



2024 Primary Election Voter Guide Introduction

The League of Women Voters of Laramie (LWW), in a 54-year partnership with the Laramie Boomerang, prepared this Voter Guide for the August 20, 2024 Wyoming Primary Election.

Important Information

Albany County Clerk: Kayla White

Election Office/Absentee Poll Place: 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@albanycountywy.gov

Website: Elections | Albany County, WY (albanycountywy.gov)

How to Vote

Early voting began July 23. In person absentee voting is available at the Elections Office, (building located in the east side parking lot) open Monday - Friday 9 am – 5 pm through August 19. Polls are open on election day, August 20, from 7 am to 7 pm. If you plan to vote on election Day and are uncertain where your polling place is located contact the Elections Office. You may register at any time up to August 19 by presenting a valid ID at the county courthouse. If you register after August 5, you will be required to cast a ballot at the same time. If you voted in the 2022 General Election, you are registered. You can update your registration information with the Elections Office if your address changed. Voters can also register with their ID at the polling place on Primary 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. You will receive a ballot that reflects your party registration. You can view sample ballots at the Albany County Clerk's election website. 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. If you voted absentee in the 2022 Election, that does not mean that you will automatically receive an absentee ballot for the 2024 Primary Election. You needed to request that a ballot be sent for each election, either by phone, email, in-person, through the Albany County Elections website or by mail. No copy of your ID is required when mailing back an absentee ballot, the ID requirement is only for early voting in person, picking up an absentee ballot and voting in person at the polls on Primary Election Day.

The Offices

The LWV surveyed all candidates for contact information and responses to identical questions within each of the races for federal, state, county, and city elected offices. Most races are partisan, with Republican and Democratic party members having separate ballots to choose their candidates for the November General Election ballot. Your ballot contains only the names of candidates of the party you are registered with, plus non-partisan office candidates (Laramie City Council—if you reside within the Laramie City limits). No candidates for U.S. President and Vice President had been certified by their political parties prior to publication of this Voter Guide, therefore that office will not appear on any Wyoming Primary Election ballots.

The Questions

Four or five questions for each race were formulated by the League of Women Voters, with input from the public. They were emailed to the candidates on June 4, 2024 to addresses given when the candidate filed for office. The deadline for responses was July 6, 2024. Candidates whose responses had not come close to the deadline received follow-up emails, letters and phone calls or messages.

The Responses

The candidates' statements are exactly as submitted to the League's nationwide website, Vote 411.org. Each candidate received a unique passcode allowing response entry. Grammar was not corrected. If responses to a given question had several paragraphs, they were combined into one, as spaces between paragraphs use up "characters" for the 750-character limit set by the League. Candidates were asked to provide a photo of themselves specifically for the print edition, and most did. Residence address is listed, taken from Vote 411 or from the "Candidate Roster" provided by offices of the Wyoming Secretary of State and the Albany County Clerk. Anyone may use that website for race and candidate information specific to the ballot that you will receive—candidates on your ballot depend on the City Ward and state House and Senate District in which you live.

For races that have wards or districts, those running for the same office are grouped together and the groups are in ascending numerical order with candidates listed within their group in alphabetical order by their last names.

Response Rate

All but three of the 37 candidates in the City of Laramie, Albany County and two Statewide races participated in the LWV survey for this Voter Guide. All voters in Wyoming will have the two statewide races listed on their primary ballots (based on their party registration). If they are registered Republicans, they will see the three candidates competing for the U.S. Senate seat and two candidates vying for U.S. House of Representatives. Democrats will see one candidate listed for each office. Candidates who did not respond are shown in the candidate list for their race and their name is not listed in the question responses.

Other Information

This Voter Guide information is available online at [Vote 411.org](http://Vote411.org). Other non-partisan voter guides and resources can be found online, for example, the LWV and the Albany County Public Library have sponsored Primary Candidate forums, and videos of the forums can be viewed on the library website, acplwy.org or the LWV Wyoming website, wyominglww.org. A search for a candidate's name (plus Wyoming) may produce other media with information.

Thanks to the Candidates

The filing fee for candidates ranges from \$25 for City Council to over \$500 for the U.S. House and Senate. Candidates give up some privacy by making it possible for constituents to get in touch with them. They are inundated with paperwork; some elected positions require much travel. Compensation is often not what a candidate could have earned in private practice or businesses. Yet, 37 people have decided to seek your vote. Here you will learn their positions on some issues, and information is given for you to contact them about the things you advocate. This is democracy in action; it could not happen without willing candidates.

About the League of Women Voters

The LWV is a non-partisan political organization whose mission is to empower voters and defend democracy. The League does not support candidates or political parties. It is organized and is active with government at national, state, and 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 all U.S. 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

Information: The nine council members are elected three each from three wards on a non-partisan ballot. They serve four-year terms with no term limits; expiration years are staggered. Beginning January 1, 2025 (through Enrolled Ordinance No. 1844) the council compensation rate will change from \$120 to \$150 each day for regular meetings, special meetings, or work sessions, with the Mayor receiving \$300. Council members are also eligible for elective programs and reimbursement of expenses as available to employees of the city. They are not allocated office space. The top four candidates (top two where there

is one seat available) in each ward will advance to the General Election on November 5. Voters will select 2 for two vacancies in Ward 1 and top 2 in the General Election will join sitting council member Micah Richardson in representing Ward 1. Voters will select 2 for two vacancies in Ward 2 and the top 2 in the General Election will join sitting council member Brandon Newman in representing Ward 2. Voters will select 1 for one vacancy in Ward 3 and the winner in the General Election will join sitting council members Erin O'Doherty and Joe Shumway in representing Ward 3.

Candidates:

William Bowling (Ward 1 Non-Partisan)

Campaign Phone: 307-314-2205

Campaign Website: www.bowlingforcouncil.com

Campaign Instagram URL: www.instagram.com/bowlingforcouncil/

Campaign Facebook URL: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61561323248028

Sharon Cumbie (Ward 1 Non-Partisan)

Campaign Mailing Address: 1422 East Park Ave Laramie WY 82070

Campaign Phone: 307-760-0382

Campaign Email: cumbiefor2024@gmail.com

Roxie Hensley (Ward 1 Non-Partisan)

Campaign Mailing Address: PO Box 1250 Laramie WY 82073

Campaign Phone: 307-399-1651

Campaign Email: roxiehensley@gmail.com

Norbert Kriebel (Ward 1 Non-Partisan)

Campaign Mailing Address: 28 Corthell Road Laramie WY 82070

Campaign Phone: 307-343-6792

Campaign Email: kriebelnb@gmail.com

Campaign Facebook URL: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61560521579309

Paul Montoya (Ward 1 Non-Partisan)

Campaign Mailing Address: 1974 Truman St Laramie WY 82070

Campaign Phone: 307-421-5188

Campaign Website: paulmontoya.com

Campaign Twitter Handle: PaulForLaramie

Campaign Instagram URL: www.instagram.com/paulmontoyaforcouncil/

Campaign Facebook URL: www.facebook.com/paulmontoyacitycouncil/

Campaign YouTube URL: [@PaulMontoyaforCityCouncil-el2id](https://www.youtube.com/@PaulMontoyaforCityCouncil-el2id)

Other Social Media: www.linkedin.com/in/paulmontoya/

Jim Fried (Ward 2 Non-Partisan)

Campaign Mailing Address: 664 N 8th St Laramie WY 82072

Campaign Phone: 314-974-5537

Campaign Email: friedforlaramie@gmail.com

Campaign Website: Friedforlaramie.com

Campaign Facebook URL: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61561628956509

Brett Glass (Ward 2 Non-Partisan)

Campaign Mailing Address: PO Box 1693 Laramie WY 82073

Campaign Phone: 307-745-0351

Campaign Email: citycouncil@brettglass.com

Campaign Website: voteglass.org

Campaign Twitter Handle: [glass4laramie](https://twitter.com/glass4laramie)

Brett Kahler (Ward 2 Non-Partisan)

Campaign Mailing Address: 672 N 6th St Laramie WY 82072

Campaign Phone: 307-259-5165

Campaign Email: bdkahler1@gmail.com

Campaign Website: brettkahlerlaramie.com

Jayne Pearce (Ward 2 Non-Partisan)

Campaign Mailing Address: 1221 East Baker St Laramie WY 82072

Campaign Phone: 307-703-0313

Campaign Email: pearce.jayne@gmail.com

Campaign Website: jaynepearce4citycouncil.com/org

Campaign Instagram URL: jaynepearce4citycouncil@gmail.com

Campaign Facebook URL: jaynepearce4citycouncil@gmail.com

Andrea "Andi" Summerville (Ward 2 Non-Partisan)

Campaign Phone: 307-399-0963

Campaign Email: andi.summerville@gmail.com

Melanie Vigil (Ward 2 Non-Partisan)

Campaign Mailing Address: 1966 Polk St Laramie WY 82070

Campaign Website: vigilforcouncil.com

Campaign Email: melanie.vigil17@gmail.com

Campaign Instagram URL: www.instagram.com/vigilforcouncil/

Campaign Facebook URL: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61561257851382

Matt Lockhart (Ward 3 Non-Partisan)

Campaign Mailing Address: 4131 Shoshone Dr Laramie WY 82072

Campaign Phone: 307-761-2254

Campaign Email: mattlockhart63@gmail.com

Campaign Instagram URL: [instagram.com/mattlockhart2024](https://www.instagram.com/mattlockhart2024)

Campaign Facebook URL: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61560292438560

Shelley Hopkins Peterson (Ward 3 Non-Partisan)

Campaign Mailing Address: 409 S 4th Street c/o Shelley Peterson Laramie WY 82070

Campaign Phone: 307-760-2435

Campaign Email: shelley@laramiehomes.com

Campaign Website: www.laramiehomes.com

Bryan Shuster (Ward 3 Non-Partisan)

Campaign Mailing Address: 1981 North 16 St Laramie WY 82072

Campaign Email: bdshustwyo@yahoo.com

Campaign Phone: 307-761-0855

Q: What experience and interests do you have that prepare you for this office?**William Bowling (Ward 1)**

A: I believe that a vibrant and exciting place like Laramie benefits from cultural opportunities and access., Working with local businesses to create engaging and well paying jobs results in retaining a younger workforce and improving the quality of life for all Laramie residents. For example, in 2022, I launched a nationally-funded arts program called Play/Write program in partnership with ACS D1, that teaches creative writing and theater skills in Albany County Elementary schools. The program created several cultural sector jobs and employs several teaching artists. I am dedicated to finding additional creative ways to improve quality of life, and protect and strengthen basic social services.

