

# South Dakota Right to Life *Primary Edition* Voter Guide

South Dakota will be having its GOP and Democratic primaries on Tuesday, June 5. Due to the sizeable number of match ups between candidates with varying pro-life records and views, SDRTL is distributing a voter guide in an attempt to cut through some of the campaign rhetoric. If your race is not listed on the first three pages, flip back to the last section to see why. In general, candidates to the right in the Senate races and toward the top in the House races are more likely to be a stronger pro-life voice in Pierre. Remember, voting records always trump rhetoric and that candidates can be intentionally ambiguous about their intentions. Don't forget to turn out to vote for LIFE on June 5<sup>th</sup>!



### Sen. Deb Peters (R-I)

- received a D rating from SDRTL for her 2011-2012 legislative voting record
- in 2007 and 2008 voted against requiring abortion facilities to offer sonograms (HB 1193, HB 1296, and SB 88)
- in 2010 received a total of \$11,500+ from leftwing PACS

District 9 Senate



### Rep. Lora Hubbel (R)

- received an A rating from SDRTL for her 2011-2012 legislative voting record
- “I have seen abortion change the heart of a once loving girl into that of a scared, wounded animal that lashed out at attempts to help her...abortion similarly wounds America.”



### Sen. Mark Johnston (R-I)

- received a C rating from SDRTL for his 2011-2012 legislative voting record
- in 2011 voted against protecting women from the coercive practices of abortion facilities (HB 1217)
- would not sign a pledge to repeal Obamacare

District 12 Senate



### Scott Bartlett (R)

- believes that “there is nothing more sacred than life itself”
- opposes abortion at any phase of a pregnancy
- believes that we should do whatever can be done to preserve life no matter what the age of the person happens to be



### Deb Soholt (R)

- will not comment on views
- first read: It is worrisome to have a candidate not give any indication about her views on life issues when her opponent is very open about the subject.
- even more troubling is her endorsement from pro-abortion Sen. Joni Cutler

District 14 Senate



### David Rose (R)

- “How can ending a life, young or old be good for South Dakota? Ending a human life is reprehensible even when legal. I remember how we once respected life, but now we are more selfish. We have to go back to thinking that life is important and special.”



### Sen. Mike Vehle (R-I)

- received an F rating from SDRTL for his 2011-2012 legislative voting record
- in 2009 and 2010, voted for embryonic stem cell research (SB 195 and SB 74)
- in 2009, voted to require insurance companies to cover abortifacients (SB 134)

District 20 Senate



### Steve ‘Sibby’ Sibson (R)

- currently, the treasurer for Mitchell Area Right to Life
- states “It was during a 2004 committee hearing on abortion that I became solidly pro-life. After hearing both sides, I came to the conclusion that abortion was wrong for moral, legal, and health reasons.”



**Sen. Tad Perry (R-I)**

- received a D rating from SDRTL for his 2011-2012 legislative voting record
- in 2011 voted against informed consent (HB 1217)
- in 2012 voted against prohibiting exchanges from including abortion coverage in health plans (HB 1185)

**District 24 Senate**



**Jeff Monroe (R)**

- in 2001 voted for a Baby Moses Law for abandoned children
- in 2000 voted to ban non-therapeutic research involving embryonic stem cells
- in 1998 voted to protect pro-life pharmacists from dispensing abortifacients



**George Ferebee (R)**

- supports a 72-hour waiting period for abortions insuring that women are not being coerced or forced into having abortions
- signed a pledge to support the repeal of Obamacare
- 100% conservative rating from Life & Liberty Group

**District 30 Senate**



**Sen. Bruce Rampelberg (R-I)**

- received an A rating from SDRTL for his 2011-2012 legislative voting record
- in 2011 and 2012 voted to protect women from the coercive practices of abortion facilities (HB 1217 and HB 1254)



**Sen. Tom Nelson (R-I)**

- received an F rating from SDRTL for his 2011-2012 legislative voting record
- in 2009 and 2010, voted for embryonic stem cell research (SB 195 and SB 74)
- in 2009, voted to require insurance companies to cover abortifacients (SB 134)

**District 31 Senate**



**Bob Ewing (R)**

- opposes abortion while supporting adoption options
- states: "Since an unborn child cannot make decisions for itself, society is responsible for its protection. Only God can make decisions on life, we do not have that authority when it comes to abortion."



