

2020

# MEMBERSHIP

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC ASSURANCE ALLIANCE

# ANNUAL REPORT

## **Our Purpose**

Protecting local government assets since 1987, the South Dakota Public Assurance Alliance is a Member-owned local government risk-sharing pool providing liability and property coverage and risk management services to South Dakota municipalities, counties, townships, conservation districts, and special districts.

Our mission is to provide exceptional coverage and service to our Members, ensuring stable rates and risk reduction for South Dakota's future.

## **Board of Directors**



Mike Wiese Chair Brown County



Cindy Brugman Codington County



Lisa Katzenstein Vice Chair City of Sturgis



Becky Brunsing City of Wagner



Kathy Glines Secretary/Treasurer Harding County



Michael Hall
City of Sioux Falls



Jim Borszich City of Huron



Steve Harding City of Pierre



Tracy Turbak
City of Sioux Falls



Yvonne Taylor SDML



Bob Wilcox SDACC

## **Letter from the Board Chair**

#### **Dear SDPAA Members:**

I am pleased to present this 2020 report to our Members on behalf of the SDPAA Board of Directors and Team.

We continue to work diligently to fulfill our mission to serve our Member entities, their employees and the citizens of South Dakota in innovative and effective ways that truly make a difference in these dynamic and challenging times.

Good news is that our aggregate 1-year loss ratio is one third less than our 3-year loss ratio, bad news is increases in our reinsurance costs will offset the potential savings as those partners recover from ours and similar national and international experiences. A quick review of our financials shows that we have been able to continue to provide innovative services and support to our Members while maintaining stable contribution rates and sustain a healthy fiscal position.

Among the services you should be familiar with are the collaborative efforts associated with the evolving COVID-19 pandemic and implementing the recent marijuana initiatives. In addition to the Hotline access that we provide to the best legal experts in government practices and labor law, the SDPAA is expanding our jail staff training opportunities for those Members that have that responsibility. We are also developing resources to identify and address cyber security issues that many of you have responded to and will hear more about at this Conference.

As a long-standing member of AGRiP (Association of Governmental Risk Pools,) I am happy to report that after extensive review the SDPAA has once again been granted a three-year recognition for meeting Advisory standards which places us in the top 25% of member pools nationwide. No small accomplishment.

The SDPAA Board and Team value your trust and partnership with the South Dakota Public Assurance Alliance.

Please feel free to visit our website at www.sdpaaonline.org for more information or reach out to any one of us with any questions, comments or suggestion that you may have.

Sincerely,

Mike Wiese Board Chair

## **Letter from the Executive Director**

Dear SDPAA Members,

The year 2020 created a new phrase in the public sector: "the need to prioritize the cascading crises confronting local governments." Prioritization is a daunting task while facing the worst pandemic in a century; the most civil unrest since the 1960's; the most severe and frequent natural disasters in decades, including severe wind & hail storms in the Midwest; and the most turbulent political climate in our lifetime. In these challenging times, a public entity needs far more than mere indemnification that can be provided by a private insurer. Local governments need uniquely-tailored assistance including sample policies, loss control surveys, and expert legal advice from a team of local government legal experts on practically any issue facing local governments in South Dakota. Sometimes we simply need to commiserate about our common problems with someone who shares our experiences and shares our passion for public service. Only a public entity pool can provide these resources and so much more.

These challenging times also require solid, steady, and enlightened leadership. The SDPAA Board of Directors governs all SDPAA operations and is elected from among their fellow SDPAA Members. The SDPAA Board is a robust group with almost four centuries of collective local government experience who will deftly guide the SDPAA through these crises. This past year the Board witnessed the retirement of two of its members: Mike Hall and Tracy Turbak. Each of them served the public for almost four decades--an astounding testament to their commitment to public service. Any retirements of SDPAA Board members are filled by highly qualified, eager public servants who will continue the Board's legacy of conscientiously serving SDPAA Members. At the Annual SDPAA Membership Meeting in October, SDPAA Members elected Bill O'Toole and Justin Weiland to fill those positions. Bill is the Director of Human Resources for Sioux Falls. Justin is the City Administrator for Dell Rapids. Each of them brings a passion for public service fueled by decades of experience that will effectively serve the SDPAA Board and its Members for years to come.

