

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	49	59%
2. I have been to 1 previous	6	7%
3. I have attended several caucuses	24	29%
4. Been to 'em all - Boss either thinks these meetings are very important or that I'm not.	3	3%

82 Votes Collected
 Average Rating 1.8

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 it is a device that boots up instantly but smudges fingers	36	19%
2. Television news	34	18%
3. Public Radio and Television (Statehouse)	19	10%
4. Internet - news sources - electronic versions of the ones above	35	18%
5. Internet - blogs and social media sources I have found reliable	19	10%
6. Special newsletters such as Capitol-ism from special interest groups	22	11%
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 whether it's online or watching TV or chatting with friends.	21	11%

186 Votes Collected
 Average Rating 3.6

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 two**

	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. Today thought that's why you had this event	38	29%
2. I saw them at a cracker barrel within the past few weeks	22	16%
3. Saw one just after the first week of session	21	16%
4. It was between the election and the start of session	19	14%
5. During the campaign	13	9%
6. Never have - guess I didn't know it was a big deal	18	13%

131 Votes Collected
 Average Rating 3.0

4) **What is your overall impression of the 2014**

	Votes	Pct of
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Legislative Session to this point?

	For Answer	Total Votes
1. Very good - they have focused on important issues and seem to be moving right along	8	9%
2. About as good as one can expect - it's always hard to know what is going on in Pierre but it beats that mess in Washington DC	42	51%
3. Issues never seem to change - looks like it always does	17	20%
4. Yuck - there never seems to be any answers on important issues like more school funding and reducing taxes	14	17%

81 Votes Collected
Average Rating 2.5

5) In general - what issues do you follow most closely (pick two)

	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. Tax issues	35	23%
2. Regulations like workplace safety human resources licenses	28	18%
3. The budget - how much is spent on highways buildings services	34	22%
4. Education - keep track of universities K-12 and even pre-school	32	21%
5. Police and law enforcement	3	1%
6. Social Issues - issues related to life or defining marriage	17	11%
7. Social Calendar - you can live all session and never buy food	2	1%

151 Votes Collected
Average Rating 3.0

6) We've used this for years. Look at this Map what region are you from?

	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. Region 1 - Western SD - Black Hills to Wall	20	25%
2. Region 2 - Mid-west (w of Wall to w of Pierre)	8	10%
3. Region 3 - Mid-east (Pierre to w of Mitchell)	35	44%
4. Region 4 - Eastern SD - I-29 Corridor	16	20%

79 Votes Collected
Average Rating 2.6

7) What size of community are you from

	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. 50 000 and over (either one of them)	14	17%
2. 20 000 to 49 999	8	10%
3. 5 000 to 19 999	42	52%
4. Under 5 000	16	20%

80 Votes Collected
Average Rating 2.8

	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
8) How many people does your business employ?		
1. 1 – 10	30	37%
2. 11 – 49	17	20%
3. 50 – 99	9	11%
4. More than 100	25	30%

81 Votes Collected
Average Rating 2.4

	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
9) We now have a multi-generational workplace. To which generation do you belong?		
1. The Greatest Generation (1928-46)	1	1%
2. Boomers (1946-1964) - we've been special for so long it is our ultimate entitlement	28	34%
3. Generation X (1964-82) - holding the door open for Boomer's retirements	35	43%
4. Millennial (since 1982) - better ideas and plenty of time	17	20%

81 Votes Collected
Average Rating 2.8

	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
10) Next let's look at the gender mix are you (choose one)		
1. Female	33	41%
2. Male	47	58%

80 Votes Collected
Average Rating 1.6

	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
11) Now for one last demographic something for levity - are you (choose one)		
1. Right hand dominate	65	81%
2. Left hand dominate	5	6%
3. Ambidextrous - just can't make up my mind	10	12%

80 Votes Collected
Average Rating 1.3

	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
12) Most polls begin with a "right direction/wrong direction" question. So do you believe the country is heading in the right direction or wrong direction?		
1. Right direction	17	21%
2. Wrong direction	62	78%