Sharon Cumbie (Ward 1)

A: My background is in health care, and I initially decided to run for City Council because I care about people and my community. I've learned skills in communication, organization, community engagement, and problem solving from my work and from volunteering. I've applied these skills during my first term in office, particularly with sustained efforts to bring mental health training into community policing. I've also advocated and voted for aquifer protection, recycling and sustainability projects, and renter safety. I am committed to meaningful public participation in government decision making. I believe honesty, accountability, respect, and kindness should govern our actions as elected officials and as citizens of a democracy.

Roxie Hensley (Ward 1):

A: My background is in small business. I have owned small businesses for the last 30 years. I have a degree in business and law from UW. I understand how to prepare/manage budgets, set priorities, make tough fiscal decisions, and provide good customer service. My legal work in private practice and with the State of Wyoming has prepared me to ensure quality of services are delivered through the thorough drafting of procedures, policies, and local ordinances. In addition to these technical skills, I have a vision. As a Wyoming native and resident of Laramie for 22 years, I am committed to the success of this state and this city by creating a business-friendly environment that will provide opportunities for our children.

Norbert Kriebel (Ward 1):

A: My career solving complicated process, structure and revenue problems for global organizations and government agencies as an Analyst (primary research), Consultant (hands-on practical experience) and Advisor (sharing success). This includes ten years living overseas so that I could more quickly access my client base spanning from Singapore to San Francisco. Since moving to Laramie in 2017 I have volunteered at Hospice of Laramie, The Laramie Police Department Foundation, am a recent member of the Downtown Development Authority, attended countless City Council meetings and purposefully donate money and/or time to local charity organizations. In my free time, I am an avid gardener, beekeeper, woodworker, foodie, dog owner and target shooter.

Paul Montoya (Ward 1):

A: I have attended most Laramie City Council meetings for the last year and a half. Through this attendance I have learned what I could bring to the city of Laramie as a City Council member. My wife Lynn and I have run more than 6 different businesses over our lifetime. My primary background has been in Radio Broadcasting. We moved to Wyoming about 30 years ago to own and operate two radio stations in Cheyenne. We ran those stations for about 11 years before selling them. During that time, I was President of the Cheyenne Depot Board, President of the Laramie County Library Foundation Board and a board member at the Red Cross. After selling the radio stations we moved to the Laramie area to build and run a bed and breakfast near Laramie.

Jim Fried (Ward 2):

A: My career has been focused on localized national service with AmeriCorps and grassroots conservation organizations. During this time I helped create the Wyoming Veterans Trail Crew, and the All Women's Crew. I have built trails, repaired fence line, removed hazard trees, and supervised crews on public lands in the Laramie community. I enjoy serving my community and working with passionate people dedicated to the wellbeing of others. The professional responsibilities have taught me to problem solve and work with a variety of stakeholders to find the best possible solution. One of my strengths is communication. As an extrovert, I really enjoy speaking and listening to people.

Brett Glass (Ward 2):

A: I am an electrical engineer and physicist and owner of two Laramie businesses (including the world's first wireless ISP). I am also an author, singer/songwriter, Extra Class ham radio operator, lover of good coffee and chocolate, and advocate of ethical, transparent, fair, efficient, responsive government. I co-founded the Laramie Film Society. I've served on Laramie's Zoning Board of Adjustment and Traffic Safety Commission and the Wyoming Telecom Council. As a businessperson and engineer, I have a head for numbers and an intuitive sense for when they don't add up. I've lived in Laramie continuously for 32 years and have a deep understanding of its history, economy, and character. For more detail, see my Web page at <http://voteglass.org>

Brett Kahler (Ward 2):

A: I've enjoyed participating in civic engagement since high school, where I first learned the value of speaking up and being an engaged member of a community. While at UW, I was president of the Student Government, where I learned how to gather input to make good decisions on behalf of a large community. Since 2010, I have worked with the American Legion Wyoming Boys' State program, and have taught 500+ high school juniors how civic engagement can work in a practical way. I am currently on the City of Laramie's Parks, Tree, & Recreation Advisory Board and the Laramie Plains Civic Center Board. My interest in serving on city council is to make Laramie stronger, which I believe will lead to it being an even better place to live and work.

Jayne Pearce (Ward 2):

A: I have been a dedicated member of the Laramie City Council, representing Ward 2 for over 11 years. During my tenure, I served three two-year terms as Vice-Mayor. Part of my city council responsibilities include serving on various boards and commissions. I'm currently serving on the Ranch Advisory Commission, Laramie Urban Renew Agency, Urban Systems Advisory Committee, and the Rifle Range. Known for my collaborative approach and extensive experience, I hold a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Wyoming, which I earned in 2008. Beyond my council duties, I devoted over two decades to the University of Wyoming mostly assisting remote learners through the Online & Continuing Education division.

Andrea "Andi" Summerville (Ward 2):

A: My passion has always been to help others, whether it is a neighbor, friend or community members. I have served almost ten years on the Laramie City Council and currently work during the daytime to help make sure Wyoming residents have access to mental health resources across the state. Prior to joining the Laramie City Council and starting our family, I served more than a decade as a Special Agent/Investigator. While I am proud of all of that, I think one of the most important things I have done is spent an enormous amount of time listening to our community members and businesses and learning about the issue they face. There is no substitute for learning first hand what your fellow community members struggle with and value.

Melanie Vigil (Ward 2):

A: As a third generation Laramie resident, I am passionate about our community and have followed in my family's footsteps by choosing to build my life here. I hold a Master's degree in Public Administration from UW and have spent most of my career working in higher education. I have served on multiple boards both in Laramie and statewide, and have volunteered for many community programs and non-profits. I value building bridges with one another. One of my main goals is to keep young people here and to help grow our community responsibly. I believe we accomplish this through supporting local businesses that help retain a strong workforce, and continue to prioritize health and safety with housing and water protections.

Matt Lockhart (Ward 3):

A: I've been a resident of Laramie for over 30 years, & a UW Graduate. I worked in the automobile business at local dealerships for 25 years & now own the Human Bean. I've made countless friendships & relationships throughout all those years & have come close to many people in our community. Through all this, I've acquired years of experience with employee management, sales, budgeting, & most of all—helping people. In both industries it is simple—find a need & fill it. The key to success with anything is listening & communication. We need to listen to our #1 resource—our community. We need to encourage feedback & input from them, & they need to be aware of everything we're discussing in relation to city policy & regulations and growth.

Shelley Hopkins Peterson (Ward 3):

A: I currently own two businesses in Laramie. I have resided here and have practiced real estate for 12 years. I feel I possess a good grasp on the needs of the residents of Laramie. I am in touch with a wide range of residents on many spectrums. I feel the people of Laramie need to be heard.

Bryan Shuster (Ward 3):

A: I have served four terms on City Council, eight biannual budgets, and served on over 20 committees. I have gone to school here, and worked in the family business. I am married and raised three children that went to school here in Laramie. Currently I am a teacher at Wyotech. My finest things that I am proud of is the paving of a one block portion of approximately 20 streets off Snowy Range that I lead on City Council budgets, and the work I have contributed on bike trails. With the help of other counselors, we are filling the empty Kmart building

Q: Given the recent and proposed property tax legislation, how would you prioritize spending needs with a shrinking budget?

William Bowling (Ward 1):

A: To begin with, it would be my intention for the budget not to shrink. I have never heard anyone say they would like their trash picked up only twice a month, or propose reducing the number of city police officers. Shrinking the city budget could mean municipal offices have shorter hours, making city services harder to access. The small percentage of city budget that goes to public/private partnerships, Laramie Interfaith or Downtown Clinic for example, allow these non-municipal organizations to work more efficiently and creatively in providing crucial services to our community. I would continue to find opportunities to support similar partnerships. Any tax reductions should be targeted to those who need them.

Sharon Cumbie (Ward 1):

A: I attend many community meetings, and I frequently hear sentences that start with “We need” We need more snowplowing, we need our water mains and streets repaired, we need not to have basements flooded after a thunderstorm. I have to put top priority on public safety and maintenance/improvement of infrastructure, because these are the foundation of our economic development efforts, and a thriving local economy generates more revenue and sustains our quality of life. Protection of our drinking water supply from the Casper Aquifer is a must. We must also continue city-county cooperation to achieve any possible cost savings in shared services and sustainability efforts such as solarizing government buildings.

Roxie Hensley (Ward 1):

A: The primary role for government is to provide for the health and safety of its citizens. Basic Services should always be the priority. I would elicit the support of all department heads to identify any cost saving methods and inefficiencies. Similar with what Al Gore was successfully charged to do during the Clinton administration. The goal would be to make government work better and cost less.

Norbert Kriebel (Ward 1):

A: Laramie is in a silent crisis – decreasing population, decreasing average household income, stagnant job market and skyrocketing housing costs. You may not know the exact numbers, but you definitely feel it in your pocketbook and dwindling local options. In short, we need to reevaluate the strategy execution that is no longer functioning under existing economic conditions. Priority should be given towards: core municipal infrastructure, schools, business growth & innovation, housing options and culture, recreation and tourism growth. Priority should be diverted away from: frivolous litigation, budget waste, unmeasured spending, supporting regulatory inefficiencies and legacy staffing models. The Thrive Laramie Plan is an excellent base.

