

Wyoming House of Representatives

Wyoming House members serve two year terms without term limits. Stipends are \$150 per day during the legislative session or for committee meetings—the stipend includes travel days. Per Diem expenses are allowed at maximum rate of \$109, less when the meeting is in their community. There are five House Districts in Albany County—House Districts 13, 14, 45, 46 and 47. County residents vote only for the candidate in their district; candidates must live in that district. Candidates are listed below grouped by district. Voters may call the Albany County Clerk at (307) 721-2541 to request their district number, or find it on their “elections” web site. No response was received from Republican Jerry Paxton (HD 47). One candidate listed on the ballot, Democrat Narina Nunez (HD 14) announced that she had dropped out after ballots were printed. No Republican filed for HD 13.

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

Cathy Connolly (D-HD 13): Having lived and worked in Laramie for over 25 years, I have served on several boards including the SAFE Project, the Laramie High School citizen advisory board, and the Whiting High School parent advisory council. I am a UW professor, proud of our university and its students. I have been honored to serve in the legislature for the past five terms including leadership roles, and assignments to committees including Revenue, Appropriations and Education. I listen to constituents and have a proven record of success working with colleagues across the aisle on issues to improve our lives, livelihoods and communities.

Daniel Furphy (R-HD 14): The past two years of serving in the Legislature has provided valuable experience in developing an extremely tight budget yet balancing it. I supported the University of Wyoming, the K-12 school system and WyoTech. I had many years of experience as CEO of a multi-state banking organization. After retiring I took on the position of economic development for our community. Developing a budget involving several branch banks gave me exposure to working with a complex budget such as the State of Wyoming with its many agencies and departments. My economic development experience helps with the Endow initiative.

Lorraine Saulino-Klein (D-HD 14): of Laramie, is a mother, and a grandmother. She was married to the late Dr. Daniel Klein. She owns Snowy Range Foot Nurse LLC. She worked 11 years as a public-school nurse and health teacher. Saulino-Klein is a tireless volunteer, including with the Free Clinic, Climb WY, NPR, and Music Ministry. She has also held leadership positions on boards, including Laramie Community Health Center, the UW Institutional Biosafety Committee, Wyoming State Retirement Board, and Wyoming Health Care Commission. She has a BS in Education from Weber State University and a BS in Nursing from UW.

Roxie Jackson Hensley (R-HD 45): I bring a unique perspective because of my interaction with all segments of society in my work as a children’s advocate (GAL); the practical experience gained as a small business owner interacting daily with the public, employees and state agencies. This experience suggests to me that we can do a better job of strengthening our families, maintaining a healthy balance in the employer/employee relationship, in removing some of the unintended roadblocks that burden small business and challenge success. Special interest politics have done damage to the political climate and society. I seek to bring a balanced, practical, unemotional viewpoint.

Charles F. Pelkey (D-HD 45): I honestly believe one of the most important experiences in my life was the day, seven years ago, when I was both diagnosed with cancer and laid off from my job of 17 years. I was three days away from losing insurance and facing hundreds of thousands in medical bills. That experience has given me an understanding of what people in this state face on a daily basis. I have served for two terms in the Wyoming House of Representatives. Over those years, I have learned the importance of working across the aisle to get important legislation passed. . . .

Jackie Grimes (D-HD 46): This position requires somebody that knows how meet the needs of people and businesses in our communities. My family is a small business owner in Laramie – O’Dwyers Public House. I know the financial, regulatory and tax challenges of running a viable business. I’m a mother of two children and am experienced in the needs of families with respect to health care costs, day care costs, educational needs, employment needs, housing and other family needs. As a school psychologist I’m trained in helping people identify their needs and solving their challenges. Complaining about a problem is easy – solving it is my skill.

Bill Haley (R-HD 46): After graduating from UW in 1975, I worked for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department around Wyoming. I returned to Laramie January 1978 as a Game Warden. I worked here until my retirement in 2014. My wife of 40 years and I live in Centennial. I was first elected to the House of Representatives in 2016, the Legislative Management Council assigned me to the Travel, Recreation, Wildlife and Cultural Resources Committee, the Agricultural and Water Resources Committee, and the Sage Grouse Implementation Team. The Albany County Commissioners appointed me to the Funding Oversight Committee for the Pilot Hill Project.

