



Albany County Wyoming 2026 Primary Election Voter Guide

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Introduction

The League of Women Voters of Wyoming, in a 55-year partnership with the Laramie Boomerang, prepared this Voter Guide for publication on July 22 for the August 18 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 open and video monitored 24/7

Email: elections@albanycountywy.gov

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

Registering to Vote:

You may register at any time up to August 18 by presenting a valid ID at the county courthouse. If you register after August 3, you will be required to cast a ballot at the same time. If you voted in the 2024 General Election or the May 5 Special Election, you are registered. You can update your registration information with the Elections Office if your address changed. For the Primary Election *ONLY* registered Voter Party Affiliation Declaration/Change Deadline was May 13. *New voter registrations may still declare a party affiliation when registering after that deadline.*

Voters may still register and vote at any vote center on Election Day. Please note there have been changes to acceptable identification for registering.

Acceptable Identification for registering/making changes to voter registration: (either at the County Clerk's office or at a Vote Center on election day)

1. Wyoming ID: A Wyoming ID as this proves your identity, citizenship, and residency.
2. Out of State ID that is Real ID* compliant (verifies identity and citizenship):
The out of state ID and ONE of the following documents dated either within 90 days or one year (verifies residency):
 - a. **90 Days:** Utility Bill, Bank Statement, Government check or pay stub, Mortgage Statement, WY student housing verification or any other govt document showing your name and Wyoming address.
 - b. **One Year:** Residential lease, Residential care facility intake document, Wyoming property tax receipt, Wyoming hunting or fishing license or Wyoming vehicle registration showing your name and Wyoming address.
3. Out of State ID that is NOT Real ID* compliant: The out of state ID (verifies identity), one of the documents mentioned in scenario 2 (verifies residency), and a US Passport, Certificate of US Citizenship, Certificate of Naturalization, Certified US Birth Certificate (verifies citizenship).

**A Real ID will have either a gold or black star in the upper right-hand corner. Please note that some states may have the star on another object (i.e. California has a star on a bear) Check with the County Clerk's office if you have any questions on acceptable ID or Proof of Residency documents.*

When to Vote:

Early voting began July 21. 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 17. Polls are open on election day, August 18, from 7 am to 7 pm.

Where to Vote:

Albany County has moved to Vote Centers this year. Voters are able to go to any of the Vote Centers regardless of their assigned district/precinct. Results will still be reported by precinct. As always Albany County will provide voting in paper form as well as offering the ADA compliant Expressvote machines. 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.

Election Day Vote Centers:

Albany County Fairgrounds - 3520 US Hwy 287, Laramie
Albany County Public Library - 310 S. 8th St, Laramie
Centennial School - 2771 State Hwy 130
Harmony School - 20 Lewis Rd, Laramie
Laramie Peak Fire Hall - 1836 Cottonwood Park Rd, Wheatland
Lincoln Community Center - 365 W. Grand Ave, Laramie
MHR Gateway Center - 222 S 22nd St., Laramie
Municipal Operations Center - 4373 N. 3rd St., Laramie
Rock River Town Hall - 386 Ave D, Rock River
Sybille Wildlife Research Unit - 2362 State Hwy 34, Sybille Canyon

Acceptable Identification required to cast a ballot at the Absentee Polling location and at Vote Centers on Election Day:

WY Driver's License or ID Card
Tribal ID Card
Valid US Passport
US Military Card
DL or ID Card from Another State
University of Wyoming Student ID
Wyoming Community College Student ID
Wyoming Public School Student ID
Valid Medicaid /Medicare Insurance Card
Valid Wyoming Concealed Firearm Permit

Absentee Voting:

All Wyoming registered voters are eligible to vote absentee. If you voted absentee in the 2024 Election, that does not mean that you will automatically receive an absentee ballot for the 2026 Primary Election. 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. A qualified elector may apply for an absentee ballot either in person, in writing, (Albany County

Clerk, Courthouse, Suite 202, Laramie, Wyoming 82070), by telephone (307-721-2546) or through the Clerk's website www.albanycountywy.gov/164/Elections.

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, they still 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.

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 August Primary 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).

The Questions and Responses:

Questions for each race were formulated by the League of Women Voters, with input from the public. Candidates in the City of Laramie, Albany County and all Statewide races were invited to participate through Vote411 and were emailed initially in early June to addresses given when the candidate filed for office. The deadline for responses was July 10, 2026. The questions and their responses were downloaded from Vote 411 and submitted to the Boomerang for the printed guide. Candidates whose responses had not come close to the deadline received follow-up emails. The candidate and campaign information will be shown, with a note that no response was received for the race questions.

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. Candidate and campaign information is 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 Vote411 for race and candidate information specific to the ballot that you 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.

Other Information:

This Voter Guide information is available online at the League of Women Voter’s online platform, [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.

Laramie City Council

The nine council members are elected three each from three wards on a non-partisan ballot; they receive a stipend of \$120 maximum each day for meetings they attend, with no offices or benefits. They serve four-year terms with no term limits; expiration years are staggered. There is one expiring term in Ward 1. In the Primary, you will vote for one candidate although the top two will move on to the General Election and the one winner in the General Election will join sitting council members Sharon Cumbie and William Bowling in representing Ward 1. There is one expiring term in Ward 2. In the Primary, you will vote for one candidate although the top two will move on to the General Election and the one winner in the General Election will join sitting council members Jim Fried and Melanie Vigil in representing Ward 2. There are two expiring terms in Ward 3. In the Primary, you will vote for two candidates although the top four will move on to the General Election and the two winners in the General Election will join sitting council member Matt Lockhart in representing Ward 3.

Candidates:



Eric Henderson (Ward 1 Non-Partisan)

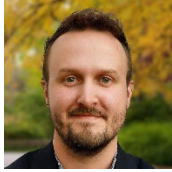
Campaign Mailing Address: 514 E Grand Ave # 247 LARAMIE WY 82070

Campaign Phone: 307-760-3642

Campaign Email: erichendersonmpa@gmail.com

Campaign Facebook: ERiC Henderson for City Council-Ward 1

Campaign Website: TheTALKSHOPUSA.com



Nicholas Jesse (Ward 1 Non-Partisan)

Campaign Mailing Address: 1024 Palmer Dr Laramie WY 82070

Campaign Phone: 307-223-2161

Campaign Email: contact@nicholasjesseforlaramie.com

Campaign Facebook: Nicholas Jesse for Laramie

Campaign Website: nicholasjesseforlaramie.com

Karryn MacDonald (Ward 2 Non-Partisan)

Campaign Email: karryn4ward2@gmail.com

Candidate did not respond to questions in time for publication in this guide.



Brandon Newman (Ward 2 Non-Partisan)

Campaign Mailing Address: 285 N Taylor St Apt 2 Laramie WY 82070

Campaign Phone: 785-592-0681

Campaign Email: brandon@brandonnewman.net

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/MrBrandonNewman/

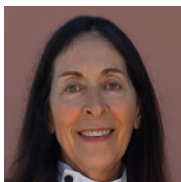
Campaign Website: brandonnewman.net



Samuel Buckwalter (Ward 3 Non-Partisan)

Campaign Email: foxtrot6crownarms@gmail.com

Campaign Website: Buckwalterforwyoming.com



Tammy Hooper (Ward 3 Non-Partisan)

Campaign Mailing Address: 2911 Dover Dr Laramie WY 82072

Campaign Phone: 307-286-4790

Campaign Email: hooper4ward3@gmail.com

Campaign Website: hooper4ward3.wixsite.com/tammy-hooper-for-w-1



Erin O'Doherty (Ward 3 Non-Partisan)

Campaign Mailing Address: 1807 Beaufort St Laramie WY 82072

Campaign Phone: 307-399-1309

Campaign Email: eodoherty@wyoming.com

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/ErinOWYO

Campaign Website: erinwyoming.com

Brett Ralston (Ward 3 Non-Partisan)

Campaign Mailing Address: 1072 N 18th St Laramie WY 82072

Campaign Phone: 307-761-9275

Campaign Email: brettralstonforlaramie@gmail.com

Campaign Instagram: www.instagram.com/ralstonforlaramie/

Campaign Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/brett.ralston.549643>

Campaign Website: ralstonforlaramie.org

Q: Why are you running for this office, and what training, experience, and skills would you bring to this office?

Eric Henderson (Ward 1):

A: I'm running for Laramie City Council because I believe our community works best when citizens are informed, involved, and heard. Since coming to Laramie in 1987, I've built a career in local media, business development, and community engagement. As Director of The TALK SHOP, I've worked with residents, businesses, nonprofits, and public officials to encourage informed civic dialogue. My experience includes communications, budgeting, strategic planning, marketing, and problem-solving. I'll bring transparency, accountability, thoughtful planning, and a commitment to listening so City Hall remains responsive to the people it serves.

Nicholas Jesse (Ward 1):

A: I am running for City Council because I care about the community that raised me. I want to use my skills and experience to help cultivate Laramie into a place where folks are able to put down roots, thrive, and build their futures. I earned a BA in Communication with a double minor in Public Law and African American & Diaspora Studies from UW. I currently serve as the Manager of Career Services in the College of Business and am pursuing a Masters in Public Administration. I have a robust employment history and a long track record of community engagement. The top three skills that I feel will take me far in this position include conflict resolution, relationship building, and project coordination.

Brandon Newman (Ward 2):

A: I am running for re-election to the Laramie City Council because I care deeply about our community and want to continue working on the issues that matter most to residents. During my first term, I focused on transparency, responsible spending, infrastructure, housing, and supporting public safety. Professionally, I am an instructor at WyoTech, where I teach leadership, management, and technical skills. My experience includes budgeting, problem-solving, team leadership, and working with people from diverse backgrounds. I bring a practical, common-sense approach, a willingness to listen, and a commitment to making decisions that serve the long-term interests of Laramie.

Samuel Buckwalter (Ward 3):

A: I am running for office to preserve the individual freedoms of Laramie Citizens and their businesses. I spent 6.5 years in the Wyoming Army National Guard, mostly in leadership roles, becoming a Non-Commissioned Officer after just two years of service. That experience taught me how to organize and lead complex groups for a common goal. Currently, I work at Tungsten Parts Wyoming as a Production Manager. This job allowed me to demonstrate my quick ability to learn new systems and optimize their flow and productivity.

Tammy Hooper (Ward 3):

A: As a native of Laramie, I decided I would like to use my experience to assist my community through service on city council. My basket of experience includes mediation and collaboration with diverse groups that sometimes have conflicting ideas or goals. I have degree in accounting and always have appreciated the analytical tools it offered to look at ideas and issues. My work experience included working with a budget of over 10M dollars. I have been a risk manager dealing with liability and property losses and also a director working with a statewide staff to help people with their problems they encountered with local and federal agencies. I want to work together and decide what we want our Laramie to look like and to be.

Erin O'Doherty (Ward 3):

A: I have served on Laramie City Council since 2019 and advocated for many achievements, including increased funding for infrastructure maintenance, energy efficiency upgrades, basic safety requirements for rental units, more crisis intervention training for police officers, retention of the professional staff, and more. I want to continue this work. I research and analyze complex topics using data and scientific practices. I listen, read, and learn. I've learned one really cannot please all the people all of the time, so I make difficult decisions based on what I conclude is best for our the health and safety of our citizens.

Brett Ralston (Ward 3):

A: Laramie has been my home for a decade, and it's time to give back. I'm running to apply critical analysis and ethical leadership to our city's challenges, and I want to help build systems for our community that ensure our neighbors have the opportunity to live fulfilling,

flourishing lives. I believe my background in research and science communication will allow me to repay some of what I owe to my community.

Q: What would be your top three priorities as a city council member?

Eric Henderson (Ward 1):

A: My top three priorities are transparency, responsible growth, and a strong local economy. First, I want to improve communication between City Hall and residents by making information more accessible and encouraging meaningful public participation before major decisions are made. Second, I support thoughtful planning that protects our neighborhoods, infrastructure, water resources, and quality of life while preparing for future growth. Third, I want to strengthen Laramie's economy by supporting local businesses, attracting quality jobs, and ensuring city policies encourage investment while being responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars.

Nicholas Jesse (Ward 1):

A: 1. Housing Expansion and Affordability. Supporting practical solutions, mixed-use zoning, and robust partnerships that encourage affordability and intentional, sustainable growth in Laramie. 2. Economic Development and Growth. Championing young professionals, supporting local businesses, and building economic pipelines for sustainable, long-term success. 3. Public Resource Protection. Protecting the Casper aquifer, scrutinizing energy and water intensive data center proposals, and safeguarding our public lands by making conservation decisions rooted in long-term community needs.

Brandon Newman (Ward 2):

A: My top three priorities are infrastructure, housing, and public safety. First, I want to ensure the city invests responsibly in maintaining and improving roads, utilities, and other critical infrastructure while being mindful of taxpayer dollars. Second, I want to support policies that increase housing availability and affordability so families, workers, and young professionals can continue to live and thrive in Laramie. Third, I will continue supporting our police, fire, EMS, and emergency response personnel by ensuring they have the resources needed to keep our community safe while maintaining accountability and public trust.

Samuel Buckwalter (Ward 3):

A: My top three priorities are to provide Laramie Citizens with greater transparency on city affairs and listen to their concerns, review and reallocate the city budget, and lastly, to revise and repeal city code that hampers business. These are my priorities because, I believe that Laramie Citizens are being ignored in favor of out of state experts, are funding programs that do not benefit them, and are forced to build outside the city due to code restrictions.

Tammy Hooper (Ward 3):

A: Increase outreach for education, participation and general knowledge of city council issues, priorities and upcoming votes/ordinances and issues that affect everyone. Hold more public meetings regarding issues and reach out through our community groups; political parties, our services organizations, etc. to get a bigger and broader representation for the education and participation in our community. Work to better build collaboration with our community partners who employ as well as contribute to the population of Laramie; businesses, University of Wyoming, Wyo Tech, Iverson Hospital, Albany County School District our county government partners. What follows from these steps is the "transparency" and "accountability" we all want.

Erin O'Doherty (Ward 3):

A: 1. Making housing more attainable especially for younger citizens who want a path to home ownership and the long-term benefits that provides. 2. Continuing to improve infrastructure by being proactive with maintenance investments. 3. Reducing our energy costs and carbon footprint.

Brett Ralston (Ward 3):

A: My top three priorities are housing and economic development, community engagement and local participation, and technological prudence. However, I don't plan on being a three-issue candidate; I will apply a systems approach to problem-solving for all the challenges in front of me.

Q: Property taxes are a significant funding source for the city budget. In the 2026 General Election, voters will decide whether to pass a constitutional amendment for a 50% reduction in property taxation. How would your budget priorities change if the amendment passes or other tax reduction legislation is proposed by the legislature?

Eric Henderson (Ward 1):

A: If property tax revenues decline, the City's first responsibility is to protect core services such as public safety, streets, water, sewer, and essential infrastructure. Budget decisions should be transparent, data-driven, and made with meaningful public input. I would prioritize efficiency, eliminate unnecessary spending where possible, and carefully evaluate new projects based on community benefit and long-term sustainability. At the same time, we should strengthen Laramie's economy through responsible growth that expands the tax base, helping maintain essential services while respecting taxpayers and living within our means.

Nicholas Jesse (Ward 1):

A: I would begin by working with our city finance director and budget staff to identify the true fiscal impact of a reduction this size. To my knowledge, Laramie is currently operating at a budget surplus with a healthy reserve, meaning we could still meet our service level agreements. I would prioritize protecting personnel. Our city employees work hard to serve this community, and cutting staff would be a last resort. Instead, I would look at reducing long-term spending by using reserve funds to pay down existing debt, freeing up portions of

the budget currently tied to interest payments. Finally I would leverage intergovernmental relationships to ensure that the city, the county, and the school district find long-term solutions together.

Brandon Newman (Ward 2):

A: If property tax revenues are significantly reduced, the City will need to focus on core services first. My priorities would be maintaining public safety, essential infrastructure, water and sewer systems, and other services residents rely on every day. I would support a thorough review of the budget to identify efficiencies, reduce non-essential spending, and ensure taxpayer dollars are being used effectively. At the same time, I would work with state legislators and local stakeholders to understand the long-term impacts of any tax changes and advocate for solutions that protect both taxpayers and the City's ability to provide quality services. Responsible budgeting and careful prioritization would be critical.

Samuel Buckwalter (Ward 3):

A: I do not wish to add any more tax burden to the population and defeat the point of the property tax cut for citizens, and with that government programs will have to get cut. I am also a large proponent of personal responsibility, I believe citizens should be able to support themselves in all areas of their lives. However, this is not possible for all people. My priority will be to keep alive the programs that protect and help get the most vulnerable demographics back on their feet. Laramie's Maternal and Child Services, specifically non-profits like the Laramie Breastfeeding Coalition will be the last to feel the tax cut. However, we are fortunate enough to have a very efficient government that is already lowering spending.

Tammy Hooper (Ward 3):

A: Regardless of whether or not the 50% reduction passes for our state, the City will still have some hard and difficult conversations and decisions regarding budgets. We need to have conversations with our community as to what their priorities and needs are and some those will be vast and very different from their neighbors. Government is to provide for the health and safety of its citizens and that will be a core priority for me-ensure that we have the necessary law enforcement and fire protection needed. That includes having streets in good order to provide that access, snow removal for those streets and also to make sure that transportation of students to our schools is not impeded by poor roads.

Erin O'Doherty (Ward 3):

A: I don't think priorities in the city would change, because it is a very conservative budget. However, such a loss would hurt the county government budget, and therefore all our citizens, if cuts need to be made to public safety.

Brett Ralston (Ward 3):

A: Laramie has, prudently, accounted for the People's Initiative in the FY27 budget. The revenue loss is calculated to be roughly \$625,000 per year, as property taxes make up about 7% of our General Fund revenue. To offset this loss, creative investments, economic

development, and capital improvement projects with high return on investment may be solutions.

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

Eric Henderson (Ward 1)

A: Rather than adding ordinances, I believe the City should first review existing ones to ensure they are clear, effective, consistently enforced, and not creating unnecessary burdens. I support regular reviews to eliminate outdated or duplicative regulations and simplify processes where appropriate. If new ordinances are proposed, they should address a demonstrated public need, include meaningful public input, and consider costs, enforcement, and unintended consequences. Good government means adopting only those regulations that improve public safety, protect property rights, and enhance residents' quality of life. ERIC HENDERSON

Nicholas Jesse (Ward 1):

A: I want to work with city staff and committees to explore amending zoning and parking ordinances that would expand medium density and mixed-use zoning development. As a city councilor I will always be willing to listen to my constituents about city ordinances, and look forward to working with all parties involved to find the solution that is the best fit for Laramie.

Brandon Newman (Ward 2):

A: Rather than adding ordinances simply to increase regulation, I believe the City should regularly review existing ordinances to ensure they are effective, enforceable, and still serve a legitimate public purpose. I support identifying outdated, redundant, or unnecessarily burdensome regulations that can be simplified or repealed. As for new ordinances, I would focus on measures that address clear community needs, improve public safety, protect property rights, and support responsible growth. Any proposed ordinance should be evaluated based on its cost, effectiveness, and impact on residents and local businesses before being adopted.

Samuel Buckwalter (Ward 3):

A: Rental Housing Code LMC 8.80 needs attention, I do not believe that private transactions between individuals should be subjected to rental housing codes. 15.14.050 should be amended for its landscaping and sidewalk standards, it puts too much burden on the property owner, consumes too much water and does not solve biking and walking transportation well.

Tammy Hooper (Ward 3):

A: I'm not sure there needs to be any new ordinances, however, education and outreach regarding the current ordinances on the books that may already address an issue(s) would

certainly be helpful. Depending on the circumstances often public awareness to address a situation or a behavior may be the most elegant solution.

Erin O'Doherty (Ward 3):

A: I am open to amending ordinances that are obsolete or create excess burdens, but my main focus will always be on public safety. I am not serving on council because I have an ax to grind pertaining to a specific ordinances.

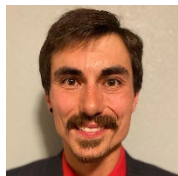
Brett Ralston (Ward 3):

A: My focus is on housing ordinances. Laramie has made great efforts through tools like a Planned Unit Development (PUD) overlay (15.08.040), incentivizing accessory dwelling units, and introducing innovative financing solutions. I want to continue this. I am also looking at limiting the expansion of historical horse racing (HHR) machines. We can potentially hinder growth by updating Ordinance 9.12.090 or by strengthening local zoning laws. Finally, the pressure of hyperscale data centers demands updates to our Unified Development Code (15.14) and the prohibited activities within the Aquifer Protection Overlay (15.08.040.A). We must establish standards to send a clear message that our community is not merely a means to someone else's ends.

Albany County Commissioner

Three commissioners serve four-year staggered terms, with no term limits. Salary is \$35,000 with some benefits. Two seats are open for this election. The top two in each party will advance to the General Election, and may be joined by others such as independents, for whom there is no primary. The two elected will serve with Thad Hoff (R), whose term expires in 2028.

