



South Dakota Association of County Commissioners

Commission
c/o Commission Chair

Dear _____ Commission,

Thank you, all, for your service to your community as a county commissioner. We wanted to take this opportunity to update you on the activities of the South Dakota Association of County Commissioners ("SDACC") and ask for your input on future endeavors.

The SDACC has been quite busy over the past year, including, among other activities: planning and hosting workshops and the convention, district meetings, strategic planning regarding future SDACC services, representing counties on various boards and commissions, National Association of Counties ("NACo") involvement, Western Interstate Region ("WIR") involvement, the 2023 Legislative Study Committee on County Funding and Services, and advocating for counties related to the 2024 legislative session.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

One of the primary activities of the SDACC is representing counties to state government. Although we work on this activity year-round by meeting with legislators, working with state agencies and other stakeholders, sitting on various boards, the efforts are largely focused on the legislative session.

With the 2024 session this included participation during the 2023 Study Committee on County Funding and Services (the "Summer Study"). Our lobbying team assisted committee leadership with scheduling speakers, gathering information, and presenting at every committee meeting. The Summer Study was a good investment of our time as it helped educate legislators on the challenges counties face and was instrumental in achieving passage of many pieces of legislation helpful to counties. Attached please find a list of our main achievements during the 2024 legislative session.

Currently we are preparing for the Legislative Study Committee on Property Tax Assessment Methodology. Meetings are scheduled for June 17th, August 13th, September 11th, and October 9th. Committee members and other information can be found at: <https://sdlegislature.gov/Interim/Committee/482/Detail>.

We are also working to determine our 2025 legislative session and longer-term priorities for legislative advocacy. If you have an idea you would like considered, please remember the resolution process as attached.

TRAININGS & WORKSHOPS

The SDACC has hosted a variety of workshops since the end of the last convention along with attending district meetings across the state. The workshops and the annual convention are our ways to keep you aware of revisions to state law, programs available to counties, and to help develop those relationships that will help better achieve best practices. We hope you are able to join us during the upcoming SDACC Convention (agenda information will soon be available on the SDACC website (www.sdcountycommissioners.org)).

2024 South Dakota County Convention
September 17-18, 2024
Rapid City Ramkota Hotel

The convention will have a variety of sessions designed to be helpful in completing your duties, including but not limited to: legislators discussions, roundtables, and presentations by Department of Transportation, Department of Revenue, Department of Emergency Management, Department of Public Safety, Attorney General's Office, a discussion on Artificial Intelligence by DSU President Griffiths, and others. In addition, the annual convention is when the SDACC establishes its legislative priorities, elects the SDACC officers, and conducts other important SDACC business. We hope you can join us!

WEBINARS

Beginning on July 1st at 11:00 CDT, the SDACC will host monthly webinars with guest speakers and SDACC staff to discuss matters important to you. We hope you will be able to join us.

RESEARCH

During the past year, and in conjunction with each legislative session, the SDACC is busy researching county issues as we work to answer questions from counties, state agencies, and the legislature. This year, the SDACC is beginning a new service of compiling county information into a helpful book of county facts for distribution to you, legislators, and state agencies. We are currently working on the book for distribution at the annual convention but anticipate it will include information on county finances, roads, population, and other. Please contact the office if there is information you would like included.

The SDACC is also assisting the South Dakota Association of County Highway Superintendents in updating their County Highway Superintendent Manual.

Separate from this new offering, we continue to conduct occasional surveys of counties on matters of importance that arise from time to time. However, such surveys are only as good as the quality of the data obtained. So that we may be successful in our advocacy efforts we ask for continued support from your counties in responding to the surveys.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACo) PARTICIPATION

The National Association of Counties (NACo) strengthens America's counties and unites county officials by advocating county priorities in federal policymaking, promoting exemplary county policies and practices, nurturing leadership skills and expand knowledge networks, optimizing county and taxpayer resources and cost savings, and enriching the public's understanding of county government. South Dakota benefits from 100% county membership to NACo. With their help, in FY2023, South Dakota counties received \$8,050,363 in Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) dollars, and \$1.3 million in Secure Rural School (SRS) dollars. In depth county information and additional services they provide can be found on their website: <https://www.naco.org/>

CONCLUSION

As we write this, we have just concluded the 2024 primary election. Thank you for your involvement in the election process. Please also provide thanks to your auditors, poll workers, and others involved in the election process. We also thank all of the candidates at the county and legislative level. It is easy to stay home and not get involved. We applaud all those that choose to get involved.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the SDACC office if we can be of assistance.

