



ADVOCATE



VOTER'S GUIDE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

SD-Epic Recommended — 2 | President's Corner — 4

See Educators Run — 5 | 6 Reasons Why — 7

DATES TO REMEMBER

SEPTEMBER 23
South Dakota Indian Education Summit
Pierre

SEPTEMBER 29
SDEA Fall Leadership Conference
Rapid City

OCTOBER 8
Native American Day
(SDEA offices closed)

OCTOBER 13
SDEA Fall Leadership Conference
Sioux Falls

OCTOBER 17-19
System Change Conference
Sioux Falls

NOVEMBER 6
Election Day

NOVEMBER 12
Veterans Day (observed)
(SDEA offices closed)



BILLIE SUTTON: THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS

As educators, we know that every decision made about our classrooms and schools is a political decision. We also know that in the coming year, South Dakotans will elect a new governor who will have a tremendous impact on those decisions. That is why it is crucial that as educators, we raise our voices and help elect the candidate who has demonstrated time and time again that providing a great education for all students, regardless of their zip code, is a priority. As SDEA President, I am pleased to announce that the SD-EPIC Steering Committee is recommending State Senator Billie Sutton to be the next governor of South Dakota.

Senator Sutton has been a tireless advocate for schools and children. He played a crucial role with the Blue-Ribbon Task Force ensuring bipartisan support for the half-penny sales tax for salary increases. Billie's willingness to reach across the aisle has led to increases in education funding that may not have happened otherwise. He is a champion of our students from early childhood through post-secondary education. Billie knows the value of all educators: teachers and education support professionals alike. Public education could not find a better advocate for our students than Billie Sutton.

What led to the decision to recommend Billie? The SD-EPIC Steering Committee invited all the announced gubernatorial candidates to sit down with our members from across the state for an interview. Billie and one other candidate,



Marty Jackley, accepted the invitation to talk about their vision for public education in South Dakota. The recommendation is based on Billie's responses during the interview and his proven record for public education.

The following are a few of Senator Sutton's responses to the SD-EPIC Questionnaire:

What is your vision for South Dakota?

My vision is a South Dakota where every child has the same or better opportunities than we had. I want to see a South Dakota economy that encourages people to want to live, work, and raise a family in our state. We must strive for an economy that gives our people the opportunity to get ahead.

What are your priorities for South Dakota?

My priorities for South Dakota will be Education, Healthcare, Government Transparency, and Economic Development. As governor, I intend to provide more resources for education, develop our workforce with further educational

2018 SD-EPIC RECOMMENDED STATE LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES

District 1

Senate Susan Wismer**
House Steven McCleery*

District 2

House Jenae Hansen

District 3

House Carl Perry
Senate Corey Heidelberger

District 4

House Fred Deutsch

District 5

House Bret Reis
Senate Lee Schoenbeck +

District 6

House Herman Otten

District 7

House Bill Adamson
House Tim Reed*
Senate VJ Smith

District 8

Senate Scott Parsley

District 9

House Michael Saba
House Deb Peters*

District 10

House Doug Barthel*
Senate Rachell Wilson

District 11

House Sheryl Johnson
House Margaret Kuipers

District 12

Senate Blake Curd*
House Jeff Haywad
House Scott Peterson

District 14

House Tom Holmes*
House Larry Zikmund*
Senate Deb Soholt*

District 15

Senate Reynold Nesiba**

District 17

House Ray Ring*
House Nancy Rassmussen*
Senate Arthur Rusch*

District 18

Senate Craig Kennedy*
House Ryan Cwach
House Jean Hunhoff*

District 19

House Kyle Schoenfish*
Senate Ardon Wek

District 20

House Ione Klinger
House James Schorzman

District 21

Senate Julie Bartling*

District 22

House Roger Chase*
House Bob Glanzer*
Senate Jim White*

District 23

House John Lake*
Senate Justin Cronin*

District 24

House Mary Duvall*
House Tim Rounds*

District 25

House Dan Ahlers*

District 26

Senate Troy Heinert*

District 26A

House Shawn Bordeaux**

District 26B

House Deb Smith

District 28A

House Oren Lesmeister**

District 30

House Karen McGregor
House Whitney Raver

District 31

House Tim Johns*
House Charles Turbiville*
Senate Bob Ewing*

District 32

House Susan Kelts
Senate Alan Solano*

District 33

House David Johnson*
House Liliias Jarding

District 34

House Michael Diedrich*
House George Nelson

+ Unopposed non incumbent

* Friendly Legislators

** Friendly Legislators without opponent thus automatically elected.

All non-incumbents who submitted questions were interviewed by local SD-EPIC Interview teams and completed the SDEA Questionnaire.