Candidates:



Erik Michael Boss (D)

Campaign Mailing Address: 907 Mitchell St Laramie WY 82072

Campaign Phone: 307-460-8213

Campaign Email: eric.boss93@outlook.com

Campaign Website: www.boss4countycommissioner.com/



Merav Ben-David (D)

Campaign Mailing Address: 6839 Black Elk Trail Laramie WY 82070

Campaign Phone: 307-214-0510

Campaign Email: mbendavidwy@gmail.com
Campaign Instagram: www.instagram.com/bendavid2020
Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/bendavid2
Campaign Website: www.bendavid2020.com/



Chris Cleven (R)

Campaign Mailing Address: 2631 Pope Springs Rd Laramie WY 82070
Campaign Phone: 307-760-9779
Campaign Email: cleven4cc@gmail.com
Campaign Website: www.cleven4cc.com



Pete Gosar (D)

Campaign Phone: 307-760-3219
Campaign Email: petegosar@gmail.com
Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/gosar4commish



Klaus Halbsgut (D)

Campaign Email: klaus@bresnan.net
Campaign Website: www.klaus4.com



Terri Jones (R)

Campaign Email: tjones@wyoming.com

Q: Why are you running for this office, and what training, experience, and skills would you bring to this office?

Erik Michael Boss (D):

A: Any parent with a millennial or generation Z child knows the dual impact of an economy where young adults with or without college degrees cannot find jobs and face unaffordable

living conditions from the cost of housing to the cost of healthcare. Along with these realities accompanies financial and funding issues that the county has been experiencing. My lived experience makes these issues acutely clear, and my experience volunteering at Ivins and at the county jail, serving on a student association, the school board, and the antiracism transformation team as I earned my Masters of Divinity degree in Chicago, and serving communities of all different identities and backgrounds has prepared me for this role as public servant.

Merav Ben-David (D):

A: I have been serving on the Albany County Planning and Zoning Commission since 2023 and participated in updating zoning and conditional use regulations including the protection of the Casper Aquifer, Laramie Growth Area Plan, and the new wildlife-friendly fencing rules. I taught and led the Wildlife Program at the University of Wyoming for 25 years, was the Director of the Program in Ecology and the chair of the Department of Zoology and Physiology. I also served as the treasurer of Albany County Democratic Party for 4 years, am leading the effort to construct a new dog park in Laramie and am the treasurer of the Wyoming Coalition of Animal Protection. These experiences will allow me to better serve the community as a County Commissioner.

Chris Cleven (R):

A: I'm running for County Commissioner to ensure local government serves the people, protects private property rights, and makes responsible, transparent decisions. I believe government should remove unnecessary regulations and barriers so families, businesses, and agriculture can thrive in Albany County while preserving the values that make our community strong. I bring nearly two decades of public service in law enforcement, leadership, budgeting, investigations, and policy implementation, along with small business ownership and a proven record of bringing people together to solve local problems through practical, common-sense solutions. I am the only candidate who has spearheaded and created a road district to help improve our roads.

Pete Gosar (D):

A: I enjoy being an Albany County Commissioner, am passionate about Albany County and believe that solution-based, experienced leadership will be important in the next four years. I have experience as a manager of people and budgets in the private, public, and non-profit sectors. Those positions have taught me the importance of hard work, collaboration, and vision. Those skills helped reach agreements for emergency medical services, the detention center, renewable energy, and energy efficiencies in county building, and facilitated updates to the Casper Aquifer Protection Plan and the Laramie Growth Area Plan. I am focused on finding solutions. As a county commissioner, I have advocated for improved access to meetings.

Klaus Halbsgut (D):

A: I'm running because Albany County is my lifelong home, and my kids and grandkids grew up here. I've been a local business owner for decades, where leadership means

diagnosing problems, finding solutions, and fixing them — you're responsible for the outcome every time. I bring that same steady, practical leadership to public service. I've served on multiple boards and committees, gaining experience with budgets, governance, and collaboration. I know how to listen, build consensus, and keep projects moving. I'm committed to strong, reliable leadership for Albany County.

Terri Jones (R):

A: I am running for re-election for Albany County Commissioner. As a lifelong resident of Albany County, Wyoming, I am honored to know the people and know the issues. My husband and I were Masonry Contractors until his retirement, allowing me too not only have business experience but a working knowledge of contracting through my eyes and hands on at construction sites. I worked for Albany County Weed and Pest for several years allowing me to gain a close relationship with AC roads. I know the difficulty and why the arid climate creates difficult circumstances in maintaining dirt roads. Having served two previous terms, I have first-hand institutional knowledge. Albany County continues to be a grand wonderful place to live.

Q: What would be your top three priorities as a county commissioner?

Erik Michael Boss (D):

A: I want to make sure that I hear from all the corners of the county when it comes to issues, but my main personal drivers are attainable housing, water, and public lands. Attainable housing isn't about handing out anything to people who are undeserving. As a young candidate with a full-time job, a wife, and two kids, I don't own a house and I don't have healthcare. When we think about the health of a county, we have to ask ourselves how welcoming is this environment for young families? How will the aging population live good and dignified lives if products and services are moving to other states? Will we provide for corporate interests and allow them to syphon our resources? Our water and public land? These are central to my campaign.

Merav Ben-David (D):

A: Water security: retention of water in the valley; development of infrastructure for water delivery; smart planning based on increasing demand from new housing and industrial development; protection of river and aquifer from over consumption by data centers and other new heavy users. Energy independence: rooftop, community co-ops, and plugin solar; public solar installations; level 3 EV charging stations; EV credits. Wide, open spaces: smart development planning; supporting working landscapes; collaborating with landowners, state and federal agencies to protect wildlife habitat.

Chris Cleven (R):

A: My top three priorities are housing, protecting property rights, and responsible government. First, I want to reduce unnecessary regulations that limit housing development while respecting the rights of property owners. Second, I want to work with landowners to create water and sewer districts that allow access to municipal utilities

without requiring annexation into the City of Laramie. This approach can encourage responsible growth, reduce concerns about development over the Casper Aquifer, and create additional utility revenue for the city while preserving county property rights. Finally, I will prioritize fiscal responsibility, transparency, and meaningful public dialogue so citizens remain informed and involved in the decisions.

Pete Gosar (D):

A: 1. Continuing to protect the aquifer, the Laramie River, and all sources of our drinking water. 2. Protecting public lands and open spaces for the citizens of Albany County. 3. Finding safe and affordable housing solutions for young families, people experiencing poverty and the elderly in Albany County.

Klaus Halbsgut (D):

A: Albany County is facing real challenges and we need steady, practical leadership. My priorities include protecting our water—especially the Casper Aquifer—while supporting agriculture, tourism, and responsible renewable energy. We also have to navigate issues like data centers, property tax cuts, and declining sales-tax revenue. It takes revenue to run a county, and we may face difficult choices. As a long-time business owner, I've lived that reality: analyze the problem, find the solution, and get the job done. I'm ready to bring that experience to the commission.

Terri Jones (R):

A: As county commissioner I serve the people of Albany County. First priority is all residents continue to receive excellent service when conducting business in Albany County. Second priority is Albany County needs to expand our business/ industrial tax base relieving property taxes. Third priority is to help reduce the cost of housing by adjusting zoning regulations to accommodate smaller parcels of land in areas of the County where people want to live, so they can afford land and have a house. Fourth, Albany County must express WE are OPEN for BUSINESS at every available opportunity. If we aren't willing to help ourselves, why should anyone else? All the priorities work together to make Albany County stronger going into the future.

Q: Property taxes are a significant funding source for the county budget. In the 2026 General Election, voters will decide whether to pass a constitutional amendment for a 50% reduction in property taxation. How would your budget priorities change if the amendment passes or other tax reduction legislation is proposed by the legislature?

Erik Michael Boss (D):

A: There are creative answers to make up for cuts, but I understand that with a 50% cut like this, energy efficiency and work duplicities are not going to cover all the losses and that making job cuts is the only way to make up that much of a deficit. So, how can I make sure this is the last thing we do and how can I help support these individuals and transition them instead of just delivering bad news? I would approach this lack of funds by understanding and searching for inefficiencies in the system. What relationships and

partnerships can we make between institutions and offices that maybe we haven't considered before? What building efficiencies can we implement to decrease utility expenses? What grants can we look into applying for?

Merav Ben-David (D):

A: Reduction in property tax violates the section of the Wyoming constitution that calls for all property to be taxed at its full value. Such reduction in taxes will impose a difficult situation on county commissioners (and others) because they would need to cut crucial services. If faced with this difficult situation I will prioritize maintaining the public health and welfare programs, and reducing costs associated with road and bridge, search and rescue and planning and zoning. At the same time, I will try to supplement these programs with external (e.g., federal, private developers – see below) funding.

Chris Cleven (R):

A: The voters will ultimately decide whether to adopt the proposed constitutional amendment, and until that choice is made and any implementing legislation is finalized, it is difficult to predict the exact budget impact. While the proposed 50% residential assessment reduction is often misunderstood as a 50% revenue reduction, the actual effect on county revenues would likely be considerably less. If revenues decline, my priorities would be protecting core county services: public safety—including law enforcement and fire protection—followed by roads and infrastructure. The county operated on a smaller budget just a few years ago, demonstrating that responsible budgeting, careful prioritization, and eliminating unnecessary spending can maintain.

Pete Gosar (D):

A: Should the constitutional amendment pass, Albany County would see a reduction of \$500,000 - \$600,000 dollars in addition to the tax cuts already passed by the Wyoming Legislature. The Wyoming Legislature's tax cuts over the past few years have resulted in the loss of millions of dollars of revenue to Albany County. To balance the budget with the reduction in property taxes along with the multitude of tax cuts in place, the Albany County Commission would have to eliminate non-essential spending and reduce the services delivered to the people living in the most sparsely populated areas in Albany County. Should the Wyoming Legislature continue to enact cuts and economic conditions deteriorate, Albany County would need to prioritize.

Klaus Halbsgut (D):

A: A 50% property-tax reduction would significantly reduce the county's ability to fund essential services. If it passes, or if the Legislature enacts other cuts, we will have to set clear priorities and make difficult budget decisions. That's why we must seriously consider new growth and development that brings tax revenue, jobs, and economic opportunity with limited negative impact. As a long-time business owner, I've managed tight budgets and tough tradeoffs. I'm prepared to bring that practical, disciplined experience to the commission.

Terri Jones (R):

A: Albany County currently provides tax relief for property owners in need. This relief must be applied for. If the Peoples Incitive passes other programs will no longer be available and there will be a reduction in county services and very possibly layoffs. The 50% is only on the house the owner lives in, no rentals, outbuildings, no land. I do believe WE the PEOPLE have the right to bring forward to a vote any issue. Albany County will live with the vote of WE the People. Should I have to lay off people as I did in 2017, please volunteer to accompany me and hand out the pink slips, first you decide the people you want to lay off.

Q: Would you support data centers in Albany County? Please explain.

Erik Michael Boss (D):

A: The Clean Economy Coalition of Wisconsin (CECW) Data Center Accountability Framework, which can be found online, will heavily inform any decisions that I would make concerning data centers in Albany County. I would not support any data center that cannot fit within this framework and specifically considers the unique issues that may arise in a place like Wyoming compared to Wisconsin. I am concerned that this is a red heron issue, taking people's attention away from appropriate regulation of AI and workers rights. When I consider any proposal, I will prioritize the dignity of Albany County's citizens. Human dignity is my guiding star.

Merav Ben-David (D):

A: Currently we don't have enough water for proper irrigation and may impose water restrictions by the end of summer, so any discussion of data centers is mute. Data centers, even those with closed system cooling, require large quantities of water. But I would not support an indefinite moratorium on data centers because: 1. The cooling technology is likely to improve in the future 2. We can condition their construction on self-energy generation using renewables 3. Condition their construction on mitigation of water toxicity, noise, vibration, light pollution, etc. 4. Negotiate "Community Benefits Agreements" with the developers (e.g., generation of electricity for the entire city of Laramie; construction of wildlife overpasses over I-80).

Chris Cleven (R):

A: Technology will continue to evolve, but that does not mean every project is right for Albany County. I believe we must be cautious about large-scale data centers that consume significant amounts of our power, water, and infrastructure simply to export those resources elsewhere. If a company wants to locate here, it should be a true community partner—not just a consumer of our natural resources. Any proposal must provide clear, long-term benefits to Albany County, respect private property rights, and protect the quality of life our residents value. Just as importantly, the public must have a meaningful voice in the process. Major decisions should be made transparently, with open dialogue and accountability, not behind closed doors.

Pete Gosar (D):

A: Because data centers are known to use large volumes of water, raise local electrical costs, produce heat islands, and employ only a few workers once built, it is difficult to justify the support of data centers. However, I recognize there is much more to learn about data centers and that is why I am an enthusiastic supporter of the City of Laramie and Albany County's Joint Data Center Work Session (scheduled for early August). The Data Center Work Session will provide an opportunity to learn more about the impacts of data centers and discuss meaningful data center regulation frameworks. The Joint Work Session will also allow Albany County citizens to learn alongside Councilors and Commissioners.

Klaus Halbsgut (D):

A: Yes, I would support data centers in Albany County when they are in the right place and meet the right conditions. Every development has a right and wrong place, and data centers are no different. Albany County needs economic growth, and these projects can expand our tax base, create construction jobs, and help stabilize county finances. But that doesn't mean approving anything without safeguards. We need clear standards on noise, water use, siting, and grid impacts, and developers must pay for the infrastructure they require. I support data centers that are responsibly sited, meet strong community protections, and contribute to Albany County instead of burdening it.

Terri Jones (R):

A: I will ask a question; would you support an industry that produces its own electricity both solar and natural gas then returns the excess electricity to Albany County's electrical grid? What if it owns its own water rights down river from the City of Laramie and uses a contained cooling system? If it is miles from the city limits in an alkali bowl, not seen from the highway, uses no county roads and would pay taxes in excess of Mountain Cement and Pete Lien combined, no costs to the citizens of Laramie and Albany County and it is an Albany County business to boot. Would you have interest in a data center? Yes, indeed I want and need to learn more. I want Albany County to be financially healthy and independent moving into the future.

Albany County Clerk of District Court

The Clerk of District Court serves a four-year term with no term limits. Annual salary is \$102,000 plus some benefits. They are the official record keeper for all court actions going before the District Court Judge. All documents are filed in the Clerk of District Court's office, where they become part of the record. The office is responsible for all dealings with jurors and potential jurors from the initial questionnaires sent out annually to compiling of the jury pools, calling jurors for a trial and paying those who are asked to participate. The office takes in and disburses all court ordered fines, fees, and bonds, as well as child support payments for Albany County. They assist the public in searching and researching those cases which are public record. The top candidate from each party will advance to the General Election.

Candidates:



Kayla Marroquin (D)

Campaign Mailing Address: 2421 Sunrise Court Laramie WY 82070

Campaign Phone: 307-399-5467

Campaign Email: kayla@kayla4codc.com

Campaign Website: kayla4codc.com



Dwain Streeter (R)

Campaign Phone: 307-399-5862

Campaign Email: elect.dwain.streeter@gmail.com

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/ElectDwainStreeter

Q: Why are you running for this office, and what training, experience, and skills would you bring to this office?

Kayla Marroquin (D):

A: I am running for Clerk of District Court because I believe the office needs a strong leader with experience to continue providing exemplary service to the public regarding court records and public access to them. I have over 15 years of experience in the legal field and am familiar with the staff at our local law offices. I use the current electronic filing system daily and am familiar with how it functions. I have previous experience managing employees. My husband and I own a small business in Laramie, where I currently do all bookkeeping and payroll, in addition to working a full-time job, which speaks to my ability to manage my time. I will bring my experience, familiarity with the system and devotion to Albany County to this office.

Dwain Streeter (R):

A: I am running to be your next Clerk of District Court because I enjoy helping people and it's a job that I am extremely familiar with. I have 16 years experience working for Albany County and I have served as a Deputy Clerk under Court Clerks Stacy Lam and Janice Sexton.

Q: What would be your top three priorities if elected as Clerk of the District Court?

Kayla Marroquin (D):

A: I would like to ensure the public has continued access to the court records and work with the Wyoming Supreme Court to grow and expand on the current public access system. Another goal is to ensure the office abides by all requirements in the Wyoming Statutes as they pertain to the office of the Clerk of District Court. Finally, I hope to work closely with all other offices in relation to the District Court to ensure there is a positive relationship, which helps overall judicial economy.

Dwain Streeter (R):

A: My top three priorities will be to increase access to public records, keep operating costs as low as possible, and continue to keep our office at the forefront of technological advances while maintaining the excellent customer service that our office is known for.

Q: What do you think will be your biggest challenge if elected as Clerk of District Court, and how do you plan to address it?

Kayla Marroquin (D):

A: My biggest challenge will be jury trials. The public plays an important role in jury trials, and I want to ensure they have as enjoyable of an experience as possible. One unique skill I bring to the table is that I currently serve a very different role when it comes to jury trials in the District Court. This will help me see an overall picture of the trial, which I believe will give me a unique perspective on the way they are handled. I will work closely with current staff to ensure trials are handled professionally and run smoothly.

Dwain Streeter (R):

A: I feel the biggest challenge will be protecting confidential records while increasing access to public records. Court records will eventually be searchable online and we will have to make sure that those records designated as restricted by state statute or rules of civil procedure remain confidential.

Q: How will you assist the public with accessing court records and making court-ordered payments?

Kayla Marroquin (D):

A: The District Court Clerk's Office must implement the technology provided by the Supreme Court when it comes to public access of court records. I have used this system in previous employment as well as my current job, and I am familiar with the system, its strengths, and what it lacks. I am willing to work with the Supreme Court to provide feedback on what works and what doesn't and will advocate on behalf of the public to continue to provide a system that is beneficial to all who desire to use it. Regarding court-ordered payments, there are currently options for paying online, via phone or in person. I would love to hear comments from the public on how the current system can be improved.

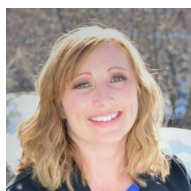
Dwain Streeter (R):

A: I know that public records in Wyoming will be available online in the future. This is something that I will advocate for and I will volunteer our office as a test court once the legislature and Wyoming Supreme Court grant their approval. Until that day we will continue to provide court records through the public access terminal in our office and we will continue to give as much direction and assistance as we are allowed over the phone and by mail. Our office already accepts cash, card and check but I would like to find a way to add digital payments. I will look into adding services such as Venmo and PayPal for payment options in our office.

Albany County Assessor

The County Assessor serves a four-year term with no term limits. Annual salary is \$102,000 plus some benefits. The constitutional duty of the Assessor is to list, locate, and value all property in Albany County. To accomplish this, they use industry accepted mass appraisal procedures and methodologies. Only one Republican and no Democrat filed for office.

Candidates:



Chelsie Mathews (R)

Campaign Mailing Address: 4013 Little Moon Trl Laramie WY 82070

Campaign Phone: 307-760-6860

Campaign Email: chelsie4assessor.com

Campaign Facebook: facebook.com/ChelsieMathews4AlbanyCountyAssessor

Campaign Website: chelsie4assessor.com

Q: Why are you running for this office, and what training, experience, and skills would you bring to this office?

Chelsie Mathews (R):

A: I am running for County Assessor because I believe this office plays a critical role in ensuring a fair and equitable property tax system. Experience, knowledge, and consistency are essential in this position, and I bring over 17 years of experience working in the Assessor's Office. I was appointed County Assessor in November 2021 and have held nearly every position within the office, giving me a comprehensive understanding of the responsibilities and challenges involved. I have been certified by the State of Wyoming as a Property Tax Appraiser since 2010 and have completed over 535 credit hours of continuing education. I have focused on maintaining accurate property valuations while ensuring compliance with Wyoming law.

Q: What will be your top three priorities as County Assessor?

Chelsie Mathews (R):

A: 1. Fair and equitable property valuations: I will continue to ensure properties are assessed accurately and in accordance with Wyoming law and Department of Revenue guidelines. 2. Accessibility and transparency: I believe taxpayers deserve an office where they feel comfortable asking questions and expressing concerns. I will continue maintaining an open-door policy and providing responsive customer service to the residents of Albany County. 3. Public education and awareness: Property taxes can be complicated, and it is important that taxpayers understand how values are determined and what exemptions are available. I will continue expanding outreach and encourage everyone to open their notices of value and read the included flyers.

Q: What will be your biggest challenge as assessor, and how do you plan to address it?

Chelsie Mathews (R):

A: One of the biggest challenges facing the Assessor's Office is ensuring property owners are aware of new and changing property tax exemptions. I have worked on addressing this by providing informational flyers with notices of value and tax bills, keeping the Assessor's website updated, sharing information through social media, and distributing educational materials throughout the community. Another significant challenge has been implementing new exemptions and increased responsibilities with the same staffing levels. To address this, I have focused on expanding staff knowledge and utilizing technology to increase efficiency while maintaining the level of service taxpayers expect.

Q: Would you make any changes in how property owners are informed about calculation of property assessment? Please explain.

Chelsie Mathews (R):

A: I am always open to finding new and effective ways to educate property owners about how assessments are calculated. Increasing public understanding has been a priority of mine during my first term, and I plan to continue building on those efforts. I have hosted public town halls in Laramie, Rock River, and Centennial to provide residents with opportunities to ask questions and learn more about the assessment process. I also developed an informational slide show explaining how property values are determined, which is available on the County Assessor's website. Additionally, each year I include a letter with the notices of value mailed in April explaining the assessment process.

Albany County Attorney

The County Attorney serves a four-year term with no term limits. Salary is \$123,000 with benefits; an office is provided. In Albany County, the Albany County and Prosecuting Attorney's Office (ACAO) has the jurisdiction, responsibilities, and duties of both the district attorney and of the county attorney. In its civil role, the ACAO represents and provides legal opinions for the County and its officers. In its criminal role, the ACAO acts as

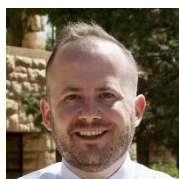
prosecutor for the state in all felony, misdemeanor, and juvenile court proceedings. The top candidate from each party will advance to the General Election.

