Kull (R)	Did Not Respond
John Sjaarda (R)	Did Not Respond

District 9 - State Senate

Brent Hoffman (R)	Did Not Respond
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District 9 - State House

Nick Winkler (D)	Did Not Respond
Bethany Soye (R)	Did Not Respond
Kenneth Teunissan (R)	Did Not Respond

District 10 - State Senate

Liz Larson (D)	Score	
<p>1. Do you see the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions as a priority?</p>	<p>The statement from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is scientifically correct and I agree with it wholeheartedly. Currently, South Dakota lawmakers do not prioritize this issue.</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>2. How would you reduce GHGs to net zero by 2050?</p>	<p>I would support a fast-paced investigation on how best to address all of these policy areas in South Dakota. Unfortunately, given the current appetite in the SD state legislature for such topics, it is unlikely that bills related to greenhouse gas elimination would be successful. This will change in the future, however.</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>3. How would you improve resilience to extreme weather?</p>	<p>This question covers many disparate, yet interrelated policy areas. Therefore, the policy "remedies" for droughts, floods, wildfires, storms and record temperatures may all require myriad multiple policy approaches. When taken together and viewed from a high-level, the best way to build resilience is to support a robust, sustainable economy for South Dakota, and I would support policy which leaned in this direction.</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4. How would you work to improve the environmental impact of the agriculture industry?</p>	<p>There needs to be more awareness in South Dakota for environmental issues in general - as these are not typically prioritized. While I do not have specific policies in mind, there can be innovative financial (and other) incentives for the Ag industry to produce less greenhouse gas. Clean energy financing, as well as awareness raising activities could shed light on the urgency of this issue. Most of the public is not aware of it.</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5. What can be done to create a fair and affordable clean energy future?</p>	<p>Three ways I would approach answering this issue would be (1) to look, from an evidence-based perspective, at what has and hasn't worked in other peer states, (2) support investment in clean energy overall, and specifically to rural and/or vulnerable communities (3) overall speak out about equality, transparency and environmental issues across the board in the state legislature.</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>6. How do you plan to ensure our citizens are able to swiftly and equitably access federal clean energy incentives?</p>	<p>This question needs to be brought up consistently over time and should be actively promoted to the public.</p>	<p>4</p>

District 10 - State Senate

<i>Liz Larson (D) continued</i>		Score
7. What is your top environmental priority to support a sustainable future?	You have mentioned them all here! Reducing greenhouse gas, incentivizing clean energy, and raising awareness about environmental issues is critical in Pierre and will only become more so as climate change marches forward.	4
Total Score: 27 Favorable		

Margaret Sutton (R)	Did Not Respond
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District 10 - State House

<i>Erin Healy (D)</i>		Score
1. Do you see the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions as a priority?	We need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and I do think it's a priority in SD.	4
2. How would you reduce GHGs to net zero by 2050?	I am unsure since I'm not an expert in the field--but I am always willing to meet and discuss what can be done to do this.	3
3. How would you improve resilience to extreme weather?	Yes. I think the past few years have proven that we need to continue to strengthen infrastructure and also have funding readily available for weather events that ruin crops and communities.	4
4. How would you work to improve the environmental impact of the agriculture industry?	Again, while I think it's very important to do this, I don't have the answers to these problems since agriculture/environmental studies is not my wheelhouse. I am always happy to listen to experts and learn from them on what can be done.	3

District 10 - State House

Erin Healy (D) continued		Score
5. What can be done to create a fair and affordable clean energy future?	I think we need to plan and build infrastructure for clean energy sooner rather than later.	4
6. How do you plan to ensure our citizens are able to swiftly and equitably access federal clean energy incentives?	I will support legislation (and listen to the experts on pros/cons of bills) that make these resources easier for people to obtain.	4
7. What is your top environmental priority to support a sustainable future?	I think we need to continue to push renewable energy, green appliances, etc. I will also add--Oren Lesmeister is my go to on agriculture issues. As mentioned in previous questions, I always speak to experts so I can better understand bills surrounding any subject matter that I'm not as well versed in. Unfortunately this is not an area of expertise for me, so I heavily rely on individuals to help inform me. I truly care about environmental concerns and know we need to prioritize them.	4
Total Score: 26 Favorable		

