

# South Dakota Constitution

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The **South Dakota Constitution** is the basic governing document that establishes and describes the duties, powers, structure and function of the government of [South Dakota](#).

## Features

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The South Dakota Constitution consists of a preamble followed by 29 articles.<sup>[1]</sup>

## Preamble

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See also: [Preambles to state constitutions](#)

The preamble to the South Dakota Constitution states:

*We, the people of South Dakota, grateful to Almighty God for our civil and religious liberties, in order to form a more perfect and independent government, establish justice, insure tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and preserve to ourselves and to our posterity the blessings of liberty, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the state of South Dakota.*<sup>[1]</sup>

## [Article I: Name and Boundary](#)

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Article I of the South Dakota Constitution is entitled "Name and Boundary" and contains two sections.

## [Article II: Division of The Powers of Government](#)

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Article II of the South Dakota Constitution is entitled "Division of The Powers of Government"

## [Article III: Legislative Department](#)

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Article III of the South Dakota Constitution is entitled "Legislative Department" and contains 32 sections.

## [Article IV: Executive Department](#)

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Article IV of the South Dakota Constitution is entitled "Executive Department" and contains 13 sections, of which sections 10-13 have been superseded.

## [Article V: Judicial Department](#)

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Article V of the South Dakota Constitution is entitled "Judicial Department" and contains 39 sections, of which sections 14-39 have been superseded.

## [Article VI: Bill of Rights](#)

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Article VI of the South Dakota Constitution is entitled "Bill of Rights" and contains 27 sections.

## [Article VII: Elections and Right of Suffrage](#)

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Article VII of the South Dakota Constitution is entitled "Elections and Right of Suffrage" and contains ten sections, of which sections four through ten have been superseded.

## [Article VIII: Education and School Lands](#)

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Article VIII of the South Dakota Constitution is entitled "Education and School Lands."

## [Article IX: Local Government](#)

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Article IX of the South Dakota Constitution is entitled "Local Government."

## [Article X: Municipal Corporations](#)

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Article X of the South Dakota Constitution is entitled "Municipal Corporations."

## [Article XI: Revenue and Finance](#)

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Article XI of the South Dakota Constitution is entitled "Revenue and Finance'."

## [Article XII: Public Accounts and Expenditures](#)

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Article XII of the South Dakota Constitution is entitled "Public Accounts and Expenditures."

## [Article XIII:Public Indebtedness](#)

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Article XIII of the South Dakota Constitution is entitled "Public Indebtedness."

## [Article XIV: State Institutions](#)

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Article XIV of the South Dakota Constitution is entitled "State Institutions."

## [Article XV: Militia](#)

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Article XV of the South Dakota Constitution is entitled "Militia."

## [Article XVI:Impeachment and Removal From office](#)

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Article XVI of the South Dakota Constitution is entitled "Impeachment and Removal From office."

## [Article XVII: Corporations](#)

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Article XVII of the South Dakota Constitution is entitled "Corporations."

## [Article XVIII: Banking and Currency](#)

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Article XVIII of the South Dakota Constitution is entitled "Banking and Currency."

## [Article XIX: Congressional and Legislative Apportionment](#)

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Article XIX of the South Dakota Constitution is entitled "Congressional and Legislative Apportionment."

## [Article XX: Seat of Government](#)

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Article XX of the South Dakota Constitution is entitled "Seat of Government."

### [Article XXI: Miscellaneous](#)

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Article XXI of the South Dakota Constitution is entitled "Miscellaneous."

### [Article XXII: Compact with the United States](#)

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Article XXII of the South Dakota Constitution is entitled "Compact with the United States."

### [Article XXIII: Amendments and Revisions of the Constitution](#)

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Article XXIII of the South Dakota Constitution is entitled "Amendments and Revisions of the Constitution."

### [Article XXIV: Prohibition](#)

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Article XXIV of the South Dakota Constitution is entitled "Prohibition."

### [Article XXV: Minority Representation](#)

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Article XXV of the South Dakota Constitution is entitled "Minority Representation."

### [Article XXVI: Schedule and Ordinance](#)

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Article XXVI of the South Dakota Constitution is entitled "Schedule and Ordinance."

### [Article XXVII: State Control of Manufacture and Sale of Liquor](#)

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Article XXVII of the South Dakota Constitution is entitled "State Control of Manufacture and Sale of Liquor."

### [Article XXVIII: County Investment of Permanent School and Endowment Funds](#)

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Article XXVIII of the South Dakota Constitution is entitled "County Investment of Permanent School and Endowment Funds."

### [Article XXIX: State Elevators, Warehouses, Flouring Mills, and Packing Houses](#)

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Article XXIX of the South Dakota Constitution is entitled "State Elevators, Warehouses, Flouring Mills, and Packing Houses."

## Amending state constitutions

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See also: [Article XXIII, South Dakota Constitution](#) and [Amending state constitutions](#)

Amendments to the **South Dakota Constitution** may be proposed in three different ways:

- [Initiated constitutional amendments](#). South Dakota is one of [18 states](#) where amendments can be proposed through [ballot initiative](#). Amendments proposed by petition must be "signed by qualified voters equal in number to at least ten percent of the total votes cast for Governor in the last gubernatorial election."
- [Legislatively-referred constitutional amendments](#). The [South Dakota State Legislature](#) can refer a proposed amendment to the state's voters through a majority vote.

Whether proposed by initiative or by the state legislature, an amendment may amend one or more articles and related subject matter in other articles as necessary to accomplish the objectives of the amendment.<sup>[1]</sup>

South Dakotans can also change their constitution through a convention, according to [Section 2 of Article XXIII](#). There are two ways a convention can happen:

- The state legislature can call a convention through a 75% vote "of all the members of each house." (This vote of the state legislature does not need to then go to a vote of the people; they can directly call a convention with 75% of their membership.)
- Conventions can also be "initiated and submitted to the voters in the same manner as an amendment" by collecting signatures on petitions and putting the question about whether to have a convention to a vote of the state's electors.