Candidates:



Edward Kurt Britzius (D)

Campaign Email: britziusforcountyattorney@gmail.com



Joel H. Defebaugh (R)

Campaign Email: joel.defebaugh@gmail.com

Campaign Instagram: www.instagram.com/joeldefebaugh_ac_attorney/

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/defebaughalbanycountyattorney Campaign

Website: www.joeldefebaugh.com/

Roxie Hensley (R)

Campaign Mailing Address: PO Box 1250 Laramie WY 82073

Campaign Phone: 307-399-1651

Campaign Email: roxiehensley@gmail.com

Campaign Website: Vote4roxie.org

Q: Why are you running for this office, and what training, experience, and skills would you bring to this office?

Edward Kurt Britzius (D):

A. I have worked at the Albany County Attorney's office for nearly fifteen years, both as a deputy county attorney and the elected county attorney. During this time, I have gained extensive experience in prosecuting crime, as well as working with law enforcement, the courts and opposing counsel in Albany County. I have had the pleasure of working with the members of our criminal justice system over these years and developing the relationships necessary to achieve the best results for the citizens of Albany County. I have also gained experience in working with departments heads and elected officials in Albany County and providing them legal advice and support. Albany County is special place to work and live and I hope to continue to serve.

Joel H. Defebaugh (R):

A. I believe Albany County deserves experienced, steady leadership in the County Attorney's Office. For the past eight years, I have served as a Deputy County Attorney,

representing the County in civil matters, prosecuting misdemeanors, and handling felony prosecutions. During that time, I have tried 18 jury cases, the majority involving felony offenses. In addition to my work with the County, I have served as a Judge Advocate (JAG) in the Wyoming Army National Guard since 2022. I advise military commanders on legal and ethical issues, which has strengthened my judgment, leadership, and ability to make difficult decisions under pressure. As Albany County Attorney, I will build on the office's strong tradition of providing sound legal counsel.

Roxie Hensley (R):

A: I'm running for CA because you deserve a leader who shows up, listens, & acts w/integrity. I believe in a justice system built on WY values: personal responsibility, limited gov't, respect for the law & strong communities. I'm committed to ensuring victims are heard, offenders are held accountable & the law is applied fairly & consistently. As a WY Attorney for over 2 decades, practiced in nearly every WY Jurisdiction, I bring proven legal expertise & deep understanding of our judicial system. My experience extends beyond the courtroom. A wife, mother, business owner & employer, I understand the challenges WY families & businesses face every day. I've built businesses, created jobs, & stood on the front lines fighting for our values.

Q: What factors will influence your decisions on which cases to prosecute?

Edward Kurt Britzius (D):

A. Most often, an individual is arrested and the prosecutor's office has to make a charging decision in a relatively short amount of time. The first analysis is to determine what charges, if any, fit the facts of the case itself. Next, a prosecutor needs to look at what charges are proper to pursue. I consider the nature of the offense, violent or nonviolent, any harm caused to victims, and the individual defendant themselves, including their age, circumstances, criminal history, and other factors unique to the person. Whether to charge a case and, if so, how to proceed with the prosecution of that case is dependent on the facts of each case. Prosecutors are ministers of justice and our duty is to seek justice to the best of our ability.

Joel H. Defebaugh (R):

A. Every charging decision begins with the law and the evidence. Prosecutors have an ethical duty to file charges only when the evidence supports them and there is a reasonable likelihood of proving the case beyond a reasonable doubt. Under my leadership, the County Attorney's Criminal Division will continue working closely with our local law enforcement agencies while exercising independent legal judgment. This partnership is essential to protecting public safety, allowing every case to be evaluated on its own facts, the applicable law, and the interests of justice. Our #1 responsibility will be to provide objective legal advice based on the law, regardless of politics or outside pressure.

Roxie Hensley (R):

A: In general, my decisions would be influenced by a combination of legal, practical, ethical and policy consideration: The strength of the evidence, applicable law, seriousness of the offense, public safety, victim interests, criminal history of the defendant, available resources, Constitutional and ethical obligations. The combination of legal experience I bring to the table, real-world leadership and unwavering commitment to Wyoming and Albany County citizens prepares me to make decisions that are fair, accountable and common sense based.

Q: What factors will influence your sentencing recommendations to the court?

Edward Kurt Britzius (D):

A. Sentencing recommendations are often the result of plea negotiations with opposing counsel as a part of a larger plea deal. When determining what sentence recommendation to give to the court, I look to the nature of the crime, the affect of the crime on the victim and the community, and the defendant's past criminal history and the character of the person being prosecuted. Nonviolent crimes, property crimes and drug offenses, tend to lend themselves toward making the victim whole and rehabilitation, while violent crimes are more likely to require incarceration. Each case and defendant are unique and often require creative solutions to achieve the goals of sentencing, deterrence, rehabilitation, and, if necessary, removal from society.

Joel H. Defebaugh (R):

A. Sentencing recommendations should promote both justice and public safety. In making those recommendations, I consider the four recognized purposes of sentencing: punishment, deterrence, rehabilitation, and incapacitation. I also consider the individual facts of each case, including the impact on victims, the defendant's criminal history, acceptance of responsibility, and the likelihood of successful rehabilitation. Albany County is fortunate to have treatment resources that are not available in many Wyoming communities. When treatment can safely reduce future crime and help someone become a productive member of the community, it should be considered. When prison is necessary to protect the public I will advocate for that as well.

Roxie Hensley (R):

A: My sentencing recommendations will be guided by the law, the facts and interests of justice. I will consider the severity of the crime, the defendants criminal history, the impact on victims, community safety, and the likelihood of rehabilitation. While the judge usually has the final say, we must remember Justice requires both accountability and consistency. My goal is to protect the public, ensure victims are heard, and seek sentences that are fair, lawful, and appropriate for each individual case--not driven by politics or ideology.

Q: What alternatives to prosecution do you support and why?

Edward Kurt Britzius (D):

A. In Albany County, we have both adult and juvenile diversion programs, which allow for people charged with crimes to go through programs where they learn better ways to handle situations and life, but avoid a criminal record. In the juvenile diversion program, administered by Big Brothers Big Sisters, kids are offered services and support and avoid going through juvenile justice system, which leads to lower recidivism and less negative impact on the kids and their families. The adult diversion program works in much the same way and is supervised by a case manager. I support any program that provides for accountability and rehabilitation, but allows individuals to avoid the criminal justice system and a criminal record.

Joel H. Defebaugh (R):

A. I support evidence-based alternatives that improve public safety while holding offenders accountable. Albany County's adult and juvenile diversion programs provide appropriate first-time or low-risk offenders an opportunity to address underlying issues through treatment or education while avoiding a criminal conviction. I also strongly support the Albany County Court Supervised Treatment Program (Drug Court), where I have served for six years. These programs are not appropriate for every case, but when they reduce recidivism, promote accountability, and help participants become productive members of our community, they are valuable tools.

Roxie Hensley (R):

A: Albany County has many young residents, many who grew up in small towns and are away from home for the first time. That combination of inexperience and sudden independence can often lead to poor decision making that in some circumstances could impact future career opportunities. Diversion programs exist to offer a second chance to first time offenders and should be liberally employed.

Albany County Clerk

Term of office is four years, with no term limits. Annual salary is \$102,000 plus some benefits. County Clerks perform the following services: Clerk to the Board of Albany County Commissioners; Chief Budget Officer (Budget & Audit); Chief Election Officer; Issue Wyoming Titles for Motor Vehicles; Record liens on motor vehicles; Process and pay vendors who have provided goods and services to the county; Registrar of Deeds and Mortgages; Issue Wyoming Marriage Licenses and how to obtain other Vital Records; Administer Liquor License and Temporary Merchant License application; Designated Public Records person for Albany County. One candidate from each party will advance to the General Election.

Candidates:



R. Mark Armstrong (R)

Campaign Mailing Address: 514 E Grand Ave PMB 325 Laramie WY 82070

Campaign Phone: 307-399-8516

Campaign Email: mr_geoman@yahoo.com

Campaign Instagram: [@rmark.armstrong@x.com](https://www.instagram.com/rmark.armstrong)

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/rmark.armstrong

Campaign Website: ArmstrongCountyClerk.WY



Kayla White (D)

Campaign Mailing Address: 300 Harmony Ln Laramie WY 82070

Campaign Phone: 307-761-2136

Campaign Email: kaylawhiteforcountyclerk@gmail.com

Campaign Facebook: Kayla White for Albany County Clerk

Q: Why are you running for this office, and what training, experience, and skills would you bring to this office?

R. Mark Armstrong (R):

A. As a Christ-centered man, I believe Mark 10:44 gives elected officials guidance that is not currently followed: “And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.” Servant leadership is what I will bring to the Clerks office. We have more than sufficient government and the people need to be represented. When people get played by not informing the people of a vote or the consequences of a vote, my office will inform the people for full engagement and transparency. I have more than a high school education and have managed budgets of more than a million dollars a day. I have successfully managed more than 40 highly-skilled people on very complex projects.

Kayla White (D):

A. I’m running for re-election as County Clerk because I truly believe in the work I do and in providing vital public services to all citizens in our community. As County Clerk I will continue working to ensure public confidence in and the security of our elections, providing the public with knowledgeable and competent service, and pledge to keep working with all of our Elected Officials to keep Albany County fiscally responsible. I have nearly 19 years of experience in the County Clerk’s office and will never ask my staff to do something I would not do myself. I take the trust voters have placed in me seriously and if re-elected I will continue working every day to ensure that trust is not misplaced.

Q: What would be your top three priorities if elected as county clerk?

R. Mark Armstrong (R):

A. Transparency: The poverty rate is the highest in the State of Wyoming. Double the nation average! When you have to take legal action to obtain PUBLIC records, that is the epitome of non-transparent. When the Judge rules that the Clerk's office erred when refusing to release the public record, there should be a consequences for that error! Elections have consequences. I will make the County Transparent by releasing all Public Records when requested. Election Integrity: Under my administration we will follow the Law! Fiscal Responsibility: County Funds will not be used to manipulate votes to increase taxes. County funds will not be used to pay dues to organizations that lobby against the interest of the tax payers.

Kayla White (D):

A. My first priority is that our Albany County elections remain secure, accurate, and transparent. I will do that by continuing to adhere to Wyoming's election laws and regulations, utilizing only State authorized processes and equipment, and maintaining transparent processes at every step. My second priority is to provide consistent, reliable, trustworthy, and accurate service to the public in all interactions and transactions undertaken in and by my office. My third priority is maintaining the accessibility of public records with our streamlined request process and working to create and establish a database of all answered public records requests that will then be available to the public.

Q: How would you increase public confidence in election security and transparency in Albany County?

R. Mark Armstrong (R):

A. By following the Law! The Clerks office failed to calibrate the voting machines correctly. The Calibration Deck must have variance. After proper calibration of the voting machines, the keys for the machines shall be sealed in an envelope and signed by the Clerk, a Republican, and a Democrat. The envelope will not be opened and the machines will remain sealed until after the election voting is complete and polls are closed. These requirements are found in 22-10-108 through 109 with intent. The results of the early and absentee votes will be released as soon as possible. If you are on the ballot for any office other than Precinct Man or Women you will not be allowed to be an Election Judge. As the current Law at SOS rule H.2 requires.

Kayla White (D):

A. I remain committed to integrity and transparency in our elections. Providing correct information and public education is the best way to combat the insidious mis/disinformation being used to undermine public confidence and trust in elections. I will continue making election information accessible through the county website. We also encourage public involvement with our "Fun Fact Fridays" and the other election information published on our Facebook page. New for this year, the public will be able to

view a 24/7 livestream of the election dropbox during each 28-day period it is available. I will continue my goal of making elections better in Albany County through ongoing collaboration with my bipartisan election working group.

Q: How would you keep voters informed about changes in legislation and rules related to voting?

R. Mark Armstrong (R):

A. Social media and Transparency. I will promote information to ensure the public is aware of any planned increase of government spending. There are numerous emails from the State that inform the public about legislation, these can be posted on the County web site. The County Commissioners Agenda will be published so that the people get constructive notice of actions of the County, a required duty of the Clerk. People have the right to know how their tax dollars are going to be spent, the adverse and beneficial impacts of any projects being planned and voted on, and the Environmental process. Understanding of the use, by age groups, to target Social Media sites for public dissemination of information will be a priority.

Kayla White (D):

A. Disseminating understandable legislative information is difficult but I continuously work to identify and utilize numerous resources to reach the widest range of Albany County residents. I will continue to conduct several town hall meetings after each legislative session and send physical mailers to our residents. We have also included information with County property tax statements as an additional cost-effective outreach. Utilization of the County website and social media to get information to the public has proven to be a great way to reach larger audiences at no cost to the taxpayer. I also reach out to local media and speak with as many local groups as possible. All of which is to provide updated information and answer any questions.

Albany County Coroner

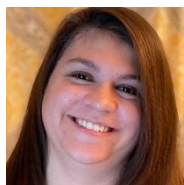
The Coroner serves a four-year term with no term limits. Annual salary is \$85,000 with some benefits. The County Coroner operates at the interface between law and medicine. In Wyoming, coroners investigate deaths due to: Accident; Apparent child abuse causes; Apparent drug or chemical overdose or toxicity; Apparent suicide; The deceased was unattended by a physician or other licensed health care provider; Unknown cause(s); Violent or criminal action; Certain deaths that occur in hospital settings; Deaths of prisoners, trustees, inmates or patients of any county corrections facility; Unattended deaths, or deceased having not seen a physician within six months prior to death. One Candidate from each part will advance to the General Election.

Candidates:

Ryan Hershey (R)

Campaign Email: ryan@digitaldocslaramie.com

Candidate did not respond to questions in time for publication in this guide.



Sally King (D)

Campaign Mailing Address: 522 S Lincoln St Apt C Laramie WY 82070

Campaign Phone: 307-761-2136

Campaign Email: celiaruthrice@gmail.com

Q: Why are you running for this office, and what training, experience, and skills would you bring to this office?

Sally King (D):

A. I am a lifetime Wyomingite and have lived in Albany County since 2001. I have deep roots and am invested in taking care of this community. I graduated from the University of Wyoming in 2017 with Bachelor's degrees in Criminal Justice and Physiology. I attended the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy in July 2017 and earned my certification in Coroner Basic. My career in the Coroner's Office began as an intern in May 2016, I was hired as a deputy in August 2016 and was elected to my first term and County Coroner in January 2023. I am familiar with the duties and statutory obligations of this office, I am a hands on investigator and I know how to treat grieving families with compassion and respect.

Q: What are the top three challenges facing the Coroner's office and how would you address them?

Sally King (D):

A. Our biggest challenge the office faces is the public's understanding of the duties of the office. When the public has to interact with this office, it is under emotional duress and so there are a lot of misconceptions regarding duties, obligations and procedures. I have taken the time to try and educate people when I have the opportunity. Second is staffing. The County Coroner elected position will actually become full-time vs it's lifelong part time standing. Third is Out-of-State Autopsies. We currently rely on out-of-state pathologists. For the past four years, I have actively collaborated with the Wyoming Coroner's Association to help bring these vital autopsy services directly into our state.

Q: What considerations do you prioritize when investigating a death?

Sally King (D):

A. I have been trained to approach scenes without bias and treat them similarly regardless of circumstances. After interviews with law enforcement, family present and other witnesses, we can then process the scene accordingly. Each scene, circumstance and

decident is different but they all deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. It is important to look at the entire picture and not just immediately focus using preexisting bias or information that you are given prior to arriving at the scene. Sometimes I walk in knowing a lot and sometimes I have no information so approaching scenes in the same way helps ensure a thorough investigation is performed.

Q: What is needed to assure that funding is adequate for required investigations by the coroner?

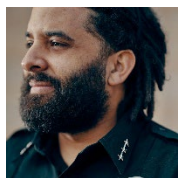
Sally King (D):

A. I believe that educating the public about what is necessary for an investigation helps them understand why the office continues to need funding even when there is no source of revenue. I believe in being honest with family and anyone who asks questions helps them understand where taxpayer dollars are going for investigations. I also think that having clear policies for things like toxicology and autopsies makes it easier to understand where the money is directed consistently.

Albany County Sheriff

The Sheriff serves a four-year term with no term limits. Annual salary is \$112,000 plus some benefits. The Albany County Sheriff's Office serves a population of approximately 37,000 over 4300 square miles. The county includes the: City of Laramie, Centennial, Town of Rock River, and numerous other small communities. The Albany County Detention Center is the correctional facility located in Albany County. One candidate from each party will advance to the General Election.

Candidates:



Aaron Appelhans (D)

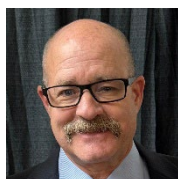
Campaign Mailing Address: 1675 Bath Ave Laramie WY 82072

Campaign Phone: 307-399-7200

Campaign Email: aaronappelhansforsheriff@gmail.com

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/AppelhansforSheriff/

Campaign Website: appelhansforsheriff.com/



Daron L. Wyatt (R)

Campaign Mailing Address: PO Box 714 Laramie WY 82073

Campaign Phone: 307-287-0761
Campaign Email: daron@wyatt4sheriff2026.com
Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/Wyatt4Sheriff26/
Campaign Website: www.wyatt4sheriff2026.com

Q: Why are you running for this office, and what training, experience, and skills would you bring to this office?

Aaron Appelhans (D):

A: I am running for re-election as Albany County Sheriff to build on six years of progress. We have increased transparency, ensuring our office is open, accessible, and the first to notify the public during emergencies. Mental health is a priority. I will continue training deputies for crises and partnering with local clinics to redirect individuals away from jail. We are also using grants to reach 100% staff training in de-escalation. Our rural towns face unique challenges. From land disputes to natural disasters, my commitment to county residents will never waver. Backed by a diverse background in engineering, leadership, and a law enforcement career rising from Detective to Sergeant and Sheriff, I have the experience Albany County needs.

Daron L. Wyatt (R):

A: Albany County needs a Sheriff with real policing and leadership experience. I have been a sworn peace officer for 38 years. I have worked in patrol, SWAT, and investigations. I have investigated Officer Involved Shootings, Use of Force cases, and allegations of misconduct against police personnel. I am a designated Master PIO by FEMA and have deployed to more than 35 major disasters. I have worked with a civilian Police Review Board and the Office of Independent Review. I have more than 3500 hours of certified police training. I hold a BS in Public Administration, and an MA in Behavioral Science. I have served in leadership roles for 17 years. I will build relationships within the community, in county government, and with partner agencies.

Q: What are the top three challenges facing the Albany County Sheriff's department and how would you address them?

Aaron Appelhans (D):

A: The Albany County Sheriff's Office faces a major budget threat from a ballot measure to slash property taxes by 50%. Since property taxes fund county services, its passage will force tough budget decisions. I will fight to preserve staffing and emergency responses, but non-emergent services may be cut. We also face rising Search and Rescue demands. Federal public land rulings have brought more visitors to our open spaces, increasing rescue calls. We must launch public safety education campaigns and upgrade aging rescue equipment. Finally, we remain focused on eliminating impaired driving. We will continue alcohol safety education with local colleges and residents while strictly enforcing DUI laws to reach zero traffic fatalities.

Daron L. Wyatt (R):

A: Fiscal Responsibility - With looming budget cuts, the Sheriff needs to be wise and creative with spending. Paying double what other Sheriffs are paying for inmate medical costs is irresponsible. Safety and Security in the Detention Center - The Albany County Detention Center has averaged at least one death per year in the jail over the past five years. This is higher than many of the other jails that house 7-8 times more inmates than ACDC. This is unacceptable. Policies and procedures must be adhered to, and staffing needs to be appropriate. Recruitment and Retention - Hiring needs to focus on the most qualified applicant. Standards cannot be lowered. Thorough backgrounds must be completed, and personnel must know they are supported/valued.

Q: What is your position about collecting personal data and mass surveillance information? Please explain.

Aaron Appelhans (D):

A: The Albany County Sheriff's Office does not conduct mass surveillance on our residents, nor do we contract with companies providing mass personal data. As Sheriff, my position is firm: my office has two core mandates to the public—to enforce the law and to protect your constitutional rights. While mass data collection firms are common in law enforcement today, it is our absolute responsibility to follow the law while enforcing it. The Albany County Sheriff's Office will continue to reject contracts with mass data collection firms. I will ensure that your Fourth Amendment rights remain fully intact while I am in office.

Daron L. Wyatt (R):

A: I do not believe the government should be collecting, storing, and sharing personal data of its citizens. While Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs), and similar technology might be valuable in areas overridden with violent crime, I do not see a need, nor do I support the technology in Albany County. Residents here have overwhelmingly rejected the idea of a mass surveillance system with little to no controls over what data is collected, stored, and shared. While the companies tout strict security protocols, recent studies have shown that simply isn't the case. Jurisdictions across the United States have ended their contracts with companies such as Flock. I will not support these technologies being used here in Albany County at this time.