79 Votes Collected
Average Rating 1.8

	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
13) Let's see how everyone feels about our state. Is South Dakota heading in the right direction or wrong direction?		
1. Right direction	64	82%
2. Wrong direction	14	17%

78 Votes Collected
Average Rating 1.2

14) There has been much discussion about establishing a statewide law against texting while driving. Is this a good idea? Please choose one of the following:		
	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. I support a statewide texting ban	41	52%
2. I support banning texting while driving but think it should be left to local governments.	12	15%
3. I am opposed to these bans - they don't stop texting	23	29%
4. I can text and drive but you should do something to stop other people who just can't seem to handle it	2	2%
<small>78 Votes Collected Average Rating 1.8</small>		

15) If there is a ban on texting should it be a primary offense? This means you can be stopped for texting rather than just getting a ticket for texting if you are picked up for something else like speeding		
	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. Yes - this is serious and should be a primary offense	38	48%
2. No - keep it as an add-on like seatbelts	41	51%
<small>79 Votes Collected Average Rating 1.5</small>		

16) Workforce Development: A number of South Dakota industries have reported having problems finding workers with the right skills. What is your staffing situation at this time?		
	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. Wonderful - we have a full team and actually like them	14	19%
2. A few openings - have not had much trouble finding skilled workers	9	12%
3. It's a growing problem - don't see many real good candidates so we work to keep our current staff even some we don't really like	31	42%
4. We have problems finding workers - they either lack skills or don't have an understanding of workplace culture - like showing up every day	19	26%
<small>73 Votes Collected Average Rating 2.8</small>		

	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
17) What level of education do you need for most of the employees that you hire most often?		
1. College degree	21	28%
2. Some college or university - should at least know how to operate a keg	12	16%
3. Technical Skills - a post-secondary special certificate of degree	19	25%
4. High school graduation will work for most positions we train in-house	23	30%
5. Honestly we're desperate - fog a mirror start tomorrow	0	0%

75 Votes Collected
Average Rating 2.6

	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
18) We will begin by asking you to indicate which of the following reasons to oppose the expansion that you find most valid		
1. The Federal Government can't afford this program	46	34%
2. The Federal Government will renege on this promise - they will reduce the amount they cover just like they do now with Medicaid as personal income grows	24	18%
3. This is a slow government takeover of health care say yes now and you'll never stop the march to a single payer system	31	23%
4. I've hated this thing from the start and don't much care for any of the steps from here - don't expand Medicaid . . . ever	14	10%
5. Whew is there an answer for those of us that might not hate this? Just don't tell anyone!	17	12%

132 Votes Collected
Average Rating 2.5

	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
19) Here are the reasons for expanding Medicaid - which of these do you find to be most persuasive?		
1. The economy gains \$2 billion via one of the state's leading employers and economic sectors - health care	25	18%
2. It's the right thing to do - these people need medical coverage	27	20%
3. Business has been paying for these folks for years through increased costs of insurance - the expansion will get these charges taken care of without increasing the costs to employers	35	26%
4. It may be cheaper to cover them via Medicaid than to have them being subsidized in the health insurance exchange	29	21%
5. I was much happier with the other list - can you bring that one back?	18	13%

134 Votes Collected
Average Rating 2.9

20) **After looking at some basic information and the arguments about expanding Medicaid which of the following best expresses your feelings?**

	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. I support the Governor's cautious approach and hope he never supports expansion of Medicaid	19	25%
2. I support the application for a waiver and will support a limited expansion if that is approved by the Fed	17	22%
3. I support the request for a waiver but think the expansion needs to be adopted in some form. It's the only way to get coverage for many people and will save insurance costs in the long run.	30	39%
4. I think expansion is inevitable - South Dakota needs to move ahead not because this is what we want but because it's going to get force fed somehow . . . anyone remember the 55 mph speed limit?	10	13%

76 Votes Collected
Average Rating 2.4

21) **Educational results in South Dakota are a mixed bag. Our students do well on ACT college exams while 30% of our graduates that go to college require some remedial classes. Which of the following best expresses your view of the state's education system? (you can choose two)**

