



## **2022 Primary Election Voter Guide Introduction**

The League of Women Voters of Wyoming prepared this Voter Guide 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 federal and state elected offices. These 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.

### **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 or from the "Candidate Roster" on the public documents of the Wyoming Secretary of State's website. 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. Those running for the same office are grouped together and the groups are in ascending numerical order. Responses were downloaded from Vote411 through June 25.

### **Response Rate**

There are seven races that all voters in Wyoming will have listed on their ballots; 27 candidates are vying for these statewide positions including U.S. Representative and Wyoming Governor. Of these, 21 responded to the LWV questionnaire, a 78 percent response rate. Candidates who did not respond are indicated in the first question and the name is dropped for the other questions.

### **Other Information**

This Voter Guide also is available online at [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org). Candidate Forums are available on the Wyoming League website, [wyominglwv.org](http://wyominglwv.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.

## **United States Representative**

**Office:** Salary is \$174,000 annually; term is two years with no term limit. An office and benefits are provided. The candidate with the most votes in each party (Republican and Democratic) will be on the General Election ballot along with independent and other parties which do not hold primaries.

### **Candidates:**

**Robyn M. Belinskey:** Republican; Sheridan; Phone: 307-683-7973

Email: [GEMINIDREAM4@YAHOO.COM](mailto:GEMINIDREAM4@YAHOO.COM)

Website: <http://www.freedom4wyoming.org>

**Anthony Bouchard:** Republican; Cheyenne

Email: [anthony@anthonybouchard.com](mailto:anthony@anthonybouchard.com)

Website: <https://www.anthonybouchard.com/>

**Liz Cheney:** Republican; Wilson

Email: [liz@teamcheney.com](mailto:liz@teamcheney.com)

Website: <https://cheneyforwyoming.com>

**Lynnette GreyBull:** Democrat; Fort Washakie; Phone: 608-304-5317

Email: [victory@greybullforcongress.com](mailto:victory@greybullforcongress.com)

Website: <http://greybullforcongress.com>

**Harriet Hageman:** Republican; Cheyenne; Phone: 307-209-4539

Email: [HMH@HAGEMANFORWYOMING.COM](mailto:HMH@HAGEMANFORWYOMING.COM)

Website: <http://hagemanforwyoming.com>

**Steve Helling:** Democrat; Casper; Phone 307-441-7130;  
Email: STEVEHELLINGFORCONGRESS@OUTLOOK.COM  
<http://stevellingforcongress.com>

**Meghan R. Jensen:** Democrat; Rock Springs; Phone: 307-371-3883  
Email: mjensenforwy@gmail.com

**Denton Knapp Jr.:** Republican; Gillette  
Email: denton\_knapp@yahoo.com  
Website: <https://dentonknapp.com>

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

**Robyn M. Belinskey (R):** As a US citizen and resident of Wyoming having worked as a paralegal in various aspects of litigation, e.g., land use, real estate, worker's compensation and wills & trusts, etc. has given me a wide ranging background in law. I am relatable and approachable to the general public and understand what Wyoming voters face on an everyday basis. As Wyoming's next Congresswoman I will represent "We the People" to the best of my ability with common sense and reason.

**Anthony Bouchard (R):** No response

**Liz Cheney (R):** No response

**Lynnette Greybull (D):** I've been directing, creating, and advocating in government and private organizations for years, including founding Not Our Native Daughters, advocating federal prioritization of child trafficking, protecting free speech after Standing Rock, chairing the Arizona Commission for Indian Affairs, helping incarcerated women at To Set the Captives Free Women's Mission Program, testifying for the Grizzly Bear Protection Act, liaising for the Wyoming Outdoors Council and the Citizens for the Red Desert Coalition, and many other responsibilities. All this people-centered work shaped my approach to policy: start with what people need--especially the most vulnerable and least privileged. Listen, be willing to work with everyone, and get it done.

**Harriet Hageman (R):** As a water, natural resource, and constitutional attorney, I have spent over 2 decades pushing back against federal overreach. I understand and have fought for our legacy industries, including fossil fuel production, agriculture, tourism, recreation, and hunting and fishing. I know how the federal regulatory agencies work, and know what we need to do to restore our constitutional foundation of separation of powers -- with Congress retaking its rightful place as the legislative branch. I understand how critical it is to take power out of Washington, DC and return it to the states where it belongs. I have long defended our businesses, families and communities, and will use my skills and experience to further a conservative agenda.

**Steve Helling (D):** I am even-tempered have a lot of life experiences. In addition, I have been in leadership roles throughout my life, most recently as a member and chairperson of the Colorado Springs Independent Ethics Commission, where I served from 2016-2022, and was chairperson in 2019-2020. I am an attorney and most litigation cases have been

resolved through the years by mediation and compromise. I was president of the board of directors of Legal Aid Services for two of my nine years, providing legal services to the poor. I would hope to blur the lines between Democrats and Republicans and re-develop the love of God and country, which would then be reflected in deeds as well as words.

**Meghan R. Jensen (D):** I intend to show folks the qualities I have during my campaign by talking with people around Wyoming and focusing on the importance that working folks bring to public office rather than just talking about it.

**Denton Knapp Jr. (R):** No response

*Do you support or oppose federal legislation to reduce dependency on extractive energy industries? Please explain.*

**Robyn M. Belinskey (R):** I oppose federal legislation to reduce dependency on extractive energy industries. We still need oil, coal and gas in the state of Wyoming. The US should not be dependent on foreign extractive energy resources.

**Lynnette Greybull (D):** These industries are super-profitable because the government isn't neutral--it subsidizes them. Congress could instead let the market run its course and help facilitate workers' and communities' shift to new energy production. When given the resources, Wyoming's communities will know how to re-invent the energy industry. The role of Congress should be to protect workers, communities, and the environment. The handling of mine closures in Wyoming the past couple of years should not be the model for how to do business with our families. Instead, with our energy school, brain power, and strong communities, we can be a model of innovation and environmental responsibility--and the federal government can be a cooperative partner in this.

