

# Memorandum

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**To:** Members of the Joint Committee on Appropriations  
**From:** Fred Schoenfeld  
Chief Fiscal Analyst, LRC  
**Date:** February 17, 2010  
**Subject:** Summary of Agency Priorities

All agencies appearing before the JCA were requested to identify their five highest priorities for FY11. This memorandum summarizes those responses.

## Governor's Office

Not relevant.

## Bureau of Finance & Management

1. Eliminate the structural deficit in the state's budget.
2. Enhance the accuracy and timeliness of the CAFR.
3. Improve internal controls, promote efficient and accurate fiscal administration.
4. Increase financial operations efficiencies by improving processes and systems.
5. Coordinate state government ARRA reporting.

## Bureau of Administration

1. Work with state agencies to further minimize executive branch motor vehicle travel.
2. Reduce state government electrical consumption and heating expenses. Implement as many Energy Conservation Measures identified in statewide energy report as funding will allow.
3. Complete capitol complex renovation projects and consolidate office space in Pierre.
4. Continue aggressive statewide and capitol complex maintenance and repair program. Keeping buildings in good repair so as to extend their lifespan and energy efficiency. Doing renovations to LEED Existing Building standards wherever feasible.
5. Develop a plan for relocation of the Buildings and Grounds shop.

## **Bureau of Information & Telecommunications**

1. IT strategies for shifting economic conditions- Data center virtualization
2. New Department of Social Services Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) implementation
3. New Department of Corrections Offender Management System
4. Broadband Mapping Grant
5. 500 agency IT investments
6. 63,000 agency work requests

## **Bureau of Personnel**

1. Provide agencies with the resources needed to attract and hire the best talent available
2. Provide agencies with the tools and information needed to retain mission-critical talent
3. Help agencies develop and effectively use talent to maximize employee performance and increase agency efficiency and productivity

## **Revenue & Regulation**

1. Streamlined Sales Tax
2. Valuation of Agriculture Land
3. Education
4. Computer Systems

## **Agriculture**

1. Pesticide Container Recycling Program
2. Invasive Pest Species
3. Emerald Ash Borer
4. Mountain Pine Beetle
5. South Dakota State Fair Park
6. Promoting Agriculture's Economic Impact

## **Tourism & State Development**

1. Double visitor spending from \$600 million to \$1.2 billion by 2010
2. Increase Gross State Product (GSP) by \$10 billion by 2010
3. Become a recognized leader in research and technology development by 2010
4. Brand and develop South Dakota's quality of life as best in America by 2010
5. Uphold our commitment to the 2010 Initiative as a work in progress

## **Game, Fish and Parks**

1. Current downturn in the economy and how it may affect visitation and license sales

2. Provide abundant quality wildlife habitat
3. Funding for park road improvement projects due to the condition of the State Highway Fund

## **Retirement System**

1. To plan, implement and administer income replacement programs, and to encourage additional savings for retirement, all of which offer SDRS members and their families the resources and opportunity to achieve financial security at retirement, death, or disability by providing an outstanding, appropriate and equitable level of benefits.
2. The South Dakota Retirement System administers a comprehensive state-wide public employee pension plan, a deferred compensation plan (Supplemental Retirement Plan) and a 401(a) termination pay plan (Special Pay Plan). Retirement, survivor, disability and termination benefits are provided by the plans, along with tax-efficient voluntary savings opportunities.
3. The goal of SDRS is to provide lifetime income replacement including primary Social Security and additional personal retirement savings, to meet the basic retirement income needs of at least 85% of a career member's final pay. Or as a stand alone goal, to provide lifetime income replacement of at least 55% of a career member's final pay from SDRS benefits.

## **Social Services**

1. Increase access to quality services for our customers.
2. Reduce abuse, neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable people.
3. Continually improve customer service.
4. Manage internal processes and procedures to achieve our mission.
5. Ensure employees possess necessary competencies.

