



# CONCERNED WOMEN *for* AMERICA OF SOUTH DAKOTA

FALL 2020 ISSUE

## NOVEMBER 3 BALLOT ISSUES

Know the ballot questions you will be voting on come November 3.

Go to [sdsos.gov/elections-voting](https://sdsos.gov/elections-voting) to read the Attorney General's explanation of ballot questions.

### Marijuana - A Losing Wager

**“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your body.”**

**--I Corinthians 6:19-20**



#### Constitutional Amendment A

Title: *An amendment to the South Dakota Constitution to legalize, regulate, and tax marijuana; and to require the Legislature to pass laws regarding hemp as well as laws ensuring access to marijuana for medical use.*

Regardless of its popularity, the trend towards the legalization of marijuana is harmful to our state and nation's future. It contradicts the available scientific evidence, and it is, therefore, not good policy. No scientific study to date shows marijuana is harmless or safe.

#### What is it?

Marijuana is known by many names (weed, pot, herb, grass, bud, Mary Jane, etc.) It is a drug made from the dried flowers of the Cannabis Sativa. It can be smoked or brewed or cooked into “edibles” (tea, brownies, candy, etc.).

Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) is the chemical that gives marijuana most of its psychological effects. In recent decades, THC content is increasing – from three to five percent in the 1970s and 1980s to THC levels between 13 to 30 percent today. Source: Bennett, William J. & White, Robert A., *Going to Pot* xiii (Center Street 2015 Kindle).

#### What are the Adverse Effects?

##### Short-term

- ◆ Paranoia and psychosis leading to violence.
- ◆ Impaired short-term memory.
- ◆ Impaired motor coordination.
- ◆ Altered judgment.

##### Long-term

The long-term use of marijuana has destroyed many lives, families, and communities. The physical, psychological, and societal harms include:

- ◆ Altered brain development, causing functional impairment of cognitive abilities.
- ◆ Poor education outcomes, increasing the likelihood of dropping out of school.
- ◆ Cognitive impairment.
- ◆ Diminished life satisfaction and ultimate achievement.
- ◆ Addiction.
- ◆ Symptoms of chronic bronchitis.
- ◆ Increased risk of chronic psychosis disorders.

### What About Medical Marijuana?

**“Be self-controlled and alert ...” --I Peter 5:8**



#### Initiated Measure 26

Title: *An initiated measure to legalize marijuana for medical use.*

If marijuana is helpful to struggling patients, then it should be developed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), like any other drug. Strict guidelines are needed. The FDA has strong, science-based standards it must follow to protect the public from dangerous or ineffective drugs. Yet popular opinion seems somehow to trump and cause rejection of all these scientific standards. Despite popular myths, all that is needed to buy medical marijuana in states that have legalized medical marijuana is a readily accessible physician's card/letter and meeting a certain age requirement.

If marijuana is regarded as a medical product, it should be treated as such. There are no standards, no controlled doses or strength, and no way to know the THC content. Interestingly, the aim of most producers is to have the most potent marijuana they can produce. The extreme danger to the consumer is that he or she cannot anticipate the potency, even within a single producer.

If someone suffers greatly and obtains relief with medical marijuana, he or she should be able to obtain it in a form that conveys the proper message as to its application. The FDA has approved a synthetic form of marijuana by prescription. But this is not where the push is. What we are witnessing in states around the country that have legalized the medicinal use of marijuana is the opening of the floodgates for the recreational use of marijuana.

*All states which have acted to implement medical marijuana have eventually accepted recreational marijuana, too.*

Like Big Tobacco of yesteryear, Big Marijuana knows that it needs lifelong addicted customers to prosper. Addictive industries generate the lion's share of their profits from addicts, not from casual users. So, creating addicts is the central goal. And – as every good tobacco executive knows (but won't tell you) – this, in turn, means targeting the young. (Source: SAM, "Big Tobacco 2.0 Big Marijuana," available at <https://learnaboutsam.org/the-issues/big-tobacco-2-0-bigmarijuana/> last accessed Jan. 9, 2019).



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We can expect to pay a steep price in our workforce, healthcare system, and in our families and communities as the widespread use of marijuana continues to take its toll. States rushing to legalize recreational and medical marijuana are gambling with our children's lives, and every scientific indication suggests that, as with tobacco, movements toward legalization are a losing wager.

