



DAKOTA VOTER GOVERNOR CANDIDATES

Listed in ballot order

**Why are you the best
candidate for the job?**

**What distinguishes you
from your competitors?**

Gov. Larry Rhoden

In this Governor's race, there's a lot that sets me apart from the other candidates. First of all, I'm the only candidate that's made my living in agriculture, working the land. I was born and raised on a ranch and have owned and operated that ranch for decades. I'm the only candidate who's made a living with my hands.

I'm the only candidate who's served as a volunteer firefighter, something that I've done for over 40 years. That's a crucial role to give back to your local community, especially in rural South Dakota.

I'm the only candidate who's worn the uniform of the United States military. I served our nation for six years in the South Dakota National Guard. I earned the distinction of trainee leader of the cycle at basic training. My service to our nation prepared me for my role as Commander in Chief of the National Guard. In fact, I'm the first Governor since the legendary Joe Foss to serve as Commander in Chief of the South Dakota National Guard after serving as a guardsman.

But perhaps the most important distinction is that I'm the only candidate who has actually done the job of Governor. The other candidates can tell you how they plan or hope to do the job – but you can see for yourself how I've actually done the job. I might not be the flashiest Governor, but I get the work done efficiently and effectively.

I deliver results.

Just look at what we've accomplished in the last two legislative sessions to keep South Dakota strong, safe, and free. We advanced South Dakota's pro-life laws, protected our 2nd Amendment rights, and took important steps to keep South Dakota safe. When others thought that it would be impossible to build agreement to get the prison across the finish line, I put the team together that got the job done. And when it looked like we wouldn't be able to deliver real property tax relief this year, I set politics aside and worked with legislative leadership to deliver the largest property tax cut in South Dakota history.

I might not be the smartest person in the room, but I'm smart enough to put the right people around me to get the job done. And that is how I will continue to lead if I'm given the opportunity to serve for another four years.

Rep. Jon Hansen

I'm running for governor because I believe the future of South Dakota should be shaped by the people who live here. At its core, this race is about who each candidate is fighting for. I am fighting to put you and your family first again—not distant corporations, out-of-state interests, or big money political insiders.

I'm fighting for families who feel like they're working harder but still struggling with rising costs. For parents who want to raise their kids in their faith, with freedom, common sense, and stability. And I'm fighting for people and communities that don't want to be bullied by out-of-state interests into changing their way of life.

The interest of the common South Dakotan is what has guided me throughout my time in the political arena. Whether it was standing with landowners to defend God given Constitutional private property rights, pushing back against overreach during COVID, defeating the radical Amendment G abortion measure, protecting our culture from the leftist woke agenda, or preserving the most basic freedoms we hold dear—I've always approached the job the same way: lead with conservative convictions, listen to the people, and then fight hard for them everyday.

I don't see leadership as simply managing state government—it's also about defending our way of life.

I've seen what happens when regular people don't have someone willing to take on tough fights. Too often, politicians wait until it's "safe" to stand up for the people. In the Legislature and beyond, I have led from the front, for the sake of the people of our state and the conservative values that make South Dakota great.

But this campaign isn't just about the many great things we have already done together—it's about what we are going to do next.

As governor, I'll focus on making it easier to raise a family here: I will keep fighting to lower taxes, keep government transparent, accountable, and corruption free, protect your freedoms, keep woke out of our institutions, and make sure South Dakota stays a place where hard work is rewarded and the people—not bureaucrats or Washington DC—are in charge.

My wife and I are raising six kids here. I'm all in on making sure South Dakota is the best state in the country to work, start a business, and—most importantly—to raise a family.

That's what our campaign is about: protecting what makes this state special and making it stronger for (word limit)

Rep. Dusty Johnson

The best governor is one who can dream big and deliver results, and that's true with my campaign. We've laid out bold ideas detailing how we can make this state better, and I also have a proven track record of getting things done. As Chief of Staff to Governor Dennis Daugaard, I helped cut \$127 million in state spending. In the private sector, I created jobs. As Congressman, I worked with President Trump to secure the border, eliminate woke from our military, and cut taxes.

I believe the next 20 years in South Dakota can be the best years we've ever had, but in several key areas, we're falling behind. We need strong leadership and vision to build the best South Dakota. Now is the time to dream big—to grow, to build, and to believe in a bright future for South Dakota. It's going to take hard work, a real plan, South Dakota commonsense, and solid conservative leadership.

We'll get to work on Day 1. I intend to put students first and be laser-focused on improving student achievement. We should make college and tech schools affordable for South Dakota families, giving every hardworking student a chance to build their life here in South Dakota.

Our state's parole system is failing. My Safer South Dakota plan will hold offenders accountable and aim to reduce the state's drug overdose deaths through targeted prevention and accountability. As I speak with law enforcement and victims, it's clear South Dakota can do better.

I want my kids, and kids across the state, to choose South Dakota as the place to build their future. They deserve a South Dakota that doesn't settle, a state whose leaders aspire to more than just steadiness. I have the energy and vision to get the job done. Let's get to work.

Mr. Toby Doeden

*Candidate has not responded yet
Check DakotaVoter.com for updates*

Continue reading and watch video messages from the candidates at

DakotaVoter.com

Research the Candidates - Vote your Values

Editors Note:

Larry Rhoden and Jon Hansen both achieved a Lifetime Pro-Family Score of 100% from SD Family Voice Action during their legislative service.

Representative Larry Rhoden: 2017 & 2018 Scorecards
Representative Jon Hansen: 2019-2026 Scorecards

This voter guide was produced and paid for by SD Family Voice Action, a non-profit organization in South Dakota, and is not connected with any candidate or political party. Democratic candidate Dan Ahlers was not included on this guide, as there is no Democratic Primary Election for Governor. Mr. Ahlers will be included in the General Election voter guide. This guide was printed on 5/6/26 - Republican candidates who responded after this date were included on the website and in subsequent printings of this guide.