



**General Election
November 8, 2022
VOTER GUIDE**

The *Laramie Boomerang*
printed this
Voter Guide on Saturday,
October 15, 2022

LARAMIE
BOOMERANG

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2022 General Election Voter Guide Introduction

Important Information

Albany County Clerk: Jackie R. Gonzales

Election Office: Courthouse, 525 Grand Ave. (east, ground level, north door)

Election Office Phone: 307-721-2546

Hours: 9-5 weekdays, drop box outside 24/7

Email: elections@co.albany.wy.us

Website: co.albany.wy.us/164/Elections

The League of Women Voters of Wyoming, in a 55-year partnership with the Laramie *Boomerang*, prepared this Voter Guide for the November 8, 2022 General Election. You can bring it into the polling booth. A Primary Election Voter Guide was published July 17.

The Offices

The LWV surveyed all 57 local candidates plus the 12 candidates for statewide office. Some races, such as the Wyoming Legislature, Laramie City Council, and Albany County Fire District #1 are divided into districts or wards. Your ballot contains only the names of candidates of the district or ward in which you live.

The Questions

Four questions for each race were formulated by the League of Women Voters. The questions were emailed soon after the filing deadline on August 29 to addresses given when the candidate filed for office. Deadline for responses for local candidates to be in the newspaper extended to September 17. Those Albany County candidates whose responses did not come by the deadline received at least three follow-up emails.

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. A 750 character limit was set by the League--spelling and grammar were not corrected. Contact information is taken from public documents of the Wyoming Secretary of State's website, that of the Albany County Clerk, or from Vote411.org. Most local candidates gave Laramie as their home address, if it is not, the closest town to the candidate's residence is listed. Responses from candidates for the same seat are grouped when there are separate seat races within an entity, such as the three Laramie City Wards. Otherwise, all candidates are listed alphabetically by their last name, with their party affiliation in parentheses.

New questions were prepared for the General Election Voter Guide. Five of the 57 local candidates had not yet responded by the September 17 deadline for Laramie *Boomerang* publication, and 10 of 12 candidates for statewide office also had not yet responded. The first question was identical to the one asked in the Primary Election Voter Guide, so it is repeated from the primary and "no response" is given for the other three. If the race was uncontested, the other questions were omitted when there was no answer, and are only listed on Vote411.org. Check to see if the online Voter Guide (Vote411.org) may have updated responses for these and all other candidates..

Becoming a Candidate

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 other employment. Yet, 69 people have decided to seek your vote. This is democracy in action; it could not happen without willing candidates.

How to Vote

You may register at any time up to November 7 by presenting a valid ID at the county courthouse. If you register after October 24, you will be required to cast a ballot at the same time. If you voted in the 2022 Primary Election, you are registered. Voters can also register with their ID at the polling place on General Election Day. Every person planning to vote at their assigned polling place must show a valid ID. Check the County Clerk's website for a list of IDs that are acceptable. All ballots contain space for write-in votes. Be sure that the person you write-in is qualified for that particular office. The county clerk makes every effort to assure that voters with disabilities of any type are accommodated. There are special voting stations for the visually impaired. The election staff will provide curbside voting if needed--call in advance to make special arrangements.

Absentee Voting

All Wyoming registered voters are eligible to vote absentee, and all absentee ballots were mailed on September 23, 2022 if they were requested by that date. If you voted absentee in the 2022 Primary Election, that does not mean that you will automatically receive an absentee ballot for the General Election. You needed to request that a ballot be sent for both elections. Check with the county clerk if you are unsure, especially if you have not yet received a ballot. An absentee ballot may be requested over the phone for registered voters. No copy of your ID is required when mailing an absentee ballot, the ID requirement is only for early voting in person and voting in person at the polls on General Election Day.

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 many 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: Compensation is \$120 for each day of regular meetings, work sessions or special meetings attended. Terms are four years, with no term limits. Expiration dates of terms are staggered for the nine nonpartisan seats--three each from three city wards. No benefits or office space is provided. Voters only receive names on their ballot for candidates who are running from that ward. 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 expire in 2024. There is one seat available each in Wards 1 and 2, two seats in Ward 3. The City Council races are non-partisan, candidates are not selected by political parties.

Allison Cunningham, Ward 1

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Micah Richardson, Ward 1

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Brandon S. Newman, Ward 2

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Facebook: facebook.com/mrbrandonnewman

Bern Haggerty, Ward 3

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/Haggerty4Council

Linkedin: www.linkedin.com/in/behaggerty/

Erin O'Doherty, Ward 3

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Website: erinwyoming.com

Facebook: facebook.com/ErinOWYO

Joe Shumway, Ward 3

Phone: 307-760-6191

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO YOU HAVE FOR 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 that works toward the goal of building a better Wyoming by providing grants to nonprofits across the state. My role as a city council member would have some broad similarities: address community needs and issues to help make Laramie a more livable community for all of us. This might mean creating partnerships, seeking grant funding, adapting code, and researching projects and approaches that have worked in other communities. I serve on the Zoning and Planning Commission, which gives me insight into housing and growth, and am a part of Mainstreet's Design Committee. I'm eager to learn, listen and work to approach issues with thoughtfulness and civility.

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.

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

Bern Haggerty, Ward 3: I care about my community. I have a history of supporting efforts to make Laramie a welcoming place. For example, I campaigned for the Laramie bias crime ordinance, adopted in 2000, and the Laramie civil rights ordinance, adopted in 2015. Also, I have campaigned for ward-based representation to ensure West Laramie and the West Side have fair representation on the City Council (I believe our new ward boundaries unfairly dilute the votes of West Laramie and West Side residents).

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 3.7 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 began my political career as Chairman of the Albany County Republican Party. 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 the Small Cities Council at the National League of Cities, representing over 200 million individuals that live in cities with populations under 50,000. 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.

HOW WOULD YOU PROVIDE AFFORDABLE HIGH-SPEED INTERNET ACCESS CITY-WIDE?

Allison Cunningham, Ward 1: Instead of beautification, we should use taxpayers money for the citywide high speed internet. Making the city accessible for all is one of my agendas.

Micah Richardson, Ward 1: Few high-speed internet providers offer sufficient bandwidth in Laramie. Additionally, the cost is much higher than in some neighboring states. I would love to see the city consider high- speed internet as an opt-in part of its utility services. Other cities have successfully incorporated internet as part of utilities to ensure access, reliability, and affordability. Laramie should investigate feasibility and determine whether it is an appropriate approach for our community. If a positive path forward were found, it would not be an overnight process, and I'd like to look at additional access options including tech refurbishment programs which benefit low-income households who aren't able to afford equipment, as another option.

Brett Glass, Ward 2: When I ask Laramie Internet customers what they want, item #1 on their list is CHOICE. They want providers to compete for their business, and want to be able to switch if service is not adequate. Council can help by installing shared "dig once" underground trenches and conduits in which any provider can, at any time, install cables or fiber. (This would also avoid disruptions such as we have recently experienced due to horizontal drilling by an out-of-town fiber company.) Council can also make poles and towers for wireless equipment easier to build and repeal recently passed regulations - advocated only by city bureaucrats - which placed extreme and unnecessary limitations upon the deployment of high speed wireless service.

Brandon S. Newman, Ward 2: My time in Kansas would help with this a bit, I believe there is a government funded program, or at least funds we can try to get, to bring city wide wifi. Its been achieved around the nation. We can also work with all our current providers to see how we can help them achieve this, while keeping prices low. I will speak more on this in the coming week on my blog.

Bern Haggerty, Ward 3: Internet access is a necessary public service. It should be owned and governed by the people. The City of Laramie should use its public property, including

its utility easements, to build and operate internet infrastructure, including fiber-optic cable, the same as water and sewer infrastructure. The City's public internet service should provide wireless internet access throughout the City. The City should establish internet service rates, in a fair public process, the same as water and sewer rates.

Erin O'Doherty, Ward 3: I've supported the steps the City Council has taken to include more competition for internet access to the home. I am open to other ideas, such as having some hotspots around town to provide access to people who need it.

Joe Shumway, Ward 3: Affordable high speed internet access is a function of the market. The University of Wyoming's STEM building has invested in top of the line internet. Laramie businesses also require high speed internet and so, competitive internet services are here to stay and the market will drive them to improve speed and access.

WHAT CAN CITY COUNCIL DO TO ASSURE THAT HOUSING FOR PEOPLE LIVING AT OR BELOW POVERTY INCOME LEVELS IS SAFE AND SERVES BASIC HOUSING NEEDS?

Allison Cunningham, Ward 1: I believe we the people asking for help is an individual responsibility. It's ok to ask for help when needed. Resources such as Laramie Interfaith in Laramie are here to help us to get back on feet. If you see a homeless person, you can refer him or her to the available resources we have in Laramie. We're a community and help each other out.

Micah Richardson, Ward 1: All members of our community deserve to live in safe spaces where basic quality-of-living needs are met. City Council adopted a rental ordinance to try and uphold this belief (noting items such as mold, egress windows, and locks, etc.), however, portions of the ordinance were too vague, making it unconstitutional. I'd like to revisit the ordinance to help ensure community members have a simple route to address concerns about housing safety. The first rental registration process asked landlords to register their unit online (\$25 fee for two years) and the process seemed easy, but may have been cumbersome for landlords with multiple units. In revisiting the ordinance, I'd strive to keep the registration process as simple as possible.

Brett Glass, Ward 2: All housing - inside or outside the city limits - should be safe and habitable regardless of income level. Unfortunately, Council's recent attempt to tax and regulate rentals has been counterproductive. It hiked rents, threatened to create a shortage of affordable rentals, did not improve upon state law, did not address tenants' most frequent complaints, wasted taxpayer money on huge legal fees, and was ruled to be in violation of the Wyoming Constitution. Council should rescind, rather than revising, the ordinance it passed this winter. It should then opt for changes on the state level. This would protect residents in both the city and the surrounding county (where our area's poorest residents reside) and in UW and WCDA housing.

Brandon S. Newman, Ward 2: All citizens in Laramie should have safe and affordable housing. Shouldn't matter what their income is. I think City Council should work with other boards across the city to form a plan to help with the city's infrastructure problems. After that is fixed, housing is next in line. Some sort of resolution should be put in place that gives every citizen in Laramie the chance for basic housing needs, like mold free, smoke detectors, all the basic safety items needed. City council can help with that to start with.

Bern Haggerty, Ward 3: The City Council should (1) enforce reasonable health and sanitation regulations on residential rentals and vigorously defend the regulations in court against attacks by the for-profit housing industry, (2) establish an Office of Tenant Rights to provide a free attorney to any tenant in a dispute with their landlord or property manager, (3) levy a tax on landlords and property managers to fund the Office of Tenant Rights, (4) adopt ordinances and regulations to encourage the development of non-profit, cooperative housing throughout Laramie, and (5) build public housing on City-owned land.

Erin O'Doherty, Ward 3: I voted for (and Council passed) a Rental Ordinance that requires basic health and safety measures like a safe exit windows in sleeping quarters, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, heat and water. Most landlords are conscientious, but we hear from the UW student government and the UW law center that we have a lot of substandard and dangerous housing. If landlords have problems with the actual language of the ordinance, then I really worry about people living in their properties. Generally people sign 12-month leases and don't have the luxury of walking away if a property is bad. Before we passed this ordinance their only recourse was civil litigation and few people have the means to take their landlord to court.

Joe Shumway, Ward 3: 1st of all 'safe'. The state of Wyoming has rules and regulations that govern safe housing. There are over 900 investors in rental income properties in Albany County. Laramie property managers could create an on-line list of properties that have met the requirements for safe housing. If the city of Laramie attempts to regulate housing they will unnecessarily increase cost to the 95+% of the properties by adding fees through city inspections and managers. I say let the good property managers identify the properties that are in compliance as a service to potential renters. 2nd assure affordable housing. The Cheyenne Housing Authority, ERAP and Continuum of Care have injected over \$4 million dollar into our rental market.

SHOULD THE CITY COUNCIL SPEND MONEY ON BEAUTIFICATION? PLEASE EXPLAIN.

Allison Cunningham, Ward 1: Not with taxpayers money. We should use taxpayers money for what the city need such as plowing the snow, repairing the roads and sidewalks, etc. The city should be accessible for all.

Micah Richardson, Ward 1: Absolutely. Wyoming's second largest industry, which is critical to Laramie, is tourism. A vibrant city that includes public art, greenery, and is focused on creating and maintaining clean, inviting spaces will attract tourists and businesses- not to mention make the town nicer for locals as well! I support continuing to fund Laramie Mainstreet, which has done a substantial amount of work to make improvements to our downtown and was recently awarded a Great American Mainstreet Award. I also support funding for beautification work in other areas of town, specifically at those entry points to the community.

Brett Glass, Ward 2: Council should have a limited, reasonable budget for beautification projects that does not require it to levy additional taxes (such as a regressive "7th cent" of sales tax). These projects should be carefully chosen so as not to create new problems (such as parking shortages recently created by astroturfing of a downtown lot). State-funded projects (such as Third Street renewal) should be used as opportunities for

beautification. The City should not create an Urban Renewal Authority solely as a means to borrow money, at taxpayer expense, for speculative pet projects. It should refrain from the use of condemnation or eminent domain except in cases where there is (as state law requires) an actual menace to public health or safety.

Brandon S. Newman, Ward 2: This is a loaded question, should we spend it on beautification? Personally, I believe we have to, to attract businesses and people who want to move here. BUT, it can't be wasteful spending, it has to make sense. I would never approve something to be beautified if the streets or infrastructure around it is falling apart. That's counter productive. I also wouldn't approve something that we are just doing it to do it. Like my blogs have said, we need to cut wasteful spending and use what little tax revenue we have on the more important projects.

Bern Haggerty, Ward 3: Yes. Specifically, the City Council should spend money to enhance community health, livability, and sustainability. For instance, the City should (1) aggressively plant trees to enhance our quality of life and to conserve water, (2) devote at least ten percent of its transportation budget to bicycle and pedestrian trails, (3) convert streets to low traffic neighborhoods, pedestrian malls, and cycleways, and (4) reserve spaces now for a future regional bus system. Our city must be planned now for the additional 10,000 residents who will move here over the next thirty years. And, we need to plan ways to help them live here without 10,000 more cars.

Erin O'Doherty, Ward 3: Yes. A vibrant community makes people want to stay engaged and to visit and return to Laramie. Some people think art and beauty are luxury, but I believe that they contribute to our physical and mental health as do our parks and recreation areas. Even if I don't particularly care for a certain art installation, it still encourages interaction and discussion which helps build community.

Joe Shumway, Ward 3: Our parks, our entryways, in fact all beautification projects invite businesses and families into our community. Beautification is a small investment with long term benefits.