Thank you,



Gary Drewes, Pennington County Commissioner
SDACC President

2024 Legislative Session Progress for Counties

The following is a list of some of the legislative wins for counties during the 2024 Legislative Session. The list does not, but likely should, include: those areas where we assisted in defeating bad legislation; the beneficial portions of other bills where counties were able to limit negative impacts of legislation or provide additional assistance to counties; or, areas where we spent time learning about, and educating on, other issues such as the obligation recovery center and mental health holds.

- SB 187 – An Act to make an appropriation to establish a cybersecurity services initiative for counties and municipalities and to declare an emergency.
 - Allocated \$7,000,000 to establish a cybersecurity program for counties and cities.
- HB 1057 – An Act to create the Commission on Indigent Legal Services and Office of Indigent Legal Services, to make an appropriation for reimbursing county indigent legal services, and to declare an emergency.
 - The legislation will save counties approximately \$2,100,000 annually related to the costs of legal representation for direct appeals in criminal cases, habeas corpus appeals, and abuse or neglect of a child appeal cases. The SDACC will work with legislators to hopefully expand the services of this new office into other areas of indigent legal services leading to additional savings to counties in the future.
 - In addition, this also included a one-time allocation of \$3,000,000 to counties to assist with indigent defense costs. The distribution of this funding will mirror the current process as set out in SDCL §23A-40-20 and 26-8A-19. County auditors will receive a letter from the State Treasurer's Office in July on the process and requesting certified total expenditures for courtappointed attorneys, public defender offices, and representation of abused and neglected children from the prior fiscal year. We encourage timely responses so that the funding can be distributed.
 - The Commission has commenced its work and looks to hire a Chief Public Defender this summer.
- HB 1092 – An Act to revise provisions regarding the 911 emergency surcharge.
 - This legislation increases the monthly 911 emergency surcharge from \$1.25 to \$2.00. In fiscal year 2023, the \$1.25 monthly uniform 911 emergency surcharge led to \$12,470,839 in revenue. Changing the surcharge to \$2.00 per service user line, and assuming no increase in the number of service lines, it would generate \$19,952,342 in revenue, a \$7,481,503 difference. The revenue would be allocated as follows:
 - \$13,966,639 to counties (\$5,237,051 more);
 - \$1,556,283 to eligible public safety answering points as defined in SDCL 34-45-8.7 (\$583,557 more); and
 - \$4,429,420 to the 911 coordination fund (\$1,660,894 more).
- HB 1229 – An Act to add a county as able to be assigned responsibility for secondary highways on municipal boundaries.
 - Clarifies the process for determining the responsibility for roads between counties and cities.
- HB 1039 – An Act to provide for the payment of legal expenses originating from crime committed at a facility maintained by the Department of Corrections.
 - Provides that the Department of Corrections will now be responsible for legal expenses for criminal offenses committed by an inmate under confinement in a facility operated by the Department of Corrections. The costs are uncertain and unpredictable but were estimated at \$250,000.00 annually by the impacted counties.
- HB 1077 – An Act to provide for the disbursement of the catastrophic county poor relief fund to the participating counties in the event of the discontinuance of the fund.
 - Clarified if the catastrophic county poor relief fund is terminated that the funds are returned to the participating counties.

- HB 1194 – An Act to clarify provisions pertaining to tax increment finance districts.
 - Clarifying that counties have the same authorities as municipalities related to TIFs, including the ability to recoup administrative costs.
- SB 37 – An Act to revise provisions regarding repair and maintenance of mail routes.
 - Increases the reimbursement from townships to counties from \$200 per mile to \$2,500.
- SB 112 – An Act to establish a non-resident title fee.
 - Establishes a \$100 fee for any owner who chooses to title a motor vehicle, boat, off-road vehicle, or snowmobile in South Dakota, but who does not have a South Dakota-issued driver license or identification card, or a physical address in South Dakota. One-half of the fee is deposited into the county general fund the other one-half is deposited in the state motor vehicle fund.
- SB 199 – An Act to revise provisions pertaining to the consolidation or boundary changes of counties.
 - Clarifies the process for counties to consolidate.

Additional information on the foregoing legislation will be provided at the annual convention. We hope you can join us!