Paul Montoya (Ward 1):

A: From the perspective of the City of Laramie, we would need to grow revenue from sources other than property tax mill levy. This should come in the form of encouraging economic growth not only in encouraging business development but in encouraging tourism dollars. We need to better optimize spending in Laramie to three main priorities. Public safety, streets and roads and water and sewer. These are the fundamental concerns of any city. While difficult decisions will need to be made concerning the airport, city parks and the recreation center in the short term, we need to focus on primary needs first. By encouraging alternative revenue sources and focusing our expenses, we can grow Laramie to be less dependent on property taxes.

Jim Fried (Ward 2):

A: Property taxes fund essential functions in our community, like law enforcement, schools, hospitals, fire protection, roads and sidewalks, and a host of other essential services. It's important to remember that cuts in services will hurt the same people that property tax reductions are intended to help. Preliminary estimates indicate a loss of over \$300,000 for the City of Laramie from cuts already enacted. I favor targeted property tax policies that accommodate fixed income homeowners while still generating revenue for services.

Brett Glass (Ward 2):

A: As Laramie grows and state funding is cut, Laramie's city government will need to "stick to its knitting," focusing on core functions and essential public services. It must not incur extra or frivolous expenses, take on responsibilities that can be handled by state government, or otherwise bite off more than it can chew. It needs to make purchases wisely, rather than attempting to exploit loopholes to enter into no-bid contracts, and concentrate on the preservation of public health, safety, and welfare. And even if the Legislature allows it, Laramie must avoid increasing local sales taxes, which drive away business and fall most heavily upon those who can ill afford to pay more.

Brett Kahler (Ward 2):

A: If the proposed legislation were to pass in its current form, our community would have to make sacrifices on which essential services its able to provide. I believe that the University of Wyoming provides great benefit to Laramie, but as a large tax-exempt landowner, our community already feels the absence of those funds. We have grown accustomed to working with less, but our community hasn't benefited from that approach. The city council would need to determine which services are truly critical, and ensure that those are maintained while balancing the ability to keep other services that our community benefits from. Diminishing funding for already underfunded public services is not the direction that Laramie, or Wyoming, needs to take.

Jayne Pearce (Ward 2):

A: I'm very supportive of the recent property tax relief provided by the state especially for veterans and those over 65 who have paid property tax for 25 years or more. In most cases (not all) when the state provides a benefit for citizens or a reduction to the municipal budget, it also provides an increase perhaps via direct distribution funds so the municipality can remain revenue neutral. At least this is the hope. At this point, the total fiscal impact and if the state will backfill funds is unknown. Based on materials provided and discussions with the county assessor's office and city staff it is too early to know the exact reduction. Spending Priority One-Essential services (fire, police....); Spending Priority Two-Infrastructure.

Andrea "Andi" Summerville (Ward 2):

A: As a homeowner and as a daughter of elderly parents on a fixed income, I fully understand why the legislature needed to address property tax. It is scary to think of individuals not being able to continue living in their homes due to escalating property tax bills. Laramie has always been one of the poorest counties in Wyoming and unfortunately the reduced revenues would have an impact. My priorities would be maintaining police/fire and streets as well as our existing parks and recreation facilities and then strategic investment in economic development and housing. (Thankfully utilities like water and trash would not be affected.) Laramie's best future lies in continued growth, increasing retail opportunities and a stable housing market.

Melanie Vigil (Ward 2):

A: Having to do more with less is not a unique Laramie problem, but one that we see across the state. Our city is staffed by hardworking community members who would be harmed by shrinking operating budgets, and it would be my priority to help find ways to avoid cutting the services we all enjoy and depend upon. Though it's a small percentage of our city budget, I believe our public-private partnerships are critical to the community's success. Sharing a meal at the Laramie Soup Kitchen or renting a wheelchair from the Eppson Center are great examples of how our community organizations provide essential services to Laramie residents, and I would work to expand the city's partnerships with those working hard to do right by our neighbors.

Matt Lockhart (Ward 3):

A: As with any budget, there needs to be concessions made to make sure one stays within a budget. As a business owner I've dealt with inflation & the rising cost of goods over the last 3 years. In order to 'stay in the black' we've had to make concessions with a shrinking budget. It seems that often times the City is spending far too much of money on different research programs and studies about what Laramie needs. I believe we first & foremost listen to our own community to identify what they want & need. Their feedback is the most important. Take a look around! Increasing property taxes isn't the answer. We have lost ground in population growth & income in Laramie. We are now 5th and 6th, when we used to be at the top in the state.

Shelley Hopkins Peterson (Ward 3):

A: Currently there is an exorbitant amount of wasteful spending in our community. The spending needs to be carefully analyzed, consolidated and revised. If we as community would roll back some of the over regulation, we could attract more business to our community which in turn would bring more tax base and employment opportunities as well.

Bryan Shuster (Ward 3):

A: With Wyoming being an energy State, we have ridden the roller coaster of ups and downs. I hope with opening more Laramie retail businesses and receiving a portion of the sales tax that will help some with the budgeting issues. The City Manager will have to look at the budgets and make a lot of the decisions.

Q: 54% of Laramie residents are renters. What is your view of the state legislature's plan to review and potentially nullify recent rental ordinances?

William Bowling (Ward 1):

A: I am a renter. I've always been a renter. And the reality of my generation is that I will have a much harder time buying a house than those of my parents' generation. Many Laramie residents will be lifetime renters. The rental ordinance is about basic public safety and common sense. Renters should have basic amenities and safe living conditions, and a mechanism to address issues that may arise. I would work to codify and strengthen the rental ordinance, and look for ways to add dedicated city staff to work on compliance. Our rental ordinance is a crucial public safety measure, and needs to be improved, not repealed.

Sharon Cumbie (Ward 1):

A: Although theoretically Wyoming state law prohibits landlords from renting property unless it meets some health and safety requirements, this is a distant (and expensive) "protection" for renters in any Wyoming community. Worse, there's nothing in the state law to prevent a landlord from retaliating against a tenant who might actually muster the money and legal know-how to complain. Laramie's renter safety ordinance provides a local process for resolving problems. It also requires rental units to meet very basic health and safety requirements, particularly in regard to fire safety and personal security (e.g., external door locks). I strongly supported this ordinance and will resist any attempt to repeal it.

Roxie Hensley (Ward 1):

A: This could be a constitutional issue. Does the city have the authority to enforce an ordinance that may be in conflict with state law? It is really dangerous for government to get in the business of interfering with contracts between two willing parties. These ordinances seem to have had that effect. Though the local ordinances are well intended the implementation of such could or likely has resulted in an even greater housing shortage.

Norbert Kriebel (Ward 1):

A: I am a local landlord and my tenants are my #1 priority. Each one has my private number and knows exactly where I live and how to reach me directly. That said, the current rental program is a disservice to renters and landlords alike. Renters are a vulnerable community. Vulnerability is solved through awareness, not inefficient bureaucratic interventions. The problem started when City Council applied a flawed solution to a situation they have a poor understanding of. The real answer is in creating more market competition and increasing tenant options. This topic is more complicated than the response character limit allows, so I have posted a deeper discussion of this on my Facebook candidate page, Norbert Kriebel for City Council, Ward 1.

Paul Montoya (Ward 1):

A: If the State of Wyoming wants to be the entity creating statutes for renter protection (rather than cities or counties), then as a city council member, it will be important to work with our legislature to have proper protections put in place for both renters and landlords in Wyoming. Renters deserve a safe and satisfactory place to live. Landlords need to provide a place that is suitable enough, that even they would be willing to live in. At the same time Laramie needs to encourage construction of good affordable rental housing. The city has the ability to encourage this construction and could serve the long-term outlook for renters. By increasing the number of units available we could lower rental rates and drive "slum lords" out.

Jim Fried (Ward 2):

A: I am appalled that the legislature would even consider second-guessing or overriding the actions of local elected governments working to meet the needs of their communities. Wyoming's current laws and policies favor landlords, but over half of Laramie's residents are renters. Laramie's rental ordinance is solidly grounded on ensuring that renters have a functional and secure place to live, with electricity, heat, and exterior locking doors - and most importantly, fire detection and a usable path to escape for both residents and firefighters.

Brett Glass (Ward 2):

A: Laramie's current ordinance isn't working. More than 50% of rentals are not registered. Landlords have taken properties off the market rather than deal with city bureaucracy, worsening our housing crunch. Tenants' situations have not improved. City fees have drained more than \$158,000 from renters' pockets. Wyoming cities have only criminal courts, so they cannot deal with evictions or rental contract disputes, which are civil matters. State law already explicitly requires rentals to be safe. The Legislature has proposed to delegate rental matters to counties, which can provide "one stop shopping." Experienced no-nonsense judges can serve renters everywhere, not just within cities. This would be a better and fairer solution for everyone.

Brett Kahler (Ward 2):

A: I don't believe that the state legislature should have direct involvement in determining the needs of Laramie's landlords or tenants. The issues that are decided locally should continue to be decided locally, and we should not be turning to the legislature to craft these types of policies as each community in Wyoming has different and unique needs. I am in support of recent rental ordinances that strive to provide livable housing situations for Laramie's renters. If there were unfavorable outcomes that unexpectedly resulted from the ordinances, they could warrant further discussion and potential amendments.

Jayne Pearce (Ward 2):

A: It is unfortunate. Recall, the topic did not make it out of committee the last time it was discussed, hopefully this will occur again. Currently, Corporations, Elections, & Political Subdivisions has opted to revisit. Their next meeting is scheduled for 7/30-31/24 in Evanston. I hope to attend and speak in support. ASUW (Associated Students of UW) was our strongest supporter of the ordinance and hopefully will be again. The ordinance is about basic health and safety standards and is complaint driven. Importantly, the Laramie ordinance was legally challenged and stands amended with few changes.

Andrea "Andi" Summerville (Ward 2):

A: Each city or town is unique in it's needs, and Laramie is no exception. Having safe habitable rentals is not just a community need, but a state need as well. The downside of addressing the issue in state law is that it becomes difficult to write a one size fits all law to address a situation like housing- hence the reason for individual city/town government. The Laramie City Council took a long time to pass a rental ordinance, about seven years, and the Council should continue to review it- ensuring that it is effective and make changes as necessary. The government closest to the people should be the most reflective of the community and the most flexible, not everything requires a state solution.