Kameron Nelson (D)	
General Response	I am not an expert in climate science, and therefore look to leading experts in the field to provide a comprehensive analysis of ways that our communities can prevent environmental disasters. I believe a significant reduction of greenhouse gas emissions may have an impact in averting further environmental harm. I look forward to hearing from more stakeholders and working together to lead South Dakota into a sustainable future.
*Neutral	

District 10 - State House

John Mogen (R)		Score
1. Do you see the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions as a priority?	Of course we should do whatever we can to reduce carbon emissions. South Dakota is doing a good job.	4
2. How would you reduce GHGs to net zero by 2050?	Reducing gas emissions to net zero is a lofty goal.	2
3. How would you improve resilience to extreme weather?	Extreme has occurred throughout our state's history.	1
4. How would you work to improve the environmental impact of the agriculture industry?	Runoff into our streams and rivers needs to be reduced.	4
5. What can be done to create a fair and affordable clean energy future?		3
6. How do you plan to ensure our citizens are able to swiftly and equitably access federal clean energy incentives?		3
7. What is your top environmental priority to support a sustainable future?	Finding excellent sources of alternative energy.	4
Total Score: 21 Neutral		

Tom Sutton (R)	Did Not Respond
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District 11 - State Senate

Sheryl Johnson (D)		Score
1. Do you see the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions as a priority?	I am very concerned about the effects of climate change and think we need to be thinking long term and enacting policies that will start limiting greenhouse gas emissions now. I am not a fan of the CO2 pipelines though as I am worried about the safety and I am not in favor of giving “for profit” businesses the right to take private farmland by eminent domain. We have a great ag/science school in SDSU (and others) and wonder if we can partner with them and other businesses to encourage innovations/solutions.	5
2. How would you reduce GHGs to net zero by 2050?	I don't always know the technical details of solutions so I would listen to the experts and research the topic before I voted on anything. I love to learn and would like to find out more about what solutions are available now. I would also love to plant more trees!	3
3. How would you improve resilience to extreme weather?	We need to work on water conservation measures. Perhaps encourage more ‘new buildings’ to have ‘green roofs’ planted with grass, gardens etc. I would like to incentivize people to update their houses with more efficient energy like solar panels and encourage them to update their insulation so that they can use less energy and work with cities and counties to update homes for lower income home owners.	5
4. How would you work to improve the environmental impact of the agriculture industry?	I would like to see more, wider riparian strips used along rivers to protect them from ag run off. I would be fine if we reduced or eliminated their property tax on the portion of their land used for riparian strips.	5
5. What can be done to create a fair and affordable clean energy future?	The fossil fuel companies have reaped subsidies for decades so I don't think they deserve any more especially since they have had record profits this past year. I would rather give subsidies to clean energy companies to make it cheaper and easier for more people to use. The fewer people using fossil fuels the less demand so their prices should fall – right?	4

District 11 - State Senate

Sheryl Johnson (D) continued		Score
6. How do you plan to ensure our citizens are able to swiftly and equitably access federal clean energy incentives?	I would probably develop grants to give to local communities since they would know their needs best BUT I would want a lot of oversight and reports on how they spent it. Too often no one watches where the grants go and it ends up going into people's private pockets. When "Gear up" grants were given to improve education for native students it was about 61 million. Hardly any of that got to the students and programs. 1 million was embezzled by the man in Platte but what happened to all the other money?? Some of it went through several "Consulting companies" some of which may have been empty shell companies. This was never looked into very well so I suspect there was a lot of corruption involved. I want to make sure the money gets to the PEOPLE who would be installing the energy savings programs.	4
7. What is your top environmental priority to support a sustainable future?	I am VERY concerned about the quantity and quality of our water. We can't survive if we don't have water. We can't drink oil or ethanol. The fact that the Big Sioux River isn't even swimmable anymore is shameful. We need to expect companies that use large amounts of our water filter it before putting it back into the environment (or go through the waste water treatment). I would love to see rain barrels encouraged more to use on lawns and gardens.	5
Total Score: 31 Favorable		