**Michael Buckingham (R)**

- in 2007 and 2008 voted to require abortion facilities to offer sonograms (HB 1193, HB 1296, and SB 88)
- in 2007 voted to ban abortion as a form of birth control (HB 1293)
- in 2006 voted to reinstate South Dakota's abortion ban

**District 33 Senate**



**Sen. Phil Jensen (R-I)**

- received an A rating from SDRTL for his 2011-2012 legislative voting record
- exposed the hypocrisy of abortion providers with a hog housed version of HB 1150 in committee in 2012 that flipped the regulatory bill back onto Planned Parenthood



**Sen. Craig Tieszen (R-I)**

- received an F rating from SDRTL for his 2011-2012 legislative voting record
- in 2011 and 2012 voted against informed consent (HB 1217 and HB 1254)
- in 2009 and 2010, voted for embryonic stem cell research (SB 195 and SB 74)

**District 34 Senate**



**Stacey Wollman (R)**

- CEO of Care Net Pregnancy Care Center since 2004
- believes in "protecting the sanctity of life from conception to natural death"
- opposes embryonic stem cell research
- enjoined efforts to defend informed consent bills

District 6 House	<p><u>Jason Long (R)</u> •states that “I am a strong pro-life supporter and will sponsor pro-life legislation, as well”</p> <p><u>Isaac Latterell (R)</u> •states that he will “protect the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death” and that he will “reject Obamacare” with all of its federal mandates</p> <p><u>Herman Otten (R)</u> •no Obamacare pledge</p> <p><u>June Nusz (R)</u> •states: “my Christian beliefs have taught me that every life is sacred.”</p>	District 10 House	<p><u>Rep. Jenna Hagggar (R-I)</u> •received an A rating from SDRTL for her 2011-2012 legislative voting record</p> <p><u>Don Hagggar (R)</u> •states “I am not shy to admit that our religious beliefs are fundamental to how we view the world, and I believe all life is precious.”</p> <p><u>Dave Munson (R)</u> •in 2000 voted to ban non-therapeutic research involving embryonic stem cells</p>
District 11 House	<p><u>Rep. Mark Willadsen (R-I)</u> •received an A rating from SDRTL for his 2011-2012 legislative voting record</p> <p><u>Jim Stalzer (R)</u> •believes “in the sanctity of life from conception to natural death”</p> <p><u>Christine Erickson (R)</u> •states that she is “pro-life”</p> <p><u>Chris Karr (R)</u> •will not sign a pledge to support the repeal of Obamacare or support a 72-hour waiting period for abortions</p>	District 13 House	<p><u>G. Mark Mickelson (R)</u> •states “I am pro-life. I believe that life begins at conception. Every human life has dignity, and we need to protect the most vulnerable in our society.”</p> <p><u>Steve Westra (R)</u> •states “As a father every life is sacred, and as a society we need to do everything we can to protect human life.”</p> <p><u>Frank Alvine (R)</u> •states “As a physician, father of three, and grandfather of nine, I certainly consider myself to be pro-life.”</p>
District 14 House	<p><u>Rep. R. Shawn Tornow (R-I)</u> •received an A rating from SDRTL for his 2011-2012 legislative voting record</p> <p><u>Anne Hajek (R)</u> •states that she is “very much pro-life.”</p> <p><u>Larry Zikmund (R)</u> •states “The unborn and elderly are among society’s most vulnerable. As your Legislator I will support policies that protect both groups.”</p>	District 15 House	<p><u>Rep. Patrick Kirschman (D-I)</u> •received an A rating from SDRTL for his 2011-2012 legislative voting record</p> <p>•in 2011 and 2012 voted to protect women from the coercive practices of abortion facilities (HB 1217 and HB 1254)</p> <p><u>Karen Soli (D)</u> •will not comment</p> <p><u>Mitch Fargen (D-I)</u> •received an F rating from SDRTL for his 2011-2012 legislative voting record</p>
District 16 House	<p><u>Rep. Jim Bolin (R-I)</u> •received an A rating from SDRTL for his 2011-2012 voting record</p> <p><u>Rep. Patty Miller (R-I)</u> •received an A rating from SDRTL for her 2011-2012 voting record</p> <p><u>Kevin Jensen (R)</u> •states “life begins at conception. FACT: Whether you believe a fetus is a person or not, abortion terminates the natural progression of a human life.”</p> <p><u>Don Lantis (R)</u> •states that he “supports adoption option over abortion”</p>	District 18 House	<p><u>Thomas Bixler (R)</u> •states that he is a “strict defender of pro-life and does not support abortion in any form”</p> <p><u>Matt Stone (R)</u> •states he is “pro-life, human life is precious and should be protected”</p> <p><u>Thomas Stotz (R)</u> •states that “It is my position that life begins at conception. As a natural health care provider, I believe that it should be respected in all its stages.”</p> <p><u>Mike Stevens (R)</u> •no Obamacare pledge</p>
District 19 House	<p><u>Rep. Stace Nelson (R-I)</u> •received an A rating from SDRTL for his 2011-2012 voting record</p> <p><u>Rep. J. E. “Jim” Putnam (R-I)</u> •received an A rating from SDRTL for his 2011-2012 legislative voting record</p> <p><u>Kyle Schoenfish (R)</u> •states “I support the sanctity of human life. I am pro-life; I oppose abortion, human cloning, euthanasia, and assisted suicide.”</p> <p><u>Roger Hofer (R)</u> •“I am strongly pro-life.”</p>	District 22 House	<p><u>Jay Slater (R)</u> •no official comment</p> <p><u>Dick Werner (R)</u> •states “I am pro-life.”</p> <p><u>David McGirr (R)</u> •will not comment</p> <p>First read: McGirr may or may not be pro-life. He is certainly not very informed about the issue. Werner is vaguely pro-life. Slater seemed the most enthusiastic of the three in pro-life views. This is a hard race to call, but I put them marginally in this order. More participation was needed on their part.</p>