Melanie Vigil (Ward 2):

A: I've spent the majority of my career working with college-aged renters and have been a renter myself for my entire life. Our current rental ordinance is a win for public safety. Ensuring that renters have access to a smoke detector and heating during our harsh winters means that our neighbors can come home to a safe living environment. It is critical to continue to provide common sense protections for renters in Laramie and I support the city for taking measures to protect the folks who live here. State law provides minimal protections for renters, who have to follow an expensive and complicated process to get help. Because of this, I would work to codify our city ordinance and develop solutions to ensure we are in compliance.

Matt Lockhart (Ward 3):

A: While the rental ordinance gives tenant rights ordinances, what about landlord rights? I agree 'slum lords' have no place in our community, & we need to ensure proper housing that's safe for renters. In this regard, making it more affordable to build multi-family homes will ensure that & nicer options to rent, forcing the 'slum lord' apartments & houses out of the market. But we also need to protect our landlords from tenants that don't abide by the tenant rental agreements, leaving rentals damaged. I believe we need to either review & modify our current rental ordinance to not only protect tenants but also landlords, or totally nullify it according to the state legislature's plan. Both sides of the coin need to be addressed.

Shelley Hopkins Peterson (Ward 3):

A: From a real estate perspective, I feel the rental ordinances are flawed. I am concerned in regard to how this has ultimately harmed the consumer (renters). In conjunction with real estate taxes being raised along with landlord fees being imposed, essentially these costs have been passed on to the consumer.

Bryan Shuster (Ward 3):

A: There is still time to salvage some of the important parts of the ordinance. We can negotiate with the legislature, and still hopefully help write some of their laws over in Cheyenne.

Q: Which additional ordinances do you think the city needs, or which ordinances do you think should be repealed?

William Bowling (Ward 1):

A: I will reiterate, the 2023 Rental Ordinance is a crucial public safety measure, and common sense policy. It needs to be strengthened, not repealed. Housing is a human right, and reasonable access to safe and affordable rental housing is something Laramie needs to continue to strive for. City Council is already doing good work on exploring a number of options and solutions to meet increased housing needs, and I will strive to continue that work in conversation with community stakeholders. The Aquifer Protection plan has been adopted, but additional ordinances and zoning requirements may need to be explored moving forward.

Sharon Cumbie (Ward 1):

A: Municipal ordinances play a crucial role in shaping local communities. They provide value by: regulating land use; promoting safety and health; maintaining environmental protection; and promoting economic development. I will continue to work to improve the renter safety ordinance to make it fair and enforceable for both tenants and landlords. I support the unified City-County Aquifer Protection Plan and will work to establish any City ordinances necessary to fully implement the updated plan. I would be open to new ideas about how the City can promote more affordable housing. It's not always about passing ordinances; the City can act as a catalyst, bringing different constituencies together to address community needs.

Roxie Hensley (Ward 1):

A: I will not be coming into office with an ax to grind or with any particular agenda. I believe especially during and since COVID the council has been somewhat isolated from their constituents and have been pursuing their own agenda without much transparency or public input. My goal is to represent the voters by purposely organizing townhall style meetings where I can visit with them and bring THEIR agenda to the council. This is what representative government is all about. However, there is one issue that has been front and center that to date no one has successfully tackled. We have got to find a way to provide more social opportunities for the entire University student body so that they are not separated by their age demographics

Norbert Kriebel (Ward 1):

A: We (the City) need to increase the number of self-imposed regulations and decrease the number of externally imposed regulations. We should add regulations around easurement and accountability, performance reporting, citizen engagement, etc. for the City itself. We should remove regulations on business and development that are barriers to city growth and citizen success. What is the number-one way that inefficiencies in municipal government impact the economic conditions of citizens: Higher Taxes and Fees. Inefficiencies often lead to higher costs for providing services or maintaining infrastructure. To cover these costs, municipalities may raise property taxes, utility fees, or introduce new levies, directly impacting citizens' finances.

Paul Montoya (Ward 1):

A: As our city begins to age, (Thrive Laramie predicts 6485 people over 65 in Laramie by 2030), we need to consider ordinances that keep our seniors and physically impaired populations safe. This would include ordinances encouraging safe streets and sidewalks. As far as ordinances that would need to be repealed, we need to consider affordable housing growth and commercial building growth and rehabilitation. This would have to do with ordinances in the Unified Building Code (UBC). Whereas the UBC is essential to a safe city, we need to work with city planners, contractors, developers and architects to determine what parts of our existing code inhibit affordable housing growth and commercial building rehabilitation in Laramie.

Jim Fried (Ward 2):

A: I think the current City Council has been cautious in enacting additional ordinances. I would continue this approach, needing to be convinced of a need that could be met only by city government action, before voting for additional ordinances. That being said, I think we should review the city's aquifer protection ordinance to make sure it follows the updated Casper Aquifer Protection Plan - a clean drinking water supply is essential for community health. I would also be willing to consider strengthening the enforcement provisions of the rental ordinance. As of yet, I don't know of ordinances that should be repealed.

Brett Glass (Ward 2):

A: Council recently passed an ordinance allowing building permits to be "pulled" only by city-licensed contractors. As a result, maintenance has become extremely expensive with long delays. New construction has slowed and rents have increased. This ordinance should be repealed. The UDC should be simplified. New ordinances should be passed providing permit parking for downtown residents; creating loading zones downtown; aiding sidewalk, curb and gutter repair adjacent to all properties (not just owner-occupied homes); requiring city contracts for services to go out for bid; preventing dumping; reducing restrictions on signage; and paving the way for a transition to a "big league" form of city government with a full time elected mayor.

Brett Kahler (Ward 2):

A: I am not entering the race for city council with the sole goal of implementing new ordinances or repealing existing ones. Instead, we need to take a critical look at how we can improve current ordinances. As with rental ordinances, I want to revisit existing ordinances to make them stronger, which could mean additions or subtractions. I want to take advantage of what Laramie already has in place, and utilize that work as a starting point to enhance economic growth, housing opportunities, and more. Additionally, I know communities are made stronger through input from their residents. I seek to learn from residents of Ward 2 about what they believe would enhance Laramie, and will work to bring those ideas forward for public discussion.

Jayne Pearce (Ward 2):

A: Housing. Some changes recently approved can be achieved by ordinance and some require different steps. Recent housing development changes include multi/single family zoning (set backs, lot width, lot size), additional dwelling units, downtown commercial zone (parking and building height), and the establishment of the urban renewal authority. These proactive changes have already sparked development. City Council should continue to discuss and amend infrastructure, zoning, parking and fee requirements. Importantly, an ordinance needs to be approved three times and a public hearing must be held. The quickest an ordinance can be passed is six weeks. Public comments at each reading/hearing are accepted and encouraged.

Andrea “Andi” Summerville (Ward 2):

A: Writing and repealing ordinances should always be an on-going process, responsive to community need. It is prudent for the Council to address any outdated ordinances as soon as they come up, but the Council should be slow to create new ordinances. It is not always necessary to create a new ordinance to address a problem- often there are other solutions.

Melanie Vigil (Ward 2):

A: Parking is a hot topic in our community currently. My goal would be to help the city and our downtown businesses/organizations reach common sense solutions for Laramie that prioritize accessibility and ease when folks go downtown to meet friends for lunch, purchase locally made gifts, and more. I am very passionate about the Aquifer Protection Plan, and would support any ordinances that come to the city council’s desk that further protect our clean water. As mentioned previously, I would work to protect our rental ordinance and strengthen it as needed. I look forward to continued conversations with my neighbors about what matters to them so I can best advocate for their needs and concerns.

Matt Lockhart (Ward 3):

A: We place far too many restrictive & costly ordinances on new business construction, business owners, & developers. I’ve been told by several contractors that many times it’s not cost effective for developers to develop due to all the stipulations/ordinances needed to bring it up to city regulations & ordinances. They’re cost-prohibitive. Infrastructure costs are far too significant. I believe the city needs to cover many of these costs, whether by asking help from the state, or covering them ourselves, or partially with the contractor/developers. With growth, the City of Laramie will benefit from the property tax revenue, property taxes, & increased spending in our community with increased population and well-paying jobs.

Shelley Hopkins Peterson (Ward 3):

A: The Uniformed Development Code has been hindering development and growth of our community. The UDC has made future development in our community not cost friendly and has harmed the consumer in being able to obtain affordable housing. It has discouraged developers from wanting to develop in our community. It has harmed local businesses by making it virtually impossible to maintain their businesses and properties. We have been passed up as a location for numerous businesses to relocate in favor of communities with more business-friendly policies. That has had adverse effects on employment opportunities and potential tax revenues to our community. I feel the Uniformed Development Code needs to be revised.

Bryan Shuster (Ward 3):

A: At this time the only things I think need to be changed would be to ease up the rules to get more businesses into Laramie, and to ease up the rules for building new housing.

Albany County Commissioner

Information: Three commissioners serve four-year staggered terms with no term limits. Commissioners receive a salary of \$30,000 and some benefits, but no office. One seat is up for election this year; **voters will choose one** from each party, and the winner in the General Election will join sitting Commissioners Pete Gosar (D) and Terri Jones (R) who have two years left on their terms.

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Q: What experience and interests do you have that prepare you for this office?

Chris Cleven (R):

A: Living in Albany County for 24 years has not only shaped my professional career but also deepened my connection to its residents and landscapes. As a homeowner and father of five children raised in this county, I understand firsthand the challenges and aspirations of our community. As a Peace Officer, I spent the last 16 years serving our community, I have a unique understanding of regulatory frameworks and state statutes—experiences that will be invaluable in navigating the complexities of county governance. I orchestrated the only formation of a road district in last 10 years in our county. This experience underscored my belief in grassroots governance and the power of community-driven solutions.