Jim Stalzer (R)	Did Not Respond
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District 11 - State House

Margaret Kuipers (D)	Did Not Respond
Kimberly Parke (D)	Did Not Respond
Chris Karr (R)	Did Not Respond
Brian Mulder (R)	Did Not Respond

District 12 - State Senate

Jessica Meyers (D)	Did Not Respond
Arch Beal (R)	Did Not Respond

District 12 - State House

Kristin Hayward (D)	Did Not Respond
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Erin Royer (D)		Score
1. Do you see the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions as a priority?	I think the reduction in greenhouses gases needs to be a priority for everyone, including SD if we're going to leave a livable future for the next generation.	4
2. How would you reduce GHGs to net zero by 2050?	I would support renewable energy adoption across SD, supporting sustainable agriculture, requiring industrial investment in sustainable practices, and reducing waste along with promoting recycling.	5
3. How would you improve resilience to extreme weather?	SD communities need to adopt plans and policies that account for the extreme weather we see across the northern plains including high winds, flooding, heavy snowfall, and strong storms. Maintaining areas for rain water such as wetlands and buffer zones along creeks will keep communities and property safe and resilient to flooding. Buildings that are built to withstand winds and snowfall will keep people safe and avoid damage in common storms.	5
4. How would you work to improve the environmental impact of the agriculture industry?	We should work with agriculture to promote sustainable practices such as allowing buffer zones along waterways, maintaining wetlands to reduce runoff, and sustainable crops and livestock. Tax breaks, credits, or direct payments can provide the necessary balance to make these practices practical for agriculture in SD.	5

District 12 - State House

Erin Royer (D) continued		Score
5. What can be done to create a fair and affordable clean energy future?	We need to ensure communities are not abandoned in our transition to renewable energy. We should consider strategic investment in areas that are vulnerable to being left out.	4
6. How do you plan to ensure our citizens are able to swiftly and equitably access federal clean energy incentives?	SD's government should help citizens take full advantage of chances to improve our homes and buildings to be more energy efficient and ready for the future. The government should make sure people know what is available and how to apply for these funds.	4
7. What is your top environmental priority to support a sustainable future?	Working with agriculture to make sure the stewards of large portions of SD's lands can make choices that are both good for our environment and practical for keeping their business thriving.	4
Total Score: 31 Favorable		

Greg Jamison (R)		Score
1. Do you see the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions as a priority?	The statement is far reaching and sounds like it's the biggest issue we should be working on and from the people I talk to in my district it is not. A reduction of greenhouse gas is always a good thing but we have many other priorities we need to address also.	3
2. How would you reduce GHGs to net zero by 2050?	As an elected legislator during the budgeting process some changes could take place because most issues would come down to a federal funding reduction if we don't change. So, in order to pass a balanced budget we would yield to pressure from the federal government and pass new regulations.	3
3. How would you improve resilience to extreme weather?	South Dakota has always had extreme weather and some would argue people shouldn't live here, like people shouldn't live in other parts of the world because of the extreme weather. South Dakota is full of people with resilience and the infrastructure is changing as it is upgraded, as new power lines are installed many are underground, water treatment plants are smarter and better.	3

District 12 - State House

Greg Jamison (R) continued		Score
4. How would you work to improve the environmental impact of the agriculture industry?	Creating larger and better grass buffer zones next to waterways can help. The farmer would need to give-up some of their land for farming and somebody would need to buy that farm land. As farmers grow more and make more and buy new equipment, that new equipment will have improved emissions.	4
5. What can be done to create a fair and affordable clean energy future?	Wow, big question. First, fair has nothing to do with it. People can move to some other place if they don't like what's happening around them and think another place is better. Affordability is a reaction to the amount of supply, demand and other factors that should be up to the market to decide. A clean energy future is what most people would like to see but not at any cost. People can always look for ways to reduce their use of energy and should.	2
6. How do you plan to ensure our citizens are able to swiftly and equitably access federal clean energy incentives?	New federal regulations will be a problem for affordable homes. These increased regulations will likely only be enforced if federal funding is held back on some other project where we need it. Any idea that helps save money on energy or helps reduce greenhouse gas should be considered but not at any cost. As an elected legislator I would not create rules to stop access to the money but I would also not create rules to limit the marketplace on options for energy.	2
7. What is your top environmental priority to support a sustainable future?	I like the use of grass buffer zones along waterways, I've seen them and I believe they help keep out containments.	4
Total Score: 21 Neutral		

