2026 South Dakota General Election Report

General Election held November 3, 2026

Executive Summary

Republican candidates held every contested statewide race on the ballot. In the U.S. Senate race, Mike Rounds (R) defeated Brian L. Bengs (I) 61% to 39%, and in the U.S. House race Marty Jackley (R) defeated Nicole "Nikki" Gronli (D) 64% to 36%. No surprises in those races whatsoever. Neither Bengs nor Gronli were strong candidates or well-funded. Governor Larry Rhoden and Tony Venhuizen (R) easily handled Dan Ahlers and Steven McCleerey (D) 63% to 37%. After a grueling primary and an expensive runoff, the Governor was able to easily claim victory. Republicans also won the Secretary of State (58%), State Auditor (63%), State Treasurer (62%), Commissioner of School and Public Lands (62%) and Public Utilities Commissioner (60%) races, while Attorney General candidate Lance Russell (R) ran unopposed.

In the Legislature, Republicans won 33 of the 35 Senate races (21 races were uncontested) and won 59 of the 70 House seats. Democrats actually lost a seat in the Senate, which is incredibly hard to believe and shows the real weakness in the State Party. They only won the Senate races in Districts 10 and 15. The Democrats did win ten House seats (both seats in Districts 10 and 15, and one seat each in Districts 11, 12, 13, 14, 26A and 32), while one Independent, Evangeline Poor Bear, won the second House seat in District 27. No word on where Ms. Poor Bear will caucus yet. Several contests are very close. In the District 11 Senate race, Chris Karr (R), the incumbent and former President of the Senate, leads Aaron Matson (D) by 34 votes. The Secretary of State's office lists possible recounts in five contests: the District 3 House, District 9 House, District 11 Senate, District 11 House and District 12 Senate races. I don't anticipate any of the recounts will take place. The Democrats had strong results in the State House in Sioux Falls but absolutely no presence in rural areas at all. Leadership elections will be happening soon in both chambers and moderate office holders appear set to take over leadership in both chambers.

Voter Turnout

310,298 ballots were cast out of 628,563 registered voters, a statewide turnout of 49.37%. All 671 precincts were fully reporting. Great turnout for a non-Presidential year.

Statewide Races

U.S. Senator

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Mike Rounds (incumbent)	Republican	184,571	61%	
Brian L. Bengs	Independent	120,484	39%	

Total votes: 305,055

U.S. Representative

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Marty Jackley	Republican	195,570	64%	
Nicole "Nikki" Gronli	Democratic	109,967	36%	

Total votes: 305,537

Governor and Lieutenant Governor

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Larry Rhoden and Tony Venhuizen	Republican	193,317	63%	
Dan Ahlers and Steven McCleerey	Democratic	111,131	37%	

Total votes: 304,448

Secretary of State

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Heather Baxter	Republican	172,350	58%	
Tamara J. Lesnar	Libertarian	16,260	6%	
Terrence Davis	Democratic	106,533	36%	

Total votes: 295,143

Attorney General

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Lance Russell	Republican	193,243	100 %	

Total votes: 193,243 (only one candidate listed)

State Auditor

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Catherine Barranco	Republican	182,677	63%	
Tom Cool	Democratic	109,365	37%	

Total votes: 292,042

State Treasurer

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Melissa Hull	Republican	182,344	62%	
Margaret Kuipers	Democratic	109,731	38%	

Total votes: 292,075

Commissioner of School and Public Lands

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Brock Greenfield	Republican	179,727	62%	
Raeann Mettler	Democratic	110,996	38%	

Total votes: 290,723

Public Utilities Commissioner

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart

Don Haggar	Republican	174,552	60%	
Frank Kloucek	Democratic	115,197	40%	

Total votes: 289,749

Legislative Races

District 1

State Senate

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Michael H. Rohl (incumbent)	Republican	6,026	100%	

Total votes: 6,026

State House

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Daniel Kjos	Republican	5,446	39%	
Nick Fosness	Republican	5,144	37%	
Courtney Gale Enfield	Democratic	3,353	24%	

