



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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REMINGTON RESEARCH GROUP

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%



REMINGTON RESEARCH GROUP

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 FLLS |
|-----------------|------------|------------|
| 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 FLLS |
|------------------|------------|------------|
| 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



REMINGTON RESEARCH GROUP

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



REMINGTON RESEARCH GROUP

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 FALLS |
|-----------------|------------|-------------|
| 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



REMINGTON RESEARCH GROUP

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



REMINGTON RESEARCH GROUP

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