

**“Being adequately informed is a democratic duty, just as the vote is a democratic right. A misinformed electorate, voting without knowledge, is not a true democracy.”**  
*- Jay Griffiths*

---

THE SARATOGA SUN'S  
**2018**  
GENERAL  
ELECTION  
SECTION

---


**2018 GENERAL ELECTION**


**General Election Section Overview:** Candidates for each office are listed alphabetically by last name.

The Saratoga Sun emailed questions to each candidate. Separate groups of questions were used for each office sought. If a candidate responded directly to our questions, those questions will appear in italics.

**Party Affiliations:** (C) Constitution, (D) Democratic, (L) Libertarian, (R) Republican

## U.S. SENATOR

One open seat • Six-year term • Three candidates

**John Barrasso (R)** P.O. Box 52008, Casper, WY 82605 johnbarrasso@wyoming.com 307-234-0819

*What plan do you have to improve healthcare for the residents of Wyoming?*

As a doctor, I understand the importance of lowering the cost of health care. In the Senate, one of my top priorities is lowering the cost of insurance, which Obamacare made unaffordable for working families. This is why I supported repealing the individual mandate. This tax took money out of the pockets of folks who simply could not afford it or didn't want to buy expensive Obamacare policies.

In addition, I introduced legislation to give folks greater access to short-term health plans. Working with the Trump Administration, these new rules are now in place that give individuals greater access to these much less expensive plans without all the Obamacare mandates. In addition, I support the Administration's expansion of association health plans, which empower small business to come together to offer insurance coverage.



The President recently signed into law two bills I supported eliminating pharmacy gag clauses. These bipartisan laws ensure pharmacists can discuss freely with their patients how they can receive their drugs for the lowest price.

My wife is a cancer survivor. I know the importance of all patients accessing affordable insurance. This is why I was an original cosponsor of legislation that says clearly all patients can purchase health insurance, especially those with preexisting conditions.

*Given the importance of immigrant populations to rural communities, what is your position on immigration and recipients of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)?*

Before we consider any action on DACA, we must first agree on a solution that provides the border security we need. This includes infrastructure, increased manpower and the technology needed to ensure the integrity of our borders. Legal immigration is a foundation of the United States. I believe we need to find a solution to the situation surrounding DACA recipients - children that were brought here illegally under no fault of their own - but we must first secure the border.

*What energy plan do you have and how will it affect the people of Wyoming?*

I believe we need to make American energy as fast as we can, as clean as we can and at the lowest cost for Wyoming people. That includes coal, natural gas, wind and solar

power. I successfully fought excessive Obama-era rules and regulations that targeted Wyoming energy jobs and have worked to open new foreign opportunities for Wyoming's nature gas and coal.

I have helped pass bipartisan legislation that expanded and reformed a key federal tax credit to speed the deployment of carbon capture and storage. I have also introduced and hope to pass this year further bipartisan legislation to speed permitting of CO2 pipelines and fund new carbon capture technologies.

*So-called "dark money" and campaign finance reform have become prominent in recent elections. What are your thoughts regarding both these issues?*

Federal campaigns are expensive. TV, radio, newspapers, along with organizing and travel all require fundraising. I believe the most important aspect of campaign finance reform is transparency. Voters should be able to see who

donates to your campaign in a timely and open way. There is no "dark money" effort to support my candidacy.

*What would be your plan to help fund public education in Wyoming?*

Decisions about how we can best educate our children need to be made by parents and teachers and not by bureaucrats in Washington. I continued to oppose Washington's one size fits all approach that often does not fit Wyoming's rural schools.

I believe the true strength of our educational system is local control.

State and local officials should have the primary responsibility of ensuring the quality of Wyoming's schools.

At the federal level, what is most important is that we provide a pro-growth, pro-American econ climate to create and maintain good paying jobs for Wyoming people. In turn, the success of our energy economy helps drive state funding for public education.

**Gary Trauner (D)** P.O. Box 1870, Wilson, WY 83014 gary@traunerforwy.com 307-699-5091

*What plan do you have to improve healthcare for the residents of Wyoming?*

As the former COO of a hospital, I am intimately familiar with the issues regarding our healthcare system today. I believe everyone should have access to basic, quality, affordable healthcare, but that everyone should also have some "skin in the game". Doing this means spreading risk over the largest possible group of people in the country (everybody), lowering overhead and administrative costs that don't go directly towards treating actually medical/health issues, increasing cost transparency, ensuring that everyone is protected if they have pre-existing conditions and ensuring there are no lifetime caps on insurance coverage that might bankrupt those with catastrophic illnesses or injuries. I would allow people to be able to buy into Medicare and/or Medicaid in competition with other insurance plans. This would ensure that every person has access to coverage.

*Given the importance of immigrant populations to rural communities, what is your position on immigration and recipients of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)?*

First, let's be clear that the US Senate currently has no plan to deal with our immi-

gration issues other than inflammatory rhetoric, fear and division - classic DC tools to scare us and stay in power.

Children and young adults covered under DACA were brought here as little children and have grown up in the USA - they are as American as the rest of us in every aspect except their citizenship. In essence, they have no country or culture to return to as they were raised in the US. Therefore, we should afford them the opportunity to become productive US citizens.

Regarding immigrations in general, we need secure borders at the same time we recognize that we are a nation of immigrants and our economy would grind to a halt without immigrant labor. Therefore, we need to pass a bill like the 2013 immigration reform bill previously passed in the Senate. This bipartisan bill provided for 700 miles of fencing, thousands of border patrol agents and technology to secure our borders. It also put in place a guest worker program and other programs to incentivize legal labor while providing for a path to meaningful status in the US for those workers who are here legally.

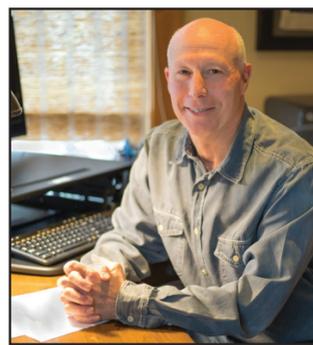
*What energy plan do you have and how will it affect the people of Wyoming?*

Simply put, we need to di-

versify our energy sources to ensure that Wyoming and the United States remain world leaders in the energy - and world - economy of today and tomorrow. This means continuing to responsibly develop our conventional fuel sources while putting funds into researching future technologies like carbon capture, sequestration, methane capping and other uses for coal such as carbon fiber and nanotechnologies. At the same time, the market is telling us that other energy sources are gaining traction into the future, so we need to develop other energy sources such as wind, solar and geothermal to ensure stable, safe and long-term jobs for Wyoming's youth into the future. These two goals are not mutually exclusive and will ensure that Wyoming's economy will be less susceptible to the boom and bust cycles of the past.

*So-called "dark money" and campaign finance reform have become prominent in recent election. What are your thoughts regarding both these issues?*

I am a strong supporter of campaign finance reform and I would work to remove the influence of money in politics, especially dark money. "Big money" skews our policies and laws, resulting in seniors paying more for their



Wyoming?

Education is primarily a state funding issue. Of course, this means the state will have to grapple with how it's tax system, which relies heavily on mineral extraction, will need to be stabilized. At the federal level, the government should ensure that it keeps secondary education affordable through Pell Grants for 4-year schools and Perkins Grants for community college and vocational schools. The other problem is our exploding student loan debt. The average college student graduates with \$37,000 of debt. This has risen exponentially over the past years while other consumer debt like mortgage, auto loans and home equity loans have remained flat. The federal government should pass laws to make sure students are not charged excessive interest, that they can refinance their loans when rates go down and they can discharge those loans in bankruptcy just like any other loan. In addition, in keeping with the Merrill Act of 1862 which provided for land grants to the States for land-grant universities/colleges, the federal government should pass legislation ensuring that all public universities and colleges provide an "affordable" education to students on a defined formula.

*What would be your plan to help fund public education in*

**Joseph Parambo (L)** 3269 Salt Creek Hwy, Casper, WY 82601 papajoe192@yahoo.com 307-253-0609

Mr. Parambo did not respond to repeated emails and calls.

**There are several worthy candidates and important issues in this election. The Saratoga Sun urges you to VOTE.**



# U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

One open seat • Two-year term • Four candidates

**Richard Brubaker(L)** 4530 W. Mountain View Dr. Riverton, WY 82501 brumister53@yahoo.com 307-851-9319

Mr. Brubaker did not respond to repeated emails.

**Liz Cheney (R)** P.O. Box 236, Wilson, WY 83014 liz@cheneyforwyoming.com 307-247-1414

Ms. Cheney failed to respond even after receiving multiple extensions.

**Daniel Clyde Cummings (C)** P.O. Box 1060, Casper, WY decmd@hotmail.com 307-247-1414

Mr. Cummings did not respond to repeated emails.

**Greg Hunter (D)** P.O. Box 1326, Laramie, WY 82073 greg@hunterforwyoming.com 307-760-8705

Democratic Greg Hunter is running for Wyoming's lone seat in the U.S. House of Representatives against Republican incumbent Liz Cheney. If elected, there are several issues that Hunter will have to face as the single representative for a state that, while small in population, is large in regards to size. One of those issues, and one that has been ongoing, is healthcare.



"Healthcare is a basic human right," said Hunter. "Many people of Wyoming continue to live in poverty, without fair wage, health insurance or adequate resources to achieve quality and stability of their lives. I support a Medicare for all system that will ensure that all Wyomingites, regardless of financial means, have access to quality care."

Hunter added that, in Wyoming, many citizens have to choose on a regular basis between medical visits and financial security.