Albany County Commission

Office: Salary is \$30,000 with some benefits and no term limits. Three commissioners serve four-year staggered terms, two seats are available in 2022. The two elected will join Susan Ibarra (D) whose term expires in 2024. All candidates give Laramie as their mailing address.

Pete Gosar, Democrat

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Klaus Halbsgut, Democrat

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Terri Jones, Republican
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WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO YOU HAVE FOR 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. I am focused on finding solutions. In my first term, those skills helped reach agreements for emergency medical services and the detention center, and facilitated updates to the Casper Aquifer Protection Plan and the Laramie Growth Area Plan. As a commissioner, I advocated for improved access to meetings, for protection of our drinking water, and for cooperation with the city government to stretch our taxpayer dollars. Substantial progress has been made in these areas. I would appreciate the opportunity to continue this progress as a county commissioner.

Klaus Halbsgut (D): I am running because I will bring a practical, fiscally responsible, can-do, blue-collar perspective to the commission. My auto repair business is now in its fourth decade. I have made a career of providing expert analysis of the customers' problems and finding a solution. In other words, I am a problem solver, I fix things. I am very comfortable talking with customers and providing a friendly professional service. Sometimes I suggest a solution to owners they may not have considered. I will bring that pragmatism to the position of county commissioner. Listening, analyzing the problem, and delivering a solution/fix are key to what I do every day, skills every commissioner should have, and I will bring this skill to the commission.

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.

Heber Richardson, (R): I currently serve on the Albany County Commission. Being an elected official and owning a local business, I have decades of experience managing people, process, policy, and finance successfully in public and private settings. I am open, creative, intelligent, optimistic, and articulate. I use these attributes to accomplish great things for my constituents while exercising restraint, respecting individual rights and the rule of law, and staying within authority delegated to commissioners in state statute.

WHAT PRIORITIES SHOULD THE COUNTY COMMISSION CONSIDER WHEN PERMITTING SUBDIVISIONS OR CHANGES TO SUBDIVISIONS?

Pete Gosar (D): The commission should ensure the subdivision permit or change to a permit is compatible with surrounding neighborhoods and the Comprehensive Plan. Comments from neighbors and adjacent landowners should be addressed. The commission should also review the recommendations of the Albany County Planning and Zoning Commission and county staff and ensure the proposed subdivision complies with the county's infrastructure standards (emergency services, water, roads, and other utility considerations). The application should be complete with all questions answered and must include all required professional documentation. The subdivision must also comply with state and federal law and regulation.

Klaus Halbsgut (D): Every situation is different, there are concerns with any development regarding EMS access, water, septic/sewer, environmental impact, traffic, the commissioners will discuss these issues, and I hope to be part of that discussion. It is a fact that we have a housing problem in Albany County and Laramie. We will not solve this problem with reckless development on top of the aquifer that risks our valuable water resources. The County Commission and City Council through incentives, regulations and proper planning and guidance can spur private business to develop in alternative areas. I am pro-development, pro-business, just not on top of the aquifer. We have a large county, with other areas for development that I would be willing to support.

Terri Jones, (R): Albany County has regulations in place concerning subdivisions including, the applicant is entitled to the rules and regulations at the time of application. The application must meet all regulations, Conclusions of Law and Findings of Fact in order to move the project forward. The Planning and Zoning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners must follow the regulations set forth at the time of application and cannot make new or change those rules and regulations to fit their fancy. There must be assurance to the applicant if their application is complete the project will move forward. It is of top priority the Planning and Zoning Commission see all the regulations have been met before sending it to the County Commissioners.

Heber Richardson, (R): The County Commission should only consider the plain language of our lawfully approved planning and zoning regulations when approving subdivisions. Commissioners, with some limitations given in statute, make county planning and zoning regulations. We group zoning and uses to avoid becoming like Baghdad or Mexico City. We write regulations to protect residences, schools, and some businesses from excessive sound, light, odor, traffic, or safety impacts. We are to carefully consider these when writing and approving regulations. Individual Commissioner opinions concerning land use applications are not a substitute for the rule of law. When public officials require landowners to subjectively satisfy them, the property owners are deprived.

WOULD YOU PROPOSE ANY CHANGES FOR PROTECTION OF UNDERGROUND AND SURFACE WATER IN ALBANY COUNTY? PLEASE EXPLAIN.

Pete Gosar (D): No one wants to damage the aquifer, clean water is everyone's goal. Together we can create solutions to protect our water. The commission recently adopted meaningful regulations to ensure those who rely on the Casper Aquifer (the citizens of Laramie and 400 county households) have safe and clean drinking water. Working with the city, the county also commissioned a review of the Casper Aquifer Protection Plan to include updated scientific data, suggest changes to boundaries, and a proposed set of

regulations. The commission has set aside funding for a grant program for families with septic systems on the aquifer to upgrade their systems so that they will not bear additional cost and we all benefit from clean, safe drinking water.

Klaus Halbsgut (D): The health, future growth and economic development of Albany County depends on a dependable, safe, and clean water supply. We know that we have a nitrate problem with the aquifer, e-coli, and sedimentary deposit concerns in the Laramie River. We need to use science-based research and solutions to continue to provide Albany County with clean water for our rural and agricultural community as well as for our city residents. I do not see a situation where I would vote in favor of weakening protections of our water resources. The commission needs to be proactive in protecting our water for future generations. I am a staunch supporter of property rights, but the health and fiscal concerns of the county must take precedence in these conflicts.

Terri Jones, (R): It is very important to remember Albany County does not own underground water the State of Wyoming owns ground water. Surface water is not owned by Albany County. Protection of these waters is outside of the jurisdiction of Albany County. The State of Wyoming Water Quality Division works to keep Wyoming's water clean by monitoring and protecting surface- and groundwater in the state. Albany County has over regulated land use under the guise of water protection to control development. If water was the issue, why didn't the water activists make an effort to buy Tumbleweed gas station when it was first for sale? But waited until there was a buyer, to make a big stink? There is no known well contamination by a septic system in Albany Co.

Heber Richardson, (R): No I would not. Authority to protect water quality in the state of Wyoming lies solely with the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality. The State Engineer authorizes and monitors permitted uses of surface and subsurface water. The state owns and protects our water. Local officials have inappropriately usurped state authority in this through the use of planning and zoning regulations intended for surface uses. They are supposed work alongside the state, not preempt it. The Wyoming Legislature has historically been very deferential to local authority. That said, when the legislature writes laws in defense of its authority, restricting local control, the City of Laramie and Albany County are usually the reason.

WHAT SHOULD THE COUNTY COMMISSION DO TO PREPARE FOR FUTURE ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTERS?

Pete Gosar (D): We should seek experts in the community to assess all vulnerabilities. Our community should work together to create a plan that prioritizes infrastructure and mitigation plans. We must continue to invest in emergency management communication systems and proactively place necessary supplies that improve the response time to environmental disasters. Education is critical and all residents should be informed of communication networks, evacuation routes, and emergency collection sites. Targeted education should continue (creating defensible spaces, reducing water consumption, flood mitigation techniques, etc.) and all residents should be encouraged to attend.

Klaus Halbsgut (D): Preventing environmental disasters should be the focus of the County Commissioners, it will be cheaper to be proactive than reactive. For example, a concrete barrier along the most fragile areas of the I-80 corridor that would guide any toxic spill to a

concrete retention pond that would allow for easier cleanup, more monitoring wells on the aquifer for early warnings of potential problems, more funding for county residents to help with leaking septic tanks. We also need better funding for code enforcement. These are recommendations I have seen in various reports. Commissioners can pass all the rules and regulations to safeguard our county residents they want, but without code enforcement, they are not worth the paper they are printed on.

Terri Jones, (R): The Albany County Emergency Management is the agency the Commissioners work with for all types of disasters. AC Emergency Management is in constant preparedness training. They do table top exercises and hands on exercises. As commissioner I participated in these exercises allowing me to learn how Albany County Emergency Management works with other agencies in Albany County as well as outside agencies. I have always been concerned with I-80 and U.P.R.R. traffic containing toxic chemicals crossing Albany County and traveling through the City of Laramie. I met with WY-DOT to begin creating a series of cache boxes in Telephone Canyon containing mitigation materials for quick access in the case of an accident or fire blocking the canyon.

Heber Richardson, (R): This work is already done and plans are continually updated. After 9/11/2001, the US Department of Homeland Security set requirements and funding for disaster and terrorism response for state and local governments. Albany County, Laramie City, UW, WYDOT, the sheriff, Fire District #1, LPD, LFD, UPRR, pipeline operators, and many more work together to identify all locally stored and transported inventories of hazardous materials. They conduct mock disaster response exercises to test methods and communication, tease out weaknesses, and acquire resources and training, to continually refine the response.

Albany County Coroner

Office: Term is four years, salary is \$45,000 annually; the position is considered part-time with on-call requirements. An office and some benefits are provided.

Sally King: Democrat; Laramie
Phone: 307-399-8695
Email: celiaruthrice@gmail.com

Tiffany Reed: Republican; Laramie
Phone: 307-460-4800
Email: doc.reed@hotmail.com

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO YOU HAVE FOR THIS OFFICE?

Sally King (D): I have 6 years of 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 retired Veterinarian I am qualified for the Coroner's office because I have experience performing necropsies (autopsies on animals), diagnosing poisonings and toxicities, compiling medical records as well as communicating pathological reports, toxicology screens, and surgical finding to owners. I have also been asked by law enforcement to give a written opinion in cases of suspected animal abuse or cruelty.

WHAT FACTORS SHOULD DETERMINE WHEN AUTOPSIES AND OTHER SPECIALIZED REPORTS SHOULD BE ORDERED BY THE CORONER?

Sally King (D): In every case the office will consider the circumstances surrounding the death. We utilize known medical history of the decedent and any information we can gather from family and friends around the time of the discovery to determine next steps. As a standard we complete a basic toxicology screen on all of our cases to ensure a complete picture. In all cases of suicide and homicide, autopsies are performed as well as most accidents. Forensic Pathologists are consulted if there is any questions about the usefulness of an autopsy.

Tiffany Reed (R): Autopsies should be performed not only when the manner of death is in question; such as the deceased's passing was unattended by a physician or an obvious homicide was committed but also when another person stands to gain from the decedent's death and a potential not-so-obvious homicide was committed.

WHEN A DRUG OVERDOSE DEATH IS SUSPECTED, WHAT ROLE SHOULD THE CORONER TAKE IN INVESTIGATION AND WHAT ROLE SHOULD LAW ENFORCEMENT TAKE?

Sally King (D): As with any death investigation, the Coroner's office and law enforcement should work together in order to get an accurate picture of the situation. The sharing of information between both agencies is important in this sense. Law enforcement is the first on scene, so it is important for them to collect any initial details and evidence that would support a suspected overdose and share that with the Coroner once we arrive on scene. The Coroner's Office will share any initial findings from the autopsy as well and any relevant toxicology once the results are available.

Tiffany Reed (R): When a death caused by a drug overdose is suspected it is the obligation of the Coroner to give an unbiased report of the toxicology and autopsy findings of the body. It is the role of law enforcement to investigate the scene, circumstances preceding death and people involved with the decedent.

WHAT SHOULD FAMILIES OF THE DECEASED EXPECT FROM A CORONER?

Sally King (D): Families should expect their loved one to be treated with dignity, respect, compassion and professionalism. We strive to do our best in handling reports and the issuing of death certificates in a timely fashion. We take the time to use our resources which include the professional opinion of Forensic Pathologists, nationally accredited labs, initial law enforcement investigation, medical history and close relations' accounts to determine the entirety of the situation. The office should maintain an open line of communication through the entire process to ensure the family can get the resources to find the answers they are looking for.

Tiffany Reed (R): The families of the decedent should not only expect compassion but also communication from a Coroner who can interpret medical terminology and express the results of pathological reports and other findings in layman terms for them to have a full and complete understanding of the investigation and conclusion.

Albany County Sheriff

Office: Salary is \$92,500 annually for a four year term with no term limits. An office and some benefits are provided.

Aaron Appelhans, Democrat, Laramie

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Twitter: @Aaron_Appelhans

Instagram: instagram.com/appelhansforsheriff/

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Joel Senior, Republican, Laramie

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Email: joelseniorforsheriff@gmail.com

Website: joelseniorforsheriff.com

Instagram: www.instagram.com/jsenior_wysheriff/

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Joel-Senior-for-Albany-County-Sheriff-103128738944550

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO YOU HAVE FOR 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.

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 incidents. 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 21 years of local and state networking. These relationships will be invaluable in the recruitment, retention, training and leadership of a struggling agency.

WHAT LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES ARE IMPORTANT TO YOU REGARDING CAMERAS ON VEHICLES AND ON OFFICERS?

Aaron Appelhans (D): Transparency along with fair policing are two issues that are extremely important to my office. Having body worn cameras for every deputy and in car video for every patrol unit helps ensure that we follow through on both issues. One of my first tasks as Sheriff was to ensure that every deputy was equipped with a body camera. My second task was to ensure that every vehicle had a working in-car video system. We've accomplished both and have had that equipment successfully deployed for over a year. I will continue to integrate these technologies in the daily practices of the Sheriff's office, as well as look to improve on this equipment as it becomes available.

Joel Senior (R): The technology and use of body worn cameras (BWC) and in car cameras has evolved greatly throughout my career. In my personal experience the evidence obtained with these cameras is invaluable and results in fewer cases going to trial, fewer citizen complaints and increased professionalism. Best practices currently dictate that every deputy should be equipped with both BWC and an in-car camera in order to capture the most realistic depiction of an event. Policy needs to dictate use of camera's, storage of evidence, public release of videos and concerns for citizen's privacy. The cameras are not only a valuable tool for evidence gathering but when used to their full potential can also assist greatly in providing increased transparency.

DO YOU SUPPORT THE CONCEPT OF THE "CONSTITUTIONAL SHERIFF," WHERE SHERIFFS HAVE AUTHORITY TO DECLINE ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS THEY DEEM UNCONSTITUTIONAL? PLEASE EXPLAIN.

Aaron Appelhans (D): As Sheriff, I took an oath to uphold the laws of the State of Wyoming and the US Constitution. Disputes on criminal or civil charges are left up to the judicial branch to decide. Disputes on the constitutionality of laws also fall to the courts for final determination. Elected representatives make the laws and I do not get to pick and choose which laws to enforce. The Office of Sheriff does not have the power to become a judge or jury – nor should it.

Joel Senior (R): All Wyoming elected and appointed officials take an oath to both the US and Wyoming Constitution. I have sworn to this oath in each appointment as a sworn peace officer and this commitment is not something I take lightly. I believe each of our individual rights to be interdependent, and as Sheriff will assure that the citizenry's rights are not violated. I have an expectation that my deputies will actively enforce Wyoming statutes without infringement of your constitutional rights.

