



2022 Primary Election Voter Guide Introduction

The League of Women Voters of Wyoming, in a 55-year partnership with the Laramie Boomerang, prepared this Voter Guide for publication on July 17 for the August 16 Primary Election.

The Offices

The LWV surveyed all candidates for contact information and responses to four identical questions within each of the different races for county, and city elected offices. Most races are partisan, with Republican and Democratic party members having separate ballots to choose their candidates for the General Election ballot. Your ballot contains only the names of candidates of the party you are registered with, plus non-partisan office candidates (Laramie City Council).

The Questions

Four questions for each race were formulated by the League of Women Voters. The questions were emailed by June 10, 2022 to addresses given when the candidate filed for office. Deadline for responses extended to June 20, 2022. Those whose responses did not come by the deadline received follow-up emails, phone calls, or text messages.

The Responses

The candidates' statements are exactly as submitted to the League's nationwide website, Vote411.org. Each candidate received a unique passcode allowing response entry. Spelling or grammar was not corrected unless the candidate requested a change. If responses to a given question had several paragraphs, they were combined into one, as spaces between paragraphs use up "characters" for the 750-character limit set by the League. City or area of residence is listed, taken from [Vote411](http://Vote411.org) or from the "Candidate Roster" on the public documents of the Wyoming Secretary of State's website or that of the Albany County Clerk. In one case, the residence of a rural candidate is listed as the closest unincorporated settlement.

Responses to a question are listed alphabetically regardless of party. For races that have wards or districts, those running for the same office are grouped together and the groups are in ascending numerical order. Responses were downloaded from [Vote411](http://Vote411.org) through June 25.

Response Rate

There was 100 percent participation by the 38 candidates in the 15 Albany County races.

Other Information

This Voter Guide also is available online at Vote411.org. Candidate Forums for Laramie and Albany County are available on the Wyoming League website, wyominglww.org, under the

Elections & Government tab. A search for a candidate's name (plus Wyoming) may produce other media with information.

Thank the Candidates

The filing fee for candidates ranges from \$750 for the U.S. House of Representatives to \$25 for municipal office. Candidates give up some privacy by making it possible for constituents to get in touch with them. They are inundated with paperwork; some elected positions require much travel. Compensation is often not what a candidate could have earned in private practice or businesses. Yet, these candidates have decided to seek your vote. Here you will learn their positions on some issues, and information is given for you to contact them about the things you advocate. This is democracy in action; it could not happen without willing candidates.

About the League of Women Voters

The LWV is a non-partisan political organization whose mission is to empower voters and defend democracy. The League does not support candidates or political parties. It is organized and is active with government at national, state, and various local levels. The League was founded by members of a women's suffrage organization when it disbanded in 1920 due to ratification of the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution giving women the right to vote. However, 50 years earlier, the women of Wyoming Territory were given the right to vote and hold office through an act of the all-male Territorial Assembly in 1869.

Laramie City Council

Office: Terms are four years without term limits; expiration dates are staggered for the nine nonpartisan seats—three each from three city wards. Compensation is \$120 for each day of regular meetings, work sessions or special meetings attended. There are no benefits or office space provided. Only those registered voters living within a particular ward vote for the candidates from that ward. The top two candidates (top four where there are two seats available) in each ward will advance to the General Election. Those elected in 2022 will join Brian Harrington and Andrea Summerville (Ward 1), Jayne Pearce and Sharon Cumbie (Ward 2), and Pat Gabriel (Ward 3), whose terms do not expire until 2024. There is one seat available each in Wards 1 and 2, two in Ward 3. There are only two candidates who filed for Ward 3, but four names can go to the General Election ballot. Therefore, two write-in candidates may also advance if they meet all the requirements.

Candidates:

Allison Cunningham (Ward 1): Phone: 307-315-1484

Email: allisonforlaramie@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.allisonforlaramie.com>

Other: <http://gab.com/allisonforlaramie>

Micah Richardson (Ward 1): Phone: 307-223-5710

Email: micahforlaramie@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.micahforlaramie.com/>

Instagram URL: <http://www.instagram.com/micahforlaramie/>

Facebook URL: <http://www.facebook.com/MicahforLaramieCityCouncil>

Frederick Schmechel (Ward 1): Phone: 307-630-6424

Email: fred.schmechel@wyo4life.net

Michael Armagost (Ward 2): Phone:307-761-3159

Email: reverend91.ma@gmail.com

Website: <http://Killinitproductions.com>

Chris Dixon (Ward 2): Email: dixonlaramie@gmail.com

Brett Glass (Ward 2): Phone 307-745-0351

Email: citycouncil@brettglass.com

Website: <http://voteglass.org>

Twitter Handle: @@Glass4Laramie

Ray Kasckow (Ward 2): Phone: 307-274-8948

Email: ray4ward2@gmail.com

Website: <http://rayforcitycouncil.com>

Instagram URL: <http://www.instagram.com/ray4ward2>

Facebook URL: <http://www.facebook.com/RayforWard2>

Brandon S. Newman (Ward 2): Phone: 785-592-0681

Email: Brandon@brandonnewman.net

Website: <http://brandonnewman.net>

Facebook URL: <http://facebook.com/mrbrandonnewman>

Erin O'Doherty (Ward 3): Phone: 307-223-9295

Email: erin.o.laramie@gmail.com

Website: <http://erinwyoming.com>

Facebook URL: <http://www.facebook.com/ErinOWYO>

Joe Shumway (Ward 3): Phone: 307-760-6191

What qualities, training, experiences, and skills would you bring to this office?

Allison Cunningham (Ward 1): A lot of community services and my personal experience with hardships would bring me to this office. I'm currently an advocate for establishing a Wyoming Commission for the Deaf and a volunteer commissioner for Laramie Advisory Commission on Disabilities. I like to think outside of the box and solve the problems.

Micah Richardson (Ward 1): I lead the grantmaking team for the Wyoming Community Foundation, a statewide nonprofit working to build a better Wyoming through grantmaking to organizations and communities. The role of a city council member shares broad similarities: to address community needs and issues that make Laramie a more livable community for all of us. This might mean creating partnerships, seeking grant funding, adapting code, and researching effective projects and approaches within other communities. I serve on the Zoning and Planning Commission, which gives me insight into housing and growth, and I am a part of Mainstreet's Design Committee. I'm eager to learn, listen and work to approach issues with thoughtfulness and civility.

Frederick Schmechel (Ward 1): I've spent more than a decade in economic development here in Laramie growing our town from within. I've played a key advisory role in the launch of more than 100 startup companies across Southeast Wyoming. I believe building communities while retaining what we love about them, particularly in tight times like today, requires innovation, creativity, and the willingness to tear down silos that we can no longer

afford. My degrees from UW are in art, with a Master of Public Administration degree in 2013. I am a 2019 graduate of Leadership Wyoming. I currently serve in my second term on the Wyoming Humanities board and am deeply proud of the role the organization took supporting Wyoming's cultural non-profit sector during the pandemic.

Michael Armagost (Ward 2): The qualities I have that would contribute to this position is I'm from Encampment, Wyoming. I bring the small town loyalty, equality mindset and transparency of talking to everyone like I know them personally. The training I have is from real life. I can recognize issues and find a solution that will benefit everyone as a whole, rather than the select few. I have been home owner in Laramie for 6 years and a business owner for 2 of those years. I know how to handle money and am able to prioritize issues so they get taken care of in a timely, professional manner.

Chris Dixon (Ward 2): I am currently on both the Parks, Trees, and Recreation Advisory Board and the Planning Commission. I joined the advisory board in 2014 and the commission just this year. I believe my experiences on both boards have given me an insight into city government along with productive ways of solving issues. As a father, husband, and uncle family is important to me. Not just mine but the health and wellness of other families within our community as well. I believe that my work on the boards and being family oriented has helped me be a better listener to the needs of others.

Brett Glass (Ward 2): I am an electrical engineer and physicist and the owner of two Laramie businesses (including the world's first wireless ISP). I am also an author, musician, Extra Class amateur radio operator, lover of good coffee and chocolate, frequent speaker at technical conferences, and advocate of ethical, transparent, fair, efficient, responsive government. I co-founded the Laramie Film Society and have served on Laramie's Zoning Board of Adjustment and Solar Board and the Wyoming Telecom Council. As a businessperson and engineer, I have a head for numbers and an intuitive sense for when they do not add up. I've lived in Laramie continuously for 30 years and have a deep understanding of its history, economy, neighborhoods, and character.

Ray Kasckow (Ward 2): I am a trans masc non-binary queer person who uses they/them pronouns, & I credit my confidence in this identity because of Laramie. While living here, I have learned about acceptance, determination, & resilience, and all this has allowed me to be the person I am today. I served on the Planning & Zoning Commission for two years, where I experienced City processes while working with the other commissioners in making respectful decisions on development projects. I was the Executive Director of the Alliance for Historic Wyoming, a statewide non-profit, where I focused on economic development through historic preservation. I am running for City Council because I want to help continue to make Laramie a place to be oneself.

Brandon S. Newman (Ward 2): Leadership, problem-solving, dependability, and relationship building are some of my top qualities and skills I will bring to the council when elected. Leadership, I will provide leadership among the council and members of our city. I will bring their voice, not my own, to every meeting. Problem-Solving- Laramie has a budget problem and from my research it's a spending problem more than a budget problem. We

spend money on some unneeded items or go over budget on projects because a proper budget isn't thought about. I will do my own research on my own time to make sure anything I pass for our community is the best for LARAMIE, not my own personal agenda. Relationship building- This is huge for myself. Find out more at Brandonnewman.net

Erin O'Doherty (Ward 3): Empathy and integrity are the most important qualities I bring to the City Council. I listen to citizens' concerns, put myself in their shoes, and weigh the consequences of our actions. I study issues carefully, having been trained as a research scientist (B.S. and M.S. in Zoology and Ph.D in Ecology). I contribute to committees dealing with natural resources and energy and have offered new ideas backed by my research, such as glass recycling options. My experience includes 3.5 years on Council and a lifetime of activism. I have been a member of the Laramie community for 31 years and consistently engage with our fellow citizens. At City Council meetings I voice my concerns, as well those I've heard from constituents.

Joe Shumway (Ward 3): I have served on the both the city council and was elected twice to serve as mayor of Laramie. I was elected and served as the National Chairman for Crime Prevention and Public Safety at the National League of Cities. I currently serve on the board of directors for Laramie Ark Regional Services, the board of directors for Laramie Interfaith and also on the board of directors for Laramie Developmental Child Care. I have also served on over twenty other committees and councils in Laramie and Albany County.