## Sports Gambling

**"People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs." --I Timothy 6:9-10**



### Constitutional Amendment B

Title: *An amendment to the South Dakota Constitution authorizing the Legislature to allow sports wagering in Deadwood.*

In 2018, the United States Supreme Court legalized gambling on sports, leaving the decision up to the individual states to decide. Prior to the court's decision, [sports gambling was played illegally to the tune of \\$150 billion annually](#), according to the American Gaming Association's estimates.

In 2019, the South Dakota legislature failed to pass SJR2, a resolution to allow sports betting to be placed on the ballot for the citizens of South Dakota to decide. However, another attempt in 2020 was successful, therefore placing Constitutional Amendment B on the November ballot.

Constitutional Amendment B would allow sports gambling not only in Deadwood but also at on-reservation tribal casinos.

Concerned Women for America (CWA) of South Dakota has consistently taken a position against the expansion of gambling. Interestingly, when this measure was heard in the legislative committee, the Department of Revenue spoke in opposition, stating that their analysis showed that this legalization of sports gambling would cost the state more in revenue than it would bring in, due to the costs of regulation. Gov. Kristi Noem (Republican) has also stated that she opposes the expansion of gambling.

We are all aware of the problems associated with gambling addiction: bankruptcy, loss of job productivity, drug and alcohol abuse, crime, marriage and family problems, depression, suicide. In his book, *What are the Odds?*, Mike Lindell (the My Pillow guy) describes his devastating addictions to gambling, alcohol, and crack cocaine. He states, "Sports betting, my first and most dangerous addiction... it started out badly... and got steadily worse."



## Encourage-A-Legislator

Sen. Jack Kolbeck (R-District 13) proudly displayed on his desk in the Senate Chamber the postcards that he received from Lois Miller of Redfield and noted that he read some of the messages each day.

Will you [join us](#) in prayer and encouragement for our state legislators during the 2021 legislative session beginning in January? Commit to regularly praying for an assigned legislator and sending him/her encouraging postcards that are provided to you. This is our 22nd year of blessing our state legislators with encouragement and prayer.

## Good News for School Choice

**“Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.” --Proverbs 22:6**

The recent United States Supreme Court (SCOTUS) decision in *Espinoza v. Montana Department of Revenue* validates the constitutionality of [South Dakota Partners in Education](#) and ensures choice in education for South Dakota families. South Dakota Partners in Education provides scholarships to qualifying families for private or religious education. The insurance companies who donate to the plan receive a tax credit.

You might recall that Montana's school choice program was challenged as unconstitutional by the Montana Supreme Court, citing the Montana Blaine Amendment. SCOTUS agreed to hear the case and last June gave a favorable decision for school choice. South Dakota State Sen. Lee Schoenbeck (R-District 5) cited the majority opinion written by Chief Justice Roberts, “A state need not subsidize private schools solely

because they are religious. But once a state decides to do so, it cannot disqualify some private schools solely because they are religious.” Schoenbeck called this “powerful stuff.” He further stated that the First Amendment guarantees the free exercise of religion and laws that infringe on that right are subject to strict scrutiny.



The Blaine Amendment, an antiquated measure from the late 1800s, was intended to discriminate against

Catholics. At that time, our nation was predominately Protestant and that influence was evident in the public schools. This troubled the Catholic population, resulting in opening their own schools for which they requested government funding. United States Rep. James Blaine (R-Maine) introduced the Blaine Amendment in Congress which would prevent government funding of sectarian schools. When his amendment failed in Congress, he sought states to adopt it in their constitutions. [Today thirty-seven states, including South Dakota have a Blaine Amendment](#) which discriminates against all religions. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas referred to the Blaine Amendment in *Mitchell v. Helms* (2000), “this doctrine, born of bigotry, should be buried now.”

## The Centennial Celebration of Women's Suffrage

**“Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.” --Proverbs 31:31**

“The rights of citizens in the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States on account of sex.”  
--19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

When the Founding Fathers gathered for the Continental Congress to draft a new constitution, future first lady Abigail Adams wrote to her husband John Adams, and asked that he “remember the ladies.” Women have been fighting for equal say in the political process since the founding of our nation, and 100 years ago, women made a huge stride in achieving that equality.

After passing Congress, the 19th Amendment, which guarantees women the right to vote, was sent to the states for ratification and was declared officially ratified on August 26, 1920.

The long-fought battle for women's suffrage officially began 72 years before the 19th Amendment was ratified. Although women participated in the political process, advocated for their beliefs, and were crucial to movements like the abolition of slavery, women were denied the ability to participate in a civic duty so many of us take for granted.

You no doubt know of Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, but do you know the South Dakota suffragettes who

worked to secure women's suffrage in our South Dakota Constitution? I learned that South Dakota had many suffragettes. My granddaughter and I took a road trip to visit the home of one suffragette who lived rather close to my home – Alice Pickler. Faulkton, South Dakota, still maintains the “[Pink Castle](#),” home of Alice Pickler, her husband Major John Pickler, and their children.



The Picklers homesteaded in Faulkton in 1882, where John, a civil war veteran, practiced law. The modest shanty grew into a 20-room, three-story Victorian home. Elected to the Dakota Territorial Legislature in 1884 and after statehood in

1889 to the U.S. House of Representatives Congressman Pickler was dubbed “Petticoats Pickler” for his strong advocacy for women's suffrage.



Alice Pickler

Alice lobbied the Dakota Territorial Legislature to include women's suffrage in our state constitution, where it passed in 1885 only to be vetoed by then Gov. Gilbert Pierce (Republican). After statehood in 1889, a statewide referendum for women's suffrage was placed before the voters where it failed six times before finally passing in 1918, adding it to our state constitution. South Dakota ratified the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution on December 4, 1919,

securing women's suffrage nationwide.

Susan B. Anthony visited South Dakota, traveling the state by train and horse and buggy to campaign and conduct rallies, encouraging support for women's suffrage. A poster displayed in the Pickler home announced Miss Anthony's upcoming rally in my own county's courthouse in 1890. Perhaps she visited your county as well. Miss Anthony was a guest at the Pickler home to rest from her travels as she crisscrossed our state. In a letter to Alice she expressed her appreciation for the rose wallpaper in her room that she found “restful.”



Susan B. Anthony Room

Alice Pickler was president of the South Dakota Equal Suffrage Association. Among many other ladies in South Dakota working for women's voting rights were Anna R. Simmons, Matilda Gage, and Mary “Mamie” Pyle. The 19th Amendment opened a new world for women when Mrs. Pyle's daughter was elected to the state legislature and then as Secretary of State.

You might refer to these early suffragettes as feminists. However, unlike most of today's feminists, the early suffragettes were pro-lifers who condemned abortion. Stanton and Anthony refused to publish advertisements promoting “foeticides and infanticides” in the newspaper they co-owned. Stanton denounced the “murder of children, either before or after birth.” In 1869, Anthony wrote, “I deplore the horrible crime of child murder.” Alice Paul, the author of the 19th Amendment, referred to abortion as “the ultimate exploitation of women.”



Campaign Banner  
 “If God be for us who can be against us.”  
 --Romans 8:21

Because of the relentless work of the suffragettes, over 71 million women are now registered to vote in the U.S. Unfortunately, that means only 68.5% of the female population is registered to vote. If you are not currently registered, please register to vote today in honor of the women who fought so hard for this privilege.

*Linda Schauer, State Director*



**Penny Nance, as a member of the Women’s Suffrage Centennial Commission, attended the signing of the Proclamation on the 100th Anniversary of the Ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment by President Trump on August 18.**

- ◆ [Read proclamation.](#)
- ◆ [View video of press conference and signing.](#) (Media asks question and Penny responds at 8:20.)

**CWA Membership State & National:** A donation of \$25 or more has TWO benefits: membership in CWA of South Dakota *and* membership in CWA national. All donations given to CWA of South Dakota remain in South Dakota for state projects. Write your check out to “Concerned Women for America,” put “CWA of SD” on the memo line, and send in the envelope provided. Or, give online at [sd.cwfa.org](http://sd.cwfa.org). Your renewed annual membership/additional donation is greatly appreciated. All donations sent to CWA national in response to their mailings are utilized in Washington, D.C. All contributions are tax-deductible.