

We, the People

Republic of South Dakota



The Organization of S.D Counties



**The State Capitol
895,376 Citizens**



Minnehaha County



Pennington County



Lincoln County



Brown County



Brookings County



Meade County



Codington County



Lawrence County



Yankton County



Davison County



Beadle County



Hughes County



Union County



Clay County



Oglala County



Lake County



Butte County



Roberts County



Todd County



Charles Mix County



Turner County



Custer County



Grant County



Hutchinson County



Falls River County



Bon Homme County



Spink County



Moody County



Hamlin County



McCook County



Tripp County



Day County



Walworth County



Dewey County



Brule County



Kingsbury County



South Dakota COUNTIES

South Dakota County Government

The Local Arm of the State

South Dakota is divided into sixty-six counties. Most of the current county boundaries were originally established in the middle and latter part of the nineteenth century, and some in the early part of the twentieth century. At one time, South Dakota consisted of many more counties than the present day sixty-six. But, as the mode of transportation improved in South Dakota it became easier to travel to the county seat and the population shifted. This allowed counties to consolidate services, and limit the number of county seats. The latest of these consolidations occurred in the late 1970's between Washabaugh and Jackson counties.

County governments in South Dakota are either organized or unorganized bodies for civil and political purposes, and are an artificial being created by law. County governments are quasi-municipal corporations and are considered public or state agencies for the performance of public or governmental functions. Therefore, counties are an agent of the state, but the state legislature is generally prohibited from enacting any private or special laws which regulate county affairs.

However, county governments perform a variety of state mandated duties, including property assessments, road and bridge maintenance, police functions, poor relief, elections, and records maintenance.

County governments rely on several forms of revenue, but primarily fund services through the property tax. Although property taxes in South Dakota are part of a larger system of taxation that includes sales taxes, fuel taxes, motor vehicle licensing and a wide variety of special taxes, the property tax is considered the local tax. Property taxes are the primary source of dollars for schools systems, counties, municipalities and other local government units. Consequently, their administration is a local responsibility.

The Counties Are Governed by the People, and Elect the Following Persons:

- County Commissioners
- Auditor
- Treasurer
- Sheriff
- County Constables
- Coroner
- County District Attorney
- Public Defender
- County Committee Person (both Male and Female)
- Precinct Committee Person (both Male and Female)

County Commissioners:

The board of county commissioners shall meet and hold sessions, as open meetings in accordance with chapter [1-25](#), for the transaction of business at the courthouse or at any other suitable location in the county on at least a quarterly basis in January, April, July, and October of each year. The board may hold as many regular meetings throughout the year as necessary to transact business.

County Auditor:

The county auditor is the clerk of the board of county commissioners and shall keep an accurate record of its official proceedings and carefully preserve all of the documents, books, records, maps, and other papers required to be deposited or kept in his office and carefully perform such other acts and duties as are required by law.

County Treasurer:

The county treasurer is the collector of taxes. The treasurer shall maintain an office at the county seat. The treasurer shall receive all money belonging to the county from whatever source derived and other money which by law is directed to be paid to the treasurer.

County Sheriff:

The sheriff shall keep and preserve the peace within the county. The sheriff may call to aid any person or power of the county as the sheriff deems necessary. The sheriff shall pursue and apprehend all felons, and shall execute all writs, warrants, and other processes from any court or magistrate for which the sheriff has the legal authority.

County Constables:

1. The board of county commissioners may appoint constables who are registered voters. The constables shall hold office at the pleasure of the board of county commissioners for a term of two years, and until their successors are appointed and qualified. The board of county commissioners may establish guidelines for the accountability of constables;
2. Such county constables shall have the same powers and jurisdiction throughout the entire county as a township or other constable has within his district; such county constables may serve process and make levies in the same manner and effect as the sheriff, and conduct other official proceedings throughout the county in the same manner and effect as a township or other constable within his district;
3. The board of county commissioners of each organized county having territory therein which is not organized into civil townships shall divide such territory into such number of districts, not exceeding eight, as it shall deem advisable, from each of which districts there may be appointed at the time specified in § [7-13-1](#), one constable who shall serve for a term of two years;
4. County constables may collect the same fees as are allowed sheriffs for like services. The constables shall keep a daily record of all moneys collected and file a copy of that record with the county auditor by the fifteenth day of the following month.

