

"Wind power has contributed more than \$2 billion in capital investment to our state for the construction and maintenance of the 14 wind projects now in operation. These projects, along with the South Dakota businesses that supply goods and services to the wind industry, support nearly 2,000 good-paying jobs in our state."

— Gov. Dennis Daugaard, in a November 2017 column

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South Dakota

Pop. (2017): 880,051 Median household income: \$52,768 Credit Rating: AAA/Stable Pop. growth 2017-2022: 1.05% Median age: 37.9

Right-to-work state: Yes

Legislative Update

- Accomplishments during the nine-week session ended in March included a balanced budget; approval of the construction of a new state animal diagnostic and research lab at South Dakota State University; successful planning to fortify the state's 100-percent-funded pension plan (a rarity nationwide); and establishment of BoardsAndCommissions.SD.gov, which will become a mandatory portal for all state boards and commissions.
- "South Dakotans can be proud that we have a part-time, citizen Legislature," Gov Daugaard wrote in March. "They are not 'career politicians.' This session, the average state legislator had four years of legislative experience, and 29 of the 105 had never served in the Legislature at all. They are our friends and neighbors, and they take time away from their jobs and families to come to Pierre and serve our state."

