

2024 Budget Session of Wyoming Legislature Preview Week 1 – February 12, 2024

Welcome to the second half of the 67th Wyoming Legislature—a short and focused session on the next biennial state budget for FY25 and FY26.

The Management Council designed and approved the 4-week session (20 working days) to enforce rules and deadlines. The 2024 session focuses on the budget and emergency measures and will end on March 8. Although the schedule is officially “tentative,” please mark the dates on which bills must progress through the session to stay alive and get to the governor’s desk for final approval.

The [Legislative Service Office's](#) (LSO) home page lists the session schedules, including Senate and House floor daily calendars and committee meetings.

The LSO staff provides the public with a multitude of resources and assists legislators in writing bills and amendments. These resources include:

- All legislation and all action taken, from filing and introduction vote through final disposition
- Information about legislators
- Committees and committee meetings with online options to watch and testify remotely
- House and Senate rules
- Tips about the legislative process, attending committee meetings, and how to navigate the Capitol and meeting rooms
- Wyoming Statutes and Constitution
- Legislation from 2001 through 2023

The session opens with more than 250 bills and resolutions filed and ready to face the first hurdle of a two-thirds vote in the House or Senate to be “introduced” in a budget session. Typically, the first week is devoted to introduction votes to get bills into play, starting with committee consideration. Friday is the deadline for introductions, and the scramble starts on day 1 with getting favored bills on the list for a vote. Non-budget bills that don’t make it are dead for the session, including most bills written to make a statement, many of them sent to Wyoming by national political organizations.

Introduction time will be even scarcer this year, as leaders moved budget bill consideration to mid-week. Thursday and Friday will be an explanation of SF1 to the Senate and HB1 to the House, a good time to learn about what the Joint Appropriations Committee (JAC) has proposed spending for 2025-24. Second- and third-reading amendments will be heard in week #2. Watch for attempts to add failed legislation as budget line items or footnotes. SF1 and HB1 are “mirror bills” (duplicates) as crafted by the JAC. They will emerge from the House and Senate with some differences, which will be worked out in a final compromise form for the governor to sign and line-item veto.

Twelve bills that target ad valorem (property) taxes are the result of homeowners' pleas for relief as their taxes rose in tandem with their rising property values. The calculation of property taxes

involves multiplying the assessed value by the assessment rate and mill levies. Bills address those factors and also a more targeted relief based on need. A constitutional amendment by the Legislature in 2023 proposes the approach of creating a separate assessment rate for homes. Check bill fiscal notes for the expected hit to school funding and local governments.

Committee decisions, leader prerogatives and rules faced unusual challenges last year by legislators who viewed their numbers/solidarity as the means to work their will on the Legislature. A glance at their bills may hint at more iconoclasm this year. These parliamentary moves consume a lot of time, which can be a strategy to control what gets considered.

Bill Tracker 50 is an online tool used by LWV Wyoming for bill management and monitoring. The state board has identified three priorities for our 2024 focus: Constitutional Issues, Election and Voter Services, Government Accountability and Transparency. The [LWVWY 2024 Bill Tracker](#) includes bill information and the LWV Wyoming's position (support, oppose, monitor). The Bill Tracker can also be found on the [LWVWY home page](#).

Additionally, we will send Action Alerts to members when there are important issues that members might want to take action on.

I will write reports at the start of each legislative week with summaries of the previous week and some previews for the coming week, which will be sent directly to members and be available on our website.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

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