

2026 South Dakota Legislative Update



Bills Signed Into Law

SB 46- proposed agendas for meetings of local governments must include all items to be considered by the governing body, in sufficient detail for members of the public to be able to understand what is to be considered by that body. SB 47- enacts further limitations under which local governments and public boards may enter into a closed session. SB 48- requires a minimum 72-hour notice, excluding weekends and state-recognized holidays, for the posting of a notice of public meetings and their agendas. All of these were bills we supported as a Council with a goal for greater transparency in local government and access to local government for residents.

Protecting Union Rights

On Wednesday, February 18, HB 1217, which would have served to not only outlaw paycheck dues deductions for all union members working in public education, but also would have greatly restricted union access to worksites and member information and enacted unduly burdensome requirements for the reporting of union activity to employers and interference in union business by employers, was killed on the House floor. We celebrated the defeat of this bill, which would have served to dramatically impede the rights of union members working in public education.

Our Right to Vote

Unfortunately, a bill suppressing South Dakotan's right to vote was signed into law this session; SB 175 requires additional documentation proving citizenship, in addition to current voter ID laws. This new requirement will impede voters who have already met current requirements to be eligible to vote, but may not have access to specific documents like a birth certificate now necessary to be able to vote, disenfranchising voters across the state.

There are also several live and potential ballot initiatives in SD that we are watching closely.