

Wyoming Governor

The Governor is the only Wyoming elected official with term limits of two four-year terms. Salary is \$105,000 with some benefits. Republican Taylor Haynes and Democrats Rex Wilde and Michael Allen Green did not respond.

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

Kenneth R. Casner (D): Qualifications for the governor's position isn't based upon wealth, degrees in knowledge or experiences in business titles, for it is whether or not the people in trust the person to do the job, for their voices... The governor is the representative of the people, their spokesman, nothing more. After the election he or she is no longer a member of the party or party platform. They are bound to the law of the land by oath, which is the United States Constitution and Wyoming's State Constitution. My resolve is steadfast and my actions speak for themselves. . . .

Bill Dahlin (R): I bring a unique experience to the race. I am the only candidate that sells coal. I am the only candidate that bought a coal mine that previously was out of business and turned it into a multilevel diversified business. I am the only candidate that identifies a starting point for fiscal responsibility at the upper level of our state government. I am the only candidate that offers specific starting points to diversify our economy.

Foster Friess (R): In my prior life I built and managed a \$15 billion company, that was not a one-man job. I developed the skills and recruited a team capable of quickly gathering and analyzing mass quantities of information to come up with well thought out, well-researched decisions as efficiently as possible. The efficacy of this information gathering capability was represented by the fact that on June 8th, Forbes Magazine named me along with John Templeton and Warren Buffet as one of the top ten star investment managers for this generation. As a proven salesman, I can make Wyoming a global brand if elected governor. . .

Sam E. Galeotos (R): I have spent my adult life heading multi-billion-dollar businesses in the global travel technology industry leading people and organizations in the pursuit of solving large complex problems. These skills are vital to help lead Wyoming out of our current problems. I have brought together a multitude of different and sometimes competing perspectives to create and attain a final common vision. And I have created and executed large-scale goals to achieve maximum results for my companies. I have more recently lead small start-ups and businesses in agriculture and hospitality in Wyoming. I know how to work in large and small endeavors.

Mark Gordon (R): I grew up on my family ranch outside of Kaycee and currently serve as Wyoming Treasurer. I'm a lifelong conservative and defender of Second Amendment rights. I've worked in ranching, energy and tourism. I served on the board of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. As Treasurer, I've modernized the office to do more with less, grown our portfolio by \$5 billion and stood up against federal overreach. I have a proven record saving taxpayers money, working with the legislature to help businesses and standing up to protect your Constitution.

Harriet M. Hageman (R): I am a deep-rooted Wyomingite, the fourth-generation to call this State home. I have represented numerous entities important to the state of Wyoming, including irrigation districts, municipalities, sportsman and outfitters, ranchers, industries, and individual citizens. I am a nationally recognized expert on Federal overreach and the detrimental effects of stifling regulations. I have made a commitment to Wyoming and will hold true to that when I am elected governor. I have a deep desire to make Wyoming the most business and family friendly state in the nation.

Mary A. Throne (D): As the only candidate with legislative experience, I have a proven record of building bipartisan coalitions to solve tough problems. Almost every piece of legislation I passed had more Republican votes than Democratic votes—I won't be blinded by the destructive hyper-partisanship that is becoming all too common in Washington and Cheyenne. As an energy attorney, I have decades of experience in our state's largest industry. My legislative work on carbon capture and sequestration helped prepare Wyoming for the new energy economy and as governor I'll continue to push Wyoming to become a home for energy research.

Wyoming has a suicide rate that is in the top five in the nation. How would you use the influence of the Governor's office to address this serious concern?

Kenneth R. Casner (D): The governor's influence on suicides, is first to encourage self-help by seeking professional help. Then, see what the legislator intends to do on this matter for funding and resource are driven from these branches... Returning their answers to the people, along with his staffs, recommendations and possible solutions... The people will then have to get involved once again, for they will have to make the choice through the Counties Representatives, or the Governor, which by my standards is true representation....

Bill Dahlin (R): I had two classmates commit suicide while in Sheridan High School. It is devastating. We need to support and evolve our anti-suicide programs. As governor I will be committed to this extremely important charge.

Foster Friess (R): I believe that we need to focus our efforts on why so many of our fellow citizens are hurting, suicide is the end result – let's focus our efforts on programs that tackle the causes. What is happening in our society today that is causing suicide rates to soar? I believe some of the largest contributors are moral and spiritual issues. Programs like Rachel's Challenge and Elevate USA have proven programs to address suicide. In conjunction with supporting local programs, we must pass legislation requiring our schools have access to a counselor and mandate that our school's personnel are provided annual suicide prevention . .