GIVEN THE SIZE OF THE COUNTY AND A GROWING RURAL POPULATION, DOES THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE HAVE ADEQUATE RESOURCES TO SERVE THE COUNTY? PLEASE EXPLAIN.

Aaron Appelhans (D): The Sheriff's office is the largest County department, and I am the only candidate with significant experience in budgeting and personnel. Albany County is one of the poorest counties in Wyoming and resources are a challenge. As Sheriff, I've taken full advantage of outside funding available through grants, and have successfully brought in extra funds. More resources will be needed in the future. Competitive pay for deputies and

staff will always be at the forefront of every request; it's essential to recruitment and retention of our people. For the near future, my office has initiated and is securing funding for a mental health crisis response team, a county radio telecommunications technician, and drones for search and rescue teams.

Joel Senior (R): Currently, no. The Sheriff's Office has had many experienced deputies resign, and is facing a staffing shortage. As Sheriff it will be crucial to make the largest impacts possible using effective law enforcement strategies, building relationships with partner agencies and retaining and hiring professional well-trained deputies. As Sheriff I will seek out other sources of funding such as grants, stop wasteful spending and look at opportunities to save funds through various methods such as joint training with outside agencies. Deputies need to be given the tools and support to do their jobs efficiently and effectively. I believe the most important investment a Sheriff can make is in his people through leadership, retention and training.

Albany County Clerk

Office: Salary is \$92,500 annually for a four-year term with no term limit. An office and some benefits are provided.

Susan Reding, Republican

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Email: elect_reding@protonmail.com

Website: reding4countyclerk.com

Facebook: [facebook.com/Reding4County Clerk](https://www.facebook.com/Reding4CountyClerk)

Instagram: www.instagram.com/redingforcountyclerk/

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SueReding>

Kayla White, Democrat

Phone: 307-761-2136

Email: Kaylawhiteforcountyclerk@gmail.com

Website: www.Kaylawhiteforcountyclerk.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100081203146777

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO YOU HAVE FOR THIS OFFICE?

Sue Reding (R): I have 30 years of experience in business administration. My experience uniquely qualifies me to work as the County Clerk. I have strong administrative and problem-solving skills and I bring a fresh pair of eyes to the workings of the Clerk's office with the goal of creating greater efficiency and bringing greater value to the public. My number one goal is to serve the public well. I would like to introduce online options to Clerk services, more public friendly office hours as well as a working arrangement with the Assessor and Treasurer in order to reduce the number of lines people are required to stand in. I will be part of the solution in bringing greater confidence to the public surrounding election protocols.

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.

WAS THE 2022 PRIMARY ELECTION IN ALBANY COUNTY CONDUCTED FOLLOWING PROPER PROCEDURES TO PRODUCE ACCURATE VOTE TALLIES? PLEASE EXPLAIN.

Sue Reding (R): I was able to observe the certification of the election process by the canvassing board as well as the certification of the tabulation equipment. I believe those processes were handled properly and with professionalism. Unfortunately, we are at a time in our country where we see a great deal of distrust in the election process. As the County Clerk, one of my priorities will be to investigate election protocol, with transparency, in order to assure the public that we do have a free and fair election. My office will be open to any questions by the public. I believe a thorough investigation into absentee ballots; voter registration and other protocols can only bring greater trust. We have nothing to fear from investigating.

Kayla White (D): Yes it was. The procedures put into place for the Primary Election, the same procedures successfully employed in past years, were followed with the utmost precision and accuracy by the clerk's office during early voting and processing absentee ballots, by the trained judges who worked at the polls, and while tallying results when the polls closed. The results of the County Canvass clearly showed that the conduct of the election was handled correctly and conducted with absolute integrity, and the tallies garnered from the voting machines coincided with the canvas.

WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU WHEN CONSIDERING APPLICANTS FOR NEW DEPUTY POSITIONS?

Sue Reding (R): The Chief Deputy County Clerk position is a vital post. This person needs to have a high degree of integrity and the ability to work closely with the County Clerk. The position of the Deputy requires excellence of administrative skills, the ability to multi-task, and work well with the public and the staff. They must be able to delegate and supervise staff, have outstanding communication skills as well as the ability to handle confidential records and information with integrity. The Deputy must have a working understanding of accounting principles, practices and standards as well as the laws governing elections and the County Clerk's office.

Kayla White (D): When considering someone to fill the chief deputy position, I will look for someone who has a strong work ethic, is dedicated, has integrity and is knowledgeable of the statutory responsibilities of the office. These traits are important because this job is not easy and is integral to the service and responsibilities provided to the county government and the public by the Clerk's Office. You must be able to adapt to many different situations and scenarios and must have a knowledge of the whole office when questions arise in the Clerk's absence.

WHAT ROLE SHOULD COUNTY CLERKS PLAY WHEN WORKING WITH THE LEGISLATURE ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO ELECTION LAWS?

Sue Reding (R): The County Clerks are on the frontline of the election process and as such can share their experiences with the legislature as well as advise and suggest ways to improve the process and security of our elections.

Kayla White (D): The role that the County Clerks should play when working with the legislature is to provide information on how elections are run in our offices, what procedures and safeguards are in place to assure access, integrity, accountability and transparency. Nation-wide, there is great concern about voting integrity and we can assure our legislators that voting in Wyoming represents all of these things. Clerks are not law makers but rather follow legislative mandates and do not lobby for or against certain bills. Although we have opinions on how things should be done based on experience, the role of the clerks is to advise the legislature on whether or not a bill can logistically work within the timeframe and parameters set forth in that bill.

Albany County Assessor

Office: Salary is \$92,500 annually for a four-year term with no term limits. An office and some benefits are provided. S. Leonard did not respond.

Chelsie Mathews, Republican, Laramie

Phone: 307-760-6860

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Website: <http://chelsie4assessor.com>

Facebook: [http://facebook.com/Chelsie Mathews4AlbanyCountyAssessor](http://facebook.com/ChelsieMathews4AlbanyCountyAssessor)

Shelley J. Leonard, Democrat, Laramie

Email: leonard4albanycoassessor@gmail.com

WHAT QUALITIES, TRAINING, EXPERIENCES, AND SKILLS WOULD YOU BRING TO THIS OFFICE?

Shelley J. Leonard (D): I have a Juris Doctor from UW Law and BA from UC Davis. I interned with the Albany Co. Attorney as Assist. Prosecutor on several high profile cases. I know WY Law and Albany government. I have experience both in residential and commercial taxation processes in this county. My career in property investment and management began with Merrill Lynch in Dallas. I trained there in property valuation, construction techniques, property investment tools and strategies such as property syndications. I have working experience of the International Building Code + local law and codes. I know when a building should be valued at a lower or higher rate. I've managed \$33mil budgets for a big US property corp. I've managed and owned property in 4 US states.

Chelsie Mathews (R): I was appointed by our County Commission as County Assessor in November of 2021. I began working in the Assessor's office in 2009 and have held several different positions throughout the office. I believe this experience is crucial to

understanding all the different responsibilities of the County Assessor's office. I have held the required certification as a property appraiser since 2009 and attend continuing education classes and workshops to maintain this certification. I understand and follow all the Wyoming State Statutes and Rules and Regulations that guide the mass appraisal process. I understand the importance of every tax dollar collected and also understand I work for the taxpayer.

HOW WOULD YOU ASSURE THAT PROPERTY OWNERS UNDERSTAND HOW ASSESSMENTS ARE CALCULATED?

Shelley J. Leonard (D): I believe there should be a packet available to taxpayers explaining how property is valued. Materials would include the criteria for selecting comparison property as well as explain the quality levels and how the value is derived for each type and category. There is often a question about the ratio, i.e. 9.5% of value and how the Mill levy taxes are applied. These documents can be online, but there should also be a paper version for those without good internet access. I'd also plan to find ways to create awareness of the resource and disseminate the info. through community groups. Of course I and staff would be available to provide explanation and help. Taxpayers can make appts. to sit down together or schedule a video conference.

Chelsie Mathews (R): One of my goals as County Assessor is to increase public education on the mass appraisal process. This year I sent a letter along with everyone's Notice of Value that gave a brief explanation. I am in the process of rebuilding the Assessor website to include a power point outlining how assessments are calculated. I also hope to hold several educational opportunities for the public to learn how the Assessor does their job and why. I believe education is power and transparency is key.

HOW WILL YOU DECIDE WHICH PROPERTIES AND HOW MANY TO REASSESS ANNUALLY?

Shelley J. Leonard (D): There is a rotating schedule for review by area and properties are looked at in order by sector. All properties can increase in value due to generally increasing property values. As property values increase the taxes can increase. Every property cannot be looked at individually each year that is why the appeal process exists. I do believe that property that sells during the year should be reviewed to check that basic details are correct. Often people selling a property make changes, additions or subtractions just before they sell. The new owner shouldn't be taxed for a shed the previous owner took with them. It's basic fairness. I would encourage all new owners to look at their property detail and ask questions if something seems wrong.

Chelsie Mathews (R): Wyoming State Statute 39-13-103 states " all taxable property shall be annually valued at its fair market value," therefore all properties in the County are revalued every year based on how the property stood as of January 1. It is also required that County Assessors physically inspect all real property at least once every six years. I have developed a rotation of inspections based on location, last inspection date, and need.

MANY ALBANY COUNTY HOMEOWNERS SAW WHAT THEY CONSIDERED A LARGE INCREASE IN THEIR PROPERTY TAX RECENTLY. WHAT COULD YOU DO ABOUT THIS?

Shelley J. Leonard (D): This job requires a person like me dedicated to getting the details right. I'll make sure the comp. properties suit the area they are being applied. Each year the

Wyoming Legislature votes on whether to pass bills to help seniors and low income property owners with their property tax burden. Most Albany County residents aren't aware that our County participated in this state program. The legislation passed in May and the window was small. The application deadline expired in June but there was little to no effort to make taxpayers aware of this important assistance. As your Assessor I will get vital info. to taxpayers so you can avail yourselves of tax relief or rebates that are meant to benefit you. <https://wyo-prop-div.wyo.gov/tax-relief>

Chelsie Mathews (R): Wyoming is a market driven State, meaning the Assessor must use current sales of similar properties to develop a Market value of your property. The housing market was extremely inflated last year which is what caused the large increase in property values throughout our County and the State of Wyoming. I am currently working with other County Assessors and State Legislators on options to help with high inflation. There have been several options put forth and I am hopeful our legislation will pass some form of relief for our citizens.

Albany County Treasurer

Office: Salary is \$92,5000 annually for a four-year term with no term limits. An office and some benefits are provided. No Republican or other party member filed for this office.

Tracy Fletcher: Democrat; Laramie

Phone: 307-760-9669

Email: treasurerfletcher@outlook.com

Website: treasurerfletcher.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/fletcher2018

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO YOU HAVE FOR THIS OFFICE?

Tracy Fletcher: I have a bachelors degree in accounting from the University of Wyoming. I also have been working in the Albany County Treasurer's Office for a total of 19 years including my time as the current treasurer. I have worked every aspect of the office from the front counter processing registrations and property tax to fulfilling the accounting duties of the office. With my 19 years, I held the positions of accountant, deputy, chief deputy and now treasurer. I am always seeking additional opportunities to gain more knowledge and skills to improve the office and Albany County.

WHAT ACTION DOES THE COUNTY TREASURER TAKE WHEN PROPERTY TAXES ARE DELINQUENT?

Tracy Fletcher: To collect delinquent taxes, we complete the statutory requirements by sending delinquent tax notices. Throughout the year, we update the mailing address changes that may have prevented a timely payment. Next we will start the process for advertising the delinquent properties. Once the delinquent list is developed we closely review to see if we have any additional contact methods such as a phone number or email. We make every attempt to contact the taxpayers; however, sometimes we can't and we have to move to the next step of advertising the delinquent accounts in the newspaper. If

after the advertising, taxes are still unpaid, we perform a tax sale and create a lien against the property.

HOW CAN THE TREASURER'S WEBSITE BE CHANGED TO IMPROVE THE TAXPAYER'S ONLINE EXPERIENCE?

Tracy Fletcher: The first change would be to create pages for all the questions that are frequently asked about property taxes, sales tax, and vehicle registrations. This addition would help our taxpayers be prepared for the visit to the office and have all the documents and information needed. Another change would be to include more statistics and financial information about Albany County Government. I get a number of questions about sales tax collections and would like to have the historical data available as it can be a great tool and indicator of our local economy. Lastly, I would like to include more links for other services that may be needed such as a link to the Clerk's office for title information or deed information.

WHAT ARE YOUR METHODS FOR AVOIDING POTENTIALLY COSTLY ACCOUNTING ERRORS?

Tracy Fletcher: All of our transactions go through a series of checks and balances by separate personnel. Starting with the front counter, each assistant treasurer's daily work is checked two additional times. All deposits and checks are reviewed by a minimum of two people. Next, all accounts are reconciled monthly by a person that is not involved in the deposit or check writing process. All the various processes are in place to catch errors as Albany County runs on a very tight budget and cannot afford costly mistakes. We make every effort to complete our work as efficiently and accurately as possible.

Albany County Clerk of District Court

Office: Salary is \$92,500 annually for a four-year term, with no term limits. An office and some benefits are provided. No Democrat or other party member filed for this office.

Stacy Lam, Republican, Laramie
Email: stacy.lam2020@yahoo.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO YOU HAVE FOR THIS OFFICE?

Stacy Lam: I began my career with the Clerk of District Court in 1991. In 2019 I became the Clerk of District Court and have held this elected position since. The historical knowledge I possess is invaluable to the position I hold. I have a dedicated staff with a combined 60 plus years of experience. Added to my 31 years, this provides our customers a very stable and knowledgeable operating office. I have been with the office for implementation of all electronic versions of case management and have piloted the last three computer program rollouts for all Clerk of Courts in the State. I have a strong professional relationship with my fellow clerks as well as the Supreme Court as we work together to improve service to our communities.

WHO OVERSEES THE WORK OF THE CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT? PLEASE EXPLAIN.

Stacy Lam: This is an interesting question and one that is challenging to answer. While the Clerk of District Court is an elected position and oversees their own operations, there are many partners that work with the clerk towards a common goal. The office is governed by Wyoming State Statute and Statute dictates the daily operations. The Clerk is not a decision making office, but rather a record keeper for the District Court. Issues related to budgeting for the office are overseen by the Albany County Commissioners. The Clerk works hand in hand with the District Court Judge and staff to maintain the court's records and to ensure the daily operations in the courtroom run in an efficient and consistent manner.