"No parent should see their child needlessly suffer to satisfy the greed of the insurance companies. No person with a pre-existing condition should be forced out of coverage. With the best medical schools and doctors in the world and the highest GDP, the United States must follow the lead of every other major country in

the world and grant citizens the right to health care," Hunter said.

Immigration has also been, and continues to be, a hot topic issue. A recent study released by Headwaters Economics has shown that minority populations have kept small, rural towns afloat and helped revitalize their economies.

"The United States is a country of immigrants and Wyoming is no different. From Albert Einstein to Melania Trump, immigrants have and continue to play a profound role in shaping our national identity," Hunter said. "As Wyomingites we must stand up for our friends in the immigrant community and defend their basic human rights."

Hunter added that he would oppose "the President's cruel policies of separating families at the border, rejecting refu-

gees on the grounds of nationality, and the construction of a southern border wall."

Another issue that has been on ongoing topic of discussion is that of energy plans for both the State of Wyoming and the United States.

"Wyoming's current revenue structure can only be enhanced by diversification, acknowledgment of our resources and consideration of our lands," said Hunter. "Wyoming Energy is essential to all of us, whether it is our livelihood or our means of living a modern life in a frontier state. I will encourage conversations and represent data-driven, well-measured, stakeholder-considered decisions. I hope to help preserve and enhance the economy while carrying Wyoming toward innovation. Energy decisions are the core of our current economy." Hunter stated that, if elected, his goal would be to "streamline the federal, state, and local processes that guide delivery of energy to our customers."

He added that he believes the role of Congress in regards to energy production is to introduce and provide guidelines that both mitigate obstacles and minimize impact that would be achieved through choices guided by Wyoming stakeholders and data.

"As a congressman, I will help facilitate efficient transmission of our energy to customers across our state, the country and the globe: whether coal/oil/gas to a worldwide-customer base or wind energy to the grids that serve the nation. The delivery of coal resources is significantly different than delivery of electrical production, whether generated by wind, gas or coal-fired units. Each form of energy has environmental burdens. Science is real and not exclusionary of any sector of conservation or energy. Regulations should be based on data, not lobbyists or litigation," said Hunter.

So called "Dark Money" has become an issue in elections recently as it has become easier for corporations to fund candidates through various non-profits that do not have to disclose the names of their donors. This has led to calls for campaign finance reform on both the federal and state level.

"I strongly oppose the Citizens United ruling and will fight for campaign finance reform in Congress. Money does not equal speech and we must take action now to prevent the United States from becoming an oligarchy," Hunter said. "It's wrong that running for public office is often only

the luxury of the wealthy and well connected. One person should equal one vote and nothing else. I pledge to reject corporate PAC money and support amending the United States Constitution to limit the influence of big money in our elections."

Finally, education has been and continues to be another topic of discussion across multiple elections.

The State of Wyoming has recently made cuts to education funding and there have been moves on the federal level for preference for charter schools in place of public schools.

"Public schools saved me from a life of ignorance and based on my love of the outdoors, I always knew I would be in the science field. I trained as a geologist hoping to work in the oil industry and graduated with a B.S. in Geological Sciences in 1986 from Wright State University," said Hunter. "I wish to place value on public educators and our public education system with attention to salaries, the state university, trade programs for every-age, early childhood education, after-school programs and allowing those with student loans to re-negotiate interest fees as we transition and meet the needs of an ever-changing economy."

# The Power of the PENNY

## Fifth Penny ( OFFICIALLY KNOWN AS THE ONE PERCENT (1%) SALES AND USE TAX ) facts:

-  The Fifth Penny tax has generated up to \$6 million\* a year for Carbon County and its municipalities. \* based on a 41-year average.
-  Funds vital services for ALL Carbon County communities.
-  More than a third of this revenue is paid by VISITORS to Carbon County.
-  Local and state budget cuts make this revenue more important than ever.
-  Each municipality decides where its share is spent.
-  Aids in community development and maintaining jobs.
-  Helps pay for police, fire and ambulance services, 911 support, parks, senior centers, libraries, water and sewer systems and more.

- FUNDS SHARED BY THESE MUNICIPALITIES AND ENTITIES:**
- Carbon County
  - Baggs
  - Dixon
  - Elk Mountain
  - Encampment
  - Hanna
  - Medicine Bow
  - Rawlins
  - Riverside
  - Saratoga
  - Sinclair

Ad paid for by the Carbon County Council of Governments

Renewal of the One Percent (1%) Sales and Use Tax will be on the November 6, 2018 ballot.



# WYOMING GOVERNOR

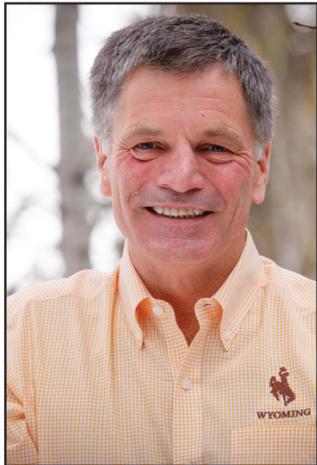
One open seat • Four-year term • Four candidates

**Mark Gordon (R)** 779 US HWY 16 East, Buffalo, WY 82834-0000 [mark@gordonforwyoming.com](mailto:mark@gordonforwyoming.com) 307-514-2341

*What do you feel can be done to boost tourism in Wyoming?*

Tourism has long been one of the greatest pillars of Wyoming's economy. Second only to energy in driving Wyoming's economy, tourism supports 32,000 jobs and generates approximately \$186 million in local and state tax revenues annually. Our opportunities to expand and develop Wyoming tourism are as boundless as the mountains, trails and rivers we have to explore. That's why I've put forth a policy plan to build out Wyoming's tourism and outdoor recreation economy. My proposal includes prioritizing Wyoming tourism and ensuring competitive funding; protecting access to public lands for sportsmen and anglers; building our tourism workforce and growing Wyoming's outdoor recreation economy. For more information on my plan to boost tourism across Wyoming, visit [www.gordonforwyoming.com/issues](http://www.gordonforwyoming.com/issues).

*Do you support Economically Needed Diversity Options for Wyoming (ENDOW)? Why or why not?*



There's no question it is important for Wyoming to look for ways to grow and diversify our economy. I support the intent and vision of the program, and appreciate many of the priorities set forth in the Economic Diversification Strategy including workforce development, promoting agriculture innovation and marketing, driving advanced energy technology, and addressing our infrastructure and healthcare needs. As Treasurer, I have a view born of experience that we can better

organize our overall economic development efforts to make them more efficient and productive. As Governor, I would look to work collaboratively with the ENDOW Executive Council and key staff to find ways to improve efficiencies, better clarify the role of state agencies and ensure the private sector is in the driver's seat.

*What would be your plan to attract and maintain quality educators to the state?*

Good teachers are invaluable. Think of the good teachers you had growing up and what a difference they made in your life. Wyoming's teachers are among some of the very best in the country. We need to pay them accordingly and ensure adequate benefits and security to retain – and also attract – this talent. As such, I support the right of education employees to participate in the process of collaboration to address salaries, benefits and working conditions.

I'd like to see us focus on Wyoming's strengths in recruiting new teachers: our low

tax burden and cost of living, our access to outdoor recreation and our western culture of self-reliance and 'live and let live' attitude. We should also consider identifying those who grew up in Wyoming but have moved away – and are now demographically ripe to be lured back. There may be many who fondly recall their formative years here and who would like their children to have the same access they did to all Wyoming has to offer.

*Do you see a way to increase education funding in Wyoming?*

First and foremost, I strongly support the fundamental right of every child to a quality education. Wyoming's most important resource is its next generation and we must do everything in our power to ensure that our children are prepared for the jobs of today and opportunities of tomorrow. No child is more or less deserving of a quality education than the next and I believe that we must go the extra mile to make sure that every child, raised in Cody or Laramie, Sundance or

Green River, receives an equally valuable education.

As Wyoming faces challenges in meeting our budget needs, the hard truth is, we are likely going to have to look at a variety of ways to do more with less. One specific thing we must do is look to how we can improve efficiencies and accountability among school districts while still maintaining local control. Having served on a school board, I understand firsthand the importance of maintaining local control as well as the opportunities and pitfalls. Local control necessarily requires distinct accountabilities from school boards to the voters and to the state as to how funds are deployed and how resources preform, but it is at the local level that the most appropriate decisions can and should be made. Wyoming has many school districts—some suggest too many—so we must ensure that the cost of administration does not impair the delivery of educational content. We can manage costs, better distribute funding, and ensure Wyoming kids get the best education possible.

**Rex "T-Rex" Rammell (C)** 450 Yellowstone Rd., Rock Springs, WY 82901 [rex@rexxammell.com](mailto:rex@rexxammell.com) 307-922-3639

*What do you feel can be done to boost tourism in Wyoming?*

Have a vibrant economy, which we do not have. I think the state is in bad shape from top to bottom. The Rich States Poor States 2018 report has Wyoming ranked 43rd in economic performance since 2006 with GDP growth ranked 46th. We are also ranked No. 50 in size of government per our population. In 2017 we lost jobs 8 out of 12 months. Our education spending per student is in the top ten yet our achievement scores are the worst of all the states that surround us. And the saddest ranking is our freedom index (regulations) where we rank near the bottom. The federal government controls 50 percent of our land mass and takes approximately

one billion in mineral royalties, lease bonuses and other natural resource fees. We also have the highest percentage of non resident hunters of any state. Wyoming is a mess! My solutions follow.

*Do you support Economically Needed Diversity Options for Wyoming (ENDOW)? Why or why not?*

No; it is not needed and a waste of money. The solution is much easier and has been right under our nose for many years; charter a state bank after the model of North Dakota. Instead of using our large investment portfolio of ~20 billion dollars to bank companies on Wall Street, we should keep that money in Wyoming and use it for low interest business



loans for start ups and existing business expansion. A 10 to 20 billion dollar infusion of capital

into Wyoming will, by itself, diversify the economy. There will be no need for the Wyoming Business Council or Endow, which is really government picking and choosing winners and losers. The business loans will be available to anyone with a legitimate proposal and will be administered through our current banking system. The main difference will be the state will back the loans instead of the feds. The lending criteria will be much more favorable and affordable. The entrepreneurs will then be in charge of the economy, instead of the government.

*What would be your plan to attract and maintain quality educators to the state?*

Have a system that works

like Utah's. It is clear more money is not the answer. Our ACT scores continue to drop and the new WY-TOPP proficiency test has only half of Wyoming students proficient. Utah spends less than half of what Wyoming spends and out performs Wyoming in nearly all categories. What does Utah have that Wyoming doesn't? School choice, including 150 charter schools. School choice provides competition and when competition is present quality goes up and price goes down. Please see [www.rexxammell.com](http://www.rexxammell.com) for more information.

*Do you see a way to increase education funding in Wyoming?* No; more money is not the answer. See the above answer.

**Lawrence Gerard Struempf (L)** P.O. Box 1632, Laramie, WY 82073 [lstruempf@gmail.com](mailto:lstruempf@gmail.com) 307-760-4052

*What do you feel can be done to boost tourism in Wyoming?*

Tourism is a major part of Wyoming's economy. It is important that we protect Wyoming's natural beauty and public lands, which are that main attraction to tourists. I will work hard to keep public lands in public hands and to protect our state's natural beauty and health.

*Do you support Economically Needed Diversity Options for Wyoming (ENDOW)? Why or why not?*

I support some aspects of ENDOW. I believe it is

critical that we invest in diversifying our economy. We need to create a Renewable Energy Portfolio to maximize our wind energy potential. I do not believe we should increase property tax or create an income tax, yet should ensure that we are maximizing the states revenues on our limited natural resources.

*What would be your plan to attract and maintain quality educators to the state?*

Education is the most important issue for the future of Wyoming and our children. Quality education leaders to



successful business people, engineers, doctors, and all other trades. It is critical that we protect our public education system and the educators who teach our children. I have been a college professor for over 15 years and have taught high school for two years. Many in the legislature are working to end continuing contract for public educators, requiring them to apply for their job every year. With no job stability, all of the quality educators will leave this profession, decimating the public education system. As

governor, I will veto any bill to end continuing contract for teachers.

*Do you see a way to increase education funding in Wyoming?*

Increasing state revenue and diversifying the economy is critical to increasing education funds in Wyoming. My education and experience will help me identify avenues for economic growth and methods to attract industry businesses to Wyoming. Wind power is one such industry. Through growing the economy, the state budget will grow.

**Mary A. Throne (D)** P.O. Box 1992, Cheyenne, WY 82001 [info@maryforwyoming.com](mailto:info@maryforwyoming.com) 307-274-6224

*What do you feel can be done to boost tourism in Wyoming?*

The Wyoming Lodging and Restaurant Association has been working with the legislature to propose an equitable and competitive tax that could be used to promote tourism in Wyoming. I look forward to their proposals. Since Wyoming spends much less marketing it's tourism than neighboring states, even though Wyoming arguably has more

to offer, we need to do more to promote all the attractions across the state.

Tourism (international and domestic) continues to grow every year, and I consider it a worthwhile investment. America has a \$77 billion trade surplus in the tourism industry and Wyoming will be in a good position to receive its share of that surplus if we can effectively market our state's natural wonders and out-

door recreation opportunities.

*Do you support Economically Needed Diversity Options for Wyoming (ENDOW)? Why or why not?*

ENDOW outlines critical idea towards building the economy of the future in Wyoming. I have often said we need ENDOW now and elected leaders cannot outsource their responsibilities to a panel. In other words, it will take

leadership that I am willing to provide as Governor to evaluate and implement ENDOW's best recommendations. I agree with the report's recommendations to invest in K-12 and higher education and technical training, to reform our tax structure so that we can build a foundation for our new economy and to capitalize on growing entrepreneurial spirit in Wyoming. These are things I've been advocating for years.

The ENGAGE recommendations provided by the young leaders we want to keep and attract in Wyoming are also valuable. There are aspects of ENDOW that I disagree with, such as the suggestion to add another cabinet position to the governor's office. There are also gaps in specifics to support communities facing severe economic impacts and smaller

*Continued on next page*

**2018 GENERAL ELECTION**

**Mary A. Throne ...** continued from previous page

economic development efforts.

*What would be your plan to attract and maintain quality educators to the state?*

We know how to attract educators to the state and have a system in place to keep Wyoming teacher salaries competitive. We just need to follow it, but we are losing some of the competitive edge we have enjoyed in the past because our salaries have not kept pace with inflation. To attract educators to Wyoming, we need to properly fund our education system. There are open teaching positions in the state with limited applicants, because we are not following our system. We need to make sure that our higher education salaries at the University and community colleges also remain competitive. We need nurses in Wyoming, for example, but if we cannot adequately compensate nursing instructors, we must turn away applicants. We also need to support educators and treat them with the respect they deserve. The rhetoric from



many state senators attacking educators when the price of oil dropped has been demoralizing and also has made it difficult to retain teachers.

*Do you see a way to increase education funding in Wyoming?*

Our education system from Pre-K to post-secondary is key to ending the boom-and-bust cycle and to enriching our communities. I support full funding for education because I believe it's a good investment and the right thing to do. A strong public education

system is needed to attract business and young families to our state and to train the next generation of workers. Our state will be much better off if we invest in populating it with able, intelligent and self-reliant young people.

In short, I would use reserves and increased oil royalties in the short term to fund education. For the longer term, we can divert flows from the Permanent Mineral Trust Fund to reimburse school accounts for future income and also develop a fair, equitable and competitive tax structure to fund education and other needs moving forward. This plan does not include an income tax.

Wyoming has the lowest commercial and industrial property taxes in the nation, and our taxes are the 44th lowest in the nation. If we diversify the economy and bring in new businesses with families, under our current tax structure, the businesses will not generate enough revenue to fund employee children's education.

# WYOMING SECRETARY OF STATE

**One open seat • Four-year term  
Three candidates**

**Edward Buchanan (R)**

P.O. Box 4041, Cheyenne, WY 82003 [edwardbuchanan@wyoming.com](mailto:edwardbuchanan@wyoming.com) 307-575-2251

Edward "Ed" Buchanan ran unopposed during the 2018 Primary Election to retain the seat he was appointed to on March 1, 2018 as the Republican candidate. Now, Buchanan faces Democratic candidate James W. Byrd. If elected to his appointed position, Buchanan will be dealing with election issues such as voter apathy and low voter turnout as well as voter crossover during primary elections.



"Because the lowest voter turnouts are primarily attributable to the 18-24 year old demographic, my office has started the Youth Voter Initiative to educate and encourage younger people to educate themselves on the issues of the day and to understand the voting process," said Buchanan.

Buchanan added that, as Secretary of State, he would like to see more than just increased voter turnout.

"We also want educated voters that have examined the issues with fact-based reasoning," Buchanan said.

During the primary election in August, a significant crossover of voters was seen as many people who were previously unaffiliated or had been registered as Democrats changed their registration to Republican. Preliminary data provided by the Secretary of

State's office following the election showed a surge in Republican voters of just over 3,000. Other estimates have put the number of crossover voters much higher.

"As of this writing," said Buchanan, "I don't have the final numbers but am fairly confident that the numbers of crossover voters are much higher ... although we don't know if there were enough to affect the primary."

Buchanan believes the current system in place allows for gamesmanship by the parties and, due to the number of registered Republican compared to other parties, it is "primarily a one-way street."

"This results in one party liking the current system and the other not liking it. Some see

this as simply voters having greater choice in the primary, while others see it as election meddling," Buchanan said.

Following the primary election, and the evident party crossover, there have been mixed reviews of the voting system in place in Wyoming with some calling for open primaries while others would prefer to see more closed primaries. Buchanan stated that, as a candidate for Secretary of State, he would like to see a system "where people that are registered with a particular party vote only in that party's primary."

Buchanan provided a hypothetical system in which voters decided their party affiliation in June, which would coincide with candidate filing, and would remain affiliated with that party until Dec. 31 or the following June. After that, they could then choose to remain with their party or switch affiliation.

"To me, this eliminates the potential gamesmanship and helps quell the growing skepticism about the primary election," Buchanan said. "An open primary is another concept that could work, although I would prefer to try the foregoing proposal first and go from there."