Brian Harrington (D):

A: Growing up in poverty, I learned the value of hard work and community support. Moving to Laramie in 2010 opened the door for me to start my first business, where I still work today. I'm grateful to the folks of Albany County for providing the services and infrastructure that help entrepreneurs succeed. In 2018 I was elected to the City Council, and have served as Laramie's Mayor since 2022. I've focused on making sure we have abundant and clean drinking water, ensuring folks have access to the services they need, and protecting the open spaces that define our way of life in Albany County. My wife Dani and I are wildly proud of our two girls, Ruby (3) and Alice (9M). They are the reasons I feel compelled to continue to serve my community.

Troy Heien (R):

A: By owning and managing businesses in Laramie for the last 46 years, serving on various boards and being an inventor, I have come to think outside the box for solutions to problems. I believe diplomacy should always be first in solving issues and not to jump to more rules and regulations that take away our rights and liberties. A couple of the boards I have served on are the South of Laramie Water and Sewer District and the Wyoming Technical Institute Foundation Board.

Thad Hoff (R):

A: Owning a business and working in the community for the last 21 years has given me the opportunity and personal satisfaction of getting to know a lot of people from every walk of life. I have owned and operated Wyoming State Safe & Lock since 2003, providing security and life safety to the citizens, businesses, and government agencies. I have always tried to be a businessperson that is part of the community. I am a Wyoming native and grew up in Riverton, am a UW graduate and love spending time exploring anything outdoors. On the business side, I regularly spend time in budget meetings, future planning, and execution of planned contracts. I am constantly engaging with county residents daily and not hard to get a hold of.

Julie McCallister (R):

A: I spent 6 years in heavy oil and gas upgrading with WRI, with the University of Wyoming. I also understand the necessity of logistical issues like roads, planning for budgeting in future years, sustainable budgeting, and sensible licensing. Albany County is a diverse county with a wonderful variety of businesses and unique needs. I am very qualified to understand, be receptive to and prioritize multiple complicated needs. I also have been successful at passing a number of bills, the two I am most proud of are the Hunting Age Change and Game Road Kill. These are just two examples of many of bills I have had direct involvement with as a citizen. I will be a very effective Commissioner. I know how to get things done.

Q: Given the recent and proposed property tax legislation, how would you prioritize spending needs with a shrinking budget?

Chris Cleven (R):

A: The proposed legislation, if placed on the ballot and passed by voters in the 2026 election, will be hard on local governments. But, could it also be the catalyst for us to reign in government spending, requiring us to work within our budgets, like all American families? Prioritizing core services such as public safety, infrastructure maintenance, and essential services is critical. These foundational elements are fundamental to maintaining a high quality of life for all residents. Innovative approaches to revenue generation and cost-saving measures should be explored. This may include seeking grants, fostering public-private partnerships, and leveraging technological advancements to improve efficiency in service delivery.

Brian Harrington (D):

A: I understand that rising home values - and consequently rising property taxes - have caused financial hardship for some Albany County residents. I support the targeted assistance offered by Albany County and would support additional targeted assistance at the state level if the state also supplies revenue to make up the county's losses. Property taxes fund education, secure elections, law enforcement, roads, recreation, property and vehicle records, and many other services used by families and businesses. Substantial reductions in property taxes will mean fewer sheriff's deputies, fewer polling places, and other service cutbacks. Overall, I would do my best to retain staff, and place priority on the programs that serve the most people.

Troy Heien (R):

A: My experience with operating businesses and managing finances on different boards that I have served on, will enable me to make equitable decisions with a shrinking budget. All areas need to be researched before making those kind of decisions as they effect the futures of many people. The county needs to be fiscally responsible to the people who live here and not spend more than they take in. I do not believe in raising taxes but lowering excessive spending.

Thad Hoff (R):

A: Budget concerns in this county will always be an issue no matter the year or the commissioner. My approach would be considered reasonable and measured. A government entity does not constrict and lean out unless forced to and that is what is occurring. Even with changes in property tax rates the county will function, and reasonable reductions will need to take place. I would like to meet with the nine other elected officials that have, hopefully, a firm grip on department needs and where their expedited cuts could take place. My priority would be essential services and continuing business as usual in the county. Additional spending requests would need to be merit based and depend on benefit to the county and its residence.

Julie McCallister (R):

A: I was pleased to see the property tax relief that was passed this past session. The decrease in this taxation needs to be balanced out over time. This means making budgeting decisions by “doing the math” often decisions on budget items are not projected out to a long enough. This can easily lead to issues in having sufficient budgeting. Needs will need to be prioritized, and spending will need to be done very responsibly.

Q: Given that services to rural residents are provided by the county, what role should commissioners play in planning and zoning to manage growth?

Chris Cleven (R):

A: I believe in upholding our strong constitutional principles while addressing the critical issue of managing growth through planning and zoning, especially concerning services for rural residents. Commissioners should prioritize the responsible stewardship of our county's resources and infrastructure. Ensuring that growth and development are managed in a way that preserves the character and quality of life in our rural areas. Zoning regulations should be carefully crafted to balance the protections for residents, needs for businesses, and the environment while promoting sustainable growth. Commissioners should actively seek input from rural residents, landowners, and stakeholders in planning and development.

Brian Harrington (D):

A: Given the previous question, we have to face the reality that community services and infrastructure must be paid for. If growth occurs willy-nilly, the cost of services such as roads, education (remote schools and transportation), and law enforcement inevitably goes up; and if revenues also go down, we have an impossible situation. Albany County's agricultural and tourism/recreation businesses depend on open space, resource conservation and wildlife habitat. I will continue the cooperation now established between the county and city to ensure compatible development in areas close to the city limits. I also will work to direct growth in ways that ensure adequate infrastructure and that support agricultural production and recreation/tourism.

Troy Heien (R):

A: All deliberation and decisions made should be looked at with regard to personal property rights, the rule of law and the Constitution. Long-term thinking is paramount when making these kinds of decisions. I will advocate for a sustainable growth of Albany County while keeping it free from overreaching rules and regulations that hinder our rights and liberties.

Thad Hoff (R):

A: I think the commission should be the driving force to spur economic interests regardless of city or county interests. Something that is overlooked with this question, is that growth in the city and county are adjoined. Government at any level should not be the hindrance for growth in the community. Government should be the check and balance for progress. County residents need to enjoy government services as close to those of the incorporated parts of the county. I am willing to listen to any well-formed ideas and justifications for land use. I also understand that protections have been put in place for future development. Some of those protections have been political and motivated with municipalities' best interests in mind.

Julie McCallister (R):

A: The County needs to recognize the different needs and diversity of the county in these decisions. I live in Rock River and have for over 2 decades. I am well aware at how deeply the County's decisions affects my life and the lives of all other county residents. I have also felt the personal frustration that the rural interests in the County were going overlooked. Albany County has a wealth of people, businesses, and interests. The County needs to ensure that when zoning and planning decisions are made in the County that as much public input as possible is taken, vetting questions are asked and followed up on, and the County Commission makes the most balanced decisions possible.

Q: From the perspective of both city and rural residents, what should be your top three priorities as a county commissioner?

Chris Cleven (R):

A: First and foremost, I will prioritize fiscal responsibility, working to ensure that every taxpayer dollar is spent wisely and efficiently, with a keen eye toward reducing waste, fraud, and abuse. I will also start to immediately bring the peoples voice back, addressing your issues. Secondly, I will advocate for smaller, more efficient government, streamlining bureaucracy, and removing unnecessary barriers to growth and innovation. Finally, I will fiercely defend personal property rights, working to protect the rights of homeowners, business owners, and ranchers against government overreach and intrusion.

Brian Harrington (D):

A: The #1 issue affecting both city and many rural residents and businesses is maintaining the quality and quantity of our clean drinking water supply in the Casper Aquifer. It's been my privilege as mayor of Laramie to work alongside the County to reunify and update the Casper Aquifer Protection Plan and implement its recommendations, and I will continue that absolutely essential effort as a County Commissioner. My second priority will be to seek cooperative and efficient ways to maintain services to county residents, particularly law enforcement and EMS. This is closely related to my third priority, making cost-conscious decisions to manage growth to facilitate agricultural production, wildlife habitat and open space/recreation.

Troy Heien (R):

A: Listening to everyone before making decisions using diplomacy and not just throwing rules, codes and regulations out there to solve every issue at hand. Preserving the people of Albany County's freedoms and liberties while encouraging growth. Serving the people of Albany County and not ruling over them.

Thad Hoff (R):

A: I don't want to differentiate county residents. Laramie and Rock River residents "enjoy" additional levels of service with the detriment of more bureaucracy. That is a choice they make to live in town. Regardless of residents' choice of where in the county they live, I would like county services to remain accessible to all residents. I want to ensure that county services are funded, and the county, as a whole, has staffing levels adequate for continued services. From my responses already, I am sure that it is clear that I want to pursue and increase economic development. Last, cut the bloat and get back to reasonable operations and support services.

Julie McCallister (R):

A: The issues of highest priority for me are roads, access and maintenance. Property tax reduction and retention of lowest rates, seeking out every possibly avenue to save property owners monies on taxation. Proper implementation of budgeting in every aspect, which will move the county toward sustainable fiscal growth and eventually fiscal independence.

Wyoming State House of Representatives HD 13, HD 14, HD 45, HD 46

Information: Elected to a two-year term with no term limits. Each Representative receives a minimum of \$300 per month base salary. They also receive \$150.00 per day while the Legislature is in session plus \$109.00 per day per diem. They receive pay for committee and work meetings between sessions. Each quarter they receive \$750 for a constituent service allowance. Minimum age is 21. 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 2024. Voters will only receive a ballot containing the candidate names for the house district in which the voter resides. One Democrat and one Republican in each district will advance to the General Election. The Legislature meets in a General Session in odd numbered years, starting on the second Tuesday in January, and for a Budget Session in even numbered years beginning on the second Monday of February. The General Session is limited to 40 legislative days. The Budget Session typically lasts 20 legislative days.

