

A Resolution re: Wyoming Legislature Open Meetings

Whereas the League of Women Voters has long worked for the citizen's right to know and for broad citizen participation in government;

Whereas the League of Women Voters holds the principle that governmental bodies protect citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible;

Whereas Wyoming's Open Meetings Laws are said to apply to agencies that "exist to conduct public business" and provide 11 instances for a governing body to hold an executive session not open to the public (W.S. 16-4-405);

Whereas the total of the Wyoming Legislature's work is to do the public's business;

Whereas the political parties may close their causes to form positions, but the Legislature increasingly is using closed-door meetings for whole-chamber discussions with no explained compelling reason, and conference committee increasingly are meeting with no public announcement;

Whereas conference committees for three major bills pending at the closing hours of the 2018 session relating to the state biennial budget, capital construction and education funding met without public notice;

Whereas the Wyoming Legislature is, nevertheless, exempt from Wyoming's Open Meetings Laws; now therefore be it

Resolved, that the League of Women Voters of Wyoming

- a) Requests the Wyoming Legislature, its leaders and members, to reassess the use of meetings closed to the public for discussions and deliberations that deny the people of Wyoming understanding about how their laws are being written; and*
- b) Requests the Wyoming House and Senate to approve joint rules that limit closed meetings to occasions of litigation, personnel, proposed land acquisition as outlined in W.S. 16-4-405.*
- c) Requests leadership of the Wyoming and Senate to ensure, as much as practicable conference committee meetings are noticed and are open to the public.*

Adopted by the Cheyenne League of Women Voters

Adopted by the League of Women voters of Wyoing at its 2018 Annual Convention