Amber Arlint (R)	Did Not Respond
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District 13 - State Senate

Jack Kolbeck (R)	Did Not Respond
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Lora Hubbel (I)		Score
1. Do you see the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions as a priority?	That is baloney, I have TAUGHT secondary science and know the difference between paid science and true reproducible science. The ill-effect of Green house gases is NOT reproducible but that narrative is paid for by politicians and corporatists who need that answer to push their agenda.	1
2. How would you reduce GHGs to net zero by 2050?	I would not as that would be suicidal to our plant life.	1
3. How would you improve resilience to extreme weather?	Weather weaponry has been a science since the 1940's. We need to discover what they are doing to our environment and what experiments have caused what reactions. Once we have that data we can make correct assessments.	1
4. How would you work to improve the environmental impact of the agriculture industry?	I have talked about the green house gasses...its baloney. However we do need to address why we let the big corporations ruin and pollute our rivers, waters and land. As far as I can tell we LET them pollute and then assess a fee...that the politicians get to spend...so why would most politicians stop say, Morrell's and big Agribusiness from polluting when they make money off of it? I would put the CEOs in jail plus assessing a fee.	2
5. What can be done to create a fair and affordable clean energy future?	My father was also a scientist (state Geologist) and according to his hands-on observation, SD has the good, sweet oil over almost out entire state...its not just in the upper Northern corner. We do not have to rely in the Canadian tar sands crud, landowners should open up our own oil fields. We have hydro-electric but do not use it (that is ridiculous). We have natural gas and do not use it. Energy is a big money game for politicians and the little guy always loses. The more current science is that oil is NOT a fossil fuel, that is a very outdated theory that no longer is useful in the science world...it only fits for the political agenda.	1

District 13 - State Senate

Lora Hubbel (I) continued		Score
6. How do you plan to ensure our citizens are able to swiftly and equitably access federal clean energy incentives?	You mean you want me to agree that giving my right to use the energy of my choice to the government is a good thing? You know once a government creates a voluntary program its only a matter of time that it becomes mandatory. Can you say, "I'm here from the Government and am here to help?" You want me to grab Federal money and tie up my constituents in the tentacles that come with it...? Not gonna happen.	1
7. What is your top environmental priority to support a sustainable future?	In all the professions I have been in, those in government are the least intelligent. The most sustainable action for a free and fair SD would to educate the EPA on true science. Work on clean water and clean soil and ditch the silly CO2 myth.	2
Total Score: 9 Very Unfavorable		

District 13 - State House

Sue Peterson (R)	Did Not Respond
Tony Venhuizen (R)	Did Not Respond

District 14 - State Senate

Matthew Tysdal (D)	Did Not Respond
Larry P. Zikmund (R)	Did Not Respond

District 14 - State House

Mike Huber (D)		Score
1. Do you see the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions as a priority?	I agree that we need a drastic reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Yes, I see this as a priority for South Dakota.	5
2. How would you reduce GHGs to net zero by 2050?	We need to immediately require the purchase of state vehicles be hybrid or electric. South Dakota is a leader in hydropower and is increasing in wind energy. We need to continue to increase wind energy. With charging stations expanding across South Dakota, county, city, and town governments can be incentivized to purchase electric vehicles.	5
3. How would you improve resilience to extreme weather?	First, begin with water conservation efforts encouraging residents to reduce Kentucky Blue Grass lawns. Encouraging and possible incentives of energy efficient heating and cooling of homes.	4
4. How would you work to improve the environmental impact of the agriculture industry?	First, we can increase incentives of buffer strips along rivers and streams and make process easier for land owners to enroll in to stop pollutants from entering waterways. Incentivize more energy efficiency on farms and ranches along with wind energy.	5
5. What can be done to create a fair and affordable clean energy future?	Expansion of charging stations is a big step that is happening now. We also need to change our laws so that solar production at homes gives credit to homeowners when they over produce.	4

