

2026 South Dakota Legislative Priorities



In 2025, AFSCME members from across the state showed up to push back specific legislation to deny or reduce union members' freedoms. AFSCME has been watching these bills that are resurfacing again in 2026. Your union supports your rights to have a voice in the workplace and protect your rights to vote.

Defense of Our Rights

In anticipation of anti-property tax efforts, anti-union and anti-collective bargaining measures, defense against negative modifications to the property tax formula for education funding, which would further negatively impact our public schools. AFSCME Council 65 remains committed to defending our most basic and unalienable rights across South Dakota and stands in support of our right to organize a union, to collectively bargain, to fund our public services and to have public schools in our communities.

Protection from Corporate Takeover

We anticipate in this session to be involved in preventive measures to protect against tax subsidies for corporations, allowable encroachment on natural resources and other negative impacts to our communities through corporate greed, particularly as they pertain to data centers proposed across our state. AFSCME Council 65 remains committed to protecting a fair tax system in South Dakota that prioritizes working families over corporations.

Defense of Our Right to Vote

Already this session, eight bills (SB28,29,30,31,32,33,34,66) curtailing voting rights have been introduced, with one (SB66) now inactive. These bills would expand challenges to current voter registration status, limit modern electronic tabulation of ballots, increase the number of required signatures on specific election-related petitions, and to limit further the accessibility of election-related petition work. We remain committed to protecting the right to vote in South Dakota.