What infrastructure projects would you prioritize for the city of Laramie and why?

Allison Cunningham (Ward 1): Keeping Laramie safe and clean is my top priority. We're a tight knit community. We want to be able to enjoy living, working, and playing in and outskirt of Laramie. We want to be able to attract the visitors too. That will help with our local economy. Secondly I would like to help keeping small businesses open. Thirdly, highways 130 and 230 need to be plowed more often so they can commute to Laramie safely for work. Last, sidewalks including corners need to be plowed or shoveled during the wintertime. Public places need to be accessible for all locals and visitors alike.

Micah Richardson (Ward 1): Sewer and water systems are fundamental to any city's ability to function, including Laramie, and both would top my list. However, prioritizing infrastructure also means taking a look at the city's budget to understand where and how infrastructure dollars are raised and allocated, and where there might be opportunities to support things like accessible sidewalks, paved streets, and pothole-less streets through grants or penny taxes.

Frederick Schmechel (Ward 1): With significant supply chain disruptions, rising construction costs, and an unknown landscape of federal and state funding, it is too early to determine what the final order of infrastructure projects should look like. Critical projects, like those that ensure we don't go the way of Rawlins' recent troubles, should remain a significant priority. Additionally, those projects that support the continued growth of our housing units should continue when they can be done reasonably. But the convenience focused projects, such as Iverson adjacent to the University, need to be deeply considered

and evaluated before they are allowed to move forward. We must pursue every federal grant dollar we can reasonably go after to address our many needs.

Michael Armagost (Ward 2): The infrastructure projects I would like to focus on would be maintaining the roads and replacing our old water systems. I think these will be good to focus on because we have more dirt roads than any other city for our population range. I recently had an experience when a water main burst in March and it was evident to me then, that we would have more issues on the way if these were not taken care of soon. We need to be proactive rather than reactive with these issues so we can be more fiscally responsible.

Chris Dixon (Ward 2): It may not be an infrastructure project but the city needs to look at city employee pay. If we can't pay them a livable wage employee retention becomes an issue, which in turn means that the city isn't able to plow roads beyond the critical routes or repair city structures or the city council is only able to create a limited project prioritization list.

Brett Glass (Ward 2): Increasing available parking in areas where it is scarce (especially downtown and near UW); abating flooding in flood-prone areas; removing arbitrary restrictions which deter, slow, or limit the deployment or quality of cell phone service; increasing broadband options via shared "dig once" raceways and conduits; extending curb and gutter upgrade support to commercial and non-owner-occupied properties; "undergrounding" utilities; installing signals at accident-prone intersections. All of these measures are important to improve our city's quality of life and desirability as a place to live.

Ray Kasckow (Ward 2): Water is the foundation of our community, and we need to focus on its improvement. Currently, the water lines and sewer systems are out of date or over capacity, which causes increased water fees, a risk to public health, and limited development. Increasing the capacity of our water lines and sewers will create safer water, support new businesses and affordable housing, and while we update, we can repair and improve cracked roads and sidewalks.

Brandon S. Newman (Ward 2): I would start with looking at all of Laramie and putting a game plan together to help all of Laramie. We have unpaved streets in city limits. We have potholes around town that need to be fixed. We have streets and sidewalks that retain water instead of letting it drain off. First and foremost, before fixing those problems, let's make sure our water lines are up to date, let's make sure the utilities under the streets are still up to date, let's make sure our sewer lines are up to date. Then, let's tackle the streets and getting them up to date. The reasoning is if we fix the roads now, and a water line breaks, we must tear up the street again. So, let's do it the smart way and start with what underlies under the current streets.

Erin O'Doherty (Ward 3): Water and wastewater infrastructure projects are most important to me. Both are crucial to the health of our citizens. Fortunately, those are enterprise accounts so the city has the ability to raise funds. The Council and City staff have been aggressive in seeking federal grants to help reduce the costs to our citizens. It is crucial to keep those pipeline networks and treatment plants in good repair. If we were to defer maintenance, we would be passing on the cost to the next generation and endangering our

water supply. The City has done a great job in the last decade in managing these systems and taking proactive measures to reduce breaks and leaks. We need to continue in that direction.

Joe Shumway (Ward 3): Streets will always need attention. Water is our most valuable resource and we must stay on top of water and waste water needs. There are studies that show we need more attention to storm water systems. Our financial resources are limited and it is important that we carefully prioritize every project without raising taxes. As a council member I will work with our planning staff to insure that Laramie grows responsibly.

How would you address property owners' concerns when zoning changes are proposed?

Allison Cunningham (Ward 1): I can't comment but I'm happy to listen to the concerns. I support private property rights.

Micah Richardson (Ward 1): Laramie is growing. With that growth comes a need to review and adapt zoning code to ensure we manage growth thoughtfully. Zoning changes can be worrisome if you are a property owner who is concerned about the loss of neighborhood character and culture. The questions I consider when thinking about the zoning changes are, "What's best for the community as a whole? Could the changes help make housing more attainable for folks? And do the zoning changes seem appropriate for the neighborhood and for managing growth?" Zoning changes are one approach to address the lack of sufficient housing that's affordable and will need to continue to be reviewed as Laramie grows.

Frederick Schmechel (Ward 1): Our lack of housing is the single greatest threat to equitable living in this fair town. We are fortunate that we have already addressed many of the changes that other communities in Wyoming are just starting to grapple with. Laramie's forward leaning council is leading much of the state in this area and I hope we continue to partner with other communities that face similar issues to us as we address the matter. The real challenge that we face is finding effective communication to constituents who no longer rely only upon printed media. Finding new partnerships and encouraging community interaction with existing means of engaging with our city government to spread the word about issues would solve much of the perceived problem.

Michael Armagost (Ward 2): These are very important to me as a property owner. I would like to find a solution with other city council members that will benefit the majority of the population.

Chris Dixon (Ward 2): When addressing property owner's concerns where zoning changes are concerned there needs to be unbiased listening along with honest open non-confrontational dialog. This is an important issue that concerns both landlords and tenants.

Brett Glass (Ward 2): Zoning is a promise. It is a guarantee to you, when you pinch pennies and invest your life's savings in a property, that its value and the character of the neighborhood will be preserved. Changes should not be undertaken lightly. The City currently mails detailed notices to neighbors when the smallest variance is requested. But

ironically, when an ordinance will dramatically alter the nature of an entire zoning category, no such notice is given. As I told our City Council when it recently made two drastic changes without appropriate input, the City must make only evidence-based changes, solicit public comment in advance, send written notices, hold readily accessible hearings, and listen to residents -- not lobbyists or outside interests.

Ray Kasckow (Ward 2): Laramie is growing, the big question is how. The first thing we need to make sure of is that our homeowners are supported and respected, especially as zoning changes occur through the city. The City needs to provide further information to the public as more projects are introduced. By changing zoning, Laramie can become more accessible to homeowners and businesses, but we need to understand how this happens as a community. I believe we need to establish a public information position in the City so that we have all the information to help Laramie continue to grow.

Brandon S. Newman (Ward 2): Addressing owners' concerns would come easy to me, while on the planning and zoning board in Kansas, I worked with those property owners to make sure their voice was heard. I wanted to make sure both sides (owners and city) were educated on why the zoning would change and if it really needed to be changed. As a Statesman, I will respect those property owners and come up with a Win-Win for both parties. Not just pass them without giving the property owners the respect and attention they deserve. After all, they are the property owners not me or the council.

Erin O'Doherty (Ward 3): Council always has three hearings and a work session when changes to zoning are proposed. Those council meetings are preceded by Planning Commission meetings. Issues are published on the agendas for many weeks prior to their consideration by the Council, assuring there is proper notice of upcoming topics. Despite my own opinion, I voted in accordance with the concerns expressed by the majority of Ward 3 constituents who spoke up at our meeting or who sent emails. That said, "property owners" are only a portion of our constituents and councilors need to represent all residents, including ones who cannot buy a home because of limited supply and high prices.

Joe Shumway (Ward 3): The city has zoning maps of residential, business, open space and industrial areas. These maps are important for development of both neighborhoods and commercial interests. I believe that changes to zoning should be infrequent and only after careful consideration and input from our residents. Again, I will work with residents, businesses and city staff to make Laramie a well-planned city.

What would you propose with regard to accountability to the community for the Laramie Police Department? Please be specific.

Allison Cunningham (Ward 1): I support the Laramie Police Department. Serving and protecting the community is their job. I would like the police and the community to understand and support each other. I would like Laramie High School parking lot in the front of the school to be monitored regularly because teen drivers often drive too fast. I was almost hit once when I was delivering food as a DoorDash driver.

Micah Richardson (Ward 1): A recent city council vote means that a police oversight board, in the proposed form, is unlikely. I believe communications among law enforcement, community members, and community experts should continue. Especially those conversations that provide a better understanding of and better approach to mental health and substance abuse issues. Open lines of communication between mental health experts, social workers, and policing experts can lead to more trusting relationships. That trust is critical for a healthy community. I also believe the mental health of law enforcement needs addressing. Policing is an incredibly mentally and emotionally demanding job and support should be available to officers, for their health and the community's.

Frederick Schmechel (Ward 1): The Police Working Group pushed forward the concept of a Community Oversight Board despite three legal opinions that it was unlawful to do so. It is a shame that they chose to squander the opportunity to move forward on real topics where the community needs to have discussions and instead focus on something which would not have survived the courts if Council had moved forward with it. We deserve a discussion on body camera footage as an HR record. We deserve a discussion on what happens when any law enforcement officer in Albany County is accused of domestic abuse or other crime. We deserve a discussion on a use of force review board that covers all law enforcement in Albany County.

Michael Armagost (Ward 2): First and foremost, we need to hire qualified candidates and that everyone be accountable for their actions, regardless of what position of power they are in. Everything needs to be fair, precise, and transparent. Innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Chris Dixon (Ward 2): I know that a citizen lead board that would look into LPD accountability was voted down. I also know that Laramie does need some sort of commission to look into and recommend solutions pertaining concerns with and within LPD. Perhaps a mix of council members, local citizens, and a person from the state justice department would perhaps be the answer.