District 14 - State House

Mike Huber (D) continued		Score
6. How do you plan to ensure our citizens are able to swiftly and equitably access federal clean energy incentives?	Incentivize through tax rebates, promote through advertising, and training to assist in installation, repair and use of these products.	4
7. What is your top environmental priority to support a sustainable future?	Transition all government vehicles to hybrid and electric.	4
Total Score: 31 Favorable		

Wendy Mamer (D)	Did Not Respond
Taylor Rae Rehfeldt (R)	Did Not Respond
Tyler Tordsen (R)	Did Not Respond

District 15 - State Senate

Reynold Nesiba (D)	Did Not Respond
Brenda Lawrence (R)	Did Not Respond

District 15 - State House

Linda Duba (D)	Did Not Respond
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Kadyn Wittman (D)		Score
1. Do you see the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions as a priority?	I agree with the statement and the need for immediate reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. I do see it as a priority for South Dakota, and know the government needs to act if we want to pursue a more sustainable future.	5
2. How would you reduce GHGs to net zero by 2050?	I would work alongside diverse stakeholders to inform our strategy and make sure all South Dakotans understand the urgency and benefits involved with moving towards net zero in the next 25 years.	4
3. How would you improve resilience to extreme weather?	Extreme weather is unavoidable in our state, and I believe the government should set aside additional funds to offer support and relief to our communities when they are affected.	3
4. How would you work to improve the environmental impact of the agriculture industry?		3
5. What can be done to create a fair and affordable clean energy future?	Subsidize wind and solar power for those populations that have traditionally relied on fossil fuels in their line of work.	4

District 15 - State House

Kadyn Wittman (D) continued		Score
6. How do you plan to ensure our citizens are able to swiftly and equitably access federal clean energy incentives?	I would work alongside community partners to disseminate information and make sure everyone understands the opportunities available to them.	4
7. What is your top environmental priority to support a sustainable future?	I would like to see more wind and solar power across our state.	4
Total Score: 27 Favorable		

Matt Rosburg (R)	Did Not Respond
Joni Tschetter (R)	Did Not Respond

District 25 - State Senate

Tom Pischke (R)	Did Not Respond
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District 25 - State House

Dan Ahlers (D)		Score
1. Do you see the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions as a priority?	I think it is a warning that South Dakota should take seriously. We have started to see more extreme weather events. We have an economy that depends heavily on agriculture. Extreme flooding and drought has a direct impact on ag production. As a state, we have made progress in how we produce our energy and depend less on fossil fuels than we did 10 years ago. We could encourage more wind and solar energy production.	5
2. How would you reduce GHGs to net zero by 2050?	We could encourage more wind development in our state. We could explore bringing more solar energy to South Dakota. In the past, solar companies have inquired about land availability for solar fields. The state owns a considerable amount of public land that we lease to individuals and corporations. We could work closer with our ag producers to encourage best practices for land use and reduce harmful waste. We have many ag producers already exploring better land management and waste reduction practices. The state could partner with these producers to educate others.	5
3. How would you improve resilience to extreme weather?	Our state will be receiving a considerable amount of money from the federal infrastructure package. We could use some of this infrastructure money to raise roads, improve dams and bridges in flood zones. We can reduce fire danger in the western part of our state with better forest management practices. We should reduce the amount of dead timber on our forest floors.	4
4. How would you work to improve the environmental impact of the agriculture industry?	The state has a buffer strip program. We need to fund it better, so farmers are fairly compensated for the land taken out of production.	4

District 25 - State House

Dan Ahlers (D)		Score
5. What can be done to create a fair and affordable clean energy future?	The state could offer affordable loan and/or grant program(s) to incentivize system upgrades for rural areas. This program could be similar to the Connecting South Dakota program for broadband.	4
6. How do you plan to ensure our citizens are able to swiftly and equitably access federal clean energy incentives?	If elected, I am hoping to return to the Appropriations Committee. This committee oversees the budget and gets regular progress reports on these programs.	4
7. What is your top environmental priority to support a sustainable future?	As mentioned above, I would like to return to the Appropriations Committee. This committee oversees the budget for state government. We get reports from agencies like the Public Utilities Commission, the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources and School and Public Lands. These agencies are the decision makers for energy and land management. If we want to increase our use of renewable energy, improve land management and reduce waste, this committee is where we can have the most influence on state policy.	5
Total Score: 31 Favorable		

