

To: Wyoming LWV members  
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Re: 2023 WyoLeg Report #8  
Date: Feb 27, 2023

The Wyoming Legislature wraps up its 2023 general session this week, with many bills up against deadlines for passage in the second house or concurrence on differences. Management Council has set adjournment on March 3, leaving 3 of the 40 allowed days unused. The governor usually addresses the House and Senate as they adjourn. That might be a good one to catch.

**HB4** – the Medicaid for moms bill – came out of Senate Labor on Thursday and then out of Senate Appropriations on Friday. It must be heard in Committee of the Whole on Monday or it is dead for the session, at the discretion of Senate President Driskill and Majority Floor Leader Hicks. The testimony in Senate Labor was incredibly moving and informative, if you have a chance to listen to the recorded meeting.

**HB103** – the resurrected crossover voting bill – passed the Senate without amendments, so it goes to the governor. Party affiliation will be locked in on May 1 for primary elections, before candidate filing begins. This will drastically change how voters participate in their own representative democracy, but it's hard to know the long-term effect. It would seem to defy the LWV urging to “be informed and vote.” This has been priority #1 for Wyoming GOP leaders for about a decade, and the number of crossovers in the Hageman-Cheney congressional primary last year seemed to make interest even keener. Senate debate on Friday morning was excellent (mostly), if you have a chance to go back and listen, starting at about the 1:28 mark.

Another bill relating to ballot access is **SF131**, which restricts the general public or candidates from sending out absentee request forms as anything official. Some 2022 primary candidates sent out request forms and confused voters who had already asked for an absentee ballot. The county clerks said there was a benefit in helping voters who didn't usually vote absentee. In fact, there is no “official” form, and clerks get ballot requests in diverse ways. Some put the forms online. SOS Gray wanted only clerks and his office to send out the request forms.

**HB47** – for federal certification of voting machines – is passed and on the governor's desk, after the House agreed to a Senate change that removed discretion of the Secretary of State to question the performance of the machines and require re-certification. The machines are owned and operated by the counties, and clerks requested that the Legislature put the EAC certification in statute.

**SJ11** Convention of the States was approved in House Education 5-4 and sent to the full House, where it faces the Committee of the Whole deadline Monday. I testified against the bill, relying on the caveats adopted by LWVUW and listed in the Impact on Issues. Among other things, representatives to a constitutional convention must be elected (not appointed) and must be based on population. Proponents were horrified.

Committees continue to discuss interim work. Legislative leaders on Management Council will meet after adjournment to assign topics to committees and appropriate funds to study issues and write bills for the 2024 budget session. It's been disheartening to see the little regard newer legislators have for the previous interim work, which traditionally is given credit for being informed and thoughtfully considered.

Find our bill tracking program Quorum, supported by LWVUS, at <https://www.quorum.us/spreadsheet/external/RfeAZatgWJauorqjDnyE/>.