



REMINGTON RESEARCH GROUP

SOUTH DAKOTA

STATEWIDE

2020 GENERAL ELECTION

February 2020

Survey conducted February 10 through February 11, 2020. 1,001 likely 2020 General Election voters participated in the survey. Survey weighted to match expected turnout demographics for the 2020 General Election. Margin of Error is +/-3.1% with a 95% level of confidence. Totals do not always equal 100% due to rounding.

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Q1: In general, do you approve or disapprove of legal trapping in South Dakota?

Approve: 37%
Disapprove: 31%
Not sure: 32%

Q2: How much have you seen, read or heard about the South Dakota Nest Predator Bounty Program?

A lot: 15%
Just some: 31%
Nothing at all: 54%

Q3: Based on what you know, do you approve or disapprove of the South Dakota Nest Predator Bounty Program?

Approve: 25%
Disapprove: 25%
Not sure: 50%

Q4: Do you think people are **illegally** trapping raccoons, striped skunks, opossums, badgers, and red foxes in South Dakota?

Yes: 37%
No: 28%
Not sure: 35%

Q5: South Dakota's native wildlife species like raccoons, striped skunks, opossums, badgers and red foxes increase biodiversity, protect crops, and control disease transmission by keeping rodent populations in check.

Do you agree or disagree that raccoons, striped skunks, opossums, badgers, and red foxes are an important asset to South Dakota's ecosystems?

Agree: 68%
Disagree: 16%
Not sure: 16%



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Q6: South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks touted its Nest Predator Bounty Program as providing trapping opportunities for state residents, while also removing species that they suggested might prey on pheasants during their nesting season. Program participants received a bounty of \$10 for each tail of a raccoon, striped skunk, badger, opossum or red fox they killed.

In general, do you approve or disapprove of the Nest Predator Bounty Program in South Dakota?

Approve: 37%
Disapprove: 43%
Not sure: 20%

Q7: The Nest Predator Bounty Program was launched in early 2019. This program was portrayed as an attempt to reduce predation on pheasant nests by native wildlife species. But while South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks estimates that they spent upwards of \$1.7 million on the program in 2019, they have yet to produce any evidence of an increase in pheasant numbers. Therefore, many have questioned why the agency has spent so much of the state's money on such a highly ineffective effort.

Knowing this, do you support or oppose the Nest Predator Bounty Program?

Support: 22%
Oppose: 55%
Undecided: 23%

Q8: Wildlife management professionals state that bounty programs for predator control are ineffective. Hunting groups like the South Dakota Wildlife Federation have advised against a bounty program, and instead urge a more science-based focus on habitat improvement to increase pheasant numbers.

Knowing this, do you support or oppose the Nest Predator Bounty Program?

Support: 28%
Oppose: 47%
Undecided: 25%

Q9: Animals caught in traps can languish and die slowly from shock, dehydration, starvation or exposure to the elements. Those who survive long enough for the trapper to return may be killed by inhumane methods. Additionally, nursing mother animals may be killed, leaving young animals to die; or those young animals may themselves be captured, killed, and their tails submitted for a bounty.

Knowing this, do you support or oppose the Nest Predator Bounty Program?

Support: 25%
Oppose: 61%
Undecided: 14%



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Q10: Encouraging citizens, including children, to kill the state's native wildlife species for a cash reward is a slap in the face to South Dakota's hunting tradition of sportsmanship, fair chase and respect for wildlife. By allowing mass slaughter and inhumane deaths to our native species for a cash bounty, the state is abandoning our long-held tradition of sportsmanship.

Do you support or oppose the Nest Predator Bounty Program?

Support: 25%

Oppose: 55%

Undecided: 20%

Q11: Science shows that nest predator bounty programs are counterproductive to their stated goal of reducing the number of predatory species. Random killing of these species may stimulate the animals to adapt, which results in more predatory animals in the future.

Do you agree or disagree that South Dakota's Nest Predator Bounty Program will have unintended consequences for native wildlife in the state?