**Harriet Hageman (R):** I oppose any such efforts to reduce our ability to explore for, produce, use, and export our oil and gas, coal, uranium, trona and other resources. Wyoming is the largest coal producer in the nation, with over 1.6 trillion tons in our state alone. It is clean, accessible, affordable, and makes our lives better in terms of providing affordable energy. Our fossil fuels are the foundation of our prosperity, a fact that is proven on a daily basis as Biden's failed energy policy results in ever-increasing inflation, catastrophic problems with our supply chain, and shortages of basic goods. Energy security is national security. It is not the government's role to adopt policies that are intended to increase the cost of energy.

**Steve Helling (D):** Legislation encouraging clean energy sources such as wind and solar would arguably be reducing dependency on extractive energy industries. When we do not have enough energy we should not be restricting known safe and clean energy sources such as oil, gas and clean coal. Our power grid is fragile and blackouts and rolling blackouts are expected this summer. Inflation is at a 40-year high and high energy prices are a big contributing factor, as production and transportation costs steadily increase as the cost of energy increases. Ultimately there needs to be a reasonable balance that protects both

Wyoming's precious land, water, and air while at the same time protecting the important oil, gas, and coal industries.

**Meghan R. Jensen (D):** I support economic growth in Wyoming and some companies are already working on how best to compete in the changing economy. Federal legislation to reduce dependency on extractive industries will come for many reasons. One of the reasons will be to work towards energy independence. A question Wyoming will have to answer for ourselves is "Will Wyoming have a solution when we are unable to fund our education and other necessary services?"

*Please explain your position on congressional regulation of media content.*

**Robyn M. Belinsky (R):** Media is protected by the First Amendment of free speech and has become "heresy" instead of informative and news worthy. Self regulation of the media as opposed to governmental interference is preferred. Media should adhere to a higher standard of journalism than "social media."

**Lynnette Greybull (D):** I'm a strong advocate of first amendment protections for the media. I also recognize that corporate media is a big business, and sometimes the public's problem with media giants is that they are giants. But that's what antitrust law is for: to stop anti-competitive, abusive or monopolistic practices--not to regulate content or tell media outlets how to manage their platforms. Congress can regulate commerce; it can't censor content except in very limited circumstances (particularly to prohibit the exploitation of children). I'm comfortable maintaining that balance. If public discourse is bad and the media magnifies that, let's work to make public discourse better!

**Harriet Hageman (R):** I believe strongly in the First Amendment to the United States Constitution in terms of freedom of speech. The federal government has been overtly pressuring social media companies to censor and discriminate against particular viewpoints. The government should not be allowed to do indirectly what it cannot do directly. We need to evaluate Section 230 of the Communications Decency act and assess the extent to which social media companies can be likened to common carriers or the "town square" for purposes of ensuring that we protect our long-standing tradition of robust debate and open and free discussion.

**Steve Helling (D):** Indecent material is already forbidden. I oppose any additional regulation of media content by Congress. Congress should make no law abridging freedom of the press and doing so would be in violation of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

**Meghan R. Jensen (D):** Our first amendment rights are very important and that is why this subject is very hard to regulate. It does not mean that there are serious concerns with media content that needs to be addressed. The short answer to this question is that if special interest groups and some parents would instead focus on the content of other media than books in our libraries and schools, our youth and country would be far better off in the future.

### *What should the U.S. role be as a member of NATO?*

**Robyn M. Belinskey (R):** I support US membership in NATO. However, I feel a greater emphasis should be placed on member nation's participation in equitably sharing common goals regarding defense and security issues in order to secure mutual member nation respect in conflict resolution.

**Lynnette Greybull (D):** Our role should be careful, judicious, and responsible. Conflict within and between nations is not in the interests of the vast majority of people on the planet, and my own indigenous background makes me a little suspicious of wheeling and dealing among the great powers. But as long as this is the way we do things, the role of regional alliances like NATO should be to prevent conflict and, when necessary, protect innocent lives. Member states will limit themselves to that role only if their collective governments commit to it. Also, and this is important: NATO and other multinational military forces have been implicated in violence against women and human trafficking for decades. Much more must be done to stop this behavior.

**Harriet Hageman (R):** To adhere to and comply with our obligations as set forth in the legal agreements that we have made.

**Steve Helling (D):** The North Atlantic Treaty Organization has successfully kept the peace among its 30 members since 1949. It has been a great force for peace, as an attack on one of the members is considered as an attack on all. The United States has been a member and a leader and its leadership role should be maintained. Make dust or eat dust. The United States can be a leader or a follower. I vote for leadership. Unfortunately, the internal fighting and decay in this country has not gone unnoticed by other countries, who are not so sure they want us or can count on us in the leadership role. This needs to change so that other countries can count on the United States again. A strong United States makes for a safer world.

**Meghan R. Jensen (D):** I support the work of the U.S. and our allies in the 40's to create and join NATO and will continue to support the work for the same reasons.

### **Wyoming Auditor**

**Office:** Salary is \$125,000 annually; term length is four years with no term limit. To be eligible, candidates must be at least age 30, a U.S. citizen, and a qualified Wyoming voter. An office and benefits are provided. No Democrat filed for this office.

