

pierre sd

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1) The first question is one to start the process. Including today how many business caucuses have you attended?	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. Attending my first business caucus - when does the movie start?	36	51%
2. I have been to 1 previous	8	11%
3. I have attended several caucuses	20	28%
4. I may have been at all 9 of them Its this or "Match.com"	6	8%
	70 Votes Collected Average Rating 1.9	
2) How do you follow the Legislative process while you are at home. Choose three.	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. Newspaper - those under 30 ask anyone who's already asleep	17	20%
2. Television evening news	10	11%
3. Public Radio and Television (Statehouse)	6	7%
4. Internet - news sources - electronic versions of the ones above	22	25%
5. Internet - blogs and social media sources I have found reliable	9	10%
6. Special newsletters such as Capitol-ism or membership groups	9	10%
7. Honestly it's like passing a wreck - I can't really look at it but can't look away - I pay attention when a story crops up	12	14%
	85 Votes Collected Average Rating 3.8	
3) South Dakota is proud to have a true citizen legislature that is readily accessible to constituents. When was the last time you spoke face-to-face with a senator or representative (any of them not just the ones from your district)? Choose up to three.	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. Today thought that's why you had this event	27	35%
2. I saw them at a cracker barrel within the past few weeks	23	29%
3. Saw one just after the first week of session - bit awkward; we were in the bathroom	7	9%
4. It was between the election and the start of session	8	10%
5. During the campaign told me how smart I was (good looking as well)	8	10%
6. Never have - guess I didn't know it was a big deal	4	5%
	77 Votes Collected Average Rating 2.5	
4) From this map what region are you from?	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. Region 1 - Western SD - Black Hills to Wall	8	13%
2. Region 2 - Mid-west (w of Wall to w of Pierre)	3	5%
3. Region 3 - Mid-east (Pierre to w of Mitchell)	22	36%
4. Region 4 - Eastern SD - I-29 Corridor	27	45%
	60 Votes Collected Average Rating 3.1	
5) What size of community are you from?	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. 50 000 and over (either one of them)	13	19%
2. 10 000 to 49 999	41	60%
3. 5 000 to 9 999	1	1%
4. Under 5 000	13	19%
	68 Votes Collected Average Rating 2.2	

6) How many people does your business employ?	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. 1 - 10	24	34%
2. 11 - 49	6	8%
3. 50 - 99	5	7%
4. More than 100	34	49%
	69 Votes Collected Average Rating 2.7	
7) We now have a multi-generational workplace to which generation do you belong?	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. The Greatest Generation (1922-43)	2	2%
2. Boomers (1943-1960) - only influence we have left is what's in our wills	18	25%
3. Generation X (1960-80)	39	54%
4. Millennial (since 1980) - better ideas and more time than above	12	16%
	71 Votes Collected Average Rating 2.9	
8) Next let's look at the gender mix are you (choose one)	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. Female	27	38%
2. Male	44	61%
	71 Votes Collected Average Rating 1.6	
9) Now for one last demographic something for levity Are you	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. Right hand dominate	56	78%
2. Left hand dominate	6	8%
3. Ambidextrous - just can't make up my mind	9	12%
	71 Votes Collected Average Rating 1.3	
10) Let's test migration patterns. Were you born here did you migrate from another state did you elope for greener pastures only to learn you are allergic to grass? Please choose the best statement that describes your experience.	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. Born and raised here - when you see some of the tourists that visit this place you'd stay put too.	22	59%
2. Born here and graduated college but left the state for at least 5 years -returned when no one could understand my lack of accent	2	5%
3. Moved here with parents while still in K-12 school	4	10%
4. Came here for college and stayed (couldn't leave VW van wouldn't start).	5	13%
5. Followed spouse back to "home" - to the land of milk and honey got stuck on it right off the bat	3	8%
6. Came here from outside the United States for studies or career (note - the Chamber is glad you are here).	1	2%
	37 Votes Collected Average Rating 2.1	
11) SB 142 would establish a statewide ban on texting while driving. Is this a good idea? Please the following statement that you agree with most.	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. I support a statewide texting ban	40	57%
2. I support banning texting while driving but think it should be left to local governments. Driving across the state is hazardous	10	14%
3. I am opposed to these bans - they don't stop texting	13	18%

