

Introduction

The League of Women Voters of Wyoming, in a 55-year partnership with the Laramie Boomerang, prepared this Voter Guide for publication on October 7 for the November 3 General 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@albanycountyywy.gov

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

Registering to Vote:

You may register at any time up to November 3 by presenting a valid ID at the county courthouse. If you register after October 19, you will be required to cast a ballot at the same time. If you voted in the 2026 Primary Election or the May 5 Special Election, you are registered. You can update your registration information with the Elections Office if your address changed. Voters may still register and vote at any vote center on Election Day. Please note there have been changes to acceptable identification for registering. 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 October 6. 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 November 2. Polls are open on election day, November 3, 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 race and 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 assigned district/precinct. 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, Centennial

Harmony School - 20 Lewis Rd, Laramie

Laramie Peak Fire Hall - 1836 Cottonwood Park Rd, Wheatland

Lincoln Community Center - 365 W. Grand Ave, Laramie

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 General Election. If you requested an absentee ballot for both the 2026 Primary and General election, you will receive your absentee ballot. 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 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 organization whose mission is to empower voters and defend democracy. The League does not support candidates or political parties. It is organized and 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. If the race is partisan, the party of the candidate is reflected, D for Democrat, R for Republican, CT for Constitution Party, LBR for Libertarian Party.

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 to addresses given when the candidate filed for office. The deadline for responses was September 20, 2026. The questions and their responses were downloaded from Vote 411 and submitted to the Boomerang for the printed guide. For those that did not respond, the candidate and campaign information will be shown, with a note that no response was received for the race questions by the printed copy deadline.

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**. Other non-partisan voter guides and resources can be found online, for example, the LWV and the Albany County Public Library have sponsored Candidate forums, and videos of the forums can be viewed on the library website, acplwy.org or the LWV Wyoming website, wyominglwv.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. You may vote for one candidate from the two who moved forward from the Primary Election. The 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. You may vote for one candidate from the two who moved forward from the Primary Election. The 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. You may vote for two candidates from the four who moved forward from the Primary Election. 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)

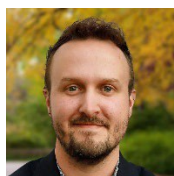
Campaign Mailing Address: 514 E Grand Ave # 247 LARAMIE WY 82070

Campaign Phone: 307-760-3642

Campaign Email: erichendersonmpa@gmail.com

Campaign Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ERiC Henderson for City Council-Ward 1](https://www.facebook.com/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: [www.facebook.com/Nicholas Jesse for Laramie](https://www.facebook.com/Nicholas-Jesse-for-Laramie)

Campaign Website: nicholasjesseforlaramie.com

Campaign Instagram: www.instagram.com/nicholasjesse4laramie/



Brandon Newman (Ward 2 Non-Partisan)

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

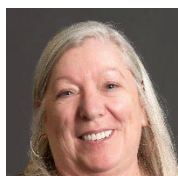
Campaign Phone: 785-592-0681

Campaign Email: brandon@brandonnewman.net

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/MrBrandonNewman/

Campaign Instagram URL: www.instagram.com/brandonforward2/

Campaign Website: brandonnewman.net



Jayne Pearce (Ward 2 Non-Partisan)

Campaign Mailing Address: 1221 East Baker St Laramie WY 820720

Campaign Phone: 307-703-0313

Campaign Email: pearce.jayne@gmail.com



Samuel Buckwalter (Ward 3 Non-Partisan)

Campaign Phone: 307-433-2129

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: 307-760-2183

Campaign Email: hooper4ward3@gmail.com

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



Erin O'Doherty (Ward 3 Non-Partisan)

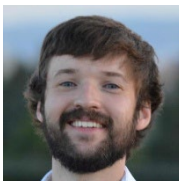
Campaign Mailing Address: 1807 Beaufort St Laramie WY 82072

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.

Jayne Pearce (Ward 2):

A: It has always been about giving back to our community, stepping up, and listening. I've experienced as I've held this office previously. I show up and do the work.

Samuel Buckwalter (Ward 3):

A: I am running for office to expand 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; 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: I have heard from many constituents about various issues facing our community and I feel my key takeaways and priorities will focus on: 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.

Jayne Pearce (Ward 2):

A: 1. Business growth. 2. Housing, Housing, and more Housing. But not the same type of housing in a row or on a block. It needs to be mixed by price, square footage, single car garage next to double car garage, siding varieties, single level next to two story. It needs to be accessible. 3. Fiscal transparency and community understanding of the budget and the budget process.

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 restricts growth and prosperity. 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 their lives outside the city.

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, Ivins 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 and securing our water sources. 3. Reducing our energy costs and carbon footprint.

Brett Ralston (Ward 3):

A: My top three priorities are housing, economic development, and community engagement/local participation. 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.

Jayne Pearce (Ward 2):

A: City needs/demands are not reduced therefore city maintenance, and improvement project timelines will be moved out. Projects/Goals will take longer to complete. More partnership development and different funding sources explored e.g. grants.

Samuel Buckwalter (Ward 3):

A: If property taxes are reduced, I would prioritize making the city live within the means of its taxpayers, not find a replacement revenue for the city. I would protect essential services such as public safety, infrastructure, and basic city operations. Then I would

inspect each department for unnecessary spending, redundant services, excessive staffing, contracts, leases, and discretionary programs. I would also work to reduce regulations and fees that make it more expensive to build homes, start businesses, and invest in Laramie, because taxpayers should keep more of their money, while the City focuses on the services residents depend on the most, instead of giving residents bread and circuses.

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. Eventually as reserves are drained, temporary positions based on one-time funding would have to be eliminated. I believe the City's park maintenance is already understaffed, but I fear that would be the most likely reduction. As part of Albany County, Laramie residents would be hurt by losses to the County government budget, if services such as public safety are underfunded. It might not be obvious, but City residents currently benefit from services of Weed & Pest and Conservation Districts. Loss of their staff and programs could affect how the city manages mosquitoes and runoff.

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.

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. I support the rental ordinance as we have a unique population in that there are more renters than homeowners in Laramie and we need to ensure they, as a demographic, are not preyed upon nor taken advantage of. 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.

Jayne Pearce (Ward 2):

A: We need to improve the rental ordinance by adding a few more teeth and a few more carrots.

Samuel Buckwalter (Ward 3):

A: I would repeal or substantially reduce ordinances that unnecessarily restrict property rights, increase the cost of housing and business development, or impose regulations without a clear or sufficient public safety benefit. This includes excessive landscaping, parking, architectural and lot-size requirements; unnecessary permitting and licensing; restrictions on home businesses and lawful property use; and requirements that force private development to finance infrastructure for the broader community. I would retain regulations that genuinely protect public safety, health, and neighboring property rights, while removing regulations that primarily enforce aesthetics or create unnecessary bureaucracy. Refer to my website for more details.

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 not serving on council because I have an ax to grind pertaining to a specific ordinance. Rather than vague complaints about too much red tape, I'd like to work on specific issues. 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 pleased that the

planning department has been holding meetings to hear contractors' concerns. A result of such feedback, council has modified some code and inspection staff has been added. Council has directed staff to update our code to address concerns that citizens have expressed regarding data centers. I'm pleased to be taking a proactive approach

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.

Q: Do you believe the City Council neglects or favors certain areas and/or demographics of Laramie over others, and what would you do about this if elected?

Eric Henderson (Ward 1)

A: Yes. I have observed specific instances of neglect and conduct by City staff and Council members that I believe demonstrates favoritism. I ASK QUESTIONS. As a Ward 1 candidate, my first responsibility is to listen and make sure residents' voices reach City Hall. My standard is simple: same rules and same respect for everyone. Bias, prejudice or preferential treatment has no place in City government. Public-comment, public-notice and participation rules should apply consistently. Title, connections, economic status or organizational influence should never determine whose voice matters most. I will stand up for Ward 1, ask questions, demand answers and work for fair treatment of every Laramie resident. Tomorrow Starts Today.

Nicholas Jesse (Ward 1):

A: I believe the city council has an obligation to serve and prioritize all Laramie residents. To do that, the council and community should identify the services and spaces most in need of investment and expansion. Constituents have told me that accessibility, in both transit and infrastructure, is a pressing need. I appreciate what the city has already done in areas like downtown, but West Laramie and the West Side remain somewhat neglected. If elected, I will focus on investing in accessible infrastructure in these neighborhoods first and then across our community. I would also like to see sidewalks fixed in areas where they are heaving or crumbling to expand accessibility.

Brandon Newman (Ward 2):

A: I do not believe the City Council intentionally neglects or favors certain areas or demographics of Laramie. The council and city staff have worked hard to encourage broad representation through public meetings, advisory boards, committees, surveys, and citizen engagement. However, we should never assume everyone feels heard. If reelected, I will continue supporting transparent decisions, accessible public participation, and outreach

across every neighborhood and demographic. I will also examine how city funding, services, and infrastructure projects are distributed to ensure decisions are based on community needs and the long-term interests of all Laramie residents—not favoritism or political pressure.

Jayne Pearce (Ward 2):

A: We strive to be a welcoming community for all and sadly, there may be the appearance of neglect or favor. But I believe the reality is different if other factors are considered. For example, water runs downhill, water degrades and stresses infrastructure, therefore storm drainage and road projects need to occur at the bottom of the hill or in a specific part of town. Safety is a big concern and having well lit alleys and walking paths/sidewalks is important. Densely populated parts of town may need more attention than other parts of town.

Samuel Buckwalter (Ward 3):

A: I believe the City Council should treat every group seeking taxpayer funding fairly, regardless of its beliefs or the community it serves. The FY2026–27 Community Partner Funding raises legitimate concerns: PrideFest requested \$15,000, while Foundation Builders Community Center requested \$20,000. Only 1 of 9 Council members recommended \$0 for PrideFest, while 5 recommended \$0 for Foundation Builders. Ultimately, PrideFest received \$6,056, compared to \$2,389 for Foundation Builders. Of the 36 organizations requesting funding, these were the only 2 that received a \$0 recommendation from any Council member. Since the Foundation Builders operate all year and serves the broader community, I would demand consistent standards to award funds.