Brett Glass (Ward 2): Some in Laramie have proposed "defunding" the police. I disagree. Instead, we should offer the best pay and perks, making it so desirable to work for the Laramie Police Department that we can pick and choose among applicants -- getting only the most professional, coolheaded, fair, community-minded cops, with pristine records, working for our city. These officers should be trained to call in experts to handle unusual situations, and should treasure their positions so much that they won't jeopardize them by behaving poorly -- knowing that there are many candidates who would gladly take the job. We can then insist upon model behavior by our officers and require by ordinance that those who don't measure up be dismissed.

Ray Kasckow (Ward 2): Transparency and accountability are paramount to a community that is truly served by the people they elect to represent them. Laramie is a tight-knit community full of thoughtful and supportive neighbors, which is why we should trust them in having a say in how we are policed. I support a third-party review board that reviews law enforcement practices and reports their findings to the people.

Brandon S. Newman (Ward 2): Accountability begins with our current City Council and City Staff. I have sat down with the Chief of Police and had a discussion on how we can come to an agreement for a Civilian Oversight Committee, NONE of the current council members have reached out and talked to the department. How can they properly vote on anything to hold the department accountable if they don't know what happens in the department other than what is presented to them. Our current council should be asking our Chief of Police questions and demanding answer if there is a problem but none of them are?

Erin O'Doherty (Ward 3): When I have forwarded a concern to our Laramie Chief of Police, he has acted and investigated the incident. I think he is very professional and conscientious. I appreciate his innovative work with survivors of domestic violence and with people in crisis. Still, I would like to have some way for citizens to anonymously express concerns, because some fear retaliation. I like the idea of an outside board being able to log complaints. People sometimes tell me about a negative interaction with an officer, but I'm not sure what to do with the information, because if I give the date and time of the event I would be revealing the person's identity. City government, including professional law enforcement, needs to be transparent and accountable.

Joe Shumway (Ward 3): I have worked on committees for public safety and crime prevention on both the local and national level. The Laramie Police Department has participated in community oversight groups that want open and transparent cooperation. Chief Dale Stalter and I have had several frank and open discussions. I believe that the Laramie Police Department wants to serve us using both accepted and best practices in community policing.

Albany County Assessor

Office: Term is four years with no term limits. Salary is \$92,500 annually. An office and some benefits are provided. No Democrat filed for this office.

Candidate:

Chelsie Mathews: Republican; Laramie

Email: chelsie4assessor@gmail.com

Website: <http://chelsie4assessor.com>

What qualities, training, experiences, and skills would you bring to this office?

Chelsie Mathews (R): I have worked in the Albany County Assessor's office for over 13 years. I have held several positions throughout the department and was appointed Assessor in November of 2021. I am certified by the Wyoming Department of Revenue as a Property Tax Appraiser.

How would you assure that property owners understand how assessments are calculated?

Chelsie Mathews (R): I believe education is power and transparency is key. This year I included a letter along with everyone's notice of value that briefly explained the valuation process. I plan on hosting several educational opportunities for the public as well as posting a power point presentation on the County website. I encourage any tax payer that as questions on how the process works to come see me.

How will you decide which properties and how many to reassess annually?

Chelsie Mathews (R): Wyoming State Statute 39-13-103 states "all taxable property shall be annually valued at its fair market value", therefore I must reassess all property in the County annually.

Many Albany County homeowners saw what they considered a large increase in their property tax recently. What could you do about this?

Chelsie Mathews (R): Wyoming rules and regulations currently state I must use sales to value properties at the current fair market value; therefore the County Assessor's values will follow the market. If the market is increasing so will property values and taxes; if the market is decreasing so will property values and taxes. Until legislation changes the law, legally I have to follow the sales. Overall, my median sales ratio must fall within a range of .95 to 1.05. I keep those medians as close to .95 as possible, which tends to keep property values slightly under fair market value. With that said, I do support a change in the law such as cap on the amount of increase per year.

Albany County Attorney

Office: Term is four years; salary is \$102,500 annually. An office and some benefits are provided. No Republican filed for this office.

Candidate:

Edward Kurt Britzius: Democrat; Laramie; Phone: 307-314-2178

Email: britziusforcountyattorney@gmail.com

What qualities, training, experiences, and skills would you bring to this office?

Edward Kurt Britzius (D): I worked as a prosecutor at the Albany County Attorney's Office from 2009 until 2019. During that time, I was a criminal prosecuting attorney and have had the opportunity to prosecute every sort of criminal case, from speeding cases to homicide cases. While at the County Attorney's Office, I was able to gain experience in every stage of a criminal case, including charging decisions, motions practice, and jury trials. The County Attorney's Office has also given me the opportunity to attend multiple trainings in regard to criminal prosecution. Finally, my time in the office allowed me to build relationships with law enforcement, defense counsel, the courts, and other actors in the system that has been invaluable in my career.

What factors should influence decisions on which cases to prosecute?

Edward Kurt Britzius (D): First priority has to be given to cases involving violence. These cases have by far the greatest impact on the victims of crime and the perpetrators of violent crimes pose the greatest risk to our community. All cases have to be given the necessary attention to determine not just their level of importance, but to what impact their outcomes will have on the community. Prosecutors also have to review the evidence and determine what evidence will be admissible and available at trial. It is the prosecutor's burden to prove their case beyond a reasonable doubt, the highest burden of proof in the legal system. Each case must have sufficient evidence to prevail at trial and this must be taken into account in choosing which cases to prosecute.

Although it varies by case, what will generally influence your sentencing recommendations to the court?

Edward Kurt Britzius (D): There are many factors when deciding what sentence recommendations to make in a criminal court. These are often agreed to prior in plea offers. Deciding what plea to offer or argument to make at sentencing is not an exact science. The type of offense, violent or nonviolent, plays a key role, as does the criminal history of the defendant. In a crime involving a victim, getting the victim's input is always crucial. Our Crime Victim-Witness program does amazing work in making sure victims have input in sentencing. Protecting the community is always paramount, but rehabilitation and deterring future crime are also key factors, as well as making sure similarly situated defendants receive like sentences.

What will influence your hiring decisions for other lawyers in the County Attorney's office?

Edward Kurt Britzius (D): The Albany County Attorney's Office is currently in a great staffing situation. We have a strong team of attorneys and staff that provides excellent service to our community. When the time comes to hire a new attorney, it is extremely important to ensure the individual not only has the legal expertise, but also the right temperament for the office and the position. Criminal prosecutor's have a great deal of discretion and responsibility. It is important any new hire has an even-keeled personality and strong ethics. We are fortunate to have a strong intern program with the law school, which serves as an amazing tool for hiring new lawyers when positions open up. This allows us to bring in people we know have what it takes.

Albany County Clerk of District Court

Office: Salary is \$92,500 annually; term is four years with no term limit. An office and some benefits are provided. No Democrat filed for this office.

Candidate:

Stacy Lam: Republican; Laramie
Email: stacy.lam2020@yahoo.com.

What qualities, training, experiences, and skills would you bring to this office?

Stacy Lam (R): My work ethic is my greatest quality having dedicated the majority of my adult working career to the office of the Clerk of District Court. I have 31 years of experience in this office and have been the Clerk of Court since 2019. I possess invaluable historic knowledge of the office and all previous case management systems. I have played an important role in launching our newest case management system having been the pilot court for all District Courts in the State of Wyoming. I have a dedicated staff with a combined 90 plus years of experience., I have a strong working relationship with the Supreme Court staff and my fellow Clerks of District Court. These relationships contribute to continued growth within our office.

Please explain your stand about remote (online) access to District Court records.

Stacy Lam (R): Remote access is not a matter of if, but when. One of the objectives associated with the new case management system and the Efiling system that will launch later this summer is online access. While remote access is the way of the future, it has to be approached in a well thought out and meticulous manner. We must insure that confidential information is not accessible through this online approach. The system must be designed in a way that guarantees those documents that are filed as confidential remain confidential to protect all parties involved in the case.

What will you do about individuals who fail to comply with court decrees?

Stacy Lam (R): This is not a duty of the Clerk of District Court. The Clerk of District Court is the record keeper for the District Court, but has no enforcement authority. If a party does not have an attorney and seeks assistance, we have many volunteer legal groups that can assist in these matters. The Clerk of District Court is strictly prohibited from practicing law and attempting to enforce a court decree would cross this line.

What are the challenges to obtaining a qualified pool of jurors?

Stacy Lam (R): The main challenge in Albany County would be the transient population. Being a college town, we have many people that reside in our community while going to school, then move away upon graduation. A jury pool is pulled from voter registration and drivers license so if either of these have not been updated upon a move from our community, that name can appear on the potential juror list. This leads to jurors not meeting the residency requirement and often times, undeliverable mail due to the move. This would be the biggest challenge for our County.

Albany County Clerk

Office: Salary is \$92,500 annually; term is four years with no term limit. An office and some benefits are provided.

Candidates:

Susan Reding: Republican, Laramie; Phone: 307-343-4051

Email: elect_reding@protonmail.com

Website: <http://reding4countyclerk.com>;
Facebook URL: <http://www.facebook.com/Reding4CountyClerk>
Instagram URL: <http://www.instagram.com/redingforcountyclerk/>
Twitter Handle: @https://twitter.com/SueReding

Kala White: Democrat, Laramie; Phone: 307-761-2136

Email: kaylawhiteforcountyclerk@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.kaylawhiteforcountyclerk.com>

Facebook URL: <http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100081203146777>

What qualities, training, experiences, and skills would you bring to this office?

Susan Reding (R): I am a proven leader, exceptional problem solver, critical thinker and strong communicator. I have 30+ years' experience in business administration and finance. I have a keen eye for analyzing systems to make them more efficient. I have degrees in computer programming and ministry - honors summa cum laude.

Kayla White (D): The qualities that I would bring to this office are integrity, dedication to public service, and my ability to be impartial. When I am serving the public in the office, I perform my job with the utmost transparency and honesty. I have worked in the Clerk's Office since 2007 and I am invested in the people of Albany County and the services that we provide. I am impartial in all areas of the office, especially in the Election process and can set my personal views aside in order to perform the statutory requirements. Last but not least, I have a strong work ethic and strive to do my best every day. I care about the employees in the office and will continue to improve the quality and efficiency of the services that we provide.

How would you ensure that the public has confidence in election security and transparency in Albany County?

