

PRIMARY ELECTION 2026

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Casting your vote: Primary Election 2026 Tuesday, Aug. 18 • Polls are open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m

Weston County

Commissioners



7 Candidates

(3) Four-year Terms

NLJ CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

Briefly, tell us about your family and your connection to Weston County.

Q1. What do you see as the goals for this position, and what have you already done to accomplish those goals (either in your current capacity, or in other positions)?

Q2. What do you see as the primary role of this position?

Q3. What distinguishes you from other candidates?



Vera Huber



Henry Nessul



Gillian Sears



Allen Slagle



Don Taylor

Garrett Borton
(incumbent)

No response received.

Vera Huber

My husband, Richard, and I have raised three daughters and have been blessed with seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Our family has deep roots in Weston County and has called it home for generations.

Q1: The goals of a county commissioner should be to use taxpayer dollars wisely, be open and accountable to the public, and make sure county government is working for the people of Weston County. In my time as commissioner, I have tried to support those goals by helping bring prayer back before meetings, encouraging better procedures through an employee handbook, contractor accountability and pushing for better communication with our volunteer boards. I also worked with others on mission and vision statements for our board and trying to encourage strategic planning. I believe county government works better when expectations are clear, communication is better, and the public can trust that decisions are being made carefully and for the right reasons.

Q2: The primary role of a county commissioner is to oversee county government in a way that is responsible, lawful, and fiscally sound. That means working on budgets, overseeing county departments and boards, and making sure county business is being managed as efficiently as possible. Just as important, a commissioner should represent the people of the county with integrity and common

sense. That means listening to our citizens, asking tough questions, weighing difficult decisions carefully, and keeping the public informed whenever possible. In a rural county like ours, you must balance limited dollars with real needs, while keeping the county moving forward and making sure the public's trust is not taken for granted.

Q3: What distinguishes me is not just my background and experience, but that I have already shown I am willing to stand on principle, ask tough questions, and speak up even when it is unpopular. During my time in office, I have supported bringing prayer back to our meetings, defended Weston County's right to fair representation at the state level, supported hand counting ballots and local control of elections, and cast my independent vote for the county clerk appointment because I believe it was the right thing to do.

I am not interested in politics for politics' sake, and I do not believe a commissioner should simply go along to get along. This job takes honesty, accountability, and the willingness to stand up for the people of Weston County. I would appreciate your vote and your continued support as county commissioner.

Henry Nessul

I moved to Wyoming with my wife of nearly 36 years, so we could live in a place that mirrors our values: integrity, hard work, faith, and freedom.

After retiring I opened a small gun store and repair business. When the political winds shifted, we chose to move to Wyoming.

Q1: Weston County is a place of beauty and quiet living. Here we enjoy freedom to really grow and be good effective stewards of our lives and community. In today's environment of diminishing available funds, the challenge will be to keep supporting the needs of the county. My No. 1 goal would be to work to "do more with less." This is difficult and requires creative ideas to face and work through these challenges. The results will not please everyone, but the focus and goal must be on the needs of the county and the people we, the commissioners, represent and serve. Good stewardship of our funds and resources is essential.

Q2: To keep our community safe and healthy with effective budgeting, distribution of funding, and monitoring of essential services. This may need to include special districts that we need to keep emergency and non-emergency services viable within our county. The commissioners need to make sure the county employees are "ok" and effectively compensated for their efforts and dedication to all of us in the county. We must make sure we are compliant with the rules and laws of the State of Wyoming and of Weston County. Also, the commissioners must be transparent in the actions taken for the county. Meetings should only be closed when absolutely necessary and in compliance with the Wyoming Statute § 16-4-405 (2025).

Q3: My background and work history has given me a wealth of experience that prepared me to serve as a commissioner. I have run a small business for 10 years and successfully managed budget, inventory, customer service, legal, and security matters. As a firefighter/paramedic, I handled emergencies and major incidents that risked lives and property. As a government manager, I supervised people, projects, programs, and worked with limited funding and budget constraints to keep my branch effective. I held a security clearance and underwent regular background

checks to verify my honesty and integrity. Weston is my home, I shop here, pay taxes here. With your trust I will work to keep Weston Growing and be prosperous, keeping our future bright.

Gillian Sears

My husband Chad and I have one daughter and we have lived and ranched in the county for 22 years.

Q1: The goal would be to ensure every taxpayer dollar is spent efficiently and responsibly. I'd like to move beyond the current division and deliver positive results for Weston County. I have reviewed the available budget information, Wyoming statutes regarding investments and low-interest revolving loans, and have been gathering information on the housing and infrastructure needs of the county. I familiarized myself with ongoing and upcoming projects and I have also been working with a group to try and facilitate Mike Harris' incredible offer to house some of his dinosaur casts in Weston County. Niobrara has the Legend of the Rawhide, we could have "Cowboy Rex Days" and the possibilities within that concept are unlimited.

Q2: The Weston County Board of Commissioners serve as the elected governing body and primary administrative authority for the county. Commissioners are responsible for managing county government operations, approving the annual budget, ensuring fiscal responsibility with taxpayer dollars and overseeing key services such as roads, public facilities, planning and zoning, emergency management, and community programs. They set policy, make decisions on land use, taxation, and resource allocation, appoint department heads and board members, and should work to promote transparency, efficiency, and cooperation with citizens and local organizations. Ultimately, commissioners should be stewards of Weston County's resources, focused on delivering cost-effective services.

An elected official is not above approach simply because they were elected. They don't get to decide what is best for you without input from the people that elected them or who are in their groups or favor.

Q2: Making sure that we are thinking about all possibilities instead of the same thing that we have always done. Ways to improve revenue, business growth, financial planning and investing, economic plan to grow and compensate for the decline in census and property tax reductions. Making sure that experience is not an excuse for complacency. Developing an economic development plan and following through, not shoot from the hip or afraid of ideas that will improve the community based on "we have always had it this way" thinking. Stop the loyalty, vote people in that actually perform with measurable goals.

Weston County for too long has voted not on real performance measuring issues, but on friendships and who they know or what a rumor or another person says, or who they are in cliques with, even voting on party lines which in the end causes hate and the slow dying of Weston County. Real issues like no economic written plan or business improvement plan or how taxpayer money is invested and working to maximize YOUR MONEY for better infrastructure, roads, services. Approved vendors list for better purchasing at lower cost. Working with all local government with regular workshops to bring all assets to serve the community.

Q3: Not on anyone's groups list because I don't agree with their platform or group of people. They want in based on cliques or who they like and not what should matter, the betterment of Weston County. Heavily invested in Weston County and want to see it move forward not slowly drown because of old habits and same old thing.

Q3: I am not a politician, I am a Platform Republican and I am politically active out of necessity to help refocus the efforts of the commission to benefit the county. What I offer is an honest perspective grounded in real-world experience: managing teams, ensuring compliance with laws and regulations, owning mistakes and I bring a healthy respect for your voice, Wyoming statutes, fiscal responsibility and forward-thinking, transparent government. Roads, infrastructure, budgets, the transparency we were promised and election integrity have seen little improvement in six years. Instead, we got controversy, lawsuits, division and a judge forced to appoint a clerk. I know we can do better.

Allen Slagle

My family moved to Weston County in 1973 from just across the county line in Niobrara County where my family had ranched since 1920. We have continued to ranch in both Weston and Niobrara counties.

Q1: To help the county to operate at an efficient level and see where we could possibly make adjustment to be more streamlined in our operations.

Q2: To educate the residents of the county.

Q3: My wife and I are raising a family of nine children.

Don Taylor

I own two businesses in Weston County with my wife, Ruth Taylor. Both are service businesses, one a pharmacy, the other assisted living. We care deeply for Weston County and I take my time and work as prior commissioner very personally, because I want success for the county and its residents.

Q1: The goal for the position should be obvious but seems to get over looked. First and foremost, an advocate to the community and the people who elected you — that's all people not just the ones that agree with you or are liked.

Nathan Todd

No response received.

Allen Slagle

for Weston County Commissioner

Vote August 18th

Paid for by candidate



VOTE AUGUST 18TH

SUSAN BRIDGE

for Weston County Sheriff

THE BRIDGE FOR WESTON COUNTY

Paid for by Susan Bridge



Upton Town Council

Joe Watt: No response received.
(4-year term; vote for not more than 2)

U.S. Senate
Wyoming

★

7 Candidates: 5 Republican, 2 Democrat
(1) Six-year Term

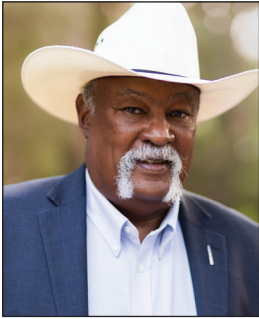
NLJ CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

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James Byrd



Harriet Hageman



John Holz



Sam Mead



Jimmy Skovgard

Billy Benavidez - Democrat

No response received.

James Byrd – Democrat

My family homesteaded here in the 1860s. Carrying forward my parents’ legacy of public service, I’m deeply committed to protecting our communities, lands, and true Wyoming values.

Q1: The goals are to return true Wyoming representation to Washington, lower everyday costs, and safeguard our public lands. In my decade serving in the Wyoming House, including as Minority Caucus Leader, I successfully fought for working families, local infrastructure, and balanced energy policies. On the campaign trail, I’ve already rolled out my “Four Pillars” platform across the state — from Thayne to Gillette — engaging everyday citizens. I have a proven track record of bringing people together to solve complex issues, whether defending our agricultural trade interests, protecting grazing leases for legacy ranchers, or advocating for critical rural healthcare infrastructure.