Tammy Hooper (Ward 3):

A: Given any issue or problem those involved likely feel the response may be insufficient to address that issue. Those who don't have a position or an investment in an issue may feel that group is getting a disproportionate amount of attention. It's a balancing act and attention must be given to issues whether it's affordable housing, parking, traffic, streets, etc. Some of us will have a stake in multiple areas, others maybe just one. Everyone though deserves a voice and it's the job of all of us to listen to, maybe not having the solution but having the time to pay attention.

Erin O'Doherty (Ward 3):

A: Water and wastewater infrastructure is prioritized based on need, so older parts of town require more attention. During my term, Council voted to conduct more objective city-wide street and sidewalk surveys. The information gathered from those assessments and consideration of the water infrastructure conditions beneath the streets is used to prioritize street repair and maintenance. Work to bring unpaved streets up to city standards is very expensive. It is being done gradually, so that one part of town does not use up the General Fund budget. Before streets can be paved, extensive stormwater infrastructure must be built to carry runoff to the river.

Brett Ralston (Ward 3):

A: I am interested in bringing more attention to the needs of young people in order to build the proper social and physical infrastructure to support the next generation of Laramie citizens. I hope to achieve this by listening to the reasons why students leave and what keeps people in Laramie, and then incentivizing ordinance and developments that provide the amenities for the next generation.

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. You may vote for two out of the four candidates (two from each party) who moved forward from the Primary. The two top vote getters will serve with Thad Hoff (R), whose term expires in 2028.

Candidates:



Merav Ben-David (D)

Campaign Mailing Address: 6839 Black Elk Trail Laramie WY 82070

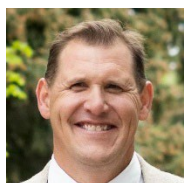
Campaign Phone: 307-214-0510

Campaign Email: mbendavidwy@gmail.com

Campaign Instagram: www.instagram.com/bendavid2020

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/bendavid2

Campaign Website: www.bendavid2020.com/



Chris Clevon (R)

Campaign Mailing Address: 2631 Pope Springs Rd Laramie WY 82070

Campaign Phone: 307-760-9779

Campaign Email: clevon4cc@gmail.com

Campaign Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Chris](https://www.facebook.com/ChrisClevon) Clevon

Campaign Website: www.clevon4cc.com



Pete Gosar (D)

Campaign Mailing Address: 1444 Bonneville St Laramie WY 82070

Campaign Phone: 307-760-3219

Campaign Email: petegosar@gmail.com

Campaign Instagram URL: www.instagram.com/gosar4commish

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/gosar4commish



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?

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, protects water, and makes 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: Experienced, solution-based leadership will be vital for Albany County over the next four years. I am still deeply enthusiastic about serving as your County Commissioner. Having successfully managed personnel and budgets across the private, public, and non-profit sectors, I know firsthand the importance of hard work, collaboration, and vision. These skills have allowed me to help with critical agreements for emergency medical services, the detention center, renewable energy, and county facility efficiencies. Furthermore, I have championed updates to the Casper Aquifer Protection Plan and the Laramie Growth Area Plan while consistently advocating for improved public access to meetings to ensure transparent, community-focused governance.

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?

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 stewardship of our county's resources. First, I want to reduce unnecessary regulations that limit housing development while respecting 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 can encourage responsible growth, protect the Casper Aquifer, and preserve county property rights. Finally, I will prioritize fiscal responsibility, transparency, and protecting our water, land, and other resources while ensuring citizens have a meaningful voice in the decisions that affect our county.

Pete Gosar (D):

A: 1. Pursuing smart regulation and community benefit agreements on large energy projects, including data centers, while continuing to protect the Casper Aquifer and all critical water sources. 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.

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 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?

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 reduction in county revenues is expected to be approx. 7%. 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: Passing the proposed constitutional amendment would reduce Albany County's budget by an additional \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 in revenue, compounding millions already lost to legislative tax cuts. While these measures offer relief to homeowners, they will result in the loss of services. Previously, the county absorbed tax reductions using one-time revenue from wind energy projects, but these funds cannot sustain long-term operations. To balance the budget under these new fiscal constraints, the Albany County Commission will be forced to reduce non-essential spending. As a result, the county will need to reduce public services, disproportionately impacting residents in the most sparsely populated, rural areas who rely on county infrastructure.

Terri Jones (R):

A: Albany County currently provides tax relief for property owners in need. This relief must be applied for. If the Peoples Incentive 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: What are your positions on regulating energy development and approving major energy-consuming projects such as data centers? Please elaborate.

Merav Ben-David (D):

A: Electricity in Albany County is mostly provided by a utility resistant to opening the market for alternative energy generation, although they cannot currently support the needs of data centers without severely affecting domestic customers. I support recent proposals to allow independent, non-utility electricity generation, because they will make plug-in and member-owned solar co-ops possible. These could provide relief from high costs of living and resolve some of the housing affordability issues. I'm committed, however, to ensure that approval of data centers will be conditioned on industrial siting and providing the community with benefits beyond required mitigation measures for water consumption, pollution, and other hazards.

Chris Cleven (R):

A: I am hesitant to support large data centers in Albany County. These projects can place significant demands on power, water, roads, and other infrastructure, and tax revenue alone is not enough reason to approve them. Before considering a major project, we need to know where the resources will come from, who pays for the infrastructure, and how residents, agriculture, and businesses will be affected. I support responsible energy development, private property rights, and limited, practical regulation. Our water resources must be protected, and taxpayers should not subsidize private development. Major projects must demonstrate real, long-term benefits and be responsible partners with our community, not simply consumers of our resources.

Pete Gosar (D):

A: The Albany County Commission must actively regulate energy development and major energy-consuming projects, like data centers, to protect local consumers from paying higher fees and associated infrastructure costs. To mitigate the lengthy list of community impacts these projects bring, the Commission must mandate legally binding Community Benefit Agreements (CBAs) for every large energy application. County citizens must be directly involved in crafting these contracts, ensuring they secure enforceable guarantees for workforce development, tax revenues, local job creation, and health and wellbeing benefits. Ultimately, the Commission must be willing to deny any project application if the company refuses to agree to the community's terms.

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. You may vote for one.

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 Mailing Address: 917 S 4th St Laramie WY 82070
Campaign Phone: 307-399-5862
Campaign Email: elect.dwain.streeter@gmail.com
Campaign Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Elect Dwain Streeter](http://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.

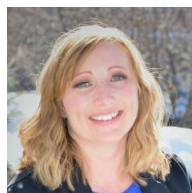
Dwain Streeter (R):

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. You may vote for one.

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.

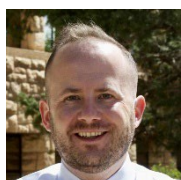
Albany County Attorney

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. You may vote for one.

Candidates:**Edward Kurt Britzius (D)**

Campaign Email: britziusforcountyattorney@gmail.com

Campaign Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Re-Elect Kurt Britzius](https://www.facebook.com/Re-Elect-Kurt-Britzius)

**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/

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.

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.

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.

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.

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. You may vote for one.

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](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: [www.facebook.com/Kayla White for Albany County Clerk](https://www.facebook.com/KaylaWhiteforAlbanyCountyClerk)

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 taxpayers.

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.

Q: What changes would you make to better interact with the public in providing services such as auto titles, real estate deeds, public records requests, registering businesses, issuing marriage licenses, etc?

R. Mark Armstrong (R):

A: Two changes would be beneficial for the public; making the office a one stop shop, and digitizing records and making them available on line. When the public needs to register a title they may have to go the Clerk's Office, the Treasurer's Office, Sheriff's Office then back to the Clerk. This process will be improved. Digitizing records and making them available on line would not change the way records are stored in-house nor record searches done in-house, but would give the public an opportunity to view online records. This will be beneficial to the public by adding efficiency. What my office will NOT do is pick winners and losers, or punish. Reporting a crime does not make you the subject of the investigation. Servant Leadership.

Kayla White (D):

A: One opportunity would be to hold town hall meetings on a more regular basis, quarterly rather than only when specific issues arise. Another important component would be using multiple forms of media. Different residents receive information in different ways, so we should consider utilizing local radio, Facebook, Instagram, newspapers, and other printed media. I also believe that working with local partners and community organizations could be extremely effective. Rather than expecting residents to come to us, we could go directly to existing groups and organizations and provide presentations or informational sessions. The goal is to create a communication system that is proactive, accessible, and repetitive.

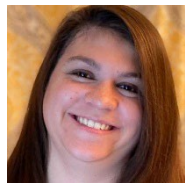
Albany County Coroner

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. You may vote for one.

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: 307-399-4758

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, including a possible suicide?

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 decedent 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):

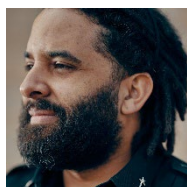
A. I believe that educating the public about what is necessary for an investigation helps

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. You may vote for one.

Candidates:



Aaron Appelhans (D)

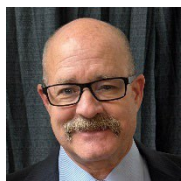
Campaign Mailing Address: 1675 Bath Ave Laramie WY 82072

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'm running for re-election as Sheriff to build on six years of restoring professional conduct and fiscal responsibility. I bring experience in engineering, project management, counseling, and law enforcement—serving as Detective, Sergeant, and Sheriff since 2010. Mental health remains a top priority. My goal is to train all deputies in de-escalation and crisis intervention while providing trauma support for first responders. As a 25-year

Laramie resident, I understand rural law enforcement, handling everything from interstate pileups to search and rescue. I am committed to maximizing available resources to provide the comprehensive responses Albany County residents deserve.