— continued from cover page

opportunities, expand access to healthcare, and fight corruption. I want to see every child have the opportunity to get a world-class education right here in South Dakota. I want more students pursuing bachelor's degrees, associate degrees, and technical diplomas. By advocating for students to pursue all kinds of education, we are creating a stronger workforce and economy for the future of South Dakota.

Students and their families are not able to wholeheartedly pursue these opportunities if they are drowning in healthcare costs or paying over half their income in housing costs. By increasing access to healthcare and affordable housing, students and families can focus on their education and future, rather than stressing about their bills.

To ensure South Dakota can invest more resources in education, we must root out and quell corruption and complacency in state

government. By cleaning up state government, we can ensure every tax dollar is being spent wisely, which will provide more funds to help students and educators succeed.

Economic and workforce development are essential priorities of mine, as well. I operate under the belief that education is workforce development and the most important factor to creating sustainable economic growth within our state. I'll work to include education initiatives in plans aimed to boost our economy.

What are your priorities for public education, pre-K through post-secondary, in South Dakota? How will you achieve these goals?

I have several priorities for public education:

- We must work to get teacher pay competitive in our region if we hope to attract and retain the best and brightest teachers.



I have supported increased teacher pay by serving on the Blue Ribbon Task-Force and subsequently voting for the recommended legislation in 2016.

- Lower tuition costs for higher education
- Prioritize more funding for scholarship opportunities
- Strengthen career and technical education in HS
- Offer tuition reimbursement for teachers looking to teach in rural communities
- I have and will continue to support early childhood education
- I also opposed bills that sought to divide our teachers and create a hierarchy of subjects, including HB 1234 back in 2012.

I will achieve these goals by reaching across the aisle to find common sense solutions to South Dakota's problems just as I have done the last 8 years in the Senate. I am a consensus builder and pride myself on my ability to find common ground with my friends on the other side of the aisle. We must start treating education as an investment, not just numbers on a piece of paper.

How do you envision supporting teacher quality in South Dakota?

Teacher quality is of the utmost importance for the success of our kids, and I believe it is something that we all care deeply about. The first step must be to get teacher pay competitive with our surrounding states, which allows the free market to do its job. Competition with our surrounding states would allow our administrators and school boards to offer wages and benefits that attract and retain our best and brightest education students.

We also need to support higher education to make sure we are molding great teachers. The next way to support higher education is to work to keep the cost of higher education affordable, so when a student graduates, they are not saddled with insurmountable debt.

Teacher quality is a result of the economy and market that we create with our funding policies. I think we have great teachers here in South Dakota, and we have tremendous opportunity to attract more great teachers to come to our state as well, but not if we continue with the status quo and do not fight for change.

Teacher prep time in schools, mentoring, and professional development are also keys to teacher quality. We must respect and trust our teachers, and support them in their development as leaders.

Would you sign legislation that targets state funds to increase wages and benefits for all education support professionals? Why or why not?

Yes. Support professionals are an integral part to the success of not only our students, but our certified teaching staff as well.

As governor, what initiatives would you create or support to ensure all students have a safe and healthy learning environment?

One issue that has recently surfaced is lunch shaming. I disagree with this practice and believe that we need a policy that does not allow this to occur. I think it opens up a broader discussion about the importance of children being ready and able to learn to the best of their abilities. Students need a number of things to be prepared for school including adequate rest, family support, a safe home environment, and adequate nutrition. No child should go hungry or be targeted because their family doesn't have the resources. I believe in the responsibility of parents to provide for their children, but lunch shaming punishes the student, not the parent, and this should never happen in our schools.