Q2: The primary role of a U.S. senator is to serve as an independent, unyielding voice for the people back home, not the Beltway elite or corporate boardrooms. It means tackling

James Byrd

the “Daily Squeeze” directly by addressing the real costs of fuel, food, and housing. A senator must protect Wyoming’s sovereignty, ensure our federal public lands remain open and accessible, and defend our energy and agricultural heritage. Ultimately, the role requires exercising strict constitutional oversight in Congress to shift power away from executive overreach and put it back where it belongs: with the people.

Q3: What distinguishes me is my deep generational roots and my real-world legislative experience. I don’t just talk about Wyoming values; my family has lived them here since territorial days. Having served 10 years in our state legislature, I know how to craft policy and deliver results without getting bogged down in partisan games.

My background spans both the energy sector and corporate consulting, giving me a practical understanding of economy-driving industries. I am beholden to the people of Wyoming, not Washington special interests, allowing me to fight uniquely and effectively for our state from day one.

Jill Edwards – Republican

No response received.

Hageman, Harriet (current representative)

I have lived in Cheyenne since 1997. I grew up outside of Fort Laramie as a fourth-generation Wyomingite. I have lived in Wyoming for nearly my entire life.

Q1: I am currently in my second term as Wyoming’s at-large U.S. Representative. I 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 in community project funding for local infrastructure throughout the state. We have also returned \$16 million directly to Wyoming businesses and individuals through case work, including money being wrongfully withheld by the IRS, the Social Security Administration, the VA, and others. I have passed 41 legislative wins over my 3 ½-year tenure. I look forward to building on that legislative record for our great state if I am fortunate enough to be elected to the United States Senate.

Q2: Providing advice and consent on the president’s federal appointments is one of the key distinctions between serving in the Senate versus the House. As a former trial attorney, I know the importance of ensuring judicial nominees and agency

John Holz

that aided Hughes in becoming the largest private employer in southern California. I was the head of the team to redesign the fire control system of the Army’s main battle tank, the M60A3, the fire control system consisting of the laser range finder, ballistic computer and thermal imaging system. I was one of the youngest judges in Wyoming history and helped establish the Circuit Court system of today. I was president of the Delta Gamma chapter of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity at the University of Wyoming. I was instrumental in placing the carrying of a concealed weapon without a permit for Wyoming residents on the Wyoming Republican platform in 2010. I am a life member of the NRA. I was class president at Clark Air Base in the Philippines, where the Japanese first developed kamikaze tactics as a mass weapon of war. I was on the Bataan Death March 20th anniversary march with three of the original survivors and received the historic trail award.

Q1: 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 advocated for federal regulatory reform and adherence to our constitutional framework. I represented the State of Wyoming, farmers, ranchers, municipalities, counties, trade organizations, and small businesses, among others. My legal expertise built on more than three decades of litigation combined with four years of congressional legislative accomplishments make me uniquely qualified to represent Wyoming in the United States Senate.

Sam Mead – Republican

I’m a fifth-generation Wyoming rancher. I’ve spent my whole life solving difficult problems as a whiskey distiller, mayor, rocket technician, and software engineer. I want to build a better Wyoming.

Q1: I’ve been traveling around this state for months, listening to people’s struggles and hardships. I will work towards solving their problems, and that begins by addressing their most pressing concerns, keeping our public land from being sold to the highest bidder, and working to improve our healthcare system. To these ends, I’ve been working to raise awareness about my opponent’s support of federally-mandated public land disposals. I find such a position incompatible with conservative Republican values. I’ve also been working on a healthcare plan to reform the way insurers interact with our providers and create a competitive insurance marketplace. I will work to protect the conservative way of life, and do what I can to advance Wyoming’s energy sector.

Q2: A small state like Wyoming needs a senator who will stand up for Wyoming interests and craft policy that will address the unique challenges we face. My goal is to be the voice of our people in Washington who understands what makes Wyoming different from other states. I’ve lived across Wyoming, and while our communities are all a little different, we all share a belief that with some hard work and persistence, we can do incredible things. I want to enable this ethos by supporting the people of this state as a senator who listens to challenges and finds solutions that work for our people.

Q3: I am a father of two young children, and want to build a Wyoming they will want to raise their own kids in. Public lands are essential to our way of life, and I am concerned at my opponent’s willingness to sell public lands off to the highest bidder.

Jimmy Skovgard – Republican

I am Jimmy Skovgard of Casper, fourth-generation Wyoming, husband to Beverly, father of four sons, veteran, small-business founder, and proud product of Greybull, Basin, Casper and University of Wyoming.

Q1: The goal is simple: make this office answer to Wyoming again. That means defend the Constitution, explain every vote in plain language, fight runaway debt, resist federal overreach, protect public lands and access, and give citizens a direct voice before big decisions are made. I have already started building that model through GrassrootsMVT.org, a citizen survey effort meant to listen county by county and precinct by precinct. I have also put my campaign finances, positions, and public questions in the open, because trust starts with daylight. I spent my life building a Wyoming business, serving in the Wyoming Army National Guard, raising a family, and solving real problems without a Washington script.

Q2: The primary role of a United States senator is to keep faith with the oath: support and defend the Constitution, represent the people of this state, and guard the liberty of our children and grandchildren. A senator should read the bills, tell the truth, protect the power of the state and local communities, and stop treating national drama as a substitute for work. Wyoming needs a senator who will fight for sound money, secure borders with humane enforcement, reliable energy, public access to public lands, and decisions made as close to home as possible. The office should be a servant’s post, not a ladder, not a club, and not a microphone for outrage.

Q3: What sets me apart is independence, transparency, and a belief that Wyoming voters should be heard before Washington decides. I am not running to join a team in D.C., I am running to return the office to the citizens.

I built a business here, served in the Guard, raised four sons here, and understand what debt, regulation, land policy, and bad federal decisions mean on the ground. My campaign is built around one idea: It is just us. No neighbor is the enemy. The problem is a system that profits when citizens stop talking, stop checking the record, and stop holding power accountable.



BARLOW

FOR GOVERNOR

VETERAN ★ RANCHER ★ VETERINARIAN

ERIC BARLOW
LEADS WYOMING FORWARD!

Thriving communities

Healthcare close to home

Public lands are not for sale

Opportunities for the next generation

Futures decided by Wyoming people — not outsiders

SHOWS UP ★ DOES THE WORK ★ GETS RESULTS

VOTE ERIC BARLOW
FOR REPUBLICAN GOVERNOR

EARLY VOTING STARTS: JULY 21
REPUBLICAN PRIMARY: AUGUST 18

PAID FOR BY BARLOW FOR WYOMING

Look for election results online at newslj.com!

ROBERT
SHORT

SECRETARY of STATE

Businessman.
Public Servant.
Problem-Solver.

Wyoming deserves a Secretary of State with integrity, common sense, and a resolve to earn and keep the public's trust. You can be sure that Robert Short will stand tall for all Wyoming interests.

Vote Short for State on August 18!

A Republican from Wyoming, for Wyoming

visit shortforstate.com to learn more

PAID FOR BY SHORT FOR STATE

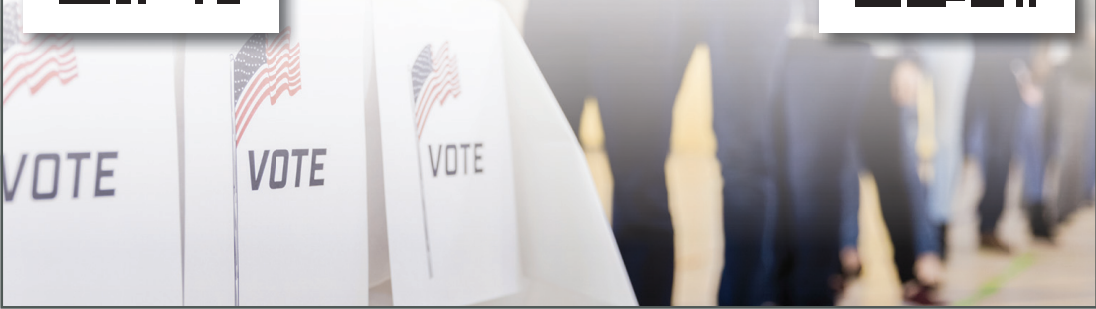


PRIMARY ELECTION
TUESDAY, AUG. 18, 2026
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Weston County Event Center
Osage Fire Hall
Upton Community Center



More information is available at westongov.com/county-clerk/elections or letsvotewyo.org





GILLIAN SEARS

Candidate for WESTON COUNTY COMMISSIONER

“I would unite with anybody to do right and with nobody to do wrong.”

— FREDERICK DOUGLASS

FAITH ★ FAMILY ★ COMMUNITY ★ INTEGRITY

PAID FOR BY CANDIDATE



5 Candidates: 4 Rep.; 1 Dem.
(1) Four-year Term

Governor



Eric Barlow



Brent Bien

No photo provided

Kenneth Casner



Megan Degenfelder

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

Briefly, tell us about your family and your connection to Wyoming.

Q1. What do you see as the goals for this position, and what have you already done to accomplish those goals (either in your current capacity, or in other positions)?

Q2. What do you see as the primary role of this position?

Q3. What distinguishes you from other candidates?

Eric Barlow – Republican

I’m Eric Barlow, a fourth-generation Wyoming rancher, veterinarian and Marine. Kelly and I raised our two children on our ranch, and Wyoming has always been home.

Q1: The governor’s goals should be to keep Wyoming strong, make government work for people and prepare our state for the future. That means disciplined budgeting, strong schools, accessible health care, responsible development of our natural resources and communities where families can build a life. I have spent more than a decade turning local concerns into practical legislation.