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: Albany County faces tough budgeting due to a lack of mineral resources, a challenge that will worsen significantly if a proposed ballot measure cuts property taxes in half. This financial strain directly impacts deputy recruitment, competitive salaries, and equipment. Beyond budget constraints, the department faces rising search and rescue demands from unprepared visitors, requiring enhanced public education campaigns and upgrades to aging rescue equipment. Additionally, the department is striving for zero traffic fatalities by expanding safe driving education regarding alcohol, drugs, and cell phone distractions while maintaining strict enforcement of DUI laws.

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 support Albany County law enforcement, including mental health, domestic violence, and social service organizations. With every partner, the same rules apply: a judge-signed warrant or order is legally required to make an arrest, extend a hold, or transfer custody. Every agency provides what is 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 the mandatory legal and constitutional documents. I will never authorize cooperation with any agency that fails to meet the strict legal requirements needed to seize people and property.

Daron L. Wyatt (R):

A: 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 \$102,000 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. You may vote for one.

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

Campaign Website: albanytreasurer.org

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. I have an open door policy so I am also readily available to residents to help or answer questions.

Merissa Martinez (R):

A: I am running for Albany County Treasurer to bring strong fiscal management, absolute transparency, and dedicated public service to our community. Holding a Bachelor's degree in Accounting and possessing over 15 years of hands-on experience utilizing QuickBooks to manage finances, payroll, and budgets, I have the 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 open communication to ensure our treasury is managed efficiently, accurately, and accountably for all residents.

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

Tracy Fletcher (D):

A: My priorities for the next term are transparency, communication, and performance. First, I want to finish what I started with our online financial dashboard, a project I launched to make county financial information. This will give residents easy access to up-to-date county revenue and expenditure information, making public finances easier to understand. Second, I want to expand communication through text notifications for tax deadlines, tax relief programs, vehicle registrations, and other important updates. Third, I will continue strengthening the Treasurer's Office through strong internal controls, staff cross-training, documented procedures, and efficient processes to protect public funds and provide accurate, secure, reliable service.

Merissa Martinez (R):

A: If elected, my top priorities will be strengthening internal financial controls, elevating customer service, and increasing public transparency. I will ensure all reconciliations, deposits, and reports are completed accurately and on schedule with meticulous documentation. I am committed to creating a welcoming office where residents receive clear answers for tax payments and vehicle registrations, while making county financial processes open and accessible to all.

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: One of the biggest challenges ahead will be preparing for potential declines in tax revenue while helping keep Albany County financially strong. That means closely monitoring revenues, updating projections, identifying trends early, and using scenario planning to prepare for changing conditions. Strong financial controls will remain essential to protecting public funds. Just as important is transparency: keeping residents and county partners informed about our financial position, emerging challenges, and decisions ahead. With 23 years of experience in the Treasurer's Office, I bring the knowledge, preparation, and proven leadership to be ready on day one and help navigate the challenges ahead.

Merissa Martinez (R):

A: The biggest challenge facing the Treasurer's office is maintaining accurate, real-time fiscal oversight while keeping pace with evolving economic and technological demands. Managing public funds across multiple departments requires precise tracking to eliminate errors and inefficiencies. I will address this by applying my accounting degree and 15 years of financial management experience to modernize our workflows. By implementing robust digital checks and balances, optimizing our software systems, and fostering a culture of meticulous detail and open communication, I will ensure Albany County's public funds are managed with total integrity.

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: Much of what happens in the Treasurer's Office takes place behind the scenes, but it has a direct impact on our community every day. I want residents to better understand how public funds are collected, tracked, safeguarded, and distributed, and how those processes help protect taxpayer dollars. I also want to make government accounting, including fund accounting, easier to understand and show why it matters. I will continue partnering with my fellow elected officials on town halls while expanding educational videos, website resources, and other easy-to-understand materials. When people understand where their tax dollars go and how they are managed, we strengthen transparency, trust, and engagement in local government.

Merissa Martinez (R):

A: Most residents only encounter the Treasurer's office when paying taxes or registering vehicles, but our office also safeguards public funds and oversees county investments. I am committed to showing taxpayers exactly how their money is protected, invested, and reinvested into Albany County. To build public understanding, I will introduce interactive digital "Financial Snapshots" on our website, converting complex budgets into simple visual charts. Paired with proactive local media updates, I will ensure county financial information is truly accessible and transparent to everyone.

Albany County School District #1 Trustee

Area A – Unexpired Term 2-years: Voters may select 1 candidate for the one expiring position. This term will revert to the original 4-year term beginning 2028.

Area A, 4-year Term: Voters may select 3 candidates for the three expiring positions.

Area B, 4-year term: Voters may select 1 candidate for the one expiring position.

At-Large, 4-year term: Voters may select 1 candidate for the one expiring position.

ACSD#1 Board of Trustees includes nine elected officials, serving 4-year terms in the following areas. **Area A** refers to the city limits, excluding Cottonwood Estates and Roach Addition; **Area B** refers to county limits, including Cottonwood Estates and Roach Addition; **At-Large** includes Areas A and B. The city verses county lines impact which area a candidate can run in. Those that live in the city limits must run in area A or At-Large and

those living in the county must run in Area B or At-Large. This ensures a representative from both rural and city areas is elected to represent the interest of the voters. Winners in the General Election will join current Trustees whose terms expire in 2028: Cecilia Aragon (Area A), Emily Siegel-Stanton (Area A), and Kim Sorenson (At-Large).

Candidates:

J. James Learned (ACSD#1 Area A Unexpired 2-Yr Trustee)

Campaign Mailing Address: 4204 Foothills St Laramie WY82070

Campaign Phone: 307-399-0662

Campaign Email: JAMESLEARNED@GMAIL.COM

Britten Young (ACSD#1 Area A Unexpired 2-Yr Trustee)

Campaign Email: brittenmyoung@hotmail.com

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



Dani Gale Baldwin (ACSD#1 Area A 4-Yr Trustee)

Campaign Mailing Address: 1948 Grand Ave Laramie WY 82070

Campaign Phone: 307-264-3016

Campaign Email: DANIBFORTRUSTEE@GMAIL.COM

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/share/19NKgSvEQc/



Beth Bear (ACSD#1 Area A 4-Yr Trustee)

Campaign Mailing Address: 608 S 26th St Laramie WY 82070

Campaign Phone: 307-399-6553

Campaign Email: BTHBEAR@GMAIL.COM

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/bearforschoolboard



Abe Lentner (ACSD#1 Area A 4-Yr Trustee)

Campaign Mailing Address: 1319 East Sheridan St Laramie WY 82070

Campaign Phone: 307-399-0399

Campaign Email: ABE4ACSD1@GMAIL.COM

Campaign Facebook: [www.facebook.com/AbeLentner for School Board, ACSD1](https://www.facebook.com/AbeLentnerforSchoolBoard,ACSD1)

Campaign Instagram: www.instagram.com/abe4acsd1/



Jessica Taylor (ACSD#1 Area A 4-Yr Trustee)

Campaign Email: www.jessicataylorforschoolboard.com/hear to listen

Campaign Website: www.jessicataylorforschoolboard.com/

Campaign Instagram: www.instagram.com/jessicatayloracsd1/

Bob Bowers (ACSD#1 Area B 4-Yr Trustee)

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



Sara Roberts (ACSD#1 Area B 4-Yr Trustee Write-In)

Campaign Mailing Address: 5403 Bastion Rd Laramie WY 82070

Campaign Phone: 970-308-2393

Campaign Email: sroberts417@gmail.com

Campaign Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Sara Roberts for Acscd#1 School Board, Area B](http://www.facebook.com/Sara%20Roberts%20for%20Acscd%231%20School%20Board,%20Area%20B)



Carrie Murthy (ACSD#1 At-Large 4-Yr Trustee)

Campaign Mailing Address: 1462 Indian Hills Dr Laramie WY 82072

Campaign Email: CARRIE4SCHOOLBOARD@GMAIL.COM

Campaign Website: www.carrieforschoolboard.com/

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/carrie4schoolboard

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

J. James Learned (ACSD#1 Area A Unexpired 2-Yr Trustee)

A: Laramie is our home. We chose to be here; we fought to come back. I have had the good fortune to be a secondary English teacher and an attorney. Both professions are service related, but the time teaching made me realize my purpose. I'm here to fight for our people pushed out to the margins, and that includes teachers and students now more than ever. Working in both the public and private sectors allows me a view of policy and procedure not always available to others. It has helped me learn the distinction between choosing policy based on emotion and policy rooted in logic.

Dani Gale Baldwin (ACSD#1 Area A 4-Yr Trustee):

A: I am running for ACSD#1 Trustee because I believe our schools should prepare students for both graduation and real life. As a lifelong Laramie resident, ACSD#1 graduate, and parent of two students in the district, I bring the perspective of a student, parent, and community member. My professional experience has given me practical skills in leadership, budgeting, operations, problem-solving, personnel management, and making difficult decisions while balancing competing needs. I am willing to listen, ask questions, and be accountable to our community. I want to help strengthen our schools and ensure every student has meaningful opportunities to succeed.

Beth Bear (ACSD#1 Area A 4-Yr Trustee):

A: I have served as an ACSD#1 Trustee for eight years including serving as Treasurer, Vice Chair, and Board Chair. It has given me the opportunity to learn, grow, and work alongside incredible teachers, staff, families, community members, and fellow trustees who care deeply about our students. I am running for re-election to continue to serve my community and the students and staff of ACSD#1. I have five children—two recent ACSD#1 graduates and three in high school, so I understand the parent perspective as well. I am seeking another term on the Board to help implement our strategic plan with a focus on student centered learning and student and staff wellness. I would be honored to continue serving Albany County and to earn your vote.

Abe Lentner (ACSD#1 Area A 4-Yr Trustee):

A: I have a vision of bringing teachers, parents and leadership together to protect the things we love about our schools, and protect vulnerable, at-risk students as we navigate changes to school finance and school policy. I have 20 years of experience in higher education and public policy. I organized a 4-H club on the southside of Chicago and I consulted with Chicago Public Schools on animal programs for special education. I've served on non-profit boards, advised cities on tax policy, and I hope to put my skills and experience to work serving the students and families in Albany County.