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Q: Describe the education, experience, and skills that qualify you for this office.**Ken Chestek (HD 13, D):**

A: I am a former trial lawyer (over 20 years of experience) and recently retired professor at the UW College of Law, where I taught primarily legal writing courses. Part of the courses I taught involved teaching statutory interpretation and legal analysis, skills which are vitally important to being a state legislator. I am also completing my first term as State Representative for House District 13, where I have built relationships with other legislators from around the state. I am a team player and consensus builder, happy to work with any legislator regardless of political affiliation, whenever we can find common ground to create policies and laws to improve the lives of everyday Wyoming citizens.

Trey Sherwood (HD 14, D):

A: I have 20 years of community building experience in Laramie, as a historian, non profit director, small business advocate and volunteer. I am a graduate of Leadership Wyoming and currently serve in the House of Representatives on the Appropriations Committee. I value civility, honesty and am passionate about serving Wyoming's hardworking families. I believe optimism and empathy are essential leadership skills. I enjoy community collaborations and support home grown solutions to diversifying Wyoming's economy. When re-elected, I will continue to work on solutions for affordable housing, support job creators, funding for education, and increased access to affordable care, mental health, suicide prevention and reproductive rights.

Paul Crouch (HD 45, R)

A: As a husband, father of four, and church leader, I have learned to approach challenges with wisdom, fairness, and a focus on the common good. These roles have instilled in me a deep sense of responsibility, integrity, and service to others. I pride myself on being not only a good listener but also an action-based, take-charge person. I am committed to putting into action what the people in my community want. I earned a bachelor's degree in Computer Science from The Ohio State University. With 45 years of experience in Information Technology, I have worked in various industries, including academia, healthcare, technology sales, insurance, and national trucking.

Karlee Provenza (HD 45, D):

A: Many lawmakers haven't worked hard for minimum wage, struggled to buy groceries, or gone without healthcare. But I have. While these struggles aren't something most people put on a resume, they continue to shape how I have worked on your behalf for the past four years as your State Representative. In addition to serving as your representative, I earned my Ph.D. at the University of Wyoming in 2021 and have published and presented research across the country on how we can improve our justice system to better serve our communities. 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 (HD 46, R):

A: My name is Ocean Andrew, and I am running for re-election in House District 46. I moved to Wyoming eleven years ago to experience a freedom unique to this state. I am a father of three and owner of a small business I started during college at the University of Wyoming that now employs over 100 people across 19 states, with our headquarters and most high-paying jobs in Albany County. My experience as an entrepreneur has shown me what it takes to create jobs and fight for small businesses. As a legislator on the education committee, I've focused on education reform, successfully advocating for choices that align with parents' values and empowering teachers. I am committed to preserving Wyoming's culture and fighting for our liberties.

Chris Lowry (HD 46, D):

A: I'm Chris Lowry and I've lived in Wyoming nearly my entire life. I've raised my family, working and getting my education here. Working as a chemist has made me look for fact-based solutions to problems. Like most Wyomingites, issues such as access to public lands, and 2nd amendment rights are forefront of my concerns for our citizens. As a sportsman and avid outdoorsman, I am a staunch believer in our right to own firearms, as it is essential to the Wyoming way of life. It has been my lifelong belief that the public should have continued access to public lands, across the state. As a single father, I understand the importance of family, and stand firm with the women of this state in their right to make their own reproductive choices.

Q: Given the rise in residential property values and subsequent increase in property taxes, what tax structure changes would you support?

Ken Chestek (HD 13, D):

A: I supported most (but not all) of the many real estate tax bills that were introduced in the recently completed budget session. The bills I supported provided targeted relief to the ordinary citizens who have been caught by the recent market-driven increase in property values (which is the root cause of rapidly rising real estate tax bills). I did not support a bill which would have provided an extreme cut in real estate taxes but then replace that lost revenue with a significant increase in sales tax, because sales taxes are regressive: they hurt lower-income citizens far more than high-income citizens. Any structural changes in property tax must be progressive: they should decrease taxes only for citizens who most need the relief.

Trey Sherwood (HD 14, D):

A: I support tax relief targeted to those who need it most, our veterans, seniors and those with disabilities - anyone living on a fixed income that isn't able to be adjusted to keep up with inflation. Because we fund our schools, hospitals, roads and fire response with property taxes, changes to our tax structure must be balanced and justified. Tax reform should help hardworking families achieve financial freedoms while providing predictable and transparent income so local government can deliver essential services to our communities. While giving residents relief from rising property values is important, we must be honest about our tax structure and what dismantling it would do to our ability to fund education and basic public services.

Paul Crouch (HD 45, R)

A: Property taxes should be capped at their current levels while the state legislature identifies the best ways to align spending with the needs of the people. We need to ensure that homeowners are not disproportionately burdened by skyrocketing property values. Capping property taxes provides immediate relief and stability for residents while we work on long-term solutions. I also support eliminating tax rebates, which require taxpayers to request their own money back after it's been collected. This process is inefficient and burdensome for taxpayers. Instead, we should aim to create a more straightforward and equitable tax system where people are not overtaxed in the first place.

Karlee Provenza (HD 45, D):

A: In 2024, I supported a cap on how much property taxes could increase in a year and supported refunds for our hard working neighbors struggling to meet the demand of increased property taxes. I voted against property tax cuts that would hurt our public schools and were meant to benefit our wealthiest neighbors while ignoring real solutions for younger residents and those who are still paying their mortgage. I support large corporations paying their fair share of the bill in Wyoming to ensure hard working Wyomingites don't get stuck with the brunt of our budget woes in the future. Wyoming's boom and bust cycle hurts us all when it busts, and we need to look towards a variety of revenues that don't put the burden on hard working people.

Ocean Andrew (HD 46, R):

A: Given the unsustainable rise in the burden of property taxes, I aim to eliminate property taxes in the long term through responsible budgeting. I support restructuring state spending to reduce the burden on landowners and renters by prioritizing the efficient use of state resources and cutting unnecessary expenditures. Through responsibility, we can gradually phase out property taxes while maintaining essential public services. My goal is to create a fairer tax system that respects private property rights, acknowledges the hard work of Wyoming residents, and protects their financial well-being.

Chris Lowry (HD 46, D):

A: I know people who are on fixed incomes and the rise in property taxes has caused them great distress. The sharp rise in property taxes due to increasing property values hurts homeowners on fixed incomes. While drastic cuts in property taxes sounds attractive at first, we all want our schools, fire departments, and other government agencies functioning well. We need to be careful and not end up hurting the very people who would be helped by lower property taxes by having poorly functioning services that people rely on. Instead of a rebate program that mostly does not help people on fixed incomes, we should implement property tax discounts for people on fixed incomes and make sure it is affordable to live in Wyoming.

Q: What changes to Wyoming's abortion laws would you support or oppose?

Ken Chestek (HD 13, D):

A: I would be in favor of repealing the Life is a Human Right Act, adopted in 2023, if the Wyoming Supreme Court does not declare the bill unconstitutional first. That law deprives women and their families the fundamental right to make decisions about their own bodies and their own health care. Government has no business intruding into those intensely personal and heart-rending choices. The bill also contributes to physicians choosing not to practice medicine in Wyoming, making access to medical care much more difficult, especially in rural areas.

Trey Sherwood (HD 14, D):

A: I believe women should have the right to make their own healthcare decisions. This is reflected in our state 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”. I do not believe it is the proper role of government to tell a woman what to do with her body. We are not the church or the morality police. It is our job to ensure our hardworking Wyoming families have the freedom to access the care they need, whether reproductive health, maternal health or infant health.

Paul Crouch (HD 45, R)

A: I am a Pro-Life candidate who believes that education for mothers and fathers is crucial in making this life-changing decision. With the Supreme Court returning the issue to the states, it is essential to have more discussions before enacting laws. We need to build consensus among our constituents to ensure Wyoming is not polarized on this issue. It is important to provide comprehensive education and support services to parents, ensuring they have access to all the information and resources necessary to make informed decisions. This includes expanding access to prenatal care, parenting classes, and adoption services, as well as offering emotional and financial support to those facing unplanned pregnancies.

Karlee Provenza (HD 45, D):

A: Most people in Wyoming agree, the government should stay out of personal medical decisions that are better left to women, their families, their doctors, and their faith. Wyomingites deserve freedom from government overreach and they deserve leaders that respect our oaths to the Wyoming State Constitution which provides the right to make our own healthcare decisions. Unfortunately, extremist politicians have written laws in Wyoming that would force women to be pregnant against their will. In addition to fighting anti-choice legislation and continuing to sponsor legislation that renews our commitment to the Wyoming State Constitution, I will continue my efforts to expand birth control access so we can prevent abortion from happening at all.

Ocean Andrew (HD 46, R):

A: I am pro-life. I have supported and will continue to support legislation that serves to value and protect the lives of children.

Chris Lowry (HD 46, D):

A: I am a supporter of women's health care and that includes reproductive rights. Wyoming has a long and proud tradition of limited government and respect for personal freedom that I believe most of us still hold. It is not the government's business to dictate healthcare decisions to anyone. It is not the business of government to impair fertility or push women to the brink of death by forcing extreme religious views into law. I will always vote to support reproductive freedom, including open access to contraceptives for women and men.

Q: How much authority should the legislature exert over ordinances at the city and county level?

Ken Chestek (HD 13, D):

A: Very little. I believe that the best government is the government closest to the voters, and that means city and county-level governments. I support true home rule for city and county governments. Home rule means that those governments derive their authority from the people, and can therefore exercise any power not denied to them by the state. The current system is the opposite: local governments can only exercise powers delegated to them by the state. I believe the state should require local governments to conform to uniform state laws only on matters where uniformity is essential to insure public safety and fairness.

Trey Sherwood (HD 14, D):

A: Over the years, Laramie's Council has adopted progressive policies where the state has fallen short. From Wyoming's first non-discrimination ordinance, to renters rights, rolling back regulations for housing, or protections for clean water, our city has addressed local problems with local solutions. When the legislature tries to devise a "one size fits all" policy for the entire state, we often miss the mark. While there should be statewide standards for education, healthcare, safe roads, protection of public lands, the legislature should not override local solutions that build strong communities. We all have a shared responsibility to work hard together and play our part. This includes knowing when to support local control.

