



Convention Resolution Submission

Title of Resolution

Resolution To Defund Politically-Biased Programming By South Dakota Public Broadcasting

Summary of Resolution

The South Dakota Republican Party stands firmly behind principles of free speech and free press, while also recognizing the need to protect taxpayers from coercion to fund politically biased and offensive programming that comes through South Dakota Public Broadcasting (SDPB). The goal is removal of all funding for such programming while retaining funding for Emergency Broadcast System, government transparency broadcasts and other key infrastructure, and shifting any popular programming to subscription-based services to lessen the burden on South Dakota taxpayers.

Whereas Statements

WHEREAS, until July of 2025, SDPB received federal funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), which accounted for approximately 20% of SDPB's annual budget;

WHEREAS, this funding was eliminated by the US Congress when CPB was found to be in violation of its governing statute reflecting principles of impartiality; according to 47 U.S.C. 396(f)(3); see also id. 396(e)(2), "The CPB may not contribute to or otherwise support any political party";

WHEREAS, the CPB failed to abide by these principles to the extent that it subsidized National Public Radio (NPR) and Public Broadcasting Service (PBS);

WHEREAS, NPR and PBS continue to be funded by the South Dakota State Legislature, in spite of this clear determination that neither entity presents a fair, accurate, or unbiased portrayal of current events to taxpaying citizens;

WHEREAS, unlike in 1967 when SDPB was established, today's media landscape is filled with abundant, diverse and innovative news options, and no media outlet has a constitutional right to taxpayer subsidies;

WHEREAS, South Dakotans have the right to expect that IF their tax dollars fund public broadcasting at all, they fund only fair, accurate, unbiased, and nonpartisan news coverage;

WHEREAS, SDPB meets none of the "ordinary expenses" criteria outlined in the SD Constitution, Article XII, Section 2 which says, "The general appropriation bill shall embrace nothing but appropriations for ordinary expenses of the executive, legislative and judicial departments of the state, the current expenses of state institutions, interest on the public debt, and for common schools..."; SDPB employs numerous other funding sources and may fall under the clause, "All other appropriations shall be made by separate bills, each embracing but one object, and shall require a two-thirds vote of all the members of each branch of the Legislature";

WHEREAS, the Chief Executive Officer of SDPB has publicly stated that it is likely that \$1.9 million from the general fund would be enough to preserve government transparency broadcasting (legislative sessions, committee meetings, floor debates, etc.) plus public safety announcements through the Emergency Broadcast System, as well as, maintenance for infrastructure;

Therefore Statements

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the South Dakota Republican Party strongly urges (a) elimination of all funding for biased SDPB programming (NPR and PBS), and (b) that SDPB's general fund budget be cut from \$5.9M to \$2.8M, eliminating their 2026 budget increase of \$296,000. The additional \$900,000 (over the CEO's \$1.9 million endorsement) equals \$2.8M in this recommended budget and should amply allow SDPB to continue the broadcast of the usual South Dakota High School Athletics Association events, which citizens value and can access through no other media outlet. Other program services which citizens value should be switched to a subscription or donation basis as is commonly done in the modern media landscape. Those who value NPR and PBS can download these apps for free on their digital devices.

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Conclusion

Supporting Document(s)

- [sdpb-workgroup-276409-11.pdf](#)
- [Biased-Public-Broadcasting-Preserved1.pdf](#)
- [SD_Searchlight1.docx](#)

Convention Resolution Submission (continued)

Members Who Also Support This Resolution

Confirmation

✓ I affirm I am an active, registered Republican in the State of South Dakota.

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Role / Title

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Organization