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS ARE NEEDED TO SERVE ON A DISTRICT COURT JURY?

Stacy Lam: Qualifications to serve as a juror in the District Court are quite simple. You must be a citizen of the United States and a resident of the county you are called to serve for at least 90 days prior to service. You must be 18 years of age or older. You are asked if you can read, write and speak the English language and you may not be a convicted felon. If you are a convicted felon, you will be asked if your rights have been restored. You will also be asked if you have any mental or physical condition that would impair your ability to serve as a juror.

WHERE CAN DECISIONS OF HE DISTRICT COURT BE FOUND BY THE PUBLIC?

Stacy Lam: With the exception of confidential matters held before the District Court, all other matters are public record and can be accessed by the public upon request. The Court does not currently have 'remote' access to court records so inquiries into a specific matter must be made to the Clerk of District Court's office. You are also welcome to do your own research using the public access terminal located within the office.

Albany County Attorney

Office: Salary is \$102,500 annually for a four-year term with no term limits. An office and some benefits are provided. No Republican filed for office. Mr. Britzius has not yet responded to the new questions that were asked for the General Election Voter Guide. He did respond to the Primary Election questions; question one was the same, so it is repeated here. Check Vote411 to see if new responses have been entered.

Edward Kurt Britzius, Democrat, Laramie

Phone: 307-314-2178

Email: britziusforcountyattorney@gmailcom

WHAT ARE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS FOR 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.

Laramie Rivers Conservation District Supervisor

Office: There are no salary or benefits for serving as supervisor on this five member non-partisan board, which covers the entire county. Two supervisors will be elected this year, one Rural resident and one At-Large. They will join three supervisors whose terms expire in 2024--Larry Munn and Carol Price (both Rural) and Ruth Shepherd, Urban representative. Elect two in 2022.

Zachary M. Iddings, Rural
Phone: 307-745-3083
Email: zach@baerlivestock.com

Mandy Marney, At-Large
Phone: 307-721-0072
Email: amarney72@gmail.com

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO YOU HAVE FOR THIS OFFICE?

Zachary M. Iddings (Rural): No response to the questions, but he did respond to the League of Women Voters on September 19 saying: "If anyone wants to discuss my qualifications, or the roles and services provided by LRCD, I'd encourage them to call." He gave his titles as Baer Livestock, Operations Manager and X Bar Cattle Co., Ranch Manager. He also provided other phone numbers: Monolith Ranch Office 307-745-3083 and cell 307-760-3837.

Mandy Marney (At-Large): I have served in several conservation roles including: Associate Board Member, LRCD; Board Member, Southwest Missouri Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D); as well as worked directly as Information/Education Specialist and Agriculture Non-Point Source Special Area Land Treatment (AgNPS SALT) Project Manager. I have a passion for conserving natural resources for future generations.

WHAT IS THE BEST SERVICE TO ALBANY COUNTY RESIDENTS THAT THE CONSERVATION DISTRICT HAS PROVIDED IN THE PAST 4 YEARS?

Mandy Marney (At-Large): It is difficult to point to one certain service. LRCD has an amazing staff that works directly with residents to address conservation concerns, there is a tremendous cost-share program that the district manages, as well as a new Conservation Enhancement Grant that is available to the public. LRCD is holistic in its outreach efforts to best meet the needs of all residents and landowners.

WHAT DO YOU WISH THE PUBLIC KNEW MORE ABOUT REGARDING THIS AGENCY'S SERVICES?

Mandy Marney (At-Large): The Community Enhancement Grant is a wonderful addition to services offered at LRCD. If you have a project that will enhance natural resources, I would encourage you to take a closer look at this grant program. More information can be found at <https://www.lrcd.net/community-enhancement-grant>.

WHAT ROLE DOES CLIMATE CHANGE PLAY IN HOW YOU WOULD PLAN THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE CONSERVATION DISTRICT?

Mandy Marney (At-Large): Assisting residents and landowners with climate adaptation and resiliency could be seen in multiple facets of LRCD work including technical assistance and/or grants.

Albany County Hospital District Trustee

Office: There is no salary or benefits provided for the five-member board of trustees for the district, which includes the entire county. Two are to be elected this year and will join three current trustees whose terms expire in 2024, Rex Gantenbien, Rick Melone and Jenna Scozzafava. G. Warpness did not respond.

Steve McGuire

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Terry Roark

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Guy Warpness

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WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO YOU HAVE FOR THIS OFFICE?

Steve McGuire: 40 years of working in medical centers, hospitals and medically-related positions; as follows. Responsibilities included personnel hiring and staff-performance supervision; budgeting; program design and implementation of patient-and-family-centered care; regulatory compliance; coordination of CME training; developing intra-hospital program coordination; organizing professional conferences; Public speaking; building and facility maintenance. Director, Soldier Family Assistance Center, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center; U.S. Gov't Compliance Manager, Ability One; Asst. Exec Dir. Developmental Disabilities, Laconia, NH; Clinical Director, U.S. Army Substance Abuse Program; Program Coordinator, Developmental Pediatrics.

Terry Roark: I have been a Trustee since 2002. I have seen IMH through hard times and good (now). The other Trustees and I chose to affiliate with a larger healthcare provider, UC Health, in order to continue to exist as a small rural hospital but also to provide our county residents with expanded access to more medical specialists. My experience as President of UW has taught me to deal with large complex organizations. I have been a resident of Albany County for over 35 years and served on many county, city and nonprofit boards.

Guy Warpness: No response.

DO YOU SUPPORT CONTINUING TO ALLOCATE ALL IVINSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT MILL LEVY INCOME (THE DISTRICT IS ALL OF ALBANY COUNTY) TO UNCOMPENSATED CARE PROVIDED BY IVINSON HOSPITAL? PLEASE EXPLAIN.

Steve McGuire: Yes, I support this, and the current expenditure stated in the financial report seems appropriate for continued support of all U.S. Citizens that are residents of Albany County. I also support others not so designated who require care to receive it but see several Federal and State government programs for which they may be entitled, paying for that portion of uncompensated care. Given that the Board of Trustees are elected by the citizenry of Albany County, I trust that our duty is to represent and look out for their medical needs vis-à-vis Ivinson's ability to do so.

Terry Roark: I do. Albany County is one of the poorer counties in Wyoming. There are many residents who have medical needs for which only IMH can provide, yet they are unable to pay for part or all of their treatments. IMH cannot turn away any person in need of care, The mill levy was enacted so that treatment can be given without the Hospital going into debt and perhaps eliminating services or closing.

BEYOND FINANCIAL REPORTING, IN WHAT WAY IS THE LOCAL HOSPITAL AND ITS CEO ACCOUNTABLE TO THE COMMUNITY?

Steve McGuire: As I see it, in its simplest terms, the CEO and Board of Directors run the hospital, and all its myriad functions in the provision of the best possible medical care. The Board of Trustees represent the interests of the citizenry of Albany County who are served by the hospital and pay its bills, directly or indirectly. As the county owns the building and land and leases it to the hospital nonprofit corporation, there are legal contractual agreements connected to that. Presently, this arrangement appears to be working rather well, so I would see a continuance of that. If there were ever some departure here, wherein the general community became dissatisfied, I would use my skills, experience, and this position to influence those empowered

Terry Roark: The IMH Board of Directors must report, semi-annually, to the Board of Trustees on the Hospital's finances but also on many patient care and safety measures. This Report is sent to the County Commissioners and the County Clerk. It is a public document and may be obtained from the Hospital or the County Clerk's office

WHAT IS THE PROPER MANAGERIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT TRUSTEES AND IVINSON HOSPITAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS?

Steve McGuire: "Proper" and "managerial " are somewhat loaded or subjective words. However, at this time I'm assuming there are designated lines of responsibility between both bodies, which I need to study. The first questions I'll have are, are they clear, ambiguous or overlapping ? If so, how can they be made clearer and acceptable to all concerned? As I stated above the hospital is here to serve the Albany County community with top-quality medical care, with the best possible financial management and utilization of resources. Management of this is the proper role of Ivinson's management. The overall end result, the general satisfaction of the citizenry is within the purview of the Trustees.

Terry Roark: The District Trustees own the Hospital and it's grounds. They lease the Hospital to the 501-c3 organization headed by its self-perpetuating Board of Directors. Should the Trustees find deficiencies in the way the Directors are managing the Hospital and the deficiencies are not remedied in an appropriate timeframe the Trustees may revoke the lease, thereby dissolving the Board of Directors. The Trustees could then

appoint new Directors or take over management and policy decisions as they did in the past.

Albany County School District #1

There are four separate races for seven of the nine seats on ACSD1 this year. The district covers all public schools in the county. Those elected receive no salary or benefits. Candidates must live in either Area A (six seats) or Area B (one seat) and there are two At-Large seats. They are listed separately here because they have different numbers of seats available, different terms, and different areas of the county where the candidate must live. All county residents, no matter of residence location, vote for candidates in all four races.

ACSD1: Unexpired Term, Area A, 2-year

Office: Two will be elected this year to fill unexpired seats--two people resigned. The two will serve two-year terms and must live in Area A (City of Laramie excluding Roach Addition and Cottonwood Estates). Those elected will join Emily Siegel-Stanton whose Area A term does not expire until 2024. D. Candelaria did not respond.

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WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO YOU HAVE FOR THIS OFFICE?

Elliott Arthur: Viet Nam Veteran, 20 years in law enforcement, 32 years teaching experience, college degree in Business Administration, 37 years experience operating small businesses including recruiting and evaluation of employees, planning and budgeting, and all other functions of running a business.

Mary Alice Bruce: I was honored to be appointed to the Albany County School Board, and I ask for your vote to continue serving students and families as an experienced Trustee of the Board. Albany County has been my home for over 30 years. Education is one of the great passions of my life, and I have years of experience working in the public school system as a math teacher and school counselor. I am a creative problem solver, passionate advocate, and skilled communicator, as I have been shaped by my valuable experiences as a mother, spouse, teacher, Peace Corps volunteer, school counselor, and University of Wyoming professor. I collaborate effectively with others to find practical solutions and make reasoned decisions that benefit our students and community.

Dexter Slade Candelaria: No response.

Alex Moon Krassin: I obtained my BA in social work from the University of Wyoming and master's of social work from the University of South Dakota, where I received education and training in working with individuals, families, and communities from a biopsychosocial framework. My career has included 1) Working as a social worker in a residential treatment facility serving youth who experienced trauma/developing IEP plans for these youth 2) Teaching English at a private school in South America; 3) Working at the UNiversity Counseling center. These experiences make me qualified to create a safe and engaging environment. Above all, I value the collaborating with Multi-disciplinary teams and supporting evidenced based policies/procedures.

Phoebe Newman: I am a mother of 3 and I was also a foster parent. I have experience teaching children with special needs and children who were struggling. One of my children had an IEP who struggled to read and write. My husband and I fostered children who needed help with every subject. Those foster children needed someone for support, one on one, and who took the time to teach.

Jeff Suloff 88: My professional experience and skills in risk management, corporate planning and budgeting, investigation, lobbying, and working with multiple regulatory agencies would bring additional diversity and benefit to the board as well as complement the backgrounds and experience of the other board members.

WHAT HELP CAN ACSD#1 OFFER FAMILIES OF STUDENTS NOT ENGAGED IN SCHOOL?

Elliott Arthur: Students not engaged in school have a wide variety of issues and no one program will help all of them. We can help by discovering a given student's issue and finding a solution for that student and others with the same issue. This process can be replicated for any student and any issue. However, we as a school district may not have the proper resources nor staff qualified to address some issues. In those instances we may be able to direct the parents toward other appropriate resources in our community. The most important thing is to communicate with the parents in an effort to find the right solution for their child.

Mary Alice Bruce: (1) Identify why students are not engaged. What relationships do students have at school? How is their family supportive? What learning experiences do they value? (2) Establish a network of support through a variety of resources that meet student academic, social-emotional, and behavioral needs. Does school feel safe? Are diverse learning opportunities available and meaningful? (3) Demonstrate that we care about students. Do students feel empowered by classroom activities? Are student voices heard with shared decision making? With a spirit of openness and goodwill, ACSD#1 can work to build trust and engagement with students and their families.

Alex Moon Krassin: Some potential solutions for students and families not engaged in school include offering a range of extracurricular activities (e.g., clubs, sports) that provide opportunities for social connection and engagement. Research demonstrates that students who are socially/recreationally involved are less likely to feel isolated, experience mental health concerns, and lack engagement in academic learning. My experience with the Laramie Crisis Center, collaborations with these agencies and the school district to provide quality training to staff and education for students who experience unique risk factors for expulsion and drop-out are also crucial to foster engagement in school. Offering a variety of programs/outreach will be a priority for me.

Phoebe Newman: I believe it's important to have the parents / guardians involved in every child's education. If a child is not engaged in school, reach out to the parents. Let's find why the child is not engaged and try to solve the issue.

Jeff Suloff: Encourage them to increase their personal accountability to participate in an appropriate manner towards the education of their child.

WHAT CONCERNS DO YOU HAVE ABOUT SEX EDUCATION IN ALBANY COUNTY SCHOOLS?

Elliott Arthur: I'm not yet familiar with what constitutes sex education in this district. However, I think the parents should be the source for sex education other than basic health matters. For instance, cleanliness, illness awareness, CPR, personal hygiene, and similar subjects are appropriate for Health Class. Anything else should be taught by parents.

Mary Alice Bruce: No concerns, as long as sex education is meaningfully taught at appropriate grade levels consistent with the Wyoming State Education Health Standards. No concerns regarding sex education materials since the ACSD#1 curriculum committee examines and approves all materials and curricula for instructional use.

Alex Moon Krassin: It is my personal and professional stance that sex education within Albany County schools should be age appropriate, scientifically/medically accurate, and evidenced-based. Comprehensive sex education should cover a range of topics that impact youth in the schools, including the value of abstinence, education surrounding contraception, and access to STD testing as needed. Students should have enough information to make informed choices about their sexual health and not feel ashamed to talk to supportive adults in their life should they make choices that could adversely impact their health and safety.

Phoebe Newman: We need to ban inappropriate books from our public school libraries. One of those books are called Manga. Manga books are comics or graphic novels originating from Japan. Japanese manga and anime comics is written for all sorts of people. Unlike the U.S., which generally seems to believe that "comics are for kids" (though this has been changing recently), Japanese manga-ka writes for everyone from innocent young children to perverted sex-starved men. Children are going to be curious about sex and wonder what's happening with their bodies. Our public schools have sex education / health class and parents should be talking with their children about these changes they are going through.

Jeff Suloff: It has its place and serves a purpose; however, parents should have the ability to opt out if they do not want their child to receive said training. Curriculum should be shared to allow parents to make an informed decision on what they feel is best for their child.