Agree: 46%

Disagree: 28%

Undecided: 26%

Sometimes in a survey like this, people change their minds. I will now read you one of the original questions again. Please feel free to change your answer if you so choose.

Q12: Based on what you know, do you approve or disapprove of the South Dakota Nest Predator Bounty Program?

Approve: 26%

Disapprove: 53%

Not sure: 21%



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Q1: In general, do you approve or disapprove of legal trapping in South Dakota?

Column %	RAPID CITY	SIOUX FALLS
Approve	36%	37%
Disapprove	33%	29%
Not sure	31%	33%

Table 1. Q1 by DMA - Categorical

Column %	Republican	Democrat	Non-Partisan
Approve	43%	29%	33%
Disapprove	25%	39%	34%
Not sure	33%	32%	33%

Table 2. Q1 by PARTY

Column %	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
Approve	45%	30%	33%
Disapprove	25%	34%	42%
Not sure	30%	37%	25%

Table 3. Q1 by IDEOLOGY

Column %	Female	Male
Approve	28%	47%
Disapprove	37%	24%
Not sure	36%	29%

Table 4. Q1 by GENDER



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Q2: How much have you seen, read or heard about the South Dakota Nest Predator Bounty Program?

Column %	RAPID CITY	SIOUX FALLS
A lot	13%	15%
Just some	30%	32%
Nothing	58%	53%

Table 5. Q2 by DMA - Categorical

Column %	Republican	Democrat	Non-Partisan
A lot	15%	14%	14%
Just some	30%	31%	35%
Nothing	55%	54%	52%

Table 6. Q2 by PARTY

Column %	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
A lot	16%	12%	19%
Just some	29%	36%	21%
Nothing	55%	51%	61%

Table 7. Q2 by IDEOLOGY

Column %	Female	Male
A lot	12%	18%
Just some	28%	34%
Nothing	60%	48%

Table 8. Q2 by GENDER



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Q3: Based on what you know, do you approve or disapprove of the South Dakota Nest Predator Bounty Program?

Column %	RAPID CITY	SIOUX FALLS
Approve	20%	27%
Disapprove	29%	25%
Not sure	51%	48%

Table 9. Q3 by DMA - Categorical

Column %	Republican	Democrat	Non-Partisan
Approve	30%	18%	25%
Disapprove	20%	35%	27%
Not sure	51%	47%	49%

Table 10. Q3 by PARTY

Column %	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
Approve	32%	19%	23%
Disapprove	20%	29%	31%
Not sure	48%	52%	47%

Table 11. Q3 by IDEOLOGY

Column %	Female	Male
Approve	18%	34%
Disapprove	25%	26%
Not sure	57%	40%

Table 12. Q3 by GENDER



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Q4: Do you think people are **illegally** trapping raccoons, striped skunks, opossums, badgers, and red foxes in South Dakota?

Column %	RAPID CITY	SIOUX FALLS
Yes	37%	37%
No	25%	29%
Not sure	38%	35%

Table 13. Q4 by DMA - Categorical

Column %	Republican	Democrat	Non-Partisan
Yes	35%	37%	41%
No	28%	29%	26%
Not sure	37%	34%	33%

Table 14. Q4 by PARTY

Column %	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
Yes	34%	41%	33%
No	29%	26%	29%
Not sure	37%	32%	38%

Table 15. Q4 by IDEOLOGY

Column %	Female	Male
Yes	41%	32%
No	20%	37%
Not sure	40%	30%

Table 16. Q4 by GENDER



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Q5: South Dakota’s native wildlife species like raccoons, striped skunks, opossums, badgers and red foxes increase biodiversity, protect crops, and control disease transmission by keeping rodent populations in check.

Do you agree or disagree that raccoons, striped skunks, opossums, badgers, and red foxes are an important asset to South Dakota’s ecosystems?

