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League of Women Voters and Equality State Policy Center Stand for State's Rights, Voters' Rights and Election Integrity - The Wyoming Way

Cheyenne, WY - The League of Women Voters of Wyoming (LWVWY) and Equality State Policy Center (ESPC) are grateful to Laramie County elections officials and workers who resisted disruptive behavior by federal "monitors." The monitors were prohibited from questioning voters inside the Primary Election polling places and from interfering with the election process.

Two Department of Justice (DOJ) attorneys showed up at six of Laramie County's seven vote centers, with lead notice only to the Secretary of State's office and U.S. Attorney's office, according to officials in those two offices. The DOJ released a public statement about sending monitors to Wyoming and Florida after our polls opened, according to Laramie County Clerk Debra Lee, the county's chief elections officer. As soon as she learned of their presence, Lee said, she spoke with a DOJ official in Washington, D.C., who confirmed the federal employees were sent here as "monitors."

"I was informed the monitors were sent to assess compliance with federal civil rights and voting rights laws," Lee wrote in a public statement. "To do this, they intended to interview voters." She was told the questions focused on poll worker training and election equipment.

"We do not allow interviews to be conducted in polling places, so this was denied," Lee said. She added that Wyoming election laws have specific provisions for election observers, but none for monitors. The DOJ employees were allowed to join "poll watchers," away from the voters.

LWVWY and ESPC agree with Lee's description of the exercise as "poorly managed" and showing "complete disregard for our state laws and administration of our elections."

"We support our county clerks and their administration of free, fair, secure, and accessible elections," said LWVWY President Dee Buckstaff. "Wyoming voters are confident in their ability to exercise their constitutional right to cast ballots early or on Election Day securely

and without interference or harassment. We strongly oppose any unauthorized federal activities that degrade that confidence.”

LWWY and ESPC appreciated statements by Wyoming Gov. Mark Gordon, during the state canvassing board meeting on Aug. 26, drawing state and national attention to the unauthorized attempt to monitor our state-run elections and to ask Wyoming Attorney General Keith Kautz to look into the matter.

ESPC and the League join Wyoming citizens in trusting our county clerks to run free, fair, secure, and accessible elections. We look forward to the November 3 election and expect federal officials to respect our state election system by leaving our county election officials to do their job.

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The League of Women Voters of Wyoming is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization with expertise in voting and elections. Our mission is to empower voters and defend democracy. For more than a century, we have valiantly worked to educate voters and promote free, fair, and accessible elections. We advocate for issues but not candidates or political parties.

Equality State Policy Center is a nonpartisan, coalition-based organization serving Wyoming for over thirty years upholding the principles of political equity and self-governance with research and education that elevates effective citizen participation in state government. We advance fair elections and transparent government policies in support of all Wyoming communities.

Resources:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2026/08/28/us/politics/wyoming-governor-objects-to-very-odd-doj-election-monitoring.html?searchResultPosition=1>