**James W. Byrd (D)**

2511 Snyder Ave., Cheyenne, WY 82001 [james@jameswbyrd4wysos.com](mailto:james@jameswbyrd4wysos.com) 307-514-1214

**Kit Carson III (L)**

P.O. Box 305, Cheyenne, WY 82003 [g.w.cloud@mail.com](mailto:g.w.cloud@mail.com) 307-275-3122

Howard "Kit" Carson III is running as the Libertarian candidate for Wyoming Secretary of State, again. Carson ran for the position in 2014, but was defeated

by Republican Ed Murray. For his qualifications for the position, Carson touts having done business with the Secretary of State's Office as a paralegal, being a tax

consultant and international businessman and a former realtor. He also served for a time as the Treasurer for the

*Continued on next page*

**Write in**  
*Kassey Westring*  
**for AREA 3**

**CARBON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO 2 TRUSTEE AREA 3**  
FOUR (4) YEAR TERM  
VOTE FOR ONE (1)

**Kassey Westring**  
WRITE IN Ad paid for by Kassey Westring

**VOTE** *Lee Ann Stephenson*  
**for**  
**State Senate District #11**  
Working for YOU  
to make a difference  
for Wyoming families.  
[www.LeeAnnForWYOSenate.com](http://www.LeeAnnForWYOSenate.com)  
Paid for Lee Ann for State Senate #11



*Vote*  
**TRAVIS MOORE**  
★★★ COUNTY COMMISSIONER ★★★



4th generation Carbon County • UW Graduate  
Former wildland firefighter • Educator & administrator  
Eager to listen • Seasoned leader & collaborator  
Transparent • Strategic planner • Forward thinker  
**A voice for the future of Carbon County**

*Vote your conscience,  
Vote your opinion ...*  
**JUST VOTE**

**SUPPORT FOR LEE ANN STEPHENSON**

"The face of the Wyoming Legislature has been changing over the past few years following the national trend of divided partisan politics. Wyoming is too small for divisive, single issue, partisan politicians. We need leaders who will come to the middle and address the important issues that affect all Wyoming residents—education, fiscal management, natural resources/water issues, local government funding, to name just a few. Lee Ann Stephenson is that leader.

She is in touch with the people and will work for all of Wyoming.

I am supporting Lee Ann Stephenson for Senate District 11. She will be a voice for the masses!"  
*-Sue Jones, Carbon County Commissioner*

For more information: [LeeAnnForWYOSenate.com](http://LeeAnnForWYOSenate.com)  
-paid for by Lee Ann Stephenson campaign-

**CARBON COUNTY WYOMING**

**LODGING TAX** 

**TWO PERCENT LODGING TAX**

The Carbon County Lodging Tax is paid by overnight guests at Carbon County lodging establishments. The tax is used for marketing to promote events, tourism and the hospitality industry in Carbon County. The local lodging tax board, Carbon County Visitors' Council, funds over 50 local events and funds 6 visitor services locations in our county. The 2% Local Lodging Tax will be on the ballot for re-authorization November 6th.

**The tax you typically don't pay ... but benefit from**



## Kit Carson III ... continued from previous page

Libertarian Party. For Carson, a major issue is that of hacking of electronic voting machines, which he states he would terminate if elected. Another issue is that of Wyoming's deficit. "I will ... work with SLIB board to create our own W-cryptocurrency exchange that will generate so much money, it will wipe out our \$900 million deficit," said Carson.

# STATE AUDITOR

One open seat • Four-year term • Two candidates

**Jeff Dockter (D)** 7266 Telluride Dr., Cheyenne, WY 82009 info@dockterforauditor.com 307-316-5008

The seat of Wyoming State Auditor is up for grabs this election cycle and Jeff Dockter is the Democratic candidate in pursuit of the position. Dockter, who originally grew up in Circle, MT, earned his Masters in Public Administration in 2008 from the University of Wyoming and is a certified project manager. The candidate believes that this experience will be beneficial in improving Wyoming's transparency when it comes to its finances.

"It's unfortunate that, right now, Wyoming earns an "F" in transparency," said Dockter. "However, an experienced technological innovator can raise that grade--that's where my 15 years of state work experience comes into play."

Dockter stated that he believes partisanship has had

its role to play in the lack of financial transparency in Wyoming, pointing to the fact that the office of the State Auditor has been in Republican hands for 72 years.

"A long line of partisan auditors have had every opportunity to make some version, any version, of Wyoming's checkbook available to citizens. They simply chose not to do it," Dockter said. "I will."

Dockter added that his primary goal as candidate for State Auditor is to put Wyoming's checkbook online "in the quickest possible manner and at the lowest possible cost to taxpayers."

"My solution is a low cost easily achievable plan to move Wyoming off that "F" rating in transparency," said Dockter.

"My plan moves Wyoming forward at little to no cost

to the taxpayer while at the same time informing citizens. That's a win for everyone. I will also include new budget details in future releases, explained in ways that citizens can better understand State expenditures."

Dockter also stated he believed voters deserve to know where government is spending taxpayer money and whether or not it is being spent in accordance with Legislative intent.

"I am committed to developing a process that ties expenditures back to the original appropriation so citizens can make their own determination if expended funds actually improved outcomes for Wyoming citizens," Dockter said.

In addition, Dockter stated that, as a voting member of



nesses, bring in tourists, and promote a healthy economy," said Dockter.

The candidate for State Auditor also highlighted the importance of technical innovation to Wyoming as the state continues to move forward.

"I believe our state leaders need to recognize that continued technical innovation is key to responding to future budget challenges," Dockter said. "Many decisions today are made without a clear understanding of what the hard data is telling us. Without innovation, leaders will continue to make poor decisions based on gut feelings or intuition. Wyoming's farmers, ranchers, miners and other businesses do not operate in such a manner; state government should not either."

the Wyoming State Lands and Investment Board, he would give affirmative votes on any projects that would improve the "antiquated infrastructure" of communities throughout the state.

"I know it is hard to complete new infrastructure projects that attract new busi-

**Kristi Racines (R)** PO Box 1644, Cheyenne, WY 82003 vote@kristiracines.com 307-851-1437

Kristi Racines is running as the Republican candidate for Wyoming State Auditor following her victory in the primaries over fellow Republican candidate Nathan Winters by nearly 20,000 votes. If elected, one of the biggest challenges facing Racine as State Auditor would be improving Wyoming's financial transparency. The Cowboy State received an "F" in financial transparency from the Center of Public Integrity in Washington D.C.



"The State Auditor is the cornerstone of financial reporting for the state and is the official custodian of expenditure information, basically, all

payments made by the state. This data is not currently available to citizens in an easily accessible format," said Racines. "As Auditor, I would

ensure that state expenditure data is available - this is the most basic and best tool to ensure wise spending of our limited resources. Wyoming citizens and lawmakers must have accurate and reliable financial information in order to make good decisions and hold government accountable - this is non-negotiable."

Racines added that, as a Certified Public Accountant and a financial professional, she believes that entities of any size, whether a small business or the State of Wyoming, should have its "fiscal house in order to operate effectively."

"In our current system, state

expenditure data that can and should be made public is intermingled with information that is private by law. For example, private health information," Racines said. "In my current position as Chief Fiscal Officer of the state's judicial branch, I am familiar with the current accounting system and the state's expenditure processes."

The Republican candidate believes that this experience puts her in the best position to "correct this issue while ensuring protected data of individual citizens is not compromised. She added that she would work with the Wyoming Legislature to find a software

solution that would allow the State to publish data that is both timely and understandable.

"Making data available is only half the battle," said Racines, "it must be in a format that citizens can interpret and understand, not just spreadsheets with millions of lines of data and coding. Lastly, it is important to remember that transparency is a multifaceted issue and deals with more than just expenditures."

Racines added that the State must make sure that all revenue streams, budgets and contract processes are clear to the citizens of Wyoming.

Exercise your right to vote! **Vote Nov. 6!**

# STATE TREASURER

One open seat • Four-year term • Two candidates

**Chris Lowry (D)** 503 Shields St. Laramie, WY 82072 lowry4wyoming@gmail.com 307-399-5905

I think my background as a chemist has given me the analytical skills to properly assess value and risk to make sure our investments can bring high returns. I would also listen to people that know more about different sectors than I do. The next

state treasurer will need to work with people to make sure the office continues to perform as well as it has over the last few years. There are some areas where management costs can be reduced, and I would look for other ways to increase returns for

the people of Wyoming.

I don't think that severance tax is charged for businesses leaving the state and I wouldn't support that kind of tax. I wouldn't support an increase in the severance tax on minerals leaving the state, either. I don't think that

kind of tax helps Wyoming because it keeps our budget tied to the price of commodities that are volatile. I think finding more stable means of funding our schools is the responsible thing to do for our future generations.



**Curt Meier (R)** 4721 Road 18, La Grange, WY 82221 meier4me@gmail.com 307-220-7782

*How can you help Wyoming increase its return on investments?*

I will put my experience of over 36 years in business and investment to work for you. That experience included 10 years as a liaison on the state's retirement system - a multi-billion dollar public fund.

Each percent increase in return of the state's total funds results in a gain of approxi-

mately \$200 million. Returns in Wyoming have shouldered a substantial tax burden, but can do more. If we just move our returns up to the average of our peers, the deficit will all but be eliminated. We will strive to focus on non-correlative investment alternatives to the stock market and analyze our risk in equities in adjusting the asset allocation for higher returns. Increasing our spending policy reserve

amount to smooth out the fluctuations and provide for inflation proofing will be necessary.

*Do you support higher severance taxes for business leaving the state?*

I believe in free enterprise for businesses. Our citizens have the right to do what is best for them without government getting in their way.

I am going to strive to make



sure that the business climate in the state is conducive to our businesses remaining in the state. Keeping an open line of communication between government and business will help foster an understanding of circumstances which may cause a business to leave the state, and reveal when government may intervene and avert that departure.



# 2018 GENERAL ELECTION

## STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

One open seat • Four-year term • One candidate

**Jillian Balow (R)** 2501 Sweetwater Trail, Cheyenne, WY 82009 jillian4supt2018@gmail.com 307-421-4421

Ms. Balow did not respond to multiple emails.

## STATE SENATOR—DISRICT 11

One open seat • Four-year term • Two candidates

**Larry Hicks (R)** PO Box 413, Baggs, WY 82321 lhickshunts@yahoo.com 307-383-7192

Larry Hicks is the incumbent Senator for Senate District 11, having served since winning in the 2010 general election. Hicks currently serves as chairman of the Senate Agriculture, State and Public Lands & Water Resources committee and serves on several other committees including the Senate Judiciary, Select Water Committee and the Select Federal Natural Resource Management Committee.

An issue not only affecting Senate District 11, but all of the state is that of the proposed closure of "dead pits" at municipal solid waste landfills per the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Hicks stated that he does not support the closure of dead pits and has fought against it in the legislature.

"The pits should not be

closed until a reasonable and cost-effective alternative can be found. I have worked extensively on this issue for the last year and have challenged DEQ closure requirements," said Hicks. "I plan to bring legislation this year to stop DEQ from requiring closure if existing groundwater monitoring demonstrates no contaminate from the dead animal pits."

Another issue facing all of the State of Wyoming are continued cuts to education. Following the 2018 General Session, Governor Matt Mead signed HB140 which lead to cuts of \$27 million during the two year budget cycle. Hicks suggests attempting to gain access to the thousands of acres of school trust lands in Wyoming.

"I have spearheaded the effort in Wyoming to increase school funding by gaining ac-

cess to over 106,000 acres of school trust lands in the state that are landlocked in federal lands with land use restriction that deny the state's ability to maximize revenue generation to fund our public schools," Hicks said.

As for the retention of teachers within the state of Wyoming, Hicks favors a local approach instead of a top down approach.

"Highly qualified and skilled teachers are our most valuable asset and foundation of our K-12 education system. State-wide teacher retention varies greatly between districts," said Hicks. "As someone who has always advocated for local control of our public schools, I think the solution to this problem must be solved at the local level."

Hicks added that he doesn't believe that people would

want a one-size fits all solution from either the Wyoming Department of Education or the Wyoming Legislature in regards to teacher retention.

The issue of Medicaid expansion has been one that has been prevalent during the election cycle, having been asked of the gubernatorial candidates during a recent debate. According to information from [www.healthinsurance.org](http://www.healthinsurance.org), it is estimated that nearly 6,000 people within the state of Wyoming have "no realistic access to health insurance without medicaid expansion." Hicks is staunchly opposed to any expansion.

"I have not in the past nor will I support the expansion of Medicaid in the future. Currently unemployment is at a 50-year low and the economy is starting to vastly improve. The answer to individual

health care choices is providing people with an education and opportunity for a good job and let them choose their health care instead of some government bureaucrat," stated Hicks. "I do not support government run socialized health care. I have yet to see large hoards of people trying to get into a VA hospital.

Access to health care in rural areas is extremely challenging and will likely continue. That being said I have supported and will continue to support the use and expansion of rural health care districts."

With tourism being the second largest revenue producer in the state, behind the energy industry, Hicks believes that a way to boost tourism in Wyoming is a two-fold approach that focuses on local input

*Continued on next page*

# Let's take the mystery and uncertainty out of your property taxes.

My name is Renee Snider and I am running for Carbon County Assessor. I have been employed as Deputy Assessor for 4 years. I am the ONLY candidate employed by the Carbon County Assessor's office. Since the assessor announced her retirement, I have been working one on one with the assessor learning the specific duties, responsibilities, and procedures of the assessor position. I am the ONLY candidate who has trained alongside the assessor at her desk in preparation for the smoothest transition possible.

However I have my own ideas on how to handle the tasks associated with the assessor position. I also have my own ideas on how to govern employees in the office and will have helpful and courteous people on the phones and available for the people who come into the office.

As I stated earlier in my campaign, my main goal will be to keep the taxes as low as the Department of Revenue will allow and to work with the public in a professional and courteous manner to resolve individual issues.

In closing, I would like to say again that the Carbon County Assessor is retiring. I am ready to take over with my own way of doing things and I have not, and will not, walk out when things get tough. I am a leader and if elected, I am ready to be Carbon County Assessor.



AD PAID FOR BY GARY SNIDER

# VOTE RENEE SNIDER CARBON COUNTY ASSESSOR AND LET'S 'DO IT RIGHT' FOR THE PEOPLE OF CARBON COUNTY



2018 GENERAL ELECTION

STATE SENATOR DIST. 11 ... CONTINUED

Larry Hicks ... continued from previous page

while also "adding value to our natural resources."

"Wyoming Department of Tourism does a good job in this area but more local input is needed in this effort and I support more dollars from

the Wyoming Department of Tourism going to local development," Hicks said. "More importantly is adding value to our natural resources. I have supported numerous efforts in Wyoming and Carbon

County to add value to our natural resources."

In regards to a state lodging tax, Hicks stated that he supports a local option, like the two-percent lodging tax in Carbon County, but added

that the bulk of the tax is paid by visitors to Wyoming despite residents paying the tax when they travel to another town, often a larger city.

"I have yet to hear anyone

from Cheyenne saying they were going to Saratoga to spend the night in a motel so they could do some shopping the next day," said Hicks.

Lee Ann Stephenson (D) P.O. Box 7, Riverside, WY 82325

springergrma@gmail.com 307-634-9426

Riverside resident Lee Ann Stephenson is running as the Democratic challenger in Senate District 11, which is currently held by Republican incumbent Larry Hicks. Stephenson did not face a challenger during the primary election on Aug. 21 and was able to advance to the general election uncontested. Multiple issues face the Wyoming Legislature, from the possible closure of dead pits at municipal solid waste landfills to education, healthcare and tourism.

The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has proposed the closure of dead pits, areas of landfills where complete animal corpses are disposed of by hunters, meat processors, the Wyoming Department of Transportation and Wyoming Game and Fish. Two current alternatives to the closure of these pits are composting of the remains or incineration.

"The dead pits should not be closed," said Stephenson. "Though composting animals is promising for those not testing positive for CWD,

incineration would be my preferred method of disposal."

One of the current challenges facing the state of Wyoming is continued funding of education along with the retention of teachers. Recently, the State approved cuts to the education system that left it underfunded.

"Some promising financial solutions were put forth by the House last session, particularly by Rep. Harshman and Rep. Paxton," Stephenson said. "I look forward to working on funding solutions with them and other members of the legislature."

During the 2017 General Session, Harshman sponsored and Paxton co-sponsored multiple pieces of legislation in regards to education. This included forming a committee on education funding, which died in the Senate committee, reducing tuition for out-of-state students attending University of Wyoming, which failed on third reading, and expanding the Hathaway scholarship, which failed in the Senate.

"I don't support further

cuts to educational funding as I feel we are already cut to the bone. I'm happy there was no discussion of closing more schools in our area, as a school closing is devastating to a community," said Stephenson. "I do not support increasing class size as a way to save money. Our valuable teachers need to know they are listened to and supported. As a senator, I would like to include teachers in the many discussions concerning current and future needs of our schools. Our children are our treasure and it is our obligation to prepare them to work and compete on a global scale."

On the subject of Medicaid expansion, Stephenson said she would support an effort for expansion in Wyoming. According to date from [www.healthinsurance.org](http://www.healthinsurance.org), the state is effectively losing \$1.3 billion over the next ten years by not expanding Medicaid and has 6,000 people in the state who are without any real expectation of healthcare without the expansion.

"Medicaid expansion was



supported not only by our hospital and physicians' associations in Wyoming, but it was also supported by the majority of Wyoming people. I feel my main responsibility is to represent the direction of my constituents. I would also be supportive of new technologies to bring health care to our rural areas," Stephenson said.

In Wyoming, while the energy industry is considered the top revenue producer for the state, tourism has been called the second largest source of revenue for the state. Having spent the last

several years running Lazy Acres R.V. Park in Riverside with her husband, Stephenson has been directly involved in the tourism industry.

"I am in the tourist industry and have benefited directly from the wonderful outreach of the Wyoming Travel and Tourism office including our local visitor's council. We have watched our business grow each season with new and returning guests from both out of country and across the USA," said Stephenson. "One of the main comments I receive from visitors is they are enthralled with the access to public lands and wilderness areas. One leg of a successful tourist industry is keeping our public lands in public hands. One of our additional biggest assets is our museums. I support our visitors council to continue to provide a basic funding grant for their operations."

Stephenson added that, while she supported the local two percent lodging tax, she did not support any increase on the state lodging tax.

# POLLING LOCATIONS

<p><b>ELK MOUNTAIN</b> 09-01 • Senior Center (Bridge &amp; Spruce Streets)</p>	<p><b>HANNA</b> 06-01 &amp; 08-01 • Town Hall (301 Adams St.)</p>	<p><b>SARATOGA</b> 11-01 &amp; 11-02 • Platte Valley Community Center (210 West Elm)</p>
<p><b>ENCAMPMENT/RIVERSIDE</b> 12-01 &amp; 13-01 • Opera House (622 Rankin)</p>	<p><b>MEDICINE BOW</b> 07-01 • Senior Center (520 Utah St.)</p>	<p><b>POLLS OPEN AT 7 a.m.</b> <b>POLLS CLOSE AT 7 p.m.</b></p>

STATE REPRESENTATIVE—DISTRICT 47

One open seat • Two-year term • One candidate

Jerry Paxton (R) P.O. Box 692, Encampment, WY 82325 jpaxton@union-tel.com 307-327-5373

Jerry Paxton is running unopposed as a Republican for re-election as District 47 Representative. Paxton, who lives in Encampment, has served in the Wyoming Legislature since 2013 and currently serves as chairman of the Select Natural Resource Funding Committee and serves on the House Education and House Revenue committees.

An issue being faced throughout the state is that of the proposed closure of "dead pits" in municipal solid waste landfills, something that has been an issue for local landfill districts.

"Dead pits are extremely important in our Valley," said Paxton, "especially in the fall when wild game processing is



at its peak. I am willing to work with local solid waste districts to find solutions to help keep the pits open."

Another issue that has been troubling the state has been problems with school funding

and the retention of qualified teachers within the state. As he is currently serving on the House Education committee, this is something that Paxton has been working on within the Legislature.

"As a member of the Joint Education Committee I am well aware of the need to recruit and retain good teachers in order to maintain the high standards we have set for the state," Paxton said. "At our last meeting we moved proposed legislation forward to provide for an external cost adjustment to help compensate for inflation. We also addressed the issue of regional cost adjustments for areas of the state that have an extremely high cost of living."

The incumbent Representative added that K-12 education accounts for nearly half of the total state budget and, due to that, provides a challenge in maintaining sufficient funding during economic downturns.

"Until we get past the current bust cycle in the mineral extraction industry it is going to be difficult to find enough revenue to meet the budgetary challenges unless or until the citizens of Wyoming are willing to support a tax increase," said Paxton.

In regards to tourism, which is considered to be the second largest revenue producer for the state behind the energy industry, Paxton feels that any improvements to current advertising may be difficult

due to recent budget cuts.

"It appears to me that unless we can find a new source of revenue it will be very difficult to improve on the current advertising scheme," Paxton said.

Last year, a proposed piece of legislation would have increased the Wyoming's state lodging tax. That bill ultimately failed, but Paxton stated that it appears that there does seem to be interest in such a proposal this year.

"The proposed tax that seems to be getting some traction is for a lodging tax only and would not include food and beverage," said Paxton. "Given the current economic situation I believe this is the best option to give the tourism industry the boost it needs."



## DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

### 'Yes' or 'No' retention questions

**Dawnessa Snider** 415 W. Pine St., Rawlins, WY 82301 *email not provided* 307-328-2683

Ms. Snider will be up for a 6-year term renewal to the District Court of the Second District.

**Tori R.A. Kricken** P.O. Box 1106, Laramie WY, 82301 *email not provided* 307-745-3337

Ms. Kricken will be up for a 6-year term renewal to the District Court of the Second District.

**Robert A. Castor** 525 Grand Ave., Room 400, Laramie, WY 82070 *email not provided* 307-742-5747

Mr. Castor will be up for a 4-year term renewal to the Circuit Court.

## CARBON COUNTY COMMISIONER

### Two open seats • Four-year term • Two candidates

**W. John Johnson (R)** P.O. Box 28, Elk Mountain, WY 82324 johnsonranch@carbonpower.net 307-379-2526

*As more and more wind energy companies move into Carbon County, what can you do as commissioner to ensure that residents will benefit from this proposed energy boom?*

This industry is almost racing to come into the county; I've testified four times now in front of the Industrial Siting Council to justify impact assistance requests. This will only cover a small portion of the impacts felt during construction but we do have a plan in place for the over run of workers expected. We encourage them to use local workers where they

can and, of course, shop local. We will stay on task and look for every way possible for this industry to be of benefit to the county.

*Carbon County has experienced a budget crunch over the last several years, what suggestions will you bring to help the county loosen it's financial belt?*

I'm very conservative when it comes to spending taxpayer dollars so; when we get to the point of having an excess of revenues and our enterprise funds have a chance to rebuild a bit then and only then will I look at where to loosen the fi-



financial restraints. I am a firm believer that an effective government is small and efficient.

*The Carbon County Visitors Council recently announced that tourism generated \$9 million in taxes for the county. What can be done to increase that amount and the amount of tourists coming through our county?*

The Visitors Council is doing a tremendous job now. What we can do is support them in what ever way we can, within our means; they are a good team.

*The energy booms of the oil and gas industry as well as the incoming wind energy has led to a rise in rental and housing costs. What steps would you take, if any, to provide affordable housing for county residents?*

We really aren't in the housing business and most of the housing would be developed within the various municipalities. Given that, we can encourage developers to look at coming into the area to find possible solutions to the housing issue.

**R. Travis Moore (R)** 1918 Dunphail Street, Rawlins, WY 82301 rtmoore88@gmail.com 307-321-1817

*As more and more wind energy companies move into Carbon County, what can you do as commissioner to ensure that residents will benefit from this proposed energy boom?*

I would propose a communications plan to contact all related people, companies and service providers to meet the need of the projects before each phase of the project reaches fruition. Collaboration and the sharing of key information will help to meet labor needs now and in the future. It would also allow local agencies to assist with training needs for potential local employees in the short and long term. There must also be consideration given to other service providers to prepare for possible impacts in hospitality, housing, rec-

reation, emergency response personnel, etc. Maximizing local benefit will come through collaboration, communication and a strong commitment to the projects and those directly involved.

*Carbon County has experienced a budget crunch over the last several years, what suggestions will you bring to help the county loosen it's financial belt?*

A plan to 'loosen the financial belt' is only possible with long range budgetary planning in addition to efforts to attract businesses to add diversity for the local economy. These efforts must be priorities within strategic planning for the short and long term. We must also look for ways to be more efficient without compromising

existing services. Revenue streams for the county are limited, so we must find ways to expand them before we can realistically plan to loosen our financial belt.

*The Carbon County Visitors Council recently announced that tourism generated \$9 million in taxes for the county. What can be done to increase that amount and the amount of tourists coming through our county?*

There are joint efforts already at work to enhance marketing and communication/collaboration for this very purpose. The commissioners will play a role in the overall plan as collaborators and supporters of the existing efforts. The more people that are involved in selling what our county has to offer, the



more the messaging will be heard and heeded for first time and returning visitors. Like with all other issues, we are in this together.

*The energy booms of the*

*oil and gas industry as well as the incoming wind energy has led to a rise in rental and housing costs. What steps would you take, if any, to provide affordable housing for county residents?*

Carbon County is a wonderful place and, as it stands, the county government is not a key player in real estate or price setting for that endeavor. As a long-time resident I have seen property values swing up and down and felt the pinch in my personal budget. I understand the concern, but also know that the role the Carbon County Commission would play would be very limited in scope outside of gathering information and referring concerned individuals to those who actually have a role in price setting in the local market.

### One open seat • Two-year unexpired term • Two candidates

**Don Quin (D)** 419 6th Street, Rawlins, WY 82301 cuinfamily@bresnan.net 307-320-3295

Mr. Quin did not reply to repeated emails.

**Byron Barkhurst (R)** HC 63 Box 12, Saratoga, WY 82331 rmheatingsolutions@hotmail.com 307-327-5063

Following the retirement of former Carbon County Commissioner Lindy Glode, a two-year unexpired term has come up for grabs during the 2018 midterm elections. Byron Barkhurst, who resides in the Platte Valley, beat out candidates Terry Weickum and Duane Stolns in the primary election to become the Republican candidate for the general election.

Of the many issues currently facing the Board of Carbon County Commissioners (BOCCC), one is the increased presence of wind energy companies as they move into the county, especially around Medicine Bow. Barkhurst outlined how he would like to see

county residents benefit from this potential energy boom.

"I will work with interrelated agencies to see the Impact Assistance Funds continue to be used appropriately and efficiently," said Barkhurst. "These funds will aid in providing critical service needs for first responders and law enforcement."

Barkhurst added that he felt it was important that municipalities within Carbon County retain the One Percent Sales and Use Tax (5th Penny Tax) and the Specific Purpose Tax (6th Penny Tax) while the county was experiencing increased funding from the wind energy projects.

"By doing so, we will be



afforded the opportunity to maximize sales and use tax funds for the county that will allow the funds to further be used for critical expenses

that are related to the health and safety of our citizens," Barkhurst said.

Another issue facing the BOCCC is a budget that has had to be cut year after year. If elected, this will be an issue that Barkhurst will have to face as well.

"One of the things that I would like to see is that we continue to spend as though we are in a budget crunch, with the exception of the critical needs of the county," said Barkhurst. "It is important to thoroughly examine future spending with respect to needs and wants. I give the current commissioners great credit for getting the county through that difficult era. It

is a common occurrence in Carbon County to experience the boom and bust cycles and I believe we should continue to be stewards over those funds."

The candidate for the two-year unexpired term added that he believed one place to look in regards to the county's budget problems is the accuracy of property assessments within the county.

"From what I have been able to learn so far," Barkhurst said, "and from what I have had shared with me by members of the public, it appears to me that there might be a few places that we can improve when it comes to the

*Continued on next page*



# CARBON COUNTY COMMISIONER ... CONTINUED

## Byron Barkhurst ... continued from previous page

accuracy of property assessments. There would likely be some that would benefit from improving this accuracy of property assessments and yet others that might not."

Barkhurst added, "If major shortfalls of assessed value taxes are not making it to the county because of the enormous task that it is with only one field deputy, it might be reasonable to explore creating another position of Field Deputy to help combat any accidental errors or omissions, as well as increasing accuracy."

On the subject of revenue, the Carbon County Visitors Council recently announced

that tourism generated \$9 million in taxes for the county. Barkhurst believes that when numbers are announced next year, they will be even higher.

"I think when the numbers finally come in, we will find that the summer 2018 tourism numbers will be much higher than the previous year. Increasing the amount of tourism for our county is happening quite naturally I believe. There are county funds being implemented by the CCVC by way of advertising in multiple medias," said Barkhurst. "When people visit here, they experience the great views and the great

people, and they go home and tell their friends. For most, traveling around the country is a luxury, and when the economy improves, tourism improves. The best thing we can do is to continue to protect the industries and values that draw people to Carbon County, while being open minded to the change that will bring meaningful improvements."

The booms of the oil and gas industry along with wind energy coming into Carbon County seems to have led to rising rental and housing costs which has pushed a conversation about affordable housing. Barkhurst has some

ideas on how to approach this problem.

"Being a Real Estate broker and having owned multiple multi-family properties in the past, I can say that the rental market here is very cyclical and is driven by supply and demand. I would consider appropriate methods of providing developer exemptions that would encourage the building of larger multi-family residences in the county," Barkhurst said.

One of the methods that the candidate has considered is a property tax exemption that would last between eight and 10 years. To qualify for the exemption, developers

would have a list of requirements that they would have to follow.

"The exemption would have a list of requirements such as area of construction, affordability and continued compliance with the exemption terms," said Barkhurst. "After the exemption period, the property would enter full property taxation as new construction. I believe much of what is needed for this approach would ultimately require a concerted effort by the county and the municipalities and their respective councils. It is a topic that I fully intend to explore if elected to the board."

# CARBON COUNTY ASSESSOR

One open seat • Four-year term • Two candidates

## Renee Snider (R) P.O. Box 2152, Rawlins, WY 82301 lrsnider01@gmail.com phone not provided

Republican candidate Renee Snider is running for the seat of Carbon County Assessor following her defeat of primary challenger James "JJ" Spencer by over 600 votes on Aug. 21. Snider currently serves as the Deputy Assessor for Carbon County. During the primary, an issue brought up during the forums was the seeming lack of transparency with the county assessor's office.

"I believe part of the transparency concerns between the Assessor's office and the public is the public not being aware of, or not informed of,

the wealth of information they actually do have access to," said Snider. "Wyoming is one of 13 states that are a non-disclosure state. Meaning we are not allowed to disclose the amount which a property sells for. Anyone is encouraged to call, come into the office or go to our county website and get a multitude of information."

Snider added that information available to county residents, upon request or through the assessor's website, include; ownership of property and its associated mailing address, the assessment of a property,

tax bills, tax payment information, lookup any property or access the Geographic Information System (GIS) map and locate parcels.

Another issue that was raised during the primary election was that of rising property taxes and the fear that some residents would be, essentially, taxed out of their homes. Many have looked to the county assessor's office for an answer to this pervasive question.

"The Department of Revenue and State Board of Equalization set the rules which we are

governed by," said Snider," but as I stated earlier in my campaign, I will strive to have accurate parcel information and address any discrepancies."

Snider added that her main goal will be to ensure that property taxes remain at the lower level of appraisal while staying within the guidelines set forth by the Department of Revenue and the State Board of Equalization. She would also, if elected, work with property owners to ensure that parcel characteristics are accurate and make any necessary corrections.



## Lindsey West (D) 509 Rodeo Court, Rawlins, WY 82301 lindseywest592@gmail.com 307-321-1686

Lindsey West is running as the Democratic candidate for Carbon County Assessor. West comes into the race with experience as she had served in the past as the Deputy Carbon County Assessor and is also permanently certified as a property tax appraiser.

During the primary election, an issue raised in the race of county assessor was that of transparency within the assessor's office.

"I believe that transparency in all levels of government is important. A level of trust is reached when the public can see how decisions are made, why certain models are used and how numbers are reached. I will hold community workshops in each town on at least an annual basis," said West. "This will be to facilitate public understanding of how property values are arrived at, the rules and regulations that govern the office, as well as informing the public of any changes to

those rules or new legislation that could potentially impact property values. It will also serve as a time for the public to ask questions directly and to address any concerns they may have."

West added that, with the increased presence of technology as well as its use by residents to attempt obtain information, she believes that the Carbon County Assessor's website does not have much to offer.

"I plan to include information specific to Carbon County residents like a schedule of the properties that are slated for physical review, procedures on how each classification of real property is valued and more information for business owners who are required to submit personal property renditions. Links to websites for state entities that play a large role in the department's function like the Department of Revenue and State Board of Equalization

will also be items to add to the current website," West said.

She also stated that information availability is critical to transparency and, if elected, would work to bridge that gap. Another issue that has come before Carbon County and, was also brought up during the primary election, was that of increased property taxes.

"I am very sensitive to this issue as I know it is of big concern. The responsibility of the Assessor is to arrive at values in a fair and equitable manner and I am focused on getting values to be fairer to ensure each property owner is only paying their share of the burden that comes from property taxation," said West. "If markets within the county indicate a need for values to increase or decrease, the Assessor should use that information to adjust values to be reflective of that indication."

The common practice, according to West, when ap-



praising property value is to go with the lowest level of appraisal and this is a practice that she intends to continue.

"In regard to the cost approach to value, the Assessor has no control over the cost tables used to arrive at replacement costs. These are based off national averages and pulled directly from the

cost handbooks the State requires each Assessor's Office to use when valuing commercial or residential property. Agricultural land is valued by its productive capability which the state conducts studies and assigns values for. It is not within the ability of an Assessor to approve, implement or fund property tax relief programs," West said.

When it comes to the concerns by residents that they may be taxed out of their homes, West stated that any programs that deal with relief, credit or deferral of taxes are not within the power of the county assessor.

"The Assessor merely acts as custodian for these programs," said West. "With that said, I would advocate for such programs. Talking to your County Commission or State Legislators is the best way to voice the need for programs to assist those in danger of being taxed out of their homes."

# CARBON COUNTY ATTORNEY

One open seat • Four-year term • One candidates

## Ashley Mayfield Davis (R) P.O. Box 113, Rawlins, WY 82301 ashleymariemayfield@gmail.com phone not provided

Ashley Mayfield-Davis is running unopposed for the seat of Carbon County Attorney following her defeat of primary challenger Seth "Turtle" Johnson on Aug. 21 by nearly 1,000 votes. Davis currently serves as the Chief Deputy Attorney under current county attorney Cal Rerucha. During the primary,

the issue of "301" deferrals were brought up in forums that often saw heated debate between Davis and Johnson, but many people may not have known what these deferrals were.

"Deferrals under Wyoming Statute 7-13-301 are a way to place a person on probation, but prevent a criminal con-

viction from being placed on their record if they successfully complete probation," said Davis. "The statute automatically prohibits the use of a "301 deferral" for certain crimes—murder, sexual assault in the first or second degree, etc., does not allow them for anyone previously convicted of a felony crime and

also prevents them for certain crimes that are subsequent offenses, such as for a DUI when a person has a previous DUI conviction in their lifetime."

Davis added that the Wyoming Supreme Court interpreted the statute as appropriate when there is a single crime charged and that only one "301"

deferral is allowed in a person's lifetime.

"The State cannot grant the use of a '301' on its own. The court and defendant must also consent to treatment under the statute. Finally, other types of deferrals exist under different

Continued on next page



## 2018 GENERAL ELECTION



### Ashley Mayfield Davis ... continued from previous page

statutes. There are specific deferrals for drug charges, domestic violence and protection order charges, and for diversion of charges against juveniles," Davis said.

The sole candidate for the seat of county attorney added that the Carbon County Attorney's office makes decisions on a case-by-case basis on whether or not to offer a deferral. Much of this, according to Davis, is dependent upon several circumstances: the individual's criminal history, the facts and evidence of the case, the opinions of any victims involved in the case, any special circumstances which led to the charged conduct and whether a criminal conviction is appropriate to limit harm to others



in the future.

During the Valley Service Organization (VSO) forum for contested county seats in the

primary, Davis stated that it was the job of the Carbon County Attorney's office to "deter crime, not defer crime."

"Crime is deterred through consequences," said Davis. "When crime is not prosecuted, other people in the community have lower expectations for their own conduct. Also, being a prosecutor often means being willing to go into court. Deferring cases may be easier, but is not always appropriate. Carbon County has an excessive amount of subsequent offense DUI's. These individuals do not qualify to receive a deferral and instead are more likely to change their behavior if they have consequences for their conduct and if they can address treatment needs earlier."

Davis added that there are

also other factors that contribute to helping deter crime. According to her, these include: placing people on probation, requiring substance abuse, domestic violence or mental health evaluations and treatment, providing supervising probation agents when appropriate and addressing the underlying issues that led to the crime in the first place. She also stated that rehabilitation plays a key role in deterring crime.

An issue that is facing not only the rest of the country, but Carbon County as well is that of the "opioid crisis" and will be something that Davis will have to handle in her capacity as county attorney, if elected.

"Funding and education for treatment programs is neces-

sary to assist in dealing with the opioid crisis in Carbon County," Davis said. "Being able to provide low cost treatment for those suffering from an opioid addiction and resources to family members is important. Pain management clinics and responsible medical programs also aid individuals who have an addiction to opioids."

Davis added that Carbon County's Project Prevention program assists in providing education to the community and youth in an attempt to deter them from the abuse of opioids.

"It is much easier and less expensive to educate the public upfront, than to deal with the repercussions on the back end," said Davis.

## CARBON COUNTY CLERK

One open seat • Four-year term • One candidate

**Gwynn Bartlett (R)** P.O. Box 1385, Rawlins, WY 82301 gwynnr@hotmail.com 307-321-4587

Ms. Bartlett declined to respond.

## CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT

One open seat • Four-year term • One candidate

**Mara M. Sanger (R)** 715 11th Street, Rawlins, WY 82301 jamsang2@yahoo.com 307-321-6915

Mara Sanger is the incumbent candidate for the Carbon County Clerk of District Court and is running unopposed. Having already been in the position, Sanger is familiar with what is entailed and has been working on increasing the efficiency and the effectiveness of the office.