	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. We have the best schools brightest kids who are ready to face the world	1	0%
2. I have seen evidence that our schools need a tighter focus on critical thinking communication and the math/science area	47	34%
3. My business is competing in a global market against young people that are way better prepared - It's time to step things up a notch	23	16%
4. South Dakota needs rigorous standards such as Common Core or others that have been developed with a national scope in mind	39	28%
5. We can and should develop our own standards for South Dakota students; we may lose important values in education by adopting standards developed by others	27	19%

137 Votes Collected
Average Rating 3.3

22) Having rigorous standards doesn't mean anything if schools cannot demonstrate that their students have met those standards. This requires some kind of testing. Which statement best expresses your thoughts about these tests?	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. Tests are a good thing life is full of tests in one form or another	10	14%
2. Tests are necessary - standards are meaningless without them	37	55%
3. Test are needed but should not take too much time for preparation and should not be so stressful that students need anti-depressants to take them	14	20%
4. I'm tired of big massive tests - just teach our children what they need to know and keep tests in the classroom.	5	7%
5. Sorry I blacked out for a moment - I get so nervous about tests I flinch when asked "how are you doing?"	1	1%
67 Votes Collected Average Rating 2.3		

23) There will be an initiative on the ballot this fall that will raise the state's minimum wage to \$8.25/hr and increase it every year to adjust for inflation. Will you:	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. Support the measure	37	48%
2. Oppose the measure	40	51%
77 Votes Collected Average Rating 1.5		

24) Which of the following best expresses your feelings about Initiative Measure #16? - You may choose two	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. South Dakota should continue to adopt the national minimum wage and not have a higher minimum wage	16	15%
2. It's time for Congress to increase the federal minimum wage	15	14%
3. The increase won't affect my business	13	12%
4. The increase to \$8.25 is a bit aggressive but the automatic increase is a deal killer	9	8%
5. I simply oppose increasing the minimum wage – period	16	15%
6. The increase is OK - the automatic increase would be a killer	22	21%
7. I actually support the measure I'll just step out for a day or so	10	9%
101 Votes Collected Average Rating 4.0		

25) Term Limits: Currently legislators are allowed to serve 4 consecutive terms (8 years) in the House or Senate. When they reach that limit they can run for the other chamber for another 4 terms. Which of the following statements best expresses your thoughts on term limits (choose two)	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. We should leave term limits alone - they work just fine	34	29%
2. Term limits are great how about reducing them to 6 years	23	19%
3. We should keep term limits but extend them to 12 years	5	4%
4. We should keep term limits but extend them to 16 years	4	3%
5. Extend them but don't let legislator's switch houses to get around them	27	23%
6. Term limits were a mistake they should be repealed	13	11%
7. How can term limits even be necessary? Never understood why anyone would ever go back after their first term	11	9%

117 Votes Collected
Average Rating 3.4

26) Infrastructure funding: South Dakota's highways and bridges are in fairly good shape especially along state routes. County roads and local infrastructure is aging and must be addressed. Assuming there is need for additional funding for infrastructure which of the following methods to raise that revenue would you support? Choose two.	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. Increase gas tax from 24 cents to 27 cents/gallon	36	28%
2. Increase gas tax even more than 3-cents	12	9%
3. Add a sales tax to gasoline	8	6%
4. Increase the general sales tax dedicate the money to roads etc.	11	8%
5. Put a few cents tax on fuel that is used for "off road" equipment including contractors and farm equipment	30	24%
6. Add a mil levy on property taxes dedicated to roads etc.	5	4%
7. Let's monitor how much everyone drives and tax actual use	13	10%
8. Don't tell anyone - but this may prove the need for an income tax	10	8%

125 Votes Collected
Average Rating 3.8

27) **Property Taxes: Nearly 20 years ago a system was put in place that limits government's revenue increases to 3% or the rate of inflation whichever is less. These limits were used to reduce property taxes on homes and farms/ranches and have limited tax increases since then. At this point what do you think about these limits?**