## **Health**

1. Improve Birth Outcomes and Health of Infants, Children and Adolescents in South Dakota
2. Strengthen the Healthcare Delivery System in South Dakota
3. Improve the Health Behaviors of South Dakotans to Reduce Chronic Disease (i.e., heart disease, cancer, stroke, diabetes)
4. Strengthen South Dakota's Response to Current and Emerging Public Health Threats

## **Labor**

1. Live Dakota – Retain current workforce
2. Grow Dakota – Prepare students for future workforce
3. Build Dakota – Address industry needs
4. Dakota Seeds – Match students to internships
5. Dakota Roots – Recruit workers for hard-to-fill jobs

## **Transportation**

1. Manage the available financial resources and state highway funds in order to match and utilize all federal funds made available to the state
2. Meet immediate day-to-day maintenance needs on the roads and bridges in the state
3. Preservation of the statewide transportation system
4. Manage resources in such a way that the department is in a position to provide the necessary expansions or additions to the state highway system

## **Education**

Enhancing *learning* through *leadership* and *service*:

1. Learning – Standards and Assessment System; Virtual School; Learning Power; GEAR UP
2. Leadership – High School 2025; Technical Institutes; Teacher Recruitment/Retention
3. Service – Education Service Agencies; Birth to Three Program; Technology in Schools; State Library's Online Resources

## **Public Safety**

1. Coordinating state, local and tribal responses to disasters and emergencies
2. Continue a trend toward fewer highway crashes and fatalities
3. Improve service, delivery and security of driver licensing issuance process
4. Enforce laws against drinking and driving and illegal drug use
5. Provide training and support to local fire departments and emergency medical personnel

## **Board of Regents – Higher Education**

1. Build the public universities' research enterprise and contribute to South Dakota's economic development
2. Grow enrollment to meet workforce demands
3. Graduate and retain more students in South Dakota
4. Manage tuition increases to keep tuition and mandatory fees affordable for students and their families
5. Improve academic quality and student performance

## **Military & Veterans' Affairs**

The Department was not specific on their highest priorities for FY 2011 other than the overall mission statement:

1. To support national objectives by providing highly trained units capable of mobilizing for active federal service in time of war or national emergencies
2. To provide units organized, manned, trained, and equipped to assist civil authorities in the protection of life and property

3. To aid and assist veterans and their dependents in securing local, state, and federal entitlements/services for which they are eligible
4. To provide a comfortable independent living environment, along with adequate medical support, for eligible veterans and their spouses, widows, or widowers

## **Corrections**

1. To enhance the safety of the citizens of South Dakota by operating quality facilities and by employing evidence-based practices for juvenile and adult offenders committed to our custody.
2. Reducing the recidivism rates of both juvenile and adult offenders by 50% over the next five years.
3. Providing highly effective community supervision to offenders upon their release.
4. Opening the new minimum-custody unit in Rapid City.
5. Completing the installation & implementation of our new offender management system & making offender information more easily accessible to the public.

## **Human Services**

1. Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant
2. Multiple Disabilities or Disorders
3. Person-Centered Thinking Initiative
4. HSC Dietary Project
5. SDDC Rightsizing

## **Environment & Natural Resources**

1. LACK OF WATER – DENR must manage and protect water resources for both today and future generations
2. WATER, WASTEWATER, & SOLID WASTE FACILITIES – DENR must provide financial, technical, and regulatory assistance to meet state and federal environmental standards
3. TIMELY ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING – DENR must not cut any corners, but cut the red tape to help maintain South Dakota’s successful business climate
4. TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS (TMDLs) – DENR must help local water quality projects identify and improve impaired waters that do not consistently meet water standards
5. FEDERAL EPA CHALLENGES/PROJECTS – DENR must rapidly adjust to ever changing new federal requirements

## **Unified Judicial System**

1. Technology
2. Staffing, Recruitment and Retention
3. Budget and Resource Management
4. Small and Rural Courts Issues
5. Access to Justice
6. Public Trust and Confidence

## Legislature

### Legislative Research Council

1. Prepare research, bill drafts and amendments in a manner that is correct and timely and assures that each legislator receives a full and professional response to his/her requests.
2. Complete bill drafts and amendments in a time frame that enables legislators to meet the deadlines imposed upon them by legislative rules.
3. Manage the operational side of the legislative session to smooth work flow and enable legislators to manage their agendas/calendars efficiently in accordance with the rules of the body .
4. Acquire and continually develop legislative staff at levels that insure the legislative branch has access to talent that insures the breadth and depth of information and insight necessary to effectively carry-out their responsibilities and obligations.
5. Insure that the citizens of South Dakota are afforded full and complete access to the proceedings and actions of the South Dakota Legislature.