David Kills A Hundred (D)	Did Not Respond
Randy Gross (R)	Did Not Respond
Jon Hansen (R)	Did Not Respond

Minnehaha County Commissioner

Nichole Cauwels (D)		Score
1. Do you see the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions as a priority?	My thoughts are that we have kicked the can for too long on this important issue. The issue has been so terribly politicized that even when SD does take positive steps they are not talked about or made known to the public. I feel it should be a priority to reduce greenhouse emissions but I don't think it is for most people and policy makers just yet.	4
2. How would you reduce GHGs to net zero by 2050?	I am an advocate for Industrial Hemp. From planting and harvesting to processing and manufacturing South Dakota should be leading the way. Water reclamation requirements for large corporations who burden our water infrastructure. Continue to use a variety of energy sources such as wind, nuclear and hydroelectric but also put a bigger effort towards adding solar to the mix.	5
3. How would you improve resilience to extreme weather?	Promote the use of better materials, replanting of shelter belts, rain gardens and encourage native grasses over manicured lawns in all spaces where that could be easily implemented. New construction needs to be built to new specifications to be better able to withstand the extreme conditions.	5
4. How would you work to improve the environmental impact of the agriculture industry?	Look at ways to encourage the use of buffer zones around our water ways. There are valuable crops that can be planted that don't produce chemical run off such as industrial hemp and organic crops. Use of clover and native grasses along waterways to support our pollinators, keeping our water clean could be supported in a way that doesn't mean a loss of revenue for land owners.	5
5. What can be done to create a fair and affordable clean energy future?	As a county commissioner I would have no ability to influence prices of energy but would continue to support our existing programs that keep utilities turned on for our indigent population. Programs like heat assistance would continue. I also support enhancing our SAM public transportation.	4

Minnehaha County Commissioner

Nichole Cauwels (D) continued		Score
6. How do you plan to ensure our citizens are able to swiftly and equitably access federal clean energy incentives?	By making applications available through many of the departments / windows that citizens already interact with regularly. Such as the treasurer's office when you pay your tabs or taxes, the library, planning and zoning and equalization. Just by having visible information posted and applications available more people will learn about their options. Communication between departments can help as well. Then all county employees would know where to direct people or answer some of the basic questions.	5
7. What is your top environmental priority to support a sustainable future?	Water. We need to actively clean up our water ways. We need to protect our water from threats of pollution from pipeline leaks and industrial waste. We need to build infrastructure to better handle flash floods and times of drought.	5
Total Score: 33 Very Favorable		

Tom Holmes (D)		Score
1. Do you see the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions as a priority?	The science is clear, the environment is warming and human activity is a primary contributor to that phenomenon. The reduction of greenhouse gases is important for South Dakota along with environmentally safe land use.	5
2. How would you reduce GHGs to net zero by 2050?	As a county commissioner I would have limited authority in this matter. However, the most important element in this scenario would be to encourage the intelligent use of the land.	4
3. How would you improve resilience to extreme weather?	I would seek to provide first responders with the equipment and training needed to assist those who would be affected by traumatic weather events.	4
4. How would you work to improve the environmental impact of the agriculture industry?	I would encourage the involvement of those employed by South Dakota State University to provide advice to farmers and others involved with agriculture. I would also explore the possibility of providing a property tax reduction for those farmers who practice environmentally safe practices.	5

Minnehaha County Commissioner

Tom Holmes (D) continued		Score
5. What can be done to create a fair and affordable clean energy future?	This is a difficult question for me to answer as I lack the appropriate background of information. I will tell you, however, that not moving to clean energy will result in much greater costs for all of us.	3
6. How do you plan to ensure our citizens are able to swiftly and equitably access federal clean energy incentives?	Again, as county commissioner I would have little authority in a matter such as this. This is an important matter and those who are in positions to assist consumers should do so.	3
7. What is your top environmental priority to support a sustainable future?	As a largely agricultural state, I would work to ensure that those individuals involved in the agricultural industry employ environmentally sustainable land practices.	4
Total Score: 28 Favorable		