Total votes: 13,943

District 2

State Senate

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
John Sjaarda	Republican	7,111	100%	

Total votes: 7,111

State House

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Adam Long	Republican	6,594	41%	
Manuel Luschas	Republican	5,309	33%	
Blake Rife	Democratic	4,187	26%	

Total votes: 16,090

District 3

State Senate

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Katherine "Katie" Washnok	Republican	5,223	100 %	

Total votes: 5,223

State House

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Spencer Sommers	Republican	4,354	37%	
Timothy Hanigan	Republican	3,772	32%	
Erin Ronayne Rudner	Democratic	3,629	31%	

Total votes: 11,755

Note: The Secretary of State's results page flags this race as a possible recount.

District 4

State Senate

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Stephanie Sauder (incumbent)	Republican	7,565	100%	

Total votes: 7,565

State House

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Ryan Kohl	Republican	6,856	39%	
Fred Deutsch	Republican	6,131	35%	
Emelia Enquist	Democratic	2,725	16%	
Samuel Froehlke	Independent	1,646	9%	

Total votes: 17,358

District 5

State Senate

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Glen A. Vilhauer (incumbent)	Republican	6,113	100%	

Total votes: 6,113

State House

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Byron I. Callies	Republican	4,137	33%	
Matt Roby	Republican	5,825	46%	
Neal Tapio	Independent	2,691	21%	

Total votes: 12,653

District 6

State Senate

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Ernie Otten (incumbent)	Republican	5,582	100%	

Total votes: 5,582

State House

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Jerry Jongeling	Republican	4,925	33%	
Elliott Neff	Republican	4,365	29%	
Austin Wolf	Democratic	3,066	20%	
Garret M Campbell	Democratic	2,694	18%	

Total votes: 15,050

District 7

State Senate

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Tim Reed (incumbent)	Republican	5,313	100 %	

Total votes: 5,313

State House

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Mellissa Heermann	Republican	4,699	37%	
Roger DeGroot	Republican	4,457	35%	
Blake Stevens	Democratic	3,509	28%	

Total votes: 12,665

District 8

State Senate

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Casey Crabtree (incumbent)	Republican	6,100	60%	
Clint Hoyer	Independent	4,099	40%	

Total votes: 10,199

State House

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Jon Nelson	Republican	6,188	52%	
Todd Wilkinson	Republican	5,699	48%	

Total votes: 11,887

District 9

State Senate

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Joy Hohn (incumbent)	Republican	5,305	100%	

Total votes: 5,305

State House

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Tesa Schwans	Republican	4,575	35%	
Megan Tschetter	Republican	4,254	33%	
Amanda Potter	Democratic	4,097	32%	

Total votes: 12,926

Note: The Secretary of State's results page flags this race as a possible recount.

District 10

State Senate

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Michael Dupic	Republican	2,676	37%	
Liz Larson (incumbent)	Democratic	4,486	63%	

Total votes: 7,162

State House

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
John Pohlman	Republican	2,851	21%	
Kimberly Petterson	Republican	2,539	19%	
Adam Bair	Democratic	3,763	28%	
Kathleen Brudvig	Democratic	4,182	31%	

Total votes: 13,335

District 11

State Senate

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Chris Karr (incumbent)	Republican	4,209	50%	
Aaron Matson	Democratic	4,175	50%	

Total votes: 8,384

Note: The Secretary of State's results page flags this race as a possible recount.

State House

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Brian Mulder	Republican	4,190	30%	
Keri K. Weems	Republican	4,061	29%	
Tracey Quint	Libertarian	1,554	11%	
Sonja Mentzer	Democratic	4,234	30%	

Total votes: 14,039

Note: The Secretary of State's results page flags this race as a possible recount.

District 12

State Senate

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Kari Shanard-Koenders	Republican	4,009	51%	
Joe Zweifel	Democratic	3,877	49%	

Total votes: 7,886

Note: The Secretary of State's results page flags this race as a possible recount.