Q: Please explain what level of coordination, if any, you would authorize between the Albany County Sheriff's Office and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Aaron Appelhans (D):

A: I have partnered with many local, state, and federal agencies to aid in Albany County law enforcement. With every partner, the same rules apply: a judge-signed warrant or court order is legally required to make an arrest, extend a hold, or transfer custody. Every agency has provided what is legally required, except U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). As Sheriff, I have not authorized coordination with ICE for extended custody holds or

immigration enforcement because they cannot provide these mandatory legal and constitutional documents. I will never authorize cooperation with ICE or any other agency that fails to meet the strict legal requirements needed to seize people or property.

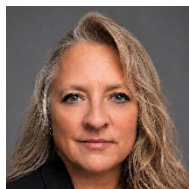
Daron L. Wyatt (R):

A: I will honor ICE detainers. These are requests to hold an inmate for up to 48 hours to facilitate a transfer to ICE when the person has committed a violation of Wyoming law and is wanted by ICE. ACSO is the only Sheriff's Office in Wyoming that does not honor these detainers. For those who say they don't want ICE in our community, I agree, but the logic is flawed when they support the current policy. When a person with an ICE detainer is released, a Task Force of ICE Agents comes to Laramie to locate and rearrest the person. The 2nd part of this is a 287(g) agreement. There is current litigation against the Laramie County Sheriff's Ofc. for their agreements with ICE, so time will tell how the courts rule. Bottom line, I will follow the law!

Albany County Treasurer

Term of office for the County Treasurer is four years, with no term limits. An office is provided and a salary of \$102,00 with benefits. The Treasurer's office receives and processes Property Tax payments. The office collects a sales or use tax on all vehicle purchases and receives and processes annual county motor vehicle registration payments. The County Treasurer publishes annual financial reports. One candidate from each party will advance to the General Election.

Candidates:



Tracy Fletcher (D)

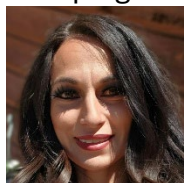
Campaign Mailing Address: 64 Cloudland Rd Laramie WY 82070

Campaign Phone: 307-760-9669

Campaign Email: treasurerfletcher@outlook.com

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/fletcher2018

Campaign Website: treasurerfletcher.wordpress.com



Merissa Martinez (R)

Campaign Mailing Address: 1160 Apache Dr Laramie WY 82072

Campaign Phone: 307-920-9137

Campaign Email: merissamartinez111@gmail.com

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/merissa.martinez.94

Q: Why are you running for this office, and what training, experience, and skills would you bring to this office?

Tracy Fletcher (D):

A: I'm running to keep the Treasurer's office a model of fiscal responsibility, transparency, and service. My modernization project — updating software, policies, and procedures — remains underway to deliver a more efficient, transparent interface for county residents. I hold a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Wyoming, have completed professional association training, and collaborate with elected officials statewide to find efficiencies. With 23 years in the Treasurer's Office, from front-counter registrations and property taxes to accounting, and eight years as County Treasurer, I'm committed to finishing this work.

Merissa Martinez (R):

A: I am running for Albany County Treasurer to bring strong fiscal management, absolute transparency, and a dedicated spirit of public service to our community. I hold a Bachelor's degree in Accounting and possess over 15 years of hands-on experience utilizing QuickBooks to manage finances, payroll, and budgets. This unique combination of formal accounting education and extensive practical experience gives me the sharp technical expertise required to oversee public funds responsibly. I understand how essential precision and internal controls are to our county's financial stability. I will combine my professional financial background with a commitment to open communication to ensure our treasury is managed efficiently.

Q: What will be your top three priorities for the County Treasurer's office if elected?

Tracy Fletcher (D):

A: My first priority is completing the modernization project—upgrading software, policies, and procedures—to deliver the transparency residents expect in our financial information. Second, I will expand convenient, secure ways for taxpayers to do business with our office, including additional payment options and enhanced online services now permitted by statutory updates. Third, I will continue to exceed expectations in customer service, keeping processes efficient, accessible, and respectful for every resident.

Merissa Martinez (R):

A: If elected, my top priorities will be: 1. Strengthening internal accuracy and financial controls. Ensuring all reconciliations, deposits, and reports are completed on time with thorough documentation. 2. Improving public communication and customer service. Residents should feel comfortable asking questions and confident they will receive clear guidance, whether they are paying taxes or registering a vehicle. 3. Increasing transparency and accessibility. I want the public to better understand how the Treasurer's Office functions and how county funds flow through the system.

Q: What do you think will be your biggest challenge as County Treasurer, and how do you plan to address it?

Tracy Fletcher (D):

A: The Albany County Treasurer's biggest challenge will be getting ready for possible drops in tax revenue while still protecting the essential services people rely on. A few ways to help manage this include: Improving revenue predictions: checking the numbers more often and using up-to-date information to spot trends early. Being open and communicative: keeping residents and local partners informed about the county's financial situation, the choices ahead, and any planned actions so everyone understands what's happening and why.

Merissa Martinez (R):

A: The biggest challenge facing the County Treasurer's office is maintaining accurate, real-time fiscal oversight while adapting to evolving economic conditions and technological demands. Managing public funds across multiple departments requires seamless organization and precise tracking to prevent errors or inefficiencies. I plan to address this by drawing directly on my accounting degree and 15 years of financial management experience to review and modernize our current accounting workflows. By implementing robust digital checks and balances, optimizing our financial software systems, and fostering a culture of meticulous detail and open communication, I will ensure Albany County's public funds are flawlessly managed.

Q: What aspects of the County Treasurer's office do you want the public to know more about and how would you educate them?

Tracy Fletcher (D):

A: Many people don't realize how much the Treasurer's office does behind the scenes. I want the public to better understand how county funds are collected, tracked, deposited, and distributed --and how these processes protect taxpayer dollars and support essential services like roads, schools, and emergency response. To help educate residents, I would like to continue to provide town hall meetings with my colleagues in addition to informative videos or other materials provided on the county website. I feel when people understand how their tax dollars are managed, it builds confidence in local government and encourages civic engagement.

Merissa Martinez (R):

A: Many residents only interact with the Treasurer's office when paying taxes or registering vehicles, but it plays a crucial role in managing the county's investments and funding vital public services. I want the public to clearly understand how their tax dollars are safeguarded, invested, and distributed back into Albany County. To educate the community, I will implement user-friendly, digital 'Financial Snapshots' on our county website breaking down complex budgets into clear, visual charts. I also plan to increase

community outreach through proactive local media updates, ensuring that financial data is not just public, but genuinely accessible and easy for every resident to understand.

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

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 2026. 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.

Candidates:



Ken Chestek (HD 13, D)

Mailing Address: 4317 Cliff St Laramie WY 82070

Campaign Phone: 307-460-9139

Campaign Email: kchestek@gmail.com

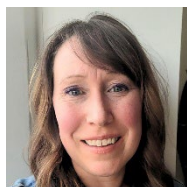
Campaign Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ChestekforHD13/>

Campaign Website: www.chestekforhd13.com/

Shane Swett (HD 13, R)

Campaign Email: shaneswett3@gmail.com

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



Trey Sherwood (HD 14, D)

Mailing Address: 49 North Street Laramie WY 82072

Campaign Phone: 307-760-2722

Campaign Email: Treysherwood@gmail.com

Campaign Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/reptreysherwood/>

Campaign Website: www.treysherwood.com



Emily Study (HD 14, R)

Mailing Address: PO Box 664 Laramie WY 82072
Campaign Phone: 307-314-9198
Campaign Email: study4wyoming@gmail.com
Campaign Facebook: facebook.com/study4wyoming
Campaign Website: study4wyoming.com

Ross Davenport (HD 45, R)

Mailing Address: 759 North Pine Laramie WY 82070
Campaign Phone: 970-691-4447
Campaign Email: davenport.hd45@gmail.com



Karlee Provenza (HD 45, D)

Mailing Address: PO Box 1715 Laramie WY 82073
Campaign Phone: 307-977-0202
Campaign Email: karleerprovenza@gmail.com
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Provenza4Wyoming>
Website: www.provenzaforwyoming.com



Ocean Andrew (HD 46, R)

Mailing Address: PO Box 2148 Laramie WY 82073
Campaign Phone: 307-316-9246
Campaign Email: Contact@oceanandrew.com
Campaign Website: OceanAndrew.com



Gary Wilken (HD 46, D)

Mailing Address: PO Box 932 Laramie WY 82073
Campaign Phone: 307-760-0732

Campaign Email: LordGary13@aol.com
Campaign Facebook: Gary Wilken for HD46
Campaign Website: garywilkenhd46.com



Cam Wright (HD 46, R)

Mailing Address: PO3 Box 722 Laramie WY 82073
Campaign Phone: 307-223-5686
Campaign Email: cam@wright4wyoming.org
Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/p/Wright-4-Wyoming
Campaign Website: wright4wyoming.org

Q: Why are you running for this office? Describe the experience and skills that make you the most qualified candidate.

Ken Chestek (HD 13, D):

A: I retired several years ago from the University of Wyoming College of Law, where I taught legal writing. Writing laws is the essence of what legislators do, so my expertise in legal writing is a valuable skill. In addition, I am now completing my second term in this office. I have developed relationships and a reputation for cross-partisan work with my colleagues in the House, all of which will be helpful in achieving my legislative priorities in a third term. I was a practicing lawyer for more than 20 years before entering academia; for a large part of my practice career I was the chief legal counsel for a large county in Pennsylvania, so I have a long history of working in local government.

Trey Sherwood (HD 14, D):

A: I have 20 years of community building experience in Laramie, as an economic developer, a non profit director & public historian. I am a graduate of Leadership Wyoming & am the most experienced member of the House Appropriations Committee. I utilize civility, honesty, optimism & empathy as essential leadership skills to serve my constituents, small businesses & hard working families. I enjoy learning new things & building relationships based on shared values. When re-elected, I will continue to work on solutions for affordable housing, opportunities for young people, stable funding for education, access to mental health services & public lands, while preserving the freedom of individuals to make their own healthcare decisions.

Emily Study (HD 14, R):

A: I am running for HD14 because I believe public service is about solving problems, listening to people and leaving our state stronger for the next generation. For decades, I have served Wyoming's military members, veterans, and their families through my work with the Wyoming Military Dept, through various positions at the Federal and State level. I

am also a Veteran Service Officer (VSO) and currently, I work for a nonprofit as their Veterans Service Coordinator. These experiences have taught me how government policies affect real people, and how to navigate complex systems to help others. As a spouse of a veteran and a mother of 3, I will bring practical experience during my service.

Ross Davenport (HD 45, R):

A: I would like to see changes in K-12 funding, transparency in incoming data centers, and work towards a common sense renters and property owners bill of rights. I have worked in the private sector in engineering the majority of my life and feel I will bring a new perspective to the issues we face here in Wyoming.

Karlee Provenza (HD 45, D):

A: Many lawmakers don't have the experience of working hard to make minimum wage, struggling to pay medical bills, or wondering how they would afford groceries. But I have. Despite the odds, after dropping out of high school at 16, I ended up at the University of Wyoming, where I completed my Ph.D. in 2021. For the past several years, I have worked as a nonprofit coach helping organizations create grassroots plans that increase civic education and engagement aimed at giving power back to the people. I am running because I want to build a Wyoming where my neighbors have a future here that includes prosperity, freedom, and where power is truly inherent in the people. It has been my greatest honor to serve you these past three terms.

Ocean Andrew (HD 46, R):

A: As a citizen legislator, the most important experience one can bring is living, working, and raising a family in the district he represents. Wyoming legislators are not meant to be full-time politicians, shaking hands and kissing babies. We are meant to experience life alongside our neighbors. That is why I hope to continue serving. As someone who founded a national business in Wyoming and kept our headquarters, factory, and roots here, I understand the challenges we face. I know what it takes to support small businesses rather than engage in corporate welfare. As a father of four, I know how important it is to have a strong education system that prepares our children to inherit the great nation we were blessed to receive.

Gary Wilken (HD 46, D):

A: I am running to support Public education, including UW, community colleges, trade schools. I am running to support public lands, and access for public use. I am running to support the constitutional right to manage our healthcare.

Cam Wright (HD 46, R):

A: Education: BS, MS, PhD electrical engineering, licensed Professional Engineer in Wyoming. Experience: 30 years military service. 23 years teaching as an engineering faculty member at the University of Wyoming, including 6 years as Dean of the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences. Recently retired as a full Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Skills: More than four decades of real-world leadership experience

for both small and large organizations, managing people (as many as 300+ people), budgets (as much as \$758 million), and efficiently achieving goals and objectives while balancing available resources.

Q: Do you support the ballot initiative for a 50% reduction in property taxes, and why? If passed, should the state backfill the loss of local revenue? Please explain.

Ken Chestek (HD 13, D):

A: I oppose the initiative because it will harm local services. Backfilling is absolutely essential, but I want to go farther. I want to give local governments, counties and other taxing bodies the power to balance their own budgets to serve the needs of their constituents. Right now, state government can cut local revenues but only local governments can decide which services need to be cut to fit the revenue the state allows them to collect. We need to trust local elected officials to find the proper balance between tax rates and the local services they provide. If they go too far in either direction, they will be accountable to the local residents at the next election. I have a proposal to fix this problem that I hope to introduce.

Trey Sherwood (HD 14, D):

A: NO! I do not support further reducing revenues for essential local services - our roads, water, emergency response, and public education. Property taxes are NOT collected by the state. They stay in our communities and fund county and city services. Wyoming residents deserve a fair tax structure that provides targeted relief to homeowners who are burdened by their property tax bill, NOT reductions for the ultra rich. Tax relief should be means tested and targeted to our most vulnerable residents. It should NOT benefit those who have the ability to pay, second homeowners and wealthy corporations. Passing a 50% reduction in property taxes only ensures sales taxes will go up and increases the need to implement a statewide income tax.

Emily Study (HD 14, R):

A: Yes. I support providing meaningful property tax relief for WY homeowners because many families, seniors on fixed incomes & working residents are feeling the financial strain of rising property taxes. People should not have to worry about being taxed out of their homes. At the same time, I recognize that property taxes help fund essential local services, including schools, counties, municipalities, and special districts. If the ballot initiative significantly reduces local revenue, the Legislature has a responsibility to carefully evaluate whether and how to backfill those funds. Any backfill should be fiscally responsible, transparent and should not create long term structural deficits or simply shift the tax burden.

Ross Davenport (HD 45, R):

A: I support the initiative from the perspective of the fixed-income individuals, where it isn't right to price someone out of a home that they own. If passed, this would reduce the budget for K-12 and would have to be filled by other means.

Karlee Provenza (HD 45, D):

A: When it comes to the 50% property tax cut, the people of Wyoming should know the truth about the consequences of these cuts if they pass. The legislature has created a shell game where we have no plan for how to make up for lost revenues to pay for services, so some day the people will be forced to pay through increased sales tax or other means. No plan is a bad plan. Right now, the state has no plan for how to offset the cuts and no appetite for solving this issue. If property taxes are further reduced, we will need to pursue other forms of revenue such as corporate income taxes, removal of tax exemptions for various industries in Wyoming, and possibly through an income tax so that we can fund essential services in our local communities.

Ocean Andrew (HD 46, R):

A: Yes. As the incumbent, I supported the 50% reduction in primary residential property taxes when it came before the legislature. That proposal included backfilling a large portion of the lost revenue. Because the reduction applies only to primary residences, the revenue loss is not as extreme as it may sound. However, property taxes are the primary source of revenue for many local entities. If this measure passes, I believe the legislature should consider backfilling essential local services, particularly fire protection, law enforcement, schools, and roads. At the same time, we should respond to the will of the voters by rethinking Wyoming's revenue structure with the goal of prioritizing essential services while keeping taxes low.

Gary Wilken (HD 46, D):

A: I do not support the 50% property tax reduction. Essential services will be crippled. Yes, the state should backfill the loss of local revenue. Payment in lieu of taxes is part of what Albany County uses to pay bills, since so much of the county is tax exempt local, state and federal entities.

Cam Wright (HD 46, R):

A: Essential government services funded by property taxes cannot be allowed to wither and become ineffective due to loss of funding as a result of property tax reductions. While back-filling the losses incurred by cities and counties if property taxes continue to be reduced might have to be done on a temporary basis, it can't be a permanent solution. The voters must be made aware of the need for a reasonable level of property taxes, and convinced not to vote for an arbitrary reduction with little or no consideration to the unavoidable consequences.

Q: Do you support or oppose the sale or exchange of public lands? Please explain.

Ken Chestek (HD 13, D):

A: In most cases, yes. Open spaces and public lands are at the heart of what most Wyomingites treasure about this place. If federal lands are transferred to the state, there will be pressure on the state to then sell those lands for private benefit, and the lands will be lost forever. That said, there are rare occasions where the transfer of public land for

private land of equivalent or greater value or significance might make sense. Trading landlocked parcels for land more easily accessible by the public can be one of those circumstances. Still, the key concept driving those decisions would be to protect the natural habitat and open space necessary for a vibrant ecosystem.

Trey Sherwood (HD 14, D):

A: Public lands belong to the public. They are NOT to be traded for corporate gain or sold to the highest bidder for private use. Wyoming's public lands are tied to our identity. Access for outdoor recreation, hunting, wildlife conservation, tourism, and rangeland management is critical for local economies and our way of life. I strongly oppose the sale of "we the people's" public lands.

Emily Study (HD 14, R):

A: I support carefully considered sales or exchanges of public lands when they clearly serve Wyoming's long term interests, improve public access, strengthen local communities or provide a greater public benefit. Many public lands like the Kelly Parcel (state land) was sold and preserved in Grand Teton National Park. Wyoming Public schools received \$100 Million in this land sale. I do not believe every parcel of public land should be treated the same. Each proposal deserves to be evaluated on its own merits with transparency and public input.

Ross Davenport (HD 45, R):

A: I do not support the sale of public lands as this is what makes Wyoming such a great place, and landlocking in public lands is not something that we should do as a state.

Karlee Provenza (HD 45, D):

A: Hell no, I do not support selling off our public land. The idea that the federal government could transfer lands to the state for management is just a foot-in-the-door technique towards public land sales. The state does not have the resources to manage these lands and would ultimately sell most of them off. Once they're gone, we will never get them back and our future generations will not have the same opportunities to enjoy open spaces and abundant wildlife. I support thoughtful, community-led efforts towards public land swaps, which means that a local community can lead efforts to exchange land which would increase public access. If re-elected, I intend to work on a constitutional amendment for no net loss of public lands in Wyoming.

Ocean Andrew (HD 46, R)

A: Public land is essential to our way of life in Wyoming. Hunting, fishing, camping, snowmobiling, and other outdoor activities are part of why many of us choose to live here. They are also an important part of our tourism economy. I do not support the mass sale of public lands. I do support carefully considered land exchanges when they improve public access, but they must be handled cautiously and transparently. I have consistently supported increasing public access, including legislation allowing corner crossing. At the same time, private property rights are equally important. Wyoming's future depends on

preserving public access while ensuring future generations can own land, build homes, start businesses, and support agriculture.

Gary Wilken (HD 46, D):

A: I oppose the sale or exchange of public lands. All citizens should be able to enjoy and use public lands.

Cam Wright (HD 46, R):

A: In general, no I don't support that. There may be rare special circumstances that can be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, but overall I believe public lands should stay public, and they should be accessible to the public. Responsible use and stewardship of our public lands is something all citizens of Wyoming should expect and demand.

Q: Is the current structure and funding level for public education appropriate? Please explain.

Ken Chestek (HD 13, D):

A: The recently completed recalibration system made significant improvements to the education funding model. One of the biggest benefits was a substantial increase of funding for educational services, allowing us to give good pay raises and to hire more teachers to get closer to the low student-faculty ratios that have made Wyoming's K-12 education system one of the very best in the nation. But there remains work to be done. The recalibration committee is continuing to meet to address some of the unintended consequences of the "educational silos" that were created, including possible constraints on extracurricular activities. I look forward to continue to address these needs in the next session of the legislature.

Trey Sherwood (HD 14, D):

A: If by appropriate you mean constitutional, then no, funding for public education falls short. Wyoming's Constitution requires the state to provide students with a quality, equitable education, but funding for a "uniform system of public instruction" faces legal challenges. In response, the legislature passed a new model providing raises for teachers and additional staff positions - instructors, nurses and counselors. However, because of a lack of flexibility in the model (silos), districts are facing shortfalls for school activities, security, nutrition, technology and mental health support. I'll continue to advocate for our public school system while working towards a funding model that meets or exceeds our constitutional obligation.

Emily Study (HD 14, R):

A: No. We need more in State Online school, of which the money follows the child. We need teachers in Wyoming, teaching our kids online school. We're not getting rid of teachers, we're providing our parents more flexibility to adjust to their child's needs. I also believe that we must do more to prepare students for successful careers. Every student should have access to vocational certifications, apprenticeships, and on the job training before graduating high school. Whether a student plans to attend college, enter the trades,

serve in the military or join the workforce, they should graduate with practical skills and a pathway to success. Workforce readiness strengthens Wyoming's economy and likely keep our young people to build their future.

Ross Davenport (HD 45, R):

A: I feel we are starting to fall behind our constitutional responsibilities with all the dynamic changes that have happened in the funding structure.

Karlee Provenza (HD 45, D):

A: The current funding structure, where funding comes from property taxes to ensure that all children have access to a quality education is one of the greatest promises granted by our Wyoming Constitution. Other states tie education funding to the wealth of a particular area, which results in differences in education quality based on the wealth in your zip code. Children deserve better, and in Wyoming, they get it.

