



OČETI ŠAKOWIN
Caucus of South Dakota

FEBRUARY 2022

Oceti Sakowin Caucus Monthly Update



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Očeti Šakōwin Caucus leadership and newly announced Democratic Governor candidate Rep. Jamie Smith in Pierre. Rep. Smith says he will work with all nine tribes to create a common ground while respecting sovereignty.

THE OČETI ŠAKÓWIN CAUCUS

Anpetu Waste! Welcome Relatives!

Our caucus is Chaired by Rep. Peri Pourier (Oglala) and Kellen Returns From Scout (Hunkpapa/Oglala) as Vice-Chair. The caucus consists of members representing all tribes of South Dakota. Membership is open to any individual who is a citizen or a descendant of an American Indian, Alaska Native or Hawaiian tribe, nation or community, or those who support all purposes of the caucus. Our main objective is to encourage new voter participation in our tribal communities. And we work to recruit, support, and ultimately elect - Native American Democrats running for public office.



Legislative Session 2022

Message from Vice Chair

Kellen Returns From Scout Hunkpapa/Oglala



I hope everyone throughout our state has been in good health and spirits since we chatted here last. 2022 has picked up right where it left off in 2021, and there seems to be an endless stream of "politico" to pick and choose from, so maybe I will start there. I understood many moons ago about the ever-changing world of political engagement that is politics - *You are either damned if you do or damned if you don't!* Anyone who knows me can attest that I would instead "do" and come up short than "don't" and never know if I could.

Throughout January and February, our caucus has been focused on several bills in the legislature, candidate recruitment, and planning events aimed at educating our tribal relatives about the candidates and issues that will be on the ballot this year. We can provide answers to frequently asked questions and provide information on new legislative districts, how to check on your voter registration, and how you can help get your family members and community involved.

The deadline for any person seeking to run for public office is approaching fast. March 31st is the deadline to return petitions for statewide, legislative, and local races. (Check with your county auditor's office or at sddp.org for more information.) The caucus plans to hold virtual and in-person discussions with people interested in running for office and assist with campaign information and technical support.

The caucus is highly excited about the candidates who have stepped up this far in the recruitment process. The voices of many in our state are relying upon our ability as a caucus and party to step forward in any way we can to help ensure that our votes and voices are counted and heard. Our party presence in our legislature may be small. Still, those legislators' role in many instances is the only advocate that 45-50% or higher of our state population has on any given issue. Without that minority presence - we have no way to voice opposition when the majority sabotages common sense or widely shared viewpoints that transcend party lines.

In closing, we encourage everyone to become involved, stay involved, and participate. Our local, state, and national government can not function effectively and efficiently without the participation of the citizenry that it governs. Don't worry about being *Damned if you do, or Damned if you don't* - we are simply asking that you *Give a Damn!*

Pilamayelo,

*Kellen Returns From Scout
Vice-Chair, Oceti Sakowin Caucus*



Candidate Recruitment

If you make the decision to represent your family/community, you are making your ancestors and future generations proud. When running for office you are embarking on a journey of learning new ways to engage with your community while opening doors and pathways.

Keep in mind your health, family and employment.

You are already a leader by making the decision to run for office.



OČĚTI ŠAKÓWIN
VOTES

WE NEED YOU!

- ✓ YOUR VOICE MATTERS
- ✓ RUN FOR OFFICE
- ✓ THE TIME IS NOW

For more info contact cante@sddp.org

2022 Timeline

- January 1, 2022 - Candidates may file with the Secretary of State's office and begin circulating petitions.
- Statement of Organization due 15 days after becoming a candidate.
- March 28, 2022 - Petition Filing Deadline
- Democrats need to collect up to 50 signatures. Signers must be registered Democrats who live in your district.
- May 23, 2022 - Pre-Primary Campaign Finance report if you have a primary.
- June 7, 2022 - Primary Election
- August 2, 2022 - Deadline to withdraw from the General Election
- October 24, 2022 - Pre-General Campaign Finance Report Due
- November 8, 2022 - General Election

Saturday, March 5, 2022

Statewide Day of Action

On Saturday, March 5 we are going to be hosting a statewide "Day of Action" to collect signatures! We're asking volunteers to knock doors for a few hours in their community to get Democrats to sign the petitions to get Jamie Smith, Brian Bengs, and legislative candidates on the ballot.

If you are interested in leading a Day of Action in your community, please send us an email. To find the event closest to you, log on to mobilize.us/sddp

Upcoming SDDP Trainings!

We have a new platform to sign up for events and trainings! You can find them at mobilize.us/sddp

[SIGN UP](#)

BILL UPDATE

Brandee Bolman,
*Cheyenne River & Lower Brule
Native Outreach Intern*



SB 112 - Sponsor Sen.Heinert to move the Office of Indian Education back to the Department of Education. Voted down by the Senate Ed Committee. Sen. Heinert stated, "I am truly disappointed in this outcome. We need to address the pitfalls produced by having the Office of Indian Education and the Department of Education separate, as there are inefficiencies that were exposed by Tribal educators during committee testimony. The Office of Indian Education deserves better."

SB 47 - Sponsor Sen.Heinert to authorize the construction and operation of a nursing facility on the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe passed in the Senate on Feb 7, 2022 with only one opposed, Senator Bolin. The bill passed through the House Committee on Approps.