	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. They have worked well - leave them alone	34	44%
2. My taxes are too high; the limits need to be strengthened	18	23%
3. The limits are too tight governments are struggling to provide basic services - I'd reverse them to make it the greater of inflation or 3%.	16	20%
4. Why not trust each government to do what its constituents want take the limits off	9	11%

77 Votes Collected
Average Rating 2.0

28) **In general how do you feel about property tax levels in South Dakota?**

	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. Taxes are waaay to high there is an urgent need for a reduction	10	13%
2. They are a bit high OK for now - increases might start a fight	20	27%
3. They seem high when I pay them but then I forget about them - can't be that bad	21	28%
4. Tax level is just right - we have to pay some taxes	21	28%
5. I'd say we should pay more but I don't run very fast - some people in this crowd look kinda' tough	1	1%

73 Votes Collected
Average Rating 2.8

29) **Looking ahead to the election this fall. If the election were held today which of following candidates would you vote for to serve as Governor? Listed alphabetically.**

	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. Dennis Daugaard	59	79%
2. Laura Hubble	4	5%
3. Joe Lowe	3	4%
4. Susan Wismer	8	10%

74 Votes Collected
Average Rating 1.5

	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
30) Which of the following would you vote for to serve as US Senator?		
1. Kevin Artz	0	0%
2. Dr. Annette Bosworth	5	6%
3. Stace Nelson	10	13%
4. Larry Pressler	9	12%
5. Jason Ravnsborg	0	0%
6. Larry Rhoden	5	6%
7. Mike Rounds	39	52%
8. Joe Sinkie	1	1%
9. Rick Weiland	6	8%
	75 Votes Collected Average Rating 5.9	

	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
31) Which of the following would you vote to serve as U.S. Representative?		
1. Kristi Noem	49	63%
2. Corinna Robinson	28	36%
	77 Votes Collected Average Rating 1.4	

	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
32) Looking forward the Presidential race (which no one really is) which of the following would you support for President? First the Republicans:		
1. Jeb Bush.	12	17%
2. Chris Christie	14	20%
3. Ted Cruz	7	10%
4. John Kasich	2	2%
5. Sarah Palin	8	11%
6. Rand Paul	4	5%
7. Paul Ryan	13	19%
8. Scott Walker	7	10%
	67 Votes Collected Average Rating 4.2	

	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
33) And now the list of Democrats:		
1. Hillary Clinton	29	47%
2. Andrew Cuomo	6	9%
3. Martin O'Malley	1	1%
4. Brian Schweitzer	11	18%
5. Elizabeth Warren	14	22%
	61 Votes Collected Average Rating 2.6	

	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
34) Would you support arming the citizens and disarming the legislature?		
1. Yes	57	78%
2. No	16	21%
	73 Votes Collected Average Rating 1.2	

35) Would you ever consider running to serve in the Legislature?	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. I am very interested and plan on starting a campaign this spring	0	0%
2. Yes - but I don't know how to start	6	7%
3. I might if I could get support how does someone explore that?	15	18%
4. I'd love to but could never take the time to serve up here	13	16%
5. No thanks - being a legislator would be great - being a candidate would not be	21	26%
6. Are you kidding - why would I want people talking about me the way we all talk about legislators? Look at this by gender? Look at this by generation?	24	30%

79 Votes Collected
Average Rating 4.5

36) The traditional last question. Should the South Dakota Chamber of Commerce continue to conduct this Business Caucus?	Votes For Answer	Pct of Total Votes
1. Absolutely - this is a great way for us to see what business leaders think about issues of the day	34	41%
2. Yes - I like that fact that these answers are given to legislators so they can see our thoughts	40	48%
3. It has been fun but seems to be getting a bit tired - is it possible to reshape and reenergize the idea?	4	4%
4. It's been great but it's time to wrap it up - these answers are anonymous right?	4	4%

82 Votes Collected
Average Rating 1.7

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