As Speaker of the House and now a state senator, I have helped pass balanced budgets, delivered property tax relief, supported teacher pay, strengthened health care access and advanced responsible multiple use of our public lands. I have also announced plans for regional governor’s offices and a health care strike team so communities are heard and urgent problems receive direct attention.

Q2: The governor’s primary role is to faithfully execute Wyoming law, propose a responsible budget and make state government work for every community. The governor should set clear priorities, bring people together and hold agencies accountable for results. That requires listening before acting and recognizing that solutions that fit in Cheyenne may not fit in Newcastle, Evanston or Jackson.

I will establish regional offices with locally hired representatives so Wyoming people have direct access to the governor’s office. I will also work closely with legislators, local officials, businesses and community leaders to solve problems without creating unnecessary bureaucracy. The governor needs to be effective which means leading with discipline, transparency and respect while making sure Wyoming decisions remain in Wyoming hands.

Q3: Kelly and I have lived, worked, raised our family and served in Wyoming. I understand this state from several perspectives: as a rancher, large-animal veterinarian, small business owner, community servant, Marine and legislator.

I know what it means to sign the front of a paycheck, work alongside energy producers, drive long distances to serve rural communities, and make decisions that must work across Wyoming.

I have worked through disagreements to pass budgets and solve real problems. The bills I carried did not begin with political talking points. They came from Wyoming people who needed something fixed. I show up, listen, understand the facts, and do the

work to get results.

Brent Bien – Republican

Brent Bien, a Wyoming native born in Laramie is a retired Marine Corps colonel and a graduate of the University of Wyoming and the United States Naval War College. He and his wife, Susan, raised three daughters.

Q1: My goals for this position are to return taxes to the taxpayer, education to the parents, elections to the voters, agriculture to the growers, and energy to Wyoming. I chaired the People’s Ballot Initiative to cut residential property taxes by 50%, which successfully qualified for the November 2026 general election ballot.

Q2: The primary role of this position is to provide proven leadership and real-world problem-solving to protect the freedoms of Wyoming citizens. As a retired Marine Corps colonel and Wyoming native, I will uphold my oath of office to defend state sovereignty against federal overreach and ensure the government remains accountable to the people.

Q3: What distinguishes me from other candidates is my 28.5 years of experience leading Marines through high-tempo combat operations. Having witnessed the end state of tyranny, I possess a unique combination of technical expertise and leadership that no career politician in this race can match. I have a track record of building successful teams to achieve high-visibility objectives for the benefit of our state.

Curt Blake - Republican
No response received.

Kenneth Casner – Democrat

Born and raised in Wyoming, third generation working class. Dad and mom were born in Wyoming. I’ve spent 24 years running for political office.

Q1: My goal is to restructure Wyoming and bring back pride in Wyoming. I’ll hold Wyoming accountable to its own constitution. I’ve run for several offices. I’ll turn it around through my heart, I won’t lie to the people.

Q2: The primary goal of this position is leadership, not followship.

Q3: I take no money; I tote my own load. Kenneth Casner is like President Truman. I’ll take care of all of us.

Megan Degenfelder – Republican

From a sixth generation Wyoming agriculture family, career in coal and oil and gas, elected State Superintendent of Public Instruction, outdoorswoman, University of Wyoming rugby coach, and a cancer survivor.

Q1: My goal is to build a Wyoming where young people can afford to stay here and have a future here. Wyoming families are being squeezed by rising costs, and the industries that built our state are under attack from federal overreach and radical environmentalists and their allies. Young people are leaving the state, and parents are deeply concerned about the future their children will inherit.

As superintendent, I have fought to increase vocational and civics education, parental rights, energy development on state lands, and pushed back on the federal government. I’m not interested in the status quo. Wyoming needs bold, unapologetic leadership so our families can build a future in Wyoming.

Q2: State government is responsible for its core constitutional infrastructure, and public-safety obligations, including education, law enforcement, courts, highways, and public health. The government that governs best is the government that governs least. We need to free Wyomingites to do what they do best: Respect our lands, our culture, our communities and our freedoms.

Government doesn’t create jobs and economies, the private sector does. It is the role of government to create an environment where the private sector can thrive. That means less intervention, red tape and bureaucracy. Together, with fewer roadblocks from the state and federal government we will empower our legacy industries. We will power America, feed America and lead again.

Q3: Every election is a chance to choose a new direction, and this election will shape Wyoming for a generation. It’s also a chance to stand up for the freedoms that define us as Americans and as Wyomingites. I’ve spent my career fighting for conservative values, and I’ve won — not just talking about them, but delivering real results. I invite you to look at that record for yourself. I’ve spent my career in Wyoming’s oil and gas industry, fighting to protect our energy jobs. I’ve fought for conservative reforms, and that record is why I’m proud to have earned President Donald Trump’s endorsement in this race. As state superintendent, I launched Wyoming’s first universal Education Savings Account program, giving families real school choice. I helped establish our first state-authorized charter schools, expanded career and technical education, and fought for and won protections to keep girls’ sports for girls. Serving as your governor would be the honor of my life. I humbly ask for your vote and for the opportunity to keep fighting for the state and the people I love.

Wyoming House of Representatives

District 1

2 Candidates: Republican

(1) Two-year Term

Zeta Nuckolls Anderson
Lifelong Crook County resident, learned how to work hard on centennial sheep/cattle ranch, master's degree in Adult and Continuing Education, married 28 years. Homemaker, community volunteer, raised two daughters.

Q1: The goals are to listen to constituents, ask questions, seek reliable information, and keep people informed, as well as build connections with legislators to develop working relationships for the greater good of Wyoming. Serving in leadership roles for various boards has honed skills of team building and collaboration. Years of involvement in the county party as precinct committeewoman and vice chair allows me to hear concerns and represent my precinct.

I attend pre- and post-legislative town halls. At

county and state events and conventions, I converse with legislators and discuss bills. I watched all the 2026 House Legislative session and many committee meetings. I stay informed by following bills and issues important to constituents in House District 1.

Q2: Serving the citizens of Crook and Weston counties is the primary role of a House representative. My role is to listen to your concerns, gather information, and be YOUR voice in the Wyoming legislature. I will represent the hard-working families in House District 1, by protecting Wyoming values, restoring trust in government through accountability and transparency, respecting taxpayers, and bringing common sense to Cheyenne. Securing a future for our families and rising generations is foundational to ensuring Wyoming's best days

are ahead.

Q3: Prioritize attending scheduled forums and events, answering questions, and engaging with constituents. My campaign is grassroots oriented, supported by family, friends, and relying on small businesses to get our message to voters in House District 1. I have served in multiple leadership roles across various organizations: 2024 Graduate of Leadership Wyoming, 13 years as a PRECorp Foundation director and current vice chair, Crook County Republican Party vice chair, appointed to State ADMB, 30-year 4-H leader. I am active in all our communities through volunteer hands-on service to and support of civic and student organizations, events, activities, and fundraisers.

Troy Claycomb
No response received.

NLJ CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

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Zeta Nuckolls Anderson



Wyoming House of Representatives

District 2

1 Candidate: Republican

(1) Two-year Term

J.D. Williams (incumbent, unopposed)
I am a generational Wyoming rancher who legislates with the next generation in mind.

Q1: I consistently vote to preserve local control. Decisions about local issues should be made at the local level. The most effective and responsible government is the government closest to the people. Government that governs the least, governs the best.

Q2: I am very aware that the policy decisions made by the legislature directly affect Wyoming's economy. Mineral income, and the interest paid on past mineral income that we have saved and invested, is responsible for 2/3 of the State of Wyoming's revenue. Tourism and agriculture are our 2nd and 3rd largest industries. Wyoming must continue to lead the nation in the production of energy. Energy security is national security. Wyoming must remain OPEN

FOR BUSINESS so that our children and grandchildren don't have to go somewhere else to make a decent living.

Q3: I am accountable to the voters of House District 2. Political parties and caucuses have their place, but I answer to my constituents. My legislative email is jd.williams@wyoleg.gov, my phone number is 307.340.6006. If I am out of service or in a meeting I will call you back. Our best days are still ahead of us.

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J.D. Williams

Newcastle City Council

3 Candidates

(3) Four-year Terms



Don Steveson

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Wyatt Voelker

John Butts (incumbent)
No response received.

Don Steveson
I have been married to my wife, Jennifer, for many years. Together we have four children: Jessie Blanchard, Ryan Steveson, Lauren Steveson, and Alaina Steveson.

I have proudly served on the Newcastle Volunteer Fire Department for 42 years and have been chairman of the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) for the past 18 years. Newcastle and Weston County have been my home for 55 years, and I have been honored to serve this community in many different capacities.

Q1: The primary goals of this position are to be fiscally responsible, manage the city's budget wisely, and complete the infrastructure projects that are essential to Newcastle's future. This includes repairing and replacing aging water and sewer systems and improving our roads.

During my time on the city council, I have worked toward these goals by helping secure millions of dollars in grant funding for critical projects. These include the 7th Avenue Project, 1st Avenue Project, Grey Addition Water Line Replacement Project, Duff Avenue Lift Station Project, and the Wentworth Water and Street Project.

These improvements

strengthen our infrastructure while reducing the financial burden on local taxpayers.

Q2: The primary role of a city council member is to identify the city's needs, establish priorities, and make informed decisions that benefit the entire community. Our council has developed a strategic plan that prioritizes projects on an annual basis, allowing us to plan ahead and pursue grant opportunities to help fund those improvements.

It is also important for a council member to listen to the people they represent. We are members of this community ourselves, and it is our responsibility to hear residents' concerns, consider

their ideas, and make decisions that serve the best interests of Newcastle.

Q3: I believe my experience and long-standing commitment to Newcastle set me apart. I have been actively involved in many aspects of our community, giving me the knowledge and perspective needed to make informed decisions. I strive to be fair, honest, and approachable, and I have dedicated 55 years to serving and supporting this community.