WHAT ARE THE STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF PUBLIC EDUCATION COMPARED TO PRIVATE EDUCATION, AND HOME SCHOOLING?

Elliott Arthur: Private and home school students tend to obtain a better education in those subjects they need to succeed in life. They also see less violence at school. I think public schools have only a few strengths, among them mainly athletic programs and exposure to a wider variety of educational experiences.

Mary Alice Bruce: Public schools, with an emphasis on academic achievement, career preparation, and citizenship, continue to better prepare students for success in the world today as compared to private education and home schooling, as found by a new Pew Research Study. Private education and homeschooling are noted for a more personalized education, which may offer more freedom and flexibility for teaching and learning. But private education and homeschooling are not held to the same level of accountability as public education. However, it should be noted that a recent University of Virginia study found that socioeconomic advantages, not the school itself, is more predictive of overall student success.

Alex Moon Krassin: I have worked and attended public/private schools, as well as worked professionally with a number of college students who had been homeschooled prior to coming to college. Public education provides children with unique opportunities for social and emotional development as they navigate the public school system. These include identity development, building self-confidence, and equipping students with critical thinking/problem-solving skills. Public schools also ensure access to free and quality education regardless of family circumstances/abilities. However, I also understand that families are intentional in choosing the best match for social, emotional, behavioral, or ability circumstances of their children.

Phoebe Newman: Pros for Public school: 1.)Exceptional Student Education Program 2.)Public School & transportation is free 3.)opportunity to be involved in public school sports, fine arts, & clubs. Cons for Public School: 1.) larger classes 2.)No Religion 3.)Limited on teachers 4.)budget may be limited Pros for Private schools: 1.)more challenging curriculum 2.)better funding 3.)smaller classes Cons for Private School: 1)curriculum may be limited 2)cost Pro homeschool: 1) do not have the same exposure to peer pressure.

2)one-on-one 3)personalized learning. 4)more field trips, real-life experiences, and hands-on learning. Cons homeschool: 1)Parent plans school-time, activities & the administrative. 2)parent may have more stress.

Jeff Suloff: All three options may serve the individual student and family needs. Strength and weaknesses should be evaluated by students and families as appropriate. That being stated, I am a supporter of public education.

ACSD1: Area A, 4-year term

Office: Three will be selected for four-year terms from Area A, they must live in the City of Laramie excluding Roach Addition and Cottonwood Estates. Those elected will join Emily Siegel-Stanton whose Area A term does not expire until 2024.

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WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO YOU HAVE FOR THIS OFFICE?

Beth Bear: I was elected to the school board in 2018. Through several challenging years and situations, I have grown in my knowledge of our district and my desire to continue to serve our community. We have moved our district forward in a positive way, and I would like to continue to work to strengthen our district, provide quality education for our

students, support our teachers and staff, and better our community. I am a parent of 5 children in our district and am familiar with our district from the perspective of parents and students. I will continue to listen with an open-mind and to keep the education of our students, the welfare of our staff, and the needs of our community at heart when making decisions as a board member.

Dan Bleak: I was a high school math teacher and coach for 10 years (1990 – 2000) with 7 of those in Laramie HS. I hold a Bachelors and Masters degree in Math Education as well as an MBA (all from U. of Wyoming). Our children were raised in the Laramie school system – 3 have graduated and one is a now a freshman at LHS. I deal annually with multi-million dollar budgets in my current career. With 15+ years of executive business experience, I feel I have the skills necessary to gather information, listen to various perspectives and make necessary decisions. I also have the perspective of understanding what it's like to be in a classroom trying to teach students in the best way possible while dealing with the challenges entailed in that process.

Gwen Clark: Resident of Laramie, Wyoming since 1981. I know the issues facing Albany County. B.S. Accounting, University of Wyoming 1986. I have budget knowledge. Part of my career experience includes being the accountant for the UW Foundation in 1991. Mother of six children who attended ACSD#1. I am very familiar with our community's schools. Four of my grandchildren live in town and I hope they can receive the great education ACSD#1 provided to my own children.

Teri Jo Gillum: I have almost 10 years experience with budgets and public funds, along with managing multiple smaller budgets/funds that filter up to the overall budget. I own a business in Laramie where I pride myself in transparency and accountability with my clients. I would take the same pride and skills I use every day and apply them to the Trustee position.

Steve Gosar: I grew up in Wyoming and graduated from UW. I have worked in education at both the high school and college level. My wife, Lu, and I have 3 boys that are currently enrolled in our district. I am passionate about the quality of education that all of our children receive here in Laramie and am dedicated to supporting our students, teachers, administration and staff.

Thomas Martin: Instructor Supervisor USAF four years. Developed Consolidated Structural Course for all military services. Developed and implemented multinational program to provide emergency shelter for various religions/cultures in war zone. Developed and put in place programs to educate soldiers of how to avoid the many ways to eliminate friendly fire casualties. Developed and executed computer-based classes. Inspected classrooms in industrial settings to remove hazards. AA Degrees in Technical Instruction, Construction Technology, Military Science and BS Degree in Social Work. Coordinated with ACSD#1 at least weekly interactions involving students and homeless students as Director of Interfaith-Good Samaritan.

Carrie Murthy: I am uniquely qualified to add value to the School Board, bringing 16 years of professional experience researching education policies and best practices and supporting education programs. I have observed classrooms; held focus groups with teachers and principals; visited afterschool programs; documented school lunch practices;

supported states and districts tackling educator workforce issues; and studied best practices in teacher preparation, recruitment, retention, and evaluation. My many years of volunteer work include volunteering in school settings and working directly with migrant communities and students, students without housing, children in the foster care system, and English Learners. I also have two children in ACSD1 schools.

Sandi P. Rees: I am a product of ACSD1 K-12. I have a BS degree in Agricultural Communications and did my Masters of Education studies in Adult Education, both at UW. I have taught ABE, GED, ESL, and Literacy skills in both the community college and workplace setting. I have been a substitute teacher for many years in small rural schools all the way to mega-high schools. I am a concerned citizen and an involved mother. My three children have all attended schools in ACSD1. I have a broad scope of experience, both in education and in life. I am a research oriented person who will do the work, speak to the stakeholders, be a good steward of the tax-payers money, and ask the hard questions.

Mike Schilt: I was born and raised in Laramie. I went through the public school system as a youth. My wife and I homeschooled our 6 children. I'm a parent and Grandparent. I'm very much concerned with what is going on in our country and state regarding our schools.

WHAT HELP CAN ACSD#1 OFFER FAMILIES OF STUDENTS NOT ENGAGED IN SCHOOL?

Beth Bear: Our district offers numerous resources for students not engaged in school including support for families and students. We have systems of support in place to ensure that every student is being given the instruction and assistance they need to succeed in school. Some of the resources we provide to help engage students include academic intervention and enrichment, drop-out intervention, employment preparation, various elective and CTE courses, activities and athletics, counseling and guidance, and school choice. It is critical that we continue to offer diverse resources and opportunities to help engage all students in school and help students find their individual path to success in school.

Dan Bleak: Ultimately, the student and their family/support system are responsible for their education. The district is there to support this. Teachers offer this on a regular basis by communicating with the families of those students and jointly working together to help that student. This also needs to be supported from a district level. This could be in the form of finding better ways to gather feedback from these families, encouraging their involvement in their students' education, and providing training to teachers seeking solutions. By listening to those closest to the issue, the administration can be best positioned to develop and execute more effective solutions.

Gwen Clark: ACSD#1 can welcome and encourage home-schooled children to participate in extra-curricular activities such as sports and other clubs available to students. Also, they should be welcome to attend fine arts and technical classes they may be interested in. High school-aged students who are not attending school (in-person or at home) should be encouraged and given assistance to study for and complete the HiSET, an alternative and equivalent to the GED.

Teri Jo Gillum: Transparency and educational opportunities for all ages

Steve Gosar: I believe the district needs to continue to identify and connect these families with the resources available to them. ACSD1 has programs and resources available that may not be known to everyone in our community.

Thomas Martin: ACSD#1 provides shelter for homeless students and makes referral to community agencies that can further assist when the amount of assistance exceeds their ability. Assists with ensuring students have appropriate clothing for the weather. Assists potential families of students enroll in in class learning and home schooling. Provide food for the students over the weekends through the backpack program. Make recommendations for forms of higher education. English as a second language recommendations for parents. Discussions on how to set up study times, where and how to assist their children with ways to study more effectively. Inform the parents and concerned students of programs outside of the school and home settings.

Carrie Murthy: In order to help families of students not engaged in school, it is important to first understand their needs. As a School Board Trustee, I would be interested in conducting needs-sensing of key stakeholder groups that may need additional supports. I firmly believe in the importance of hearing from the key stakeholders who are impacted by the Board's decisions. As a School Board Trustee, I will visit every school building so I am in tune with each school site and can better understand the unique challenges and nuances of each school, as well as identify trends and themes across schools. I am committed to encouraging and empowering parents, students, school staff, and educators to communicate with me.

Sandi P. Rees: Being in school is usually the best option for most students. However, the last few years have shown an increase in options that include on-line and hybrid models. Families may homeschool with or without a program and their children may participate in the ACSD1 sports, music, and drama programs to name a few. Many students could return to school and do credit recovery to get back on track. Whiting High School is an option to do exactly that. GED and HISET exams are another route that some may take to achieve that diploma. An increase in options for Career Technical Education would be beneficial for many young folks as there are tremendous opportunities to earn while they learn and move into vital jobs.

Mike Schilt: We need to clarify what is meant here. Not being engaged in an actual public school setting has nothing to do with EDUCATION. In my experience, parents that choose to homeschool full time need nothing from ASCD as far as education goes. Sports and extra curricular activities, such as clubs, band, etc. are activities that some families chose.

WHAT CONCERNS DO YOU HAVE ABOUT SEX EDUCATION IN ALBANY COUNTY SCHOOLS?

Beth Bear: Our district provides age appropriate education to students concerning their growth and development. Students are provided with factual information using content that is appropriate for their age and maturity level. This allows parents and guardians to have further conversation about this topic with their students as they so choose. Parents are given information prior to any sex education being taught and have the option to elect for their student to not participate. Our district provides this education in the same way we

do all education in our district, in a thoughtful and appropriate way. Given this, I do not have any concerns about sex education in Albany County schools.

Dan Bleak: Sex education should be age appropriate for the student audience. Parents or guardians of students should be fully informed as to the content that will be covered and have the opportunity to provide feedback. Students and their families should have a voice in what material is presented to them - if they feel it is not in the student's best interest or is contrary to their beliefs, alternative solutions should be offered.

Gwen Clark: ACSD#1 needs to be on the same page with parents. This is an issue of great importance to the families of ACSD#1. Parent input is vital to curriculum on this topic. Parents should be involved in any decisions made regarding sex education curriculum or gender issues.

Teri Jo Gillum: Sex education should only be the educational portion of puberty or Health class. It should not be opinion based or agenda driven. Books that contain sexuality, other than Health class, should be available in school libraries

Steve Gosar: My concern is that we are preparing each and every student for success as they move forward. Whether that is moving on to the next grade, trade school, college or joining the workforce. Our goal should be to provide an appropriate well-rounded education at every grade level while always striving to be better every year. We should value all stakeholders input and opinions as we develop and implement the curriculum.

Thomas Martin: Teaching abstaining from having sex is first. If that cannot happen, then protection from disease and unwanted pregnancy should follow. All sexual contact must be consensual and examples of forced sexual acts is criminal and will be prosecuted. Teaching what sexual harassment is and how/were to report it. The various things that women experience that men do not: Menstrual cycles, pregnancy, and sexual assault. Males can also be victims of sexual assault. Sex education does not always happen in the home. When we hear of a female student getting pregnant, is there anything that could have prevented the pregnancy? Is there a way to assist students to be proactive rather than reactive?

Carrie Murthy: My views about sex education are informed by research-based best practices. When it comes to sex education, that means providing students with developmentally appropriate and medically accurate information, sequenced across grade levels in an age-appropriate way. Research also tells us that quality sex education should be relevant and engaging; should address the health needs of all students, including LGBTQ+ youth; and should connect students to health services at school or in the community. We also know that quality sex education is important and effective: students who participate in quality sex education programs are not only more likely to have fewer experiences of unprotected sex; they also improve their overall academic performance.

Sandi P. Rees: To the extent that we have a problem in ACSD1 with regard to the sex education curriculum is not readily apparent to me. It is the responsibility and right of the parents to be their child's first teacher in academics and life skills. Sex ed curriculums need to be basic, to the point, and science based. They also need to be age appropriate and separated by gender. No child needs to be exposed to extensive, graphically detailed, or leading/suggestive materials. A good example is The Reducing the Risk curriculum used by

some states that is medically accurate and covers the following National Health Education Standards.

Mike Schilt: There shouldn't be sex education in public schools. That discussion is for children and parents apart from the school setting. Biology is the extent that should be covered in the school setting as far sex education is concerned.

WHAT ARE THE STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF PUBLIC EDUCATION COMPARED TO PRIVATE EDUCATION, AND HOME SCHOOLING?

Beth Bear: A strength is the ability to offer diverse learning and extracurricular opportunities to all students. Our district cares for the academic, social, and emotional welfare for students and helps prepare them for success after graduation. Systems of support help all students succeed and we offer enrichment opportunities for students to thrive. Public schools provide places for students to grow socially through extracurricular activities. A challenge has been continued budget reductions including the latest \$1.5 million reduction. Our students have a right to a fully funded education and these cuts are not sustainable for districts. We must continue to fully fund public education and to increase funding to restore what has recently been cut.

Dan Bleak: Public education has the greatest opportunity to provide a well-rounded experience to the broadest range of students. The challenge is offering solutions to a diverse population of students with unique circumstances, needs and beliefs. Private or home school settings may be able to provide a more tailored approach. However, thriving within our society requires understanding other perspectives and working cooperatively. Public schools provide an opportunity for our students to learn this skill. The professional standards required for teachers in public education also help to provide a broad range of people who can make a positive impact in the lives of students.

Gwen Clark: Among many strengths is the fact that public education provides instruction that may be beyond the capacity of home-school parents. Public education also provides sociality that home-schooled children may not enjoy. A weakness is that the curriculum may not answer the desires of all ACSD1 students and their families.

Teri Jo Gillum: The strengths would be social interactions and developing those skills with varying backgrounds. The weaknesses are distracted learning, not having one on one assistance, and the lack of expectations of education and parental input.

Steve Gosar: Public education's greatest strength is that it is available to all with special accommodations for each student based on need. However, the bureaucratic nature of public education is its greatest weakness, taking away the needed resources of educating our children.