Susan Reding (R): Election judges and poll watchers would be present from both parties to oversee elections. Without exception all newly registered voters would be required to identify themselves with a proper picture id as well as utility bill mailing with their current name and address. I will work to forever retain the Paper Ballot in Wyoming. I will work to allow random public audits of the Tabulation Systems to increase voter confidence. I would lobby to remove the weeks of voting prior to election day and reducing absentee ballots to the very few people that are either away from the county on election day or physically unable to make it to a polling place because of health issues.

Kayla White (D): Election security has been a hot topic all over the United States. In Wyoming, we have been working on uniformity throughout the state in regards to election security. I would suggest that voters reach out to the County Clerk's Office and ask any questions they may have. I would also encourage them to understand the mandates put in place by the state and federal government regarding the election process. In order for the public to have confidence in elections, I would encourage them to serve as an election judge, attend public testing of election equipment and be involved in the process of the county canvass.

How will your office encourage more people to vote?

Susan Reding (R): I would start a campaign in the newspaper's, Facebook, online news outlets, and other social media platforms to encourage and hopefully motivate people to vote. I would include in that campaign vignettes of the history of our country and the importance of their voice in free and fair elections.

Kayla White (D): There are many ways we can encourage people to vote. This would include voter registration drives at more community events as well as educating the public on the ease of registering. I would like to see Albany County move towards vote centers which would allow any voter to cast their ballot at any polling place on election day. This would make it more accessible to all voters in Albany County. I also believe in educating the people on the importance of voting. Every vote counts and if you want to see change, you can do that by casting a ballot!

How would you keep voters informed about changes to our voting process, for example, voter IDs and new precincts?

Susan Reding (R): I would send regular news briefs through the mail whenever a change occurred. I would also make the best use of social media to keep the public informed. Election and County Clerk websites would be updated and current with this information.

Kayla White (D): There are many ways to keep voters informed about changes in the voting process. I would like to see more use of social media as well as post more information on the County Website. Getting out and speaking to different groups as well as hanging flyers is another avenue I would like to utilize. Having guest speakers on the radio and using the local newspaper to inform the public about the changes in the election process would be priority as well. Educating people throughout the year, not only during peak election times, will be beneficial.

Albany County Commissioner

Office: Three commissioners serve four-year staggered terms, with no term limits. Salary is \$30,000 with some benefits. Two seats are available at this election. The top two in each party will advance to the General Election, and may be joined by others such as independents, for whom there is no primary. The two elected will serve with Susan Ibarra (D), whose term extends to 2024.

Candidates:

Pete Gosar: Democrat; Laramie; Phone: 307-760-3219

Email: petegosar@gmail.com

Twitter Handle: @GosarPete

Instagram URL: <http://www.instagram.com/gosar4commish/>

Facebook URL: <http://www.facebook.com/GosarforCommissioner>

Terri Jones: Republican; Laramie; Phone: 307-760-7878

Email: tjones@wyoming.com

Tony Kirchoefer: Republican; Laramie; Phone: 307-314-2522

Email: tonyforalbanycounty@gmail.com

Facebook URL: <http://www.facebook.com/TonyforAlbanyCountyCommissioner>

Heber Richardson: Republican; Laramie; Phone: 307-760-0448

Email: honeywagon1@bresnan.net

What qualities, training, experiences, and skills would you bring to this office?

Pete Gosar (D): I have experience as a manager of people and budgets in the private, public and non-profit sectors. Those positions have taught me the importance of hard work, collaboration, and vision and I am focused on finding solutions. In my first term, those skills have helped to craft agreements for emergency medical services, the detention center, an update to the Casper Aquifer Protection Plan, and the Laramie Growth Area Plan. As a county commissioner, I advocated for better public access to meetings, for protection of our drinking water, and for cooperation with the city government to stretch our taxpayers' dollars. Substantial progress has been made in these areas and, I would appreciate the opportunity to continue as a county commissioner.

Terri Jones (R): I served as Albany County Commissioner in the 2017-2020 term and chairwomen in 2019-2020, attending all meetings and trainings provided by both the County and Wyo. County Commissioner's Association. I built relationships and completed projects for the people of Albany County. Vision is important to continue to bring Albany County forward and have a vigorous community. I was one of the original five tasked with fabricating the Pilot Hill and Critical Winter Wildlife Area. Pilot Hill provides wildlife habitat, recreation, Casper Aquifer protection, economic development, enhanced educational and recruitment opportunities. The new Laramie Regional Airport Terminal is a must for a community to thrive in today's world of air travel.

Tony Kirchoefer (R): During a 34 year career (25 in Senior Leadership) in the financial services industry, I've focused on individual investor's needs and challenges while helping design solutions that enable them to achieve their dreams. While looking at the challenges individuals and small businesses face, I've learned how to identify and mitigate the greatest risks while making the most of opportunities that are presented. I'm confident that by taking a similar approach to the county's challenges and opportunities while never losing focus on those I serve and always making sure their needs come first, we can deliver a brighter future for all.

Heber Richardson (R): Being an elected official and owning a local business, I have decades of experience successfully managing people, processes, services, and finances in public and private settings. I am an intelligent, open, creative person who knows how to accomplish good things for my constituents while staying within the authority delegated to county commissioners in the state statutes. I make it a point to never pander, patronize, nor speak in soaring political rhetoric. It is dishonest to imply that a commissioner can or should do things for the public that are not allowed in law. County elected officials have no inherent authority. We are a political subdivision of the state. We do the state's work at the local level.

What are current underfunded needs you would like to see supported in our community?

Pete Gosar (D): In my nonprofit work, and also when I go door to door as a candidate, I see significant underfunded needs in mental health and medical care, housing, food security, transportation, and affordable child care. Thanks largely to federal funds distributed to help deal with the pandemic, the county commission has been able to partially address some of these needs by investing in local social service agencies that do amazing work with individuals and families in our county. However, more needs to be done. It is my belief that by collaborating with private and nonprofit entities and by making the county government more efficient, critical budget space will be created to allow the county to increase its investment in our community partners.

Terri Jones (R): More and more families are affected by dementia and other cognitive impairments in older adults. I would like to see funding for Adult Day Care Services providing a care giver options for assistance to leave their loved one to do basic weekly shopping and errands.

Tony Kirchhoefer (R): While there are too many to list here, a few that come to mind are: Fostering an environment that promotes targeted growth, growth that ensures our western heritage and those elements that make Albany County Unique and Special. Without some targeted growth the entire weight of the county's revenue needs will continue to disproportionately fall upon the country's individual residents and families. I believe the county also owes the peace of mind to our senior population in knowing they will not be forced into hardship or out of their home due to an ever rising property tax bill. This isn't something the county commissioners can solve alone but a movement the commissioners should be helping lead within our state.

Heber Richardson (R): As a citizen, I see all sorts of things that are underfunded, most not within county purview. Within my authority as a commissioner, I see affordable housing, infrastructure, law enforcement, and mental healthcare as glaringly underfunded. Commissioners are directly responsible to fund infrastructure and law enforcement. Affordable housing and social services are an indirect mandate. They require a healthy private/public partnership. This requires fair, sensible, predictable regulations. To adequately fund these important things, we need to increase our local tax base. Albany County has great demand for government services by entities that pay no tax. We must have a more diverse, robust private sector to provide these services.

What impacts should the County Commissioners consider when approving new commercial and residential developments?

Pete Gosar (D): First and foremost, the County Commissioners need to protect our drinking water supply from both the Laramie River and the Casper Aquifer. We're incredibly fortunate to have these resources and we will need to continue to find common-sense solutions to protect them. We also should consider how new developments impact transportation patterns, energy consumption, and the costs of law enforcement and

emergency services. Recently, the county has pursued funding opportunities for county citizens and small businesses that incentivize energy efficiency, renewable energy, and innovative community design. Investments in programs, like these, will help Albany County businesses create innovative solutions and deliver next-generation services.

Terri Jones (R): Beyond current county regulations, consideration must be given to maintain the water table, so natural springs used for wildlife and livestock water consumption are available insuring animals are not denied traditional water sources. This also helps to assure water for human consumption in both residential and commercial developments.

Tony Kirchhoefer (R): The short and long term impact of any decision to the individual's personal property rights should be the cornerstone to any decisions made by the county. Transparency and consistency should also serve as guard rails that ensure decisions are made in the light rather than hidden by the darkest of secrecy. Starting with the importance of an individual's personal property rights while operating with plenty of transparency and consistency can ensure everyone feels the issues were fairly considered. The current inconsistencies and lack of transparency leave the residents of Albany County doubting the fairness of the process while losing faith in their county leaders, this must change immediately.

Heber Richardson (R): As commissioners consider approving new commercial and residential developments, we should only apply the plain language of our lawfully enacted rules and regulations. As a commissioner, I always give applicants equal, fair treatment within the regulations that exist at the time that their application is received. Commissioners, with some limitations given by the state legislature, make county planning and zoning regulations. We are to carefully consider impacts in general when writing and enacting regulations. We should not rule on each application subjectively. Doing so erodes the process. Our individual opinions must be codified in the regulations to be applicable. They are not a substitute for the rule of law.

How can County Commissioners ensure that rural residents receive adequate services?

Pete Gosar (D): Albany County provides extensive services to rural residents, including road and bridge construction and maintenance, pest control, EMS, law enforcement, library branches in Centennial and Rock River, funding for volunteer firefighting and the fairgrounds, to name a few. County employees and elected officials do an amazing job of delivering quality services with limited funding provided by tax revenues. The commission has built upon the work of county employees by using ARPA funding to make major investments in the county's volunteer fire departments and the fairgrounds. Timely investments and finding efficiencies are critical, however, the county will need commissioners dedicated to finding additional funding sources to improve services.

Terri Jones (R): Subdivision rules and regulations can play an important part in ensuring adequate services for their members beyond basic services currently funded by the commissioners. It is very important that developers work to assure that fire protection and

law enforcement is not hindered in gaining access to subdivisions or properties. Commissioners must work with the Sheriff to bring staffing numbers up to a fully staff the detention center and adequate numbers of deputies to patrol the county.

Tony Kirchoefer (R): The needs and challenges facing those living in the rural areas can be vastly different than those living in or near Laramie. Different being the key word as those needs are every bit as important as those of individuals living in Laramie. I live in a rural area and will bring a rural voice to the commission. Highlighting one issue in particular, Roads and the maintenance of the county roads is an area that needs additional funding. Roads are the life blood of the county's people and our businesses. Roads are also critical to tourism which should be a key area we are looking to promote, Albany County is a hidden gem when it comes to tourism, something the commission should focus on day one.

