

Minutes: Senate State Affairs

Friday, January 23, 2026 10:00 AM

Roll Call

Present: Sen. Deibert, Sen. Jensen (Kevin), Sen. Karr, Sen. Kolbeck (Steve),
Sen. Larson, Sen. Pischke, Sen. Voight, Sen. Perry, and Sen. Mehlhaff

The meeting was called to order by Senator Perry

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21ST

Moved by: Pischke
Second by: Deibert
Action: Prevailed by voice vote

SJR 503 : applying to the United States Congress for a convention of the states to propose amendments to the United States Constitution regarding the imposition of fiscal restraints on the federal government, further limiting the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limiting the terms of office for members of Congress and other federal officials.

Presented by: Senator Jim Mehlhaff
Proponents: Rick Santorum, Self
Jeffrey Church, Convention Of States
Shirlee Meier, Convention Of States (Handout(s) 1)
Opponents: Linda Schauer, Concerned Women for America (Handout(s) 2)
Michael Boyle, Self (Handout(s) 3)

MOTION: DO PASS SJR 503

Moved by: Karr
Second by: Pischke
Action: Prevailed by Majority Members Elect (8-1-0-0)

Voting Yes: Deibert, Jensen (Kevin), Karr, Kolbeck (Steve), Pischke, Voight, Perry, and Mehlhaff

Voting No: Larson

SJR 502 : applying to the United States Congress under Article V of the United States Constitution to call for a convention proposing an amendment to the constitution fixing the number of justices of the United States Supreme Court at one chief justice and eight associate justices.

Presented by: Senator Michael Rohl
Opponents: Linda Schauer, Concerned Women for America (Handout(s) 2)
Michael Boyle, Self

MOTION: DO PASS SJR 502

Moved by: Karr
Second by: Pischke
Action: Prevailed by Majority Members Elect (8-1-0-0)

Voting Yes: Deibert, Jensen (Kevin), Karr, Kolbeck (Steve), Pischke, Voight, Perry, and Mehlhaff

Voting No: Larson

SJR 501 : Proposing and submitting to the voters at the next general election an amendment to the Constitution of the State of South Dakota, limiting the number of terms an individual may serve as a member of the Legislature.

Presented by: Senator Michael Rohl

Opponents: Matthew Bogue, South Dakota Farm Bureau Federation
William M Van Camp, South Dakota Retailers Association

MOTION: DO PASS SJR 501

Moved by: Kolbeck (Steve)
Second by: Jensen (Kevin)
Action: Was not acted on.

MOTION: SUBSTITUTE MOTION: DEFER SJR 501 TO THE 41ST LEGISLATIVE DAY

Moved by: Perry
Second by: Karr
Action: Failed by Majority Members Elect (3-6-0-0)

Voting Yes: Karr, Perry, and Mehlhaff

Voting No: Deibert, Jensen (Kevin), Kolbeck (Steve), Larson, Pischke, and Voight

Revert to previous motion

MOTION: DO PASS SJR 501

Moved by: Kolbeck (Steve)
Second by: Jensen (Kevin)
Action: Prevailed by Majority Members Elect (6-3-0-0)

Voting Yes: Deibert, Jensen (Kevin), Kolbeck (Steve), Larson, Pischke, and Voight

Voting No: Karr, Perry, and Mehlhaff

MOTION: ADJOURN

Moved by: Karr
Second by: Larson
Action: Prevailed by voice vote

Doug Mortenson, Committee Secretary

/s/ JIM MEHLHAFF

Jim Mehlhaff, Chair