



2023 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

2023 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

I. DEVELOPMENT & RECRUITMENT:

Extend and refine tax exemptions to further diversify the state's economy. We support tax policy and incentives that allow South Dakota to remain competitive in encouraging ongoing capital investment and primary job creation.

II. HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE:

Strengthen and expand South Dakota's investment in housing initiatives, projects, and programs. Support continued enhanced investment in South Dakota's infrastructure.

III. EDUCATION & WORKFORCE:

Investment in innovative workforce development and recruitment initiatives, projects, and programs by supporting continued investment in K-12, career and technical, and regental education in South Dakota focused on developing South Dakota's workforce of tomorrow. Support incentives, programs and partnerships that encourage automation, mechanization and training.

IV. QUALITY OF LIFE:

Support strengthening and expanding community development, daycare, and quality of life initiatives, projects, and programs across South Dakota.

V. COOPERATION & COORDINATION:

We support legislation and policy that provides tools and resources allowing South Dakota communities to drive economic development. We advocate for tools and resources that help existing industries innovate and spur new industries to generate new economic activity.

The Economic Development Professionals Association (EDPA) is a statewide association representing more than 90 communities, with representatives of economic development corporations, counties and municipalities, industry associations, private businesses, individuals, and state partners. EDPA members support continued investment in economic development programs so that South Dakota remains competitive with other economies, both nationally and internationally.

Economic development is the profession and practice that seeks to create economic prosperity in a community. It is accomplished through the attraction, retention, and expansion of primary businesses that create jobs and increase wealth for the community and state.



EDPA of SD LEGISLATIVE VALUES

Development and Business Recruitment

Improving the state's economic and business climate by supporting a competitive taxation and regulatory environment promotes the creation of new wealth and the diversification of South Dakota's economy. EDPA supports local decision making and flexibility regarding business financing and incentives. EDPA supports the review of the discretionary formula for reduced taxation of new structures to maintain a competitive advantage over surrounding states.

Infrastructure Development

Smart, efficient infrastructure that gives South Dakota the capacity to grow is critically important to the health and vitality of the state. EDPA supports a strong statewide transportation system, which is vital to economic development and long-range planning. The expansion of utilities to all corners of the state would provide rural communities an equal opportunity to attract and retain manufacturers. EDPA also recognizes that broadband, cell phone, and wireless data infrastructure is essential to technology growth in the state.

Housing and Community Development

The growth potential of South Dakota communities and rural areas depends on the quality of life and availability of housing. Healthy and vibrant communities are essential in attracting talent to live and work in South Dakota to enhance revitalization, diversification, and creation of new wealth. EDPA supports maintaining effective state and local programs supporting housing and community development.

Workforce Availability and Development

The ability of South Dakota businesses to maximize the potential of the state's economy will depend on their ability to attract and retain a modern workforce. EDPA recognizes the importance of connecting businesses and education through workforce training programs. EDPA supports curriculum alignment and training capacity that correlates with the state's most critical occupational needs, as well as maintaining education affordability for students. EDPA supports affordable housing and childcare programs, which are essential for workforce development. Statewide marketing efforts to attract workforce are critical.

Economic Diversification

The long-term future of South Dakota is dependent on increasing economic diversification and supporting innovation, entrepreneurship, and start-up ventures that bring new wealth to the state. Diversification could include growth in automation and mechanization in manufacturing. EDPA supports investments in applied research and commercialization focused on technology development and funding opportunities that will lead to the diversification of South Dakota's economy.