Gerald Beninga (R)	Did Not Respond
Jen Bleyenbergh (R)	Did Not Respond
Joe Kippley (R)	Did Not Respond

Minnehaha County Auditor

Leah Anderson (R)	
General Response	Thank you so much for reaching out to me. As Minnehaha County Auditor, if elected, I would not be a policy maker. The auditor does not serve in this capacity. If you have any questions that are relevant to my campaign, I would be happy to answer them.
*Neutral	

Brian Wirth (D)	Score
1. Do you see the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions as a priority?	Any methods to reduce greenhouse gasses should be pursued. 4
2. How would you reduce GHGs to net zero by 2050?	County Auditors have little impact or environmental issues 3
3. How would you improve resilience to extreme weather?	Support Democrat candidates committed to taking action on climate change 3
4. How would you work to improve the environmental impact of the agriculture industry?	Reduce pesticides and help support pollinators. 4
5. What can be done to create a fair and affordable clean energy future?	Provide credits to offset the costs on working families 4
6. How do you plan to ensure our citizens are able to swiftly and equitably access federal clean energy incentives?	Provide accurate information on these programs to citizens of Minnehaha 4
7. What is your top environmental priority to support a sustainable future?	Bring back buffer zones around fields that help support indigenous wildlife 4
Total Score: 26 Favorable	

Minnehaha County Register of Deeds

<i>Amanda Halsey (R)</i>	<i>Did Not Respond</i>
<i>Chad E. Zink (R)</i>	<i>Did Not Respond</i>

Appendix I.

Scoring Rubric

Scoring Rubric - Question 1

According to the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, an international body of the world's leading scientific experts, immediate and drastic reductions in greenhouse gas emissions are necessary to prevent environmental disaster.

What are your thoughts on this statement? Do you see the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions as a priority for South Dakota?

5 - Very Favorable

Shows clear acceptance and understanding of climate science, sees emissions reductions as a top priority and has a clear vision for how this could take place in South Dakota

4 - Favorable

Accepting of the scientific consensus on climate change; sees emissions reductions as important but not necessarily a top priority

3- Neutral

Does not answer the question / noncommittal response

2 - Unfavorable

"I am not a scientist"; Skeptical or unsure of climate science; acknowledges that climate change and/or extreme weather might be happening but unsure if totally caused by humans; does not see emissions reductions as a priority; expresses concern about the cost of reducing emissions

1 - Very Unfavorable

Denies climate science, does not see emission reductions as a priority, expresses support for the fossil fuel industry, claims that reducing emissions will harm the economy

Scoring Rubric - Question 2

How would you in your elected role support efforts to reduce economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050, including in areas such as the power sector, land use, industry, and waste?

5 - Very Favorable

Shows strong commitment to 3 or more concrete actions, including but not limited to transitioning to renewable energy, encouraging the growth of green industries & clean manufacturing, expanding EV charging, supporting sustainable agriculture, engaging with the private sector to encourage green practices, etc.

4 - Favorable

Shows some commitment or mentions a few (1-2) of the aforementioned actions

3- Neutral

Does not answer the question / noncommittal response

2 - Unfavorable

Shows uncertainty or a lack of commitment to emissions reductions; relies *only* on low-hanging fruit like carbon capture & storage and planting trees

1 - Very Unfavorable

Denies or opposes the need to achieve net zero emissions and/or does not give examples

Scoring Rubric - Question 3

Extreme weather events such as drought, floods, wildfires, storms, and record temperatures have all affected South Dakota in recent years. If elected, how would you work to strengthen the resilience of South Dakota communities and infrastructure to extreme weather?