The recent recalibration model moved us closer towards honoring Wyoming Constitutional funding requirements, but changes are still needed. We must allow local districts flexibility in the categorical funding model and we must increase funding for educational support professionals like school nurses and librarians, for example.

Ocean Andrew (HD 46, R):

A: At its core, school finance is about meeting our constitutional obligation to provide every Wyoming child with a quality education. This session, we increased overall education funding and created a dedicated classroom silo to ensure funding intended for teachers and classroom staff actually reaches teachers and classrooms. This should help increase teacher pay, reduce class sizes, and keep resources focused on students. ACSD1 alone received a \$4.8 million increase in funding. The work isn't done. Recalibration is an ongoing process, and this summer we're continuing to review issues like student activities funding and other components of the funding model to ensure it continues serving Wyoming students well.

Gary Wilken (HD 46, D):

A: The silos approach to school funding where the teachers and educational staff are paid out of a large fund which results in a pay increase to teachers to retain them in the state is very helpful. We still have work to address activities, special program needs and administrative structure.

Cam Wright (HD 46, R):

A: The level, as provided by recent re-calibration, appears appropriate. Public education requires adequate and appropriate funding, with sufficient budgeting flexibility given to local control. I believe that fine tuning/tweaking of the re-calibration legislation passed last session is needed, to allow administrators to allocate funding as needed, without budgetary micromanagement from the state. We must also look into the future, and act proactively rather than waiting to be forced by the courts to address any future funding imbalance.

Q. What is your opinion on the use of public funds for social services?

Ken Chestek (HD 13, D):

A: In my view, the chief purpose of state and local government is to create a level playing field so that every Wyoming citizen can lead their best, most productive, and happiest lives, according to their own values and desires. To do so, the state must create a safety net to help people up when they fall on hard times, to give them a safe place to repair or rebuild their lives. Programs to address hunger (especially childhood hunger), affordable housing, vocational training, public health and safety, and education at all levels are therefore worthy of public support. I have been a strong advocate for summer food programs for children and education for needy families to help them stretch their food budgets and provide healthy meals.

Trey Sherwood (HD 14, D):

A: Taxes are how we pool our shared resources to provide public services that build strong communities. On their own, individuals cannot afford to pay for the essentials - safe roads, clean water or shared physical or social infrastructure. Public funds should provide safety nets for our most vulnerable and a hand up for hard working families. I support the transparent use of state and federal funds for mental health and substance abuse services, childcare, food programs for low income and school aged children, resources for seniors and residents with disabilities to live independently.

Emily Study (HD 14, R):

A: I believe public funds should be used responsibly to provide essential services that help protect our most vulnerable citizens while encouraging long term independence and self sufficiency. Every tax dollar should be spent with transparency, accountability and measurable results. Responsible stewardship of public resources is not just a fiscal obligation, but a moral one, ensuring that assistance reaches those who truly need it while maintaining trust to tax payers. Gov't has a responsibility to support services to protect children, assist seniors, care for individuals with disabilities and support veterans. These programs should be administered efficiently, with safeguards. Plus, we should invest in solutions that equip people to succeed.

Ross Davenport (HD 45, R):

A: I believe that the many programs our public funds go to are very worth while endeavors and have a place and time in our communities across the state.

Karlee Provenza (HD 45, D):

A: The legislature should do more to support local services that benefit our communities and hard-working neighbors. As healthcare costs have gone up dramatically, more people just can't afford to see a doctor, keep a roof over their head, and many work multiple jobs to barely get by. The legislature has refused to fund programs that feed hungry kids in the summer – I find that decision to be needlessly cruel and shortsighted. Funding for services in our communities means that we spend less down the road. The more that we support

families in getting on the path to prosperity and finding opportunities for economic independence, the more likely they are to provide long term benefits back to our communities and will cost us less in the long run.

Ocean Andrew (HD 46, R):

A: It is important that we have the infrastructure in place to protect the most vulnerable in society, especially children, the elderly, and those with severe disabilities. At the same time, these systems should be designed to encourage the highest level of independence achievable for each individual while being careful not to create unintended dependence on government. I believe public funds should be used responsibly to provide a safety net for those who truly need it. These programs should be administered efficiently, transparently, and with accountability to taxpayers, always with the goal of helping people achieve the greatest level of independence and self-sufficiency possible.

Gary Wilken (HD 46, D):

A: The use of public funds for social services is very important to the health and welfare of our citizens, particularly the young, elderly, and challenged citizens.

Cam Wright (HD 46, R):

A: There are certainly some social services that need public funds to ensure that a safety net exists for our most vulnerable members of the population. A combination of charitable giving and public funds seems to be the best approach. While a total reliance on charitable giving would be welcome and wonderful, that approach has proven to be insufficient over the years.

Wyoming State Senate SD 9

State Senators are elected to a four-year term with no term limits. The Legislature meets in a General Session in odd numbered years, beginning on the second Tuesday of January. The General Session is limited to 40 legislative days. In even numbered years, the Legislature convenes in a Budget Session beginning on the second Monday of February, which typically lasts 20 legislative days. Except for the budget bill, all other bills require a two-thirds vote from the Senate or House for introduction during a Budget Session. Each Senator 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 25.

Candidates:



Chris Rothfuss (SD 9, D)

Mailing Address: PO Box 1791 Laramie WY 82073

Campaign Email: RothfussForSenate@gmail.com
Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/RothfussForSenate

Q: Why are you running for this office? Describe the experience and skills that make you the most qualified candidate.

Chris Rothfuss (SD 9 D):

A: I am running to keep fighting for the people of Wyoming. I believe government should be there when people need it and stay out of their way when they don't. That means strong schools, affordable healthcare, support for working families, public lands, and real opportunity. It also means defending rights and freedoms, trusting people to make their own choices, and respecting the live-and-let-live values that have long defined Wyoming. I bring deep experience in public policy, education, energy, technology, and economic development, with a record of working across party lines to solve hard problems responsibly.

Q: Do you support the ballot initiative for a 50% reduction in property taxes, and why? If passed, should the state backfill the loss of local revenue? Please explain.

Chris Rothfuss (SD 9 D):

A: No. Absolutely not. A 50% property tax cut may sound appealing, but Wyoming cannot afford it without raising taxes somewhere else. There is no realistic way to replace that revenue without an income tax, a major sales tax increase, or deep cuts to local services. It would damage schools, counties, fire districts, roads, and other basic services our communities rely on. Property tax relief should be targeted to residential homeowners and those with real need, not designed to give the largest tax cuts to our wealthiest residents.

Q: Do you support or oppose the sale or exchange of public lands? Please explain.

Chris Rothfuss (SD 9 D):

A: I oppose the sale of our public lands. They are central to Wyoming's way of life, supporting hunting, fishing, grazing, recreation, tourism, energy, and local economies. Once public land is sold, access is often lost forever. I can support narrow land exchanges when they are transparent and clearly in the public interest, like the Pilot Hill Project, especially when they improve public access, consolidate checkerboard ownership, or serve a specific public purpose. But the standard should be clear. No net loss of public land, no loss of public access, and no backdoor privatization.

Q: Is the current structure and funding level for public education appropriate? Please explain.

Chris Rothfuss (SD 9 D):

A: We are close, but we can always do better. Wyoming has made major progress on education funding, including the first full recalibration in more than a decade. I supported

that work because our Constitution requires us to define the education system Wyoming students deserve, determine what it costs, and fund it. The recent investment is focused where it belongs, on teachers, classrooms, counselors, nurses, special education, and student support. During this interim, we still need to address technology, nutrition, school security, and concerns such as insufficient activities funding. We also need to make sure dollars reach students and local schools have the flexibility to meet local needs.

Q: What is your opinion on the use of public funds for social services?

Chris Rothfuss (SD 9 D):

A: I strongly support using public funds for social services. Helping people who need help is one of the core purposes of government, and it gives people the dignity, stability, and opportunity to build better lives. Families should have access to healthcare, housing support, food security, childcare, mental health care, and the basic stability needed to move forward. That is why Wyoming still needs to expand Medicaid, so nearly 20,000 working people, parents, and neighbors finally have access to affordable healthcare.

Governor of Wyoming

The Governor is the state's Chief Executive, elected to a 4-year term. They appoint the heads of most state agencies, are responsible for signing or vetoing bills, can issue executive orders to affect state operations, and coordinate with the federal government as necessary. Salary is \$140,000 annually; term limit is eight years in a 16-year period through a Statute adopted in a 1992 referendum. Office and benefits are provided. To be elected, the candidate must be at least age 30, a U.S. citizen, a Wyoming resident at least five years, a qualified Wyoming voter, and cannot hold any other office. One candidate from each party will advance to the General Election.

Candidates:



Eric Barlow (R)

Mailing Address: PO Box 822 Green River WY 82935

Campaign Phone: 307-209-4846

Campaign Email: info@barlowforwyo.com

Campaign Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EricBarlowRidingForWyoming>

Campaign Website: barlowforwyo.com



Brent Bien (R)

Mailing Address: PO Box 96 Cody Wy 82414

Campaign Phone: 307-763-3442

Campaign Email: brent@brentbien.com

Campaign Facebook: [facebook.com/Brentbienforgovernor](https://www.facebook.com/Brentbienforgovernor)

Campaign Website: brentbien.com

Curt Blake (R)

Campaign Email: BETTERWYOWITHBLAKE@GMAIL.COM

Candidate did not respond to questions in time for publication in this guide.



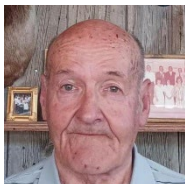
Megan Degenfelder (R)

Mailing Address: PO Box 1531 Cheyenne WY 82003

Campaign Phone: 307-221-3099

Campaign Email: megan@megandegenfelder.com

Campaign Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/megandegenfelder> Campaign Website: www.megandegenfelder.com



Kenneth R. Casner (D)

Mailing Address: PO Box 136 Elk Mountain WY 82324

Campaign Phone: 307-397-8018

Campaign Email: CASNERKEN89@GMAIL.COM

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/kennethr.casner

Q: Why are you running for this office? Describe the experience and skills that make you the most qualified candidate for this office.

Eric Barlow (R):

A: I am running because I care about the people of Wyoming and I want this state to remain a place where people have the choice to stay and build a life. Wyoming has given my family a good life, and I want future generations to have that same opportunity.

My wife Kelly and I have lived Wyoming, worked Wyoming, and served Wyoming. We have raised our children, made decisions about schools and healthcare, signed the front of a paycheck, worked with producers and rural communities, and I have served in the Legislature, solving problems that affect real people. These experiences have prepared me to lead Wyoming in a way that understands our state, respects its people, and gets results.

Brent Bien (R):

A: I'm running for Governor because Wyoming deserves a proven fighter who will put the people first. I am a Wyoming native, a graduate of the UW Engineering College, U.S. Naval War College, retired USMC Colonel, aviator, and combat veteran. I spent 28.5 years leading Marines and other service members in and out of high tempo combat operations. I have witnessed the end state of tyranny and have a deep appreciation for the freedoms we share and will uphold my oath of office to protect and defend them. I have built many teams to successfully accomplish high visibility objectives. My background gives me a unique combination of proven leadership, technical expertise, and real-world problem solving that no career politician in this race can match

Megan Degenfelder (R):

A: : I love Wyoming, and believe our way of life is worth fighting for. Growing up in an agriculture and oil and gas family, I learned the value of hard work, building something for the next generation. A product of Wyoming public schools and UW, I spent nearly a decade working in coal and oil and gas. As State Superintendent of Public Instruction, I delivered on parental rights, career and technical education, school choice, civics and literacy. I have a proven track record of delivering on conservative causes which is why I have the endorsement of President Trump and Harriet Hageman. I'm an outdoorswoman, the UW Women's rugby coach and a cancer survivor. I'm not interested in the status quo. It's time for Wyoming to lead.

Kenneth R. Casner (D):

A: The reason I'm running for that office is to fight for Wyoming. I have since I started in 2002, my political career I have not stopped. I have 24 years experience. I've run for every state office in Carbon County and three times for Governor. Do I know politics? Do I know how it works inside? You bet I do. From 2002-2026, I've been involved. I've always said I want free and open elections and I want them bad. That's why I keep doing it. We're not allowed free and open elections due to our history. We have a closed primary. I don't like that and I don't think that's fair to the people who live in Wyoming. You want someone who wants to fight for you, I'm a plant. A plant that is perennial. A thorn to a rose.

Q: What specific measure, if any, would you propose to enhance state revenues?

Eric Barlow (R):

A: Wyoming grows revenue by making it easier to invest, build, and produce here. Government should be right-sized so agencies are efficient and properly resourced.

Government, overregulation or lack of staff, should not be the reason projects are held up or delayed. Growth also means communities have the infrastructure necessary to thrive, welcoming new investment, innovation, and good-paying jobs that support strong communities in ways that fit the community's culture. Our public lands are also a critical part of that foundation. They support grazing, energy production, recreation, and tourism, and are not for sale. We need a Wyoming that is positioned to compete, grow, and sustain strong communities into the future.

Brent Bien (R):

A: As Governor, I will call for the immediate forensic budgetary audit of all statewide government departments to ensure that all taxpayer monies are spent statutorily according to the intended purpose. Simultaneously, I will pair the mineral royalty renegotiations with an energy production initiative that includes streamlining and speeding up state permitting and lease processes, coordinate aggressively with federal partners to expedite leases, permits, and approvals on federal lands in Wyoming, and conduct a full gap analysis of the energy sector to identify barriers and opportunities for expanded mineral extraction.

Megan Degenfelder (R):

A: I will strictly oppose any tax increases on Wyoming families and will fight for meaningful tax relief. Our path to increasing state revenue lies in unleashing the mineral industry- the core industries that provide the foundation for our tax structure and jobs. As the only candidate with experience working in the industry and with a comprehensive plan to get it done, I am uniquely positioned to partner with President Trump and Congresswoman Hageman to defeat federal overreach and radical environmental agendas and produce more energy.

Kenneth R. Casner (D):

A: I'm going to make the state of Wyoming start to follow its laws. That means revenues. I have done an eight year study on Elk Mountain, just a little town, that has lost close to \$50,000. How do I do that? Real Simple. Wyoming's constitution and the federal constitution are real specific on what you can do and what you can't do. We're going to start doing what we're supposed to be doing if I'm Governor. That means all people can speak. People put the laws to us. Right now, they don't enforce what the law is for. They're right there in the books. And they say we don't have funding? I could make real easy, through a state highway, buku bucks.

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

Eric Barlow (R):

A: Our most pressing challenge is keeping communities strong and livable, which is getting harder as costs rise and access to essential services becomes harder. Healthcare access and affordability are central to that challenge. On Aug. 19, I will assemble a healthcare

strike team to bring together folks across Wyoming impacted by rural healthcare challenges to help identify Wyoming solutions. As governor, I will give you direct access to me and ensure your needs are heard sooner by reorganizing the Governor's Office to include locally hired regional representatives. By showing up, listening, and working together, we can make Wyoming a place where communities thrive, and our kids can choose to stay and build their future.

Brent Bien (R):

A: Excessive taxation and out-of-control government spending are the most pressing issues facing Wyoming families. Wyoming has a spending problem, not a revenue problem. As Governor, I will conduct the first wall-to-wall budgetary audit since 1989 to eliminate waste, redundancies and non-essential spending. I will fight to reform tax statutes to protect homeowners, producers, and small business owners.

Megan Degenfelder (R):

A: The overarching issue facing Wyoming is our ability for young people to stay here and build a future here. First, we must address the issue of rising cost of living to ensure Wyoming is affordable for our families. Wyoming families need relief from rising property taxes, housing costs, groceries, healthcare, and energy bills. State government must restrain spending and help families keep more of what they earn. Second, we must secure a prosperous future by expanding economic opportunity and defending our core industries to create a stronger Wyoming for the next generation. This starts with fighting federal bureaucracy and environmental agendas to produce more energy as well as stronger workforce training and exposure.

Kenneth R. Casner (D):

A: Number one- I want universal health care. You achieve nothing if you don't try and we have the money to try because we have 583,000 people in Wyoming. You take 6%, you can get it done if you tax the rich. Number two- the people who retire and lived all of their lives in Wyoming, earn respect. We do away with property tax completely. If you're retired and you paid off your house, why do we keep charging them? It's like branding a horse, you brand it one time. But, you brand your car every year, I don't agree with that. Once you pay off your title, there are states that don't do that anymore. I want to look all the way through the taxes. People are getting taxed to the extreme. I want to flip it and have it come back around to the big boys.

Q: What role should the state play in economic development? Please explain.

Eric Barlow (R):

A: The state should not be in the job of picking winners and losers. Its role is to create the conditions where private investment can succeed and communities can grow. That means focusing on a stable, predictable workforce environment, supporting education and training partnerships, and ensuring that infrastructure and core services are in place to create opportunity. Economic development also depends on relationships and

engagement. I have worked across Wyoming with community and business leaders to make sure local interests are well represented when decisions are made that affect our economy and communities. I have also demanded the same from Washington, D.C.

Brent Bien (R):

A: The role of the state government is to incentivize free market capitalism through deregulation, tax cuts, ensuring that environmental social governance scoring is never implemented, and guaranteeing that state will never shut down again as it did during COVID-19.

Megan Degenfelder (R):

A: The government doesn't create jobs, the private sector does. That said, there is still a role for the state to play in economic development- namely to get out of the way & create an environment where the private sector can thrive. 1.) eliminate burdensome regulations that stifle economic growth. 2.) invest in baseline infrastructure like water, sewer, curb & gutter. 3.) focus on what we are good at, on industries that bring revenue to the state, & build out the value chain. Because of our state's tax structure, all other industries can thrive & expand if the mineral industry does well. 4.) build our workforce pipeline through career & technical education, work-based learning, and internships—initiatives I've championed as Superintendent.

Kenneth R. Casner (D):

A: Learning through my political career, the economic development corps? That's not what it is, I served three years on it. It should've been sunsetted in 2011 and it wasn't. Economic Development in Wyoming is to throw it back to small businesses. Throw it back to where it came from. Give small businesses the breaks that they deserve. We can't advertise, but non-profits can and that isn't right. School districts are given grants, but they mostly go to government. Right now, our small municipalities are relying on impact funds. And who gives them the impact funds? The wind farms and everything else that's being developed. If it's AI that's coming, I'd tax the living hell out of them. If we have the courage to do it, we can get it done.

Q: How would you work with other Western governors to solve regional issues such as water and wildlife management?

Eric Barlow (R):

A: Water and wildlife don't follow state lines, and Wyoming has to stay engaged with other Western states to manage those shared resources in a practical way. As a headwater state, Wyoming must protect its water rights while also working with neighboring states in a way that is grounded in law, science, and the long-term needs of communities, agriculture and our energy development. Wildlife habitat also crosses state lines, and management must reflect this reality while balancing conservation with other uses. These decisions will be made transparently and with public input. As governor, I would stay

directly engaged with other Western governors and focus on practical solutions that respect Wyoming's role and responsibilities.

Brent Bien (R):

A: As Governor, I will actively work with fellow Western governors on regional challenges like water and wildlife management but always from a position of strength, defending Wyoming's sovereignty, quantified water rights, and state authority over wildlife. We should solve problems together through voluntary agreements, compacts and practical engineering solutions not by surrendering more of our resources or letting bureaucrats in D. C dictate outcomes.

Megan Degenfelder (R):

A: This is simple– Wyoming first. If you want to partner with Wyoming to power America, feed America, create good jobs, value freedom and respect life, then we can't wait to work with you. For those who seek to undermine our shared Wyoming principles, let it be known: we will not be deterred, and we will move right past you to protect our state. On water, that means honoring compacts, investing in storage and infrastructure, and protecting Wyoming's share. On wildlife, it means state-led management, real consultation with ranchers, sportsmen, tribes, and local communities, and resisting federal decisions that ignore the people who live with these issues every day.

Kenneth R. Casner (D):

A: Water is a critical issue. It just doesn't flow to Wyoming, it flows across the Earth's service. We have to become partners, not adversaries. We can do it, but it'll take what I call the courage to recognize what we have. We have great wildlife, we have great water systems that are being abused due to national water rights. I think that Congress needs to relook at their distribution plans. It's titles just like on ranches. In Wyoming, we have all these dams that go to Nebraska, they have the water rights, we don't.

Wyoming Secretary of State

The Secretary of State registers all statutorily authorized business entities, oversees all statewide elections, is the custodian of the seal of Wyoming, records state agencies' rules, and registers trademarks. The Secretary of State's term is four years with no term limits. Annual salary is \$125,000 with some benefits. One candidate from each party will advance to the General Election.

Candidates:



Qwenton Eagle Oviatt (R)

Mailing Address: POBox 391 Hudson WY 82515

Campaign Phone: 307-316-2026
Campaign Email: qeowyo@gmail.com
Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/qeo4wyoming
Campaign Website: oviatt4wyoming.com

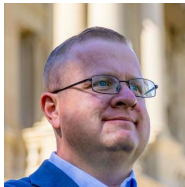


Robert Short (R)

Mailing Address: PO Box 906 Douglas WY 82633
Campaign Phone: 307-267-2389
Campaign Email: Robert@shortforstate.com
Campaign Facebook: [shortforstate](https://www.facebook.com/shortforstate)
Campaign Website: [Short for State.com](http://ShortforState.com)

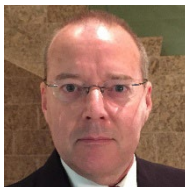
Rachel Williams (R)

Campaign Email: WILLIAMS4WY@GMAIL.COM
Candidate did not respond to questions in time for publication in this guide.