Thomas Martin: Public schools are hampered by not including basic religious concepts such as what is right and wrong. Parochial schools have that option and home schooling in most cases exceeds all of them. Class size can be an issue with both public and parochial schools, although in most cases, parochial schools deal with it better by using different methods involving parents earlier. It used to be majority rules. Now we are still stuck in the grease squeaky wheel syndrome where we must make allowances for every objection and

individual has. We have lost our way on this matter. School shootings and major violence affect almost only public schools. Is it because parochial schools have God in the classrooms?

Carrie Murthy: Broadly, one of the strengths and most important features of public education is that it is free and available to all children regardless of their wealth, religion, language, race/ethnicity, gender, test scores, disability status, housing status, etc. A feature that can be a strength of private education and home schooling is that they can often be more nimble. I believe different kids have different needs, and it is important to have a variety of education options from which families can choose. We are lucky here in Albany County to have several different school options—including Montessori, the Lab School, Snowy Range Academy, the GATE program, and the Dual Language Immersion program.

Sandi P. Rees: Public schools are the norm in Wyoming and are generally consistent due to State Standards and are the most affordable option. Currently public schools are under scrutiny as parents examine curriculum and activities that focus less on ACADEMICS and more on political agendas. Many families choose homeschooling as the best alternative to intrusive governmental influence and to control the teaching of morals and values. On-line and hybrid school are available that can match the different needs and wants of a family and may or may not cost. In Wyoming access to reliable internet can directly impact that choice. There are some private schools in the state but not to the extent of more populated and affluent areas and are often more expensive

Mike Schilt: The advantage of Public school compared to homeschool or private is money. The tax money that goes to fund schools would ease the cost of private education and homeschooling costs. Which isn't a big advantage really, it's just that the taxes have already been paid. The advantages of private school and homeschool are: 1) That discipline can be applied when necessary. 2) Curriculum control; what is being taught and how. 3) Morals, ethics, respect and responsibility can be expected. 4) The freedom for each child to learn at their own pace and excel at their own pace. You can also devote more time to helping them with their weaknesses. 5) For homeschooling, scheduling around what works best for each particular family. Just to name a few.

ACSD1: Area B, 4-year term

Office: One candidate will be selected this year for a four-year term in Area B (outside City of Laramie including Roach Addition and Cottonwood Estates). S. Nowell did not respond.

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/ElectLeoSwope

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO YOU HAVE FOR THIS OFFICE?

Janice Marshall: I have served on the ACSD #1 School Board for the past 16 years. I am a member of the Wyoming Professional Teaching & Standards Board and serve on the Board of Directors for the Wyoming School Boards Association. I am dedicated to providing excellent educational opportunities for all students and to supporting all staff. I have lived in Albany County for the last 45 years. After graduating from UW, my husband and I started a business and have made Laramie our home. Our four children are graduates of Laramie High School. Most importantly I have the energy, enthusiasm and time required to do this impactful work.

Stella Rios Nowell: I have had the pleasure of living in Albany County for 21 years and raised my children in Laramie where they graduated from Laramie High School. I have taught in Albany County for 14 years and an additional 3 years at the University of Wyoming as a Graduate Teaching Assistant. During my time in ACSD1, I had the opportunity to work with different superintendents representing the voices of the educators, support staff and faculty members. As a result of over 27 years in the education profession, I was able to grow as an educator and grow my commitment to positively impact the education of students.

Leo Swope: I have a Bachelor of Science in Education degree in Social Studies. I worked for what are known as Intermediate Units. These institutions are set up to help parents, students, schools, and taxpayers. They do this by being creative with developing educational services that are beneficial, high quality and cost effective. My focus, in the position I was in, was helping to obtain Behavioral Health Services for students in the home, school and community as a whole. I was immersed in the public school settings maneuvering through federal and state regulations. I dealt with contracts and audits for 12-15 different regional school districts, county, state, and insurance agencies.

WHAT HELP CAN ACSD#1 OFFER FAMILIES OF STUDENTS NOT ENGAGED IN SCHOOL?

Janice Marshall: All school aged students living in Albany County may participate in extracurricular activities offered by ACSD #1. These include sports, band, and clubs. With permission from the district, students may also attend events such as dances. Additionally, academic resource materials are available. Counseling and social emotional help is also available. Counseling needs are evaluated on a case-by-case basis and may include private counseling sessions. The Curriculum Director contacts home school families and others to let them know about available resources.

Stella Rios Nowell: I believe reaching out to find what the barrier may be to student engagement would be the first course of action. I would also like to delineate the difference between students who are not engaged because they are not attending- as that most likely would be a different set of barriers than the students who are attending school yet not engaged in learning. The common goal of parents and teachers is to have the students successfully receive an education that will enable them to be college or career ready. ACSD#1 can help families by taking down the barriers to engagement.

Leo Swope: I think from a public school standpoint we need to research why parents and students may not be engaged in ACSD1. Find out what the barriers, issues and problems are that keeps Laramie families from seeing the benefits ACSD1 has to offer. The more we

know the easier it is to help them be involved. We need to know what the current issues are to help these families. We absolutely can use the state and county services we have available to us to help pull the families back into focusing on the child's future. We also need to work to gain more pride in our schools. We should be able to point to the tangible value of a good education from ACSD1 schools, and know the issues they are facing.

WHAT CONCERNS DO YOU HAVE ABOUT SEX EDUCATION IN ALBANY COUNTY SCHOOLS?

Janice Marshall: All curriculum materials including any used for sex education are available for review. There is always the choice to opt-out. Upper elementary students are taught about their maturing bodies from a biological perspective. There is currently no sex education at Laramie Middle School due to changes in the Family and Consumer Sciences Department. That may change next year. At Laramie High School there is a semester health class. That class does not focus on sex ed per se but instead focuses on the broader topic of the sexualization of society. I do not have any concerns about sex education in ACSD #1. If parents or guardians have concerns, I encourage them to contact the district Curriculum Director.

Stella Rios Nowell: Sex education has been around since I was an elementary student. My mom passed away when I was very young and my dad did not have the skill set to talk to a 10-year-old about her first period. I was thankful that school was a safe place where I could learn about how bodies change as a matter of fact and of science. Parents can and should talk to their children about sex education, but there is also a place for it in schools. Educators have the necessary skill sets and curriculum to teach this in developmentally appropriate ways and can support student's questions as they arise throughout the year.

Leo Swope: Sex education was set up to educate kids on the realities of sex and what can result if they become sexually active. It is essential that parents have the knowledge of all materials and content used and available in the schools. This will enable parents the ability to make sound personal decisions to opt out of and/or to protect their own kids from sexual education/materials they do not agree with. We need to ensure parents still have control over what their children are exposed to when it comes to sex education. My concern really lies in what parents are concerned about. I really believe parents from all points of view are looking for what I like to call a "stay in the lane" education. Keeping within the subject boundaries.

WHAT ARE THE STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF PUBLIC EDUCATION COMPARED TO PRIVATE EDUCATION, AND HOME SCHOOLING?

Janice Marshall: Public education offers credentialed, licensed teachers. Students have opportunities to participate in a wide variety of classes including art, music and physical education. In addition, students are well supported with layers of school staff. These include outstanding teachers, counselors, school nurses, psychologists, and paraprofessionals. There are many opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities, clubs and sports. Public schools provide support for students with disabilities with well trained staff and resources. Public schools offer more robust and well-rounded learning opportunities than are typically available in home school or private schools.

Stella Rios Nowell: I respect parent's choices to either homeschool their child(ren) or to send them to a private school. I will say the strength of public schools is the community of the ACSD#1 Employees who connect with each child. It could be a bus driver who says "Good Morning, I like your shirt today." The cafeteria worker- who serves breakfast with a smile, the Title I, ESL, SpEd, or support teacher who celebrates new learning, the janitor who asks, 'how is lunch?'. It could also be the classroom teacher who goes home late to make sure that every student is working toward success, the school nurse or secretary who help with small concerns or the admin who is there to help with the big concerns. There are so many people who are invested in each child- not to mention the professionals who strive to enrich the lives of students with the visual and musical arts, physical education and media/technology.

Leo Swope: Private and Home schooling can have less distractions. Private and Home schooling can have smaller class sizes. Public schools have more funding to back up their educational goals. Private and Homeschooling pay taxes and additional costs for education. Home and Private schooling can allow parents to have more control over what is being taught. Public schools could have more chances of interactions in clubs, sports and musical activities if the parents outside of public institutions are not aware of their opportunities. Public schools can have more services. Public schools have large community support. Public schools could reduce the extra costs homeschooling may have to spend for outside student interactions.

ACSD1: At-Large, 4-year term

Office: One At-Large seat is available, the candidate can live anywhere in Albany County. That person will serve with Kim Sorenson, whose At-Large term does not expire until 2024.

Thomas Mullan, Laramie
Phone: 307-742-6329
Email: tm@i80towing.com

Nate Martin, Laramie
Phone: 307-703-0198
Email: votenatemartin@gmail.com
Website: www.votenatemartin.net/

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO YOU HAVE FOR THIS OFFICE?

Nate Martin: I have served on the ACSD1 school board since 2018, during perhaps the most challenging time to be a trustee in recent history. I have been deeply involved in state-level education policy since 2016, working as an advocate for public school funding and other important issues at the Wyoming Legislature. These roles provide me with a broad understanding of how state and local school policies intersect. I am a homeowner and active member of the Albany County community, via organizations such as Relative Theatrics, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, and my own group, Better Wyoming. My wife and I look forward to enrolling our future children in the school district.

Thomas Mullan: As a parent and now a grandparent to students in ACSD # 1 I have had the chance to see what needs to be changed and improved. As a employer of many parents that have students in school I hear and what they are concerned on

WHAT HELP CAN ACSD#1 OFFER FAMILIES OF STUDENTS NOT ENGAGED IN SCHOOL?

Nate Martin: Education in ACSD1 is a community-based effort. The success of each student depends on the teamwork of the teacher, student, parents, and oftentimes support staff. ACSD1 teachers regularly go above and beyond to engage parents of students who are struggling, and we have more counselors and social workers on staff to help than similar districts. These interactions are especially critical today, since at-risk students face even larger hurdles than usual recovering academically from the COVID-19 pandemic. From a school board perspective, we need to ensure that each building is adequately staffed with workers who can help teachers reach out and re-engage families of students who are performing below their abilities or risk of dropping out.

Thomas Mullan: I want to start encouraging parents to have more say and involvement by allowing them more say esp. after the last few years

WHAT CONCERNS DO YOU HAVE ABOUT SEX EDUCATION IN ALBANY COUNTY SCHOOLS?

Nate Martin: People entering puberty need to understand the dynamics and consequences of the actions their bodies are urging them to take. The public school system is well positioned to provide young people a baseline understanding of subjects like pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, gender and sexuality, and the importance of consent. As state and federal policy changes threaten our ability to access reproductive health services, it is more important than ever for students to understand the potential serious outcomes of sexual activity—and how to prevent them. Families are obviously at liberty to have more in-depth discussions with their children, but ACSD1 is responsible for ensuring that science-based sex education is available to everyone.

Thomas Mullan: I feel it only needs to be the basic which would be the biology of the male and female there is really no need to go into the actual acts that should be up the parents to actual talk to them about sex.

WHAT ARE THE STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF PUBLIC EDUCATION COMPARED TO PRIVATE EDUCATION, AND HOME SCHOOLING?

Nate Martin: Our public school system in Albany County is tasked by law to provide quality education to ALL students in our community, regardless of their background or ability. This is something I take very seriously. Private schools and homeschooling—and the public charter schools we have in Laramie—cannot begin to accomplish this task. ACSD1 provides exceptional opportunities for high-performing students from privileged backgrounds, and we educate students who are homeless, who possess severe learning disabilities, and for whom the school district is literally a lifesaver. Our current system is not perfect, but there is simply no existing alternative "choice" to the many tremendously important roles our public schools play in our community.

Thomas Mullan: I think its important for kids to have proper socializing with kids their age, home schooling has the good and bad however many parents are not able to home

school they're kids. Private schools are great except its more for the people who can afford it as many parents in our area are not able to afford the tuition.

Wyoming Legislature

Office: Stipend for Wyoming House of Representatives and Wyoming Senate members is \$300 per month, plus \$150 per day while the Legislature is in session and \$109 per diem. The same pay is received for committee and work meetings between sessions. Each quarter they receive \$750 as a constituent service allowance. Term for the House of Representatives is two years with no term limits. Candidates must be at least age 25, U.S. citizens, and qualified to vote in Wyoming with residence in the district from which they are elected for at least 12 months prior to the election. There are four House Districts in Albany County, HD 13, HD 14, HD 45 and HD 46, each with one representative. All four seats are up for election in 2022. No Republican filed for HD 45.

There are two Senate districts in Albany County, SD 09 and SD 10; terms are four years with no term limits and the same requirements as the House. The senator for SD 10 is Dan Furphy (R) who continues in office until 2024; the seat in SD 09 is available this year. Voters only receive a ballot containing the names of candidates for the seat in the district in which the voter lives; all candidates give Laramie as their address.

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Wayne Pinch, Republican HD 13
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Trey Sherwood, Democrat HD 14
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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/reptreysherwood/>
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Bryan Shuster, Republican HD 14
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Karlee Provenza, Democrat, HD 45
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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Provenza4Wyoming>
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Ocean Andrew, Republican, HD 46
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Merav Ben-David, Democrat, HD 46

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Chris Rothfuss, Democrat, SD 09

Email: RothfussForSenate@gmail.com

Diana Seabeck, Republican, SD 09

Phone: 307-742-7956

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Website: www.seabeckforsenate.com

WHAT ARE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS FOR THIS OFFICE?

Ken Chestek (D, HD 13): I am a professor of law at the University of Wyoming College of Law, specializing in teaching legal writing. Since the primary job of a state legislator is to write laws, I believe my training and expertise in that field make me an ideal candidate for this position. I have also been an activist in the state for the past six years working with the Joint Corporations and Elections Committee to get dark and untraceable money out of our elections. Legislators need to listen to their human constituents, not the large dollar donors to their campaign. I have also served as Chair of the University of Wyoming Faculty Senate, and President of the Legal Writing Institute, a national organization of over 2,000 legal writing professors.

Wayne Pinch (R, HD 13): I'm an inventor and entrepreneur. I've been a student of politics for a long time. I have the ability to bring people together which I believe is needed right now.

Trey Sherwood (D, HD 14): I'm running for re-election to continue to serve the people of Albany County with intentional civility and across-the-aisle collaborations. As a community developer with 17 years of nonprofit leadership, I have the experience and drive to serve and make a difference. My optimism and empathy allow me to be a strong, thoughtful collaborator as we work to diversify our economy. I am passionate about funding for education, solutions for affordable housing, prioritizing our locally owned businesses and job creators and increasing access to affordable healthcare, mental health, suicide prevention and reproductive care. With your vote, I will continue to use my leadership skills to provide an equitable future for all of Wyoming's residents.