5 - Very Favorable	4 - Favorable	3- Neutral	2 - Unfavorable	1 - Very Unfavorable
Shows strong commitment to a range of actions (3+) including, but not limited to, investing in green infrastructure solutions like riparian buffers to contain floodwaters, investing in green space, reforming home or farm insurance programs, strengthening building codes and standards, investing in making infrastructure like roads and bridges more climate-resilient, improving home energy efficiency to safeguard against extreme temps, investing in public health and emergency services	Shows some commitment or mentions a few (1-2) of the aforementioned actions	Does not answer the question / noncommittal response	Focuses only on band-aid / after-the-fact solutions rather than proactive solutions and resilience	Denies that weather is becoming more extreme or denies the need to improve resilience to extreme weather

Scoring Rubric - Question 4

Agricultural activities generate an estimated 60% of greenhouse gas emissions in South Dakota. Agricultural activities can also be a source of water pollution. What are one or two ways you would work to improve the environmental impact of the agriculture industry in South Dakota?

5 - Very Favorable	4 - Favorable	3- Neutral	2 - Unfavorable	1 - Very Unfavorable
Shows strong commitment to a range of actions including, but not limited to, supporting and/or expanding soil health and conservation programs and water quality programs, supporting local food systems, on-farm renewables, electrifying farm machinery, etc.	Shows some commitment or mentions 1 of the aforementioned actions	Does not answer the question / noncommittal response	Does not offer real solutions or focuses only on pro- Big Ag solutions like boosting ethanol production	Denies or opposes the need to improve agricultural sustainability

Scoring Rubric - Question 5

As energy providers transition to green energy, populations left relying on fossil fuels may be impacted by increased costs. What can be done to create a fair and affordable clean energy future?

5 - Very Favorable	4 - Favorable	3- Neutral	2 - Unfavorable	1 - Very Unfavorable
Demonstrates an understanding of environmental justice and the need to prioritize low-income and BIPOC communities experiencing environmental injustices. Shows support for equitable solutions including but not limited to home energy efficiency/electrification grant programs to help reduce energy burden, expanding access to community solar, improved community engagement, investments in underserved communities, etc. Understands the need for a just transition for fossil fuel workers and shows support for worker re-training programs and long-term transition planning.	Shows some commitment or mentions a few (1-2) of the aforementioned actions	Does not answer the question / noncommittal response	Lack of understanding of equity and environmental justice issues associated with the energy transition; does not prioritize a full transition to clean energy	Expresses support for continued unmitigated production and use of fossil fuels

Scoring Rubric - Question 6

Recent federal legislation has created new sources of funding for home energy efficiency, home electrification, green appliances, and renewable energy. These programs will help South Dakotan households and communities save money, improve air quality, and protect public health. State and local governments will play a large role in determining how these programs are implemented.

If elected, how do you plan to ensure our citizens are able to swiftly and equitably access these resources?

5 - Very Favorable

Demonstrates a clear commitment to ensuring swift and equitable access to new federal resources and includes concrete steps they could take while in office to facilitate implementation

4 - Favorable

Response shows some commitment but lacks concrete action items

3- Neutral

Does not answer the question / noncommittal response

2 - Unfavorable

Unwilling to commit to or unconcerned about spending the funds for their intended purposes, being overly concerned about tightly controlling the funds

1 - Very Unfavorable

Opposes the use of these funds for their intended purposes to help South Dakotans

Scoring Rubric - Question 7

What is your top environmental priority to support a sustainable future for South Dakotans?

5 - Very Favorable	4 - Favorable	3- Neutral	2 - Unfavorable	1 - Very Unfavorable
Thoughtful and detailed response with clear action items	Semi-detailed or vague response	Does not answer the question / noncommittal response	Does not demonstrate understanding of environmental issues or does not communicate a clear priority	Does not care about <i>real/actual</i> environmental issues

Appendix II.

Voter Information

South Dakota Voter Information Portal:

<https://vip.sdsos.gov/VIPLogin.aspx>

2022 Election Information:

<https://sdsos.gov/elections-voting/upcoming-elections/general-information/default.aspx>

Legislative District Maps:

<https://sdlegislature.gov/Legislators/Find>



We thank you for your continued support in our efforts to build a sustainable future for South Dakota.

SoDak 350
Sioux Falls, SD

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