



STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
KRISTI NOEM | GOVERNOR

October 11, 2024

The Dakota Scout  
Via email only [jonathan@thedakotascout.com](mailto:jonathan@thedakotascout.com)

Re: Correction Request

Dear Jonathan Ellis,

Your recent article from July 5, 2024 entitled "Noem's state credit card spending kept secret" has several factual errors based on the response from the Office of State Auditor (OSA) to your record request. I emailed you on July 6, 2024, explaining the inaccuracies and requesting corrections. I write to offer clarifying information and again request a correction so that the public is not misinformed.

*The Dakota Scout* asked OSA for "all invoices, receipts and statements for all of Gov. Kristi Noem's government credit and debit cards dating back to Jan. 5, 2019." (*emphasis added*). The OSA produced a spreadsheet of monthly State of South Dakota account balances for official expenses incurred by and for several state employees, not just for the Governor. This spreadsheet led to your incorrect conclusion that "The monthly totals show that Noem spent nearly \$650,000 from the time she took office in 2019 through April of this year." As I have already explained to you, it is inaccurate to say that the expenditures from the OSA spreadsheet are for the governor's credit card only, which is what you requested.

To answer the question that you asked, I have assembled Governor Noem's credit card charges and am providing those to you so you may correct your story.

Year	Total	Governor	Type of Card
2019	- n/a -	Noem	had no card
2020	\$55.44	Noem	First Premier
2021	\$841.21	Noem	First Premier
2022	\$730.19	Noem	First Premier
2023	\$429.88	Noem	First Premier
2024	\$0	Noem	First Premier

The compiled cost of these charges is \$2,056.72. There were 30 total charges, and the average charge was \$68.56. These charges have been annualized for security reasons.

As you can see, this reporting from your story is entirely false because the Governor has not spent a dime on her credit card in 2024:

“The most charged by Noem in a single year was in 2021 when she logged \$159,517.38 on the two cards. However, this year she was on pace to have charged more than any previous year. In the first four months of 2024, she charged \$75,772.07, almost all of that on her First Premier Bank card.”

I trust that with this additional information, you will finally correct your false reporting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ian Fury', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ian Fury  
Director of Communications  
Office of South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem