

## South Dakota Advisory Committee

These business, military, farmer, faith, and community leaders understand that South Dakota wins when America leads in the world with strategic investments in development and diplomacy, alongside defense.

### Co-Chairs

#### Jim Abbott

University of South Dakota  
Former President (1997-2018)

#### Hon. Dennis Daugaard

State of South Dakota  
Governor (2011-2019)

#### Micah Aberson

Cambria  
*President*

#### Joel Allen, Ph.D.

Dakota Wesleyan University  
*Professor of Religion and Philosophy*  
McGovern Center  
*Director*

#### Rabbi Mendel Alperowitz

Chabad Jewish Center of South Dakota  
*Rabbi*

#### Joe Beck

South Dakota Trade  
*Board Chair*

#### Ivan Beck

Agropur  
*Vice President of International Sales & Key Accounts*

#### Abby Bischoff

Stockyards Ag Experience  
*Executive Director*

#### Mike Bockorny

The 17-20 Group, LLC  
*President/CEO*

#### Pamela Bonrud

Northwestern Energy  
*Director of Government & Regulatory Affairs*

#### Ryan Budmayr

Lawrence & Schiller  
*Vice President of PR & Business Development*

#### Hon. Casey Crabtree

South Dakota Senate  
*Senator*  
Heartland Energy  
*Director of Economic Development*

#### Chris Daugaard

Ernst Capital Group  
*Partner*

#### Hon. Linda Duba

South Dakota House of Representatives  
*Representative*

#### Barry Dunn

South Dakota State University  
*President*

#### Joni Ekstrum

South Dakota Biotech  
*Executive Director*

#### Jesse Fonkert

South Dakota Trade  
*President & CEO*

#### Sheila Gestring

The University of South Dakota  
*President*

#### Jeff Griffin

Greater Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce  
*President & CEO*

#### Robert Griggs

Southeast Technical College  
*Former President*

#### Evan Grong

Valley Queen Cheese  
*Sales Manager*

#### Troy Hadrick

Hadrick Ranch  
*Managing Partner*

#### Jamie Hale

Darceo Inc.  
*Founder & CEO*

#### Dennis Harstad

Houdek  
*VP of Operations*  
South Dakota Trade  
*Board Member*

#### Hon. Stephanie Herseth-Sandlin

Augustana University  
*President*  
U.S. House of Representatives  
*Representative (2004-2011)*

#### Tim Houghton

H-S Precision  
*VP & Chief Operating Officer*

#### Brad Jankord

First Bank & Trust  
*Business Banker*

#### Alex Jensen

Henry Carlson Construction, LLC  
*Vice President*

#### Secretary Monae L. Johnson

State of South Dakota  
*Secretary of State*

#### Dr. Benjamin Jones\*

South Dakota State Historical Society  
*State Historian and Director*

#### Michelle Kakacek

SD Manufacturing and Technology Solutions  
*Director*

#### Dan Kirby

Kirby Financial  
*President*

#### Jon Kirby

Bluestem Capital  
*Vice President*

#### Shantel Krebs

Avera St. Mary's  
*Regional President & CEO*

#### Hon. Liz Larson

South Dakota Senate  
*Senator*

#### Scott Lawrence

Lawrence & Schiller  
*CEO*

#### Hon. Dan Lederman\*

LS2 Group  
*Vice President*

#### Holly Lien

Pete Lien & Sons, Inc.  
*Chief Marketing Officer*

#### Dr. Jose Marie Griffiths

Dakota State University  
*President*

#### Jack Marsh

South Dakota News Watch  
*Co-Founder (Ret.)*

#### Mike McCranie

South Dakota Soybean  
*Board of Directors*

## South Dakota Advisory Committee

**Pierce McDowell**

South Dakota Trust Company  
*Co-founder and CEO*

**Tim Meagher**

Vanguard Hospitality  
*Chief Operating Officer*

**Pastor Rich Merkouris**

King of Glory Church  
*Pastor*

**John Meyer**

Leadership South Dakota  
*Director*

**Hon. Mark Mickelson**

Mickelson & Company  
*President*

**DaNita Murray**

South Dakota Corn  
*Executive Director*

**Rock Nelson**

South Dakota Trade  
*Senior International Trade Specialist*

**Zach Neugebauer**

Book Your Billboard & Year-Round Brown  
*CEO*

**Andrew Nilges**

North Sioux City Economic Development  
Corporation  
*Executive Director*

**David Owen**

South Dakota Chamber of Commerce &  
Industry  
*President and Chief Lobbyist*

**Jeff Partridge**

Partridge Financial  
*Owner*

**Matt Paulson**

Market Beat  
*Founder & CEO*

**Kyle Peters**

A1 Development Solutions  
*Partner*

**Hon. Drew Peterson**

South Dakota House of Representatives  
*Representative*

**Tom Peterson**

South Dakota Dairy Producers  
*Executive Director*

**Brendon Plack**

National Football League  
*Senior Vice President, Public Policy and  
Government Affairs*

**Hon. Taylor Rehfeldt**

South Dakota House of Representatives  
*Representative (LD14)*

**Joel Rosenthal\***

Central Plains Tractor Parts  
*Manager*

**Stephen Rosenthal**

South Dakotans for Israel  
*Administrator*

**Jamie Rounds**

Rounds International, LLC  
*Principal*

**Taya Runyan**

RHP Management  
*CEO*

**Bob Sahr**

East-River Electric Cooperative  
*President & CEO*

**Nathan Sanderson**

South Dakota Retailers Association  
*Executive Director*

**Tiffany Sanderson**

Lake Area Technical College  
*President*

**Mary Schaeffbauer**

South Dakota Trust Association  
*Board President*

**Jim Schmidt**

Lincoln County  
*Commissioner*

**Jerry Schmitz**

South Dakota Soybean  
*Executive Director*

**Dr. Neal Schnoor**

Northern State University  
*Former President*

**Hon. Lee Schoenbeck**

South Dakota Senate  
*Former President Pro Tempore (Ret.)*

**Scott Sletten**

JDS Industries  
*President & CEO*

**Deborah Soholt**

Children's Home Society  
*Board President*  
Former State Senator

**Hollie Stalder**

Belle Fourche Economic Development  
Corporation  
*Executive Director*

**Hon. Paul TenHaken**

City of Sioux Falls  
*Mayor*

**Andrea Thompson\***

Dakota State University  
Applied Research Corporation  
*CEO*

**John Willard**

CAW Industries Inc.  
*CEO*

\* Indicates Veteran of the  
U.S. Armed Forces

As of October 7th, 2025