In these challenging times your team at the SDPAA remains committed to providing SDPAA Members with exceptional coverage, services, and return on investment.

Sincerely Yours,

\*\*David A. \*\*Efeifle\*\*

David A. Pfeifle

Executive Director

## **Member Services**

## Member-Owned, Protecting Local Government Assets since 1987

In 2020, the SDPAA and its Members faced one of the biggest challenges in Pool history. While normally we look to the skies and cringe at the wind and hail, this year was quite different. Despite the uncertainty of what the future held, our Members took comfort in knowing the services and resources afforded by participation in the SDPAA would step up to offer needed guidance and support.

Throughout 2020, the SDPAA grew to 433 Members which consist of cities, counties, conservation districts, townships and special districts. The growth continued in an extremely competitive environment. The SDPAA has been able to maintain stable rates through its financial strength and solid financial planning.

The SDPAA website continued to be a valuable resource for Members to obtain sample documents and policies, links to training information and the most current news articles prepared by SDPAA staff. The website was, and will continue to be, updated often to include the most up to date information available for our Membership. SDPAA staff continued development and implementation of an updated pool information management system which will afford our Members access to their coverage information and the opportunity to manage their asset schedules more efficiently through a Member Portal.

While our one-on-one visits were cut short due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, we maintained contact with our Members through telephone conferences and Zoom Meetings. We marveled at the ability of our Members to adapt to the temporary normal that the pandemic suddenly forced upon them.

The SDPAA continued to provide one of the broadest coverage programs available to governmental entities in South Dakota. The SDPAA's mission is to provide exceptional coverage and service to our Members ensuring stable rates and risk reduction for South Dakota's future.

We thank the Member-Owners for their long-term dedication and strong support. We will continue to enhance the Member Services Program and look forward to a productive and exciting 2021!

## **Claims Services**

## Helping Members Mitigate Damages and Risk

Dealing with claims is a fact of life. Providing our Members with professional, timely, and efficient claims services is one of our top priorities. A key component of the SDPAA's continued success is the close working relationship between Members and the claims administrator, Claims Associates, Inc.

Claims Associates handles liability and property claims for the SDPAA and its Members. Regardless of the type of claim, Claims Associates follows a claims handling policy that requires prompt contact and timely follow-up communications with all parties involved. The goal is to conduct a thorough investigation as close in time as possible to the date of loss or date notice is given while recollections are fresh and other evidence can be examined or collected. Thorough investigations allow for more detailed analysis of claims.

<u>Liability Claims</u>. Claims Associates carefully analyzes liability claims to determine the exposure to the Member and the Pool. Claims found to have merit are resolved in the most efficient and cost-effective manner, and hopefully without resorting to litigation. Claims Associates uses direct negotiation and formal mediation to resolve claims. The Pool maintains an aggressive defense posture against meritless or nuisance claims. When a claimant files suit, Claims Associates assigns defense counsel based on the type of suit, location, and Member input. Claims Associates is fortunate to work with a select group of attorneys experienced in the unique situations that confront public entities. Claims Associates works with defense counsel to expeditiously bring litigation to a successful conclusion or put us on the best footing possible should the case go to trial. The Member is a key part of that team and is consulted and updated throughout the process.

<u>Property Claims.</u> The primary goal in any property claim is to help the affected Member get back to business as usual as quickly as possible. From catastrophic storm damage to buildings to minor fender benders, the adjusters help mitigate the loss and get clean up or temporary arrangements in place. Claims Associates utilizes the latest technology and our vast experience with vehicles, heavy equipment, and buildings of all shape and purpose to assess property losses and assure prompt, fair resolution.

Regardless how any claim is resolved, the SDPAA always looks for ways to leverage any lessons learned for the benefit of all Members. Claims Associates works closely with the SDPAA Executive Director, SDPAA Board, Underwriters, Member Services, and Loss Control personnel to educate Members about changes in law or provide practical advice to help eliminate or minimize future claims.

## Loss Control Services Helping Members Prevent and Manage Risks

Countless liability exposures face local government in South Dakota. Effective risk management and loss control can reduce, and in some cases eliminate, liability. The South Dakota Public Assurance Alliance (SDPAA) contracts with Safety Benefits, Inc. (SBI) to support Members in their efforts to reduce and manage liability exposures.