Heber Richardson (R): All government services and infrastructure are paid for by taxation of private sector investments and consumption. Local governments have no taxing authority. Due to what and how the state legislature chooses to tax, Albany County has a weak tax base. The remedy is for local governments to modify our regulations and processes to be more fair and competitive. When we ask for too much, we get nothing at all. Subjective demands on local home owners, business owners, builders, and developers, rather than adherence to the rule of law, creates too much uncertainty. It guarantees decay by chasing away those who would improve our choices in housing, health care, and the products and services we need.

Albany County Coroner

Office: Term is four years with no term limits; salary is \$45,000 annually. The position is considered part-time with on-call requirements. An office and some benefits are provided.

Candidates:

Sally King: Democrat; Laramie; Phone: 307-399-8695

Email: celiaruthrice@gmail.com

Tiffany Reed: Republican; Laramie

Email: doc.reed@hotmail.com

What qualities, training, experiences, and skills would you bring to this office?

Sally King (D): I have 5+ years' experience at the Albany County Coroner's Office and am currently employed there. I have an established relationship with local law enforcement and EMS. Since my hire date in 2016, I have attended Coroner Basic, observed numerous autopsies, and have received my bachelor's degrees in Criminal Justice and Physiology from the University of Wyoming. I have also had the opportunity to have hands on experience communicating with grieving families and medical professionals on behalf of the deceased which has helped me develop the compassion and ability to handle the emotions that go along with this position.

Tiffany Reed (R): As a solo-practitioner veterinarian for six years I would bring to the coroner's office the qualities of confidentiality, medical in-sight, compassion for families and

respect for the decedent. I've been trained in examination and anatomy, dissection and medical terminology, orthopedic and soft tissue surgery, necropsy and toxicology, radiology, nutrition, endocrinology, gerontology, immunology and internal medicine. Through my experiences I have learned to assess non-verbal cues to make diagnoses and treatment plans. I have treated patients who have been the victim of neglect, cruelty and abuse. I've worked with law enforcement to investigate animal neglect, cruelty and abuse as well as make reports for use in prosecution.

What are the top three challenges facing the coroner's office and how would you address them?

Sally King (D): Maintaining the working relationship with law enforcement, EMS personnel and the Forensic Pathologist, enhancing public knowledge of what our office is responsible for, and continuing to show grieving families professionalism and compassion during challenging. I believe my previous experience in the office can address and achieve these.

Tiffany Reed (R): The coroner's office is challenged with timely turn-around, accessibility and transparency. First and foremost, I would explain to family or investigators how long tests would take (toxicology panel or histology by a pathologist). Next, I would make sure I wasn't the weakest link in that time-line by taking samples, filling out accession forms and sending them off quickly. I would be accessible to those asking for updates by returning messages in a timely fashion and finally, I would ensure transparency by improving the current County Coroner website to include information about how long tests take and how to request information about completed investigations.

What are special considerations when a coroner investigates possible suicide deaths?

Sally King (D): We consider many factors, including any relevant history of mental illness, any recent traumas, and relationships. To investigate this properly, we speak with relevant family members, friends, and health professionals in an individual's life in order to confirm any suspicion of suicide.

Tiffany Reed (R): Deaths that appear to be caused by suicide are delicate and require examination from a victim advocate perspective. As someone who has attempted suicide and consequently spent weeks in ICU, I would have unique perspective when investigating a potential suicide. Would anyone profit from a supposed suicide of the decedent? Did someone close to the decedent push them toward suicide? Did the decedent actually have access to what caused death? (Weapons or toxins?) Are the wounds or toxin levels consistent with self-infliction?

What is needed to assure that funding is adequate for required investigations by the coroner?

Sally King (D): I believe that ties back to the people of the community, especially the County Commissioners having a solid understanding of what our office does and the services we provide. Our office has felt the impact of rising costs of Toxicology tests, autopsies and

supplies that other people have and this has impacted our funding and where we have to direct where our funding goes. It involves our office having the proper training and education in order to provide the information when it is asked for or be able to direct someone in the right direction to get answers they may need.

Tiffany Reed (R): With the current soaring costs of absolutely everything, every office is going to be faced with reducing use and stretching resources to ensure current funding is adequate. In order to reduce costs (and because of my experience as a solo veterinarian) I would first, take more on-call time and require fewer deputy coroners. Second, because I've owned my own medical practice I would reduce the cost of materials by partnering with clinics to take their expired materials and third I would ensure the County Commissioners are statistically aware of the case load of the Coroner's Office so they can make educated decisions when making budget allocations.

Albany County Sheriff

Office: Term is four years with no term limits. Salary is \$92,500 annually. An office and some benefits are provided. All candidates live in Laramie; some have YouTube postings as well as social media listings here.

Candidates:

Aaron Appelhans: Democrat; Phone: 307-399-7200

Email: aaronappelhansforsheriff@gmail.com

Website: <http://AppelhansforSheriff.com>

Twitter Handle: [@@Aaron_Appelhans](https://twitter.com/Aaron_Appelhans)

Instagram URL: <http://www.instagram.com/appelhansforsheriff/>

Facebook URL: <http://www.facebook.com/AppelhansforSheriff>

Rafael Q. Delgadillo: Republican; Phone: 307-223-2077

Email: rafael@delgadillpforsheriff.com

Website: <http://DelgadilloForSheriff.com>

Twitter Handle: [@twitter.com/AlbanySheriff](https://twitter.com/AlbanySheriff)

Instagram URL: <http://instagram.com/albanysheriff>

Facebook URL: <http://facebook.com/DelgadilloForSheriff>

Zeb Gladney: Democrat; 307-761-1272

Email: zebulongladney@gmail.com

Curtis Lee Moore: Democrat; Phone: 307-760-5244

Joel Senior: Republican; Phone: 307-761-2760

Email: joelsenorforsheriff@gmail.com

Website: <http://joelseniorforseriff.com>

Instagram URL: http://www.instagram.com/jsenior_wysheriff/

Facebook URL: <http://www.facebook.com/Joel-Senior-for-Albany-County-Sheriff-103128738944550>

What qualities, training, experiences, and skills would you bring to this office?

Aaron Appelhans (D): I've lived in Albany County for 20+ years and am familiar with the area, the people, and the issues. The duties of Albany County Sheriff require a broad base of knowledge, skills, and abilities in everything related to criminal law, civil law, business law, financial management, leadership, ethics, and emergency response. I've utilized every opportunity to build professional skills in these areas and have integrated these opportunities into the operation of the Sheriff's office during the past two years. My leadership style is to lead by example, and I've never asked anyone to do anything I wouldn't do myself. I'm honored to serve, and I ask for your vote to continue bringing professional, effective law enforcement to our county.

Rafael Q. Delgadillo (R): Thirty years experience in Patrol, Investigations, Community Policing & Jail Operations at the officer, Sergeant and In-Unit Commander position. Responded, strategized and implemented response to barricaded suspects, hostage situations & suicidal citizens. Trained, supervised & mentored new officers. Wrote 100+ Personnel evaluations to document performance & improve deficiencies. Investigated allegations of professional misconduct resulting in exonerations or levied discipline from training to termination. Identified offenders responsible for murder, robbery, theft, child abuse and sexual assault. Performed inmate management to maintain a safe & secure jail within the law & inmate rights as a Disciplinary and Grievance officer.

Zeb Gladney (D): I have been employed at the Albany County Sheriffs Office for approximately 6 years. I have been through both Detention Officer Basic Training and Peace Officer basic training and graduated the academy with Honors. I am currently assigned to the patrol division. I am outgoing, kind and an active member of the community. I pride myself on my ability to communicate with the public. I have seen first hand what law enforcement is faced with on a daily basis and I understand the complexities of those. I have seen poor leadership and what that can do to an Agency. I believe I can bring people together as a community and I understand that there is always room for improvement.

Curtis Lee Moore (D): My Qualities are the fact that I am extroverted, trustworthy, approachable, and have a high degree of integrity. I love interacting with people of all backgrounds and lifestyles, and enjoy being an active listener. My training is something I am very proud of as I have approximately 2300 hours of training in all aspects of Law Enforcement. Some of my most recent trainings consist of crisis intervention training (mentally ill), verbal de-escalation, and sexual assault investigations including trauma informed sexual assault. I am consistent with staying up-to-date on continuing certifications which includes the following: domestic and family violence, active shooter response.

Joel Senior (R): During my career with the Laramie Police Dept. (2001-2019) I served in many positions however my 10 years in Detectives and 15 years with the Special Response Team are crucial. In these positions I responded to critical incidents both in an investigative function and as a tactical response, having full responsibility for the outcome of the critical incident. Over the last two years employed with the State I have had the opportunity to work with almost every Sheriff's Office in southern Wyoming. What I bring with me that no other candidate has are the relationships that I built in over 20 years of local and state

networking. These relationships will be invaluable in recruitment, retention, training and leadership of a struggling agency.

What are the top three challenges facing the Albany County Sheriff's department and how would you address them?

Aaron Appelhans (D): Regaining community trust through professional and effective law enforcement is our top challenge and one that I've prioritized since my appointment as Sheriff. Deputies who break the law or have been terminated from other agencies no longer work in the Albany County Sheriff's office, and every deputy now serves with respect, compassion, and professionalism, meeting your expectations. We also face challenges with mental health issues of arrestees and inmates, along with substance abuse problems. We now provide a mental health professional inside our detention center to screen and refer for needed services. Ongoing training for our deputies to respond to calls with people in mental health crisis has helped de-escalate dangerous situations.

Rafael Q. Delgadillo (R): 1) Restore public confidence. Ensure that all people are treated as equal before the law. Police services, arrests & investigations are made without bias in full recognition of their Constitutional rights. Accountability through a robust response to allegations of professional misconduct. Investigations which are unbiased, thorough, and resolved in a timely matter. 2) Strengthen the Chain of Command & enforce a Code of Conduct. Assignments & promotions based on performance, free of favoritism. Misconduct located at its source & dealt with. 3) Support, advocate & promote these positive changes to encourage retention, recruitment, and return of vetted talented staff. Promote volunteerism by retired police & citizens.

Zeb Gladney (D): A top issue facing the office is transparency. I seek to implement community forums and media updates weekly to inform the public of law enforcement activity and to respond to questions or concerns. I feel our community often goes uninformed on local law enforcement activity, and information should be accessible and accurate within a timely manner. The Sheriffs Office also needs support. Good equipment, staffing and community support are necessary to have a well rounded, effective Sheriffs Office. Lastly, I would focus on implementing more training. Past administrations have and are denying many of the trainings requested by Deputies. Training needs to be priority and be tailored to the public's needs.

