

League of Women Voters of Wyoming July 2018
Albany County Coroner

The Coroner serves a four-year term with no term limits. Annual salary is \$45,000 with some benefits. No Republican filed for this office.

What experience, qualifications and interests do you have that would encourage voters to select you for this office?

Jennifer Graham (D): I started with the Albany County Coroner's Office in 2003 under then Coroner, Julie Heggie as a deputy. I advanced to the role of Chief Deputy and continued that role for Tom Furgeson when he was elected. During that time, I finished my associates degree in general science and received my bachelor's degree in Anthropology with an emphasis in Forensics from the University of Wyoming. After a hiatus from the office I was elected Coroner in 2014. I have served the citizens of Albany County for almost 12 years and have attended the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy in Douglas, WY.

The Coroner's office is involved in county emergency planning as shown among the coroner's responsibilities. What do you see as the Albany County Coroner's role in this area?

Jennifer Graham (D): The Albany County Coroner's role in county emergency planning is the management and preparation for the event of emergencies and disasters causing a large amount of fatalities. How to process, transport, identify and store the remains of individuals that have lost their lives in the emergency is of utmost importance, not only in managing the emergency but to give closure and help with the grieving process of the families that will be affected. Establishing guidelines and methods to facilitate coordination with surrounding jurisdictions as well as the Wyoming Department of Health to meet these goals is of the utmost importance.

What are the highest priorities of your office, given budget constraints?

Jennifer Graham (D): Working within budget constraints the highest priorities of the Coroner's Office is to meet all the responsibilities set by Wyoming State statutes. The main responsibility of the Coroner under these statutes is the investigation of all unattended deaths. To meet these goals the costliest of these are forensic autopsies, x-rays and toxicology. Working within these constraints I have been able to get a group discount for our toxicology lowering the price of our lab work and I continue to work with the pathologists at McKee Medical Center to get the best forensic autopsies and guidance at the best price.