**Candidate:**

**Kristi Racines:** Republican; Cheyenne; Phone 307-851-1437

Email: [VOTE@KRISTIRACINES.COM](mailto:VOTE@KRISTIRACINES.COM)

Website: <http://kristiracines.com>

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

**Kristi Racines (R):** I hold a degree in accounting from UW and I am a licensed CPA. In private practice, I performed audits of Wyoming businesses, nonprofits, and governmental entities. Later, I served as the Chief Fiscal Officer and Director of Human Resources of Wyoming's judicial branch, managing an \$80 million statewide budget and overseeing the human resource function for over 300 employees. In addition to financial expertise, Wyoming perspective is critical to this position. I'm a 4th generation native and my family has been in agriculture and oil and gas. An avid sportswoman, I enjoy hunting, fishing, and camping. This balance of experience has enabled me to bring a sharp fiscal eye to the State Loan and Investment Board and the Land Board.

*What do you see as the greatest challenges facing Wyoming's financial affairs and what would you do to address those challenges?*

**Kristi Racines (R):** Wyoming will continue to struggle with intense volatility in our revenue streams, particularly with the uncertain economic outlook. Like other states, we have received, and will continue to receive, unprecedented amounts of COVID-19 relief and infrastructure funds. This is not free money - it is critical that we are responsible in our choices so that our grandchildren will not be paying the price. Infrastructure in our small communities and access to healthcare in rural areas will be of importance to me - and will help paint a vibrant future for our state while maintaining our character.

*Do you think there is sufficient transparency in Wyoming's finances? Please explain.*

**Kristi Racines (R):** Transparency isn't an end destination - it can always be improved. When I was elected State Auditor four years ago, I inherited a lawsuit in regards to state expenditures. A month after taking office, I produced six years' worth of expenditure records, eliminating barriers to transparency that had plagued Wyoming for years. To be more proactive, I put Wyoming's checkbook online six months after taking office (at WyOpen.gov), at no additional cost to the Wyoming taxpayer. My office prides itself on responding to public records requests quickly, efficiently, and accurately, which I promise to continue. WyOpen has received nearly 200,000 visits since inception, and we plan to add additional functionality over the next four years.

*What changes, if any, would you propose to improve Wyoming's accounting procedures? Please explain.*

**Kristi Racines (R):** The State Auditor, by statute, is the chief accountant for the state - so this is an important question! During my first term, we have undertaken several projects to add efficiency and improve accuracy in the accounting function. These include cleaning up the chart of accounts, simplifying the process for businesses and individuals to be paid by the state, and improving training so that other agencies are well-equipped to serve citizens. The Auditor is responsible for the state's electronic accounting system, which is extremely large and complex. In the next several years, we are undertaking a substantial upgrade to this system - at no cost to the taxpayer - which will allow us to work smarter, streamline, and find more efficiencies.

**Wyoming Governor**

**Office:** Salary is \$140,000 annually; term is 4 years, term limit is eight years in a 16-year period through a statute adopted in a 1992 public referendum. Office and some benefits are provided. To be elected, the candidate must be at least age 30, a U.S. citizen, a Wyoming resident at least five years, a qualified Wyoming voter, and cannot hold any other office. In the November 8, 2022 General Election, also on the ballot may be independent and third parties who do not hold primaries. Statements of candidate Wilde were dictated by telephone to a League of Women Voters transcriber; the rest were posted by the candidates themselves on Vote411.

**Candidates:**

**Brent Bien:** Republican; Sheridan

Email: [brent@brentbien.com](mailto:brent@brentbien.com)

**Mark Gordon:** Republican; Buffalo; Phone: 307-369-2725

Email: [MARK@GORDONFORWYOMING.COM](mailto:MARK@GORDONFORWYOMING.COM)

Website: <http://gordonforwyoming.com>

**Theresa A. Livingston:** Democrat; Worland; Phone: 307-529-0869

Email: [LIVINGSTON4WYOMING@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LIVINGSTON4WYOMING@GMAIL.COM)

**James Scott Quick:** Republican; Douglas; Phone: 307-359-9576

Email: [jq@votejamesquick.com](mailto:jq@votejamesquick.com)

Website: <https://www.votejamesquick.com>

**Rex Rammell:** Republican; Rock Springs; Phone: 307-922-3639

Email: [REX@REXRAMMELL.COM](mailto:REX@REXRAMMELL.COM)

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

**Rex Wilde:** Democrat; Cheyenne; Phone: 307-365-0386

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

**Brent Bien (R):** No response

**Mark Gordon (R):** I grew up on my family ranch outside of Kaycee and currently serve as your Governor. I'm a lifelong conservative, staunch defender of Second Amendment Rights and an advocate for smaller government closest to the people. I have guided our State through the worst pandemic in a century, all the time focused on saving lives and livelihoods. Prior to serving as Governor, I was elected as Wyoming's State Treasurer and served on the Board of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. I have a broad range of experience in the fields and industries among the most important to our state – from running a family ranch to working in the energy and tourism sector. We have more to do, and I'm here to say Jennie and I are all in for Wyoming.

**Theresa A. Livingston (D):** 72 years of being a human on this earth. 28 years of that time is residing in Wyoming including Lander, Cheyenne, & Worland. I have visited most of the state during those years. I served in the USAF for 9 years living in Germany, Turkey, & Spain. I also lived in other states. As a teenager, I lived in Taiwan with my parents. My dad was in civil service. He was in the Army/air corps. WW2. I worked for the DOI/BLM for 15 years so I have a background in land management. Being a Para in Special Education gives me a good



background in Education. I often bring a different perspective to life from living in so many places.

**James Scott Quick (R):** After graduating from Douglas High School, I went into the Marines. I chose to come back to Wyoming after my honorable discharge. I'm deeply rooted in the state of Wyoming. I've worked in the energy business--oil, uranium, coal, pipeline and I've owned my business for 14 years and am still working. The last few years have been hard on everybody. I feel we've lost our voice in Wyoming. I refused to be silenced anymore. We need someone to step up and be the voice for the people.

**Rex Rammell (R):** Conservative constitutionalist, veterinarian small business owner, rancher, sportsman, faith based family man.