Curtis Lee Moore (D): I would prefer not to address the challenges that face the Albany County Sheriff's Department as I work with Deputies on Patrol and at the Detention center on a daily basis. I would need to be elected before commenting in to the inner workings of training protocols, Policies and Procedures, and the general morale of the agency. It appears as the Sheriff's Office does a professional job, and when I work with them, it is always cordial. I appreciate the current work the Sheriff has accomplished thus far, and I am sure many citizens feel the same way.

Joel Senior (R): The Sheriff's Office currently has many challenges; however, they all stem from lack of leadership and direction. Having earned the respect of local, state and federal

agencies across Wyoming I will immediately be able to provide guidance, resources and training to an agency adrift. My relationships with local partners will strengthen those interactions and they will receive the buy in and support, currently lacking, in order to assure that our county citizens are receiving all the necessary services. I will recruit, hire, train and retain only the most qualified individuals that can meet or exceed the high expectations set for them; however, when they step up to the challenge they will be acknowledged and will have my full support.

Who do you view as allies in addressing your highest priority issue? How would you collaborate with them?

Aaron Appelhans (D): Allies in addressing those in mental health crisis calls include the other law enforcement agencies, Albany County Mental Health Board, County Attorney's Office, Peak Wellness/Volunteers of America, Albany County Drug Courts, local mental health providers, SAFE Project, and many more. Solving the mental health issues in our community requires a lot of collaboration, because a law enforcement response isn't always the best response for someone who is struggling. Law enforcement may be the first to respond but having the options we have in Albany County to refer to other services allows us to find a resolution peacefully while getting people the help they truly need.

Rafael Q. Delgadillo (R): I must rebuild the Sheriff's office to its fully authorized strength & provide experience, supervision & mentoring to new personnel. Collaborate with neighboring law enforcement agencies, mental health advocates, substance abuse practitioners, drug court & youth advocates to diversify deputy experience, training & personal growth essential for a peace officer. Create a culture that "not all problems need a law enforcement solution." Partner with non-traditional communities so deputies are exposed to & learn the issues of diverse members of the community.

Zeb Gladney (D): I view public media as the most valuable Ally. Media is solely responsible for spreading information and they are the primary source for information to the public. I intend on utilizing media on multiple platforms to achieve full, true transparency between the public and law enforcement. I would like to have a press conference at least once a week with media outlets who are willing to listen and engage in information sharing.

Curtis Lee Moore (D): I feel as though I have many allies in this community. When you are in this field, it is inevitable you will collaborate with a variety of people from different entities. Mental health workers, SAFE advocates, Attorneys, victim witness representatives, other Police agencies, and Fire Department, just to name a few. In my current position I have established contacts with professionals all over the City and County. The biggest allies you can have are the citizens of Laramie, and I would welcome any ideas that were feasible and practical for a Law enforcement agency. My phone number, email address, and contact information would be accessible to the citizens of Laramie.

Joel Senior (R): It is extremely difficult to name just one ally as there are many moving parts to the Sheriff's Office and currently many priority issues. In general, I believe that our community and the Sheriff's Office should have the same goal, having a professional, well trained and transparent agency. Keeping that in mind I feel it is important to support and

work through the re-building together. I have experience working with many local partners such as SAFE, Probation and Parole, mental health providers and others. These relationships will be of great value if I am elected.

Would you be willing to develop a process to respond to citizen questions and concerns? Please explain.

Aaron Appelhans (D): As an elected official, I always remain accessible and available to the public. Citizens are encouraged to contact me directly with questions or concerns. I recognize that people with concerns may not feel comfortable with direct contact, so my office plans on adding an anonymous reporting system that allows for submittals online or via text. If the community would like other ways to address concerns with my office, I am always open and willing to listen to any suggestions, including some type of civilian liaison or advisory board.

Rafael Q. Delgadillo (R): A sheriff must be responsive to the community. I would have public forums & create ad hoc committees to address specific issues that arise. Procedures are in place for police accountability but must be promoted to the public. By addressing public concerns & through community outreach I will build public confidence that will promote public safety & restore the reputation of the office.

Zeb Gladney (D): Citizens should have the opportunity to engage and assist in developing Law Enforcement policies and procedures. I would like to implement a system via forums or public hearings that allows citizens to voice their opinions and get answers to their questions. When creating new policies, I believe it would be beneficial to get the public's opinion, however not the sole decision maker.

Curtis Lee Moore (D): I have said in previous statements my views on a complete "open door" policy, and I would love to meet with the people of Laramie in person. I would also like to have an active social media platform for people to voice their concerns, but also keep them advised on events, safety bulletins, and anything pertinent to their well-being. I would like citizens to observe what Deputies have to experience both in detention and patrol, and within reason, would like them to experience scenario based training. Again, I feel in my 25 years of Law Enforcement would provide people with security knowing I have the ability to make split second decisions in stressful situations.

Joel Senior (R): Absolutely. I believe in an open-door policy and that our elected officials should be available to their constituents. With easy access to multiple social media platforms agencies no longer have an excuse for lack of transparency. Information shared must be factual, regardless of whether it shines a negative or positive light upon the agency or incident. I will also be holding monthly public status debriefs in order to inform the public on the issues related to the Sheriff's Office such as critical incidents, call volume, budget, manning, awards, etc. This will allow the public the ability to observe all aspects of operation and provide their feedback and concerns in a documented manner increasing both transparency and accountability.

Albany County Treasurer

Office: Term is four years with no term limits. Salary is \$92,500 annually. An office and some benefits are provided. No Republican filed for this office.

Candidate:

Tracy Fletcher: Democrat; Laramie; Phone 307-760-9669

Email: treasurerfletcher@outlook.com

Website: <http://treasurerfletcher.com>

Facebook URL: <http://www.facebook.com/fletcher2018>

What qualities, training, experiences, and skills would you bring to this office?

Tracy Fletcher (D): I have a bachelor's degree in accounting which is a great qualification; however, more importantly, I currently serve the community as Albany County Treasurer. Additionally, I have a total combined service to this office of 19 years. I have the experience to handle this position and manage it well.

What are your top three priorities for the county treasurer's office and how would you address them?

Tracy Fletcher (D): Transparency is important. I feel that the more information that our citizens or stakeholders have so that they can make better decisions themselves. In this respect, I have been working towards finding a reporting platform that will capture various financial metrics to be reported on our website. Services offered -we make every attempt to provide various online tools for taxpayers to pay their taxes and fees. We also want to provide friendly, efficient services in the office or on the phone. Lastly, to provide a great working environment. It is tougher to find and retain employees and the county needs to keep progressing and making this a dynamic workplace to help the employees feel valued. I will continue to advocate for employees.

What improvements could benefit the county treasurer's office?

Tracy Fletcher (D): One improvement would be enhanced software for our accounting functions. The county has simply outgrown our current software. New software could have the potential to save time and create more efficiency in our processes. It could also make our financial reporting clearer and user friendly. Another improvement would be to get additional technology to provide more payment options such as additional payment types. It has been important to have information on the website about what our office does and the services we provide. I would like to add more information to the website to assist the public in finding the answers they are looking for.

What aspects of the county treasurer's office do you wish the public knew more about?

Tracy Fletcher (D): I wish I could provide more information to the public on the various deadlines such as property tax due dates or sales tax due dates. Often people miss these deadlines and are upset because there are additional penalties or interest due. I would like

to help others understand how our tax sale processes work when delinquent taxes are not paid.

Wyoming House of Representatives – Albany County

Office: Term is two years with no term limits. Representatives receive a minimum of \$300 per month base salary. They also receive \$150.00 per day while the Legislature is in session plus \$109.00 per diem. They receive the same pay for committee and work meetings between sessions. Each quarter they receive \$750 for a constituent service allowance. They must be at least age 25, a U.S. citizen, and a qualified Wyoming voter with residence in the district from which they are elected for at least 12 months prior to election. There are four House Districts in Albany County, HD 13, HD 14, HD 45 and HD46, each with one representative. All four seats are up for election in 2022. Voters will only receive a ballot containing the candidate names for the house district in which the voter resides. No Republican filed for HD 45.

Candidates:

Ken Chestek (HD 13, D): Laramie; Phone: 307-460-9139

Email: kchestek@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.ChestekforHD13.com>

Wayne B. Pinch (HD 13, R): Laramie; Phone: 307-343-2897

Email: Waynepinch1953@gmail.com

Julie McCallister (HD 14, R): Rock River; Phone: 307-343-3663

Email: juliemccallisterhd14@hotmail.com

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100081514604935>

Trey Sherwood (HD 14, D): Laramie; Phone: 307-760-2722

Email: Treysherwood@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.treysherwood.com/>

Brian Shuster (HD 14, R): Laramie; Phone: 307-745-8828

Email: bdshustwyo@yahoo.com

Karlee Provenza (HD 45, D): Laramie; Phone: 307-223-6902

Email: Karlee@provenzaforwyoming.com

Website: <http://www.provenzaforwyoming.com>

Ocean Andrew (HD 46, R): Laramie; Phone: 307-316-9246

Email: Contact@oceanandrew.com

Merav Ben-David (HD 46, D): Laramie; Phone: 307-214-0510

Email: mbendavidwy@gmail.com

Website: <http://bendavid2020.com>

Richard “RJ” Lennox” (HD 46, D): Rural Buford area; Phone: 307-287-8999

Email: rjabadan@yahoo.com

What qualities, training, experiences, and skills would you bring to this office?

Ken Chestek (HD 13, D): I am a law professor who teaches courses in legal writing and legal analysis. I cover statutory interpretation in my courses. I believe my background is ideal for a job in which I would literally be writing statutes. I have also been an active community

activist working on the problem of money in politics. I have developed a working relationship with the legislature's Joint Corporations, Elections and Local Government Committee, providing testimony and background information on several legislative matters over the past several years. I was part of the successful effort to beef up the disclosure rules for super-PAC organizations during the last legislative session.

Wayne B. Pinch (HD 13, R): None what so ever.