Jessica Taylor (ACSD#1 Area A 4-Yr Trustee):

A: I'm running for school board because I believe deeply in the power of public education. I am a product of Wyoming public schools, and now I have a kindergartener and second grader in ACSD#1. I want to take part in making sure our schools are safe, well-supported, and able to give every child the kind of education I was fortunate enough to receive. I've spent 18 years building relationships and solving problems as a designer and manager. I'm a quick learner, a thoughtful listener, and a strong advocate for others. I won't pretend to have all the answers, but I'm ready to ask hard questions, do the work, and truly listen to the people most affected by our decisions. Most of all, I am passionate about our schools, our community, and our kids.

Sara Roberts (ACSD#1 Area B 4-Yr Trustee Write-In):

A: I am truly passionate about our community and our students. As a mother of three children—two of whom have graduated and a third who is still in the district as a student—I have seen our district adopt some truly unique and incredible programs, as well as face profound struggles. My hope, should I be elected, is to bring fresh ideas and perspectives to the table as our district and our state continue to adapt to the ever-changing circumstances of our world. I would lean on my experience leading the Open School Board for three years, my work with the high school football

program, and the mentorship program that I run (TEAM) to weigh each topic of discussion with integrity and careful consideration for all families within our district.

Carrie Murthy (ACSD#1 At-Large 4-Yr Trustee):

A: I believe strong public schools are essential to a thriving community, and every student deserves a high-quality education in a safe and supportive environment. Over the past 4 years on the Board, I have worked to elevate student voice, invest in educators, provide free meals to all students, and support thoughtful, evidence-based decision-making. Professionally, I bring more than 20 years of experience in education research and policy, giving me insight into national trends and promising practices while reinforcing the importance of local context and community values. I am committed to collaboration, civility, and placing students at the center of every decision. I would be honored to continue bringing that experience and perspective.

Q: What challenges has the recent recalibration caused to the budget of ACSD#1 and how will you resolve them?

J. James Learned (ACSD#1 Area A Unexpired 2-Yr Trustee):

A: Recalibration attempted to solve a problem by allocating money with specific earmarks but in doing so, they created another problem. Because of those earmarks, often called “silos,” local control has been removed. There is no ability for local districts to pass money between silos based upon need. But, do not let this issue distract from the bigger picture. Education is still underfunded. That’s why there is a lawsuit still pending. As a board member, the biggest impact we can have is by communicating with our legislators, whether that is contacting them directly or by testifying before committees. We don’t need to be the loudest voices, just the clearest.

Dani Gale Baldwin (ACSD#1 Area A 4-Yr Trustee):

A: The recalibration creates a challenge because funding has increased overall, but more of it is restricted to specific categories, limiting the district’s flexibility to move funds where they are most needed. ACSD#1 is also facing pressures in areas such as activities, special education and transportation. I would prioritize transparent, needs-based budgeting; closely track restricted funds; protect classroom resources and essential student services; identify efficiencies before cutting programs; and work with legislators to address gaps in the funding model.

Beth Bear (ACSD#1 Area A 4-Yr Trustee):

A: Recalibration and siloing of funds severely limits our ability to adequately support all aspects of education by restricting the use of funds for specific staffing positions. It hinders our flexibility to fund underfunded portions of the budget, like athletics, activities, benefits, technology, maintenance, and support staff by preventing districts from shifting resources to operational needs. We resolved this for the current year by using reserve funds to continue to fund items severely underfunded-namely athletics and activities. However, this is not sustainable into the future. We must work with our legislators to seek an amendment to the recalibration bill and remove the siloing of funds and return the funding model to the block grant.

Abe Lentner (ACSD#1 Area A 4-Yr Trustee):

A: As we navigate these changes together, we need to make sure that the priorities for our schools are protected, and we need to make sure that the budgets are not balanced on the backs of our most vulnerable and at-risk students. We don't yet know the full impact of recalibration and the proposed changes to school funding formulas. Legislative hearings and committee meetings are ongoing. There is a ballot initiative this election that affects school funding. The proposals and action so far have the potential to affect afterschool activities, nutrition programs, SROs, teacher pay and more. Threats to school funding have become a perennial issue, but the Wyoming Constitution is clear on the importance of public education.

Jessica Taylor (ACSD#1 Area A 4-Yr Trustee):

A: I believe the biggest challenge with ACSD#1's recalibrated budget is the loss of local flexibility. Communities across Wyoming have different needs, and districts should have room to decide how best to use their resources. The Wyoming Supreme Court's Sept. 17 decision may help, but it also adds uncertainty as the Legislature determines how to respond. Because the budget is still being formalized, I don't want to speculate about decisions before I understand the full picture. I'll listen closely to our CFO, fellow trustees, and educators who have expertise in finance, then help find creative solutions, prioritize our personnel, and advocate for funding that reflects the true cost of educating our students.

Sara Roberts (ACSD#1 Area B 4-Yr Trustee Write-In):

A: Our primary challenge is the lack of funding autonomy, which restricts our district from allocating resources to best serve our students. Although state funding has increased, rigid spending restrictions create operational deficits in vital areas like athletics and activities. These budget constraints compromise our ability to maintain existing initiatives, secure essential safety gear, and expand our offerings, ultimately limiting students' opportunities to develop well-rounded interests and aptitudes. I would appeal to the legislature, encouraging recognition that especially in a diverse state such as Wyoming, each district faces unique challenges and should be able to utilize funding as needed in their district.

Carrie Murthy (ACSD#1 At-Large 4-Yr Trustee):

A: Simply put, the Wyoming legislature has not adequately funded public education, despite its constitutional obligation to do so. When public education is underfunded, students, families, and communities all feel the impact. We have also experienced budget pressures due to declining enrollment as birth rates decline in our state and across the country, leading to fewer students entering schools. These trends have financial impacts even as costs continue to rise. I will continue advocating for appropriate and sustainable school funding while working to ensure ACSD1 is a responsible steward of taxpayer dollars. Our students deserve access to high-quality educators, learning materials, programs, and opportunities that prepare them for success.

Q: How would you better prepare graduates for technical, trade, and college career paths?

J. James Learned (ACSD#1 Area A Unexpired 2-Yr Trustee):

A: Trust teachers. There is a narrative that teachers aren't preparing students for good jobs. Some of the frustrations borne out by stakeholders come down to schools and educators scrambling to

satisfy requirements imposed by lawmakers who are not trained or educated in the profession of teaching. Teachers want student success without putting it into some box. Schools across the country are implementing coursework that aids in student discovery where they can explore potential career paths and even get hands-on experience in the field. I was fortunate to be part of such a project here in this district and that collaborated with rural schools in Vermont to showcase student work in this regard and help others get started. Trust teachers.

Dani Gale Baldwin (ACSD#1 Area A 4-Yr Trustee):

A: I would support a stronger, individualized approach to preparing students for life after graduation. College should remain an option, but it should not be the only measure of success. Students interested in trades and technical careers should have greater access to hands-on training, apprenticeships, certifications, internships, and partnerships with local employers. I would also support practical life skills such as financial literacy, communication, problem-solving, and workplace readiness. Every student should graduate with a realistic plan for their next step, whether that is college, a skilled trade, the military, or entering the workforce.

Beth Bear (ACSD#1 Area A 4-Yr Trustee):

A: We have exceptional Career and Technical Education courses at our high schools and middle schools. We also offer the opportunity for students to expand their education and obtain college credit through dual and concurrent enrollment courses. Enhancing students' access to different classes, work experience, internships, and exposure to fields is important to student success. We are currently working to enhance long-term planning for students, helping ensure they are prepared to succeed after graduation. Every student's path is unique and it is our responsibility to provide students with the best education and skills to succeed after high school in whatever they want to pursue.

Abe Lentner (ACSD#1 Area A 4-Yr Trustee):

A: One of the amazing things about the Albany County Schools is the rich set of programs we have. LMS has music, shop and tech classes. LHS has automotive, agriculture, graphic design and computer classes. Students can take advantage of dual enrollment to take classes at LCCC. We have a top-tier transition academy for intellectually disabled high school students to learn life skills. These types of opportunities have been cut from many other districts across the country. The School Board can fight to protect these programs and recognize all of them as valid paths to completing school.

Jessica Taylor (ACSD#1 Area A 4-Yr Trustee):

A: Public education should serve all students and prepare them for whatever path they choose after graduation. Along with a broad-based education, a high school diploma should come with strong critical-thinking and practical life skills, preparing students for college, trade school, the workforce, and life as an engaged, well-informed member of society. I'd love to expand hands-on learning, real-world experiences, and connections with local professionals to help students explore careers and build community relationships. At the same time, we should preserve the humanities and the value of learning for its own sake, not only for future careers. I'm eager to learn from what's already working here and successful programs elsewhere.

Sara Roberts (ACSD#1 Area B 4-Yr Trustee Write-In):

A: I believe that our students should be exposed to all post-graduation options. Providing classes and opportunities allowing our students to explore areas of interest and aptitude is paramount in supporting our student's future success. Leaning on local business relationships to create spaces to explore apprenticeships, internships, shadowing and/or mentoring would allow students to confidently step into the next chapter of their lives. Continuing partnerships with LCCC and UW in conjunction with solid support from our high school teachers and counselors would encourage our college bound students to navigate a sometimes complicated and confusing enrollment process.

Carrie Murthy (ACSD#1 At-Large 4-Yr Trustee):

A: Students do best when they have a clear goal and a clear path to reach it. Whether a student's next step after high school is college, the military, technical training, an apprenticeship, or entering the workforce, our job is to help them understand their options and chart a path toward their goals. I would like to see us continue strengthening career and college advising so students, educators, and families can work together to identify goals and connect students with the courses, experiences, and opportunities that support those goals. When students can see a path forward and understand how their education connects to their future, they are more likely to be engaged, prepared, and successful after graduation.

Q: The Wyoming legislature has mandated how local school districts treat LGBTQ+ students, as well as teaching requirements for history and social science. How should the school board respond?

J. James Learned (ACSD#1 Area A Unexpired 2-Yr Trustee):

A: Our first job will always be to put the children first. They must be treated as humans first, regardless of their identification, orientation, gender, etc, regardless of whether or not we agree with it. As it relates to history and social science, we must monitor those requirements against academic scholarship to ensure that what we include is factual. The board must have discussions, likely difficult discussions, about what to do regarding curriculum inclusion and student inclusion. Students should feel safe and welcome, and curriculum must include historical fact must be preferred even if those truths would otherwise feel unwelcome.

Dani Gale Baldwin (ACSD#1 Area A 4-Yr Trustee):

A: The school board should follow Wyoming law while using the authority it does have to ensure students are treated with dignity and respect and that education remains accurate, age-appropriate, and academically rigorous. State-mandated curriculum should be implemented thoughtfully and without allowing political debates to distract from student learning. I would support transparent communication with parents and educators, consistent policies across schools, and opportunities for community input. Where the district believes state requirements create problems for students or educators, the board should communicate those concerns to the Legislature and advocate for our district.

Beth Bear (ACSD#1 Area A 4-Yr Trustee):

A: Unfortunately, recent laws have mandated districts adopt policies around Parental Rights in Education and Gun Free Zones. Draft bills to control school library materials and ban teaching

certain subjects did not become law. We worked diligently with teachers, counselors, parents, and community members to adopt policies that addressed the requirement of new laws, and still maintained the ability of our district to care for all students in a kind, compassionate, and equitable way as we always have. Working together, the school board and community should determine how we manage our schools, not the state legislature. I will continue to advocate for local control and for the kind, fair, understanding treatment of all students in our schools.

Abe Lentner (ACSD#1 Area A 4-Yr Trustee):

A: We can respond with integrity to the legislative mandates. It is our duty to foster students to become responsible adults, capable of critical thinking and leadership, who recognize the inherent dignity and rights of every person. Our student population comes from all over the globe, and we want ACSD students to leave with the competence to thrive in the broader world. There must be accountability to ensure that every student, teacher, staff member and parent in our district is treated with the respect they deserve. History contains hard truths that we learn from, including, as Abe Lincoln said quoting Mark 3:25, "a house divided against itself cannot stand". If we fail to serve our students, we fail our state.

Jessica Taylor (ACSD#1 Area A 4-Yr Trustee):

A: I believe educators and curriculum experts are best positioned to determine how students learn and how schools support them. The Legislature has an important role in setting broad standards, but it becomes government overreach when prescriptive mandates about what schools teach or how they respond to specific groups of students are enacted. As a trustee, I would advocate for local educator autonomy, access to a broad range of information and perspectives, and thoughtful decisions based on the students in front of us. We must follow state law, but we can also ask questions and work with legislators, other districts, and the courts when changes are needed.

Sara Roberts (ACSD#1 Area B 4-Yr Trustee Write-In):

A: First and foremost, every student in our district deserves to have a safe learning environment, regardless of belief or sexual orientation. While I don't believe there is a one size fits all solution to the complexities within this space, I do believe that respect and compassion should be at the center of how each and every one of our students is treated in our district and the board should respond with these values in mind.

Carrie Murthy (ACSD#1 At-Large 4-Yr Trustee):

A: I believe every student deserves to be treated with dignity and respect and that our schools should recognize the unique strengths and individuality that each student brings to our community. Our responsibility as a school district is to provide safe, supportive learning environments where all students can learn and thrive. We must follow the law, and we should always look for ways to do so that preserve the dignity, safety, and well-being of every student. My focus will remain on supporting students, listening to families and educators, and ensuring that decisions are implemented thoughtfully, consistently, and with students' best interests in mind.

Albany County Fire District #1 Trustee

Non-Partisan Directors serve 4-year terms. You may vote for one. The winner will join two other District Directors, Jon Essley and James Jackson whose terms expires in 2028.

Candidates:



Matthew Burkhardt (Albany County Fire District #1 Trustee)

Campaign Email: MATT@BURKHART4ACFD1.COM

Campaign website: burkhart4acfd1.com

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

Matthew Burkhardt (ACFD):

A: I enjoy helping to ensure Albany County taxpayers have a trained and valued group of volunteer firefighters to respond to County emergencies and that ACFD1 uses taxpayer funds effectively and responsibly to ensure stations and apparatus are in good working order and firefighters receive the support, training and PPE they need to ensure an effective and safe response. I trust that my work on the Board enables firefighters with the tools they need to serve their community and that my volunteer time on the Board takes on some of the "paperwork" that allows firefighters to concentrate on being there to respond when needed. Positive collaboration between taxpayers and firefighters is important for an effective response built on mutual respect.

Q: How should the Fire District prepare for the impact of warming and drought on services it provides? Please be specific.

Matthew Burkhardt (ACFD):

A: ACFD1 must continually evaluate preparedness through the year and during fire season. Ensuring the District maintains quality water supplies through additional tenders and identification of good useable water sources along with encouraging property owners to adopt effective wildland urban interface fire risk mitigation practices goes a long way to minimizing fire risk. Additionally, good collaboration with our neighboring counties through MOUs and positive working relationships with our land management partners is essential so ACFD1 has resources available for initial attack and is able to suppress fires that impact taxpayer property and safety. Focusing on firefighter retention ensures enough crews are available to respond when called.

Q: What policies would you implement to better support the physical and mental health of firefighters?

Matthew Burkhardt (ACFD):

A: Ensuring that ACFD1 volunteer firefighters have access to services that support their physical and, especially, mental fitness is important. Access to post-incident critical stress debriefing should

be available to every firefighter. I support using ACFD1 budget to make this reasonably available as well as looking for grants to cover external resources for firefighter well being. Our volunteer firefighters need similar resources as professional career firefighters to maintain physical and mental health as well as ensure they feel valued by the taxpayers they serve. Encouraging ACFD1 and Department leadership to "check in" with folks after a tough call or hard week is important and I support our Chiefs and administration in this area.

Q: How does the increase in frequency and intensity of wildfires affect your budgeting priorities as director?

Matthew Burkhardt (ACFD):

A: Apparatus needs more frequent maintenance and firefighter tools and PPE need replacement more often with increased responses. Minimizing non-suppression related expenditures and looking for additional income streams such as grants, fuels work and offering dispatch assignments to firefighters offsets some of this cost. Having a few newer more reliable apparatus outweighs having many older less effective apparatus along with having common apparatus platforms that are useable by more firefighters. Ultimately the District needs to ensure it understands what the most appropriate number and distribution of apparatus and stations is to ensure we can provide effective response throughout ACFD1's area of response for the tax revenue we receive.

Albany County Hospital District Trustee

Non-Partisan Trustees serve 4-year terms. You may vote for two. Winners will join three current trustees whose terms expire in 2028, Dennis Cook, Rick Melone and Jenna M. Scozzafava.

Candidates:

Stephen Maguire

Campaign Email: winddanceranch@att.net



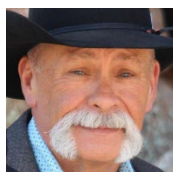
Ty Tedmon-Jones

Campaign Mailing Address: PO Box 594 Laramie WY 82073-0594

Campaign Phone: 307-766-2370

Campaign Email: T.TEDMON.JONES@GMAIL.COM

Campaign Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Ty Tedmon-Jones for Albany County Hospital District Trustee>



Guy Warpness

Campaign Mailing Address: PO BOX 91 Laramie WY 82073
Campaign Phone: 307-760-8777
Campaign Email: GWARP59@GMAIL.COM

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

Stephen Maguire (ACHD):

A: 40 years of working in medical centers, hospitals and medically-related positions in both government and nonprofit agencies. Responsibilities include: professional personnel selection and hiring, team building and staff-performance supervision; budget preparation and management; program design, implementation, and analysis; patient-and-family-centered supportive care; Supervised Federal regulatory compliance; coordination of CME training; developing of intra-hospital program coordination; organizing professional conferences; Public speaking and public relations, buildings and facility's maintenance. 4 years as Albany County Hospital District Trustee.

Ty Tedmon-Jones (ACHD):

A: I spent a decade in psychiatric care, first on acute inpatient units, then managing operations at Mount Sinai, running an acute psychiatric division and an outpatient clinic. That work meant budgets, staffing, compliance, quality improvement, revenue cycle, and patient complaints, the same areas a trustee must understand. In Laramie, I'm a Licensed Professional Counselor in private practice, I founded Laramie Therapy Connections, and I facilitate a free Dance/Movement Therapy Group with the Eppson Center for Seniors and the Collective Center for the Arts. With an MA in Dance/Movement Therapy and a PhD in Counselor Education and Supervision, I pair administrative experience with a clinician's focus on patient-centered care.

Guy Warpness ACHD):

A: I have been part of Laramie at WyoTech for 38 years and the Hospital for 20 years by being a Trustee, the Hospital Foundation Board and MC for the IMH Foundation Sportsman's Banquets that raises dollars for key areas including the cancer center. IMH has been important to me and my family as a vital organization that is so important for care to our neighbors, families and friends of Albany County.

Q: What are the main challenges facing the hospital district and how would you address them?

Stephen Maguire (ACHD):

A: The most pressing demand: A new skilled nursing facility * present 80-year-old facility past its useful life; Additional spending on it, unwise * Quality of care, low; 50-percent of Iverson nursing discharges go elsewhere * completed a demographic analysis of future county need * Now working with a major corporation specializing in the designing and building of high-quality, state-of-the-art nursing facilities * Goal: Full spectrum from short-term rehabilitation, assisted living, skilled nursing and memory care * Seek a nonprofit structure with local board of directors, with funds remaining in Albany not syphoned out-

of-state * With progress over the past year, I desire to remain a trustee, to see this critical project through to its end.

Ty Tedmon-Jones (ACHD):

A: First, revenue. State property tax cuts will shrink the district's three-mill levy while uncompensated care costs rise. I would push for multi-year budget modeling so the board knows what it can commit to before it commits. Second, workforce. High turnover undermines patient safety and experience scores. I would ask the operating board for public reporting on vacancies, turnover, and CMS quality measures. Third, behavioral health. Albany County has too few options for people in crisis or needing addiction care. I would use the board's capital and lease authority to expand capacity. Fourth, transparency. Less hospital information is public since the 2018 lease. Residents should be able to see how their levy dollars are used.

Guy Warpness (ACHD):

A: The main challenges facing the hospital district is making sure we have a World Class Hospital for years to come for our citizens of Albany County and from around Albany County that count on our hospital. Being a good steward of managing the mills that come to the hospital district. I will do these two things with my historical knowledge of being a part of the hospital district and helping navigate new challenges.

Q: Most of the mill lev taxes are currently allocated to the hospital for uncompensated care. Do you support this policy and why, or would you make changes, and if so, what?

Stephen Maguire (ACHD):

A: Yes, I continue to support this, and the current expenditure stated in Ivinson's financial report seems appropriate for ongoing support for all residents of Albany County that are unable to pay for their care. I also support the several Federal and State government programs for which residents may be eligible, paying for that portion of uncompensated care. Given that the Board of Trustees are elected by the citizenry of Albany County, our duty is to represent and look out for the medical needs of all, vis-à-vis Ivinson's proven ability to do so. The mil levy only pays for approximately half the cost of uncompensated care, with Ivinson paying the rest from its funds.

Ty Tedmon-Jones (ACHD):

A: I support it. Federal law (EMTALA) requires our emergency department to stabilize anyone regardless of ability to pay, and Wyoming law requires the district to reimburse that care from the levy. What I would sharpen is accountability. Ivinson's financial assistance policy is written locally, so its rules are local choices. I would ask for annual public reporting on levy dollars against uncompensated care, assistance approvals and denials, and screening before collections. I would also review its exclusion of students, who are part of this county and our state's future. A county-wide levy should fund criteria the public has seen and discussed. Charity care no one learns about results in bad debt with extra steps.

Guy Warpness (ACHD):

A: The voters of Albany County voted years ago to have the Mill Levy taxes be used to take care of Albany County residents that cannot afford care and I do stand by utilizing these mills for what the voters approved. It is important to take care of our citizens. If dollars are needed in another area, we would need to make sure the voters of Albany County would support the need. I will never stop fighting to make sure that those in our county that cannot afford care can continue to receive care at Ivinson.

Q: How much control or influence do trustees have over the management of the hospital and hospital services?

Stephen Maguire (ACHD):

A: All medical services provided by Ivinson are the responsibility of its 501C-3 corp.. The CEO, an employee of the nonprofit's board of Directors, oversees day-to-day hospital management. The District (Albany) owns the hospital and all its property, leasing it to the nonprofit, with the elected Trustees overseeing this, together with the general medical interests of county residents. Within statutes pertinent to both parties, this arrangement has worked well. With Ivinson ranked among the top 100 rural hospitals in America (out of some 4000) I support its continuance. The aforementioned plan for a new skilled nursing facility is a function of the District Trustee's overall health care responsibilities for the county.

Ty Tedmon-Jones (ACHD):

A: Less than most voters assume. The district owns the hospital's land and buildings, and since 2018 has leased operations to Ivinson Memorial Hospital, a nonprofit with its own board. UCHealth employs its senior executives under a management agreement. Trustees are the landlord. But a landlord is not powerless. Trustees adopt the district budget, set the mill levy request, reimburse uncompensated care, oversee district property, and hold the lease. We meet in public and can ask questions on the record no one else can. I would ask for regular reporting on quality, staffing, and charity care, and build a working relationship with the operating board. Influence comes from relational competence and asking good questions consistently, in public.

Guy Warpness (ACHD):

A: The Trustees lease our hospital, clinic and cancer center to Ivinson Memorial Hospital. During our Albany County Board of Trustee meetings, we work closely with the Hospital management. The hospital management cannot close the key hospital service lines that were in place when our lease started with them without the Albany County Hospital District Board of Trustee's voted support. With that said that makes sure our hospital key services in Albany County will be here for years to come.

Laramie Rivers Conservation District Supervisor

Non-Partisan Supervisors serve 4-year terms. Five members serve as Supervisors, three rural, one urban and one At-Large. You may vote for one rural and one At-Large. Winners will join two rural Supervisors, John Corson and Larry C. Munn; and one urban Supervisor, Mary Fick Monteith whose terms expire in 2028.

Candidates:

Zachary M. Iddings (Rural)

Campaign Phone: 307-760-3837

Campaign Email: zach@baerlivestock.com



Brian Sebade (At-Large)

Campaign Email: BSEBADE16@GMAIL.COM

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

Zachary M. Iddings (LRCD Rural):

A: I am an incumbent rural representative for the Laramie Rivers Conservation District, having served 6 years on the board of Supervisors. I am the manager of a large Wyoming-based agricultural operation with involvement in all aspects of beef production. I manage a number of ranches across the region and represent agricultural interests in Albany County. I enjoy furthering the conservation of all of Wyoming's natural resources.

Brian Sebade (LRCD At-Large):

A: I am running to give back to my community and Albany County. I have previously worked for the University of Wyoming Extension for 12 years where I provided education and information for Wyoming citizens related to agriculture and horticulture issues in Wyoming. I worked in northeast Wyoming and in southeast Wyoming. My education includes two degrees in rangeland ecology and watershed management from the University of Wyoming. I currently work for the University of Wyoming.

Q: What are the top three challenges facing LRCD and how would you address them? Please be specific.

Zachary M. Iddings (LRCD Rural):

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

Brian Sebade (LRCD At-Large):

A: The top three issues facing Albany County in no set order of importance are: 1) Increased land disturbance to native rangeland systems within the district. 2) Increased demand and use of water resources within the district. 3) Loss of intact and productive agriculture land systems that provide ecological products and services to citizens. There is not enough room to go into great detail here, but it is important that the district help provide expertise and education for proposed and current projects that impact the natural resources with the LRCD boundaries. There are many irrigation infrastructure needs that could be addressed and potentially fixed. It is important that LRCD continue to partner with other entities and groups on projects.

Q: What do you think are the best projects undertaken by the LRCD in recent years and what projects would you promote if elected?

Zachary M. Iddings (LRCD Rural):

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

Brian Sebade (LRCD At-Large):

A: I feel that the partnerships LRCD has been a part of are very important. These partnerships have included projects related to habitat management such as conifer removal, stream restoration, and habitat improvements to grazing lands through improved grazing management plans. LRCD has been helpful when partnering with irrigation improvement projects and working with individual landowners for projects. I want to see many of these partnerships and collaborations continue in the future for new and upcoming projects.

Q: What considerations would affect your decision to approve Community Enhancement Grants?

Zachary M. Iddings (LRCD Rural):

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

Brian Sebade (LRCD At-Large):

A: It is important to me that LRCD work and collaborate with other entities and groups when considering proposed Community Enhancement Grants. I like to see the benefit of grants for as many people as possible.

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. You may vote for one candidate in the House District in which you reside. 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)

Campaign 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 Mailing Address: PO Box 1104 Laramie WY

82073 Campaign Phone: 307-755-1340

Campaign Email: shaneswett3@gmail.com



Trey Sherwood (HD 14, D)

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)

Campaign Mailing Address: PO Box 664 Laramie WY 82072

Campaign Phone: 307-314-9198

Campaign Email: study4wyoming@gmail.com

Campaign Facebook: [facebook.com/study4wyoming](https://www.facebook.com/study4wyoming)

Campaign Website: study4wyoming.com

Ross Davenport (HD 45, R)

Campaign Mailing Address: 759 North Pine Laramie WY 82070

Campaign Phone: 970-691-4447

Campaign Email: davenport.hd45@gmail.com



Karlee Provenza (HD 45, D)

Campaign Mailing Address: PO Box 1715 Laramie WY 82073

Campaign Phone: 307-977-0202

Campaign Email: karleerprovenza@gmail.com

Campaign Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Provenza4Wyoming>

Campaign Website: www.provenzaforwyoming.com



Gary Wilkin (HD 46, D)

Campaign 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)

Campaign 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.

Shane Swett (HD 13, R):

A: Lifelong Resident. I am Business Owner For 30 Years. Lots of People tell me what is wrong in Laramie and the People Feel Like the City Hates the people that pay them.

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.

Gary Wilkin (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.

Shane Swett (HD 13, R):

A: You should have Very Little For Property taxes we do not need to rent from the county. We Own our Property.

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.

Gary Wilkin (HD 46, D):

A: I do not support the 50% property tax reduction. Essential services will be crippled. My position as Code Enforcement Officer was one that was impacted in 2017 and made our lives harder. 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.

Shane Swett (HD 13, R):

A: Every case is Different would have to know why.

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.

Gary Wilkin (HD 46, D):

A: I oppose the sale or exchange of public lands. All citizens should be able to enjoy and use public lands. Tourism and outdoor activities is the second economic sector for Wyoming and there is great interest.

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.

Shane Swett (HD 13, R):

A: The Money Should Follow this Child.

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.

Gary Wilkin (HD 46, D):

A: The court has approved the funding for teachers, but turned back the questions to fund SROs, activities and nutrition for legislative consideration. This is the area legislators will work on next session.

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.

Shane Swett (HD 13, R):

A: No It Belongs to us the people. If we voted to do something then yes.

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.

Gary Wilkin (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. Voters in Senate District 9 may vote for one. 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)

Campaign 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. You may vote for one.