Bryan Shuster (R, HD 14): No response

Karlee Provenza (D, HD 45): 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 aren't something most people put on a resume, they have shaped how I have worked on your behalf for the past two years as your State Representative. In addition to serving as your current representative, I earned my Ph.D. at the University of Wyoming in

2021 and have published and presented research across the country on how our criminal justice system has failed to provide equal treatment to all people. But most importantly, I have applied that knowledge to advocate for justice here in Albany County as a community organizer for justice and as a policy maker writing and voting on legislation.

Ocean Andrew (R, HD 46): I started a small business during college at University of Wyoming 6 years ago and I now have over 100 employees. I have learned more from this experience than anything else I have done. I've also 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 (D, HD 46): 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.

Chris Rothfuss (D, SD 09): 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 (R, SD 09): As a Speech-Language Pathologist for ACSD1, I loved helping students and families find their voice. I especially enjoyed middle school age students and working with students on the autism spectrum. At mid-career, I changed positions in the school district which gave me many different responsibilities and changed my life significantly. I was a Case Manager for Special Educ., and then the Drug-Free Schools Coor. And then the Coor for our Safe Schools, Healthy Students initiative. I've facilitated groups, written grants, supervised employees, overseen up to 10 budgets at once, and administered many programs. The work was focused on families with challenges, substance abuse, parenting skills & reducing risk factors. E.g. poor student placement.

HOW WOULD YOU MEET THE NEEDS OF WYOMING'S AGING POPULATION WHILE MAINTAINING ADEQUATE GOVERNMENT SERVICES FOR ALL AGES?

Ken Chestek (D, HD 13): As a “person of a certain age” myself, I feel acutely the needs of aging persons. One of the critical needs for this population is reliable access to health care, especially in rural area where the hospitals are struggling to survive. Expanding Medicaid coverage is one part of the solution to providing that reliable health care, but more needs to be done. Supporting the budget of the State Department of Health, instead of cutting it as the legislature has recently done, is another part of the solution. But avoiding further cuts requires either additional resources or cutting other services. My preference would be to grow our resources by expanding the tax base so that we can support the services that our seniors need.

Wayne Pinch (R, HD 13): I think our public transportation is inadequate, so work on that. We have nice facilities that offer fitness and activities but they don't do much good if you can't get there.

Trey Sherwood (D, HD 14): Taking care of the generation who provided for us, as parents, grandparents, employers, mentors and teachers, means prioritizing funding for home and community-based programs that allow seniors to age in place (alternatives to expensive nursing homes). This includes property tax relief, expanding Medicaid, investments in ADA accommodations, broadband to access telehealth and public transportation. Keeping the cost of living stable for our aging population means less debt is passed onto our future workforce. If we want to care for our seniors, while maintaining basic services for all residents, we must also reform our tax system in a manner that is justified, equitable, balanced and transparent.

Karlee Provenza (D, HD 45): Over the past two years, I have advocated for the expansion of highspeed broadband access across Wyoming to keep seniors living in their homes with the help of telehealth, to ensure that students have reliable access to remote education components, and to increase remote work opportunities for individuals and ranchers. Meeting the needs of Wyoming's aging population doesn't have to mean that we can't fund services for all ages, but it does mean changing our revenue structure so large corporations who use more of our state services pay their fair share. With so many wealthy people moving here from out of state increasing our property taxes to get their own tax cuts, it's only fair to also expect them to pay for their fair share of services.

Ocean Andrew (R, HD 46): The issue I hear the most about from senior citizens is that property taxes are getting out of control. If we don't do something to stop this I'm afraid that some might not be able to afford to stay in their homes. Because of this critical issue, I am strongly supporting legislation that will base property values on acquisition value rather than assessed value. Meaning that tax for a residential property will be the same for the entire duration that a person owns a home. I also would support any other legislation that would help reduce the property tax burden on seniors.

Merav Ben-David (D, HD 46): By 2030, about 131,000 Wyoming residents will be >65. Many, especially ranchers and small business owners, rely on Social Security and Medicare after retirement. The current structure disproportionately burdens lower income earners through sales and property taxes. Increasing property tax will result in many seniors losing their homes, especially if the Republicans succeed in cutting Social Security and Medicare. I will support enacting new revenue generating mechanisms to provide alternative sources of income for local and state government such as a real estate transfer tax for high value

properties, and income and wealth taxes for high-end earners. Finally, a key to increasing revenue for the state is investing in diversifying the economy.

Chris Rothfuss (D, SD 09): We must maximize in-home aging care and services to decrease costs and dramatically improve quality of life, while ensuring availability of high quality skilled care facilities. We must include consideration of senior centers, distributed healthcare services and enhanced broadband with all of our statewide economic development planning. We must expand Medicaid, which will save Wyoming ~\$32M over the next two years, while helping our most vulnerable populations and providing financial security to rural and remote healthcare facilities. And we must reduce the individual personal property tax burden on our low income earners by correspondingly increasing the burden on our wealthiest taxpayers.

Diana Seabeck (R, SD 09): Wyoming's seniors need to know they are valued and appreciated. Senior Centers, with the Dept of Health & Dept of Family Services, using state and federal funds, are important providers of services to seniors. The legislature must balance all the different sectors of our state which rely on tax revenue. The state's SLIB's funded projects can help seniors and their communities thrive. These projects must be fairly distributed for the benefit of all sectors. Enforcing laws such as actively investigating and prosecuting cases where seniors are targets, including securities fraud, is a way to honor seniors. New drug law(s) requiring transparency in drug price negotiations at each level of the distribution chain need to be enacted.

WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES IN RESPONDING TO CATASTROPHIC DISASTERS AFFECTING OUR STATE?

Ken Chestek (D, HD 13): That depends to some extent on the extent and cause of the disaster. Certainly one of the most important roles of either the state or federal government is to protect the health and safety of its citizens. For many disasters, including floods and forest fires, we should expect help from FEMA while standing ready to deploy the Wyoming National Guard and other state agencies to provide relief to those affected by disaster. But the state also has a role in disaster prevention too. For example, should the roads destroyed in the Yellowstone Flood be rebuilt or abandoned? How can the state help mitigate fire risks in our beautiful mountains? Do we need to beef up the capabilities of our first responders?

Wayne Pinch (R, HD 13): Hold the Feds feet to the fire. Water and energy could be disasters, stop giving ours away.

Trey Sherwood (D, HD 14): We must build strong communities that can respond to natural, social or economic disasters by investing in infrastructure, local food systems, social service agencies, emergency services and local leadership. This means providing each community, regardless of size, the ability to raise revenue for mitigation, first responders, early warning systems and emergency response training. In addition to empowering local communities with revenue generating tools, we should establish an emergency relief trust fund where the interest from this account could be used to quickly repair critical infrastructure when a wildfire, flood, severe winter storm, drought, etc. negatively impacts our residents.

Karlee Provenza (D, HD 45): First, Wyoming should take proactive measures to reduce the detrimental impacts of climate change before catastrophic disasters occur more frequently, like they have in others. Proactive measures should include creating and funding programs that fight fires and use evidence-based methods to reduce the risk of massive fires and droughts. Additionally, we should further support Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust Fund projects that focus on improving entire ecological systems from grasses to waterways so that our landscape and wildlife can better resist extreme weather and climates. Finally, we should create incentive programs that train, pay, and employ firefighters and healthcare professionals ready to respond to these disasters.

Ocean Andrew (R, HD 46): First of all, we must adequately fund our volunteer fire departments. Wyoming volunteer fire fighters stand between residents and natural disasters on a regular basis. We need to make sure these heroes are getting the resources they need. Also important is disaster mitigation — the phrase, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure comes to mind. We go through far too many fires in this state that spread rapidly due to inadequately managed land. It would be far less expensive to start preventing fires than waiting to fight them. I co-sponsored and passed an amendment to the budget to help people do this very thing, but much more needs to be done.

Merav Ben-David (D, HD 46): The catastrophic disasters that are affecting Wyoming (floods, drought and water shortages, wildfires) are all linked to the global change in climate. To avert such future events, we need to divest (as a society and as an energy producing state) from fossil fuels. Concurrently, we should invest in renewable energy (wind, solar, geothermal) as well as pursue other sources of revenue. I will propose and support measures to diversify our economy (e.g., advances in data science, computing, artificial intelligence, biotechnology and material sciences). Also, I will propose measures to retain and attract skilled workers by creating a welcoming environment where all are treated equally irrespective of sex, sexual orientation, or race.

Chris Rothfuss (D, SD 09): Always put people first. Bring help and resources quickly to those most affected and those most in need. Rely on data, facts, sound science and expertise to guide decision making. Actively fight misinformation through communication. Avoid creating red tape and bureaucratic barriers that slow down the deployment of needed resources. Set aside differences, roll up your sleeves, and pitch in.

Diana Seabeck (R, SD 09): The state and therefore the legislature, has the responsibility to ensure the Public Health Preparedness and Response Unit, Wyoming Homeland Security and county emergency officers have the resources and personnel to continue to coordinate, plan and function for the protection of life and property in case of disasters. Each community has an approved disaster mitigation plan making it eligible to apply for federal FEMA relief. Local government is the ‘first-responder’ of emergency services and activates emergency plans as necessary. Wyoming is no stranger to natural disasters. Individuals need to consider their property’s risk and take appropriate action to minimize their risks for wildfire, floods, drought, winter storm and wind events.

DO YOU SUPPORT WYOMING’S TRIGGER LAW REGARDING ABORTION? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Ken Chestek (D, HD 13): Absolutely not. Government should not interfere in the extremely personal and wrenching decisions that a woman must make about her own health care. The Wyoming Constitution, in Article I, section 38, expressly grants to all persons the freedom to make their own health care choices, which I believes includes the decision to terminate a pregnancy. I will oppose any effort to amend the Wyoming Constitution to except reproductive health care choices from the reach of that provision of the Wyoming Constitution.

Wayne Pinch (R, HD 13): No, I believe in a woman's right to choose in the first trimester.

Trey Sherwood (D, HD 14): During the last legislative session, I voted against Wyoming's trigger law, House Bill 92, "Abortion prohibition — Supreme Court decision" and believe it should be challenged in court as it is inconsistent with our right to make our own reproductive health care decisions. Wyoming's Constitution, Article 1, Section 38 (a) and (d), Right of Healthcare Access, states, "Each competent adult shall have the right to make his or her own health care decisions" and "The state of Wyoming shall act to preserve these rights from undue governmental infringement". It is not the role of elected officials to regulate what a woman does with her body or determine when she might start a family.

Karlee Provenza (D, HD 45): No. The state of Wyoming should respect bodily autonomy and personal liberty by prohibiting any entity or person trying to obstruct one's right to an abortion. Banning abortion creates the possibility of devastating healthcare outcomes for every person with a uterus. This law will increase the number of deaths related to pregnancy, the number of children living in poverty, our gender wage gap, and will force many women out of the workforce, making them less able to live independently and without government assistance. Many young people and families have and will continue to evacuate Wyoming seeking better opportunities and freedoms in other states. This law is dangerous, unconstitutional, and does not reflect Wyoming's values in liberty.

Ocean Andrew (R, HD 46): Yes, I do support the trigger law. The law aims to penalize the predatory corporate abortion industry, which seeks to profit on dehumanizing the unborn. Despite common misconception, this bill does not penalize a person who receives an abortion. As a member of the Post-Roe generation, it's important to me that we work to protect the rights of all people born or unborn.

Merav Ben-David (D, HD 46): I strongly oppose the Wyoming abortion prohibition bill. Article 1 (sec 2) of the Wyoming constitution states "In their inherent right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, all members of the human race are equal". This guarantees the freedom of every Wyoming resident to make their own decisions about their life, family, and health. Any law that gives the government control over the life and body of individuals is unconstitutional. The Wyoming abortion prohibition law is currently challenged in court based, in part, on Article 1 (sec 38) that passed in 2012 and states "Each competent adult shall have the right to make his or her own health care decisions." I hope the challenge succeeds.

Chris Rothfuss (D, SD 09): I strongly oppose the Wyoming trigger ban on abortion. The Dobbs v Jackson reversal dealt a tremendous blow to individual rights by stripping away personal reproductive freedom. I can think of no bigger government than a government that forces pregnancy. Women are not state property. The regulation and enforcement of

reproduction should never be a power of the state. Reproduction must remain a personal choice. Rather than banning abortion, we should work together to reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies by supporting family planning, reproductive health, access to affordable healthcare, and a full range of policies and programs that empower women.

Diana Seabeck (R, SD 09): I believe that laws governing the legality and availability of abortions properly belongs to the states. The trigger bill prohibiting abortions was the definitive legislation that reflects the majority opinion of Wyoming citizens. The trigger bill does not prevent the health care of women with pregnancy complications.

Statewide Offices

Information: Candidates for these offices will appear on all Wyoming General Election ballots. Eight of the 12 candidates had not yet entered their responses to the LWV's questions on Vote411.org by September 17, when responses were downloaded for publication in the Laramie *Boomerang*.

Two candidates for statewide office, Marissa Selvig, Constitution Party for U.S House, and Kristie Racines, Republican for Auditor, did respond to LWV 2022 General Election questions — their answers to three additional questions can be found here as well as those of Chuck Gray for Secretary of State and Curt Meier for Wyoming Treasurer, whose questions were identical to those for the Primary Election since they were unopposed. The others did not respond. No Democrats filed for the offices of State Treasurer, Auditor, and Secretary of State.

The office of U.S. House of Representatives is a two-year term, all others are four-year terms. Annual salaries range from \$174,000 for the U.S. House, \$140,000 for Wyoming Governor and \$125,000 for all others. The information on qualifications below is in the candidate's own words, taken from the June 2022 Primary Election Voter Guide published by the *Boomerang*. Contact information is from the candidate roster published by the Wyoming Secretary of State's Office. Check Vote411.org for updated information that may be posted for all.

United States House of Representatives—Wyoming

Richard Brubaker, Libertarian, Riverton

Phone: 307-851-9319

Email: brumister53@yahoo.com

Lynnette GreyBull, Democrat, Fort Washakie

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Email: victory@greybullforcongress.com

Website: greybullforcongress.com

Harriet Hageman, Republican, Cheyenne

Phone: 307-209-4539

Email: hmh@hagemanforwyoming.com

Website: hagemanforwyoming.com

Marissa Selvig, Constitution, Riverton
Phone: 307-240-1296
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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/selvigforcongress>

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO YOU HAVE FOR THIS OFFICE?