In 2020 the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic impacted every aspect of the work SBI conducts on behalf of the SDPAA. Throughout the year, SBI observed recommendations made by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the South Dakota Department of Health. SBI worked closely with each Member to approach services in a manner that was most appropriate for that Member. This ranged from conducting surveys over the phone, holding training sessions online, and/or meeting in person while socially distancing and wearing masks.

SBI conducted 115 loss control surveys for SDPAA Members in 2020. These surveys result in recommendations developed to guide Members in controlling losses. In addition, all properties covered by the SDPAA are surveyed and valued by SBI. This helps ensure that properties are included on the respective Member's statement of values and that each property has sufficient coverage for replacement. Over the past year SBI conducted 81 property valuation surveys, resulting in the review of 2,055 properties.

Two hotlines sponsored by SDPAA and coordinated by SBI continue to provide Members with legal guidance. The Employment Practices Hotline provides Members with free access to attorneys specializing in employment law. In 2020 a total of 68 Members made 199 calls to this hotline. The Government Practices Hotline offers Members free guidance with civil legal issues other than employment practices. During the past year 41 Members made a total of 49 calls to this hotline.

Training programs designed to help reduce liability exposures are offered free of charge to SDPAA Members. While onsite training offerings were limited this past year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many employees were still able to take advantage of in person training events. In 2020, a total of 1,725 employees attended 69 training classes conducted by SBI on behalf of the SDPAA

Online training offered by the SDPAA was in high demand throughout 2020. These online sessions are user friendly, address a wide variety of risk management subjects, and are free of charge to SDPAA Members. Through FirstNet Learning, employees with a total of 60 Members successfully completed 3,756 online training courses. AP-Safety (formerly Aurora Pictures) provides an online training experience using streaming videos. During 2020 employees of 48 Members viewed 1,059 videos.

As in past years, SDPAA retained legal experts from the Legal Liability Risk Management Institute (LLRMI) to develop and update model policies and procedures designed specifically for South Dakota law enforcement and jails. This service also provides law enforcement agencies and their personnel with access to free online training courses dealing with liability topics for both law enforcement and jails. A total of 49 agencies completed 3,697 training courses in 2020.

Like so many events last year, the 2020 Joint Safety and Risk Management Conference was postponed. Despite there being no safety training conference, 43 SDPAA Members were given safety awards in recognition of their loss control and risk management efforts.

## **Staff and Service Providers**

## **SDPAA Staff**

David Pfeifle, Executive Director Lynn Bren, Deputy Director Kristina Peterson, Underwriter Paytra Nichols, Underwriter Jerry Krambeck, Member Services Representative Deb Corkill, Executive Assistant

South Dakota Public Assurance Alliance Main Office: 208 Island Drive, Ft. Pierre, SD 57532 Satellite Office: 5024 Bur Oak Place, Suite 103

Sioux Falls, SD 57108

Office: 800.658.3633 or 605.224.8654 (Option 2)

Web: www.sdpaaonline.org

## **Service Providers**

## **Claims Administration**

Claims Associates, Inc. Jeff Jares, President PO Box 1898 Sioux Falls, SD 57101 888.613.7064

### **Financial Audit**

Eide Bailly Ryan Donahue, CPA 4310 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. Fargo, ND 58103 701.476.8826

#### **Actuarial Services**

AON Risk Solutions Mujtaba Datoo, Actuarial Practice Leader 100 Bayview Circle, Suite 100 Newport Beach, CA 92660 949.608.6332

#### **Investment & Custodial Services**

The First National Bank in Sioux Falls, Trust Department Kyle Cipperley and Tom Benz PO Box 5186 Sioux Falls, SD 57117-5186 800.553.7073

## **Loss Control Services/Property Valuations**

Safety Benefits, Inc. Todd Everson, President 602 E. State St. Plankinton, SD 57368 888.313.0839