**Rex Wilde (D):** 259th BCT, the 82nd airborne, and the 1022 medical detachment of the national guard in Cheyenne. Bilingual (Italian and English). I'm just a regular guy, not a rich man. This campaign is being run on my own; no one is giving me money, so I'm not beholden to anyone. I'm honest, hardworking, and determined. I was a cabinet maker for 34 years of my life. The only reason I'm running for office is water.

### *What specific measures would you propose to enhance state revenues?*

**Mark Gordon (R):** Wyoming doesn't have a revenue problem - it had a spending problem. This year I signed a budget \$400 million less than 2020 and our state government is the leanest it's been in a decade. I have fought to expand Wyoming's economy, especially our legacy industries of agriculture, mining and tourism while fighting the Biden Administration to reopen our tremendous energy resources to benefit America. President Biden's shortsighted "green energy" agenda has run Wyoming's economy into a ditch and caused the worst inflation in 40 years. An "All of the Above" energy policy would increase Wyoming energy production and revenues and return America to the Trump policy of energy independence and address our record gas and diesel prices.

**Theresa A. Livingston (D):** Outdoor recreation that brings in revenue. It's working already. tourism is up. Also, rare minerals could bring in revenue. Get the younger generation to help up with ideas to bring in revenue. They are amazing.

**James Scott Quick (R):** We need to open our drilling back up. We need to fight DC on that and we need to fight more to get the coal out Let's cut back some of the regulations; that will invited good businesses to come to Wyoming.

**Rex Rammell (R):** State control over all our natural resources.

**Rex Wilde (D):** First is I would raise licensing fees for out of state hunting and fishing. I want to make I-25 and I-80 toll roads for people crossing our state: \$25/truck, \$5 car, but not for people with Wyoming license plates. We probably wouldn't need federal funding to maintain our roads.

*How would you work with the legislature to prepare Wyoming for wildfires and drought?*

**Mark Gordon (R):** I have been very active in working with the Legislature and our Congressional Delegation to prepare as much as possible for wildfires and drought. The State now has a \$20 million contingency fund for fighting wildfires. I've also worked with the Legislature to add additional 'Good Neighbor Authority' positions at State Forestry, which allows the State to partner with the U.S. Forest Service to promote healthy forests. As we work to protect our water rights, I have established a working group on the Colorado River Compact and added more staff with the Attorney General and State Engineer offices. I have also upgraded water storage and irrigation infrastructure and teamed with the Legislature and Congressional Delegation to fund it.

**Theresa A. Livingston (D):** I worked in wildfire for the BLM so I have some knowledge of the process. It was wonderful to see how all the agencies state, county, & federal work together during fires. They also work together to prevent fires through prescribed burns & other methodologies. The ties between all the fire agencies working together are amazing. I was there to get them what they needed. Being that closed to the fire was endless education. The legislature needs to keep up the funding they give to the fire programs. They also should work on educating the citizens of Wyoming to understand what is being done especially when it comes to drought. Drought is something we should all help with by using the resources & water wisely.

**James Scott Quick (R):** We need to open our logging industries; that will help manage our forests better and increase our revenue. We need to protect our water rights at all costs. Let's just implement good common sense suggestions and work together. If legislators have good ideas for the people of Wyoming, let's get it done.

**Rex Rammell (R):** Appropriate money to prepare for fires and advocate for fire prevention measures like controlled burns.

**Rex Wilde (D):** That's a tough question; we've got global warning. It's here. We've seen more wildfires than ever before. I think the National Guard should be trained as fire fighters.

*What are your top two issues for the Wyoming government to address in the next four years?*

**Mark Gordon (R):** Our most pressing issues deal with constant Federal overreach damaging Wyoming's economy and hurting our seniors, veterans and all citizens. I have been fighting Biden's policies since, on day one, his Administration ended oil and gas leasing on most of Wyoming's public lands. It seems every day that Mr. Biden is attacking our State, our economy and our values. Yet all we hear out of Washington is that it's someone else's fault. I successfully fought Biden's push for school closures and vaccine mandates for Wyoming students and National Guard troops. We kept our schools open, and Wyoming led the nation in in-person school days. And I will continue to fight all attempts by the Feds to gain control over more land in Wyoming. Period.

**Theresa A. Livingston (D):** Health care for women without restrictions. Medicare expansion. I want to include better mental health care. Healthy people make for a healthy state. This is good for everyone. The second issue is project-based education with an emphasis on aptitude testing. We need to help students find their "WHY" so they will be happy & productive in life. I think this will make for happy teachers which will be a great outcome for all.

**James Scott Quick (R):** The first thing I going to do is get rid of the reservation only system on our state parks. I want to keep 10-15 percent of the spots that can be reserved for tourists. I want the reservations taken in-state. I wanted to protect the jobs we have in Wyoming first and worry about new jobs second. I want to keep the coal fired power plants open. Could Wyoming citizens form a co-op to take them over and keep them open (that was my wife's and other We need to open u our forest an)? I'm not against nuclear power, but a lot more is not being shared with the general public.

**Rex Rammell (R):** State sovereignty over all our natural resources and education reform.

**Rex Wilde (D):** Water. Water, water, water. Our C.F.S. are tremendous. When we were a territory, people basically took advantage of us. In 1922 there was the Green River Accord; they basically put Wyoming put in a high chair and put us in the pantry. It belongs to us all, and it flows out of here, but it's ours. I think that Wyoming should be recognized as an autonomous region with our low population, our large area, and everything we give to the U.S.—water, minerals, coal, uranium. If I become governor, I would support legislation that the federal government recognize Wyoming as an autonomous region and then compensate us.

## **Wyoming Secretary of State**

**Office:** Salary is \$125,000 annually; term is four years with no term limit. To be eligible, candidates must be at least age 30, a U.S. citizen, and a qualified Wyoming voter. An office and benefits are provided. No Democrat filed for this office.

### **Candidates:**

**Mark Armstrong:** Republican; Centennial, WY; Phone: 307-399-8516

Email: MR\_GEOMAN@YAHOO.COM

**Dan Dockstader:** Republican; Afton, WY; Phone 307-885-9705

Email: SVIDAN@SILVERSTAR.COM

**Chuck Gray:** Republican; Casper, WY; Phone 307-251-1372

Email: Chuck@chuckforwyoming.com

Website: <http://chuckforwyoming.com>

**Tara Nethercott:** Republican; Cheyenne, WY; 307-399-7696

Email: VOTETARANETHERCOTT@GMAIL.COM

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

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

**Mark Armstrong (R):** “Legislative Advocacy, Business Development, Litigation Mitigation, Legal Strategies, Regulatory Compliance, Government Liaison, Agency Liaison, Legal Testimony, Remedial Action, Subordinate Management, Contracting, Human Health Risks, Site Safety, Corrective Action Plans, EIRs, EISs, Resolutions, Ethics Compliance, Permitting, Inspections, Document Research, FOIA, Sunshine Act, Client Contentment

**Dan Dockstader (R):** Current President of the Wyoming Senate with 16 years of service in the Wyoming Legislature (both House and Senate). Over 15 committee assignments, twice on Appropriations. Passed individual Legislation designed to protect Wyoming’s mineral jobs. Director/vice chairman of a 35,000-meter electric/natural gas co-op in Western Wyoming. Energy Council/State Govt. assignments related to state/federal relations/governmental affairs. Multiple trips to D.C. to visit/connect with Wyoming delegation. Business alliance advisory board, town councilman, fair board director, chamber board, Rotary, arts council, historical society director and museum director. 37-years employing Wyoming residents and running a small Wyoming business.

**Chuck Gray (R):** Election Integrity has been a priority of mine as a state legislator. During my service in the State Legislature over the past six years, I'm the only SOS candidate with a proven conservative record and a proven record regarding election integrity. I was the lead sponsor of the voter ID bill, which passed in the 2021 session. My leadership has always been dedicated to giving power and accountability back to the people from which it's being taken away by big-government policies, self-serving politicians, and bureaucratic overreach. I've led on fighting out of control property tax increases. We don't need career politicians who have only proven they will help themselves at our expense. With me what you see is what you get.

**Tara Nethercott (R):** As your next Secretary of State, I have the necessary working knowledge, through my experiences as a practicing attorney in corporate formations, registered agents, and as a small business owner. My 6 years as a state senator, serving on the Corporations, Elections, and Political Subdivisions Committee - home committee of the Secretary of State, has gained me advanced expertise on all elections laws, election integrity concerns, corporate filings, notaries public, and all matters impacting the office. I have the desire to serve as a working elected, to instill trust and security in our elections, I have the business experience and proven leadership to lead a highly competent team for continued excellence.

*What changes, if any, would you recommend in Wyoming's election laws?*

**Mark Armstrong (R):** “Absentee and mail-in ballots appear to be the source of the voter fraud in most cases. We all know that the day-of-election in-person voting is not the problem. So why after a major rewrite of the election code does the election code still read: 22-9-102. Who may vote by absentee ballot. (a) Any qualified elector may vote by absentee ballot. Shouldn't we be encouraging day-of-election in-person voting? And limiting mail-in and/or absentee voting to people with special circumstances (military, camp jobs, out of town, homebound, resident in nursing care facility, or other). Shouldn't we advocate for paper ballots? Stopping crossover voting with a three pronged approach.

**Dan Dockstader (R):** I am committed to ensuring election integrity throughout Wyoming. An effective and accountable government starts with free and fair elections. I have supported Legislation to make elections in Wyoming secure, safe, and efficient. As your Secretary of State, I will work closely with the Legislature to protect the integrity of our elections. Ultimately my focus will center on that integrity, accountability and security. A successful audit system helps establish and maintain voter confidence. We have an excellent team in the Election Division of The Secretary of State's Office, as we do in all the divisions of that office.

**Chuck Gray (R):** We must ban ballot drop boxes. The documentary 2000 Mules has shown how dangerous these drop boxes are. We must also move to an election with entirely paper ballots with no exceptions. There also needs to be an audit of each election. America is built on one person, one vote, and we should never tolerate criminals, tyrants, and cheats who try to change that. The State also needs to fight to protect the voter ID law I passed. The recently announced policy of hiding certain voter registration and turnout data from the public is a horrible idea and a recipe for disaster. Unbelievably, the State is now hiding public data about our elections. We need more transparency, not less.

**Tara Nethercott (R):** Wyoming leads as an example to the nation for conducting safe and secure elections. I intend to continue with this commitment to election integrity. This requires constant evaluation of elections procedures to ensure best practices are being utilized, with a careful balancing of election security with voter participation. Areas of Wyoming's elections laws that should receive additional attention from the public, county clerks and the legislature include: ballot boxes, absentee ballots, and ballot harvesting.

### *What role should the Secretary of State play in increasing voter turnout in Wyoming?*

**Mark Armstrong (R):** When people believe that the vote counts, they will turn out to vote.

**Dan Dockstader (R):** Repetitive educational visits to Wyoming's 23 counties where I'll cultivate working relationships with our respective County Clerk's offices. They understand the importance and responsibilities of their office. In addition, holding open office hours to ensure accessibility to the Secretary of State's office at the local level.

**Chuck Gray (R):** The Secretary of State should make sure every vote is counted and reported accurately.

**Tara Nethercott (R):** As the chief elections officer for the state, the Secretary of State plays a fundamental and primary role in increasing voter turnout. Voting is the cornerstone of our country, the government's power is derived from its people and that power should be reflected in the vote. Increasing voter turnout requires intentional prioritization for communicating election information and coordination with the state's county clerks and a reminder to all Wyomingites that voting is not only a privilege, but a duty. Every vote counts.