Column %	RAPID CITY	SIOUX FALLS
Agree	74%	66%
Disagree	13%	16%
Not sure	13%	18%

Table 17. Q5 by DMA - Categorical

Column %	Republican	Democrat	Non-Partisan
Agree	63%	77%	66%
Disagree	17%	13%	17%
Not sure	20%	9%	18%

Table 18. Q5 by PARTY

Column %	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
Agree	63%	73%	70%
Disagree	18%	13%	16%
Not sure	20%	13%	15%

Table 19. Q5 by IDEOLOGY

Column %	Female	Male
Agree	70%	65%
Disagree	12%	20%
Not sure	18%	15%

Table 20. Q5 by GENDER



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Q6: South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks touted its Nest Predator Bounty Program as providing trapping opportunities for state residents, while also removing species that they suggested might prey on pheasants during their nesting season. Program participants received a bounty of \$10 for each tail of a raccoon, striped skunk, badger, opossum or red fox they killed.

In general, do you approve or disapprove of the Nest Predator Bounty Program in South Dakota?

Column %	RAPID CITY	SIOUX FLLS
Approve	29%	39%
Disapprove	50%	41%
Not sure	21%	20%

Table 21. Q6 by DMA - Categorical

Column %	Republican	Democrat	Non-Partisan
Approve	45%	23%	35%
Disapprove	35%	58%	44%
Not sure	20%	19%	21%

Table 22. Q6 by PARTY

Column %	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
Approve	46%	28%	32%
Disapprove	34%	51%	51%
Not sure	19%	22%	17%

Table 23. Q6 by IDEOLOGY

Column %	Female	Male
Approve	26%	48%
Disapprove	49%	36%
Not sure	24%	15%

Table 24. Q6 by GENDER



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Q7: The Nest Predator Bounty Program was launched in early 2019. This program was portrayed as an attempt to reduce predation on pheasant nests by native wildlife species. But while South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks estimates that they spent upwards of \$1.7 million on the program in 2019, they have yet to produce any evidence of an increase in pheasant numbers. Therefore, many have questioned why the agency has spent so much of the state’s money on such a highly ineffective effort.

Knowing this, do you support or oppose the Nest Predator Bounty Program?

Column %	RAPID CITY	SIOUX FLLS
Support	15%	24%
Oppose	64%	51%
Undecided	20%	24%

Table 25. Q7 by DMA - Categorical

Column %	Republican	Democrat	Non-Partisan
Support	25%	15%	26%
Oppose	49%	66%	52%
Undecided	26%	19%	23%

Table 26. Q7 by PARTY

Column %	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
Support	28%	17%	18%
Oppose	48%	60%	60%
Undecided	24%	22%	22%

Table 27. Q7 by IDEOLOGY

Column %	Female	Male
Support	15%	30%
Oppose	59%	50%
Undecided	26%	20%

Table 28. Q7 by GENDER



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Q8: Wildlife management professionals state that bounty programs for predator control are ineffective. Hunting groups like the South Dakota Wildlife Federation have advised against a bounty program, and instead urge a more science-based focus on habitat improvement to increase pheasant numbers.

Knowing this, do you support or oppose the Nest Predator Bounty Program?

Column %	RAPID CITY	SIOUX FALLS
Support	22%	29%
Oppose	55%	45%
Undecided	23%	26%

Table 29. Q8 by DMA - Categorical

Column %	Republican	Democrat	Non-Partisan
Support	32%	19%	30%
Oppose	40%	60%	47%
Undecided	28%	21%	23%

Table 30. Q8 by PARTY

Column %	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
Support	35%	21%	23%
Oppose	39%	56%	49%
Undecided	26%	23%	28%

Table 31. Q8 by IDEOLOGY

Column %	Female	Male
Support	21%	35%
Oppose	49%	45%
Undecided	30%	20%

Table 32. Q8 by GENDER



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Q9: Animals caught in traps can languish and die slowly from shock, dehydration, starvation or exposure to the elements. Those who survive long enough for the trapper to return may be killed by inhumane methods. Additionally, nursing mother animals may be killed, leaving young animals to die; or those young animals may themselves be captured, killed, and their tails submitted for a bounty.

Knowing this, do you support or oppose the Nest Predator Bounty Program?

