

## **Wyoming League of Women Voters Legislative Report #1**

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The 65<sup>th</sup> Wyoming Legislature opens its 2019 session on Jan. 8, with a new governor and several new members in the 60-member House and 30-member Senate. The Management Council (composed of leaders from both chambers) has laid out a schedule to use 35 of the 40 days allowed for this general session.

The first thing you should do is go to the redesigned Website for the Legislative Service Office [www.wyoleg.gov](http://www.wyoleg.gov) and get familiar with the session calendar, where to find the committee meeting information, legislator directories, 2019 House Bills and Senate Files. Note: the “headings” (at the bottom of the page) for categories of calendars, committees, legislation and legislators are more than headings. Click on them to find additional directories full of information.

Start with the session schedule found on the “calendar” list, so you will know when deadlines fall for the progress of bills through the process. One missed deadline, and a bill is dead. The scheduled adjournment is midnight on Feb. 27. There are two long weekends built into the session for Martin Luther King Day (Jan. 21) and President’s Day (Feb. 18).

Lists of legislators found under the “Legislator” category include email and phone numbers. Click on names to get a photo, committee assignments and sponsored bills. In the Senate, there are seven new members. Still 3 Democrats and 27 Republicans. President is Drew Perkins (Casper), and majority floor leader is Dan Dockstader (Afton). In the House, there are 11 new members, still 9 Democrats and 51 Republicans. Speaker Steve Harshman (Casper) is breaking with tradition by taking a second term in the chair, and the majority floor leader is Eric Barlow of Gillette.

The LSO’s “Calendars” category will list – day by day – a list of committee meetings and bills to be considered. It also will include the daily calendar of action scheduled on the floor of the House and Senate. Last year, the LSO updated that schedule every few minutes to show the action the chamber took on each bill. However, it will be a couple of days before the House and Senate can “read” bills into the system, assign them to committees and schedule committee hearings. Watch the Calendars to keep up to date.

The League of Women Voters is keeping track of legislation that involve national or state LWV positions. Attached to each weekly legislative report will be a list of bills, our position (if there is any) and latest action. We will issue separate “alerts” if LWV member action is required.