#### Reinsurance Broker

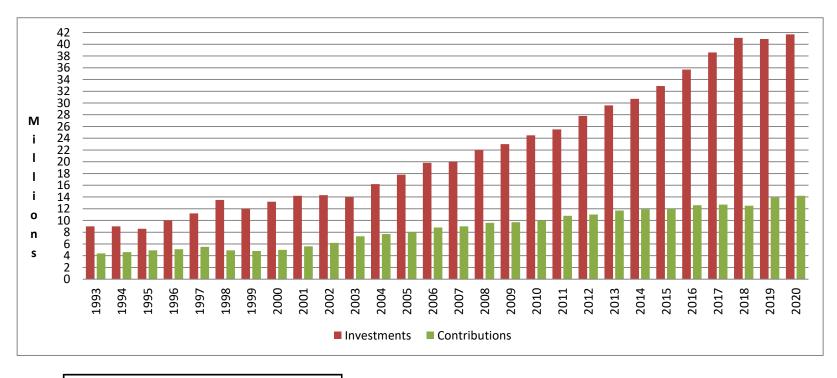
Alliant Insurance Services, Inc. Doug Wozniak, Sr. Vice President 1301 Dove Street, Suite 200 Newport Beach, CA 92660 949.756.0271

#### **General Counsel**

May, Adam, Gerdes and Thompson, LLC Rob A. Anderson PO Box 160 Pierre, SD 57501 605,224,8803

## **Membership Growth & Contributions**

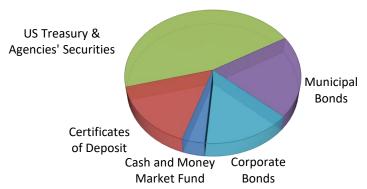
Since it began in 1987, the South Dakota Public Assurance Alliance has had steady growth in Membership and contributions. With 433 Members and over \$40 million in investments, SDPAA is one of the largest public entity-owned risk sharing pools of its kind in South Dakota.



### **SDPAA Investments**

## Investment Portfolio 12/31/2020

Cash and Money Market Fund 1,630,855 3.8% Certificates of Deposit 6,856,686 15.8% US Treasury & Agencies' Securities 45.6% 19,771,235 19.8% **Municipal Bonds** 8,596,255 15.0% **Corporate Bonds** 6,487,084 43,342,115 100%



## **Statement of Net Position**

For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

<b>ASSE</b>	TS:
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\$ 1,630,855
\$ 1,593,814
\$ 41,711,259
\$ 1,536,322
\$ 46,472,250

## **LIABILITIES AND MEMBERS' EQUITY**

## LIABILITIES:

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$ 45,182
Unearned Contributions	\$ 3,549,188
Losses and Loss Adjustment Expense Reserve	\$ 11,550,977
Total Liabilities	\$ 15,145,347
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NET POSITION	\$ 31,326,903
Total Liabilities and Members' Equity	\$ 46,472,250

# Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Change in Net Position

For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

UNDERWRITING:	
Contributions	\$ 13,387,637
Reinsurance Ceded	(3,675,645)
Total Operating Revenue	\$ 9,711,992
LOSSES:	
Losses and Loss Adjustment Expenses Incurred	\$ 8,136,212
GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES:	
Administrative Expenses	\$ 1,419,390
Operating Gain/(Loss)	\$ 156,390
NON-OPERATING INCOME AND (EXPENSE):	
Net Investment Income	\$ 1,932,179
Earned member equity, NLC Mutual Ins. Co.	36,715
Capitalization Contributions	(1,092)
Total Non-Operating Income	\$ 1,967,802
CHANGE IN NET POSITION	\$ 2,124,192

## SDPAA Membership

**Townships** Aberdeen Civil Alban Allen Andover Athol Baker Brainard Broadland Butler

LeSueur Lincoln Lowe Lyons Mathews Mellette Minnesota

Kidder

Lansing

Lee

Lawrence

Carthage Montpelier Castlewood North Detroit Choteau Creek Oneota Columbia Ordway Rauville Custer Darlington

Dayton Dixon Dumarce Dunkel

Cambria

Eden Edens Elmira Elrod

Esmond Star Valley Fairview Sumner Foxton Swan Lake Fuller Union Garden Prairie

Garland Gem

Harmon Fast & West Hartland Henry

Hickman Highland (Canton)

Highland (Wagner) Highland (Webster)