Julie McCalister (R-HD 47): I have a bachelors in Political Science and a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Wyoming, then went on to work for the University in oil and gas research for almost 7 years. I have spent a lifetime fixing things after they have broken, and it is past time to start being more proactive in problem solving. HD47 is a huge district, and needs a representative that will work as hard as the district is large. Transparency in budgeting, education, public lands in public hands, and healthcare are a number of issues that are very important to Wyoming. . .

What do you advocate for solving the problem of substandard prison facilities, overcrowding and lack of rehabilitation programs in Wyoming?

Cathy Connolly (D-HD 13): Like the nation Wyoming's crime rate has dropped. However, unlike other states, our incarceration rates have risen. We must reverse that trend. In addition, of great concern is the crumbling state penitentiary in Rawlins and the overcrowded women's facility in Lusk. Instead of constructing expensive new facilities, we should address the factors that lead to incarceration and solutions that better meet our community needs. I will continue to support increased substance abuse programs, job training, sentence reform, and increased community corrections. Funding for these programs are an investment in crime reduction and public safety.

Daniel Furphy (R-HD 14): We need a better method for dealing with non-violent crimes. Our County Attorney has implemented innovative programs for juveniles and the systems may be effective for non-violent adults. Violent criminals go the regular court system. Our attorney developed a matrix that considers the offense and the circumstances related to it. In many cases,

a pre-trial release is developed and the offender must wear an ankle monitor. A team monitors the offender and if they stay within the criteria established, after an established period of time, they are released. Repeat offenders are rare. If they violate criteria they go to court.

Lorraine Saulino-Klein (D-HD 14): The prison system and the rehabilitation of offenders are the government's responsibility. Prisons should emphasize rehabilitation so that prisoners can reenter society as productive citizens. For-profit prisons are designed to enrich investors and stockholders, and so they reduce expenses by cutting programs and keeping prisoners locked up for longer terms. Rehabilitating prisoners is not in their interest. Wyoming is best served by helping offenders rejoin their families and communities as contributing members of society.

Roxie Jackson Hensley (R-HD 45): "Prison is-as it should be- a punishment, but we are all better served when more individuals exit the system as law-abiding and productive members of society." We need to find ways to encourage inmates to be more productive while incarcerated so they are prepared to re-enter society with marketable job skills. Should the punishment fit the crime? Absolutely! Find alternatives to incarceration when appropriate and focus on early intervention programs for juvenile offenders. I believe that funding and continuing cost/benefit analysis for existing and additional rehabilitation programs can be helpful in solving these problems if designed to enhance inmate skill sets.

Charles F. Pelkey (D-HD 45): The first step in addressing the problem of prisons in Wyoming is to work for criminal justice reform. We must address the underlying problems that lead to the growth of prison populations. Three years ago, the legislature cut funds for treatment programs for those behind bars. The almost-immediate result was that we saw growth in the number of inmates who were returned to prison for substance violations. Yes, we saved a few dollars by cutting those programs, but we ended up spending more state funds as prison populations began to rise. . . .

Jackie Grimes (D-HD 46): Prevention efforts should be established to stop the school-to-prison pipeline. These include teaching children resiliency skills, job readiness skills, and ensuring students are able to graduate from high school. Additionally, overcrowding can be addressed by examining the effectiveness of prison sentences for nonviolent crimes. Rehabilitation should be skills-based (same skills for students) and built into several key areas; voluntary rehabilitation, court ordered rehabilitation for first time offenders, rehabilitation as part of parole, and within prison sentences. By lowering the number of individuals serving prison sentencing, efforts can be made to redirect funding to constructing adequate facilities and invest in rehabilitation efforts.

Bill Haley (R-HD 46): This past session the legislature passed House Bill 162 which created an account to fund future construction needs for prison. A task force was created to study replacing versus repairing the current penitentiary. A decision has not been reached, but an estimate just to repair the old penitentiary is \$125 M compared with an estimate of \$165 M to replace it. In 2017, \$7.5 M was appropriated to do immediate repairs. We must continue to offer the most effective and progressive programs to aid in rehabilitation while requiring strict compliance from those being offered these programs.