We also must ensure that students and parents feel that their kids are safe in our public schools. I will support upgrades to security systems, rigorous emergency action plans, and school resource officers for our schools. I do not support arming our teachers, as they did not go into teaching to be police officers. We continue to ask our teachers to be more than just teachers and often expect them to be parents as well. I also opposed the school sentinel bill in a past legislative session because of this belief. We all want our kids safe, so we must approach this in a pragmatic and common sense way.

Finally, I think we need to place more of a focus on mental health services in our schools. Too often, guidance counselors are tasked with everything from college readiness, to testing, to overseeing dual credit opportunities, to carving out time to implement prevention programs that involve multiple grade levels. We have to make sure our schools have the resources to provide mental health services to students who need them. It's imperative for our students' success and the health and safety of our schools and communities.

In the coming months, SD-EPIC will ask our members to raise their voices, roll up their sleeves, and talk to fellow educators, family members and neighbors about the importance of electing Billie Sutton as the next governor of South Dakota. He is what our students and schools need! You can learn more about Billie's campaign at suttonfordsd.com or join the conversation at the [South Dakota Educators for Sutton](#) Facebook page.

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President's Corner



Find SDEA's
President on Twitter

 @Mary_McCorkle

I get nostalgic this time of year when everyone is back to school. As our students return, our schools are shining from the work of custodians, buses have been tuned up over the summer, and our school secretaries have made sure everything is ready to go. For me, back to school is all about potential and possibilities, and even though I serve as SDEA President, I am a teacher first and foremost...and I miss the excitement of first day of school and I miss my students.

Thirty-eight years ago, I joined SDEA because of my students and because of your students. I wanted to join my voice with others to ensure that our students have the best education, educators, and schools—the schools that each one of them deserve. If there is one thing that I have learned over those years, it is that it takes more than my voice, your voice and all our voices—it takes our vote.

Those whom we elect establish policy and funding for our students and schools. They create an atmosphere locally and statewide as to whether or not public education is important, and whether or not those who serve in our public schools are valued and respected.

Through late spring and summer, SD EPIC—our political action organization—has been busy sending out questionnaires to ALL candidates and holding interviews for those who returned their questionnaires. The only questions asked, and the only topic considered, was education. Interview teams have made recommendations for the next Governor of South Dakota and for the 2019 SD State Legislature. This edition of the *Educators' Advocate/Voter's Guide* contains those recommendations made by our members.

The best thing that I can do for my students and for the students of SD is to vote, and to vote for candidates who support public education. The next Governor of SD will set the stage for education policy likely for the next eight years. The SD-EPIC steering committee recognized this as it was deliberating its recommendation and it is why its members recommended Senator Billie Sutton for governor. From a personal perspective, I have spent four years watching how Senator Sutton gets the work done. I have seen him effect change through the Blue-Ribbon Task Force to improve funding and teacher salaries and work to ensure that all students have access to early childhood education. I have watched him work across the aisle to help build consensus and work to do what's best for our schools.

I know how much he believes in supporting education, pre-K–higher ed. As an educator, I want our Governor to care about students as much as I do. Billie Sutton is that person.

Use your voice. We cannot be passive. Because each one of you makes a difference, use your vote to make a difference for our students. Encourage your colleagues to vote and to register to vote if they are not; encourage your friends and family to vote. Voting is democracy in action, and education is the foundation of our democracy. We must be active participants in our democracy.

May this school year be full of learning and full of joy for you and the students you serve. Thank you for everything you do to make a difference. See you at the polls!

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

How to register:

Print the Voter Registration Form, fill-out the form, sign it and then submit it to your county auditor. Your Voter Registration form, with an original signature, must be received by the auditor 15 days before any election if you wish to vote in that election. South Dakota law does not allow you to submit your voter registration form via fax or email.

You can use this form to:

Register to vote in South Dakota

Change your registration name or address

Change your party affiliation

Cancel your voter registration. You may do this by filling out the bottom portion of the voter registration form.

Download a voter registration form at:
<https://bit.ly/1yRORht>



Educators across the country have had a lot to say about what is going on in public education since 2016. Whether it was the confirmation of Betsy DeVos as the US Secretary of Education or walk outs for better pay and more resources for students, educators are stepping up and letting their voices be heard. A record number of educators will have their names on ballots, including three SDEA members in South Dakota. We asked them why they decided to run and what they hoped to accomplish if elected.