It has been an honor to serve on the City Council, and I would be grateful for the opportunity to continue serving the residents of Newcastle.

Wyatt Voelker
Proudly born and raised in Newcastle, Wyoming, by my parents Ryan and Donna Voelker and with my siblings Lexus Engle and Mercedes Roberson (my sisters are married).

Q1: A. Continued maintenance: The city is doing a good job with this already but continuing to budget and seek grants for upgrading water services and roads throughout the town of Newcastle. Enforce the cleanup of abandoned properties to increase the city's aesthetic appeal and make the property useful for growth.

B. Economic development: a common phrase I have heard numerous times around town is "we are a dying community," and I cannot agree more. As a start to curtail this problem in Newcastle, we need to look at avenues to attract new businesses and support our current businesses to provide more opportunities for younger people to move back and obtain a career and raise a family.

Q2: Be a voice for the people of Newcastle and communicate plans and current actions

being taken to address problems brought up by the community. Communication is key to eliminating speculation and misinformation.

To be honest, I am a young candidate at the age of 27 years old so there will be a learning curve if elected to office to begin pushing our goals. By listening to and addressing problems brought up by the community, we can work collaboratively together to achieve our goals. The community's concerns should be our top priority.

Q3: I take pride in acting with integrity. I am not a perfect person and if I make a decision that was not the best, I will be the first to admit it was bad and will be the first to roll back up their sleeves and fix the issue. I am also patient and understand that most problems cannot be solved overnight.

I work diligently and consistently to ensure that any problem being worked on is seen through to the end. Lastly, I am a young candidate who wants to sustain and grow Newcastle to make it a great place for people to raise their families and retire.

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U.S.
House of Representatives

12 Candidates: 10 Republican; 2 Democrat
(1) Two-year Term



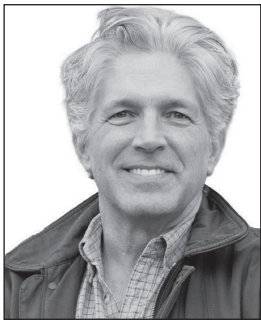
Jillian Balow



Kevin Christensen



Richard Dodson



Steve Friess



David Giralt



Chuck Gray



Lisa Kinney

NLJ CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

Briefly, tell us about your family and your connection to Wyoming.

Q1. What do you see as the goals for this position, and what have you already done to accomplish those goals (either in your current capacity, or in other positions)?

Q2. What do you see as the primary role of this position?

Q3. What distinguishes you from other candidates?

Jillian Balow – Republican
Raised in Gillette, I taught in Hulett, raised two children in Wyoming, married for 32 years. I am an FFA and an Army mom. I served as Wyoming’s superintendent from 2015-2022.

Q1: My three goals are: 1) Lower the cost of living by cutting wasteful federal spending, stopping tax hikes, and rolling back Washington regulations that drive up the cost of gas, groceries, energy, housing, and healthcare. 2) Ensure the next generation can thrive in Wyoming by protecting and growing Wyoming’s core industries — energy, agriculture, mining, tourism, and small business — while removing red tape that blocks projects, housing, roads, and opportunity for the next generation. 3) Defend the Wyoming Way by protecting our freedoms, private property rights, public lands, parental rights, and local control.

Q2: I will fiercely represent Wyoming in Washington, not the other way around. That means staying accountable to the people who live, work, ranch, build, teach, serve, and raise families in our communities. I will be in your communities, listening. I will work with local and state leaders, and carry Wyoming’s priorities to Washington with clarity and backbone. My job is to remove unnecessary government barriers, protect our freedoms, defend our industries and way of life, and help communities solve problems without Washington getting in the way. This role requires presence, humility, and resolve.

Q3: I am a proven state and national leader in education, have been elected statewide by the people of Wyoming twice and have delivered results in one of the most important responsibilities of state government: educating the next generation. I have deep Wyoming roots and I understand Wyoming communities because they are my home, not a campaign stop. I know how to lead, build coalitions, manage complex issues, and stand firm under pressure. My experience gives me the ability to be effective before day one, while my roots keep me accountable to the people, values, industries, and way of life that makes Wyoming strong.

Bo Biteman – Republican
No response received.

Frank Chapman – Republican
No response received.

Kevin Christensen – Republican
I’m a third-generation Wyomingite from Casper and University of Wyoming engineering graduate, Army combat veteran, former Lockheed Martin executive, and BLM district manager serving Wyoming’s public lands.

Q1: The goal of this position

is to make Wyoming’s single voice in the U.S. House strong, trusted, and effective. With only one representative among 435 voting members, Wyoming needs someone who can build relationships, influence decisions, and stay accountable to the people back home. I have spent six years working with Congress in Washington, D.C., and understand how to navigate federal issues without losing sight of who I serve. My loyalty is to Wyoming — not political parties, special interests, or mega PACs. I have accepted support only from individuals because I believe representation should be earned, not bought. I support term limits and will bring independence, discipline, and Wyoming common sense to this office. I am running to be Wyoming’s voice, not Washington’s puppet.

Q2: The primary role of this office is to keep Congress focused on its constitutional duties and accountable to the people who pay the bills. That starts with fiscal discipline: funding government within its means, stopping reckless spending, and confronting the nearly \$40 trillion national debt that fuels inflation and drives up the cost of everyday life. Congress must also take honest, responsible action to protect Social Security for current retirees and future generations.

I support a balanced budget amendment requiring Congress to live by the same basic standard Wyoming already expects of its state legislature. Wyoming families, ranchers, workers, and small businesses must balance their budgets. Washington should be held to that same common-sense standard.

Q3: What distinguishes me is proven leadership matched with hands-on experience in the federal laws that shape Wyoming’s economy and way of life. I have spent six years working directly with the laws affecting energy, agriculture, ranching, public lands, and local communities. I know which barriers need to be fixed because I have worked inside the system — not just talked about it from the sidelines. Other candidates may promise to “unleash” Wyoming’s industries, but I understand the specific policies that hold them back and how to change them. I have successfully led large organizations in the military, federal government, and private sector. I build coalitions, make decisions under pressure, and deliver results. Wyoming needs a representative with experience, credibility, and the ability to get things done.

Elena Del Real – Democrat
No response received.

Richard Dodson – Republican
I am a fourth-generation Wyomingite living in

Sundance, not far from the old homestead near Buckhorn. Growing up in Spearfish, we visited Wyoming all the time.

Q1: I have three goals for the House. The first, always represent the people of Wyoming faithfully and with integrity. I’ve been cultivating good character since I was a boy. The one thing I can confidently promise is that I will always be straight about my positions and why I’m taking them. Second, defend the Constitution and the processes it defines from erosion by entrenched partisanship. Government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from this earth if I have anything to say about it. Third, we need to change focus away from the millionaires and billionaires and back to the people where it belongs. Not just the people of Wyoming, the whole country.

Q2: According to the oath of office for the U.S. House, the primary role of any member is to support and defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic. As a legislative body, the House is meant to focus more tightly on domestic enemies and defense is more about holding criminals accountable and providing a framework for doing so. The Constitution grants specifically to the House the duty of raising revenue, and with Social Security in difficulties right now, fixing that is going to be a high priority. I expect my time in office, should I be elected will be spent primarily on these two endeavors.

Q3: From what I’ve seen, the main difference between me and my competitors is that I’ve been doing a lot of thinking about the intricacies and nuances of the problems we’re currently facing instead of parroting tired old talking points. I have a process for problem-solving that doesn’t leap straight to solutions and instead starts with thoroughly understanding the problem, then asking good questions about what really causes it, then working on solutions tailored to the specific causes. You’re also not going to get tautologies like “I’ll fix affordability by lowering prices!” Could you be any more vague? If I don’t know, I’ll tell you, I don’t know.

Steve Friess – Republican
Nearly 30 years ago, I moved to Wyoming, where life truly took root. Baptized in the Shoshone River, I met and married my wife, Polly. Together we have built a family, raising four wonderful children. Wyoming isn’t just a place — it’s home.

Q1: The goal is simple: fight for Wyoming. That means cutting the reckless spending driving inflation, unleashing our energy industry, securing the border, and pushing back on the bureaucrats who think they know better than we do. I’ve spent my life preparing for this fight. As a businessman,

I know what Washington’s policies do to the people who actually work for a living. As a conservative activist, I’ve spent decades supporting candidates and causes that defend faith, family, and freedom. My family and I helped get groups like Turning Point USA, Tea Party Patriots, and True the Vote off the ground. I’ve done the work when nobody was watching. Now I’m ready to take that same fight to Washington and deliver results for the people of Wyoming.

Q2: Wyoming has one seat in the House of Representatives, so this position carries a special responsibility. The primary role is to be Wyoming’s voice and Wyoming’s defender in Washington. That means protecting our energy jobs, our agriculture, our land, our water, and our Second Amendment rights from a federal government that too often treats our state as an afterthought. It also means being a workhorse, not a show horse.

I believe the job is to deliver results, hold the bureaucracy accountable, and vote the interests of Wyoming every single time, regardless of what the establishment or the special interests want. I’ll never forget who I work for: the people of Wyoming, and nobody else.

Q3: I’m not a career politician, and I think that’s exactly what Washington needs. I’m a businessman with a lifetime of conservative activism, and I know how to get results, not just give speeches. I learned my values from my father, Foster Friess, who taught me that success is a responsibility and that we’re stewards of what we’ve been given. I won’t be beholden to the establishment or the special interests, which means I can vote my conscience and Wyoming’s interests every single time. I’m a conservative like Reagan and a fighter like Trump, and I’ll bring that same energy and independence to fighting for the people of Wyoming.