Julie McCalister (R-HD 47): Our state prison facilities need to be analyzed for the safety and functionality of the building, and budgeting. I am generally in support of programs that are an alternative to prison, such as boot camp, and our drug court programs. These kind of rehabilitate programs have a much better success rate, and lower reoffender rate than prison. Rehabilitation, possibly better utilization of resources, are areas that need to be utilized better, and more broadly

in our states criminal justice system. Simply locking people up, especially for nonviolent offenses, is rarely the answer, and offers no real solution to crime of any kind. . .

What revenue enhancing measures, including but not limited to a state income tax, will you support in the 2019 Legislative session?

Cathy Connolly (D-HD 13): With declining tax revenues from the extractive industries, Wyoming is facing a bust that must be addressed through careful evaluation of our taxation structure. These taxes are necessary to fund education, school construction, roads, and other needed services for our neighbors and communities. A recent study confirmed that simply bringing new industry to Wyoming without changing our tax structure is not the solution. Increasing sales tax and mill levies should be examined, as should a modest state income tax on corporations and individuals. We should also consider permitting counties and municipalities the ability to self-tax for needed services and infrastructure.

Daniel Furphy (R-HD 14): My voting record shows that I was supportive of an increase in cigarette taxes. A UW study showed that non-smokers are subsidizing in our state for such things as health care cost of \$240 million per year. A tax increase of 30 cents per pack would only generate \$24 million .per year so just a small amount of the cost. The bill did not pass but I would be in favor of considering it again. The other tax I supported was a tourism tax that the tourism industry strongly supported. The tax would fund the Tourism Department to support advertising.

Lorraine Saulino-Klein (D-HD 14): We must be transparent with Wyoming financial accounts. Where are the “pots” of money and how are they accessed? A clear understanding of Wyoming’s finances will lead to better decision-making. On the other hand, entering a negotiation or legislative process with a closed mind will only result in cuts to vital programs and services, such as education and health services for children. Clear and well-grounded research shows that increases in tobacco taxes reduce youth initiation into tobacco use. If the citizens of Wyoming do consider an income tax it MUST be progressive and not fall hardest on the working poor.

Roxie Jackson Hensley (R-HD 45): I do not support a state income tax. Budget shortfalls are best addressed by reductions in spending rather than revenue enhancements.

Charles F. Pelkey (D-HD 45): While we are working hard to diversify Wyoming’s economy, we are not doing much to diversify Wyoming’s tax base. We have to look at a host of alternative revenue options that does more than rely on an industry with declining demand. It will be hard for some to advocate new taxes, but we have to be open to restructuring our tax system if we are to protect the investments we’ve made in education, roads, healthcare and preservation of public lands and wildlife.

Jackie Grimes (D-HD 46): In the 2019 legislative session, I will support tax reform. Our current taxation model is not working to sustain and support Wyoming’s interests. We need to examine the impact of government regulations that prohibit industries outside of coal and minerals from bringing in jobs and revenue. I believe it is also worth examining allowing local counties to vote to on local taxes to offset costs not supported at the state level. I will also support the examination of the implementation of an income tax as a mean to stabilize our economy if needed.

Bill Haley (R-HD 46): One of the key elements in attracting new business to Wyoming is quality air service. I will again support the ENDOW initiative and air service in Wyoming. I support a Corporate income tax only on the largest corporations doing business in Wyoming, but I would not support a tax on small businesses or corporations, individuals or a property tax. The Legislature's Revenue Committee is taking testimony this interim on Wyoming's tax structure and new approaches to our current tax structure. I support more efficiency studies of all state agencies. This process has saved the state's taxpayers money and should continue.

Julie McCalister (R-HD 47): I do not and will not support a state sales tax. Looking at revenue and budgeting in Wyoming needs to begin with budgeting transparency. Wyoming is one of only three states that does not have easily available, comprehensive budgeting reporting for all sources receiving state money. There is no viable reason for this lack of transparency, and it undoubtedly is leading to wasting of funds. Budgets need to be looked at in detail, and evaluated for waste, and areas that can be restricted. I do not feel that Wyoming is at a point that requires any kind of tax increase . . .