CJ Young (R)

Mailing Address: PO Box 4103 Cheyenne WY 82003
Campaign Phone: 307-317-1133
Campaign Email: cjforwyoming@gmail.com
Campaign Facebook: [CJ Young for Wyoming](https://www.facebook.com/CJYoungforWyoming)
Campaign Website: www.cjyoungforwyoming.com



Bryan McCarty (D)

Mailing Address: 313 South 21st St Worland WY 82401
Campaign Phone: 817-228-3992
Campaign Email: BGMc4WY@gmail.com
Campaign Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BGMc4WY>
Campaign Website: wyodems.org/person/bryan-mccarty/

Q: Why are you running for this office? Describe the experience and skills that make you the most qualified candidate.

Qwenton Eagle Oviatt (R):

A: I'm the most qualified candidate because I bring real world experience, not political experience. I've worked in WY's oil fields, completed multiple deployments in Antarctica with the National Science Foundation, built small businesses, and currently serve as an academic advisor at Central Wyoming College. I'm also a certified mediator and Eagle Scout, and NOLS graduate. I'm running because I'm tired of traditional politicians who are anti-coalition, constantly trying to shift the Overton window, and engage in political grandstanding. These tactics are creating a huge rift among the people of Wyoming. It's time to heal those divisions and return to practical, common sense leadership that puts Wyoming first.

Robert Short (R):

A: As a successful County Commissioner, business owner and operator, entrepreneur, investor and former election official, I believe I have the skills to help the office function effectively and efficiently. I am running for this position to help restore stability to the office and build confidence among voters. Additionally, I am running to help educate folks concerning financial fraud and how they can avoid becoming victims. Growing up in Wyoming taught me the value of honesty, integrity, tireless work ethic, and a willingness to listen. These core skills guide the way I serve the people of Wyoming and ensure they have a Secretary of State they know will work to serve their interests.

CJ Young (R):

A: : I am running for SOS because WY deserves conservative, experienced leadership that protects election integrity, supports our businesses, and serves the public with professionalism and transparency. I believe this office should follow the law, focus on results, and earn the trust of Wyoming citizens. I am uniquely prepared to lead on day one. I served as Wyoming's Elections Director, overseeing statewide elections, have spent more than a decade in state government, owned and operated a Wyoming small business, and hold degrees: a BA, MPA, and JD from the University of Wyoming. As a U.S. Navy Reserve officer and Civil Air Patrol lieutenant colonel, I have demonstrated a lifelong commitment to service, leadership, and accountability.

Bryan McCarty (D):

A: If not me, who? If not now, when? We are losing our democracy. We can't let Republicans run unopposed, as with this office last time. I have a strong internal audit background with a multi billion dollar business enterprise, and an even stronger compliance background with General Electric. MBA and Six Sigma credentials. I intend to follow the actual law, and actual facts, and be an actual rule of law elected official. My ties to Wyoming are long and deep. Keeping public lands in public hands is crucial to Wyoming's culture, economy, and politics.

Q: What changes, if any, would you recommend in Wyoming's election laws? Please explain.

Qwenton Eagle Oviatt (R):

A: I believe that Wyoming needs a targeted election cleanup bill. It's been over 20 years since we've addressed the small, necessary updates to our election laws. My top recommendations are straightforward: streamline the voter registration process, expand convenient voting options like secure drop boxes, and improve communication about election timelines so voters aren't caught off guard by recent changes. These upgrades will make voting easier and increase turnout while maintaining strong security. I would also ensure county clerks receive the training they are requesting and more uniformity in how elections are administered across the state. We don't need a complete overhaul, just smart, practical improvements that put WY voters first.

Robert Short (R):

A: Improving access to the ballot for folks who have challenges reaching the polls is an area where I think we can improve. Many folks are mobility impaired, lack transportation or may have conditions that make it difficult to access polling locations. Seniors in assisted living facilities are one example of these types of voters. We must ensure that their rights to vote are not impaired by any means and that we are actively seeking ways to making voting as easy as possible for them.

CJ Young (R):

A: Wyoming already has some of the strongest election laws in the nation, and I support protecting the integrity of every legal vote. Any changes should be thoughtful, evidence-based, and developed in partnership with our county clerks, who administer elections every day. I support measures that strengthen voter confidence, improve election security, and make elections easier to administer without creating unnecessary burdens on voters or counties. I also want to ensure our military and overseas citizens can cast their ballots securely and successfully while defending our country. Election laws should continue to evolve, but always in a way that protects both election integrity and public confidence.

Bryan McCarty (D):

A: As SoS, my responsibility is to administer the state's election laws as written. Advocating anything else, except as a subject matter expert on their administration would get into too much of an ethical gray area.

Q: Do you support or oppose the use of ballot drop boxes? Please explain.

Qwenton Eagle Oviatt (R):

A: I support the use of ballot drop boxes. After listening to many county clerks across WY, I can tell you they are strongly in favor of them. They've told me the drop boxes we use are secure, monitored by video cameras, designed so only one ballot can be inserted at a time, and that all available data shows them to be safe and effective. I agree with our county clerks. Official ballot drop boxes are a practical, secure way for voters to return their ballots, especially with our shortened election timeline. They reduce reliance on the mail and give people a convenient, trustworthy option. Multiple independent analyses back this

up. Voter fraud involving drop boxes is extremely rare, and strict security features keep them secure.

Robert Short (R):

A: I support the use of drop boxes. In this rural state, there are many folks who live great distances from town and due to their lifestyles, may not have the luxury of being able to vote on election day. Additionally, they may not be able to get into early voting due to their working hours on ranches or other work locations. These folks may only have the ability to cast ballots in the evenings, or on weekends when they travel to town for groceries or a parts run. If they have the ability to deposit their ballots in a secure drop box during one of these trips, I support their desire to do so.

CJ Young (R):

A: I support Wyoming's approach to ballot drop boxes because they are secure, limited, and managed by our locally elected county clerks. In Wyoming, drop boxes are located at county offices or courthouses, monitored by WY law enforcement surveillance 24 hours a day, protected by strong physical security, and subject to strict chain-of-custody procedures. In many cases, they are more secure than placing an absentee ballot in an unattended mailbox. I do not support the widespread, unattended drop box systems used in some other states. These are key to helping voters in rural parts of our state vote. WY has taken a commonsense approach that prioritizes both voter access and election security, and I believe we should continue that model.

Bryan McCarty (D):

A: I support the state's existing laws as written.

Q: What steps, if any, would you take to prevent fraudulent entities from using real Wyoming residential addresses on LLC filings without harming the state's business-friendly environment?

Qwenton Eagle Oviatt (R):

A: I would take targeted, practical steps to stop fraudulent entities from using real WY residential addresses without hurting our business friendly reputation. First, I'd require commercial registered agents to maintain basic verification records on the businesses they represent. Second, I'd deploy top tier screening software at the Secretary of State's office to automatically flag suspicious filings before approval. Third, I'd create a small enforcement team to investigate red flags and refer solid cases to law enforcement. These measures focus on bad actors and the commercial agent mills while leaving legitimate WY businesses and privacy protections untouched. We can protect real residents' addresses without killing what makes WY great.

Robert Short (R):

A: I will work with the legislature to enforce legislation that they craft that would provide a greater accountability for organizations who seek to utilize Wyoming as their place of

incorporation or business address. Legislation was proposed in the 2026 session that would move the needle in this aspect and I would wholly support advancing that legislation which seeks to provide accountability without encroaching on the business friendly environment for which we are known. I will work with the Compliance department of the Office to ensure that adequate resources are allocated to pursue bad actors and hold accountable those who would defraud.

CJ Young (R):

A: Wyoming's business-friendly environment is one of our greatest strengths, and we should not undermine it by imposing unnecessary regulations on legitimate businesses. Instead, we should focus on identifying and stopping bad actors who misuse residential addresses or commit fraud. I support working with business owners, registered agents, law enforcement, and the Legislature to improve reporting, investigate credible complaints, and enforce existing laws. We can protect Wyoming residents while preserving the privacy, efficiency, and predictability that make our state an attractive place to do business.

Bryan McCarty (D):

A: My internal audit experience equips me to manage the office's fraud prevention responsibilities effectively, which I intend to administer vigorously.

Q: As a member of the State Land Board, how would you balance conservation and revenue generation in the management of state lands?

Qwenton Eagle Oviatt (R):

A: As a member of the Board, my primary legal duty is to maximize long term revenue for our schools and other beneficiaries. That responsibility is clear. However, I also believe we can generate strong revenue while being responsible stewards of our land. I would support multiple use management that allows responsible grazing, energy development, and recreation where appropriate. Conservation and revenue are not mutually exclusive! Smart, balanced management protects our natural resources for future generations while still delivering the highest possible return for WY's school kids. I will listen to local voices and manage state lands with both fiscal responsibility and common sense.

Robert Short (R):

A: As a successful businessman and entrepreneur, I understand the importance of asset management. Asset preservation and maximizing value are key tenants of success in the business world. Additionally, utilizing the right asset for the job is just as important as matching the job to the asset, e.g. one does not use a hammer to tighten a bolt nor would you use a boat to deliver parts to the pool repairman. Knowing the objective is also an important part of the decision making process. This Board is charged with managing these lands specifically for the benefit of the School Trust. Decisions associated with these lands must be founded in serving the objective, maximizing the returns while preserving the asset for future use.

CJ Young (R):

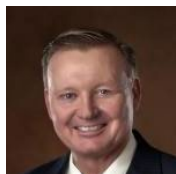
A: The State Land Board has a responsibility to manage trust lands for the benefit of their beneficiaries, including Wyoming's public schools. I support responsible multiple-use management that generates revenue through grazing, energy development, recreation, and other appropriate uses while protecting the long-term productivity of these lands. Conservation and revenue generation are not competing goals when decisions are based on sound science, responsible stewardship, and the trust's legal obligations. My approach will be practical, balanced, and focused on maximizing long-term value for Wyoming taxpayers and future generations.

Bryan McCarty (D):

A: Our entire planet's survival as it currently exists is facing existential threat. I intend to keep public lands public, and take action within my scope of responsibility to minimize further damage and to reverse it in any way feasible.

Wyoming State Treasurer

The Wyoming State Treasurer acts as the state's head banker, chief investment officer, and custodian of public funds. The office is responsible for receiving and safeguarding state monies, investing billions of dollars to generate revenue, distributing funds to local governments, and returning unclaimed property. The State Treasurer serves a four-year term with no term limits. Annual salary is \$125,000 plus some benefits. One candidate from each party will advance to the General Election.

Candidates:**Curt Meier (R)**

Mailing Address: 4721 Rd La Grange WY 82221-8410
Campaign Phone: 307-701-2022
Campaign Email: CURT@CURTMEIERWYOMING.COM

Scott Smith (R)

Campaign Email: SCOTT.SMITH.WYO@GMAIL.COM

Candidate did not respond to questions in time for publication in this guide.

Q: Why are you running for this office? Describe the experience and skills that make you the most qualified candidate for this office.

Curt Meier (R):

A: I've served as your State Treasurer for the past 7-1/2 years, and trust assets under management have grown from just over 19+ Billion to over 34 billion during my term. The 34 billion is primarily made up of trust funds, checking accounts, and the (LSRA) Legislative

Stabilization Reserve Account 600M - 1.5Bil. State investments now rank as the number one source of revenue in the state budget according to the Legislative Service Office Budget Division. \$1.857 billion which provides services attached to trust funds, and hundreds of millions of dollars which go directly to the general fund from (PMTF) Permanent Mineral Trust Fund keeping your taxes lower. We've independently established internal audit and Compliance divisions.

Q: What are the top challenges facing the management of Wyoming's investment funds, and what would you do to address those challenges?

Curt Meier (R):

A: We have made great strides in people, processes, and systems. Now changes in governance are required. The Wyoming Retirement System is a superior governance structure, built from scratch relying on greater a degree of professionalism. As Legislative Liaison on the board of the Wyoming Retirement System with no investment professionals and 4-5 billion we focused on dramatic but sound change. Manager selection, asset allocation, other investment duties were best handled by our investment professionals with a lighter touch of non professional board members. Lighter advisory duties for other elected officials is Warranted and should be seriously considered.

Q: What role, if any, should cryptocurrency play in Wyoming's future?

Curt Meier (R):

A: Cryptocurrency is a asset class that has a great degree of volatility very much like gold in some circumstances, you can have long runs and higher highs but only to fall steeply and suddenly. They should not be considered in funds which need to generate annual cash flow, Neither generate income. In longer fund of 30 years time is your friend. However stable tokens on blockchain do generate income from US treasuries that back the stable tokens dollar for dollar up to 102%. Wyoming has made great strides in minting stable tokens And it's generating Both revenue and greater interest.

Q: As a member of the State Land Board, how would you balance conservation and revenue generation in the management of state lands?

Curt Meier (R):

A: We have in the past accomplished either sales or rental opportunities to generate investment revenue or annual revenue with local input. This primarily happens when communities are proactive and recognize the value of the asset to the community and to the beneficiaries. There is public notice before any vote to lease land or sell land. Get involved early!! The State Land Board (Top five elected officials) and the Legislature are limited by Article 18- sec. 3, of the Wyoming Constitution. The control of state lands is under the State land board, not local county government. We can make no rule or law diminishing funding for public schools and or management in a way that diminishes the largest proceeds in the event of a land sale.

Wyoming State Auditor

The State Auditor oversees the state's financial records and documents, serving as the accountant for Wyoming and managing the payroll for state agencies. Elected to a four-year term with no term limits. Salary of \$125,00 per year with some benefits. Only one candidate filed for this office.

Candidates:



Kristi Racines (R)

Mailing Address: PO Box 1644 Cheyenne WY 82003

Campaign Phone: 307-851-1437

Campaign Email: vote@kristiracines.com

Campaign Facebook: [@Racines4Auditor](#)

Campaign Website: kristiracines.com

Q: Why are you running for this office? Describe the experience and skills that make you the most qualified candidate for this office.

Kristi Racines (R):

A: While this job is political, it also demands a high level of expertise! Upon earning my accounting degree from UW, I worked in public accounting in Cheyenne and became licensed as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). Performing in-depth audits of small businesses, nonprofits, and governments gave me a critical understanding of accounting principles, financial statements, internal controls, and federal funds management. Later on, I began my public service career with Wyoming's judicial branch, and ultimately served as the Chief Fiscal Officer and Director of Human Resources. In that role, I prepared and managed a statewide budget of \$80 million. Personally, my husband, two teenagers, and I enjoy hunting, running, hiking, and shooting sports.

Q: What are the top challenges facing Wyoming's accounting procedures, and how would you address those challenges?

Kristi Racines (R):

A: The State Auditor must oversee the state's electronic accounting system. This is a highly sophisticated system that is responsible for capturing and reporting on every dollar that flows in and out of state coffers. As state revenues and outflows shift and change, and as fraudsters continually become more sophisticated, the system must keep up. The current system is modern, cloud-based (meaning it doesn't rely on outdated physical hardware), and has extensive protections and control features to make sure state assets are protected and accurately recorded. However, this work is never done - we have a

environment of continuous improvement, and are always assessing the needs of users and constituents to make sure needs are met.

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

Kristi Racines (R):

A: As the official custodian of the accounting record of the State of Wyoming, the State Auditor plays a big part in transparency. When I took office, I inherited a public records lawsuit from my predecessor, and within 30 days produced and turned over six years' worth of State spending data. Six months later, my office debuted WyOpen.gov - Wyoming's online checkbook. However, there is always room for improvement. Last year, I worked with the legislature to enshrine WyOpen.gov into law, ensuring this high level of transparency cannot be undone. We always go above and beyond with public records requests, and I am currently working with stakeholders to further strengthen and improve Wyoming's public records laws.

Q: As a member of the State Land Board, how would you balance conservation and revenue generation in the management of state lands?

Kristi Racines (R):

A: The board has a constitutional duty to utilize state lands to earn revenue for the K-12 school system. Our public lands are also one of the things we treasure most about Wyoming life - and as a frequent user of both state and federal public lands, I get it. It isn't something we are willing to give up - but letting these lands sit dormant from a revenue perspective also doesn't work. Balancing multiple use is critical, but it's tricky - and the Board doesn't always get it right. It's incredibly important for local communities to be proactive about uses of state lands in and around their community. I remain committed to my constitutional duty - but communication with the community is key, so that no one is surprised or voiceless.

Wyoming Superintendent of Public Instruction

The Superintendent of Public Instruction leads the Wyoming Department of Education, manages federal and state funding, directs statewide education policy, and serves as a key member of several boards, including the State Board of Education. Term of office is four years with no term limits. Annual salary is \$125,000 plus some benefits. One candidate from each party will advance to the General Election.

Candidates:

Ana Cordova (D)

Campaign Email: ANAELIZABETHCORDOVA@GMAIL.COM

Candidate did not respond to questions in time for publication in this guide.

Sergio A. Maldonado, Sr. (D)

Campaign Email: ARAPAH017MILE@GMAIL.COM

Candidate did not respond to questions in time for publication in this guide.



Chad Auer (R)

Mailing Address: PO Box 1871 Cheyenne WY 82003

Campaign Phone: 307-231-1235

Campaign Email: chadauer@gmail.com

Campaign Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Chad Auer for Superintendent>

Campaign Website: www.auerforwyo.com



Steve Harshman (R)

Mailing Address: PO Box 295 Casper WY8260

Campaign Phone: 307-262-8075

Campaign Email: harshmanforwyoming@gmail.com

Campaign Facebook: HarshmanforWyoming

Campaign Website: Harshmanforwyoming.com



Tom Kelly (R)

Mailing Address: 412 Airport Road Sheridan WY 82801-5907

Campaign Phone: 307-461-9304

Campaign Email: drthomasmkelly@gmail.com

Campaign Website: www.supertomkelly.com

Q: What are your qualifications for this office?

Chad Auer (R):

A: I recently advised Governor Mark Gordon on education, innovation, and Tribal relations. My background includes serving as Deputy Superintendent and Chief of Staff at the Wyoming Department of Education. Over a twenty-year career, I have taught and led in diverse rural, urban, and Tribal settings across public, charter, and online schools.

As a former Mayor with an M.A. in education and a University of Wyoming law degree, my legal and executive expertise uniquely qualifies me to serve as State Superintendent.

Steve Harshman (R):

A: I am a lifelong Wyoming educator with 40 years of experience and a veteran legislator. I have a proven record of leadership, team building, innovation and problem solving. These are all qualities that are desperately needed at this time. As your Superintendent I will focus on our kids, our schools and our future. Wyoming's future is built by strong families and strong teachers in our classrooms. As someone who has spent 40 years as a teacher and coach, I know firsthand the challenges and triumphs our schools face daily. I am running for Superintendent to bring a steady, experienced hand to our Department of Education—one that focuses on student achievement and respects the hard work and concerns of our parents, educators and local boards.

Tom Kelly (R):

A: I hold an MA in education, and a PhD in political science. I've worked in public and private schools with students ranging from middle schoolers with severe learning/behavioral/emotional disabilities to graduate level students who teach at community colleges. Currently, I am the department chair for political science and public administration at American Military University, an HLC accredited institution with enrollment eight times larger than UW. In addition, I serve on the Wyoming legislature's Education and School Finance Recalibration committees.

Q: Are you in favor of consolidating school districts to lower costs? Please explain.

Chad Auer (R):

A: I believe that educational leaders at the local and state levels should always explore opportunities to lower costs without sacrificing academic outcomes. In some cases, consolidating school districts might be a viable opportunity as long as it does not compromise student achievement or other valuable outcomes. However, the issue of consolidation requires careful consideration of all relevant factors as well as transparent community involvement. Schools are vital institutions to WY's communities and any policy initiative should be comprehensively evaluated.

Steve Harshman (R):

A: No. I think that is a local issue. The studies I have seen on this issue in the past have not indicated any significant cost savings. The model is based on average daily membership, ADM. Consolidation does not change ADM.

Tom Kelly (R):

A: If it is simply to lower costs rather than address inefficiencies in transportation or curriculum delivery, the answer is no. The Recalibration team looked at possible district consolidations to save money, and we decided the cost savings were minimal compared to the disruptions the consolidations might cause, especially for smaller rural districts.

Q: What recommendations, if any, do you have for changing Wyoming's school funding model? Please explain.

Chad Auer (R):

A: The recent recalibration bill, while giving educators a much deserved boost in compensation, unreasonably eroded local control. Further, the current model has forced many districts into cuts to vital extra-curricular programs. I would advocate for eliminating the instructional silo and restoring local control to school boards/district leaders. Further, I believe school safety, mental health, school counseling and extracurricular activities are essential elements of Wyoming's school system.

Steve Harshman (R):

A: The most recent recalibration was what I would characterize as the GOOD, the BAD, the UGLY. I served on 4 recalibrations. Inexperienced legislators are saying "we have not recalibrated in 15 years." Recal is a study of necessary changes to solve problems. It is not throwing the baby out with the bath water and messing up our schools every 5 years. Good Grief! I hope the new legislature will REPEAL the unnecessary, harmful changes that were crammed down our throats and RESTORE the previous law with full funding. Then work the issues they were supposed to; security, food service & tech. GOOD: Funding increase +elementary counselors. BAD: health ins. ADM, RCA & 450 teaching jobs cut. UGLY: Usurp local control! Activity, gifted-talent cuts.