County Coroner:

The coroner shall cause the body of any deceased person which he is called upon to view to be delivered to the person entitled to receive it, if any there be; but if not, he shall cause it to be properly buried and the expense paid from any property found with the body. If sufficient property is not found on the body, the coroner shall forthwith give notice to the dean of the department of medicine of the University of South Dakota, specifying in such notice the probable cause of death; and upon the requisition of the dean of such department, he shall forward such body to the university at its expense, within twenty-four hours of the receipt of such requisition. If no such requisition be received within the time stated, it shall be the duty of the coroner to cause the body to be properly buried, and the expense thereof shall be paid by the county from the general fund.

County District Attorney:

A state's attorney shall be elected in each organized county of this state at each general election, who shall qualify by taking the oath of office and giving a bond as provided by law. No person shall be eligible to the Office of State's Attorney who is not duly licensed to practice as an attorney and counselor at law by the Supreme Court of this state. The state's attorney shall give opinions and advice without fee to the board of county commissioners and other civil officers of his county, if requested by the board or officers, upon all matters in which the county is interested or relating to the official duties of the board or officers.

County Public Defender:

Each board of county commissioners may, by resolution, establish and maintain an office of public defender to fulfill the requirements of which the **board of county commissioners of each county** and the **governing body of any municipality** shall provide for the representation of indigent persons:

- Establishing and maintaining an office of a public defender;
- Arranging with the courts in the county to appoint attorneys on an equitable basis through a systematic, coordinated plan;
- Contracting with any attorney licensed to practice law in this state.

County Committee Persons:

Qualified Voters of the County as Registered by the Auditor, shall nominate, and elect one male, and one woman to have the powers of the people of the county to organize, hold, and provide for public committee meetings of the general population of the county, to which allows for the qualified voters of the county to discuss potential initiatives, resolutions and candidates for their at-large officials of the state, county itself. Each county shall have at least one person each per county - 1 male, 1 woman.

Precinct Committee Persons:

Each Precinct under the County, shall allow for the Qualified Voters to Elect one Male, and one woman to represent the voters of each precinct, to whom shall have the powers given to them to 'act for the voters to vote on initiatives, resolutions, and at-large candidates of which shall meet in the County Committee Meetings of the People, to which promote the policies of the people.



Marshall County



Deuel County



Edmunds County



Gregory County



Corson County



Clark County



Lyman County



Hanson County



Bennett County



Hand County



Stanley County



Perkins County



Jackson County



Douglas County



Aurora County



Potter County



Zieback County



Sanborn County



Minor County



McPherson County



Faulk County



Mellette County



Buffalo County



Jerauld County



Haakon County



Campbell County



Hyde County



Sully County



Harding County



Jones County

The Counties of the People of South Dakota

South Dakota At-Large Officials

United States Senator.....John Thune

United States Senator.....Mike Rounds

United States Representative.....Dusty Johnson

United States Elector for President:

1. Republican Party - Kristi Noem, Larry Roden, Jason Ravsborg
2. Democrat Party - Joseph Yracheta, Nicole Gronli, Randy Seiler

****Previous Presidential Election**

State Governor.....Kristi Noem

State Treasurer.....Josh Haeder

State Auditor.....Richard Sattgast

State Attorney General.....Marty Jackley

State Secretary of State.....Monae Johnson

State Public School, and Land Commissioner.....Brock Greenfield

State Public Utilities Commissioner.....Chris Nelson

State Republican Party Chairman.....John Wiik

State Democratic Party Chairman.....Shane Merrill

South Dakota Association of County Executive Board Officials:

President, Susan Lamb.....Sully County

Vice President-A, Andra Casteel.....Pennington County

Vice President-B, Myron Hertel.....Union County

Secretary, Treasurer, Diane Murtha.....Hutchinson County

Members: Jackie Severding, Terry Morgan, Deb Tredle, Jaci Clifford, Sheri Lund, Kathy Serr

"I pledge loyalty and support to the flag and state of South Dakota, land of sunshine, land of infinite variety."



The Republic of South Dakota

State Capital - Pierre, S.D

State Song, "Hail to South Dakota"

State Animal, "Coyote"

State Bird, "Pheasant"

State Soil, "Houdek Soil"

State Drink, "Milk"

State Insect, "Honey Bee"

State Fossil, "Triceratops"

State Grass, "western wheatgrass"

State Flower, "American Pasque"

State Jewelry, "Black Hills Gold"