### *In what ways can the secretary of state improve access for rural voters?*

**Mark Armstrong (R):** In Albany County we had our voting poll locations restricted due to Covid. We put together a team that was able to restore, for the most part, our rural polling locations.

**Dan Dockstader (R):** I will work with the county clerks to ensure adequate polling locations. County Clerks are to be commended for their dedicated efforts to provide safe and secure voting locations in every Wyoming county. Improving access for rural voters starts with ensuring adequate polling locations. This requires the Secretary of State to work closely with all 23 county clerks. I will provide the support and resources the clerks need to be successful. That starts with cultivating relationships with each of the Clerks and their offices. I am committed to visiting each office individually.

**Chuck Gray (R):** All voters should have the same access to register and vote. I support in person voting with paper ballots and won't gamble on black box voting machines that can't be accurately audited. The SOS also manages corporate registrations. I'll make it easier for all Wyomingites to create and run their own small businesses. I view it as my job to get the government out of our way and off our backs. As a member of the State Board of Land Commissioners. I will ensure that every state land decision is handled with a Wyoming First approach. And I will work against and expose insider-driven corruption.

**Tara Nethercott (R):** With the majority of Wyoming voters being rural, improving and increasing access must be a priority. As your next Secretary of State, I would consult with all the county clerks and the voters to understand what factors may be limiting rural voter turnout and evaluate how rural voters prefer to vote. Responding to the desired preferences of the voters, balanced with election security will result in greater participation and stronger outcomes.

## **Wyoming Superintendent of Public Instruction**

**Office:** Salary is \$125,000 annually; term length is four years with no term limits. To be eligible, candidates must be at least age 30, a U.S. citizen, and a qualified Wyoming voter. An office and benefits are provided.

**Candidates:**

**Megan Degenfelder:** Republican; Laramie; Phone: 307-200-9319

Email: [INFO@MEGDEGFORWYOMING.COM](mailto:INFO@MEGDEGFORWYOMING.COM)

Website: <http://megdegforwyoming.com>

**Thomas Kelly:** Republican; Sheridan; Phone: 307-461-9304

Email: [DRTHOMASM KELLY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:DRTHOMASM KELLY@GMAIL.COM)

Website: <http://WWW.KELLYSUPERINTENDENT.COM>

**Sergio A. Maldonado, Sr.:** Democrat; Lander; Phone: 307-349-8264

Email: [ARAPAH017MILE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ARAPAH017MILE@GMAIL.COM)

**Brian Schroeder:** Republican; Casper; Phone 307-286-0408

Email: [SCHROEDERFORWYOMING@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SCHROEDERFORWYOMING@GMAIL.COM)

Website: <http://schroederforwyoming.com>

**Robert J. White III:** Republican; Rock Springs

Email: [robertwht1216@gmail.com](mailto:robertwht1216@gmail.com)

**Jennifer Zerba:** Casper

Email: [jen@zerba.com](mailto:jen@zerba.com)

Website: <http://www.zerba4WYSOPI.com>

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

**Megan Degenfelder (R):** I come from a 6-generation Wyoming ranching family. I attended WY public schools, kindergarten through the University of Wyoming. I have a masters degree in economics and have built my entire career right here in Wyoming, with experience in both the private sector and in education. I previously served in a cabinet level position for the previous State Superintendent Jillian Balow, where I made meaningful budget reductions, staff consolidation, partnered with the Legislature to update the "educational basket of goods" for the first time in 20 years, and oversaw a \$30M budget and 25 person staff. I also have years of experience in the coal and oil and gas industries, where I fight for Wyoming and against harmful regulations and policies.

**Thomas Kelly (R):** I'm the Chair for the Department of Political and Military Science at American Military University, with a Ph.D. in American Government and an MA in Education. I'm a former public school teacher of social studies and special education. From managing a team of professors who largely disagree with me politically and from teaching teens with severe behavioral disabilities, I've learned to be assertive and supportive to lead teams and foster open communication for productive results. I also have several children in Wyoming public schools, and I've seen what happens to the public schools of other states when left-wing indoctrination replaces actual education and teaching.

**Sergio A. Maldonado, Sr. (D):** I am truly a Native Son, born in Riverton, enrolled member of the Northern Arapaho tribe (maternal) with my father an indigenous man from Pihuamo, Jalisco, Mexico. I have a masters degree in Elementary Education and Supervision. I've taught in Indian and public schools, a federal prison, and as a graduate student. I'm currently in a doctoral program at UW, graduating within the year. I have experience with federal programs from work and being on the National Advisory Council on Indian Education (NACIE). I also served as the Northern Arapaho Tribal Liaison with Governor Mead. As SoPI, I will lead with a blend of vision, analysis and action. As a lifetime educator I know that we affect lives, and our daily efforts have lifetime effects.

**Brian Schroeder (R):** I am a sixteen-year veteran of teaching with school administration experience, and have served as Wyoming's Superintendent of Public Instruction since January 2022 after being appointed to the role by Governor Mark Gordon. I am an advocate for parents and against indoctrination, and I believe strongly that the purpose of education is simple: to learn to think. My wife Susie and I have been blessed with seven children, each of them having attended public schools. I have worked in public and private schools, and as a result, I have the necessary experience to serve in this role knowing the perspective of a parent, teacher, administrator, and community stakeholder.