SB 139 - Sponsor Sen.Heinert to provide for the creation and funding of Oceti Sakowin community-based schools passed in the Senate on Feb 9, 2022 with 13 opposed. **Will be heard in the House Education Committee on Monday, Feb.28th.**

"As many of you may know, I have introduced similar legislation in the past three years to combat the lack of Indigenous acceptance and teachings in our public schools; something I find damning to the success of Indigenous students. This bill is paramount, as these students often face lower graduation rates than their counterparts. Our education system needs to support different models of education for Indigenous students; this bill will fix that." - Senator Heinert

HB 1185 - Prime sponsor Rep. Bordeaux, Duba, Keintz, Mulally, and Perry and Senators Foster, Heinert, Rusch, Smith (VJ), and Steinhauer that will permit the wearing of a beaded graduation cap at a school honoring or graduation ceremony. Passed in the House on Feb 8, 2022 with 14 opposed. The bill passed in the Senate on Feb 16, 2022 with complete support and was signed by the Speaker on Feb 17,2022.

SB 161 - Prime sponsor Foster and Rep. Smith would make an appropriation for matching funds to enhance research in manufacturing processes having lunar application and planetary use in tribal housing development. This bill would provide housing opportunities, as well as bring an interest in Science and Mathematics to marginalized communities and youth. It would work with Sinte Gleska University and South Dakota School of Mines to bring a piece of equipment designed by NASA to test building 3-D printed homes that would later be designed to house colonies on Mars/Moon. The bill passed in the Senate on Feb 23, 2022 with only one opposed, Senator Frye-Mueller.

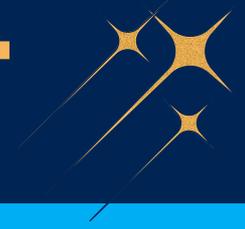
House Resolution 6001 - Sponsor Rep. Drury (prime), would state that the star quilt be recognized as the official quilt of the State of South Dakota. The resolution was adopted by the House of Representatives on Feb 10, 2022 with only two opposed, Rep.Weis and Gosch, and the Senate passed the resolution on Feb 15, 2022 with complete support. The resolution was signed on Feb 18, 2022.

A bill to keep paying attention to?

HB 1012 - a bill requested by the Office of the Governor that is said to protect students and employees at institutions of higher education from divisive concepts. It is an anti-CRT bill.



FEBRUARY SPOTLIGHT



Keely Bordeaux

**Sicangu/Oglala/Santee
House of Representatives
Legislative Page Program**

My name is Keely Bordeaux and I am a senior at Todd County High School in Mission, SD. I am enrolled in the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, but my heritage included Oglala Sioux and Santee Sioux. I am a member of the National Honor Society and a member of the regional band for 7 years. I am an artist and was selected to participate in the Oscar Howe Art Institute this past summer. I enjoy animals and volunteer at our local veterinary clinic.

Each legislative session, high school students from across South Dakota have an opportunity for a firsthand look at the legislative process by serving as pages for the South Dakota Legislature. Pages are appointed to serve in the House of Representatives or the Senate for seven to 10 days during one of the five term periods.

Contact the Legislative Research Council 605-773-3251 or
Legislative Page Advisor at 605-773-5257.
PageProgram@sdlegislature.gov

*"Since becoming US citizens in 1924,
American Indians have faced continued attempts to deny our
participation including our right to vote. Our fight continues today
and I appreciate those who are working on protecting our right to
participate and make decisions in the process."*



A. GAY KINGMAN

Executive Director of Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association

OČĚTI ŠAKÓWIŇ VOTES

2022 SOUTH DAKOTA ELECTION DATES

**APRIL 22, 2022
ABSENTEE VOTING BEGINS**

**MAY 23, 2022
VOTER REGISTRATION
DEADLINE**

**JUNE 7, 2022
PRIMARY ELECTION**

**SEPTEMBER 23, 2022 ABSENTEE
VOTING BEGINS**

**OCTOBER 24, 2022
VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE**

**NOVEMBER 8, 2022
GENERAL ELECTION**

Are you registered to vote in South Dakota?

To register to vote in South Dakota, you must:

- Be a United States citizen
- Reside in South Dakota (residency defined)
- Be at least 18 years old on or before the next election
- Not currently serving a sentence for a felony conviction which included imprisonment, served or suspended, in an adult penitentiary system
- Not be judged mentally incompetent by a court of law

SD Secretary of State Website:

sdsos.gov

Voter Information Portal:

vip.sdsos.gov/VIPLLogin.aspx



OCETI ŠAKOWIŇ
Caucus of South Dakota

@SDNativeCaucus

[Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/sdnativecaucus) [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/sdnativecaucus) [Twitter](https://twitter.com/sdnativecaucus)

✉ info@sddp.org

We appreciate your
continued support!

Please consider
donating to the
Očeti Sakowin Caucus,
to help our efforts.
Pilamayaye!

secure.actblue.com/donate/ocetisakowin

REP. PERI POURIER

Očeti Šakowin Caucus Chair
(605) 877-1238

KELLEN RETURNS FROM SCOUT

Očeti Šakowin Caucus Vice Chair
(605) 431-9893

CANTE HEART

SDDP Native Outreach Director
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