**Motivations and Objectives**

1. The mission statement:

The South Dakota Coalition of Counties is a group of like-minded county Republican Party officials across the state whose objective is to positively impact policies and elected officials in the State of South Dakota at the federal, state, and local levels consistent with the US Constitution, South Dakota Constitution, and South Dakota Republican Party Platform.

2. The vision and goals:

**County Coalition Vision**

To positively impact policies and elected officials in the State of South Dakota at the federal, state, and local levels consistent with the US Constitution, South Dakota Constitution, and South Dakota Republican Party Platform

**Goals**

Encourage elected officials to be consistent in their words and deeds with the Party Platform and principals of limited government

Communicate concerns to legislators when potential legislation does not support the Party Platform or will needlessly expand governmental overreach

Facilitate passage of legislation by the state legislature that represents the consensus of our respective county citizens, and which is consistent with the Party Platform

Inform, educate, and engage our respective county citizens in the legislative process and key issues in order to actively involve them in South Dakota Republican Party politics

3. Nature abhors a vacuum. The state Party is not doing anything about accountability by pursuing the flawed assumption that "electing any Republican over a Democrat will fix all of our problems". Zero effort has been given to holding elected Republicans accountable to standard Republican principles, the platform, and the two constitutions. This strategy is a mistake, as it blurs the boundaries between the two major parties. With Republicans in total control of the state, the Democrats have figured out how to infiltrate and destroy the state GOP from within by registering people interested in a political career and running them as Republicans. Part of the reason for the "disconnect" between so-called moderates and grassroots conservatives is that those moderates vote like Democrats, for all practical purposes. And that has alienated rank-and-file Republicans over time because all of the leadership billets in the state legislature are filled by moderates, creating apathy and outrage at some of the antics in Pierre in recent years. The sentiment frequently expressed is, "Why vote for Republicans when they vote like Democrats when they're elected? There's not a dime's worth of difference...."

4. Actions taken and planned. The coalition has pursued actions that the vast majority of Republicans in our counties support (we know that to be true because we talk to our friends and neighbors about issues all the time). In some instances, the actions are meant to provide political cover for legislators to be more vocal in support of (or against) a particular issue since the state Party has been virtually silent on the topics.

5. We also believe that the state Party should be making political statements that address the national issues of our time since we represent one of the reddest states of the nation. That means actually leading on some of those statements/resolutions since the national GOP is silent on key issues. We can’t preserve our state if the country is lost in the process.

6. Over the past two years, we have completed the following actions as a process of team-building and networking. Every single action has been consistent with Republican ideals and principles that rank-and-file South Dakota Republicans support. And you will note that we are not publicly attacking any Republicans as other supposed Republicans (current and former legislators, bloggers, etc.) frequently do. Here are some of the actions taken:

a. A resolution requiring full reinstatement of Senator Julie Frye-Mueller

b. A resolution opposing a proposed constitutional amendment concerning open primaries

c. A resolution opposing a proposed constitutional amendment that deletes the requirement to limit constitutional amendments to one subject

d. A resolution concerning CO2 pipelines in South Dakota

e. A congratulatory email to Gov Noem thanking her for vetoing HB 1193 (CBDC-related)

f. A congratulatory email to Gov Noem for her letter to the Board of Regents on 25 May

g. Individual letters to senators condemning the tabling of HB 1116

h. A number of proposed bylaws amendments to streamline and clarify statements therein

i. Coordinated efforts to defeat SB40 and other related measures

j. Detailed questionnaire on election integrity actions to Sec'y of State Johnson

k. Monthly Zoom sessions to discuss and achieve consensus on group actions

l. A resolution calling for Sen. Schoenbeck's resignation for continued violation of a joint rule on decorum and civility.

m. The 2024 Special meeting in Oacoma that was a key catalyst in turning the slogan "F Yes, No on the Rest" into a reality (the November vote went EXACTLY as our consensus straw poll vote did for each of the ballot props/measures).

n. Organization of four inactive counties: Hand, Corson, Tripp, Gregory (others in the queue)

o. Development/iteration of 16 of the 21 bylaw recommendations currently under consideration by the Bylaws committee

p. Development of five of the resolutions overwhelmingly passed at the 2024 State Convention: (1) provided “unequivocal support” to President Donald Trump, (2) condemned Democrat lawfare, (3) condemned actions of the FBI involving election interference, (3) supported the state of Israel, (4) opposed voter manipulation schemes, and (5) supported eminent domain reforms.

q. The candidate forum for the state GOP chairman race.

r. Private letters to Sen. Thune and Sen. Rounds strongly encouraging them to do everything they can to support President Trump’s change agenda and nominees.

7. Recent actions completed this election cycle included coordinated efforts to defeat RINO (Kirby) items that would blur the lines between the parties (e.g., open primaries, ranked choice voting, recreational marijuana, etc.), actions to defeat the proposed abortion amendment to the state constitution, outreach efforts to Republican-leaning activist groups for future coordination purposes, and advocating for/against legislation pending this session consistent with the above vision and goals. Regarding the latter, we hope to have a coalition rep present in Pierre for liaison purposes with the legislative leadership during the 100th session that convenes on 14 January.

8. We'd like to see a real strategy and plan from the new State Republican Party chairman (whoever that will be), including goals, specific steps, timelines, working groups, coordination/communication plans, etc. It is amazing that we went into an election year and didn't seen anything along these lines. We'd like to see some leadership from the new state Executive Board on this, but in the absence (as we have done during the past two years), we're not going to stand by and do nothing when it comes to taking steps to preserve our State and Nation.

9. What should unite us is core principles and standard Republican ideology, which the state Party has not done a good job in communicating and enforcing. For example, the platform gets updated at the convention and then tossed in a drawer and never mentioned again, for all practical purposes. Also, there should be a regular communication of strategy, goals, and objectives, which isn't happening. We are interested in electing Republicans, of course, but not those who masquerade as Republicans and then vote like Democrats. That's a continuing recipe for disaster. Accountability to the people, the platform, and bedrock Republican principles is in order – with plenty of transparency!