Paul Crouch (HD 45, R)

A: Local control is important, but we also need some consistency across the state. For example, we want home builders to be able to work seamlessly across county lines and in all our cities and towns. Uniform regulations can help reduce confusion and inefficiencies, promoting economic growth and development. However, it is equally important for local municipalities to recognize that rewriting laws already on the books is not always the best idea or necessary. We have often seen local governments create or enforce excessively stringent laws that impose unnecessary constraints on residents. These extra flamboyant regulations can lead to overreach and stifle community development and individual freedoms.

Karlee Provenza (HD 45, D):

A: It is ironic that legislators complain of federal overreach and then micromanage our local governments to suit their political agendas. When deciding on whether or not to weigh in on local issues, it is important to consider what local elected officials can and cannot do. If a locally elected school board can make policies that better reflect their community, then it isn't appropriate for legislators to dictate how they do their job. On the other hand, if a problem is presented that doesn't fall under the powers of a local government, then it may be appropriate for the legislature to weigh in, assuming the solution fits under the Wyoming Constitution. In short, the legislature should respect local communities in solving local problems.

Ocean Andrew (HD 46, R):

A: It is an often-repeated quote, 'That government is best which governs least.' This is a good principle to consider for local government. Wyoming is a 'Dillon's Rule' state, meaning local governments only have the authority given by the state. Local government can be beneficial when acting responsibly. However, when it drives away new businesses and prevents the housing supply from increasing, causing rising prices, the state needs to step in and facilitate more manageable and streamlined processes. This promotes economic stability and effectively addresses critical issues.

Chris Lowry (HD 46, D):

A: The local city and county officials know better what their community needs than most representatives in the state legislature coming from other places unconcerned about communities where they do not reside. Officials in elected local governments should not be told how to run their city and county governments when the legislature does not agree with decisions made by those officials. I believe that what local elected officials decide for their communities will most closely match the needs of hard-working people around Wyoming.

Q: Do you support adopting an online voter registration system or automatic voter registration when applying for a Wyoming driver's license? Why or why not?

Ken Chestek (HD 13, D):

A: Yes. Government makes decisions that affect every citizen, whether they voted or not. Therefore, we need to encourage everyone to vote, and making voter registration easy is part of that. For that same reason we also should not artificially constrain their right to vote in whatever primary they choose to vote in. Crossover voting or open primaries should be allowed.

Trey Sherwood (HD 14, D):

A: I support full and transparent access to the polls as voting is one of the most important rights a citizen can exercise. Wyoming should consider any improvements to our system that allow for fair and accessible elections, all while promoting and protecting citizens' freedom to vote. I support secure and easy to use tools to increase voter registration, enhance civic engagement and improve voter turnout. In today's fast paced digital age, we must meet people where they are at by providing online and in person methods of registration that are timely and convenient for Wyoming residents.

Paul Crouch (HD 45, R)

A: While the convenience of automatic voter registration when applying for a driver's license might seem appealing, it's important to maintain these application requests independently. Each individual should consciously choose what they sign up for and not feel pressured. Voter registration is a significant and personal decision, and individuals should take deliberate steps to participate in the electoral process. Maintaining the independence of voter registration from driver's license applications ensures that people are fully aware of their choices and the responsibilities that come with being a registered voter. It also helps prevent any potential confusion or administrative errors that might arise from automatic enrollment.

Karlee Provenza (HD 45, D):

A: Absolutely! Wyoming should make voting easier for hard working communities who don't necessarily have time during the regular workday to register or vote in-person. Creating more opportunities for voter registration online or while getting your license would allow for more people with busy lives to participate in their government while not having to juggle more errands. Allowing for these registration options would make it easier for our neighbors to request their ballot in advance, an option that encourages a more knowledgeable voter. Additionally, allowing for voter registration through these various options would remove some of the burden that we place on our County Clerks to manually register voters.

Ocean Andrew (HD 46, R):

A: No, I do not support adopting an online voter registration system or automatic voter registration when applying for a Wyoming driver's license. These systems pose risks to data security and privacy. Online systems are vulnerable to hacking, potentially compromising personal information and the integrity of voter registration. Automatic registration at the DMV could result in errors like incorrect or duplicate registrations, undermining voter roll accuracy. We also need to pass legislation that requires physical proof of citizenship when registering to vote, and online systems might fail to do this effectively. Maintaining secure and accurate voter registration is essential to preserving our election integrity.

Chris Lowry (HD 46, D):

A: I believe in democracy, and we should make access to voting easier for eligible voters. Legislators are elected to represent the will of the people, and getting more people registered means more participation and accountability. I am not afraid of an automatic voter registration system but any additional costs for county clerks to automatically register eligible voters needs to be fully funded. It has been proven over and over that the many checks in the system prevent fraud. Allowing people to register to vote when getting a driver's license, once an individual is old enough, is a no brainer to me.

Wyoming US House Representative

Information: U.S. Representatives are elected to two-year terms, with no term limits. The annual salary for U.S. Representatives is \$174,000 per year plus some benefits; Congressional leaders receive more. An annual allowance is also provided to defray office expenses including staff. To be elected, a representative must be at least 25 years old, a United States citizen for at least seven years and an inhabitant of the state he or she represents. One Democrat and one Republican will advance to the General Election.

Candidates:**Kyle G. Cameron (D)**

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Q: Describe the education, experience, and skills that qualify you for this office.**Kyle G. Cameron (D):**

A: With a robust background in stewardship, change management, and social sciences, I am well-equipped for the U.S. House of Representatives. My education includes a Master of Philosophy in Management from Walden University, focusing on the social basis of power, and a Master of Science in Organizational Leadership and Change from Colorado State University-Global, where I studied Kurt Lewin's Change Theory. I also hold a Bachelor of Science in Social Science from the University of Wyoming -CC. I have a strong track record of management, stakeholder engagement, and consensus-building. My interpersonal skills, conscientious decision-making, and dedication to democracy, continuous learning, and inclusion make me a qualified candidate.

Harriet Hageman (R):

A: I grew up on a ranch, attended Casper College on a livestock judging scholarship and received my bachelor's and law degrees from the University of Wyoming. As litigator for 34 years, I challenged federal overreach, protected water and property rights, exposed federal land and wildlife mismanagement, and fought back against the unconstitutional and unlawful acts of unelected bureaucrats. I have extensive experience engaging in complex trials against federal agencies and was admitted to practice in several states as well as the United States Supreme Court. In the 118th Congress, I was selected to serve on the Natural Resources committee, Chair the Subcommittee of Indian and Insular Affairs, and also serve on the Judiciary Committee.

Steven R. Helling (R):

A: I have negotiated the resolution of hundreds of disputes. I graduated from the University of Wyoming College of Law. I have been on various boards and commissions, including six years on the Colorado Springs Independent Ethics Commission and nine years on the Wyoming board of an organization providing legal services to the poor. I get along well with people. I am Christian. I am pro life. I am a huge supporter of President Trump. I am running for office for several reasons, including to give the voters of Wyoming a choice.

Q: What one piece of federal legislation would you support that would increase the quality of life for Wyoming citizens and how would it be beneficial?

Kyle G. Cameron (D):

A: I support legislation like the Women's Health Protection Act of 2021 (H.R.3755), which aims to enhance the quality of life for Wyomingites by ensuring comprehensive access to reproductive healthcare. This act protects the right to abortion services nationwide, addressing inconsistent state laws that disproportionately affect women in rural and conservative states like Wyoming. Such legislation benefits Wyoming by improving healthcare access, reducing financial burdens from unplanned pregnancies, and supporting families and workforce participation. It empowers bodily autonomy and provides legal certainty for patients and providers. This legislation promotes equity, economic stability, and better health outcomes, enhancing the quality of life.

Harriet Hageman (R):

A: Every piece of legislation I have introduced, sponsored or co-sponsored is because I believe it will improve the lives of Wyoming citizens. Some of the top legislation includes: HR 1- to unleash our domestic energy, HR 2- the strongest border package to ever pass the House, HR 5- establishing the Parent's Bill of Rights. I co-sponsored bills to abolish the U.S. Department of Education and the Federal Reserve, I have introduced an amendment to defund the WHO, and I have taken every opportunity to protect life.

Steven R. Helling (R):

A: I support a moratorium on the development of nuclear power plants in the United States until such time as there is a permanent storage site for nuclear waste. This would protect Wyoming from becoming a nuclear waste dump. We have clean air and clean water, which we all want. Despite the allure of money and jobs, we must not sell out our pristine environment for a lust for money. Nuclear is a failed and dangerous industry. Even though the nuclear poison is invisible, it is not clean. Nuclear waste is dangerous, radioactive, and filthy. We must not allow an experimental nuclear plant in Kemmerer. President Biden wants a rapid expansion and re-vitalization of a dangerous and failed nuclear industry. We must not trust Joe Biden!

Q: What ideas do you have for improving the federal immigration system?

Kyle G. Cameron (D):

A: Improving the federal immigration system involves a multifaceted approach: Prioritize humanitarian leadership by addressing human rights, such as reunifying separated families. Enhance collaboration and diplomacy with international partners to tackle the root causes of migration and promote global stability. Balance border security with the humane treatment of migrants, ensuring policies accept human rights. Foster integration and inclusion by streamlining the naturalization process, promoting equality, and opportunity for all, reflecting the U.S.'s commitment to democracy and humanitarian values.

Harriet Hageman (R):

A: I have visited our southern border three times and the destruction and devastation is heartbreaking-local municipalities and hospitals are on the verge of bankruptcy trying to provide health care and basic services due to the constant barrage of illegals crossing the border everyday. This is no longer a border crisis, this is a humanitarian crisis- which was wholly avoidable and caused by President Biden rescinding Trump's remain in Mexico policy and violating U.S. law to pursue open borders. People wishing to immigrate into the United States should enter legally. We should focus on those individuals who provide a net benefit to our country in terms of education, qualifications, and willingness to assimilate.