### Legislative Audit

1. We and the Bureau of Finance and Management have made it a priority to issue the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), which is a component of the Single Audit, for FY09 by March 31st, 2010 and we are on target to meet that date. We also intend to issue the CAFR for FY10 by March 31st, 2011.
2. We continue to look for efficiencies in our audit process for the State's Single Audit to enable us to meet the required deadline for the issuance of the report.
3. In our local government audit service area, our top priorities continue to be the timely completion of all county audits and conducting internal control reviews of small cities.
4. As was indicated last year, new auditing standards and accounting pronouncements are increasing the time required by local governments to prepare financial statements and for auditors to audit those financial statements. It is a priority of ours to implement these changes so that we achieve compliance with as little burden on the governments and auditors as possible.

## Public Utilities Commission

1. The commission looks after the welfare of South Dakotans as related to electric and natural gas issues
2. Monitoring the South Dakota grain industry is a significant responsibility of the Public Utilities Commission
3. The PUC has responsibility to regulate hazardous gas intrastate pipelines which includes ensuring the public is provided safe and dependable gas service
4. The PUC assists the South Dakota One Call Board with administering the South Dakota One Call program, commonly referred to as "Call Before You Dig"
5. The commission has regulatory authority over some telecommunications providers and services in South Dakota
6. The PUC provides a number of services for consumers. The agency's consumer affairs staff is trained to help resolve disputes between consumers and their investor-owned electric, natural gas

or telephone service providers. They provide educational information about energy efficiency, consumer protection and making wise utility choices. They also offer guidance and referrals for consumers who may have difficulty paying their utility bills. The commission also administers the South Dakota Do Not Call Registry, helping to enroll consumers on the registry and investigating violations against consumers who are on the registry.

## **Attorney General**

1. Criminal Law Enforcement which includes: state and federal criminal appeals and habeas representation, the state forensic lab, the internet crimes against children unit, the division of criminal investigation, sex offender registry, background checks, and law enforcement training
2. State Representation which includes: official and other opinions, legal advice and court room representation to all state officials and agencies, and act as an enforcement arm for state environmental protection
3. Consumer Protection which includes: regulation of deceptive trade practices, door to door sales, identify theft, charitable solicitations, buying clubs, and consumer education
4. Providing revenue to the state by bringing money back through varying programs such as the 24/7 sobriety program, prescription drug monitoring program, and the state forensics laboratory

## **School & Public Lands**

Priorities not specified.

## **Secretary of State**

The Secretary of State's Office is focusing concerted efforts to develop and implement technology to continue the migration from our current paper based systems to automated, web-based programs to meet the goals and provide the services the public is requesting. The Annual Report Online Filing Program and the Business Services Imaging Project are examples of development that will dramatically address our office's ability to respond to continual increases in workload. Both of these projects are currently in the design and development phase. Additional development is underway to expand the Central Election Reporting System to provide the military and overseas voters electronic absentee ballots, as well as expanding the Voter Information Portal to provide the date absentee ballot applications and ballots are received and sent. Further technology requirements are being developed to expand availability of other filings, to include Trademarks and Lobbyists Expense Reports, for the online access to the public.

## **State Treasurer**

1. Our first priority is to treat the taxpaying public and the three government branches and their employees with the highest degree of professionalism, ethics, respect and courtesy.
2. Working with all state agencies, as the state's bank, we want to insure that the state's liquid assets are deposited in the state's main account and made available for investment with the State

Investment Council as quickly as possible. To that end, we have implemented “remote deposit capture” in our immediate office, the Board of Regents and the Department of Social Services (Child Support); to deposit on a daily basis monies for the State of South Dakota. We will continue to add agencies as time goes forward; hopefully Game, Fish and Parks this year.

3. Another priority has been to implement a technological advance called an Electronic Payments system for the State. The Department of Revenue and US Bank have already installed the e-pay system. The program was implemented in February 2009.
4. Within our Unclaimed Property division, we are proud to again count ourselves among the “best” in the nation in maintaining a high rate of return of Unclaimed Property to its rightful owners (approximately 62% return of properties with a three line address or any type of taxpayer ID for the past five years). We make it a priority to continue this legacy. Our ongoing public story will encourage more holders to begin to comply with the escheat laws.
5. The State Treasurer’s Office has two divisions (treasury management and unclaimed property) but many diverse duties and responsibilities. It is a priority to diligently accomplish compliance regarding local bank accounts; public deposit collateralization; collecting payments on veterinary student grants; disseminating financial literacy information free to schools, adult education groups, and home schooled individuals and maintain partnerships with financial literacy providers; and the day-to-day duties of this office.

### **Investment Council**

Not presented in this format.

### **State Auditor**

1. Compliance with constitutional provisions for checks and balances
2. Implementation of ORS section 218 agreement related to social security and medical coverage