



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Anti-Corruption Act Certified for Ballot**

(Sioux Falls, SD) - The [South Dakota Government Accountability and Anti-Corruption Act](#) was certified for the November 2016 ballot today by South Dakota Secretary of State Shantel Krebs.

“This initiative cracks down on the ability of big money interests to buy influence in government and rig the rules,” said Don Frankenfeld, co-chair of South Dakotans for Ethics Reform and a former South Dakota State Senator based in Rapid City. “This law would dramatically improve transparency and accountability.”

The initiative is sponsored by South Dakotans for Ethics Reform, a bipartisan coalition of Republicans and Democrats. The coalition collected and submitted more than 25,000 petition signatures in support of putting the measure on the ballot.

The South Dakota Government Accountability and Anti-Corruption Act prevents political candidates from using campaign contributions for personal expenses, requires full transparency of all money spent on politics, creates a small donor system, and stops the practice of lobbyists giving unlimited gifts to state officials. Additionally, the anti-corruption measure creates an independent ethics commission to investigate lobbyists and state officials for potential violations of the law, increases penalties for violations, and makes it illegal for officials to become lobbyists for two years after they leave office.

“The Government Accountability and Anti-Corruption Act would ensure disclosure of who’s spending money on politics and elections and how it’s influencing our representatives,” said Dave Volk, a former South Dakota State Treasurer based in Sioux Falls who supports the Act. “Democracy works better when voters are well-informed.”

The South Dakota Government Accountability and Anti-Corruption Act was crafted in direct response to a 2012 State Integrity Investigation [report](#) that placed South Dakota at 49th in the nation on its corruption risk report card. The newly released 2015 State Integrity Investigation [report](#) once again gives South Dakota an F, ranking it 47th out of 50 states and calling national attention to the state’s high level of corruption risk. The Act will directly address many of the risk factors identified by the reports.

More information on the South Dakota Government Accountability and Anti-Corruption Act, including a summary of its provisions, can be found at <http://www.sdethics.org>.

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