

## Wyoming Legislature Carbon County

*Wyoming House members serve two-year terms and Senators serve four-year terms without term limits. Stipends are \$150 per day during the legislative session and committee meetings—including travel days. Per Diem expenses are \$109 maximum, less when the meeting is in their community. There are two House Districts in Carbon County—House Districts 15 and 47. County residents vote only for the candidate in their District; candidates must also live in their District. There is one Senate District, SD 11. No Democrat filed for HD 15. No response was received from Jerry Paxton (R- HD 47).*

### **What experience, qualifications and interests do you have that prepare you for this office?**

**Don Burkhart (R-HD 15):** I have a highly technical college degree and considerable experience in private industry managing operations, personnel and budgets. This gives me skills, knowledge and abilities to address the complex issues facing House District 15 and the State of Wyoming. My eight years in the legislature have given me an understanding of the operation of government and where expenditures can be reduced. I am currently the Speaker Pro Tempore and serve on the legislature's management council. This provides an excellent basis from which to represent the people of House District 15.

**Larry Hicks (R-SD 11):** Education: B.S. University of Wyoming, M.S. Montana State University, Doctoral work at UW. Twenty-eight years' experience in natural resource management working with federal, state, local governmental agencies and landowners on the management and regulation of natural resource in Wyoming. Served on local and national boards related to water, agriculture, and natural resources. Eight years in the Wyoming Senate, including Chairmen of the Agriculture-Public Lands and Water Resources, and Select Natural Resource Funding. Also served on Judiciary, Corporation- Election-Political Subdivision Committee and Select Water. Represent Wyoming Legislature on national committees for Agriculture, Water Resource and Infrastructure, and Environment.

**Lee Ann Stephenson (D-SD 11):** I graduated from the University of Wyoming with a bachelor degree in Administration of Justice in 1989. While living in Cheyenne, I worked for the Department of Family Services investigating child abuse. I was promoted to the DFS state office to provide training, rules, procedures, office audits for the child protection division, including work on legislation for child protection and welfare reform. I next moved to the Wyoming Attorney General's Office, as a program manager for domestic violence in the Division of Victim Services, also working with the legislature on laws concerning domestic violence. Retired in 2007, moved to Riverside.

### **If elected, would you work to change the current election code that allows voters to change party affiliation at primary elections and why?**

**Don Burkhart (R-HD 15):** I have personally witnessed the attempt by one party to have its members change parties in the most recent primary election. That was done in order to support a specific opposing party candidate which they preferred. In some ways this is an attempt to interfere in the election process. This issue needs to be resolved. Each party must be secure in its own decision making without outside attempts by the other party to influence that decision making. This issue must be addressed in an open and public manner by the Legislature's Corporations, Elections and Political Subdivisions Committee.

**Larry Hicks (R-SD 11):** Absolutely I will continue to work to revamp our current election codes. Voters should not be allowed to change parties at the polls in "primary" election. Primary elections are for the sole purpose of the parties to select their candidates. The system is currently being

abused where one party crosses over on primary election day in order to politically medal in the outcome of the other political party's candidate selection.

**Lee Ann Stephenson (D-SD 11):** I would not work to change the current election code.

**What specific parts of the ENDOW (Economically Needed Diversity Options for Wyoming) report ([www.endowyo.biz](http://www.endowyo.biz)) do you support such as tax reforms, infrastructure and pay equity improvements, population growth and others?**

**Don Burkhart (R-HD 15):** The entire ENDOW concept needs to have a thorough review and specific cost benefit analyses of each aspect of the program. The ENDOW program must have the full and active oversight of the Legislature, which is the keeper of the State's finances. The workforce training piece of the program is its most valuable. Workforce training and quality is a national and State issue. It needs to be addressed in order to bring in new business and retain Carboexisting business. Wyoming has lost new businesses because it lacked the necessary trained workforce.

**Larry Hicks (R-SD 11):** There is little in the ENDOW report that I can support for the primary reason is it was supposed to be an economic strategy to diversify our economy and what it turned out to be is a wish list for more government programs and spending. The report wanders all over the spectrum and lacks any semblance of a targeted strategic approach to "how" we are going to diversify our economy. The singular most glaring deficiency in the ENDOW report is any discussion of consistency of how economic development can be done while preserving the heritage, customs and culture of Wyoming. . . .

**Lee Ann Stephenson (D-SD 11):** No one wants to pay more taxes. First, I want to make sure we have all the tools in place to make sure we are correctly collecting all the taxes currently legislated. Next, I would like to evaluate all the tax exemptions currently granted and decide if they should still be supported. I would next support the expansion of U of Wyoming so residents across the state can have access to degree programs to better educate our workforce. I would also support expanding medical education facilities to better train a workforce to bring medical innovation to serve our rural residents.