Hillside

Hoffman American Creek Jones

**Badlands** Beadle

Butte

**Bennett County Brookings County** Brown-Marshall Soil

Campbell County Charles Mix

Clark County Clay County Clearfield-Keyapaha & Hamill

Codington County Soil Corson Custer

Davison Day County Richland (Cavour) **Deuel County** Richland (Mina) **Douglas County** Rosefield East Pennington Rusk **Edmunds County** 

South Detroit Elk Creek Spirit Lake Fall River Springlake Faulk County Soil

Spring Valley **Grant County** Spring Valley - Bradley **Gregory County** Haakon County Hamlin County Hand County Hanson County Union - Howes Harding County

Wahehe **Hughes County** Ward **Hutchinson County** Warner Hyde County Wavne Jackson County Webster Jerauld County West Rondell Jones County White Butte Kingsbury Whitewood Lake County

Lawrence County Conservation Districts Lincoln

Marshall County **Aurora County** McCook County Soil McPherson County Mellette County

Minnehaha Moody County Pennington Perkins County Potter County Roberts Sanborn County

Miner

Spink Stanley County Sully County **Todd County** Tri-County Turner

South Brown

Walworth County Yankton County Ziebach County

**Special Districts** Alexandria Fire District

Belle Fourche Irrigation District

Black Hills Council of Local Governments

Boulder Park Road District #2 **Brookings Municipal Utilities** 

Brown County Mud Creek Watershed District Canyon Springs Preserve Road District Canyon Springs Sanitary and Water District

Castlewood Ambulance District Castlewood Fire District Cedar Hills Road District Centennial Hills Road District

Central Plains Water Development District Central South Dakota Enhancement District

Claire City Fire Protection District Columbia & Community Fire Association

Conde Rural Fire District Corson Village Sanitary District **Custer Ambulance District** 

Custer-Fall River Waste Management District

Dakota Dunes Community Improvement

District

East Custer Sewer and Water District

East Jones County Fire District **Edgemont Ambulance District** 

First District Assn. of Local Governments Hartford Area Industrial Park Road District

Health Pool of South Dakota Lake Cochrane Sanitary District Lake Herman Sanitary District Lake Madison Sanitary District Lake Pelican Water Project District Lead-Deadwood Sanitary District Lyons Volunteer Fire Department Meade County Rural Ambulance District

Meadow Crest Sanitary District

Metro Communications

Mountain Pines Road District

North East Box Canyon Road District North Marsh Lake Watershed District Northwest SD Regional Landfill Pickerel Lake Sanitary District Planning & Development District III

Renner Sanitary District

South Dakota Municipal League SDML Workers' Compensation Fund SD Assn of County Commissioners

**SDPAA** 

SD Public Funds Investment Trust Sioux Falls Regional Airport Authority South Eastern Council of Governments Southern Missouri Waste Management Assn.

Spearfish Rural Fire Protection District

Sunset Ranch Road District

University & Bridle Estates Sanitary District Upper Crow Creek Watershed District West Dakota Water Development District