Candidates:



Eric Barlow (R)

Campaign 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

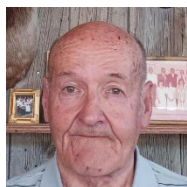


Rebecca Bextel (CT)

Campaign Email: Info@RebeccaforWyoming.com

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

Campaign Website: www.RebeccaforWyoming.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.

Rebecca Bextel (CT):

A: I am running for Governor to give voters an opportunity to vote for a conservative candidate. My experience as a business leader and vocal advocate on issues that impact the public have prepared me to lead Wyoming in a direction that benefits the people of the state and not the corporations and insiders who have run the state over the past 8 years.

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.

Rebecca Bextel (CT)

A: Wyoming does not have a revenue problem, we have a spending problem. I have outlined a 100 day plan that viewers can read at <https://www.rebeccaforwyoming.com/first-100-days>.

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.

Rebecca Bextel (CT)

A: Unleash coal, oil, natural gas, uranium, and other Wyoming resources while defending reliable and affordable electricity. Audit grants, loans, subsidies, boards, commissions, and economic-development programs for measurable taxpayer return.

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.

Rebecca Bextel (CT)

A: I support private-sector growth, infrastructure, and economic diversification. I oppose a system in which public agencies, appointed boards, grants, matching funds, and subsidized loans give selected companies an inside track. My administration would ask what taxpayers received, who benefited, how decisions were made, and whether the same opportunity was available to an unconnected Wyoming entrepreneur.

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.

Rebecca Bextel (CT)

A: I will not support a transfer plan that risks privatizing public lands, restricting access, or forcing Wyoming taxpayers to sell land to cover management costs. If Wyoming ever obtained title to limited federal parcels, any proposal would require legislative approval, permanent public-access protections, fiscal analysis, and a clear public benefit. State-controlled leases may be considered when they support schools, public health, safety, conservation, recreation, agriculture, or

responsible development without surrendering ownership. I would never agree to give another state a single drop of Wyoming's water beyond what is required by law.

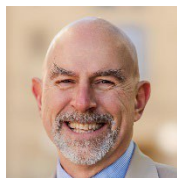
Kenneth R. Casner (D):

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. You may vote for one.

Candidates:



Robert Short (R)

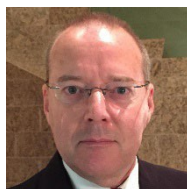
Campaign Mailing Address: PO Box 906 Douglas WY 82633

Campaign Phone: 307-267-2389

Campaign Email: Robert@shortforstate.com

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

Campaign Website: Short for State.com



Bryan McCarty (D)

Campaign 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/

Tamara Trujillo (CT)

Campaign Email: TAMARANTRUJILLO@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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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?

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.

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?

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.

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. You may vote for one.

Candidates:



Curt Meier (R)

Campaign Mailing Address: 4721 Rd La Grange WY 82221-8410

Campaign Phone: 307-701-2022

Campaign Email: CURT@CURTMEIERWYOMING.COM

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 a greater 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 an 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?

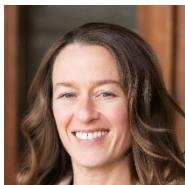
Curt Meier (R):

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. You may vote for one.

Candidates:



Kristi Racines (R)

Campaign Mailing Address: PO Box 1644 Cheyenne WY 82003

Campaign Phone: 307-851-1437

Campaign Email: vote@kistiracines.com

Campaign Facebook: @Racines4Auditor

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. You may vote for one.

Candidates:

Ana Cordova (D)

Campaign Email: ANAELIZABETHCORDOVA@GMAIL.COM

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



Steve Harshman (R)

Campaign Mailing Address: PO Box 295 Casper WY 82604

Campaign Phone: 307-262-8075

Campaign Email: harshmanforwyoming@gmail.com

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

Campaign Website: Harshmanforwyoming.com

Q: What are your qualifications for this office?

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

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.

Wyoming U.S. 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. You may vote

for one.

Candidates:



Chuck Gray (R)

Campaign 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

Jeffrey Haggit (CT)

Campaign Email: HAGGITFORHOUSE@GMAIL.COM

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



Shawn Johnson (LBR)

Campaign Mailing Address: 108 Peppermint Ln Thermopolis WY 82443

Campaign Phone: 307-277-7377

Campaign Email: johnson4wyo@gmail.com

Campaign Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/Shawn Johnson for Wyoming](https://www.facebook.com/ShawnJohnsonforWyoming)

Campaign Website: www.shawnforwyoming.com



Lisa Kinney (D)

Campaign Mailing Address: PO Box 1710 Laramie WY 82073

Campaign Phone: 307-275-6431

Campaign Email: lisakinney2026@wyoming.com

Campaign Facebook: [@LisakinneyforUSHouse](https://www.facebook.com/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.

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.

Shawn Johnson (LBR):

A: I'm running for Congress because Wyoming deserves a representative who understands the people and communities he serves, not just Washington politics. As an Army National Guard combat medic with 21 years of service, including Iraq, I know the responsibility that comes with protecting others and making difficult decisions. As a sheriff's deputy for 13 years, I saw firsthand how government policies affect people's lives and why constitutional rights matter. As a two-term Casper City Councilman and former vice-mayor, I listened to constituents and saw how government decisions affect families, businesses, and communities. As an attorney, I advocate for people when their rights and futures are on the line.

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?

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 Trump's 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.

Shawn Johnson (LBR):

A: I would support legislation that puts more money back in the pockets of Wyoming families by reducing federal spending, unnecessary taxes, and regulations that drive up the cost of living. Wyoming produces the energy that powers America, yet our families still face high costs for fuel, electricity, food, and housing. I would expand responsible energy development and remove unnecessary barriers that increase costs. I would oppose unnecessary wars and nation-

building that cost taxpayers trillions. I would also reform Social Security by protecting benefits already earned while giving younger workers the choice to direct a portion of their payroll taxes into individually owned, state-sponsored retirement accounts they can invest and pass on.

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?

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.

Shawn Johnson (LBR):

A: I would secure the border, enforce the laws already on the books, and fix the broken legal immigration system. Wyoming needs workers in agriculture, ranching, energy, construction, and other industries, but our immigration system should not force employers or families to navigate years of unnecessary bureaucracy. I would support faster legal pathways for workers our economy needs, while ensuring employers follow the law and American workers are protected. I would also prioritize stopping fentanyl, human trafficking, and criminals from entering illegally and ensure legitimate asylum claims are processed quickly. Wyoming welcomes people who come here legally, work hard, respect our laws, and contribute to our communities.

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?

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.

Shawn Johnson (LBR):

A: I would make keeping Wyoming's rural hospitals open and financially sustainable a top priority. Rural communities should not lose access to emergency and essential care because a hospital cannot survive financially. I would support reforms that reduce unnecessary regulations, strengthen reimbursement for rural hospitals, expand telehealth, and help attract and retain health care professionals. To lower insurance costs, I would increase competition by allowing families to shop for more affordable plans, expand access to health savings accounts, and increase price transparency. Wyoming families deserve affordable coverage and quality care close to home, not a three-hour drive to the nearest hospital.

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.

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.

Shawn Johnson (LBR):

A: I oppose the sale of Wyoming's public lands to private interests. These lands belong to the American people and are an important part of Wyoming's economy, outdoor heritage, hunting, fishing, ranching, and recreation. I do support carefully considered land exchanges when they improve public access, consolidate isolated parcels, or provide a clear benefit to Wyoming communities and taxpayers. Any exchange should be transparent and protect public access. The federal government should not use public-land sales as a way to raise money or balance its budget. Wyoming's public lands should remain available for future generations.

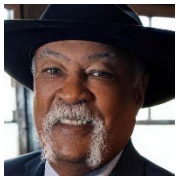
Lisa Kinney (D):

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 U.S. 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. You may vote for one and the winner will join Wyoming Senator John Barrasso (R) in representing Wyoming.

Candidates:



James Byrd (D)

Campaign Mailing Address: 2511 N Snyder Ave Cheyenne WY 82001

Campaign Phone: 307-289-9810

Campaign Email: James@byrdfsenate.com

Campaign Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/JamesByrdforUSSenate@facebook.com>

Campaign Website: ByrdForSenate.com



Harriet Hageman (R)

Campaign Mailing Address: PO Box 4157 Cheyenne WY 82001

Campaign Phone: 307-228-4886

Campaign Email: info@hagemanforwyoming.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/harriethageman/>

Campaign Website: www.hagemanforwyoming.com

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Judicial Retention

Justice of the Supreme Court - 8-year term:

Robert C. Jarosh and Bridget Hill

Chancery Court - 6-year term:

Benjamin M. Burningham

Circuit Court Second Judicial District Judge - 4-year term:

Robert Sanford

A yes vote is for retention, a no vote is against retention. The League of Women Voters does not endorse or oppose candidates for judicial retention. To find out more about these judges and judicial retention, go to www.wyomingbar.org. Click on Judicial Branch FAQs. You will see more information on Judicial Retention and the most recent Judicial Performance Assessments Results. You can click on the links for the Supreme Court, District Court and Circuit Court and select the judges up for retention by name. You will be able to see each of their results.

Renewal of the 2% Albany County Lodging Tax

Ballot Language: “Shall the Board of Commissioners of the County of Albany, State of Wyoming, be authorized to continue to impose, as allowed by Wyoming Statute, a two percent (2%) excise tax upon the sales price paid for lodging services within Albany County, the primary purpose of which is for local travel and tourism promotion for the period of January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2030?” You will vote for or against.

The statements below with “Pro” and “Con” viewpoints on the renewals of the Albany County Lodging Tax were written by the League of Women Voters with input from citizens holding these views. The League does not have a position on this ballot issue, though the group supports levels of city and county revenues to provide city services for our residents. More information about what the city and county governments do with their revenue from this source can be found on the website of the Albany County Tourism Board:

Pro: (For the Lodging Tax Renewal)

✓ This is not a new lodging tax. Albany County residents have voted to renew the county lodging tax option since its inception in 1989. In 2020, state legislation established a 5% statewide lodging tax. The state's collection is distributed as a 60/40 split between the Wyoming Office of Tourism and the Albany County Tourism Board. Following this legislation, the county lodging tax renewal was set at 2% to keep the county's total collection at its historic 4%.

