



WYOMING LEGISLATIVE SERVICE OFFICE

Committee Handout Form

If you would like to provide a handout to a committee, please bring sufficient paper copies to the meeting for all members of the committee and provide one copy of the handout and this completed form to committee staff. Please note, copies of the handouts are available to the public upon request. If you have any questions about this form, please call the Legislative Service Office at (307) 777-7881.

Electronic submission: If possible, we would like an electronic copy of the handout before the meeting. This form is available at: <http://www.wyoleg.gov/docs/CommitteeHandoutForm.pdf>

Please save this form on your computer and complete the fields below (use the "tab" key to move through the form). Once completed, please e-mail this form and your handout to legdocs@wyoleg.gov **at least one day before** the committee meeting. In the subject line of the e-mail, please include the committee name and meeting date (e.g. House Judiciary Committee, 2/11/2018).

Committee Name:

05 SENATE AGRICULTURE

Committee Meeting Date:

1-29-19 AFTER NOON

Bill number or agenda item the handout addresses:

SFO 160 CHANGE POLITICAL AFFILIATION - 2

Document Title (please provide a short and descriptive name for the document):

LWVNY AGAINST SFO 160

Document Author (Please provide name of the ORGANIZATION and/or individual that wrote document):

SUSAN SIMPSON

Document Provider (complete ONLY if different than author listed above):

N/A

Document Date (complete only if different than meeting date):

N/A



405 South Twelfth St.
Laramie WY 82070-4019
www.wyominglwv.org
info@wyominglwv.org

January 28, 2019

Senator Brian Boner
Senate Agriculture Committee
Wyoming State Legislature

Dear Senator Boner and Members of the Committee:

I understand that the purpose of SF0160 Change in Political Affiliation-2 is to limit people changing their affiliation with the intent of unfairly influencing the outcome of a primary election. Several newspapers say this effort is a priority for the state GOP, but I believe sending it out of committee would harm the party and the state.

First there is no hard evidence that switching affiliation affected the gubernatorial race.. It's all anecdotal. We do know Mark Gordon lead his next closest competitor Sam Galeotos by 4.6% in the Wyoming Survey and Analysis Center polling done in the spring. Undecideds were 34.8 % of those polled. Mr. Friess was 6.6%, ahead of Bill Dahlin and None of These in the same poll. In August 48,203 people didn't vote for either Friess or Gordon. An election is a snapshot of a point in time. Who knows the outcome on December 7?

I hope you consider comments other committees have received about earlier versions of this bill. I have written twice and will only repeat two points and ask another:

1. The LWWVY resolution below summarizes our belief in more voter participation rather than less. We want a stronger democracy, not a closed club.
2. As someone who has told voters in seven primaries they had to change their affiliation if they wished to vote for candidate X, I know how dismayed, angry, or disgusted they can become . That's not good for the state in the long run.
3. How would this bill affect members of the military and others who vote absentee ?

An unintended consequence is people could begin to routinely register as Republicans knowing that's the only way to have a voice in decisive elections in their county, district, or state. We need more honest participation, not manipulation and misdirection. Please kill this bill.

Sincerely, ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan M. Simpson".

Susan M. Simpson, President

Resolution In Favor Of Maintaining the Right to Change Political Party Affiliation on Primary and General Election Day, approved in convention, 2017

Whereas the right to vote is fundamental to citizenship in these United States of America;

Whereas the Constitution of the United States has been amended five times to expand suffrage to more Americans (all male citizens; no considering race, color, or previous condition of servitude; sex; no tax payment required; and age lowered to 18 year olds);

Whereas the LWV believes that every citizen should be protected in the right to vote; and

Whereas the Statues of the State of Wyoming currently allow U.S. citizens 18 and older who are residents of the state, not adjudicated mentally incompetent, not convicted or a felony or have had their rights restored, to register or change their affiliation to vote on Election Day;

Whereas citizens of the State of Wyoming have many obligations and pressures on their time and attention and they are not as focused on Primary Elections, falling as they do in August, as they are on General Election Days;

Whereas less than 65% of the voting age population in Wyoming has been registered to vote since the 2000 election; and

Whereas of that less than 65%, fewer than 60% (59% in 2002 and as few of 46% (2006 and 2014)) of these registered voters have voted and as few as 25% of the total voting age population voted (2012), any changing the current law to deny voters the right to change their affiliation on Election Day denies these citizens' a voice in selecting the government that will affect their lives;

Whereas some voters are unaware that they will be able to vote only for nonpartisan and candidates of a single party on Primary Election Day;

Whereas voters must be able to decide which partisan candidate to support on Primary Election Day and not be forced into a commitment before that day;

Whereas frequently some smaller parties in Wyoming do have not have candidates for all local offices;

Whereas Wyoming has a proud tradition of voting "for the person," and creating an artificial barrier to making a voting decision on Primary Day violates that tradition. Now therefore be it

Resolved, that the League of Women Voters of Wyoming (LWVWY)

1. affirms its commitment to voter education before Primary and General Elections;
2. Endorses and praises the Legislature of the State of Wyoming for its current law enabling same day voter registration in the state; and
3. Encourages the Legislature of the State of Wyoming to keep the election process in the Great State of Wyoming as open as it currently is so that voters may select the party ballot of their choice on Primary Election Day.