Tom Kelly (R):

A: The funding model was just changed, so we need to assess data on how it's functioning before making any major changes. In the short term, the Recalibration team is looking at funding for activities, technology, and nutrition programs.

Q: How would you capitalize on the greatest strength of, and minimize the greatest weakness of Wyoming's K-12 educational system?

Chad Auer (R):

A: The greatest strengths of Wyoming's system are students, parents, educators and school board members working collaboratively to ensure their local schools are delivering the best education possible to their children. As state superintendent, I will honor and defend local control. One of the biggest threats is the temptation of the legislature to recklessly implement policies that do not respect Wyoming. Just because other states have stagnant, dysfunctional systems does not mean Wyoming schools should be dismantled. I will defend Wyoming from out of state / out of touch agendas.

Steve Harshman (R):

A: Our greatest strength is our people! I believe in the Wyoming I grew up in & where Becky and I raised our four kids. A Wyoming of conservative values where every child has the opportunity to succeed and live the American Dream, regardless of their zip code. We have many blessings & abundance in WYO. It is easy to partner as we all know each other.

We need to capitalize on new opportunities because when our students succeed, Wyoming succeeds! Working together, we can keep Wyoming schools great and prepare the next generation of Wyoming leaders, workers, and citizens. This team building minimizes our challenge of diseconomy of scale. Every student has potential and Wyoming's future starts when parents and teachers unlock that potential.

Tom Kelly (R):

A: The greatest strength of any education system is the quality of the professionals working with the kids. I'd continue to promote competitive salaries and benefits for those who work with students directly. The greatest weakness in Wyoming right now is ironically caused by our success. It's complacency, that we're one of the best states, so no changes should be made other than simply increasing funding. I'd continue to reject that 30% of our 8th grade students as "below basic" in reading is an acceptable number and work with districts to see where the state should step in or step back so their already difficult jobs are easier. Wyoming education would benefit more from a coach than a cheerleader.

Wyoming US House Representative

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.

Candidates:



Jillian Balow (R)

Mailing Address: PO Box 20945 Cheyenne WY 82009

Campaign Phone: 307-352-9546

Campaign Email: info@jillianbalowforwyoming.com

Campaign Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/Jillian Balow for Wyoming](https://www.facebook.com/JillianBalowforWyoming)

Campaign Website: www.jillianbalowforwyoming.com



Bo Biteman (R)

Mailing Address: PO Box 244 Sheridan WY 82801

Campaign Phone: 307-477-4626

Campaign Email: bo@bobiteman.com

Campaign Facebook: SEN.BITEMAN
Campaign Website: www.bobiteman.com



Frank Chapman (R)

Mailing Address: PO Box 70 Moran WY 83013
Campaign Phone: 307-699-7222
Campaign Email: Frank@ChapmanforCongress.com
Campaign Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/Frank Chapman for Congress](https://www.facebook.com/Frank%20Chapman%20for%20Congress)
Campaign Website: ChapmanForCongress.com



Kevin Christensen (R)

Mailing Address: 1655 E Sunlight Dr Casper WY 82601
Campaign Phone: 307-267-5288
Campaign Email: kevin.for.ushouse@christensen2026.org
Campaign Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/Candidate Kevin Christensen](https://www.facebook.com/Candidate%20Kevin%20Christensen)
Campaign Website: christensen2026.org



Richard Dodson (R)

Mailing Address: PO Box 754 Sundance WY 82729
Campaign Phone: 307-228-5865
Campaign Email: HELPDESKGEEK@YAHOO.COM

Steve Friess (R)

Mailing Address: 115 E Snow King Jackson WY 83001
Campaign Phone: 503-619-9225
Campaign Email: elishah@friessforwy.com
Campaign Facebook: Steve Friess for Wyoming
Campaign Website: www.friessforwy.com



David Giralt (R)

Mailing Address: PO Box 486 Mills WY 82644

Campaign Phone: 307-277-4617

Campaign Email: info@davidgiralt.com

Campaign Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/people/David-Giralt-for-Wyoming/>

Campaign Website: davidgiralt.com

Keith B. Goodenough (R)

Mailing Address: Box 1852 Casper WY 82602

Campaign Phone: 307-237-3114

Campaign Email: senatorgoodenough@gmail.com



Chuck Gray (R)

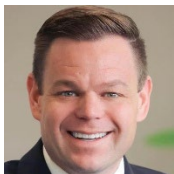
Mailing Address: PO Box 50415 Casper WY 82609

Campaign Phone: 307-251-1372

Campaign Email: info@chuckforwyoming.com

Campaign Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ChuckForWyoming>

Campaign Website: chuckforwyoming.com



Reid Rasner (R)

Mailing Address: PO Box 1217 Casper WY 82601

Campaign Email: press@rasnerforwy.com

Campaign Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ReidRasnerWy>

Campaign Website: rasnerforwy.com

Elena Del Real (D)

Campaign Email: ELENADELREAL2026@GMAIL.COM

Candidate did not respond to questions in time for publication in this guide.



Lisa Kinney (D)

Mailing Address: PO Box 1710 Laramie WY 82073
Campaign Phone: 307-275-6431
Campaign Email: lisakinney2026@wyoming.com
Campaign Facebook: @LisakinneyforUSHouse
Campaign Website: lisakinneyforcongress.com

Q: Why are you running for this office? Describe the experience and skills that make you the most qualified candidate.

Jillian Balow (R):

A: My tagline says it all: Experience to Lead. Roots to Represent. The Roots: I am a 5th generation Wyomingite raised in Gillette. A UW grad, I taught school in Hulett and raised my family in Thermopolis and Cheyenne. I will represent ALL of Wyoming as we tackle high prices, water rights, public lands, healthcare, and overreach. I'll drive energy and entrepreneurial growth. The Experience: As your elected State Superintendent of Public Instruction, I led our schools through COVID better than any state and enacted lasting education reforms. I am a national leader in education known for building coalitions across industries to get work done. Now is the time for a proven leader who works for Wyoming and with Wyoming.

Bo Biteman (R):

A: I'm running because Wyoming deserves a representative who delivers results, not just rhetoric. As President of the Wyoming Senate, I've helped pass meaningful legislation that Wyoming voters wanted while building coalitions to get things done. I want to take that same practical leadership to Congress to lower the cost of living, restore fiscal responsibility, protect constitutional liberties, strengthen our economy, and ensure Washington works for Wyoming—not the other way around. I am the most qualified candidate because I have been a successful presiding officer of a legislative body and have the real world experience in the private sector. Congress needs people who actually know how to build coalitions and get things done.

Frank Chapman (R):

A: I am running because Wyoming needs a trusted, mature, professional Congressman who will put Wyoming First and fight for our families, jobs, land, energy, and way of life. As a rancher, businessman, and Licensed Wyoming Outfitter, I understand firsthand how federal overreach, inflation, regulations, and Washington elites hurt working people. I have built businesses, signed paychecks, dealt with federal agencies, and practiced law for over 30 years with a spotless disciplinary history. That makes me uniquely qualified to fight effectively for Wyoming. Constituent services will be the #1 priority. When you are up

against the federal government, you will not be alone. I will fight hand in hand with you.
When We Fight... We Win.

Kevin Christensen (R):

A: I'm running for Congress because Wyoming needs proven leadership, not more gridlock. I was raised in Wyoming, graduated from the University of Wyoming, served 27 years in the Army with two combat tours in Iraq, and served as a Colonel at the Pentagon advising the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs. I then returned home to serve as BLM District Manager, overseeing 8 million acres of public land and 13 million acres of mineral estate across 10 counties in Wyoming. I know how Washington works, and I know how federal policy affects Wyoming. I'll fight for fiscal responsibility, energy jobs, local control, constitutional rights, and a representative who answers to Wyoming—not Washington.

Richard Dodson (R):

A: I've been watching politics in this country decline for many years and I finally got fed up with the drive to the lowest common denominator and focus on the extraneous. At this time, Wyoming and the US need representatives who have the intelligence to see what's happening and the integrity to impose accountability on those responsible.

Steve Friess (R):

A: I'm running because Washington has lost touch with the people it's supposed to serve, and Wyoming deserves a fighter who can't be bought. I'm a businessman, not a career politician. I've spent my life building things, meeting payrolls, and solving real problems rather than talking around them. I'm the son of Foster Friess, and I was raised to believe that faith, family, and freedom are worth fighting for, and to whom much is given, much is expected. I've spent years in the grassroots conservative movement, working alongside everyday Americans who love this country and want their government to respect them. That experience taught me how Washington actually works and who it actually works for. I know how to build something from nothing, lead.

David Giralt (R):

A: I'm a Casper-raised, Army Ranger, son of legal immigrants, and Bronze Star recipient with 12 years of active duty service. What truly sets me apart is my federal legislative experience — as a DoD Congressional Fellow I drafted key legislation including the NDAA, and I later worked for Senator Lummis on Wyoming-specific issues including agriculture, trade, public lands, and national security. I'm not a millionaire or career politician. I'm a middle-class Wyoming kid who has already done the work of legislating in Washington — and I'm ready to do it for the people of this state.

Keith B. Goodenough (R):

A: To provide the GOP voters of Wyoming a progressive alternative to my many regressive opponents. I am, or have been, a wyomingite, a forester, a woodcutter, a state senator, a state representative, a peace corps volunteer, a spanish speaker, a wildland fire firefighter, an outdoor maintenance worker, a utility line locator and a city councilmember.

Chuck Gray (R):

A: I am running for office because I want to advance the priorities of the people of Wyoming in the United States Congress. We must advance our Wyoming industries so that we can reach our full potential. I have a track record of getting things done for the people of Wyoming and that's why I am the most qualified candidate in this race. As a state representative out of Casper, I passed Wyoming's voter ID bill and worked to gain access to markets for Wyoming's coal industry. As Secretary of State, I worked to secure our elections with proof of citizenship for registering to vote and a durational residency requirement. I have a track record of getting things done for the people of Wyoming and will take that to the United States Congress.

Reid Rasner (R):

A: I'm running because Wyoming deserves a representative who puts our state first every single day. As a lifelong Wyomingite, businessman, entrepreneur, and wealth manager, I've spent my career creating jobs, helping families build financial security, and solving real-world problems. Washington needs more leaders with private-sector experience who understand budgeting, economic growth, and accountability. I'll fight for Wyoming's energy industry, agriculture, small businesses, and working families while standing up for the values that make our state strong.

Lisa Kinney (D):

A: I'm running for Congress because I want to serve and represent the people of Wyoming. I have previously served in the Wyoming State Senate for 10 years and was the Senate Minority Floor leader for 2 of those years. I understand how government is supposed to work and want to help improve the issues that people are dealing with now. I have also served as Director of the Albany County Library and a financial advisor for over 20 years.

Q: What federal legislation would you support to lower the cost of living for Wyoming citizens?**Jillian Balow (R):**

A: To lower the cost of living, I will fight our runaway government spending and open opportunities for Wyoming to expand energy production and adjacent business. Energy Dominance: I'll slash red tape and onerous processes that inhibit development. I'll lead work to bring nuclear energy to WY and strengthen our core energy industries. Fiscal Responsibility: I'll support budget caps and balanced-budget measures to stop the reckless spending driving up prices of everything. Relief from Government: I'll fight to roll back overreach that burdens our local communities, ranchers, and businesses. Wyomingites deserve an economy built on freedom, not government.

Bo Biteman (R):

A: I would support legislation to expand domestic energy production, modernize permitting, reduce unnecessary federal regulations, and rein in deficit spending that fuels inflation. Lower energy costs reduce the price of nearly everything families buy. I also

support making the 2017 tax cuts permanent, eliminating unnecessary regulatory burdens on small businesses, and increasing competition in sectors like agriculture and health care. Washington should focus on policies that grow the economy instead of increasing costs.

Frank Chapman (R):

A: I would support federal legislation that puts Wyoming families first by lowering energy, food, housing, and healthcare costs. That starts with cutting wasteful spending, unleashing Wyoming coal, oil, gas, uranium, and minerals, and stopping federal rules that make everything more expensive. Food costs are hurting families, and Washington red tape makes it harder for ranchers, farmers, truckers, small businesses, and producers to operate. I would fight to reduce overregulation, protect American agriculture, secure the border, lower fuel costs, and strengthen supply chains. The best way to lower the cost of living is to get government out of the way, cut red tape, fight government judicial overreach, grow good jobs, and let Wyoming work.

Kevin Christensen (R):

A: Wyoming families are doing everything right and still feeling squeezed. I would focus on lowering costs in three areas: groceries, fuel, and healthcare. First, I would support policies that expand reliable American energy production and reduce supply disruptions that drive up fuel and transportation costs. Second, I would strengthen antitrust enforcement in agriculture and meatpacking so families pay fair prices at the store. Third, I would support temporary relief to keep health coverage affordable while pursuing reforms that put patients and providers—not insurance and drug companies—back at the center of care.

Richard Dodson (R):

A: Let's start with taking tariff power away from the executive branch and letting the people's representatives handle that as the Constitutional Convention decided two centuries ago.

Steve Friess (R):

A: The fastest way to lower costs for Wyoming families is to unleash American energy. I support legislation that ends the regulatory war on oil, gas, coal, and mining, because cheaper energy means cheaper everything. I support permanent tax relief so families and small businesses keep more of what they earn, and I will never vote for a tax increase. I support cutting the reckless federal spending that fuels inflation and steals the value of every paycheck. And I support slashing the red tape that drives up the price of building, ranching, and doing business in this state. When the government gets out of the way, prices come down, and Wyoming wins.

David Giralt (R):

A: The cost of living is the number one concern I hear from Wyoming families, and it should be. People are being squeezed by inflation driven by reckless federal spending. My

approach is straightforward: cut the deficit, reduce regulatory burdens on energy production, and let Wyoming's economy work. I support legislation that reins in federal spending and opposes new mandates that drive up costs for small businesses and consumers. I will fight to expand domestic energy production because affordable, reliable energy is the foundation of a lower cost of living for every family. I also support reducing regulatory overreach from agencies like the EPA that add costs without meaningful benefit to Wyoming citizens.

Keith B. Goodenough (R):

A: A Wyoming version of medicare for all.

Chuck Gray (R):

A: Lowering the cost of living is very important. We must reduce regulations, which have increased costs across our economy. The monetary expansion that has occurred due to the debt and deficit has increased the cost of living, and it must be reversed by stopping the debt and deficit. On housing, we must codify President Trumps' Executive Order to stop housing speculation. The cost of housing must also be addressed by encouraging apprenticeships and by encouraging education in the trades. We must also lower the costs of energy by ensuring that oil and gas wells that have been proposed across Wyoming are brought to the finish line. By unleashing Wyoming coal, oil and gas, and soda ash, prices will go down for Wyomingites.

Reid Rasner (R):

A: I support reducing the tax burden on families and small businesses, cutting unnecessary federal spending to help control inflation, expanding American energy production to lower fuel and utility costs, and eliminating burdensome regulations that increase prices. I also support policies that strengthen domestic manufacturing and supply chains so Americans rely less on foreign countries. Wyoming families should be able to keep more of what they earn while paying less for everyday necessities.

Lisa Kinney (D):

A: I would work to remove tariffs, would promote universal healthcare and raise the minimum wage. We have to do something to lower the prices of groceries, gas and housing so that everyone has the opportunity to improve their own living conditions and wealth.

Q: How would you improve the federal immigration system?

Jillian Balow (R):

A: Wyoming and America are strengthened by immigrants who came here legally. Our heritage is worth protecting. It begins with a secure border and an immigration system that is fair and enforced. Congress should work with President Trump to ensure that both legal immigration to the USA and work visas occur at an appropriate rate and number. Secure the Border: Finish the southern border wall, leverage technology to fortify our borders, and fully fund Border Patrol, long-term. Enforce the Law: President Trump has delivered on his

promise to secure our borders. In 2025, net immigration was negative for the first time since the 1970s. Congressional Action: Congress needs to take responsibility for making fair and enduring immigration laws.

Bo Biteman (R):

A: We must first secure the border by completing physical barriers where appropriate, increasing technology and personnel, and restoring enforcement of existing immigration laws. Congress should modernize the legal immigration system by reducing backlogs, improving efficiency, and ensuring employers have legal, reliable workforce options while protecting American workers. A fair immigration system requires both secure borders and a legal process that is orderly, timely, and consistently enforced.

Frank Chapman (R):

A: I would improve the federal immigration system by putting American families and Wyoming communities first. That means securing the border, enforcing the law, ending catch-and-release, removing criminal illegal aliens, and making sure we know who is entering our country. This is about safety. In Wyoming, we value communities where families feel secure, children are protected, and people know their neighbors. A broken immigration system undermines that trust. Congress should support lawful immigration that serves America's interests, but illegal immigration, open borders, and federal chaos hurt workers, schools, hospitals, law enforcement, and families. Wyoming First means safety, order, and the rule of law. It means lawful immigration.

Kevin Christensen (R):

A: First, we need to fix the legal immigration system in the US. We are a nation of immigrants, and we need labor to fuel our economy. The legal immigration system in the US is difficult and expensive for business owners to use. Those who come here legally and work hard, respect our laws, and do not commit fraud with welfare programs, should have a pathway to citizenship. Those who do not respect our laws must be sent back home without an opportunity to return. Secondly, we must secure our borders. All sovereign nations secure their borders. Every wall needs a door, and the door to the US must be protected by a legal process that ensures the people who come here contribute to our economy and abide by our laws.

Richard Dodson (R):

A: Immigration is what made this country great in the first place. All of us, with some exceptions have immigrant ancestors. Imagine if your grandparents or great-grandparents had been driven from this land because they didn't speak good English, or didn't look "white" enough. If we want to make this country great again, we should welcome the energy of people who gave up everything to be here as our ancestors did.

Steve Friess (R):

A: We have to secure the border first, period. I support finishing the wall, fully funding and backing our Border Patrol, and ending the catch-and-release and open-border policies that

have let millions pour into this country illegally. I support deporting those who came here illegally and cracking down hard on the cartels trafficking drugs and people into our communities. Legal immigration should be merit-based and built around what's good for American workers and American security. A nation that won't defend its borders won't stay a nation for long, and I'll always put the safety of Wyoming families first.

David Giralt (R):

A: Immigration is personal to me — my mother fled Cuba and my father came from Costa Rica. Both came legally, learned English, worked hard, and became proud Americans. That's what immigration should look like. I support finishing the border wall, securing our southern border, and lawful deportation of those here illegally. Equally important, we must fix the legal immigration system to be faster and merit-based, so those who want to come the right way actually can.

Keith B. Goodenough (R):

A: End the brutality in the system first. Then an easy, cheap, fair, logical path to citizenship. And expand the number of worker visas of all types.

Chuck Gray (R):

A: I support President Trump's approach to stopping illegal immigration. As Wyoming's next congressman, I will work to support this very important work to stop illegal immigration. In addition, the Congress must support President Trump to finish building the wall. Congress must also completely ban sanctuary cities. We must ensure that the laws of our country are enforced.

Reid Rasner (R):

A: America must restore the rule of law by securing the border and enforcing our immigration laws without exception. Congress should fully fund ICE and Border Patrol, complete physical and technological border security, end catch-and-release, resume nationwide deportations of those here illegally, permanently end DACA, and end birthright citizenship for the children of those who are in the United States illegally through constitutional and legislative action where appropriate. We must eliminate incentives for illegal immigration, require employers to use E-Verify, and modernize the legal immigration system for those who follow the law. America's immigration system should put American citizens, workers, and national security first.

Lisa Kinney (D):

A: The Immigration System as it is now is broken. We need a reasonable and easier path to citizenship by hiring more immigration judges and staff, allowing non-citizens to live here while they pursue a legal pathway to stay in our country. The timeline to acquire a green card is expensive and unreasonable.

Q: What measures would you support to improve access to and affordability of health care services in Wyoming?

Jillian Balow (R):

A: As your Congresswoman, I'll lead and support federal policy to expand access and lower costs for Wyoming. First, we must bridge the access gap by expanding telehealth, positioning Wyoming as a leader. Second, we must fortify our healthcare workforce pipeline. Building on my work as State Superintendent by expanding career and technical education, I will champion federal workforce grants to incentivize healthcare training opportunities. I'll also work to optimize the H-1B visa program. Medicare needs to be simplified and tools like expanded HSAs and innovative health plans need to be implemented.

Bo Biteman (R):

A: Wyoming's rural communities need practical solutions. I support expanding telehealth, strengthening rural hospitals, increasing price transparency, encouraging competition, and reducing regulations that drive up costs. Congress should also address workforce shortages by supporting physician training and rural practice incentives. Patients deserve more choices, better information about costs, and access to quality care close to home without unnecessary federal mandates.

Frank Chapman (R):

A: I support measures that make healthcare more affordable, local, and accessible for Wyoming families. That means protecting rural hospitals and clinics, expanding telehealth, supporting ambulatory and emergency services, increasing price transparency, and reducing federal red tape that pushes doctors out of practice. Wyoming families should know what care costs before they are billed and have more control through HSA Accounts and patient choice. Congress must strengthen Medicare, veterans' care, rural provider recruitment, and competition while keeping healthcare decisions with patients and doctors, not Washington bureaucrats. You are not alone. I will make sure that I am there to fight hand in hand with you for your Health Care Rights.

Kevin Christensen (R):

A: Wyoming needs affordable healthcare that works in rural communities. I would support incentives to recruit and keep providers in small towns, temporary relief to keep coverage affordable, and reforms that put patients and providers—not insurance and drug companies—back at the center of care. I also support expanding access for low-income working families so fewer people go without care and rural hospitals face less uncompensated care. In the long run, a healthcare system focused on prevention, wellness, and local access will lower costs and deliver better care for Wyoming families.