✓ All 23 counties in Wyoming collect it. The tax applies only to paid overnight stays (hotels, motels, B&Bs, short-term rental services like Airbnb/VRBO, and campgrounds) and outdoor guide outfitters. Albany County residents do not pay this tax unless they stay in county lodging facilities or hire an outdoor guide.

✓ In 2025, direct travel spending in Albany County reached over \$211 million annually. This spending generated \$13 million in total sales tax revenue, with \$5.2 million staying local to Albany County. This spending supported 1,700 jobs. The Tax supports staffing the Laramie Area Visitor Center and Centennial Visitor Center, as well as marketing local events, businesses, attractions, and responsible recreation initiatives to enhance the experience of visiting Albany County.

✓ Visitors account for 18% of all sales taxes collected by the City of Laramie and Albany County, helping support infrastructure and public services used by visitors and residents alike. The Lodging Tax proceeds are used to attract these visitors. This amounts to \$759 in taxes offset for each household in Albany County. The Lodging Tax funds community grant and sponsorship programs supporting local events, youth sports tournaments, and conferences, bringing in outside visitation during slow seasons to boost local business revenue. Grants and sponsorships awarded totaled \$438,500 over the last four fiscal years (2022 to 2026).

Con (Against the Lodging Tax Renewal)

✓ It's irritating when travelling to have to pay around 12% extra in taxes for a hotel room in Denver, let alone the 22% they charge in Portland, 15% or more charged in San Francisco and New York City which may go to support things that are only a little related to tourism. Charging a lodging tax may discourage visitors from staying in motels.

✓ Laramie has enough people without encouraging more tourists to come, creating congestion.

✓ Gouging tourists is not an ethical way to support local services; if additional services are needed to accommodate the tourists who come, we should figure out other ways to pay for them.

✓ Just because other places do it doesn't mean we should too.

✓ This is a way for the state to avoid dealing with the issue of outmoded reliance on the mineral industry for revenue. If the Wyoming Legislature would revamp its revenue structure, an extra tax like this would not be necessary and the state could afford to pass through to counties and/or cities the money they need for tourism services.

Proposition #1

Renewal of the "5th Penny" Ballot Measure

ONE PERCENT (1%) SALES AND USE TAX PROPOSITION

Ballot Language: "Ballot Proposition 1: "Shall the Board of County Commissioners of the

County of Albany, State of Wyoming, be authorized to continue to impose a general purpose excise tax of 1% upon retail sales of tangible personal property, admissions and services made within the county, for general revenue purposes for the period of January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2030?" You will vote for or against.

The state of Wyoming allows local communities to enact two extra 1% sales and use taxes in addition to the mandated 4% tax statewide. One of those extras can be a 1% "excise" tax to support general government operations. It must be voted upon every four years. THAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS BALLOT MEASURE. The other 1% tax is for specific purposes outlined in the proposal on the ballot, usually for infrastructure or capitol construction projects. If passed, it expires whenever all the funds stated in the proposal are collected. A new Special Purpose tax measure was PASSED by voters at the special election in May 2026. Thus, sales and use taxes in Albany County will be 6% if this general purpose tax measure is approved at this election, but will be 5% if this ballot measure fails.

The statements below with "Pro" and "Con" viewpoints on the renewals of the Albany County Lodging Tax were written by the League of Women Voters with input from citizens holding these views. The League does not have a position on this ballot issue, though the group supports levels of city and county revenues to provide services for our residents. More information about what the city and county governments do with their revenue from this source can be found on the City of Laramie website: 5th Penny, Building a Community: 5th Penny/General Purpose Tax | Laramie, WY - Official Website (cityoflaramie.org)

Pro (For the Proposition 1 - 5th Penny Tax Renewal)

- ✓ This is not a new tax. Voters of Albany County have approved a 5th Penny sales tax every four years since 1986.
- ✓ This tax money goes to support general government costs for the City of Laramie, Town of Rock River, and Albany County. These expenditures are set by elected officials when annual budgets are adopted. Members of the public have opportunities to communicate expenditure priorities as budgets are in the process of being adopted.
- ✓ As costs rise and income falls due to actions of the Wyoming Legislature and other causes beyond local control, the Sales and Use tax becomes a steady source of much needed income and it is predictable for budgeting purposes. Governments do make efforts to raise income sources through applying for competitive grants. However, these grants are for specific purposes, like new technology for police and sheriff departments. It is rare for grants to cover items like electricity, heating, janitorial services, maintenance, insurance, and other necessary aspects of operating government.
- ✓ Sales taxes are not collected on prescription drugs or most grocery items (prepared food, soft drinks, dietary supplements and alcohol are taxed). Other items exempt from taxes include most agricultural equipment and medical equipment. Internet sales are taxable. Thus, those who pay a higher percentage of their income on essentials like food and medicines receive a greater benefit.
- ✓ When we shop outside Albany County, we pay their sales taxes, often higher than the 6% currently levied in our community. Ft. Collins, for instance, charges 8.3% sales tax. In Denver County, it is 9.15%. Our lower permissible tax rate of 6% is paid by visitors who also benefit from our safe and vibrant community, with government-provided amenities like parks and recreation facilities.

Con (Against the Proposition 1 - 5th Penny Tax Renewal)

- ✓ Just because we have voted to maintain this tax in the past is not a reason to vote for it now if a need is not obvious or demonstrated. Sales and Use taxes are regressive—they place a larger financial burden on those with the lowest income.
 - ✓ Budgets are adopted by elected officials, but they can be changed as circumstances dictate, with little input from voters.
 - ✓ If income is predicted to fall, the government needs to do belt-tightening, just as citizens must do when personal income falls.
 - ✓ Grants are unpredictable and require staff time to administer and report, sometime the administrative cost is not worth the time and effort it takes to apply and administer.
- If the Legislature is not providing enough funds for to local communities and counties to operate, we need to elect more responsible representatives and senators, rather than raising our own taxes.

PROPOSED INITIATIVE PROPOSITION NUMBER ONE

Ballot Language: “Shall a law be enacted: Establishing a property tax exemption for qualified homeowners' primary residence in the amount of fifty percent (50%) of the assessed value of the dwelling; AND Defining "homeowner" and "primary residence"; providing that no more than one exemption shall apply to a single property or be claimed by a single owner per year; requiring a homeowner to be a resident of Wyoming for at least one year and to have occupied the primary residence for at least six months of the previous tax year to qualify; requiring an initial sworn claim to be filed with the county assessor by the fourth Monday in May; providing for continuing the exemption in subsequent years through annually confirming eligibility; providing a penalty for false claims; clarifying that the exemption applies to the residential structure; and specifying applicability? Estimated Fiscal Impact: Anticipated Revenue/(decrease) Fiscal Year 2028 (\$92,614,266) Fiscal Year 2029 (\$95,855,766) The above estimate is based on residential property assessed value and property tax data from the Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal (CAMA) system provided by the Department of Revenue in 2023. The future fiscal impact estimates are derived by using the January 2023 Concensus Revenue Estimating Group (CREG) report, estimating annual growth of 3.5% for properties in future years. This is an estimate of fiscal impact to the State of Wyoming only and does not include an estimate of any impact upon political subdivisions. The proposition references a beginning in 2025, but if passed in 2026 the earliest applicable tax year would be 2027, with impact to the state beginning in 2028. Fiscal impact will apply to each year so long as the exemption is in place. Future impacts depend on unpredictable economic conditions.” You will vote For the Initiative or Against the Initiative. A non vote counts as a no vote.

The statements below with “Pro” and “Con” viewpoints on the renewals of the Property Tax initiative were written by the League of Women Voters with input from citizens holding these views. The League does not have a position on this ballot issue, though the group supports levels of city, county and state revenues to provide services for our residents. For more information about the impact of the current tax relief programs on county revenues, go to the

Assessor's page on the Albany County website and click on the tax relief tab. For more information on the additional impact of the proposed 50% property tax reduction contact the County Assessor's office.

Pro (For the Ballot Initiative)

- ✓ This initiative would indefinitely exempt half of a primary residence's assessed value from taxes if the owner lives there at least six months of the year and has lived in Wyoming for at least a year.
- ✓ Government costs lots in Wyoming, and we don't need or want all of these services.
- ✓ I want something that helps ME with my property taxes!

Con (Against the Ballot Initiative)

- ✓ There is no plan for replacing the \$125 Million in lost funding in Year One for schools, hospitals, cities, towns, counties, fire, water and other service districts across Wyoming. These districts will face at least \$1.4 Billion in lost funding across Wyoming in ten years. Slashing property taxes by another 50%, in addition to the 25% reduction many homeowners may apply for, as well as the automatic 4% cap on increase year to year will cripple the local governmental entities that provide us all with services.
- ✓ Of the current five types of property tax exemptions now available, only the Veteran's Exemption (application needed) is backfilled by the State of Wyoming. None of the other exemption programs that the Wyoming Legislature has started include backfill by the State.
- ✓ The Residential Exemption (4% cap on increase) is applied automatically by the Assessor on all qualifying structures and associated land. Everyone who pays tax on their primary residence benefits from this program.
- ✓ Most taxing authorities have been cutting their budgets for several years due to the current exemptions. There is a limit to how small a budget can be and the entity still be able to provide the mandated services. For example, there are many libraries that have now closed or have very reduced hours because of the cuts in funding.
- ✓ The Legislature has taken a lot of steps to deal with this issue, property tax relief in the form of tax caps, exemptions, and funneling millions into refund programs (not all passed) have been proposed the past few years. And, the Legislature still hasn't done anything with the constitutional amendment passed in 2024 to move residential property into a separate class for assessment purposes.