<b>District 22 House</b>	<p><b>Dale Hargens (D)</b> -in 2006 voted to reinstate South Dakota's abortion ban and voted for abortion facility inspections (SB 185)</p> <p><b>Doug Kazmerzak (D)</b> -in 2000 voted to ban non-therapeutic research involving embryonic stem cells</p> <p><b>Rep. Peggy Gibson (D-I)</b> -received an F rating from SDRTL for her 2011-2012 legislative voting record and managed to score the lowest House pro-life ranking for 2011-2012</p>	<b>District 24 House</b>
<b>District 29 House</b>	<p><b>Rep. Dean Wink (R-I)</b> -received an A rating from SDRTL for his 2011-2012 voting record</p> <p><b>David Eatherton (R)</b> -believes that "life begins at conception and abortion should not be used as birth control" and supports a 72-hour waiting period for abortions while pledging to support a repeal of Obamacare</p> <p><b>Gary Cammack (R)</b> -will not sign a pledge to support a repeal of Obamacare or support a 72-hour waiting period for abortions</p>	<b>District 30 House</b>
<b>District 31 House</b>	<p><b>Gary Coe (R)</b> -states that he is "Pro-life with no exception. Science supports the Bible in that life begins at conception."</p> <p><b>John Teupel (R)</b> -supports a 72-hour waiting period for abortions insuring that women are not coerced or forced</p> <p><b>Rep. Fred Romkema (R-I)</b> -received a B rating from SDRTL for his 2011-2012 voting record</p> <p><b>Timothy Johns (R)</b> -will not sign a pledge to support the repeal of Obamacare</p>	<b>District 32 House</b>
<b>District 35 House</b>	<p><b>Don Kopp (R-I)</b> -received an A rating from SDRTL for his 2011-2012 voting record</p> <p><b>Blaine "Chip" Campbell (R)</b> -states: "'We the People' love good and wise choices. 'Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness' are three of the finest."</p> <p><b>Jack Siebold (R)</b> -supports a 72-hour waiting period for abortions insuring that women are not coerced or forced and signed a pledge to support the repeal of Obamacare</p>	<b>District 26A House</b>

**Rep. Mark Venner (R-I)** -received an A rating from SDRTL for his 2011-2012 legislative voting record

**Tim Rounds (R)** -in 2007 and 2008 voted to require abortion facilities to offer sonograms (HB 1193, HB 1296, and SB 88)

**Mary Duvall (R)** -will not sign a pledge to support a repeal of Obamacare or support a 72-hour waiting period for abortions insuring that women are not being coerced or forced

**Rep. Lance Russell (R-I)** -received an A rating from SDRTL for his 2011-2012 voting record

**Rep. Mike Verchio (R-I)** -received an A rating from SDRTL for his 2011-2012 voting record

**Florence Thompson (R)** -states "If elected, I pledge to vote to support pro-life legislation."

**Travis Bies (R)** -will not sign a pledge to support the repeal of Obamacare

**Tim Behlings (R)** -will not sign a pledge to support the repeal of Obamacare

**Rep. Kristin Conzet (R-I)** -received an A rating from SDRTL for her 2011-12 voting record

**Rep. Brian Gosch (R-I)** -received an A rating from SDRTL for his 2011-2012 voting record

**Jeanette Deurloo (R)** -states "I support the concept that all humans, the unborn and the elderly, have an inherent right to life. From conception to death, each human being has a purpose, a destiny. I would not want to deny that right."

**Whitney Meek (D)** -no comment

**Troy Heinert (D)** -no comment

**Calvin Jones (D)** -no contact

**Trent Poignee Sr. (D)** -no contact

First read: Have fun trying to contact any of these candidates. Meek was the only one who bothered to pick up a phone. Messages only die in Heinert's answering machine, and one may have to actually drive out to the Jones or Poignee house to get a word in.

**Other Races: (do not present any life issue differences)**

**United States Representative** -pro-abortion Jeff Barth (D) v. pro-abortion Matt Varilek (D)

**District 2 Senate** -pro-life Art Fryslie (R-I) v. pro-life Norbert Barrie (R)

**District 4 Senate** -pro-life Tim Begalka (R-I) v. pro-life Val Rausch (R)

**District 6 Senate (R)** -pro-life Gene Abdallah (R-I) v. pro-life Ernie Otten Jr. (R)

-If you still have not found your race, your district is not having a primary on June 5 for the legislature.

Early voting for the June 5 primary began on April 20. The Republican Primary is closed to only Republicans. The Democratic Primary is open to Independents and Democrats, not Republicans.

Information for this voter guide was compiled from the following sources: LRC website, SDRTL Pro-life Rating Scorecard, Life and Liberty Group Candidate Evaluation guide, candidate campaign websites, and phone and electronic media interviews. Please contact Spencer Cody with any comments or concerns regarding this publication at [spencercody@hotmail.com](mailto:spencercody@hotmail.com) or 605-948-2449.