Richard Brubaker (L): Did not respond.

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, liaisoning 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 work with everyone, and get it done.

Harriet Hageman I: 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 goal.

Marissa Selvig (Constitution): I meet the constitutional qualifications for this office, I am a self-employed mother of 4 and I believe the skills full-time mothering gives you, prepare you for any job you could ever have. Considering that Washington DC is full of whiny adults who act like children, I'll know just what to do. I have held elected office in the past, I am a volunteer at my church, and also am extremely hard working, faithful, diligent, honest and am an out-of-the box kind of thinker. I have a degree in Speech Communication and Theatre Arts, so I am literally trained in improvisation which I believe to be a critical skill in today's political climate. Quick, concise communication and truthfulness to combat Rep. and Dem. Unconstitutional actions is key.

DO YOU THINK THE JANUARY 6 COMMITTEE SHOULD CONTINUE ITS WORK? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Richard Brubaker (L), Lynnette GreyBull (D), and Harriet Hageman I: No responses. Check on Vote411.org to see if they have responded now.

Marissa Selvig (Constitution): I do not think they should continue their work. The Jan. 6th committee is a grand distraction from the real work congress should be doing to balance the budget and protect our borders. They are deepening the division that is destroying our nation and providing cover for the current administration's weaponization of the government against its own citizens. I would challenge your readers to consider if this

would be happening if “the shoe was on the other foot” and also consider why we are continuing to vote for Republicans and Democrats who do nothing but run on “revenge-governance.” That is no way to govern a nation.

HOW WOULD YOU WORK TO CONTROL INFLATION?

Richard Brubaker (L), Lynnette GreyBull (D), and Harriet Hageman I: No responses. Check on Vote411.org to see if they have responded now.

Marissa Selvig (Constitution): Since inflation occurs because our dollars are devalued the answers are not that complicated. Congress must STOP deficit spending and get the budget under control. We cannot continue to have the Federal Reserve create credit out of nothing as that is absolutely unacceptable and unsustainable. The citizens of this nation must realize that the government isn’t a bank and can no longer behave like one. I therefore will advocate for the abolition of the Federal Reserve Bank, as it is corrupt and unconstitutional. There have been times in our history where we have not had a central bank and we should do that again. CONGRESS has the constitutional obligation to coin money, regulate its value and fix the standard of weights and measures.

WHAT CHANGES TO FEERAL ABORTION LAWS WOULD YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE?

Richard Brubaker (L), Lynnette GreyBull (D), and Harriet Hageman I: No responses. Check on Vote411.org to see if they have responded now.

Marissa Selvig (Constitution): The constitution gives the federal government no power to control any part of our healthcare system. Whether abortion will remain legal or not is for the people to decide in their respective states. I will remind your readers that we have the natural rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; the primary being life, of which the smallest and most innocent of us are deserving.

Wyoming Governor

Jared I. Baldes, Libertarian, Riverton

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Mark Gordon, Republican, Buffalo

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Website: Mark@gordonforwyoming.com

Theresa A. Livingston, Democrat, Worland

Phone: 307-529-0869

Email: livingston4wyoming@gmail.com

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO YOU HAVE FOR THIS OFFICE?

Jared Baldes (L, Riverton): Did not respond

Mark Gordon (R, Buffalo): 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, Worland): 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.

Jared Baldes (L), Mark Gordon (R), and Theresa A. Livingston (D): These candidates did not respond to the League of Women Voters three other questions. Check on Vote411.org to see if they have responded now.

Wyoming Secretary of State

Chuck Gray, Republican, Casper

Phone: 307-251-1372

Email: chuck@chuckforwyoming.com

Website: chuckforwyoming.com

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO YOU HAVE FOR THIS OFFICE?

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.

WHAT CHANGES, IF ANY, WOULD YOU RECOMMEND IN WYOMING'S ELECTION LAWS?

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.

IN WHAT WAYS WOULD YOU IMPROVE ACCESS FOR RURAL VOTERS AS SECRETARY OF STATE?

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.

WHAT ROLE SHOULD THE SECRETARY OF STATE PLAY IN INCREASING VOTER TURNOUT IN WYOMING?

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

Wyoming Auditor

Kristi Racines: Republican; Cheyenne;

Phone: 307-851-1437

Email: VOTE@KRISTIRACINES.COM

Website: <http://kristiracines.com>

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO YOU HAVE FOR 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 took office as State Auditor four years ago, I inherited a lawsuit in regards to state

expenditures. A month after taking office, I produced and turned over 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 over 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 Treasurer

Curt Meier, Republican, Cheyenne

Phone: 307-701-2022

Email: Curt@curtmeierwyoming.com

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

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO YOU HAVE FOR THIS OFFICE?

Curt Meier (R): I've served as your State Treasurer for the past 3 ½ 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 allocation 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--on any commodity--that are too volatile for investment purposes, and we've certainly see 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.

Wyoming Superintendent of Public Instruction

Megan Degenfelder, Republican, Laramie

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Sergio A. Maldonado, Democrat, Lander

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Website: sergioforwyoming.com

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO YOU HAVE FOR 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 \$30MM 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.

Sergio A. Maldonado (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.

Megan Degenfelder (R), and Sergio A. Maldonado (D), no response to the other three questions of the League of Women Voters, check Vote 411.org to see if they have entered responses now.

Other Ballot Measures

Information: There are six other items that will be on all Albany County ballots. All are listed below with information about them, most with pro/con statements prepared by the League of Women Voters from interviews that included information from experts on the subjects. Two amendments are proposed to the Wyoming Constitution. It is important to note that for them, approval must be by a majority of all votes cast in the election, therefore a failure to vote on those amendments constitutes a "no" vote.

Judicial retention and three ballot propositions listed here are on Albany County ballots only. Simple majorities are required for their adoption.

Judicial Retention

Ballot Language: For Circuit Court Judge of the Second Judicial District, for a regular four (4) year term shall Judge Robert J. Sanford be retained in office? (Yes or No)

Information: In Wyoming, judges are appointed by the governor through a process set in state law. Following that, all Supreme Court, District Court and Circuit judges stand for "retention" rather than election. They are prohibited from campaigning for retention. The Second Judicial District includes Albany and Carbon counties. Judge Robert J. Sanford presides in the Albany County Circuit Court; he stands for retention every four years. The Wyoming Bar Association conducts polls of lawyers who have served on cases heard before judges standing for retention and publishes a summary of findings. The summary is intended to "provide feedback...and to help the public make more informed judgements in retention elections." It is posted here: <https://www.wyomingbar.org/for-the-public/judicial-branch-faqs>. Scroll down the list of 2022 JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT RESULTS to "Circuit Court Judges' Performance Assessments," then scroll to "Hon. Robert J. Sanford."

Constitutional Ballot Issue A, Equity Investments, Pro/Con Statements

Ballot language: The Wyoming Constitution allows the state to invest state funds in equities such as the stock of corporations, but does not allow the funds of counties, cities and other political subdivisions to be invested in equities. The adoption of this amendment would allow the funds of counties, cities and other political subdivisions to be invested in equities to the extent and in the manner the legislature may allow by law. Any law authorizing the investment of specified political subdivision funds in equities would require a two-thirds vote of both houses of the legislature. (For or Against)

Pro

Thanks to sound portfolio management required by law, the State of Wyoming has been able to invest in equities since 1996. To date around twenty percent of all state bills are paid with income from these investments. More rapid increases in value are likely from equities than from guaranteed interest from insured accounts. Equity investments provide a new and badly needed income stream for local governments. Equity investments can encourage local governments to develop long-term financial goals as opposed to short-term annual budget expenditures. The legislature is required to develop specific regulations on the extent and way in which local entities may invest in equities such as possible fee structures, procedures for selecting advisors, public accountability, and requirements for diversification.

Con

Equity investments are not insured--funds can be lost. Just because the State of Wyoming has benefitted from equity investments is not an automatic guarantee that local governments will. Equity markets can and have dropped suddenly and recovered slowly. The value of individual stocks that an entity holds may decline while the value of the total market rises. Local governing bodies must budget within their means while equity investment income is often unpredictable. Future legislatures can change the regulations placed on equity investments.

Constitutional Ballot Issue B, Judicial Retirement Age, Pro/Con Statements

Ballot language: Currently, the Wyoming Constitution requires Wyoming Supreme Court justices and district court judges to retire upon reaching the age of seventy (70). This amendment increases the mandatory retirement age of Supreme Court justices and district court judges from age seventy (70) to age seventy-five (75). (For or Against)

Pro

The State of Wyoming benefits from the wisdom judges have acquired with age. In general people are healthier and live longer than in previous generations. The measure allows good judges to serve longer rather than arbitrarily denying the state their service. They can retire anytime they choose prior to age 75. The Wyoming Commission on Judicial Conduct & Ethics would continue to review "conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice, or mental or physical disability that seriously interferes with judicial duties." Therefore, an incompetent judge could be removed from office even before that person was required to retire or to stand for retention. Allowing judges to serve longer saves the state from paying both retirement benefits to former judges and current salaries to newly sworn-in judges.

Con

Over time, the legal profession has increased its efforts to be more inclusive; thus, the current pool of lawyers from which judges are chosen may be more diverse and reflective of Wyoming's current population. If retirement age stays at 70, new judges will be drawn from this more diverse pool sooner. Statistics indicate adverse health and acuity issues increase with age. The risk of an incompetent judge may increase with this measure. It also slows the timeline by which ambitious and qualified attorneys advance to the bench. Younger attorneys may leave the state to seek advancement elsewhere. Shortening the likely period when retirement benefits would be paid out is no reason for this measure-- Wyoming should strive for the best jurisprudence it can get, not the cheapest. Younger judges may be more current in the practice of law.

Ballot Proposition 1: Renewal of the 1% General Purpose Excise Tax ("5th Penny Tax"). Pro/Con Statements

Ballot Language: Shall the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Albany, State of Wyoming be authorized to continue to impose a general purpose excise tax of 1% upon retail sales of tangible personal property, admissions and services made within the county, for general revenue purposes for the period of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2026? (For or Against)

Pro

This is not a new tax, it has been approved every four years since 1986. If approved again, Albany County sales tax will remain at 6%. State government collects 4%, and Albany County currently has two different 1% sales taxes: the "5th Penny Tax", and a "1% Special Purpose Excise Tax" for specific capital construction projects which has not yet reached the dollar amount voted on in 2010. When those goals are reached, that tax expires and the sales tax rate will drop back to 5%, assuming the 5th Penny tax is approved. Cities, towns and counties are allowed to collect 2% additional upon voter approval. In 2021, this "5th Penny Tax" brought \$6.6M to Laramie--18.5% of its budget; Albany County received \$1.1M--4.84% of its budget. Rock River also receives a proportional amount. This tax by law cannot be collected on food for home consumption, prescription drugs, medical devices or services.

Con

Just because we have had this tax doesn't mean that a 6% sales tax should continue forever. Dropping down to a 5% sales tax might make Albany County a more attractive place for big-ticket shoppers to come to for buying a car, for instance--nearby towns have a tax rate higher than 5%. The "5th Penny Tax" can be spent on anything in the local budget--taxpayers don't know beforehand what that will be. A special purpose tax option allows voters to know exactly what the money will be used for. All sales taxes are regressive, everyone pays the same percentage regardless of income. There are other basic needs like transportation that are not exempt from sales taxes. Albany County could look for other funding sources or cut spending. Approving the 2022 Constitutional Amendment Proposal A, for instance, which would allow local governments in Wyoming to invest in equities, might be another funding source.

Ballot Proposition 2: Making the General Purpose Excise 1% Tax (5th Penny Tax) Permanent, Pro/Con Statements

Ballot language: Shall the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Albany, State of Wyoming be authorized to impose a general purpose excise tax of 1% upon retail sales of tangible personal property, admissions and services made within the county, for general revenue purposes, establishing the term of the tax as permanent beginning January 1, 2023? (For or Against)

Pro

The 4% sales tax collected for the State of Wyoming that helps to fund Wyoming government is permanent. If the extra 1% for local governments were permanent also, it would provide a dependable income source for them, which is sorely needed. Local governments in Wyoming have been severely limited by State Statute on how they can raise funds for general operations.

There are not many options for local governments to raise funds outside of taxation for things like the bills for lighting, heating, telephone, insurance and other office expenses. These are routine overhead expenses that are not likely to come from grants. Foundations or state and federal granting agencies award money for specific items like upgrades to emergency responders equipment, but don't pay for general operations support.

Con

Circumstances may change in the future if the Wyoming Legislature provides other funding avenues for local governments. It would be tempting for a local entity to continue collecting and spending this tax money, even if it were not actually needed any more. The local governments should be able to make a good case to justify continuing a tax like this for the voters to approve every four years. Forcing them to explain why they need the money every four years is not a heavy burden, nor is it extraordinarily expensive to add this measure to a ballot when there is already going to be an election.

For more information on Propositions 1 and 2, search [5th Penny/General Purpose Tax | Laramie, WY](#) on the official website of the city of Laramie (cityoflaramie.org).

Ballot Proposition 3, Lodging Tax, Pro/Con Statements

Ballot language: "Shall the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Albany, Wyoming, continue to impose, as allowed by Wyoming Statute, a two percent (2%) excise tax upon the sales price paid for lodging services within Albany County, the primary purpose of which is for local travel and tourism promotion.

Pro

This is not a new tax, Albany County has had one since 1989. In 2020 Wyoming enacted a state lodging tax all counties collect of 5%. Of that, 3% funds the Wyoming Office of Tourism and 2% is rebated to the county in which it was collected. This measure will maintain the additional 2% currently in place (7% total). If approved, in Albany County the total lodging tax will not change, 7% is the current rate and the maximum state law will allow. Local citizens do not pay it unless they stay in lodging facilities within the county. The local 4% portion, among other items, supports the Laramie Visitor Center, the Albany County Tourism Board, and provides grants to groups organizing events that bring visitors

to Albany County (\$233,571 is the recent yearly average for these grants). The goal is to enhance visitor experiences in ways local residents want, and to increase revenue for businesses catering to tourists.

Con

Taxing tourists is not an ethical way to support local businesses and services that residents may also need and utilize. It is irritating to have such a large tax (for instance, 22% in Portland, 15% in New York and San Francisco) in destinations that Albany County residents visit--all governments should revisit the lodging tax concept and find more ethical ways to raise money. This measure is a way for the state to avoid dealing with the need to diversify its income stream now that the energy industry income is dwindling. If the Wyoming Legislature would revamp its revenue structure, taxes like this would not be necessary and the state could afford to pass through funds to counties and cities which could then decide if they want more tourism or not. More tourists mean more congestion everywhere, some residents don't want that.