4. I like to text and drive - if I'm driving poorly send me a tweet	7	10%
	70 Votes Collected Average Rating 1.8	
12) Once again a bill has been introduced (and defeated) that would to prohibit your business from having employment policies that prohibit guns in the parking lot even when they are stored in vehicles. Do you support this idea? Please choose one of the following:	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. I support that bill - I'm a gun-rights advocate	22	32%
2. I oppose the bill - I'm a property rights advocate	22	32%
3. I oppose the bill; we have a "no-guns" policy & believe in it	13	19%
4. You know we occasionally fire people don't really need guns involved in that process	11	16%
	68 Votes Collected Average Rating 2.2	
13) Do you have a policy that prohibits firearms and ammunition from being on your property even in the parking lot?	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. Yes - it's essential for employee protection	18	28%
2. Yes - it is required to maintain contracts with key customers including the Federal Government	5	7%
3. No - too many hunters work here and making them mad in the fall is unwise plus I wouldn't comply with it myself	41	64%
	64 Votes Collected Average Rating 2.4	
14) Thinking of firearms policies on the national level which of the following statements do you agree with most? Choose two.	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. I support a full ban on guns but I'm not going to fight anyone about it	0	0%
2. I support a ban on "assault weapons" - How do you eat a deer with 100 holes in it?	12	13%
3. I support expanding and strengthening background checks for gun purchases	40	44%
4. No bans owning a gun is a fundamental right protected by the 2nd amendment	24	26%
5. I'd ban the large ammunition clips before limiting the guns themselves	14	15%
	90 Votes Collected Average Rating 3.4	
15) President Obama wants to increase the Federal Minimum wage to \$9/hour using several steps between now and 2015. Please mark the following statement that best describes your thoughts on this proposal. Choose two.	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. It's about time; we need to move the minimum wage along with cost of living	6	9%
2. No way - it's a job killer	10	15%
3. I think it should be increased but it won't affect my business at all	17	25%
4. I oppose increasing the minimum wage; we pay so far above minimum wage that we won't have an impact	10	15%
5. It's probably time for an increase but don't kid yourself this will put pressure on wages even wages above the minimum wage and will slow down hiring a modest amount.	23	34%
	66 Votes Collected Average Rating 3.5	
16) There were several bills attempting to address the issue of illegal immigration. These bills sought to make it a state crime for a business to "knowingly and intentionally" hire people who are not in the country legally. This is now an issue handled by the federal government. The Chamber opposed these bills. Which of the	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes

following statements best represents your view on this issue?

1. Enforcing immigration laws should remain a federal obligation; South Dakota cannot afford to solve immigration issues	29	42%
2. South Dakota doesn't have enough immigration issues to make it a law enforcement priority	7	10%
3. I support the bills - the state should hold employers accountable if they are hiring people who are not supposed to be in this country	18	26%
4. I support the idea of creating state laws now before we have a problem	14	20%
5. Before I answer can I call my parents and double check exactly where I was born?	0	0%

68 Votes Collected
Average Rating 2.3

17) South Dakota has provided refunds for large projects investments in the state. These refunds offset the combination of sales/use taxes plus the contractors' excise tax. Companies receiving these refunds have created more than 2 000 jobs are responsible for \$22 million a year in taxes and purchase more than \$3 billion dollars a year from farmers and businesses. Should the state continue to offer refunds to encourage at large investments? Choose two.

	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. No - that's old school development we need to shift the focus to smaller businesses on a local level	6	6%
2. No - take the money used for refunds and use it for education	1	1%
3. I don't think these incentives really make a difference to companies looking at South Dakota	2	2%
4. Yes - if South Dakota is not competitive the "game changing" investments will happen somewhere else	30	31%
5. Yes - I believe these incentives make a difference and are needed	35	36%
6. Yes - the money used for the refunds would not be collected without the refunds; therefore it does not "take" money from the general fund	16	16%
7. If they help my town - yes; if they help some remote no man's land like Sioux Falls or Rapid City . . . forget it	5	5%

95 Votes Collected
Average Rating 4.6

18) Which of the following ideas would you consider part of an economic development program? Mark three.

	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. Refunds for small business such as retail stores and convenience stores using local revenue and perhaps matched by the state	10	8%
2. Helping fund economic development organizations in small towns	7	6%
3. A fund to help build roads and other infrastructure for targeted industries such as dairy operations grain shipping manufacturing	22	19%
4. Job training money to prepare people for jobs with high wages that require specific training	23	20%
5. Money to advertise around the country and seek new investment	10	8%
6. Targeted incentives for specific industries such as wind power data centers manufacturing and call centers	24	20%
7. Programs to address affordable housing or expand housing supply	11	9%
8. Money for education adding to the general funds for schools	8	6%

115 Votes Collected
Average Rating 4.5

19) The contractors' excise tax (CET) is an unusual tax (only two other states have it and no other state applies it the way South Dakota does). It is projected to collect approximately \$90 million dollars next year. Should the CET be repealed?