Deb Smith

*Lyman County
Education Association*

**Candidate for
District 26B House**

"I decided to run for office because I feel that SD needs a better balance in the legislature. A democracy does not function well without checks and balances, and to a large degree, the majority party in Pierre is not being held accountable. People often complain about politics, but the only way to bring about change is to become active, so my legislative bid is an attempt to perform my civic duty and strive to make the improvements that I'd like to see.

Being an educator has also been helpful because I can speak with knowledge about issues that affect our children's education. I know firsthand how difficult it is to keep new teachers in SD when surrounding states are paying higher wages. I know that budget cuts make it difficult for teachers to attain the resources they need. I'm also keenly aware how difficult it is to pay back student loans when college costs keep rising. These are just several of the issues that need addressing in the legislature, and it will take a bipartisan effort to come up with solutions."

If you would like to help Deb with her campaign contact her at Smith4House26B@gmail.com.



Ione Klinger

SDEA Retired

**District 20 House of
Representatives**

"As an educator, I kept the membership and myself involved in the legislative process in Pierre. Now it is vital we have a balance in party representation. Both

parties have good ideas and we need to work together and solve challenges facing our state. I recently retired and am ready to assist in the problem-solving effort and make our state an even better place to live.

During my career, I've had leadership opportunities in and out of the classroom. I chaired building committees, held various offices in the Mitchell Education Association and served on several negotiation teams. The skills required in these activities will assist me in the legislature."

If you would like to help Ione with her campaign contact her at KlingerforHouse@gmail.com



Bill Adamson

SDEA-Retired

**District 7 House of
Representatives**

"Two events changed my mind and convinced me that education needs another advocate in the legislature. I lobbied against HB 1199 to prohibit collective bargaining by employees

in the South Dakota Board of Regents system. I was struck by the misinformation about the higher education system and in some cases outright hostility. The loss of collective bargaining would have resulted in an increased risk of job-loss. Without compensating for the risk with higher pay, the BOR system would have had difficulty attracting professors to move to South Dakota and would result in persistent understaffing of the university system with faculty that have terminal degrees. A strong higher education system is essential for the future of South Dakota by promoting workforce development which is critical for a strong, vibrant economic growth, and high-wage job creation.

I find that having been an educator and public servant for 30-years portrays a positive image to most voters. Being an educator is associated with being a judicious and astute legislator who will treat all constituents fairly. Being an educator also has given me the insight and understanding of the importance of education in a modern, global society. Education is essential to the role of an informed electorate which is critical to the functioning of our democratic system. Education provides the basic knowledge of our constitutional form of government and democratic principles of freedom and liberty. Education developed democratic ideas and values and hence, is the soul of democracy."

To help Bill's campaign contact him at bill.adamson20@gmail.com.

Ever had a day that looks like this?



What if that day was Election Day?

Request Your Absentee Ballot Today to Make Sure Your Vote is Counted!

Every vote is important. Voting early by absentee ballot ensures that your voice will be heard no matter what life throws your way. Voting absentee is simple. You can vote early at your local county court house or you may request a ballot by mail. You can obtain an absentee ballot application from your county auditor or by visiting the Secretary of State's website at www.sdsos.gov.

How to Request an Absentee Ballot

Make sure you are registered to vote by checking the voter portal at www.sdsos.gov.

Download and print an Absentee Ballot Application and mail your original, signed application to your local county auditor.

Registered voters can vote in-person once Absentee Voting begins at their county auditor's office by bringing along a valid photo identification card (ID). If a voter does not have a photo ID, they must be given the option to sign a personal identification affidavit and vote a regular ballot.

Together, we can make sure we elect officials who will stand up for kids and public education! Request your absentee ballot today!

TEN WAYS TO ELECT PRO-PUBLIC EDUCATION CANDIDATES

If educators want to see Billie Sutton and other pro-public education candidates get elected, then we must make sure our colleagues, family and neighbors know the candidates and VOTE. Here are ten ways you can help turn out the vote in November.