Steven R. Helling (R):

A: The "Remain in Mexico" policy needs to be re-implemented. Immigration laws need to be enforced.

Q: Do you agree with the Bureau of Land Management adding conservation as the sixth use of federal land? Why or why not?

Kyle G. Cameron (D):

A: Adding conservation as the sixth use of federal land is crucial for preserving natural habitats, protecting species, and maintaining biodiversity to combat climate change. It would ensure lands remain pristine for recreation and tourism, recognizing the importance of ecosystem services. Balancing conservation with existing uses like grazing and energy development is challenging but necessary for sustainable management. Any formal designation would require changes to existing laws and regulations, and it could help balance competing interests and prioritize environmental considerations.

Harriet Hageman (R):

A: The Bureau of Land Management's Conservation and Landscape Health final rule contradicts Congressional intent under the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976. The BLM is acting outside the law to lock up OUR public lands. I co-sponsored legislation to withdraw this rule and am proud it was passed out of the House

Steven R. Helling (R):

A: No. Public lands should generally be available to the public. Even so, we need to protect Wyoming's environment and maintain the clean air and clean water we all love. We must not bow down to President Biden and his desire for rapid expansion of nuclear power, even though there is no permanent site for the storage of nuclear waste. The nuclear contamination exposes both federal and state land to the potential of hundreds if not thousands of years of radioactive contamination, regardless of the use being made of the land. Wyoming should reject Joe Biden's attempt to use Kemmerer as his guinea pig for his nuclear power expansion. Joe Biden cannot be trusted. He has sold out this country before and he will do it again!

Q: What role should the U.S. play in protecting democracy outside our borders?

Kyle G. Cameron (D):

A: The U.S. has a crucial role in promoting democracy globally due to moral responsibility, national security interests, and the pursuit of global stability. As a leading democracy, it has the duty to support democratic values, which align with freedom, human rights, and equality. Democracies are generally more stable and less prone to conflict, making the promotion of democracy abroad vital for reducing risks to U.S. security and fostering worldwide peace and prosperity. This effort also enhances U.S. credibility, supports humanitarian goals by protecting human rights, and builds stronger international relationships based on shared democratic norms.

Harriet Hageman (R):

A: We must evaluate foreign engagement by the threats to our own sovereignty unless in imminent danger.

Steven R. Helling (R):

A: We should honor our commitments to NATO and others. When the U.S. is strong, the world is a safer place. We should support Israel.

Wyoming US Senator

Information: US Senators are elected to a six- year term, with no term limits. The annual salary is \$174,000 with benefits and office. Senate leaders receive more. An annual allowance is also provided to defray office expenses, including hiring staff. To be elected, an individual must be at least 30 years old, a United States citizen for at least nine years and an inhabitant of the state he or she represents. One Democrat and one Republican will advance to the General Election. The winner will join Wyoming Senator Cynthia Lummis in representing Wyoming.

Candidates:

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Did not respond to questions prior to publication of this guide.

Q: Describe the education, experience, and skills that qualify you for this office.**John Barrasso (R):**

A: During my 24 years as an orthopedic surgeon in Casper, I served as President of the WY Medical Society and was named Physician of the Year. I've had decades of experience caring for our families and patients. Before serving in the U.S. Senate, I represented Natrona County in the WY State Senate. The Legislature trained me to effectively represent our interests and issues that matter most to our state. In the U.S. Senate, I'm proud of my strong, conservative record that puts WY first. I serve on committees that directly impact our energy industry, public lands, national parks, and trade. I've successfully promoted WY's economy and natural resources, strengthened our national security, cut wasteful DC spending, while cutting back regulations

John Holtz (R):

A: I graduated high school in Omaha and began college at the University of Maryland, in Munich when my father received orders to be Deputy Inspector General of Security for the United States Air Force in Wiesbaden. I graduated from the University of Wyoming and went to law school at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas. I was class president at Clark Air Base in the Philippines, where the Japanese first developed kamikaze tactics as a mass weapon of war. I was on the Bataan Death March 20th anniversary march with three of the original survivors and received the historic trail award. I have international experience and qualifications unmatched by others. I have negotiated and designed weapons for America's defense.

Scott D Morrow (D):

A: My current constituency is members of the largest Retiree Chapter chartered by the American Postal Workers Union where I serve as President. My educational background after High School was working towards a degree in Liberal Arts and mathematics. I continue this endeavor today and currently have a GPA of 3.85. I have served as President and Director of Industrial Relations with the ninth largest local in the USA in the 1990's. I work as President of the Retiree Chapter, EEOC Rep, MSPB rep, SSDI rep, ADA rep and Medicare Appeals Advocate without charge and have been involved in these forums for over 40 years. I have worked closely with my Legislative Director and contacted ALL my WY Congressional members on a weekly basis.

Q: What one piece of federal legislation would you support that would increase the quality of life for Wyoming citizens and how would it be beneficial?

John Barrasso (R):

A: Whether it is coal, oil, or natural gas, Wyoming's energy powers the nation. The current administration has declared war on American energy. President Biden has put in place barriers and restrictions to stop energy production and development. It is hurting our economy and jobs in Wyoming. I support federal legislation to strike Washington's stifling energy regulations and to expedite the federal permitting process.

John Holtz (R):

A: I would make Social Security non-taxable once again.

Scott D Morrow (D):

A: I have advocated for and supported both HR 82 in the US House and S 597 in the US Senate. The social security fairness act is a bill I have supported for decades. After 66 calls, Representative at Large, Harriet Hageman, did finally co-sponsor HR 82. Through my efforts and the efforts of others, there are currently over 300 co-sponsors of the social security fairness act in the House and over 51 co-sponsors of S 597 in the US Senate. Senators Barrasso and Lummis refuse to co-sponsor social security fairness despite my multiple pleas for them to do so. This legislation would repeal the Windfall Elimination Provisions and the Government Offset Provisions of the 1986 amendments to Social Security enacted during the Reagan Administration.

Q: What ideas do you have for improving the federal immigration system?

John Barrasso (R):

A: First and foremost, we need a president who will actually enforce the immigration laws already on the books. The open border policies of the Biden administration have turned every state into a border state, including Wyoming. Increased drug trafficking has contributed to fentanyl overdose deaths in Wyoming – doubling the number from five years ago. It's unacceptable. We need to focus on solutions that will stop the flood of illegal immigrants and make our communities safer. That starts with building the wall, ending the outrageous catch-and-release program, and bringing back the Remain in Mexico policy.

John Holtz (R):

A: My father was an OSI agent and we spent many years in Del Rio, Texas, where our family friend, Major Rudolph Anderson, was the first casualty of the Cold War. He was shot down over Cuba in a U2 when we were at Clark in the Philippines. We must control our borders.

Scott D Morrow (D):

A: I fully support the current bipartisan legislation in the US Senate, "Secure the Border Act" S 2824. NOT because it is perfect but because it meets my two top priorities. 1. More Border Patrol Agents (BPA). It is insurmountable to patrol our borders without adequate BPA staffing. 2. It is also very challenging to process asylum requests without enough judges to do so. The United States has a legal responsibility to adjudicate ALL asylum requests under domestic and international law. HR 2 that passed the House in this 118th Congress fails to meet these two top priorities of mine and focuses too much on "the wall". Unfortunately, folks who want to enter the USA illegally can go over or under any wall, as they do today.

Q: Do you agree with the Bureau of Land Management adding conservation as the sixth use of federal land? Why or why not?

John Barrasso (R):

A: In Wyoming, our livelihoods depend on preserving the health of our federal lands. We don't need the Bureau of Land Management to mandate conservation – it's always been a big part of everything we do. Wyoming landowners and leaseholders have proven to be the best stewards of the land. Despite our incredible track record, the Biden administration continues to roll out rules and plans aimed at turning Wyoming's federal lands from "multiple-use" to "non-use." The people of Wyoming depend on access to these lands for our livelihoods – including energy and mineral production, grazing, and recreation. I continue to lead the fight to stop this attack on our Wyoming way of life.

John Holtz (R):

A: No.

Scott D Morrow (D):

A: The Bureau of Land Management has issued its final rule for federal lands, putting conservation on equal footing with other uses such as mining and grazing in April of this year. Every American had the opportunity to express their opinions on this rule during the comment period provided prior to the final rule. My comments supported conservation being placed on equal footing with other activities like free grazing for factory farms on the backs of the US taxpayer and permits for mining that the taxpayers are asked to fund the clean up for. These are your lands and should be treated as such in lieu of giving carte blanche to large corporations to do with our lands as they please. Oil and gas companies and others MUST mitigate damages.

Q: What role should the U.S. play in protecting democracy outside our borders?

John Barrasso (R):

A: Our nation has a long history of supporting democracy and freedom around the world. Over the past few years, we have seen brutal dictators in Iran, Russia and China violently suppress the freedoms and rights of its citizens. We must continue to advocate for the American values that are the foundation of our country. I am committed to advancing the principles of democracy, protecting religious freedom and safeguarding liberty.

John Holtz (R):

A: It should be an active role. I was one of the youngest judges in Wyoming history and helped establish the Circuit Court system of today. I was president of my college fraternity and the president of the Alumni Association of the Delta Gamma chapter of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity at the University of Wyoming from 1988 to 1992. We must protect democracy.

Scott D Morrow (D):

A: The United States of America should continue their centuries long practices of promoting and protecting democracy worldwide. History has taught us that allowing dictators to invade sovereign countries can lead to the death of innocents, including children, and wreak havoc for the entire globe. We do need to be more consistent in that endeavor since the hypocrisy of supporting dictators in many cases whilst besmirching other dictators in other situations sabotages our efforts to spread democracy. The funding to help Ukraine is absolutely necessary while allowing genocides to play out (currently in at least five countries) without attempts to stop such crimes against humanity is a sign of moral bankruptcy.