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Central District looms large in 2026 election

Trevor J. Mitchell

Sioux Falls Argus Leader USA TODAY NETWORK

As of Oct. 7, 10 people have filed paperwork for a seat in Sioux Falls' 2026 city election — set for less than eight months away on June 2.

Five seats will be open in the election. Four of them will be fully open, with an incumbent who has either termed out or declined to run for re-election.

But so far, nine of those prospective candidates are announced for just two of those seats.

That breaks down to four people who

want to run for mayor and five who want to represent the city's Central District on the Sioux Falls City Council. So far just one person has filed for any of the other positions — a single contender for the At-Large A seat.

Now, obviously, there's plenty of time for other candidates to weigh their options and decide whether they'd like to make a run for any of the five seats. But perhaps it'll end up looking a lot more like a recent election — one that still holds some connections to the current council.

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During their annual Children's Gala, the Sanford Health Foundation raised \$1.5 million on Oct. 4 for their upcoming pediatric emergency department, to open next year. PROVIDED BY ANGELA GEORGE

Sanford Children's Gala raises \$1.5M for new pediatric ER

Angela George

Sioux Falls Argus Leader | USA TODAY NETWORK

The Sanford Health Foundation's annual Children's Gala raised nearly \$1.5 million on Oct. 4 for what will be the state's first dedicated pediatric emergency department, the foundation announced Thursday.

The David H. and Christine Billion Pediatric Emergency Department, which was initially announced last year, will be built next to Sanford's existing ER and will open in 2026.

'This gift (from the Billions), in addition to the funds raised at the Children's Gala, will get us much closer to our fundraising goal, ensuring this project meets its promise of transforming pediatric health care in our region," said foundation vice president Erin Sanderson. "It's a game-changer as we look ahead to the future of pediatric emergency care."

The foundation said in a statement on Oct. 9 that the children's emergency department will include:

- A pediatric CT scanner
- The region's only pediatric ECMO (Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation) life support pro-
- The region's only accredited Level II pediatric trauma center
 - Faster access to pediatric support services
 - Collaborative space across specialties
- "Kid-friendly features" with "vibrant colors and playful murals"

The ER will also be home to the state's only four fellowship-trained pediatric emergency specialists, including pediatric emergency medicine drs. Donald Ellis, Lily Yu, Mason Ruthford and Megan Sampson, the foundation said.

"Pediatric emergency medicine is about being

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Here's where to expect road construction Sioux Falls this week

Trevor J. Mitchell

Sioux Falls Argus Leader USA TODAY NETWORK

Welcome back to Street Smarts, your weekly go-to for understanding Sioux Falls detours and commute interruptions.

Quite a few of the city's major projects saw at least some sort of update over the last week.

72nd Street North

This \$1.1 million project began at the end of September and has currently closed 72nd Street North to through traffic as the road is reconstructed from North Seubert Avenue to 476th Avenue. Completion is expected on Nov. 14.

North Drive Bridge Preservation

This \$1.5 million project has closed the bridge through late October, with full work expected to complete on Nov. 26.

Traffic signal improvements on Cliff Avenue and 17th Street

This \$311,647 project may occasionally close lanes and sidewalks while work is underway. Completion is expected on Dec. 5.

Basin 15 Sanitary Sewer

The \$45 million project to extend part of the city's sewer system is expected to continue into 2026.

12th Street Overlay from **Ellis Road to Marion Road**

The \$2.8 million project began on July 7 and was initially expected to be done on Sept. 12. The project is expected to be completed once pedestrian push buttons are received and installed.

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