

South Dakota gubernatorial Candidates Survey on the Arts & Government 2018: All Candidates



NAME	PARTY	OFFICE SEEKING	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Additional comments
Kurt Evans	Libertarian	Governor	CANDIDATE CHOSE NOT TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY							
Kristi Noem	Republican	Governor	CANDIDATE PROVIDED A STATEMENT AND DID NOT COMPLETE THE SURVEY (see additional comments)							"Growing up, the arts - music, in particular - was a big part of our family's life. At one point, I think my dad even hoped we'd have a family band! Today, my sister-in-law carries the creative torch as an artist herself. That appreciation for the arts is alive in much of South Dakota and has produced incredible talent, including Oscar Howe, Terry Redlin, Dale Lamphere, Benjamin Victor and others. As a member of the U.S. House, I've looked to celebrate that creativity through the Congressional Art Competition. I was blown away by the young artists we have in our state, most of whom were supported by dedicated teachers. While athletes get to celebrate their accomplishments with regular game-time victories, there isn't always that community of celebration for our young artists. As such, it was special to recognize these students by hanging their artwork in the U.S. Capitol. As governor, I will continue to foster that kind of supportive environment for South Dakota's arts community, something only made possible because of organizations like this. Thank you for all you do to enrich South Dakota."
Billie Sutton	Democrat	Governor	Instrumental, Vocal, Film/ Media, Literary Arts	Music, Theater, Theater, Film/Media	Very Aware	Yes	I have seen the benefits of the arts in our schools, communities, and families. Music, the visual arts, writing and poetry, the performing arts and design/architecture offer so much to all of us — but especially to our youth. They give young people confidence, creativity and a sense of place. Art education is also very important to developing well-rounded students who have had the chance to explore their multiple forms of intelligence. As governor I will be an advocate for the arts in our schools.	One big example of art making a difference in South Dakota came last year when Dale Lamphere and his supporting cast unveiled the Dignity sculpture near Chamberlain. Everybody was so proud of the 50-foot tall sculpture. It draws people to Chamberlain from all over, and people from very different backgrounds find it inspiring and meaningful for lots of different reasons. Yet it also ties us all together in a way that only art can do. We have more opportunities to incorporate art into our cultural and economic development efforts in South Dakota, just like Dignity, and I will support those collaborations as governor.	I support the collaborative efforts made by the legislature, the hospitality and tourism industry, and previous governors to create a dedicated funding source for promotion of tourism and the arts. Any future changes in the current structure should be a result of working together with all parties, including the arts community.	The arts are tremendously important to all South Dakotans. They play a vital role in education, economic development, and tourism. Even more importantly, they help us all to have a greater appreciation for our unique culture and identity as South Dakotans. I believe South Dakota should support and encourage the arts in communities all across the state, and I look forward to advocating for the arts as governor.

Arts South Dakota, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, enriches the lives of South Dakotans and their visitors, by advancing the arts through service, education and advocacy.

Candidate responses are listed in alphabetical order.