David Giralt – Republican
I’m a second-generation Wyomingite. I was raised here and, after 12 years in the Army, returned home. My wife and I are excited to welcome the third generation in November.

Q1: The primary responsibility of a member of Congress is to defend the Constitution, protect individual liberty, and fight for the people they represent. I have spent my career preparing for that responsibility. I honorably served our nation for 12 years as a combat veteran. In my final active-duty assignment, I served as a Defense Fellow to the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, acting as a liaison between the Pentagon and Congress and advising members on critical national security issues. After military service, I worked for Sen. Cynthia Lummis, advancing conservative policies that protected Wyoming

jobs and lowered taxes. On day one, I’ll be ready to fight for Wyoming families, keep our border secure, unleash American energy, and restore fiscal responsibility.

Q2: The primary role of Wyoming’s representative in Congress is to be a strong voice for the people of Wyoming — not Washington. That means defending the Constitution, protecting our freedoms, and fighting for policies that strengthen Wyoming families, small businesses, ranchers, farmers, and our energy economy. It also means standing up to bad legislation that threatens our jobs, our way of life, or our state’s ability to govern itself. Our member of Congress should always put Wyoming first, remain accessible to the people they represent, and never forget that they work for the citizens who sent them to Washington.

Q3: I am the only candidate in this race with both combat experience and federal legislative experience. I led American soldiers in combat during deployments to Afghanistan and Syria, where I learned to lead under pressure and accomplish the mission. In my final active-duty assignment, I served as a Defense Fellow to the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, advising members of Congress on national security legislation. After military service, I worked for Sen. Cynthia Lummis advancing conservative policies for Wyoming. I won’t need on-the-job training. I already know how Congress works, have built relationships on Capitol Hill, and will be ready on day one to deliver results for Wyoming.

Keith Goodenough – Republican
No response received.

Chuck Gray – Republican
I ran my family’s small business in Casper. I then was elected by my neighbors to represent them in the legislature in 2016. I have a conservative track record.

Q1: We must stop the constant attacks by the radical Left on our core industries. Every one of our core industries (including coal, oil and gas, soda ash, and ranching and farming) need to be supported. For coal, I will work to ensure that we have access to markets. I will end burdensome regulations so that we can have new domestic coal-fired power plants. For oil and gas, I will stop the outrageously wrong decisions of a federal judge that has stopped permitting. For our producers, we need country of origin labeling, address the screwworm outbreak, and end the meat packing monopoly that has damaged our producers for decades. I have a plan to defend our core industries.

Q2: In this position, my role is to represent the people

of Wyoming and to advance the priorities of the people of Wyoming in Congress. Like Congresswoman Hageman, I will be hosting at least a town hall in every single county each year. My cell number is 307-251-1372, please contact me any time. As a member of Congress, my job is to advance these priorities through the bills that I bring, my committee work, and my votes in committee and on the floor. It is also to provide agency oversight so that the Executive Branch agencies are responsive to the needs of Wyoming. I look forward to working with the Trump Administration to advance the priorities of the people of Wyoming.

Q3: I have a track record of advancing our conservative values. That track record matters and distinguishes me from the other candidates. I’m not about talk, but instead about a real track record of action to advance the will of the people of Wyoming.

I don’t back down to the insider elites or the leftwing media. In 2022, I ran for Secretary of State to turn election integrity from rhetoric into results. As Wyoming’s chief election official, Wyoming became the first state in the nation to require proof of U.S. citizenship to register to vote, setting a national standard for election security. I’m running to continue that track record of defending the interests of the people of Wyoming in Congress.

Lisa Kinney – Democrat
I was born and raised in Laramie, Wyoming, and graduated from the University of Wyoming with my law degree. I served in the Wyoming State Senate for 10 years.

Q1: Wyoming is in a crucial time with the cost of everything being so high. Healthcare, food and groceries as well as housing are rising every day and people’s wages are not keeping up. I want to make a difference in Washington by working for a better future for our citizens, not just in Wyoming, but across the country.

Q2: I insist on working in a bipartisan manner to get things done for the good of the country. We are all Americans and should want to work for what is best for our residents, no matter who they are or where they came from or what political party they belong to.

Q3: I will represent the people of Wyoming, not Washington. My priorities are to maintain our public lands, lower health care costs, which puts more money in people’s pockets, as well as bringing civility back to Wyoming. I have integrity, am honest and believe that elected officials should not make decisions to increase their wealth, while cutting benefits to Wyoming people.

Reid Rasner – Republican
No response received.

Weston County

1 Candidate

(1) Four-year Term

Attorney

NLJ CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

Briefly, tell us about your family and your connection to Weston County.

Q1. What do you see as the goals for this position, and what have you already done to accomplish those goals (either in your current capacity, or in other positions)?

Q2. What do you see as the primary role of this position?

Q3. What distinguishes you from other candidates?



Michael Stulken

Michael Stulken (unopposed)

Married to Jenifer Stulken, with five children, three grandchildren, a dog named Rosco, and a cat named Hector. Weston County resident over six years. Wife is a Weston County native.

Q1: The goals of being county attorney in Weston County are to continually improve the services the county attorney's office provides and make our small community better as a whole, within the bounds of the law. We continually educate ourselves on furtherance of these goals. We have developed a strong relationship with law enforcement and most other county officials. We consistently seek new ways to further these goals in any matter possible, not only including education, but utilizing other resources to aid us in these goals. Our mission is to not become stagnant and complacent, but to progress as need be in order to better our public service to the community.

Q2: The baseline primary role of this position is to fully and competently fulfill my duties as prescribed by law, having basic description of representing the State of Wyoming in criminal proceedings and providing civil legal advice to other county officials (duties are broader than that, but a full response would at minimum be a full article). Beyond that, I understand that people are people and should be treated with respect and dignity in accordance with their situation. In my almost five years as Weston County's attorney, my office has improved criminal prosecution and become more responsive to the needs of other county elected officials. We plan to continue improvement on a daily basis.

Q3: I have lived in this community for over six years. During that time, I have been deputy county attorney and county attorney, as well as having a private practice. I have also been involved in community events and otherwise been an active member of the Weston County community. In all of these efforts and interactions, I have created meaningful and fulfilling relationships and have learned how the community "works" and the general needs and desires of this particular community. Additionally, on the legal side of things, I have over 20 years of experience with a very diverse background and experience, which allows me to navigate difficult situations when need be.

Weston County

1 Candidate

(1) Four-year Term

Assessor

NLJ CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

Briefly, tell us about your family and your connection to Weston County.

Q1. What do you see as the goals for this position, and what have you already done to accomplish those goals (either in your current capacity, or in other positions)?

Q2. What do you see as the primary role of this position?

Q3. What distinguishes you from other candidates?



Kara Lenardson

Kara Lenardson (unopposed)

I'm a lifetime resident of Weston County. I graduated from Newcastle High School and University of Wyoming. My husband Tony and I have two children.

Q1: I believe I maintain the current goals of the assessor's office by carrying out prescribed duties precisely and assisting the public in any way possible. I wish to aid the citizens in Weston County with whatever information they are seeking and help the public to understand valuation and exemption changes that are happening continuously. I have an open-door policy; I encourage the taxpayers in Weston County to engage in discussion with our office about whatever issues they may be concerned with.

Q2: The primary role of the assessor's office is to serve the public. This is done in many ways, including but not limited to: fairly and consistently valuing taxable property in Weston County, transferring surface ownership, applying exemptions, maintaining GIS maps, assigning rural addresses, assisting taxpayers in a variety of ways, and creating tax roll.

Q3: I believe that my experience in the assessor's office sets me apart from anyone else seeking the position. I have worked in every capacity over a decade, giving me insight and the ability to offer guidance to each of the positions within our office. I am passionate about helping people and that has been evident in my years working for the public. I'm a certified appraiser and continually work to improve my skills in the position and methods to do my duties consistently, fairly and efficiently.

Look for election results online at newslj.com!

Weston County

1 Candidate

(1) Four-year Term

Coroner

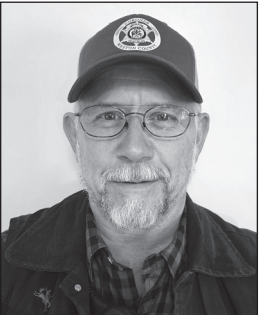
NLJ CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

Briefly, tell us about your family and your connection to Weston County.

Q1. What do you see as the goals for this position, and what have you already done to accomplish those goals (either in your current capacity, or in other positions)?

Q2. What do you see as the primary role of this position?

Q3. What distinguishes you from other candidates?



Scott E. Beachler

Scott E. Beachler (unopposed)

Born and raised in Indiana, lived in Wisconsin for nearly 11 years. Moved to Wyoming in March of 2007. My wife, Charlene, and I have two married children and 12 grandchildren. I am currently the Weston County's coroner.

Q1: I have two equally important priorities as a coroner. Priority 1: I want to make sure that the decedent receives a proper and complete investigation into their death, and that the body is treated with respect. I feel that continuing education and training along with networking with other Medicolegal Death Professionals helps us become better. This is something I try to do at every opportunity. I try to treat each decedent as a family member. Priority 2: I want to consider this office as an opportunity to provide support to the victim's family and friends, with concern about culture and religious practices. I now have over three years of experience as coroner and feel like God has called me to this vocation. I feel like my family grows with each new case.

Q2: I feel that my role in this position is to serve the people in Weston County, including visitors, professionally and without bias or discrimination.

Q3: I consider this opportunity as a ministry as well as a legal service to my community.

Weston County

Treasurer

Susan Overman (unopposed): No response received.

(1) Four-year term

Clerk of District Court

1 Candidate

(1) Four-year Term

NLJ CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

Briefly, tell us about your family and your connection to Weston County.

Q1. What do you see as the goals for this position, and what have you already done to accomplish those goals (either in your current capacity, or in other positions)?

Q2. What do you see as the primary role of this position?

Q3. What distinguishes you from other candidates?



Riki Kaiser

Riki Kaiser (unopposed)

My name is Riki Kaiser. I have called Weston County home since moving here in 2005. My husband, Mason, and I are proud to be raising our two children in the community we love.

Q1: As Clerk of District Court, my goal is to serve the citizens of Weston County with integrity, professionalism, and dedication. I am committed to providing exceptional customer service by treating every individual with respect, courtesy, and fairness while ensuring they receive accurate information and appropriate assistance. To strengthen my ability to serve, I have attended clerk meetings and continue to expand my knowledge through hands-on experience in the office. I strive to create a welcoming environment where every person who enters our office is greeted warmly and assisted promptly.

Q2: My primary responsibility as Clerk of District Court is to accurately and efficiently process, maintain, and manage the case files and official court records of the Sixth Judicial District Court for Weston County. I am committed to ensuring the integrity, accuracy, and confidentiality of all court records while providing reliable administrative support to the court, legal professionals, and the public. Through careful attention to detail and adherence to established procedures, I strive to maintain the highest standards of professionalism and service in the administration of justice.

Q3: What distinguishes me from opponents is the experience and knowledge I have gained while serving in the Clerk of District Court office. I joined the office as assistant deputy clerk in March 2021 and was promoted to deputy clerk in April 2021. In February 2025, I was appointed Clerk of District Court. Through these roles, I have developed a thorough understanding of court operations, records management, and public service. This hands-on experience has prepared me to effectively fulfill the responsibilities of the office while serving the Sixth Judicial District Court and the citizens of Weston County with professionalism, integrity, and dedication.



KEVIN CHRISTENSEN

A REPUBLICAN FOR ALL WYOMING

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

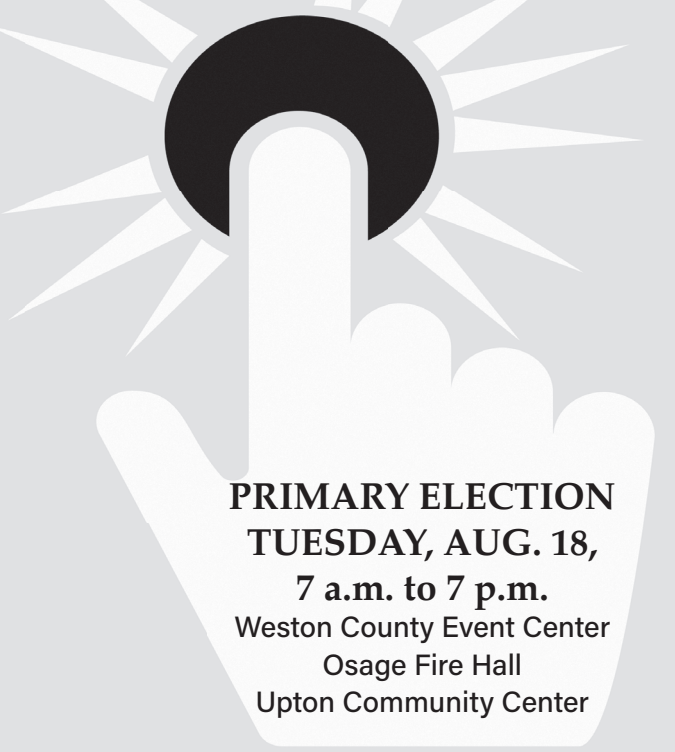
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PRIMARY ELECTION

TUESDAY, AUG. 18,

7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Weston County Event Center

Osage Fire Hall

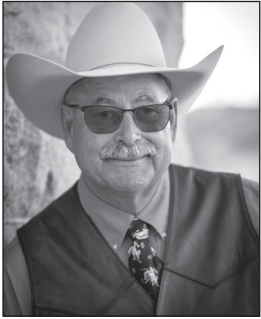
Upton Community Center

Senate District 1



2 Candidates: Republican

(1) Four-year Term



Ogden Driskill
(incumbent)

6th generation rancher. Married for 44 years to Rosanne Shoop (Lysite, WY), 3 children, 3 grandchildren. Businessman and Rancher. Graduate of Hulett High School, Casper College, Attended UW.

Q1: My top priorities are continuing meaningful property tax reform while protecting the essential services our communities rely on, including local governments, fire departments, EMS, hospitals, and county and city services. I believe decisions affecting our communities should be made by locally elected officials, not through one-size-fits-all mandates from Cheyenne.

I also want to create more good-paying jobs and strengthen our local economy. I have already been a leader in delivering results by helping pass property tax relief, securing infrastructure funding for Upton, Newcastle, and Osage, playing a key role in bringing rare earth processing to Upton, helping the Upton Rail Park succeed, and supporting the formation of the Northeast Wyoming Solid Waste District. I will continue delivering practical, conservative results for Senate District 1.

Q2: The primary role of a Wyoming State senator is to faithfully uphold the oath of office by defending and following the United States and Wyoming Constitutions.

A senator's responsibility is to represent the people of the district by listening to their concerns and ensuring their voices are heard in Cheyenne. The legislature should establish sound public policy, exercise oversight of state government, and keep government accountable, efficient, and fiscally responsible. It should create an environment where Wyoming businesses, agriculture, energy, and other industries can grow, creating good-paying jobs and economic opportunity.

At the same time, legislators must protect taxpayers by keeping taxes as low as possible while ensuring government fulfills its essential responsibilities effectively.

Q3: What distinguishes me is my independence and my proven record. I do not take my marching orders from the Freedom Caucus, Jackson Hole, Washington, D.C., or any political organization. I take them from the people of Senate District 1. I think for myself and do not rely on texts

or scripts to tell me how to vote. My record demonstrates consistent support for the Second Amendment, meaningful property tax reform, job creation, strong local governments, and quality schools. I stand behind every vote I cast and every bill I sponsor. When I make a mistake, I take responsibility and work to correct it rather than attacking the person who points it out. That is accountable, conservative leadership.

Chip Neiman

Chip Neiman is a rancher from Hulett, Wyoming. He and his wife Joni are active members of their community and church. He has served in the Wyoming House of Representatives since 2021. He currently serves as Speaker of the House.

NLJ CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

Briefly, tell us about your family and your connection to Wyoming.

Q1. What do you see as the goals for this position, and what have you already done to accomplish those goals (either in your current capacity, or in other positions)?

Q2. What do you see as the primary role of this position?

Q3. What distinguishes you from other candidates?



Chip Neiman

Q1: My goal for Senate District 1 is to deliver principled conservative leadership rooted in faith and dedicated to protecting our families. Real leadership requires standing firm, making hard decisions, and putting taxpayers first. As Speaker of the House, I stepped into leadership and oversaw Wyoming's first school recalibration process in two decades to ensure fiscal accountability.

Throughout my tenure, I have consistently advanced the Republican platform by championing pro-life legislation, defending our constitutional rights, and protecting Wyoming values. I am running for the Senate to build on this momentum, ensuring our district has a strong, unwavering voice that

stands up for our families and our shared future.

Q2: The primary role of a state senator is to be a faithful servant-leader who listens to constituents, defends our families, and translates conservative principles into actionable legislation.

A senator must have the courage to make tough choices, uphold fiscal discipline, and resist pressure that strays from our core values. Having served as Speaker of the House, I know firsthand that leadership is about standing firm for what is right. My duty in the Senate will be to safeguard our God-given rights, defend traditional family values, and ensure the people of District 1 have a proven, dedicated advocate fighting for them every single day.

Q3: What truly distinguishes me is my bedrock commitment to God, my family, and a proven track record of effective legislative leadership.

Anyone who knows me knows I lead with faith, value my family above all else, and strive every day to keep my word.

My promotion to Speaker of the House reflects the trust placed in my ability to govern under pressure. I do not just talk about conservative principles; I deliver on them. Whether leading complex reforms like school recalibration or passing pro-life legislation, I offer District 1 unmatched legislative experience paired with an unyielding personal standard of integrity and faith.

State Auditor



1 Candidate

(1) Four-year Term



Kristi Racines
(unopposed)

I'm a 4th generation Wyomingite born in Casper and raised in Bar Nunn, Evanston, and Riverton, with family roots in ranching and oil and gas.

Q1: Transparency, transparency, 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's pending data. The lawsuit was quickly dismissed, saving taxpayers thousands in legal fees. Six months later, my office debuted WyOpen.gov — Wyoming's online checkbook. This groundbreaking website provides expenditure data for the state on a daily basis. 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.

Q2: While this job is political, the state auditor is the state's chief accountant, payroll officer, and is responsible for producing the financial statements for the state — this demands a high level of technical competence. The state auditor, by law, must oversee the state's internal controls, as well as 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 evolve, and as fraudsters continually become more clever, the auditor's office must keep up. We maintain an environment of continuous improvement, and are always

assessing the needs of users and constituents.

Q3: I have a heart for Wyoming, and the expertise to do the job! After earning my accounting degree from University of Wyoming, I worked in public accounting in Cheyenne and became licensed as a certified public accountant. 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 and oversaw the human resources affairs of over 300 employees.

Senate District 3

Cheri Steinmetz (incumbent, unopposed): No response received.

(1) Four-year term

State Treasurer



2 Candidates

(1) Four-year Term



Curt Meier

Q1: What do you see as the goals for this position, and what have you already done to accomplish those goals (either in your current capacity, or in other positions)?

Q2: What do you see as the primary role of this position?