State House

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Amber Arlint	Republican	4,125	35%	
Kerry Loudenslager	Republican	3,349	29%	
Stephanie Arne	Democratic	4,270	36%	

Total votes: 11,744

District 13

State Senate

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Sue Peterson (incumbent)	Republican	6,447	100 %	

Total votes: 6,447

State House

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
John Hughes	Republican	5,274	32%	
Jack Kolbeck	Republican	5,873	35%	
Ali Rae Horsted	Democratic	5,584	33%	

Total votes: 16,731

District 14

State Senate

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Larry P. Zikmund (incumbent)	Republican	5,529	100 %	

Total votes: 5,529

State House

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Taylor Rehfeldt	Republican	5,501	36%	
Tyler Tordsen	Republican	4,649	30%	
Erinn Williams	Democratic	5,258	34%	

Total votes: 15,408

District 15

State Senate

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Brenda Lawrence	Republican	1,909	37%	
Erik Muckey	Democratic	3,290	63%	

Total votes: 5,199

State House

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Joni Tschetter	Republican	1,886	19%	
André Zachariahs	Republican	1,780	18%	
Kadyn Wittman	Democratic	3,202	33%	
June CopperStad	Democratic	2,906	30%	

Total votes: 9,774

District 16

State Senate

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Kevin Jensen (incumbent)	Republican	6,478	100%	

Total votes: 6,478

State House

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
John Shubeck	Republican	4,837	36%	
Lisa Bogue	Republican	5,355	39%	
Tim Rhead	Democratic	3,394	25%	

Total votes: 13,586

District 17

State Senate

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Sydney Davis (incumbent)	Republican	4,926	100%	

Total votes: 4,926

State House

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Chris Kassin	Republican	4,588	32%	
Troy Redler	Republican	3,797	26%	
Leslie Gerrish	Democratic	3,440	24%	
Austin Brunick	Democratic	2,695	19%	

Total votes: 14,520

District 18

State Senate

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Lauren Nelson (incumbent)	Republican	4,484	58%	
Kay Swihart	Democratic	3,294	42%	

Total votes: 7,778

State House

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Mike Stevens	Republican	5,105	36%	
John Marquardt	Republican	3,852	27%	
Jarod Holcomb	Democratic	2,357	16%	
Karen Springer	Democratic	3,021	21%	

Total votes: 14,335

District 19

State Senate

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Kyle Schoenfish (incumbent)	Republican	6,177	78%	
Russell Graeff	Democratic	1,750	22%	

Total votes: 7,927

State House

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Jessica Bahmuller	Republican	5,580	42%	
Drew Peterson	Republican	5,506	42%	
Heidi Hora	Democratic	2,112	16%	

Total votes: 13,198

District 20

State Senate

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Paul Miskimins (incumbent)	Republican	5,335	100%	

Total votes: 5,335

State House

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Jeff Bathke	Republican	4,559	52%	
Terry Sabers	Republican	4,167	48%	

Total votes: 8,726

District 21

State Senate

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Mykala Voita (incumbent)	Republican	6,190	76 %	
Dan Andersson	Democratic	1,969	24 %	

Total votes: 8,159

State House

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Marty Overweg	Republican	4,953	47%	
Jim Halverson	Republican	5,527	53%	

Total votes: 10,480

District 22

State Senate

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Brandon Wipf (incumbent)	Republican	5,124	100%	

Total votes: 5,124

State House

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Kevin Van Diepen	Republican	4,318	39%	
Lana Greenfield	Republican	4,376	39%	
Cully Williams	Democratic	2,478	22%	

Total votes: 11,172

District 23

State Senate

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Mark Lapka (incumbent)	Republican	6,267	100%	

Total votes: 6,267

State House

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Spencer Gosch	Republican	5,579	43%	
Dick Werner	Republican	5,190	40%	
Garett Heinz	Independent	2,290	18%	

Total votes: 13,059

District 24

State Senate

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Jim Mehlhaff (incumbent)	Republican	6,992	100%	

Total votes: 6,992

State House

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Mike Weisgram	Republican	6,308	51%	
Laurie Gill	Republican	6,123	49%	

Total votes: 12,431

District 25

State Senate

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Bart Sample	Republican	5,718	58%	
Bryan J. Breitling	Independent	4,146	42%	

Total votes: 9,864

State House

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Carrie Sanderson	Republican	6,324	58%	
Nick Buchholz	Republican	4,602	42%	

Total votes: 10,926

District 26

State Senate

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Rebecca Reimer	Republican	3,187	54%	
Shawn Bordeaux	Democratic	2,706	46%	

Total votes: 5,893

State House

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Ron Frederick (Seat A)	Republican	839	36%	
Eric Emery (Seat A)	Democratic	1,523	64%	
Angi Hanzlik (Seat B)	Republican	2,419	68%	
Lewis GrassRope (Seat B)	Democratic	1,123	32%	

Total votes: 5,904 (Seat A: 2,362; Seat B: 3,542)

District 27

State Senate

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Anthony Kathol	Republican	2,270	43%	
Celestine Stadnick	Democratic	2,035	38%	
Peri Pourier	Independent	1,013	19%	

Total votes: 5,318

State House

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Liz May	Republican	2,453	34%	
Elizabeth Lone Eagle	Independent	1,009	14%	
Evangeline Poor Bear	Independent	1,600	22%	
Jay Yohner	Independent	755	10%	
Joe Flood	Independent	1,471	20%	

Total votes: 7,288

District 28

State Senate

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Sam Marty	Republican	5,576	100 %	

Total votes: 5,576

State House

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Jana Hunt (Seat A)	Republican	1,832	59%	
Chastity Jewett (Seat A)	Democratic	1,297	41%	
Travis Ismay (Seat B)	Republican	3,384	100 %	

Total votes: 6,513 (Seat A: 3,129; Seat B: 3,384)

District 29

State Senate

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
William Meirose	Republican	6,105	100 %	

Total votes: 6,105

State House

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Garry Cammack	Republican	5,160	53%	
Gary Deering	Republican	4,630	47%	

Total votes: 9,790

District 30

State Senate

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Amber Hulse	Republican	8,708	100 %	

Total votes: 8,708

State House

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Trish Ladner	Republican	7,724	41%	
Tim Goodwin	Republican	7,387	40%	
Bret Swanson	Democratic	3,530	19%	

Total votes: 18,641

District 31

State Senate

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Randy Deibert	Republican	6,941	100 %	

Total votes: 6,941

State House

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Scott Odenbach	Republican	6,253	39%	
Mary Fitzgerald	Republican	5,991	37%	
Morgan Plucker	Democratic	3,867	24%	

Total votes: 16,111

District 32

State Senate

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Helene Duhamel	Republican	3,317	52%	
Jeff Shelton	Democratic	3,015	48%	

Total votes: 6,332

State House

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Steve Duffy	Republican	2,666	27%	
Zachary Martin	Republican	2,317	23%	
Nicole Uhre-Balk	Democratic	3,283	33%	
Samuel Hare Sr.	Independent	1,756	18%	

Total votes: 10,022

District 33

State Senate

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
David Johnson	Republican	6,427	65%	
Chris Baumgartner	Democratic	3,448	35%	

Total votes: 9,875

State House

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Phil Jensen	Republican	5,403	36%	
Curt Massie	Republican	5,824	39%	
Kari Hall	Democratic	3,803	25%	

Total votes: 15,030

District 34

State Senate

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Taffy Howard	Republican	4,943	52%	
Michael Calabrese	Democratic	4,508	48%	

Total votes: 9,451

State House

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Mike Derby	Republican	5,453	38%	
Becky Drury	Republican	4,941	35%	
Victor Diego Dominquez	Democratic	3,858	27%	

Total votes: 14,252

District 35

State Senate

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Greg Blanc	Republican	4,213	100 %	

Total votes: 4,213

State House

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Percentage chart
Dale Bartscher	Republican	3,262	34%	
Jason Fleming	Republican	3,751	40%	
Ken Jeakins	Democratic	2,483	26%	

Total votes: 9,496