Julie McCallister (HD 14, R): I know what it will take to innovate our local industries having worked for the University Of Wyoming for 6 years in oil and gas upgrading research. There I also earned a bachelors in Political Science, and a Masters in Public Administration. I spent all the time I could in Wyoming with family, My Uncle John Story of Dubois, and my Grandfather and Grandmother Charles and Maydeane Jones of Riverton fostered and grew my love of Wyoming, and the outdoors from a young age. I came home to Wyoming when I was 19, because I knew exactly where I belonged. When I become active in state politics in 2013, I have been successful helping pass several bills. I know how to lobby successfully for quality legislation, and how advocate for constituents.

Trey Sherwood (HD 14, D): I am a graduate of Leadership Wyoming with a proven track record of creative problem solving, overcoming challenges and bringing people together. For the last 12 years, I've led the efforts of Laramie Main Street, a non-profit working at the grassroots level, in the revitalization of downtown. I have a Master's Degree in Public History, am a co-founder of the Laramie Mural Project and Laramie Public Art Coalition, and former board member with the Laramie Plains Museum. I value intentional civility, honesty, respect and gratitude. My interest in running for re-election is not driven by selfish ambition, but a desire to give back while bettering the lives of my neighbors, community and state.

Bryan Shuster (HD 14, R): I feel that my best qualification in running for House District 14 is my 20 years of experience on Laramie City Council. Experience with bi-annual budgets, monthly finance meetings, the Wyoming Territorial Park Board, Planning Commission, Airport Board, Laramie Railroad Depot Board, and Rifle Range Board have all provided great insight to how government is run. A look into how businesses are affected by government was valuable background the City Council position. This work experience was when I worked in the family business, Ideal Foods.

Karlee Provenza (HD 45, D): The best experience a lawmaker can have doesn't translate on a resume – it comes from pushing through the same problems our neighbors face. Many lawmakers haven't worked for minimum wage, struggled to put food on the table, or gone without healthcare. But I have. While these struggles weren't enjoyable experiences, they were important lessons in what our priorities should be as representatives of our communities. I also earned my Ph.D. at the University of Wyoming in the psychology of the law and became an expert in the American Legal System. But more importantly, I apply that knowledge to advocate for justice here in Albany County as a community organizer for justice and as a policy maker driven by science.

Ocean Andrew (HD 46, R): I started a small business during college at University of Wyoming 6 years ago and I now have over 90 employees. I have learned more from this experience than anything else I have done. I've learned a lot from my two years in the legislature, and was privileged to serve on the education committee. That experience made education my main focus. Many parents are finding that their children are being educated by a system that unfortunately no longer represents their values. Teachers are stuck working for a heavy handed government bureaucracy where they are not able to be creative and do what they are passionate about. It's time to take a bold stand and fight for education choice for parents, students, and teachers.

Merav Ben-David (HD 46, D): I'm a wildlife ecologist with over 30 years of experience. My skill set as a scientist gives me the ability to solve problems by posing the right questions, gathering all the relevant data, and drawing evidence-based conclusions. Working as a researcher and educator in Wyoming for the past 22 years I'm acutely aware of the economic and societal challenges we face, as well as the available solutions. In addition, as someone who grew on a small family farm and managed it after the passing of my father, I'm familiar with many of the issues Wyoming ranchers face, especially those related to drought and water shortage. Ranching in Wyoming is important not only as a source of revenue but also in preserving open spaces.

Richard "RJ" Lennox Jr. (HD 46, R): Twenty-five plus years in education and recently working for the family business, I have the unique ability to work with a varied group of people on minor issues to major decision making. Specifically the last eight years in education was at the administrative level, working with all stakeholder: students, parents, staff and administrative team.

What, if anything, would you support to improve reasonable access to health care in Wyoming?

Ken Chestek (HD 13, D): First priority would be to expand Medicaid. The additional resources that would become immediately available would help small rural hospitals stay open and continue providing a full range of needed services. Second, we need to look at ways to support air ambulance services so that people in remote areas can have quicker access to larger health care facilities and the specialized care available there.

Wayne B. Pinch (HD 13, R): I am for Medicare for all. Wyoming can access more federal funds. I would also look at Utah as an alternative approach.

Julie McCallister (HD 14, R): The pandemic highlighted the state of Wyoming's need for more viable options for our residents to access critical care. Two major providers in our state have ceased labor and delivery services, among growing cuts that have led to less services available for our residents as well as reduced quality. This is an issue that needs to be resolved now. I am not comfortable with the federal overreach expansion of Medicaid could risk, but I am even less comfortable with Wyoming taxpayers paying into a Medicaid system they do not get full benefit from. This issue needs resolution and movement in the

next session. Exactly what that solution should be needs to be a consortium of ideas of all vested parties, and moving forward with the best solution.

Trey Sherwood (HD 14, D): I will continue to vote in favor of expanding Medicaid. Healthy citizens are productive and engaged members of our community. Expanding Medicaid is long overdue. It will help address our workforce shortage, reduce employee sick days and increase our economic output while protecting our hospitals from the high cost of uncompensated care. With the majority of Wyomingites in favor of expansion, it is time we join the 38 other states, including Montana, Idaho, Utah, Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, North Dakota in providing services to care for our most vulnerable residents. Learn more at: <https://healthywyoming.org/>

Bryan Shuster (HD 14, R): The US government currently provides several different types of coverages for persons, with disabilities, older citizens and current Covid-19 variant. I will not try to start a funding project to support this at this time.

Karlee Provenza (HD 45, D): First, we need to accept federal funding to expand Medicaid—it would save lives, money, and our healthcare system. Hospitals are closing birthing centers and there aren't enough mental health services to support needs in our communities which results in more people in our justice system. The burden of uncompensated care raises everyone's healthcare costs until no one can afford to go to the hospital because the unpaid debts are shucked off onto those who can. We also need to support communities in being able to provide enough mental health and substance abuse treatment services by increasing providers and utilizing telehealth options. People are struggling to get the care they need and our suicide rates have gone up.

Ocean Andrew (HD 46, R): We need more common sense when it comes to healthcare occupational licensing turf wars. Especially in rural communities, it can be hard to find a medical professional who can do procedures, even when they are trained to do so, because it falls under a different medical professional's license. This kind of economic protectionism drives up prices and causes people to have to drive long distances for care. An example of recent progress on this was a bill in 2021 that allowed optometrists to do common procedures (for which they had training) that only ophthalmologists were previously allowed to do. Another way we could make progress in the future is to allow pharmacists to have prescriptive authority for low risk drugs.

Merav Ben-David (HD 46, D): Similar to many rural states access to healthcare, including mental healthcare, is a serious problem in Wyoming. Currently OB/GYN departments are closing in many of our rural hospitals and clinics, increasing the risk of maternal and infant mortality. Medicaid expansion would provide necessary healthcare coverage to a significant portion of Wyoming residents (estimated at 19,000). In addition, I support imposing a cap on drug prices. While such decisions are mostly made at the federal level, states have the ability to address these issues through negotiations with insurance carriers. Another improvement would be to standardized and interlink the data systems used by the various health providers in the state. This will result in cost savings.

Richard “RJ” Lennox Jr. (HD 46, R): Every Wyomingite deserves equal access to quality healthcare. This includes Medicaid Expansion through either legislation and/or renegotiation; benefiting nearly 25,000 residents. I am also concerned about the recent elimination of maternity services in several state communities.

What, if any, specific measures would you propose to generate future state revenue?

Ken Chestek (HD 13, D): We need to diversify our economy; with diversification, new sources of revenue would be created. We cannot continue to rely on the oil and gas/mineral extraction industries to support the state. Market forces outside of our control will continue to put downward pressure on those industries. Green energy (particularly solar and wind) are promising new industries, but also finding ways to use coal to create building materials (carbon fiber, graphene, bricks, etc.) would be a way to continue extracting coal while not burning it and putting more carbon into the atmosphere. Plus the value added in creating building materials could provide a source of new revenue for the state.

Wayne B. Pinch (HD 13, R): As the nation shifts away from fossil fuels we need to reevaluate our stance on what our energy is worth to others. I would entertain tolls. I would entertain a tenant tax. We deficit spend on public services, why?

Julie McCallister (HD 14, R): Wyoming needs to diversify and strengthen its state revenue, but there are a number of places that this revenue should not be generated from. Specifically state income tax or food tax. Both of these are regressive taxation that will hurt our residents. There are a number of areas where revenue can be generated that are not regressive in nature. Wind Energy and other stable industries are areas where more or new revenue can be collected. Wyoming has long done a diligent job of defending key Wyoming industries like oil, gas, and ranching. While these industries are incredibly important, many other legacy industry's that also would benefit from action by legislature. Wyoming's travel, outdoor recreation, hunting, manufacturing, and many more.

Trey Sherwood (HD 14, D): We must reform our tax structure and move away from our dependence on minerals, which has thus far subsidized our public services. We have some of the lowest taxes in the nation and one of the lowest personal tax burdens per capita. To generate revenue for essential services, I support: A 1% increase in sales & use tax generating \$191 million; Imposing a 4% sales tax on services at \$41 million; Lifting restrictions on local governments ability to raise revenue to support public services & economic development; Increasing the statewide 4 cent sales tax by a penny for education. If we want to grow our economy while maintaining our quality of life, we must diversify revenue in a way that is justified, equitable, balanced and transparent.

Bryan Shuster (HD 14, R): Every new business we open in this county will generate revenue. Myself and the entire City Council, Laramie Economic Development, and Down Town Development Authority that the city partners with provides them with Financial support. We are currently working very hard to put businesses into currently vacant buildings.

Karlee Provenza (HD 45, D): We need tax that don't burden the poor, working-class, and small businesses struggling to survive inflation – they already pay their share of taxes and they pay more than wealthy people pretending to live in Wyoming while raising our property taxes. We should start raising revenues by taxing large corporations who use more of our state services and wealthy people who own multiple homes for tax breaks while benefiting more from our public services to maintain their investments. I also support cuts in justice practices that needlessly harm people and our ability to bring in new industries. We should legalize marijuana and stop wasting money on investigating and imprisoning people for cannabis and other minor nonviolent offenses.

Ocean Andrew (HD 46, R): Wyoming has plenty of revenue to work with, however, it depends on very volatile industries. We must learn to be frugal and not grow government in the boom times and we will easily have plenty of funds to survive the slow times. More than anything, we actually need to limit the growth of property tax revenue due to inflation by basing residential property values on acquisition value rather than assessed value. This way, property tax would remain the same for as long as a resident owns the home.