Richard Dodson (R):

A: Health care is a tough nut to crack, especially in rural and small town America. I think better access is going to require fundamental reform of the system, but exactly what that entails would be hard to say. Possibly some form of student loan reform, or some other incentives to encourage the best and the brightest to relocate or to stay in Wyoming.

Steve Friess (R):

A: Wyoming families deserve real choices and real prices, not a one-size-fits-all system run from Washington. The answer is more freedom, more competition and price transparency so people can actually see what care costs and shop for it. I support expanding access to telehealth, which matters enormously in a state as rural as ours, and protecting and strengthening our rural hospitals and clinics. I oppose any move toward government-run health care that puts bureaucrats between you and your doctor. Despite its false promises, Obamacare only made health care more expensive. Big insurance companies and big hospital systems have enjoyed record profits at the expense of families and small businesses. That's wrong. More freedom, less control.

David Giralt (R):

A: Healthcare access is critical to Wyoming's future growth. I support building on the Republican-led Rural Health Transformation Program, ensuring those federal dollars are deployed efficiently with Wyoming in control. I'll push to expand telehealth for rural residents and veterans, create workforce incentives to attract providers to underserved areas, and give Wyoming more Medicaid flexibility — fewer one-size-fits-all federal mandates that don't fit life in the Cowboy State.

Keith B. Goodenough (R):

A: A Wyoming version of medicare for all in the long run. In the short term mobile community services for basic health care in rural areas, improve the system of funding medical education in exchange for a certain amount of service in Wyoming to pay off the incurred debt, promote midwife education and availability, vigorously regulate corporate medical facilities to ensure compliance, promote preventative programs.

Chuck Gray (R):

A: Obamacare is one of the worst things to happen to our country. Obamacare must be repealed. Since the passing of Obamacare, health insurance premiums and deductibles have skyrocketed. There is less competition in the market because of strict federal regulations, leading to higher prices. To address health care costs, we need to incentivize competition and to allow insurance to be sold across state lines. This competition will bring down prices. There also needs to be more transparency on how much medical care costs. Medical providers, by law, should disclose those prices. For our rural communities, I will support legislation like the One Big Beautiful Bill that distributed rural health funds, which will help with access.

Reid Rasner (R):

A: Wyoming's rural communities need reliable access to quality healthcare. I support strengthening rural hospitals, expanding the healthcare workforce, increasing competition among insurance providers to lower costs, protecting coverage for preexisting conditions, and expanding telehealth services where appropriate. Congress should reduce unnecessary regulations that drive up costs while ensuring patients and their doctors, not Washington bureaucrats, remain in charge of healthcare decisions.

Lisa Kinney (D):

A: I would support Universal Healthcare. The US is the only country in the world who does not provide healthcare for its citizens and the cost of healthcare is unreasonable. We should bring back the ACA subsidies as a start, and raise the income guidelines for Medicaid by expanding it, too.

Q: Do you support or oppose the sale or exchange of public lands? Please explain.

Jillian Balow (R):

A: Wyoming's public lands are a treasure, an economic engine, and our way of life. I will defend them fiercely. I firmly oppose the wholesale sale or exchange of public lands. Selling or transferring lands for private ownership or development is a generational mistake that would ruin our way of life and decimate our prosperity as a state. As State Superintendent, I was a member of the State Land Board. When stakeholders come together with a mindset of stewardship, access, conservation and good faith, there is almost always a win-win. As Congresswoman, I'll fight to ensure that Wyoming voices are positioned to make decisions about the management of our public lands, federal and state.

Bo Biteman (R):

A: I oppose the wholesale sale of federal public lands. Public lands should remain public, accessible, and managed under Wyoming's long-standing multiple-use tradition. I do support carefully considered land exchanges when they improve public access, resolve management challenges, or benefit the public interest. I also support active management of our forests and rangelands, including rescinding the Roadless Rule, improving forest health, reducing wildfire risk, and modernizing federal permitting so land managers can responsibly steward these lands. The choice isn't between locking up our public lands or developing every acre. It's between active stewardship and passive neglect.

Frank Chapman (R):

A: Not one Acre. I oppose selling off Wyoming's public lands. Public lands are part of our way of life and support hunting, grazing, outfitting, recreation, tourism, energy, mining, wildlife, and local economies. They should remain open, accessible, and managed for multiple use. I would only consider a land exchange if it clearly benefits Wyoming, improves public access, protects taxpayers, has local support, and results in no net loss of usable public land. The decision must be made by Wyomingites, not Washington bureaucrats and Washington Elites only interested in kickbacks and special self dealing. I oppose backroom deals, federal land grabs, and locking land away. I pledge to be there to fight for you putting Wyoming people first.

Kevin Christensen (R):

A: I do not support selling Wyoming's public lands. I spent years managing these lands, and I know what they mean to our state—not just economically, but personally. They are where Wyoming families work, hunt, fish, ranch, and make memories. Public lands are

part of who we are. I do support carefully considered land exchanges when they improve access, protect the public interest, and are done at fair market value. But once public land is sold, it is gone for good. We should protect it, improve access where it makes sense, and keep it in the hands of the people.

Richard Dodson (R):

A: Public lands are some of our most precious resources. But support for sale or exchange would depend highly on the specific aspects of each deal individually. In general exchanges to improve access are welcome. Sales should benefit the state and the country as a whole. But every deal should be seen in the light of preserving value for generations to come. For example, managing National Forests for sustainable forestry is something we do very well. But fossil fuels are a completely different problem and so needs a different approach.

Steve Friess (R):

A: I believe public lands belong in public hands. These lands are central to our way of life. They're where we hunt, fish, ranch, and raise our families, and they belong in the hands of the people of Wyoming, not distant bureaucrats in Washington. The real problem is that the federal government controls far too much of our state and locks up land and resources that should be managed for Wyoming's benefit. I support returning more control and management of these lands to the state and the people who actually live here, protecting access for ranchers, sportsmen, and families, and ending the federal overreach that treats Wyoming as a possession rather than a partner.

David Giralt (R):

A: I oppose the wholesale sale of public lands. Wyoming's public lands belong to the people of Wyoming — and as someone who grew up in Boy Scouts, learned to hunt and fish across this state, and spent time on BLM and Forest Service land throughout my life, I take that personally. That said, I believe strongly in the multi-use principle. Public lands should be actively managed to support grazing, hunting, fishing, energy production, recreation, and timber — not locked up under restrictive policies. I will fight to protect grazing permits on BLM land that Wyoming ranchers and agricultural producers depend on. I oppose federal overreach that removes local voices from public lands management decisions.

Keith B. Goodenough (R):

A: Public lands in public hands! Federal lands in federal hands.

Chuck Gray (R):

A: Public lands must remain in public hands. I'm opposed to the sale of public lands. I'm also opposed to the exchange of public lands. I know how important our public lands are to our Wyoming way of life. And I have a proven track record of defending our public lands as a member of the State Board of Land Commissioners.

Reid Rasner (R):

A: Keep Wyoming's Public Lands in Public Hands. Wyoming's public lands are a vital part of our economy, heritage, and way of life. I do not support broad, indiscriminate sales of federal public lands. Any proposal involving the sale or exchange of land should be considered on a case-by-case basis, with transparency and meaningful input from Wyoming communities, local governments, and stakeholders. Public access, multiple-use management, private property rights, responsible resource development, and conservation should all be carefully balanced to ensure decisions serve the long-term interests of Wyoming. For more information you can read my RBLM plan for more in depth details.

Lisa Kinney (D):

A: I absolutely oppose the sale or exchange of public lands. Our public lands represent over 48% of the land base managed by the US Forest Service, National Park Service, BLM, and the Fish & Wildlife Service. Recreation is a major draw for tourists as well as sportsmen looking to hunt and fish. I will block any attempt to transfer any of our public lands to private entities or back to the states for sale.

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. The winner will join Wyoming Senator John Barrasso in representing Wyoming.

Candidates:**Billy Benavidez (D)**

Campaign Email: EMHPROCLEANING@GMAIL.COM

Candidate did not respond to questions in time for publication in this guide. Facebook:



James Byrd (D)

Mailing Address: 2511 N Snyder Ave Cheyenne WY 82001

Campaign Phone: 307-289-9810

Campaign Email: James@byrdfsenate.com

Facebook: James ByrdforUSSenate@facebook.com

Website: ByrdForSenate.com



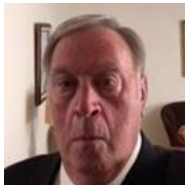
Jill M Edwards (R)

Mailing Address: PMB 374 504 Laramie WY 82070
Campaign Phone: 307-760-9692
Campaign Email: coffeequeen1972@gmail.com
Facebook: [/www.facebook.com/jill.m.edwards.5](https://www.facebook.com/jill.m.edwards.5)
Website: edwardsforus.com



Harriet Hageman (R)

Mailing Address: PO Box 4157 Cheyenne WY 82001
Campaign Phone: 307-228-4886
Campaign Email: info@hagemanforwyoming.com
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/harriethageman/>
Website: www.hagemanforwyoming.com

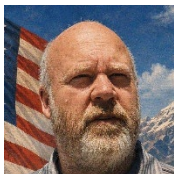


John Holtz (R)

Mailing Address: 1167 Granito Dr Laramie WY 82072
Campaign Phone: 307-745-6154
Campaign Email: herrholtz@bresnan.net

Sam Mead (R)

Campaign Email: INFO@MEADFORWYOMING.COM
Candidate did not respond to questions in time for publication in this guide.



Jimmy Skovgard (R)

Mailing Address: 5685 Hanly St Mills WY 82604
Campaign Phone: 307-277-2260
Campaign Email: Jimmy@grassrootsmvt.org
Facebook: facebook.com/skovgard2026

Q: Why are you running for this office? Describe the experience and skills that make you the most qualified candidate.

James Byrd (D):

A: I am running for the United States Senate to protect our heritage and deliver practical results. As a fifth generation Wyomingite whose family homesteaded in Laramie in 1862, my roots are deep. I served for a decade in the Wyoming House of Representatives, mastering the art of working across the aisle as Minority Whip and Caucus Leader. My professional background spans serving as an exploration geophysicist in the oil industry to managing technology networks, giving me a strong grasp on our economic drivers. Guided by the legacy of public service left by my parents, Liz and Jim Byrd, I offer the proven legislative experience and private sector skills required to fight for Wyoming.

Jill M Edwards (R):

A: I'm running because Wyoming deserves someone who understands the challenges facing working families. I'm not a career politician. I'm a small business owner, licensed massage therapist, mother, widow, and community member who has spent decades listening to people's struggles with healthcare, mental health, rising costs, and making ends meet. My life experiences have taught me to solve problems, communicate with people from different backgrounds, and put people before politics. I will bring accountability, transparency, and practical Wyoming values to the U.S. Senate while always putting Wyoming first.

Harriet Hageman (R):

A: I practiced as a water, natural resources and constitutional trial attorney for over 30 years, defending private property rights, fighting bureaucratic overreach and working on policy for a variety of clients. I represented the State, farmers, ranchers, municipalities, counties, trade organizations, and small businesses, among others. I was elected to Congress in 2022, and serve on the Judiciary and Natural Resources Committees including as chair of the Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries. I have secured more than \$40 million for local infrastructure throughout the State. We have also returned \$16 million directly to Wyoming businesses and individuals through case work. I have passed 41 legislative wins over my 3 ½ year tenure.

John Holtz (R):

A: I am an Eagle Scout, and a member of the Christian Legal Society since law school. I was a Space Systems Operations Officer in the United States Air Force. I was in the Electro Optical and Space Division of the Hughes Aircraft Company and I obtained the first double-digit firm fixed-price contract in the history of the Hughes Aircraft Company, setting a precedent that aided Hughes in becoming the largest private employer in Southern California. I was the head of the team to redesign the fire control system of the Army's

main battle tank, the M60A3. I was one of the youngest judges in Wyoming history and helped establish the Circuit Court system of today. I will uphold the Constitution.

Jimmy Skovgard (R):

A: I am running because Wyoming deserves representation from the people, not from big money, political insiders, or Washington pressure. I have no political experience, and I see that as part of the point. I come from Wyoming citizens who work, build, pay taxes, raise families, and live with the consequences of federal decisions. I swore an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Wyoming. That oath still binds me. My promise is simple: seek truth, share truth, expose lies, defend liberty, and protect our Wyoming way of life.

Q: What federal legislation would you support to lower the cost of living for Wyoming citizens?

James Byrd (D):

A: I would support targeted federal legislation focused on lowering everyday healthcare, energy, and housing costs. First, I would support expanding the federal cap on prescription drug and insulin costs to cover all citizens, not just seniors, immediately lowering family medical bills. Second, I would advocate for legislation that streamlines federal permits for domestic energy production, which lowers utility and fuel costs for consumers. Third, I would support bipartisan bills that offer targeted tax credits for first time homebuyers and incentivize local housing development. Finally, I would back infrastructure grants to expand rural broadband, reducing the cost of goods and services in our remote communities.

Jill M Edwards (R):

A: I would support legislation that lowers the cost of living by restoring fiscal responsibility, expanding reliable American energy production, strengthening supply chains, and reducing unnecessary regulations that drive up costs without improving safety. I also support increasing competition to lower prescription drug prices, expanding affordable housing, and investing in rural infrastructure that helps businesses grow and keeps transportation costs down. Congress should focus on practical, bipartisan solutions that help Wyoming families afford groceries, fuel, housing, and healthcare while reducing the national debt instead of adding to it.

Harriet Hageman (R):

A: The historic One Big Beautiful Bill signed by President Trump last year was designed to deliver dividends for generations of Americans who will carry on the next 250 years of our country. Last year's reconciliation package gave Wyoming residents more tax relief than any other state in the country, with an average reduction of nearly \$5,500. I will continue to support additional tax breaks for Wyoming families similar to those passed in the One Big Beautiful Bill, which included a permanent expansion of the Child Tax Credit, a \$10,000 tax break on loans for cars made in America, and the elimination of federal taxes on tips and

overtime. I will also continue to champion legislation to unleash Wyoming's full energy and mineral potential.

John Holtz (R):

A: I would make Social Security non-taxable once again. I would export our resources to Europe and Israel through the Strait of Gibraltar to broaden our opportunities. Wyoming is an energy treasure trove in an energy short world. Our natural resources should help our friends, not our enemies.

Jimmy Skovgard (R):

A: I would support legislation that cuts waste, stops unfunded mandates, strengthens domestic energy production, lowers permitting barriers for housing and infrastructure, and protects family budgets from inflation. Wyoming families feel fuel, groceries, interest, insurance, and equipment costs every day. Congress must stop pretending borrowed money is free. I also support price transparency in health care, fair competition in agriculture and meat processing, and tax relief for working families and small businesses. I would also explore a Wyoming-style permanent fund at the federal level, funded only by real resource revenue, not debt, to reduce long-term tax pressure and protect future generations.

Q: How would you improve the federal immigration system?

James Byrd (D):

A: Our broken immigration system must be fixed with a pragmatic approach that directly supports Wyoming economic needs. The current system creates administrative delays that hurt our state industries. In Wyoming, our agriculture, livestock, and hospitality sectors rely heavily on temporary labor. I support streamlining the H 2A and H 2B visa programs so our ranchers, farmers, and small business employers can legally and efficiently fill seasonal job gaps when domestic labor is unavailable. Finally, we need a tough but fair legal pathway to earned citizenship for undocumented individuals who are already living here and actively contributing to our local communities.

Jill M Edwards (R):

A: America needs both secure borders and a fair, functional immigration system. Wyoming was built by generations of immigrants, from railroad workers and miners to ranchers, entrepreneurs, healthcare professionals, and educators who helped build our communities and economy. We should invest in effective border security, modernize ports of entry, reduce visa and immigration backlogs, and ensure immigration laws are enforced fairly, consistently, and with respect for due process. Enforcement should focus on genuine public safety threats while creating efficient legal pathways for people who want to work, contribute, and strengthen our nation. Congress has avoided meaningful reform for too long. Wyoming deserves practical solutions, not political.

Harriet Hageman (R):

A: The previous administration's open border policy directly resulted in the deaths of Americans and wreaked havoc on almost every aspect of our lives. I have spoken with parents who lost children to fentanyl overdoses, whose daughters were brutally raped and murdered by criminal illegal aliens, and whose schools are becoming less governable by the day because of non-english-speaking students. I am fighting to get untrained and illegal truck drivers off our roads, and prevent non-english speaking drivers from obtaining commercial drivers licenses. A country without borders is no country at all. A closed border is necessary for the safety and security of any nation. Those wishing to immigrate into the United States should enter legally.

John Holtz (R):

A: I would limit its application.

Jimmy Skovgard (R):

A: We need a lawful, orderly, and humane immigration system. That means securing the border, ending cartel control, speeding up lawful processing, fixing broken work-visa systems for agriculture and small business, and requiring employers to follow the law. People should not be used as political props or scapegoats. The system should protect American workers, respect due process, keep families and communities safe, and restore public trust. A serious Wyoming senator should study what has worked, listen directly to citizens, develop a clear strategy, and finally put this issue in the rearview mirror. We should not let moneyed interests use illegal immigration as a tool for division and control.

Q: What measures would you support to improve access to and affordability of health care services in Wyoming?

James Byrd (D):

A: To improve healthcare in Wyoming, I support pragmatic solutions tailored to our rural geography. First, we must expand federal reimbursement for telehealth so residents can consult specialists without traveling hours. Second, we must protect our critical access hospitals by stabilizing federal funding models to prevent closures. Third, I support expanding the federal cap on prescription drug and insulin costs to cover all citizens, immediately lowering family bills. Finally, we must address healthcare workforce shortages. I advocate for expanding medical residency slots in rural states and strengthening student loan forgiveness for doctors, nurses, and mental health professionals who commit to practicing in Wyoming communities.

Jill M Edwards (R):

A: I would prioritize strengthening rural healthcare by protecting hospitals and clinics that serve Wyoming communities, expanding the healthcare workforce, and improving access to primary care, mental health services, and telehealth where appropriate. I also support increasing competition to lower healthcare costs, improving price transparency, and addressing the shortage of physicians, nurses, and behavioral health providers. No

Wyoming resident should have to drive hundreds of miles or delay care because services are unavailable or unaffordable.

Harriet Hageman (R):

A: I am proud to have secured more than \$205 million for Wyoming health care through the Rural Health Transformation Program to strengthen care and access across our state. The deliverability of rural health care should always be considered in any nationwide reform considered by Congress. I will continue to advocate for strengthening Wyoming's healthcare system in the United States Senate.

John Holtz (R):

A: Legislation is needed for rural hospitals.

Jimmy Skovgard (R):

A: Insurance is broken for too many Wyoming families, ranchers, small businesses, and self-employed workers. We need a serious discussion about "Cowboy Care": moving the premiums Wyoming people already pay into a state-managed purchasing pool that gives us leverage, transparency, and real bargaining power. The goal is not more Washington control. The goal is affordable care that works for Wyoming. I also support price transparency, telehealth, rural clinics, fair reimbursement, and accountability for pharmacy benefit managers. Health care should serve people, not moneyed interests.

Q: Do you support or oppose the sale or exchange of public lands? Please explain.

James Byrd (D):

A: I oppose the sale or exchange of Wyoming public lands. Nearly fifty percent of our state is managed by the federal government, and these spaces are vital to our heritage, economy, and way of life. I will fight to block short sighted federal attempts to sell off or transfer these tracts to private entities or corporate interests. We must preserve public access for hunting, fishing, outdoor recreation, and traditional livestock grazing. Public lands must remain open and accessible, serving as a shared resource that supports our local tourism, energy, and agricultural sectors for generations to come.

Jill M Edwards (R):

A: I oppose the sale of our public lands and believe land exchanges should occur only when they clearly benefit the public and improve land management. Wyoming's public lands support ranching, energy development, recreation, hunting, fishing, tourism, and wildlife habitat, making them essential to both our economy and our way of life. We can responsibly develop our natural resources while protecting the landscapes that define Wyoming. Once public land is sold, it is rarely recovered. We have a responsibility to be good stewards so future generations inherit the same opportunities and freedoms we enjoy today.

Harriet Hageman (R):

A: The long-term preservation of our public lands remains a core component of our national identity that I will always be proud of as a 4th generation Wyomingite. I also believe many of our public lands hold the solutions to a plethora of problems that impact the west today such as limited economic opportunities for rural communities and a severe shortage of affordable housing. I have never supported mass land sales and have instead supported addressing the impact of the large federal footprint in our state where roughly half the land is under federal jurisdiction. Such policies have included dealing with the federal regulatory burden that constrains access and undermines congressionally mandated multiple use of our federal lands.

John Holtz (R):

A: I have international experience and qualifications unmatched by others. I support Wyoming. God bless Wyoming and keep it wild. Wyoming should not become Disneyland.

Jimmy Skovgard (R):

A: I oppose broad sale or transfer of public lands for private gain or to cover Washington's debt. Some land may need development, exchange, or adjustment, but that must be handled case by case with local involvement, public notice, access protections, and real oversight. Wyoming should not accept an ambiguous 0.5% to 0.75% selloff formula that could indiscriminately put millions of acres at risk. Our public lands support hunting, fishing, grazing, energy, outfitters, tourism, water, and quiet places to breathe. Public land belongs to the people and to posterity.