	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. Heck no - that's serious money and would require a deep cut or a tax increase of about half a cent on sales tax	14	22%

2. It is better to keep the tax and use selective refunds when it makes South Dakota uncompetitive for economic development projects	36	58%
3. Dump this pain in the asphalt - I don't care how deep the cuts this tax is a mess get rid of it	6	9%
4. End the tax and get the money where ever the legislature wants to get it - just throw the CET out	6	9%
	62 Votes Collected Average Rating 2.1	
20) Do you believe that incentives like property tax phase-ins and/or rebates for sales/use & contractors' excise tax and use of tax increment financing (TIFs) are important to economic development? Please choose one of the following.	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. No - I have read that CEOs say that community give-a-ways are nice but they don't really sway decisions about where to build	1	1%
2. No - good schools are more important to economic expansions and relocations as are good parks and vibrant community amenities	3	4%
3. Not sure - If I get them they're a great idea; all those others will just waste the money	5	8%
4. Yes - I believe incentives are absolutely critical to helping a local business grow or attracting new businesses	32	51%
5. Heck yes - I've actually been part of these deals and can tell you how important they are	21	33%
	62 Votes Collected Average Rating 4.1	
21) If the state is going to provide incentives for expansion of local businesses and attracting growth which of these industries should be pursued? Choose three.	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. Wind projects including transmission lines	16	11%
2. Value added agriculture - food processing	30	20%
3. Bio fuels such as ethanol	16	11%
4. Manufacturing expansion and relocations	38	26%
5. Data Centers and other high tech applications	14	9%
6. Call centers and back office functions	8	5%
7. Large retail operations such as Costco Wal-Mart and Stuff-Mart	4	2%
8. Research Laboratories	17	11%
	143 Votes Collected Average Rating 3.9	
22) How would you define "success" for an economic development program? Choose two.	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. More jobs with average pay that is well above the average wage	30	25%
2. Avoiding businesses that "cost" the community in terms of wear and tear on roads; workers in need of social services; and adding too many people	8	6%
3. Expanding the tax base - more money for schools other public services	36	31%
4. Making sure the key people involved in the project do not make political contributions or have a history of political activity	3	2%
5. Diversify the economy - like the financial sector did in the 80s	32	27%
6. Avoiding proposals that might have a negative impact on the businesses already in our community	7	6%
	116 Votes Collected Average Rating 3.2	
23) What is your position on the XL Pipeline?	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. Get it going now we need the jobs and maybe it can lower these high gas prices	19	35%

2. Support it - the construction will boost the economy and the energy should be used here (as opposed to China)	26	49%
3. It needs more environmental research (perhaps years and years more)	7	13%
4. Kill it we can live on coal wind solar and biodiesel here on the plains	1	1%
	53 Votes Collected Average Rating 1.8	
24) Considering your employment level which statement best expresses your plans regarding jobs at your business?	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. We will be hiring a few more people but not more than 10	16	24%
2. We will need more than 10 people at some point this year	17	25%
3. E-gads - if you have an odd 25 people around we're going to need them (please note - we're not looking for 25 odd people we have enough)	7	10%
4. Our staff level will not change this year	20	30%
5. OK as long as you don't tell anyone . . . we may face some layoffs	1	1%
6. We're not really laying anyone off - we're going out of business - none of will have jobs - gee this meeting is fun	5	7%
	66 Votes Collected Average Rating 2.8	
25) What level of education do you need for positions in your business? Choose three.	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. Advanced degree from University (Masters PhD)	9	7%
2. University degree at the Bachelors level	42	35%
3. Very specialized technical training in post-secondary school	20	16%
4. Basic technical school certificate	15	12%
5. High school is enough for most positions	19	16%
6. We can train people from all walks of life - attitude is critical	11	9%
7. People are tricky; we're using robots and that little gecko on TV	2	1%
	118 Votes Collected Average Rating 3.3	
26) What do you expect to see from the national economy during the next few years?	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. Things are picking up 2013 should be a banner year	3	4%
2. Slow growth for 2013 and more growth next year nothing real hot for several more years	26	38%
3. The fast growth days are about over it will be steady moderate growth for many years ahead	13	19%
4. This year will be flat maybe even next year and hope for the best down the road	10	14%
5. Every time I say it'll be getting better it gets worse - when I say it'll get worse it does . . . hate being a downer going for a cookie	15	22%
	67 Votes Collected Average Rating 3.1	
27) How do you feel about the direction South Dakota is going at this time?	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. I strongly believe South Dakota is going in the right direction	23	34%
2. I somewhat think the state is going in the right direction	27	40%
3. I think we're stuck - I don't see the state moving in any direction	13	19%
4. I somewhat believe the state is heading in the wrong direction	2	3%
5. I strongly believe South Dakota is heading in the wrong direction	1	1%
	66 Votes Collected Average Rating 2.0	