Merav Ben-David (HD 46, D): We need to stop defining ourselves as an energy producing state. Our reliance on fossil fuels for the past decades left us with few alternative sources of income. We have excellent wind resources and can produce reasonable amounts of solar energy, but these could not be a substitute to the falling revenues from fossil fuels. Advances in data science, computing, artificial intelligence, biotechnology and material sciences provide opportunities. We will need to retain and attract skilled workers by creating a welcoming environment where all are treated equally irrespective of sex, sexual orientation, or race. To collect revenue from such companies we will need to change our taxation system. The Tax Reform 2000 is a good foundation.

Richard "RJ" Lennox Jr. (HD 46, R): Wyoming has and will continue to rely on the energy industry for funding. Along with Agriculture, Mineral extraction comes under fire from the left and environmental groups. Federal regulations seek to stifle our economy. We must take control of the narrative and educate officials in D.C. on the realities of these industries. Stewardship of the environment is alive and well in Wyoming. While our current funding sources should be shored up, we must look to new opportunities in energy and attracting "new" business to our state. We need to be welcoming to the marketplace when they seek opportunities in Wyoming.

*Do you agree or disagree with this statement: "Current school funding is adequate."
Please explain your answer.*

Ken Chestek (HD 13, D): Disagree. There was a time in the not-too-distant past when the Wyoming K-12 education system was a model for the nation. But recent efforts to decrease state spending have taken some of the shine off of that gem. We need to reverse that trend, find a stable and adequate funding stream, and make educating our children a top priority once again.

Wayne B. Pinch (HD 13, R): Neither Agree nor Disagree. We are 2nd in the nation on dollars spent per student. We are 30th in discipline.

Julie McCallister (HD 14, R): Neither Agree nor Disagree. The state of Wyoming has to follow a supreme court decision on how to fund our schools. That does not mean that our school funding is completely adequate. The state of Wyoming needs more dedicated funding for our schools. I am pleased to see charter schools expanding to a small degree in the state of Wyoming, as options for education are essential to parent choice. Wyoming could, and should dedicate more funding to our schools, to ensure that we do not have issues with items like capitol construction, or facilities needs that could easily exceed budget availability. Funding needs to be available to provide our students with the best teachers, opportunities, and facilities that the state can provide.

Trey Sherwood (HD 14, D): Strongly Disagree. We are facing a budget shortfall in education and are in danger of being unable to fulfill our constitutional duty to finance a high quality, fair and equitable education for every Wyoming student. Teachers are burned out, parents are frustrated and our kids are caught in the middle. We must recalibrate our funding model to increase pay if we are to recruit and retain quality teachers and support staff.

Bryan Shuster (HD 14, R): School funding in this county is not what I think it should be. Every time we create a new for profit business it creates new revenue, and property taxes (property taxes largely go to schools).

Karlee Provenza (HD 45, D): Disagree. The legislature failed to give teachers raises through our state budget during the last session after they continued to deliver a quality education through a global pandemic and some of the most challenging years in recent history. We have given teachers more work and demanded they still provide a quality education, but we haven't held up our end of the deal by paying them for the additional work they are doing. School districts across the state are also looking for ways to move money in their budgets so teachers can continue to receive adequate benefits. None of these things sound like adequate funding in a state that mandates a well-funded and quality education through our state constitution.

Ocean Andrew (HD 46, R): Strongly Agree. Depending on who is doing the comparison and what they are including, Wyoming is always in the top 10 compared to other states when it comes to education spending levels, we even spend more than countries like Sweden and Norway. We spend nearly \$18000 per student per year.

Merav Ben-David (HD 46, D): Strongly Disagree. Article 7 (1) of the Wyoming constitution states that "The legislature shall provide for... embracing free elementary schools of every needed kind and grade...." Because we need to teach our children "how to think, not what to think" it is imperative to invest in our teachers and provide them with the resources to implement active learning in the classrooms, which requires small class sizes, individual instruction, and planning time. In addition, art classes, music, and other programs have been removed due to budget cuts. They need to be re-funded. Similarly, support-staff positions

have been eliminated. Now more than ever, school counsellors are needed to assist students with the hardships imposed by the pandemic.

Richard “RJ” Lennox Jr. (HD 46, R): Agree. Wyoming is well over the national average in per pupil funding. Where we and other states go wrong is in the allocation of that money. Wasteful spending needs to be reined in. State school districts are overloaded with administrative personnel and costs and monies to support the newest systems of the day. This funding needs to make it down to the classroom.

Wyoming State Senator – Albany County

Office: Each Senator receives a stipend of \$300 per month. They also receive \$150.00 per day while the Legislature is in session plus \$109.00 per diem. They receive the same pay for committee and work meetings between sessions. Each quarter they receive \$750 for a constituent service allowance. Term is four years with no term limits. Requirements are that the candidate must be at least age 25, a U.S. citizen, and a qualified Wyoming voter with residence in the district from which they are elected for at least 12 months prior to election. There are two senate districts in Albany County, SD 09 and SD 10. The senator in SD 10, Dan Furphy (R), continues in office until the 2024 election. Voters will only receive a ballot containing the names of SD 09 candidates if they live within that district.

Candidates:

Chris Rothfuss: Democrat; Laramie

Email: RothfussForSenate@gmail.com

Diana Seabeck: Republican; Laramie; Phone: 307-742-7956

Email: seabeckforsenate@gmail.com

What qualities, training, experiences, and skills would you bring to this office?

Chris Rothfuss (SD 09, D): I listen. I work hard. I compromise and build consensus. I put people first. I have served as the WY Senate Minority Leader since 2013 and was first elected in 2010. I chair the Select Committee on Blockchain, Financial Technology and Digital Innovation, and am the ranking member of the Education Committee and the Minerals, Business and Economic Development Committee. I am a faculty member of the UW Honors College. I earned a PhD in Chemical Engineering and MS in Applied Physics from the University of Washington; and an MS in Chemical Engineering and BA in International Studies from the University of Wyoming while competing as a member and captain of the debate team. Heather and I chose Laramie to raise our 4 wonderful children.

Diana Seabeck (SD 09, R): I grew up in several states and moved to Wyoming in 1973. Robert and I have been married for 48 years. We raised two sons in Laramie and we have five grandchildren. My BA was earned at the University of Arizona and my MS at University of Wyoming in Speech-Lang. Pathology. At ACSD1 for 35 years, I held three different positions. Experience as a Special Education Case Manager required leading people to consensus in difficult interpersonal situations, interpret complex information to parents and form professional relationships outside of school. As Drug Free Sch. Coor I co-wrote a \$3M

grant, supervised employees, oversaw up to 10 active budgets and helped create a new level of community agency cooperation and quality of services for kids.

What, if anything, would you support to improve reasonable access to health care in Wyoming?

Chris Rothfuss (SD 09, D): Medicaid Expansion! - the single most significant and effective option the legislature has available to improve access to affordable healthcare for all. MedEx would provide \$177M of federal funds to the state over the next biennium, while actually reducing the overall state budget by \$32M - we would SAVE money. These additional federal funds would provide direct access to primary care for our most vulnerable Wyomingites, while reducing the uncompensated financial burdens on our hospitals and emergency rooms. I will continue to support additional funding for public health; resources for mental health and suicide prevention; stronger requirements for cost transparency and uniformity; and full reproductive healthcare rights and access.

Diana Seabeck (SD 09, R): This question refers to the several years-long battle in the Legislature over Medicaid Expansion. Anyone would want our citizens to have reasonable access to health care. No doubt that the health care system in our country is in a crisis of cooperation between many private entities—hospital systems, big pharma, insurance providers, private healthcare providers. The estimate is that an increase of 25,000 who would qualify for Expansion benefits. Some reports say that states have seen this number grow 2-3X. Expansion promises 90% for only 3 years which then reverts to our 70% reim. rate. Can the budget stand large increases for Medicaid in the 4th year? Look for less costly, state-enhanced alternatives, e.g. expanded roles for pharmacists.

What, if any, specific measures would you propose to generate future state revenue?

Chris Rothfuss (SD 09, D): Nearly 70% of our state revenue is derived directly or indirectly from coal, oil or natural gas. While global events coupled with \$2B+ of federal stimulus funding have resulted in a temporary reprieve, our current revenue structure is unsustainable. Even if we do manage to diversify our economy into other industries, our monolithic tax structure will eventually fail to fund our basic government services. We need a comprehensive tax overhaul that fairly, broadly and progressively diversifies taxation across all people and industries that can afford to pay more. At the same time, we must reduce the burden where it is excessive - such as property tax on the homes of our low income and fixed income friends, family and neighbors.

Diana Seabeck (SD 09, R): Taxpayers owe it to themselves to demand that our state government is efficient, transparent, accountable and even frugal. We are facing shortfalls due to pressures that are out of our control. Spending is under our control. I do not support a personal income tax. Mineral revenues will continue to be and should be an important part of our economy. Review if that tax rate set in 1980 could be raised. Wind and solar energy taxes could be considered. Property taxes rise with inflated home prices; maybe a cap or a better formula for calculating them. People should not be taxed out of their homes. Consider

cash budgeting, not using the Mineral Trust fund to balance the budget, caps on spending & growth during booms which protects during busts.

*Do you agree or disagree with this statement: "Current school funding is adequate."
Please explain your answer.*

Chris Rothfuss (SD 09, D): Strongly Disagree. I have served on nearly every education related legislative committee, select committee and task force over the past 12 years, including all 3 education funding recalibrations. We have a lot to be proud of! We have a deep commitment to public education in Wyoming. As a result, we are a national leader in K-12 educational quality and equity. Our educators and schools are simply amazing! But there is more that we can and should do. We must fully fund universal pre-K, significantly increase resources for social, emotional and mental wellness of students and teachers, and provide market competitive salaries for a sufficient number of teachers to achieve our model class size targets - all without reducing our resource commitments elsewhere.

Diana Seabeck (SD 09, R): Neither Agree nor Disagree. The first questions really should be why and how is the money being used. K-12 education received \$18,000+ per student and only a fraction of each dollar is spent on students; how much for teacher (not admin) salaries? Teachers' salaries should be comparable to that of other professionals. There are factors besides salary that contribute to teachers leaving the profession--teacher paperwork and testing severely reducing time to teach, negative school climate including lack of principal supervision of teachers and handling school discipline, parents not holding students accountable for learning or behavior, smart devices and social media invaded schools. More money isn't the fix for reducing student dropout rates or improving performance.