Woodland Hills Sanitary District

## **SDPAA Membership**

Herrick

Hill City

Clear Lake

Nisland Virgil **Douglas County** Colman Hosmer Cities Columbia Hot Springs North Sioux City Volga **Edmunds County** Aberdeen Conde Howard Oacoma Wagner Fall River County Alexandria Corona Hudson **Oelrichs** Wall Faulk County Alpena Crooks Hurley Ortlev Warner **Grant County** Andover Custer Huron Parker Wasta **Gregory County** Astoria Dallas Interior Peever Watertown Hamlin County Aurora Davis Pickstown Hand County Iroquois Waubay Avon Deadwood Isabel Piedmont Webster Hanson County Badger **Dell Rapids** Java Pierpont Wessington **Harding County Baltic** Kennebec Delmont Pierre Westport **Hughes County** Batesland Doland Prairie Village Keystone White **Hutchinson County** Belle Fourche Quinn Lake Andes White River Hyde County Draper Belvidere Ree Heights Lake City Whitewood Jackson County Dupree Blunt Roscoe Lake Preston Willow Lake Eagle Butte Jerauld County Bonesteel Roslyn Edgemont Langford Wilmot Jones County Box Elder St. Francis Egan Lead Wood Kingsbury County Brandon St. Lawrence Eureka Lebanon Woonsocket Lake County **Brandt** Sherman Fairburn Lennox Worthing Lawrence County **Brant Lake** Sioux Falls Fairfax Long Lake Yale Lyman County Bridgewater Sisseton Madison Yankton Fairview Marshall County Bristol Spearfish Faulkton Marion McCook County Counties Britton Springfield Flandreau Martin McPherson County **Aurora County Brookings** Stockholm Meade County Florence McIntosh Buffalo **Beadle County** Stratford Freeman McLaughlin Mellette County Buffalo Gap Bennett County Sturgis Ft. Pierre Midland Minnehaha County Camp Crook Bon Homme County Summerset Milbank Garretson Moody County Canova **Brookings County** Summit Miller Gary Oglala Lakota County Canton **Brown County** Tea Gettysburg Mission Pennington County Carthage **Buffalo County** Timber Lake Mission Hill Roberts County Gregory Castlewood **Butte County** Tolstov Grenville Mitchell Sanborn County Cavour Charles Mix County Toronto Groton Monroe Stanley County Centerville Clark County Trent Harrisburg Montrose Sully County Central City Clay County Tripp Harrold Morristown **Todd County** Chancellor Codington County Turton Hartford Mount Vernon Tripp County Chelsea Corson County Valley Springs Murdo Walworth County Hayti Claire City **Custer County** Veblen Hecla New Effington Claremont **Davison County** Vermillion New Underwood Hermosa Clark **Dav County** 

Viborg

Vilas

**Deuel County** 

New Witten

Newell

## **Past Board Members**

## **Richard Negstad**

Brookings County Commissioner 1986 – 1989

## Ray Woodsend

City Attorney, Rapid City 1986 – 1993

#### **Carole Hillard**

Councilmember, Rapid City 1989 – 1994

#### **Jack White**

Mayor, Sioux Falls 1986 – 1994

### **Duane Anderson**

City Attorney, Sioux Falls 1986 – 1997

#### Karen Bulman

Councilmember, Rapid City 1993 – 1998

## **Gary Hanson**

Mayor, Sioux Falls 1997 – 2003

#### Stan Rietveld

Councilmember and Airport Board, Mitchell 1987 – 1998

## Ralph Mack

Codington County Commissioner/Weed Board 1989 – 1999

## **George Opitz**

Lawrence County Commissioner 1987 – 2000

#### **Manfred Szameit**

Finance Officer, Sioux Falls 1986 – 2001

## **Gary Drewes**

Mayor, Pierre 1995 – 2002

## **Judy Larson**

Black Hills Council of Local Government 1993 – 2002

## Allen Aden

Director of Public Safety, Pierre 1997 – 2008

## **Gary Colwill**

City Attorney, Sioux Falls 2004 – 2008

## Ted Eggebraaten

Retired Brookings County Highway Superintendent, Brookings 2002 – 2011

## Jerry Krambeck

Mayor, Spearfish 2002 – 2013

## Jeff Heinemeyer

Adviser, Madison 2001 – 2016

## **Terry Weisenberg**

Lawrence County Commissioner, Lead 2005 – 2016

#### **Dennis Olson**

Assistant City Administrator, Brandon 2000 – 2017

### Mic Kreutzfeldt

McCook County Highway Superintendent, Salem 2012 – 2019

## In Appreciation

The South Dakota Public Assurance Alliance takes this opportunity to publicly thank the *South Dakota Municipal League*, for its foresight in creating a liability and property pool. Without the leadership of the League, the Pool would not be in existence today.

The primary goal of both organizations is to provide quality service, stable contributions and practice good risk management. This long-standing partnership has been beneficial to the public entities of South Dakota.

#### **South Dakota Public Assurance Alliance**

David Pfeifle, Executive Director Main Office: 208 Island Drive, Ft. Pierre, SD 57532 Satellite Office: 5024 Bur Oak Place, Suite 103 Sioux Falls, SD 57108 Office: 800.658.3633 or 605.224.8654 (Option 2)

## Sponsored and Endorsed By:

South Dakota Municipal League Yvonne Taylor, Executive Director 208 Island Drive, Ft. Pierre, SD 57532 800.658.3633

## **Endorsed By:**

South Dakota Association of County Commissioners Bob Wilcox, Executive Director 211 East Prospect Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501 605.224.4554