

# Stevens

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a house and what kind of education their kids will receive with the drastic cuts in school aid. I think with these real life experiences, I can make a difference in the state legislature.

**2. With an initiated measure on the 2012 general election ballot that proposes to increase the state general sales and use tax rate from 4 percent to 5 percent to, in part, help fund K-12, there is some uncertainty in regards to the future of education funding. What do you think of current funding levels, and what is the way forward?**

Current education funding is inadequate and unpredictable. Even though South Dakota's law provides that K-12 school districts are to annually receive the lesser of a 3 percent or cost-of-living increase each year, that has not happened, requiring most school districts to either cut teachers or try to replace the funds through an opt out. Two years ago, state aid was not increased and last year it was cut by more than 8 percent.

South Dakota's Constitution requires a balanced budget and consequently increased funding comes from either an increase in revenue or cuts in other areas of the state's budget. I am not in favor of increasing or adding more taxes. Economic development is the key to providing additional revenue for the state.

**3. The general election ballot will include Referred Law 14, which would determine whether or not the Large Project Development Fund will be formed to assist with the construction of economic development projects. Is this fund needed? Why or why not?**

Our state needs to be aggressive in our economic development efforts. We are constantly competing for businesses, which are providing economic incentives, by surrounding states. Nebraska and Iowa each have about \$185 million dollars in incentives for new and expanding businesses. This fund would only raise \$16 million. Economic development, however, is dependent upon there being well educated students who are qualified for the jobs created. Economic development needs a strong school system and our school systems depend upon successful

economic growth. Although equal partners, it begins with economic development. Whether one agrees with the amount being funded or the criteria being used, the concept of providing economic incentives is a good idea. The alternative, which is doing nothing, is worse.

**4. Do you think South Dakota's economy is heading in the right direction? Should the state be doing more/less to assist with growth efforts?**

Casey Stengel said, "Never make predictions, especially about the future." The actions taken last year by the legislature, put South Dakota on a solid financial foundation which will allow our state to grow. Barron's magazine recently ranked South Dakota as the best-run state in the nation. No one knows how the recent drought will affect our economy and for how long. However, it was recently reported that Yankton has seen an increase in sales tax revenue over the past two years. In 2011 sales tax revenue was up more than 8 percent compared to 2010 and up 10.3 percent compared to the first eight months of 2011. Yankton's unemployment has slightly decreased. The state should continue to assist with its economic development efforts.

**5. Scientists link the increasing frequency of extreme weather events such as last year's flood and this year's drought to the effects of climate change, yet the issue has been largely ignored at the federal and state level. Should the Legislature take any measures to address the growing impacts of climate change?**

Our state has more pressing concerns than spending our resources on issues concerning climate change.

**6. Final thoughts?**

The greatest honor is to be chosen to represent friends, neighbors and community in the state legislature. In my legal practice, I work on a daily basis with laws that the legislature passes each year. We need more common-sense legislation. I am able to work with individuals with different viewpoints and still resolve an issue. I will protect your Second Amendment as the highest rated candidate, in Yankton County, by the National Rifle Association. Finally, I believe that my 22 years on the Yankton School Board will be beneficial dealing with educational funding issues. I will work hard for Yankton County. When you go into the voting booth and pick up your pencil to vote, just remember, I LIKE MIKE .... Stevens for State House.

While no Yankton facility has been named in the recall, the Department of Health has contacted numerous South Dakota facilities that were known to have received recalled products, instructing them to suspend use of the products and notify patients who have received them to be alert for signs and symptoms of infection, including meningitis. These facilities include: Brookings Ambulatory Surgery Center LLP, Brookings; Siouxland Surgery Center, Dakota Dunes; Black Hills Regional Eye Institute, Rapid City; Black Hills Surgical Hospital, Rapid City; Rapid City Regional Hospital, Rapid City; Sanford Clinic for Ophthalmology and Optometry, Sioux Falls; Dakota Dermatology, Sioux Falls; Lazaderm Skincare Centre, Sioux Falls; and Innovative Procedural Center, Watertown.

Under a recent expanded recall, facilities that have also been contacted include Bruening Eye Specialists, Dakota Dunes; Anderson Orthopedics, Rapid City; Black Hills Plastic Surgery, Rapid City; and Rapid City Medical Center, Rapid City.

For more information about the multi-state meningitis outbreak, visit [www.cdc.gov/HAI/outbreaks/meningitis.html](http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/outbreaks/meningitis.html).

*You can follow Derek Bartos on Twitter at [twitter.com/d\\_bartos](https://twitter.com/d_bartos)*

# Fears

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media coverage that's been going on through television and newspapers, she was worried that she was going to contract that."

Bierle stressed that her hospital has not received any medications from the NECC and that patients are not at risk.

"We're just trying to make sure our patients are well aware that we aren't going to do anything that will harm them," she said. "We want them to feel safe when they come here for their injections."

To express similar sentiments, Avera Sacred Heart Hospital (ASHH), the Yankton Medical Clinic and the Vermillion Medical Clinic released statements earlier this month saying they do not carry any pharmaceuticals from the NECC.

"All the sterile IV products used at Avera Sacred Heart are from safe and reliable sources," said Kelly Schott, ASHH director of pharmacy.

Schott added that ASHH had received numerous calls from concerned patients once the outbreak began, but those have died down somewhat since the hospital released its statement.



# STOTZ


★ FOR HOUSE ★

Vote for Tom Stotz on November 6

Paid for by Stotz for House, Nick Moser, Treasurer


**The staff & residents Of Autumn Winds would like to invite all little ghosts & goblins to some trick or treating from 6:00-8:00pm on Wednesday, October 31**

*(East & West Buildings)*



2903/2905 Douglas,  
Yankton  
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Assisted Living



# Avera



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The University of South Dakota

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Avera believes in the quality of education provided at The University of South Dakota and through scholarships supports the education of the region's future physicians.

To learn more about Avera, visit [www.Avera.org](http://www.Avera.org).