Mark Gordon (R): One of the biggest challenges in Wyoming is overcoming the stigma of reaching out for help. No matter the person, we all need support and a safe place to turn. Bringing awareness to the issue is a critical first step to addressing this stigma. Having served on the Northern Wyoming Mental Health Center Board, I understand the tremendous challenges communities face finding staff and resources to address mental health and suicide prevention. As Governor, I will explore bringing in business support to help improve services and reach at our community-based suicide prevention and mental health centers.

Sam E. Galeotos (R): Every life is precious, and suicide is often the horrific result of mental health disorders. As Governor I would work to bring more awareness to disorders like depression, work to destigmatize them and to help bring sufferers out of the shadows. When more people are aware of the signs and symptoms more will be willing to reach out to those they see are struggling and help. Often times the one struggling simply cannot reach out for help but if more of us are aware of the signs, we can grab hold of the person before they sink too far.

Harriet M. Hageman (R): Wyoming's increasing suicide rate is of grave concern. One of our primary problems relates to our shortage of mental health providers, a situation that is not unique to Wyoming. I am deeply concerned that our citizens who suffer from mental health issues end up in the criminal system, which only increases our suicide rates. We need to attract practitioners who are versed in addressing mental health needs, associated substance abuse, and suicide prevention. As governor, I would convene a task force of all stakeholders, including patients/families currently affected by mental health issues to review current research, best practices and avoid duplication. . . .

Mary A. Throne (D): Greater mental health services can help struggling individuals and reduce the stigma of seeking care. Medicaid expansion would increase access to care for 20,000 Wyomingites and strengthen our healthcare infrastructure in rural communities. A second avenue of approach: our state hospital has a large number of staff vacancies due to comparatively low salaries that make it tough to recruit qualified professionals. If we aren't willing to seriously invest in our mental health professionals, we won't be able to help those who need it most.

Discuss the pros and cons of a privately operated, for-profit detention center for undocumented immigrants considered for Wyoming?

Kenneth R. Casner (D): I personally feel there is no pro or con to a private prison... Wyoming already holds a history of a wrongful act within the incarceration known as Heart Mountain... Therefore; I cannot seek or speak for Wyoming people on this issue or policies, until elected then hearing their voices... On the personal side, I will quote a line from the History Channel on the American Civil War... Any man who seeks to group people into a group is a Pee-Witt. I will not become such a Man that would be my recommendation to Wyoming's people...

Bill Dahlin (R): I believe in upholding the law. I have been to a naturalization process whereby the individuals go through a process to be legal citizens of this great country. It is heart warming and those individuals are extremely pro-American. We cannot afford to loose control of this process. There is a need to address those who break the law. We can improve our immigration process.

Foster Friess (R): I believe that if the citizens of Evanston or any other Wyoming town want a detention center in their town, it is a decision for those voters. It's not my job as the Governor to dictate what each town and local community can do with their economic futures. My job is to create an environment where the private sector can thrive. Some towns want to grow, others want to stay small – I'll work with each community to empower their vision for their communities future.

Sam E. Galeotos (R): A privately-owned detention center is first and foremost – privately owned. It is up to the local community to decide if this business meets all of the appropriate laws for their community. I do not believe this is a matter for the state to get involved in. Nor do I believe it is a matter to use to discuss federal immigration laws. Those are rightly discussed in Congress and with the President of the United States.

Mark Gordon (R): As a lifelong small government conservative, I believe strongly in local control and local decision-making. Any decision about a detention facility needs to be made by community leaders on the ground and locally handled. That being said, it is imperative for our communities and state to do their due diligence in ensuring any private entity looking to do business in Wyoming does so responsibly, safely and with the best interest of our citizens top of mind.

Harriet M. Hageman (R): The federal government currently has an ICE Office in Salt Lake City. They have requested information on placement of a detention facility close-by to detain individuals suspected of entering the US illegally. These private detention centers, with federal contracts, will be built somewhere. The Evanston community has suffered during the economic downturn and is looking to expand economic development. Many in the community believe this is a way to create approximately 100-150 good paying jobs without using tax payer dollars to do it.

Mary A. Throne (D): The hardest decisions that government officials have to make are when two of your core principals conflict: in this case, I have long believed local governments should be allowed to take the lead on their local economic development issues, and have also long opposed private prisons. I oppose the for-profit detention center, but strongly believe that our next governor needs to create better economic development opportunities for Uinta County. No one's first choice for job creation is a private prison—if we can spur more growth, we can avoid having to use private prisons.