Q3: What distinguishes you from other candidates?

that will create another long-term revenue source to help pay the state's bills without increasing taxes. Every investment dollar earned is one less dollar that has to come from taxpayers.

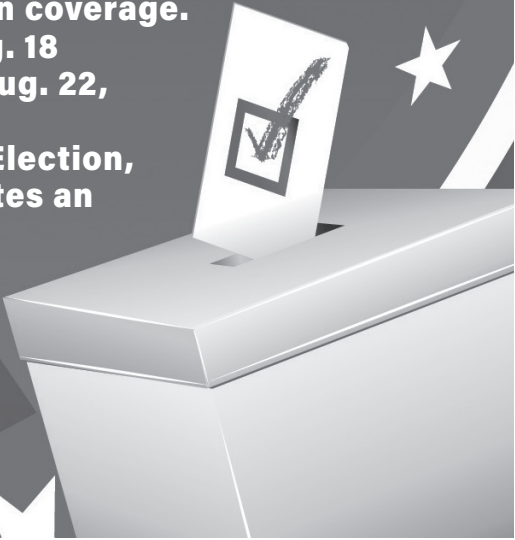
Q2: The state treasurer is Wyoming's chief financial steward. The office is responsible for safeguarding billions of taxpayer dollars, investing those funds prudently, managing state cash flow, protecting public retirement assets, returning unclaimed property to its rightful owners, and serving on boards that shape Wyoming's financial future. Just as importantly, the treasurer must faithfully uphold the Constitutions of the United States and Wyoming, and honor the oath of office. Every financial decision should protect taxpayers, strengthen Wyoming's independence, and preserve the state's ability to fund essential services without placing unnecessary burdens on future generations.

Q3: Experience and proven results. I have spent more than 40 years serving Wyoming, including over two decades in the legislature and the past eight years as state treasurer. Under my leadership, investment earnings became Wyoming's largest source of revenue, demonstrating what disciplined financial stewardship can accomplish. I have consistently defended Wyoming's mineral industries, supported responsible energy development, protected taxpayers, and remained committed to the Constitutions of the United States and Wyoming. Managing billions of dollars requires experience, judgment and a steady hand. Wyoming doesn't need on-the-job training in the treasurer's office — it needs proven leadership that continues building a stronger financial future for our children and grandchildren.

ELECTION 2026

The News Letter Journal is proud to present this special Election Guide, to help voters better become acquainted with the Primary Election candidates. We urge all voters to research and learn about candidates — on the local, state, and federal level — and we will continue to bring you fair and honest election coverage. Look for the results from the Aug. 18 election in the pages of NLJ on Aug. 22, and online at newslj.com. In October, prior to the General Election, we will once again offer candidates an opportunity to tell you about themselves, their goals, and their policies.

NEWS LETTER JOURNAL
307-746-2777



Curt Meier - Republican (incumbent)

Lifelong Wyoming agriculture producer, businessman, husband, father and grandfather. I've spent more than 40 years serving Wyoming and remain committed to protecting our state's future for generations to come.

Q1: The state treasurer's job is to protect the people's money, maximize returns through disciplined investing, return unclaimed property to its rightful owners, and strengthen Wyoming's long-term financial future. During my tenure, Wyoming's investment earnings became the state's largest source of revenue for the first time in history, generating nearly \$1.9 billion last year. My office has also returned record amounts of unclaimed property while maintaining Wyoming's reputation for sound financial stewardship. I continue advocating for a Wyoming Generational Investment Fund

that will create another long-term revenue source to help pay the state's bills without increasing taxes. Every investment dollar earned is one less dollar that has to come from taxpayers.

Q2: The state treasurer is Wyoming's chief financial steward. The office is responsible for safeguarding billions of taxpayer dollars, investing those funds prudently, managing state cash flow, protecting public retirement assets, returning unclaimed property to its rightful owners, and serving on boards that shape Wyoming's financial future. Just as importantly, the treasurer must faithfully uphold the Constitutions of the United States and Wyoming, and honor the oath of office. Every financial decision should protect taxpayers, strengthen Wyoming's independence, and preserve the state's ability to fund essential services without placing unnecessary burdens on future generations.

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Scott Smith - Republican

No response received.

Upton Mayor

Tiffany McMillan: No response received.

(1) Four-year term

MORE NEWS IS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT NEWSLJ.COM!

Secretary of State

5 Candidates: 1 Democrat; 4 Republican
(1) Four-year Term

NLJ CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

Briefly, tell us about your family and your connection to Wyoming.

Q1. What do you see as the goals for this position, and what have you already done to accomplish those goals (either in your current capacity, or in other positions)?

Q2. What do you see as the primary role of this position?

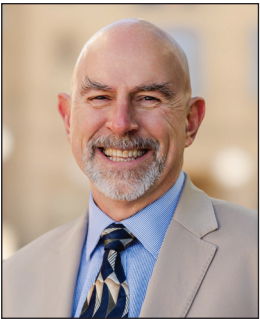
Q3. What distinguishes you from other candidates?



Bryan McCarty



Qwenton Eagle Oviatt



Robert Short



Rachel Williams



C.J. Young

Jason Fearneyhough – Republican
Name withdrawn

Bryan McCarty – Democrat
Linchpin is 1969 family vacation to Buffalo's Klondike Ranch. First encounter with Big Wonderful Wyoming and Heaven on Earth. Start of a pro-found Wyoming thread running throughout my life ever since.

Q1: Do what I can to save our nation's democracy. So far, I have become active in my county Democratic Party, serving as my ward's committeeman and attending meetings of area nonpartisan concerned citizens groups. Primary goals in this office include vigorous compliance with all applicable laws and court decisions, ensuring secure, accurate elections, and protecting the state's public lands through the position's seat on the board of land commissioners and consistent with the preferences of the 80% of voting age residents who want them to remain in public hands and administered for the benefit of all residents according to facts, science, and reality.

Q2: Largely answered in previous response.

Q3: Primarily that I am a Democrat. Relevant qualifications include an MBA from a world class institution, a Six Sigma Green Belt, and internal audit experience. I believe in

the actual rule of actual law, while all potential opponents are members of the party of breaking the law under the guise of law and order.

Qwenton Eagle Oviatt – Republican
I'm Qwenton Eagle Oviatt. I've called Wyoming home for 32 years and I'm a husband and long-term caregiver for my mother with MS.

Q1: My goals as Secretary of State are to restore trust in our elections, protect confidential voter data, stop fraudulent LLCs, and make our government more transparent and responsive. I've already taken steps toward these goals through my work as an academic advisor and certified mediator, where I've helped people navigate complex systems and resolve disputes. On the campaign trail, I've spoken directly with county clerks across Wyoming and reviewed the data, confirming that our elections are secure. I've also highlighted how the current administration handed over private voter information and failed to properly screen fraudulent business filings. These experiences have prepared me to bring practical, common-sense leadership to the office.

Q2: The primary role of the Secretary of State is to protect the integrity of Wyoming's elections and ensure every eligible citizen can vote securely

and easily. This means maintaining accurate voter rolls, overseeing fair elections, and safeguarding confidential voter data. Beyond elections, the office also manages business filings, registered agents, and serves on key boards like the State Loan and Investment Board. I believe the Secretary of State must act as a trusted steward of these responsibilities, prioritizing transparency, protecting private information, and making government work for the people of Wyoming rather than for special interests or the federal government.

Q3: I'm not a career politician or part of any political machine. I've worked in Wyoming's coal bed methane fields, completed deployments in Antarctica with the National Science Foundation, built small businesses, and served as a certified mediator and academic advisor. I'm an Eagle Scout running to heal the rift in the Republican Party by building bridges instead of tearing people apart, and to restore trust in our elections by listening to county clerks and protecting voter data. My focus is practical solutions, not political games.

Robert Short – Republican
I grew up in Glenrock, am now in my 12th year as a Converse County commissioner, am passionate about serving Wyoming and helping develop economic opportunities for our young people.

Q1: Restore trust in our elections, protect our seniors from financial fraud, and help increase accountability for businesses using Wyoming as their business address. I have served as an election judge, a county commissioner and a successful businessman in Converse County. I understand the process for elections from every angle and know that our county clerks do a great job with elections. I can communicate that clearly to Wyoming citizens with data. My financial investment background is second to none in this race and my understanding of the financial world will help me educate seniors to better protect them. My unparalleled business experience domestically and internationally positions me ahead of any other candidate, and my commitment to serve is unquestionable.

Q2: Secretary of State must fulfill the constitutionally defined obligations, enforce statutes, and help the people of Wyoming feel confident that they are being served honestly. This office is responsible for a multitude of tasks, not the least of which is to serve on boards that manage assets for the state. Approaching decision making with objective scrutiny is critical to making decisions that are free from bias, not influenced by special interests, and are driven by data that support good outcomes. As your Secretary of State, I am directed to protect your interests without regard to influences that are outside of our state and I am required to put the people first.

Q3: My experience as a county commissioner, successful businessman, tireless champion for Wyoming, excellent collaborator, fearless defender of our rights and unwavering commitment to honesty, integrity and transparency, are unequalled by any other candidate. I built trust across all 23 counties as a commissioner. Because of this, we bring Washington, D.C., staffers to Wyoming to educate them and help formulate policies that benefit Wyoming. My work in our legacy industries gives me experiences that will translate to better decision-making for state boards; no other candidate has any of these experiences. I can say without hesitation that my life in Wyoming has been rooted in Wyoming values. I will never falter when it comes to serving Wyoming and my

history proves it.

Rachel Williams – Republican
I am a lifelong conservative resident from Cody, where my husband and I run a local small business and raise our family. Wyoming is our deep-rooted, permanent home.