Column %	RAPID CITY	SIOUX FLS
Support	20%	26%
Oppose	68%	58%
Undecided	11%	15%

Table 33. Q9 by DMA - Categorical

Column %	Republican	Democrat	Non-Partisan
Support	32%	13%	26%
Oppose	52%	79%	57%
Undecided	16%	8%	17%

Table 34. Q9 by PARTY

Column %	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
Support	34%	17%	18%
Oppose	52%	69%	66%
Undecided	14%	13%	15%

Table 35. Q9 by IDEOLOGY

Column %	Female	Male
Support	18%	33%
Oppose	68%	54%
Undecided	15%	13%

Table 36. Q9 by GENDER



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Q10: Encouraging citizens, including children, to kill the state’s native wildlife species for a cash reward is a slap in the face to South Dakota’s hunting tradition of sportsmanship, fair chase and respect for wildlife. By allowing mass slaughter and inhumane deaths to our native species for a cash bounty, the state is abandoning our long-held tradition of sportsmanship.

Do you support or oppose the Nest Predator Bounty Program?

Column %	RAPID CITY	SIOUX FALLS
Support	23%	26%
Oppose	62%	53%
Undecided	15%	21%

Table 37. Q10 by DMA - Categorical

Column %	Republican	Democrat	Non-Partisan
Support	31%	16%	25%
Oppose	46%	72%	54%
Undecided	23%	12%	21%

Table 38. Q10 by PARTY

Column %	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
Support	32%	20%	20%
Oppose	46%	65%	58%
Undecided	22%	15%	22%

Table 39. Q10 by IDEOLOGY

Column %	Female	Male
Support	18%	34%
Oppose	62%	48%
Undecided	20%	18%

Table 40. Q10 by GENDER



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Q11: Science shows that nest predator bounty programs are counterproductive to their stated goal of reducing the number of predatory species. Random killing of these species may stimulate the animals to adapt, which results in more predatory animals in the future.

Do you agree or disagree that South Dakota’s Nest Predator Bounty Program will have unintended consequences for native wildlife in the state?

Column %	RAPID CITY	SIOUX FLLS
Agree	51%	45%
Disagree	29%	27%
Not sure	20%	28%

Table 41. Q11 by DMA - Categorical

Column %	Republican	Democrat	Non-Partisan
Agree	41%	56%	44%
Disagree	32%	22%	26%
Not sure	27%	21%	30%

Table 42. Q11 by PARTY

Column %	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
Agree	40%	53%	47%
Disagree	33%	23%	27%
Not sure	27%	24%	26%

Table 43. Q11 by IDEOLOGY

Column %	Female	Male
Agree	48%	44%
Disagree	24%	33%
Not sure	28%	23%

Table 44. Q11 by GENDER



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Sometimes in a survey like this, people change their minds. I will now read you one of the original questions again. Please feel free to change your answer if you so choose.

Q12: Based on what you know, do you approve or disapprove of the South Dakota Nest Predator Bounty Program?

Column %	RAPID CITY	SIOUX FLLS
Approve	21%	27%
Disapprove	60%	51%
Not sure	20%	22%

Table 45. Q12 by DMA - Categorical

Column %	Republican	Democrat	Non-Partisan
Approve	31%	15%	28%
Disapprove	43%	71%	52%
Not sure	26%	14%	20%

Table 46. Q12 by PARTY

Column %	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
Approve	34%	19%	18%
Disapprove	43%	61%	63%
Not sure	23%	21%	18%

Table 47. Q12 by IDEOLOGY

Column %	Female	Male
Approve	17%	35%
Disapprove	59%	46%
Not sure	24%	18%

Table 48. Q12 by GENDER



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DEMOGRAPHICS

	%
RAPID CITY	25%
SIOUX FALLS	72%

Table 49. DMA - Categorical

	%
Republican	52%
Democrat	30%
Non-Partisan	18%

Table 50. PARTY

	%
Conservative	46%
Moderate	42%
Liberal	12%

Table 51. IDEOLOGY

	%
Female	53%
Male	47%

Table 52. GENDER