

South Dakota

Voters in South Dakota will elect a Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, and state legislators in the 2018 election cycle. All 70 seats are up in the House and all 35 seats are up in the State Senate. Republicans have a trifecta the state and should maintain control of the legislature.

Governor

Democratic Nominee

[State Senator Billie Sutton](#)

State Senator Billie Sutton has represented Districts 26 and 21 since 2010. Sutton is a centrist Democrat and a fifth-generation South Dakotan. Before his political career, Sutton had a successful rodeo career, until an accident occurred in competition leaving him paralyzed.

Sutton, if elected, plans to conduct a study of the needs for early childhood education then will look for ways to re-prioritize spending to fund Pre-K. He is in favor of raising teachers' salaries and tuition reimbursement programs. He wants to develop apprenticeship programs and public-private partnerships between industries and tech schools.

Sutton strongly supports Medicaid expansion. A pro-life Democrat, he supports better access to contraceptives and family planning services.

Sutton supports establishing energy efficiency grants for communities and nonprofits. He vows to fuel state vehicles with E-30 and is in favor of labeling South Dakota made products.

He favors strengthening the state's ethics laws including placing more restrictions on gifts and limiting PAC contributions. He supports more detailed and frequent lobbying disclosures that are regularly audited and made accessible to the public.

While on the campaign trail, Sutton has stuck to a moderate message and often quips about how party labels. He has chosen a Republican as his Lt. Governor running mate and will need thousands, perhaps tens of thousands, reliably Republican voters to cross the aisle in November to have a chance at victory.

***Trivia:** His home town of Burke (pop. Approximately 600) raised the money used to purchase a modified pick-up truck for Billie after his accident.*