County	2020 census	2023 SDACC Dues \$500 Base & .15 cents on population	.15 to .22 Cent Base 500 to 750	Dollar Change	
Aurora	2,747	\$ 912	\$ 1,354	\$ 442	
Beadle	19,149	\$ 3,372	\$ 4,963	\$ 1,591	
Bennett	3,381	\$ 1,007	\$ 1,494	\$ 487	
Bon Homme	7,003	\$ 1,550	\$ 2,291	\$ 741	
Brookings	34,375	\$ 5,656	\$ 8,313	\$ 2,657	
Brown	38,301	\$ 6,245	\$ 9,176	\$ 2,931	
Brule	5,247	\$ 1,287	\$ 1,904	\$ 617	
Buffalo	1,948	\$ 792	\$ 1,179	\$ 387	
Butte	10,243	\$ 2,036	\$ 3,003	\$ 967	
Campbell	1,377	\$ 707	\$ 1,053	\$ 346	
Charles Mix	9,373	\$ 1,906	\$ 2,812	\$ 906	
Clark	3,837	\$ 1,076	\$ 1,594	\$ 518	
Clay	14,967	\$ 2,745	\$ 4,043	\$ 1,298	
Codington	28,325	\$ 4,749	\$ 6,982	\$ 2,233	
Corson	3,902	\$ 1,085	\$ 1,608	\$ 523	
Custer	8,318	\$ 1,748	\$ 2,580	\$ 832	
Davison	19,956	\$ 3,493	\$ 5,140	\$ 1,647	
Day	5,449	\$ 1,317	\$ 1,949	\$ 632	
Deuel	4,295	\$ 1,144	\$ 1,695	\$ 551	
Dewey	5,239	\$ 1,286	\$ 1,903	\$ 617	
Douglas	2,835	\$ 925	\$ 1,374	\$ 449	
Edmunds	3,986	\$ 1,098	\$ 1,627	\$ 529	
Fall River	6,973	\$ 1,546	\$ 2,284	\$ 738	
Faulk	2,125	\$ 819	\$ 1,218	\$ 399	
Grant	7,556	\$ 1,633	\$ 2,412	\$ 779	
Gregory	3,994	\$ 1,099	\$ 1,629	\$ 530	
Haakon	1,872	\$ 781	\$ 1,162	\$ 381	
Hamlin	6,164	\$ 1,425	\$ 2,106	\$ 681	
Hand	3,145	\$ 972	\$ 1,442	\$ 470	
Hanson	3,461	\$ 1,019	\$ 1,511	\$ 492	
Harding	1,311	\$ 697	\$ 1,038	\$ 341	
Hughes	17,765	\$ 3,165	\$ 4,658	\$ 1,493	
Hutchinson	7,427	\$ 1,614	\$ 2,384	\$ 770	
Hyde	1,262	\$ 689	\$ 1,028	\$ 339	
Jackson	2,806	\$ 921	\$ 1,367	\$ 446	
Jerauld	1,663	\$ 749	\$ 1,116	\$ 367	
Jones	917	\$ 638	\$ 952	\$ 314	
Kingsbury	5,187	\$ 1,278	\$ 1,891	\$ 613	
Lake	11,059	\$ 2,159	\$ 3,183	\$ 1,024	
Lawrence	25,768	\$ 4,365	\$ 6,419	\$ 2,054	
Lincoln	65,161	\$ 10,274	\$ 15,085	\$ 4,811	
Lyman	3,718	\$ 1,058	\$ 1,568	\$ 510	
Marshall	4,306	\$ 1,146	\$ 1,697	\$ 551	
McCook	5,682	\$ 1,352	\$ 2,000	\$ 648	

McPherson	2,411	\$	862	\$	1,280	\$	418	
Meade	29,852	\$	4,978	\$	7,317	\$	2,339	
Mellette	1,918	\$	788	\$	1,172	\$	384	
Miner	2,298	\$	845	\$	1,256	\$	411	
Minnehaha	197,214	\$	30,082	\$	44,137	\$	14,055	
Moody	6,336	\$	1,450	\$	2,144	\$	694	
Oglala Lakota	13,672	\$	2,551	\$	3,758	\$	1,207	
Pennington	109,222	\$	16,883	\$	24,779	\$	7,896	
Perkins	2,835	\$	925	\$	1,374	\$	449	
Potter	2,472	\$	871	\$	1,294	\$	423	
Roberts	10,280	\$	2,042	\$	3,012	\$	970	
Sanborn	2,330	\$	850	\$	1,263	\$	413	
Spink	6,361	\$	1,454	\$	2,149	\$	695	
Stanley	2,980	\$	947	\$	1,406	\$	459	
Sully	1,446	\$	717	\$	1,068	\$	351	
Todd	9,319	\$	1,898	\$	2,800	\$	902	
Tripp	5,624	\$	1,344	\$	1,987	\$	643	
Turner	8,673	\$	1,801	\$	2,658	\$	857	
Union	16,811	\$	3,022	\$	4,448	\$	1,426	
Walworth	5,315	\$	1,297	\$	1,919	\$	622	
Yankton	23,310	\$	3,997	\$	5,878	\$	1,881	
Ziebach	2,413	\$	862	\$	1,281	\$	419	
	886,667	\$	166,001	\$	244,567	\$	78,566	