

LWV Wyoming Voter Guide July 2018
Wyoming State Auditor

Term of office is four years with no term limits. Annual salary is \$92,000 plus some benefits.

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

Jeff Dockter (D): Wyoming's people will be the special interests who I listen to. I bring passion and expertise to the job. I have over 15 years of experience in managing & improving government processes in Wyoming. As manager of Wyoming's accounting system for fiscal & payroll accounts, I will make it easy for businesses, citizens, and state agencies to conduct business. I have successfully worked with stakeholders to innovate outdated business processes. I have a master's degree in public administration. I am a certified project manager and have audited government contracts and programs.

Kristi Racines (R): As Wyoming's chief accountant, the Auditor is responsible for keeping the books of the state. I hold a degree in accounting from UW and I am a CPA. In private practice, I performed audits of Wyoming businesses, nonprofits, and governmental entities. Currently, I serve as CFO of Wyoming's judicial branch, where I prepare and manage an \$80 million statewide budget. I understand accounting principles and internal controls. I'm a Wyoming native, raised in Riverton. My husband, children and I are avid sportsmen—hunting, fishing . . .

Nathan Winters (R): Since 1989, when the Auditing function was removed from the office, the State Auditor plays an important leadership role in managing the stability of the office itself and voting on several vital state-wide boards. I have been blessed with the leadership skills, experience and the vision necessary for this office both in my time as a Pastor in Thermopolis and during my time in the Wyoming Legislature on the Management Audit Committee, as House Republican Caucus Chairman, Vice Chairman of Judiciary and on the Minerals Business and Economic Development Committee, and Agriculture, State and Public Lands and water resource committee.

What is your philosophy about selling, transferring, or exchanging state-owned lands?

Jeff Dockter (D): Public lands belong in public hands and any transaction involving state-owned lands must generate both short and long-term “wins” for Wyoming citizens. Wyoming should never sell state-owned lands for the sole purpose of generating revenue to supplement short-term budget needs. Any state-owned land transaction should be open and transparent, with ample public hearings and opportunity for public comment. I believe future generations should enjoy Wyoming just as our parents and grandparents enjoyed our beautiful state.

Kristi Racines (R): Public lands in public hands—I believe it and I will practice it. Effective and responsible multiple use is a must—our schools, economy, and Wyoming way of life depend upon it. I am committed to protecting the process—each proposal to sell, transfer, or exchange lands must be scrutinized and backed by compelling facts. Certain transactions are in Wyoming's

best interest—to block up land, improve efficiency, or enhance value. Every piece of land is unique, and value can't always be monetized. ALL affected parties must be at the table—and be heard.

Nathan Winters (R): According to the Wyoming Constitution, the purpose of our state-owned lands is to provide for the support and benefit of our public school-system. Therefore, maintaining them for their best and highest use is imperative for the future of Wyoming's educational needs. Secondly, having land that is contiguous often allows us to have easier access to hunting, fishing and other outdoor opportunities that make our great state unique. Future generations must always be taken into consideration with every land decision. By which I mean, not only must the current value of the land be considered but its future value as well.

How would you address calls for greater transparency in state expenditures?

Jeff Dockter (D): Wyoming's checkbook is not transparent or accessible. Wyoming earns an "F" in transparency. Moving that grade to an "A", requires an experienced technological innovator. The quickest way to do this is to ask the legislature to approve funding for this challenge. If the Legislature refuses to address this vital need, I will reach out to the computer science departments at the University of Wyoming and community colleges to try and turn this hurdle into an open source development project. While this process will take more time, it provides an avenue where Wyoming's students can get real-time, hands-on coding and development experience.

Kristi Racines (R): Wyoming citizens and lawmakers must have accurate and reliable financial information in order to make good decisions and hold government accountable—this is non-negotiable. Currently, information that can and should be made public is intermingled with data that is private by law (for example, private health information). My knowledge of the current accounting system and the state's expenditure process puts me in the best position to correct this issue while ensuring protected data of individual citizens is not compromised. I will work with Legislature to find an optimal software solution to publish expenditure data that is timely and understandable.

Nathan Winters (R): If we believe that government truly is "of, by, and for the people" rather than "of, by, and for the government," then the people should know how the government is spending tax money. I will start with an assessment team to look at the simplest way to make our state expenditures transparent. Secondly, I will work with the Legislature to build a modern website to allow all people of this state to see how their tax dollars are spent as a whole and at the granular level over the previous year while still protecting data.