**Robert J. White III (R):** No response

**Jennifer Zerba (R):** As a Wyoming native, I have been walking the halls of Wyoming school districts since 1976. My daughters graduated from NCHS in Casper. I was an empowered & involved parent. As a Wyoming educator, my experience needs to be represented in the Superintendent of Public Instruction role. I have been a cosmetologist for over 30 years. I have my BSBA and MPA. I'm in my 3rd semester for an EdD. LDT at UW. I owned my own business and have been in management, leadership, and communication for over 17 years. I have been interim executive director for the Milton-Freewater Chamber of Commerce and executive director for Toastmasters International for Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. My experience ensures Wyoming students are ready for Wyoming.

*Please explain your support or opposition to school-based suicide prevention programs for students.*

**Megan Degenfelder (R):** Wyoming has the highest rate of suicide deaths in the nation, which is unacceptable, and we cannot expect children to learn if they are struggling mentally. Wyoming law requires school staff to receive suicide prevention training at least every four years, and that the State Superintendent provides appropriate education/training materials to school districts. As Superintendent, I will ensure that the department is a "clearing house" for best practices and we provide districts with individual support to prevent suicide. I am also a strong believer in local control, and I support local school board ability to allocate funds to school-based suicide prevention programs, based on what the individual needs of their communities are.

**Thomas Kelly (R):** Parents and guardians should be primary in any suicide prevention program. School faculty and staff can be helpful to alert parents to potential issues and support families who are struggling. As Superintendent, my job would be to review current resources that the state makes available to all districts in regards to providing programs. With that in mind, I would only support programs that made parents and guardians central to any efforts and did not encourage public schools to overstep their bounds. I also would consider successful faith-based programs on the list, as the information would be voluntary and optional, not mandated.

**Sergio A. Maldonado, Sr. (D):** I support any education program which seeks to address suicide within our society. In Wyoming data suggests this is a serious situation and cause of death among youth aged 10-25 years. (CDC, 2019) Our schools all provide unique community environments where school-based suicide prevention programs can be implemented. I maintain that age grade level instruction coupled with parental consent and professional staff training and an on-going assessment of student awareness and resistant factors could be routinely monitored. Both parents and caregivers/teachers are often unaware that our students may entertain suicidal thoughts or behaviors. Does our school district review all school related outcomes of existing suicide prevention?

**Brian Schroeder (R):** In what other profession must one be an expert in math, English, history, science, government, vocabulary, reading, spelling and be able to gracefully address the mental health needs of young people? Teachers, next to parents, have the most difficult



job on earth. Suicide prevention programs for students help teachers to do their job, and I support these programs--so long as they do not disrupt the student-parent relationship. If the schoolhouse is intended to be an extension of the community, programs designed to help students and parents find mental health support are worth funding, promoting, and supporting.

**Jennifer Zerba (R):** I favor school-based suicide prevention programs for students and will support getting the necessary resources to our schools and classrooms by improving mental health and all things related to suicide prevention. I will encourage our schools to work with parents and with community-level training and activities. Community Prevention Specialists (CPS) work with local coalitions to strengthen prevention efforts around thoughts, feelings, risks, and events that place a person at risk. Prevention focuses not only on the drivers of suicidality but on suicide prevention using protective factors and strengths on the individual and community levels. Together we can support getting our students the help they need. Our students' lives are important.

*Please discuss your opinions about the various options for providing K-12 education in Wyoming school districts.*

**Megan Degenfelder (R):** I believe that the greater the number of choices and opportunities for students and parents, the better. From school buildings to program pathways, by increased choices we can best meet the needs of individual students. We have hardly scratched the surface when it comes to school choice in Wyoming and there are many exciting opportunities to explore, including those within the current public education system. At the end of the day, it is our responsibility to educate every single child in the state. But the more options we can give to them and their parents, the better.

**Thomas Kelly (R):** The one-size-fits-all approach to public schools rarely has successful long-term results academically or financially. Wyoming is behind the curve on charter schools, which allow for innovation and greater liberty for communities. Vouchers could be useful to provide choice for parents who pay their taxes but cannot afford private schools out of pocket. Educational professionals should treat homeschooling with the respect it deserves, but state funding for homeschooling is a bad idea because it opens the door to government asking what parents are teaching their kids at home. That is also why I firmly oppose the NEA's position that homeschooling parents must have their curriculum approved by the state, and parents must be licensed.

**Sergio A. Maldonado, Sr. (D):** I am reminded that the Wyoming Constitution prohibits directing education dollars to "any person, corporation or community not under the absolute control of the state, nor to any denominational or sectarian institution or association." Yet there is the 2020 U.S. Supreme Court ruling prohibits states from specifically discriminating against religious schools. We do have various options in Wyoming. Public education (94.5%) attendance, Private (2.2%), Homeschool (2.7%) and Charter (.6%) . The State of Wyoming spends \$19,342/student while the private sector spends \$7,238/student. I support our public schools yet a critical element in increasing student success needs further scrutiny. We all must examine and challenge beliefs.

**Brian Schroeder (R):** Every child is unique. As a former private school administrator, public school parent, and teacher, I know the importance of school choice. Every child's educational needs are different, and the more choices there are, the better. I believe in an "all-of-the-above" approach to school choice: I support public schools, private schools, charter schools, and home schooling. Wyoming is a leader in the school choice movement, thanks to the legislature's efforts to allow the State Loan and Investment Board to authorize charter schools.

**Jennifer Zerba (R):** My opinion about the various options for providing K-12 education in Wyoming falls under the purview of educators' feedback and available resources. What works in one school district or school doesn't necessarily work in another. Urban schools and rural schools need different options to provide education. Technology access for all students is critical to providing K-12 education. Wyoming is in dire need of educators to implement K-12 education. Providing a mentally, emotionally, and physically safe environment must be at the core of providing K-12 education. I will uphold our Wyoming constitution with the various options for education. I will also encourage parental involvement in their own children.