Q1: The goals are to establish an unyielding executive firewall to secure our elections, eradicate shell-company fraud, and aggressively protect our state lands from federal and foreign encroachment. As a state representative and chairman of the Wyoming Freedom Caucus, I have already delivered on these fronts. I sponsored Wyoming's life-protecting trigger law, maintained a 93% CPAC conservative rating, and successfully defunded entities to strictly enforce state laws shielding our firearms industry from corporate financial discrimination. On the Land Board, I will bring this same battle-tested backbone to ban the Chinese Communist Party from purchasing our agricultural land or encroaching on our critical energy infrastructure.

Q2: The primary role of the Secretary of State is to act as the chief constitutional guardian of Wyoming's sovereignty, electoral integrity, and economic security. In this executive capacity, the secretary must move past empty bureaucratic promises and enforce concrete verification metrics to ensure our voting system remains "hard to cheat and easy to vote" by banning ballot harvesting and drop boxes. Additionally, the role demands strict administrative oversight of our business registry to crack down on international scammers exploiting registered agents, alongside holding a decisive voting seat on key state boards to protect public lands and maximize baseline energy leasing for the people of Wyoming.

Q3: I am the only candidate in this race with a proven combination of street-level enforcement experience and conservative legislative leadership. I spent seven years in law enforcement and earned a master's degree in Criminal Justice Administration, giving me an executive understanding of the rule of law. Unlike career bureaucrats, I have a documented record of fighting in the trenches of the

Wyoming House, where I chair the House Labor and Health Committee. Endorsed by outgoing Secretary Chuck Gray to carry his secure election mission forward, I have shown I will never compromise with the establishment or buckle under media pressure when defending our constitutional liberties.

C.J. Young – Republican
I am a lifelong Wyomingite, graduate of University of Wyoming's College of Law, small business owner and Navy Reserve intelligence officer. I have worked in the Secretary of State office previously as Wyoming's elections director.

Q1: As Secretary of State, I will focus on operating an efficient office that delivers better service while controlling costs. That means modernizing business filings, strengthening cybersecurity to protect sensitive information, and supporting our county clerks with practical tools that improve election administration. My priority is implementing Wyoming's recent election laws effectively and consistently. I support accurate voter rolls, strong cybersecurity, and secure voting for military and overseas citizens. Any future reforms should keep Wyoming elections easy to vote in and hard to cheat. I would like to add staff to the office for training and investigations, specifically to support Wyoming's election officials.

Q2: The secretary oversees several divisions of Wyoming's government: elections, business, and compliance to name a few. The role of SoS is to ensure these functions are carried out in compliance with Wyoming law for the people of Wyoming by ensuring the office is operated by a knowledgeable, well-trained staff. As the lieutenant governor, it is the SoS' responsibility to lead fairly with other officials and prepare the state for a bright future!

Q3: I offer the strongest combination of education, experience, and public service. I studied law at the University of Wyoming and worked in Wyoming state government for a decade. I was Wyoming's director of the Elections Division during the 2024 election, so I bring a deep understanding of this office from day one. I will provide steady, conservative leadership focused on serving Wyoming citizens with professionalism and integrity.

Weston County Clerk

1 Candidate
(1) Four-year Term



Amber Prell Green

NLJ CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

Briefly, tell us about your family and your connection to Weston County.

Q1. What do you see as the goals for this position, and what have you already done to accomplish those goals (either in your current capacity, or in other positions)?

Q2. What do you see as the primary role of this position?

Q3. What distinguishes you from other candidates?

Amber Prell Green

Born and raised in Newcastle, raised two children here, and worked as a special education paraprofessional for 14 years in the school district before the seven years in the clerk's office.

Q1: One goal is to ensure compliance with state statutes, regardless of my beliefs. I work with other clerks and county offices to share ideas and follow best practices. Another goal is to have the office welcoming and comfortable to the public. As interim clerk, I helped create a positive, transparent, and welcoming environment. I want to restore that level of service. I also want to improve and streamline the budgeting process by making better use of the tools we already have. We are only using a fraction of Excel's capabilities, and our current software has budgeting features. With five years of experience using that system, I am confident I can make the budgeting process more efficient and better organized.

Q2: I do not believe the county clerk's office has one primary role because the position requires balancing many important responsibilities. The clerk serves as the budget officer, chief election officer, the county's primary record keeper, clerk to the Board of

County Commissioners, a supervisor, and public servant. Each of these duties is essential to the effective operation of the clerk's office. Success in this role requires giving each responsibility the attention it deserves while remaining organized, responsive, and committed to serving both the board and the public.

Q3: I have demonstrated my ability to prepare accurate and thorough minutes that provide transparency for the community while preserving the history of meetings. Preparing said minutes, along with other duties of this position can require long hours and dedication which I am willing and able to do. I have been involved in six elections. Through those experiences, I have seen both successful and unsuccessful approaches, and I would use those lessons to make informed decisions moving forward. I have extensive experience working with the public and have consistently shown that I work professionally and respectfully with them. I am committed to serving in the clerk's office for the long term and plan to continue building my experience for many years.

Mike Tooman

Withdrawn from race.

PLEASE NOTE

Not all candidates responded to our questionnaire.

Despite repeated calls and emails to candidates, their campaign managers and media directors, some running for office did not respond to our request for answers to our questionnaires by press time. The News Letter Journal feels that the absence of this information denies us the ability to fully and accurately depict the choices available to you, our readers. Please direct any questions to the candidates directly.



VOTE

STEVE

HARSHMAN

STATE SUPERINTENDENT

REPUBLICAN

✓ 40 Years Wyoming Teacher & Coach

✓ Proven Leadership Experience

✓ Focused on Students, Families, and Educators

✓ Author of the Hathaway Scholarship

OUR KIDS. OUR SCHOOLS.

OUR FUTURE.

Paid for by Harshman for Wyoming



RE-ELECT

SHERIFF

BRYAN COLVARD

Integrity • Experience • Loyalty

• Fiscal Responsibility

• 16 years as the Weston County Sheriff

• True leader, through tough times and will defend your safety and liberties at all costs

• 34 years Public Servant

• Defend Citizens’ personal rights

• Stand strong and defend the Constitution of the United States

Faith • Family • Country



Paid for by candidate

Sheriff:

from Page B9.....

constitutional rights. This responsibility also extends to all individuals visiting or traveling through the county. The sheriff also has a duty to preserve local authority by ensuring that any federal involvement remains appropriate, limited, and consistent with the interests of Weston County. The sheriff plays a significant role in limiting federal overreach. Our office responds to emergencies, disasters, and major incidents by working with local, state and federal agencies. The sheriff’s office manages the jail, inmate care, transports, court security, serves legal papers, executes warrants and carry out court orders.

Q3: Experience and leadership: I have had the privilege of serving Weston County as sheriff for nearly 16 years, and my leadership has been tested and proven through years of public service. I have remained committed to honesty, integrity, and responsible stewardship of county resources. I will defend the rights of the people, lead the sheriff’s office with respect for the law, sound judgment, commitment to public trust and the willingness to do what’s right even when it is difficult. Over the years I have gained wisdom and the ability to utilize resources available to us without significant cost. I have diligently built relationships with other agencies in Weston County and around the state to also include our federal partners.

HENRY

NESSUL

Candidate for Commissioner, Weston County, Wyoming

henry4weston@outlook.com

★ My Mission Statement:

To listen to and honestly represent the people of Weston County, their views, their values, and their needs.

★ My platform:

✓ Listen to the voices of Weston County residents.

✓ Fiscal conservative, committed to equal treatment of all taxpayers.

✓ Support public safety services.

✓ Administer tax funded necessities and issues equally and fairly.

✓ Ensure transportation needs in roads and bridges.

✓ Support the needs of our children for education.

✓ Interface with businesses to help Weston thrive.

✓ Won't accept medical benefits of the position at taxpayer expense.

✓ Donate ½ of salary net to a Weston County charity monthly.

✓ Only use the other ½ of net salary for expenses of the position.

★ Meet me at the Candidates’ Forum to learn more! ★



I live in Weston, I’m part of Weston, I will fairly represent

YOU and WESTON COUNTY.



The position of Commissioner is not and will not be about me, but about you and the

MONEY YOU PAY in taxes.



I understand the position is not a career, but a temporary job, to work for you, the

RESIDENTS OF WESTON COUNTY.

★

Paid for by Henry Nessul

★

Steve Friess is a bold champion for our conservative values.



Steve and Polly Friess raised four kids here and built a life grounded in the values that make Wyoming great.

Steve Friess is a lifelong advocate for freedom, limited government, and traditional values. Steve was raised on these values by his father, Foster Friess, and grew up inspired to action by the leadership of Ronald Reagan.

A political outsider like President Trump, conservative Republican Steve Friess is running for Congress to help him to defend Wyoming and make America stronger.

Political Outsider

Steve Friess is not a career politician. He’s a businessman and conservative outsider who has spent decades in the trenches supporting groups like Tea Party Patriots, True the Vote and Turning Point USA in the fight against the radical left.

Strong Conservative Values

In Congress, Steve Friess will continue to champion the conservative values on which the Republican Party was built:

• Staunchly Pro-Life

• 100% Pro-Gun

• Oppose All Tax Hikes

• Secure the Border and Ban Sanctuary Cities

• Fight for American Energy Dominance

• Stop Politicians from Trading Stocks and Becoming Lobbyists



“I’m running for Congress to defend Wyoming’s way of life and the traditional values that make America strong.”

— Conservative Steve Friess



Get a Sign.

Join Steve’s Team.

Paid for by Friess for Wyoming





STEVE

FRIESS

REPUBLICAN FOR CONGRESS

www.FriessforWY.com

Vote August 18th