28) The news reports that businesses across the country are sitting on piles of cash waiting for more certainty on big issues like tax rates before launching expansions or capital projects. Is this assessment correct?	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. No - businesses will spend that cash when business demand says they need to - a stronger recovery is what's needed	15	24%
2. I don't think there is the kind of cash sitting around as they think	17	27%
3. We agree - we have enough cash to do a project but are waiting to see the hit from taxes and health care changes before spending much of it	26	42%
4. We have cash but it's not available for capital expenditures there are other more urgent needs (like better food in the lunch room)	3	4%
	61 Votes Collected	Average Rating 2.3
29) As the country moves closer to implementing the national healthcare reforms which of the following statements most closely expresses your grasp of the changes ahead.	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. We are just waiting for someone to tell us what we need to do - my business is too small to have an expert on staff (plus we'd just hate them anyway)	9	15%
2. We have been to at least one meeting to prepare	8	13%
3. Our staff has a handle on the changes we have time to prepare	26	44%
4. We don't even know if this reform applies to us we are a small business and they said it would not apply to small businesses	12	20%
5. Could you repeat the question - it's hard to hear from the back of this cave	4	6%
	59 Votes Collected	Average Rating 2.9
30) Where will you turn to find answers to your questions about healthcare mandates ahead?	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. News broadcasts	6	9%
2. My national trade association	2	3%
3. My insurance agent	19	29%
4. Special seminars and webinars provided by experts	11	17%
5. Staff specialists within the HR department - heck they're all lawyers how bad can it get?	24	37%
6. I have an app for that	2	3%
	64 Votes Collected	Average Rating 3.8
31) Based on the brief explanation of the Medicaid decision please do the best you can to answer several questions. Rest assured - this will not be graded and no one yet has found a correct answer. Two of the main reasons to reject expanding Medicaid is a fear that the federal government will renege on paying for it and will stick the states with hundreds of millions of dollars in costs for new Medicaid services. Others argue that even if the federal government does pay the costs they will be using money they don't have. Which of the following best expresses your thoughts about these arguments?	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. Couldn't agree more - the state should avoid this expansion at all costs	17	26%
2. The arguments are good but we can't determine a final answer until more is known about the costs of other reforms - Don't rush but don't slam any doors either	30	46%
3. Not taking this money will not save the federal government a dime they will spend it elsewhere - this may be a good policy to embrace	11	16%
4. This is exactly why I have never run for elected office	7	10%
	65 Votes Collected	Average Rating 2.1
32) The other side of this argument focuses on providing coverage for	Votes	Pct of

the entry level wage earners that may end up getting coverage through an exchange with subsidized premiums and the magnitude of the money involved - hundreds of millions of dollars in our economy for spending less than three million. Please choose that answer below that best expresses your conclusions.

	For Answer	Total Votes
1. This level of money will mean a boost for the economy; we should expand Medicaid and drop out if the Fed backs out of the deal	7	10%
2. I am worried about this being a money pit but if it is less a expensive way to cover part-time or entry level workers it just might make sense. I would support it	25	39%
3. This is not a good idea - the mandates are bad enough but signing up for a huge expansion in a state level program because the Fed is making promises only makes sense because the level of funding doesn't make any sense at all	32	50%

64 Votes Collected
Average Rating 2.4

33) After hearing an amateur's explanation and considering the arguments on both sides. Do you support (at this moment) adopting the expansion of the Medicaid program?

	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. Very Supportive - the reforms are here and this is the best way to live with them	1	1%
2. Somewhat Supportive -with fear and trepidation but we should move ahead	8	12%
3. Somewhat Opposed - maybe later after we see what happens in other states and we build a shelter someplace in case this gets ugly	31	48%
4. Adamantly Opposed - Didn't you ever watch Charlie Brown try to kick the football?	24	37%

64 Votes Collected
Average Rating 3.2

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