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

**Megan Degenfelder (R):** Agree. WY's Constitution requires the state provide a complete & uniform education system adequately funded by the Legislature. The Legislature creates this system or "basket of goods," which is then priced out. This structure ensures school funding is adequate based on the system created. Unless the Legislature changes the basket of goods, they are constitutionally required to fund the current at an adequate level. The block grant is then set up to so local school districts allocate funding based on individual or unique needs in their communities. As Superintendent I will advocate for school funding to be as close to the classroom as possible, with students and teachers, and that it be transparent for parents and the community.

**Thomas Kelly (R):** Strongly Agree. The amount of funding is not the issue in Wyoming. Utah spends half as much per student with better results. Wyoming is 8th in per student spending in the US, spending more than liberal states like Illinois and California. Wyoming also has top-heavy administrative costs with superfluous numbers of assistant superintendents, assistant principals, and directors who are paid large salaries and never set foot in a classroom to teach. There is plenty of money in the system to pay teachers better without spending more. While this is an issue for local districts primarily, the Superintendent can provide incentives through regulations to increase teacher pay and reduce the amount of bureaucrats.

**Sergio A. Maldonado, Sr. (D):** Strongly disagree. The very unfortunate variable in funding Wyoming education is the ongoing volatility of oil and gas coupled with a complicated formula that basically redistributes wealthy school district revenue. With a potential \$100 million in possible K-12 cuts, our programs are in dire straits. The University of Wyoming

board of trustees finalized a 16.5 million reduction on June 16, 2022, with another potential cut of \$17.5 million. As with K-12 budget cuts, the university cuts affect students, faculty, and recruitment. Losing funding potentially forfeits UW's ability to meet federal cost-share requirements for further grants. The current funding of our K-12, university and community colleges is not acceptable!

**Brian Schroeder (R):** Agree. Wyoming has been blessed with abundant natural resources, and in turn, with ample funds for our public school system. In order to ensure that we lead the nation in education, we must properly prioritize how these funds are spent. As a former classroom teacher, I know that the most impactful place to spend public funds is in the classroom.

**Jennifer Zerba (R):** Strongly Disagree. Over the last few years, Wyoming's education budget has been cut by \$300 million. The effects of this are hundreds of job openings for the 2022-2023 school year and 65% of educators wanting to quit. There is not enough school funding. Our educators are burnt out, overworked to tears, and left to figure it out themselves. Some current state and federal funding that is given to support programs is not being spent on those programs. Accountability for this issue is imperative. I support ensuring program funding goes to the proper area and that educators are involved in decisions about where programs are needed and where they are not. I also support transparency in every district budget and publicizing them on district websites.

## **Wyoming State Treasurer**

**Office:** Salary is \$125,000 annually; term length is four years with no term limit. To be eligible, candidates must be at least age 30, a U.S. citizen, and a qualified Wyoming voter. An office and benefits are provided. No Democrat filed for this office. Contact information is from the Wyoming Secretary of State's 2022 Primary Election Candidate Roster.

### **Candidates:**

**Bill Gallop:** Republican; Cheyenne; Phone: 307-640-7515  
Email: liberty@wygallop.com

**Curt Meier:** Republican; Cheyenne; Phone: 307-701-2022  
Email: Curt@curtmeierwyoming.com

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

**Bill Gallop (R):** No response

**Curt Meier (R):** I've served as your State Treasurer for the past 3 1/2 years, and assets under the office's management are up \$5 Billion during my term. We have provided hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue each year, and Wyoming now has the #1 rated sovereign wealth fund in the U.S.-nominated for "Turn Around Fund of the Year" by Institutional Investor Publication. The number of checks issued and dollars distributed to Wyoming citizens through the ongoing efforts of our Unclaimed Property Division is unprecedented. Prior to becoming State Treasurer I ran a multi-million dollar agricultural

enterprise with retail, rental, and lodging offshoots for 36 years, and spent 24 years in the legislature including two committee chairmanships.

***Please explain your support for or opposition to the constitutional amendment to allow cities and towns to invest in stocks and equities.***

**Curt Meier (R):** I support the measure with a couple of warnings. It is imperative for local governments to establish a healthy reserve fund and put in place some tall sideboards to limit access to any reserve funds. I also urge them to beware of any deals that appear too good to be true. During the next two years, there will undoubtedly be opportunistic circumstances that can offer substantial risk-based returns, but it is not something that should be done lightly. I'm confident in our teams ability to take advantage of the current market after they beat benchmark returns two years in a row, but that is something 80 percent of equity mutual funds fail to achieve and local governments realistically may not be able to expect that kind of performance.

***What do you see as the greatest challenges facing Wyoming's wealth fund management and what would you do to address those challenges?***

**Curt Meier (R):** The mismanagement of the Biden administration's over-supply of federal stimulus, coupled with a Federal Reserve Board who did not have their eye on inflation and supply are big challenges, but we've made great efforts to mitigate the outcome. We hired managers who do better when the market has a downturn, increased our diversity and made changes in asset allocations which are not as sensitive to stock market fluctuations. We have a new accounting software system and implemented an "internal reconciliation and audit division," to assist in accomplishing all the inherent, implied, characteristic and core duties in the Wyoming constitution as set forth in Powers vs Mead as described by the Wyoming Supreme Court.

***What role should cryptocurrency play in Wyoming's future?***

**Curt Meier (R):** The State Treasurer should not spend a lot of time or effort on coins — or any commodity — that are too volatile for investment purposes, and we've certainly seen that to be true of Bitcoin and some of the other cryptocurrencies recently. At the same time, I believe Stable tokens or coins could have some future in Wyoming, but they should be backstopped by U.S. treasuries of a maturity of less than one-year left. It also appears positive that the cost of transactions are much less than credit cards, and should be at least as secure. I continue to monitor those conversations at the state and federal level regarding cryptocurrency with interest, but our primary focus is on the very real returns we are generating for Wyoming right now.