1. **Ensure you and your family members are registered to vote**
2. **Talk to at least 10 family members and friends about the importance of voting for pro-public education candidates like Billie Sutton**
3. **Write a letter to the editor**
4. **Participate in a phone bank**
5. **Host a phone bank**
6. **Knock on doors**
7. **Send post cards to friends and family members**
8. **Drive someone to the polls**
9. **Volunteer to walk in a parade for a pro-public education candidate**
10. **Join the South Dakota Educators for Billie Sutton Facebook page to learn more about getting involved**

If you would like to learn more about how you can get involved on a campaign for a pro-public education candidate, contact Sandra Waltman at sandra.waltman@sdea.org.



REASONS WHY EDUCATORS SHOULD VOTE

**BILLIE SUTTON
FOR GOVERNOR**



BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE

Billie fought to increase teacher pay with the half penny sales tax. He still does not see that as competitive among regional states. He will fight to keep you here and to attract good educators.



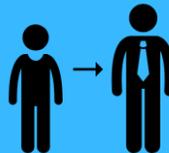
PRESCHOOL EDUCATION

Pillar of Billie's education plan is to research the need for early childhood education in the State of South Dakota. Why are we one of only a few states that doesn't provide state-funded preschool? SD is falling behind.



AFFORDABLE HIGHER ED.

Billie recognizes that higher education is way too expensive. Only two states give less in needs-based financial help than we do. Again, SD is falling behind.



CREATIVE ADULT ED.

He will encourage and foster creative education and training options like satellite classes, effective online degrees, and apprenticeship programs for non-traditional students looking to get a degree or change jobs.



KEEP GOOD TEACHERS

Billie understands the teacher shortage in South Dakota and wants to keep good teachers here for our kids. He also understand how education must be valued in order for good candidates to enter the education field.

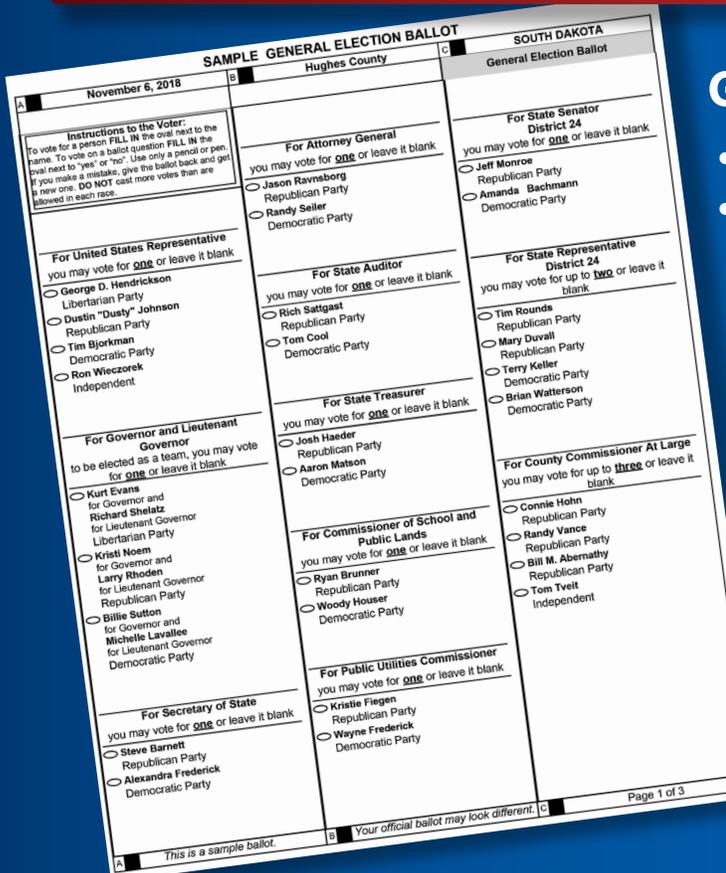


KRISTI WILL KEEP EDUCATION ON THE BACK BURNER LIKE USUAL



Paid for by SD-EPIC
 411 East Capitol Avenue
 Pierre, SD 57501

Don't Forget to Vote — TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH!



Go to sdsos.gov for:

- Sample Ballots
- Polling Locations
- Early Voting
- Election Results