"Since I have been in office, budget constraints have been one of the biggest issues. As an elected official I

strive to work within those constraints while providing good customer service and accurately maintaining all of the Court's records which stretch back to the territorial period," said Sanger. "When people come to my office it is my goal to make sure that we are well trained and can handle whatever their requests may be with confidence and efficiency. Even with budget constraints we will continue to give the people of Carbon



County our best customer service."

According to Sanger, her office has been working for the past 19 years on scanning documents into the court files.

Sanger said. "Keeping up with the advances in technology is an important issue. Continuing to improve our technology will increase efficiency in my office and provide better customer service for the public. One of my

goals in the next year is to have a fully interactive page for my office on the Carbon County website."

Sanger added that the goal within the next five years is to provide all 23 District Courts the ability to accept electronically filed documents with the help of the Wyoming Supreme Court and will then give the public access to all public court records remotely.

## CARBON COUNTY CORONER

One open seat • Four-year term • One candidate

**Paul Zamora (R)** 408 Daley Street, Rawlins, WY 82301 medmanwd@netscape.net phone not provided

Mr. Zamora did not respond to multiple emails.

## CARBON COUNTY SHERIFF

One open seat • Four-year term • Two candidates

**Walter Hagan (R)** 1716 Loch Lomond, Rawlins, WY 82301 unit1742@msn.com 307-324-5192

Mr. Hagan did not respond to multiple emails.

**Archie C. Roybal (D)** HC 32 Box 3, Rawlins, WY 82301 roybalarchie@gmail.com phone not provided

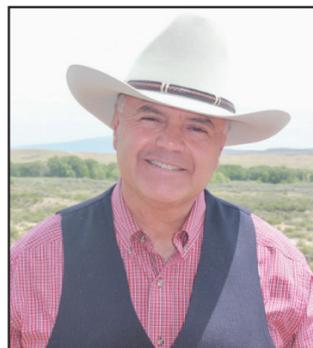
I am running for Carbon County Sheriff because I truly believe in the office and the responsibilities that accompany this position. I enjoy the statutory challenges this position presents and helping the citizens of Carbon County. Through training and experience (29 years) I know every facet of the Sheriff's Office from detention, to patrol, to being your current Sheriff of Carbon County.

I understand that coverage is a concern in rural communities. I propose creative scheduling which will entail a schedule that allows my

patrol deputies to patrol in areas such as Riverside and Medicine Bow areas. Currently, there are three deputies in the Saratoga area and one deputy residing in Elk Mountain who currently do a great job of patrolling these areas regularly on their shift. The Sheriff's Office currently has a great working relationship with other departments such as the Wyoming Highway patrol, Game and Fish, and local Law Enforcement Officers. Recently the Sheriff's Office has created two power shifts from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. and 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. allowing more

area to be covered.

As your current Sheriff, I have accomplished the following technology additions since January 2018: Body cameras for patrol and detention officers, purchased new Tasers with drug seizure money, established Drone policy for search and rescue, purchased new radios from Homeland Security Grant, implemented offender watch/sex offender program, purchased Nibrs program/reporting system, Crystal reports, new evidence module and a new 911 system. I have more technology goals such as drones to help in critical situations and portable



MDT computer systems for patrol deputies. Yes, I definitely will continue to upgrade technology as needed for future security needs for the county.

I will continue to preserve the peace, maintain the jail, perform civil process and attend the courts along with uphold the law for all citizens, as well as maintain the integrity of the department and staff, oversee the administrative duties of the office and manage the department budget. I will provide staff with technology, training and remain fiscally diverse. Finally, I will continue to collaborate with other law enforcement agencies, establish creative scheduling for coverage and provide assistance for public school safety education for all of Carbon County.



# 2018 GENERAL ELECTION

## CARBON COUNTY TREASURER

Two open seats • Four-year term • One candidate

**Patty R. Bentsen (D)** 2993 Shetland, Rawlins, WY 82301 bents1978@gmail.com 307-328-0531

*Ms. Bentsen did not reply to repeated emails.*

## ELK MOUNTAIN MAYOR

One open seat • Four-year term • One candidate

**Morgan J. Irene** P.O. Box 55, Elk Mountain, WY 82324 elkmountainmayor@gmail.com phone not provided

*Mr. Irene did not reply to repeated emails.*

### Polling Sites (District - Precinct)

(06-01, 08-01)

**HANNA**  
Town Hall  
301 Adams St.

(07-01)

**MEDICINE BOW**  
Senior Center  
520 Utah St.

(09-01)

**ELK MOUNTAIN**  
Senior Center  
Bridge & Spruce Streets

(11-01, 11-02)

**SARATOGA**  
Platte Valley  
Community Center  
210 West Elm

(12-01 & 13-01)

**ENCAMPMENT**  
Opera House  
622 Rankin Ave.

**POLLS OPEN 7AM  
POLLS CLOSE 7PM**

## ELK MOUNTAIN COUNCIL

Two open seats • Four-year term • Three candidates

**Kellsie Domnitz** P.O. Box 81, Elk Mountain, WY 82324 kelldomni@gmail.com phone not provided

*Though Ms. Domnitz still appears on the ballot, she has withdrawn from the race.*

**Dawn Kenneda** P.O. Box 11, Elk Mountain, WY 82324 rdkenneda@yahoo.com 307-348-7311

The most important issue facing our town is the influx of people we are going to see in the next few years with the multiple wind projects coming into play starting next summer, bringing over 500 people to work on the construction. The current city council has had great foresight in applying for impact funds from the taxes that will be generated from the projects to help with that impact. If elected, I will continue my support for small businesses opening up in our town, like the new store. I will vote to support our local fireman and EMTs as the demand for their services will be on the rise. The council is



currently working on a project to bring natural gas to our town through the 6th penny tax which will help with the impact of people we are going to see in the next few years. There are good people willing to serve on city council and I would do my best if elected to be one of them.

**Bryson Kennedy** P.O. Box 142, Elk Mountain, WY 82324 email not provided phone not provided

*The Saratoga Sun was unable to contact Mr. Kennedy.*

**Craig Mustard** P.O. Box 122, Elk Mountain, WY 82324 craigmustard@yahoo.com 307-328-7014

*Mr. Mustard did not reply to repeated emails.*

One open seat • Two-year unexpired term • One candidate

**Angie Hobbs** P.O. Box 78, Elk Mountain, WY 82324 hobbs\_319@hotmail.com 307-348-7788

*Ms. Hobbs did not reply to repeated emails.*

## ENCAMPMENT MAYOR

One open seat • Four-year term • Two candidates

**Brad Hebig** P.O. Box 114, Encampment, WY 82325 bradhebig@gmail.com phone not provided

Brad Hebig is running for Encampment Mayor against incumbent Greg Salisbury. If elected, there are a few things that Hebig may decide to continue that were spear-headed by Salisbury. One of those is making the town of Encampment appealing to

businesses. Hebig feels that this may be something he could take on.

“I would sit down and have a discussion with the people or companies to find out what the town can do to help promote business to move here and promote the nice way

of life we enjoy here,” said Hebig.

An issue that recently came up was that of law enforcement in the area and whether or not Encampment and Riverside could work together on obtaining a second officer.

“It would take some meet-

ing with all parties to see what they each would expect and form a budget,” Hebig said in regards to additional law enforcement. “Both town councils would have to vote on it, but it all starts with conversation to find out what is or is not needed.”

**Greg Salisbury** P.O. Box 336, Encampment, WY 82325 greg.salisbury726@gmail.com phone not provided

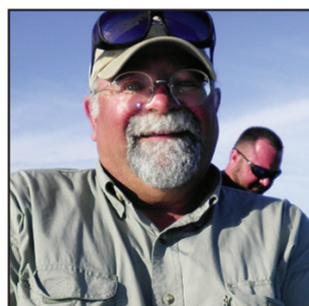
Incumbent mayor Greg Salisbury is running for re-election and faces challenger Brad Hebig. Salisbury, if elected, would likely choose to continue the process of making Encampment more inviting for businesses, a goal he had when he was elected to the role of mayor in 2014.

“Back when I was mayor in the 90s, we had to put in a moratorium for any construction due to the DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) permit problem that we had,” said Salisbury.

“When I got in this last stint, that was one of the first things we did, is we ended up trying to get money because we were in violation.”

The current mayor points to the construction of a state-of-the-art water plant and the replacement of water and sewer lines for the recent growth that Encampment has seen. Salisbury stated that the businesses he hopes to see come to the small town are, in fact, small manufacturing businesses.

“It’s hard for any little town because where you



need people to come in is with small manufacturing. Manufacturing makes money,” Salisbury said. “Little mom and pop things, we’ve got quite a few of them going

on up there. It’s very vital to have them kind of businesses, but for a town to grow you need manufacturing.”

Recently, the Town of Encampment just signed a one-year lease with a wood product company for use of the small mill just outside of town. According to Salisbury, other businesses have come into the area, but were unable to stay due to low employment.

“We’ve had people in there and the problem is to find

*Continued on next page*



## Greg Salisbury ... Continued from previous page

employment, to find people that want to work," said Salisbury.

An issue that arose over the summer for some residents was the response time of law enforcement, leaving some in the southern portion of the Platte Valley to wonder if Encampment could work with Riverside to provide a second officer.

"We've talked about it in past years, to be honest. Our crime rate is very, very low up in Encampment because we are off the beaten path," Salisbury said. "That's why we went with a single officer for 40 hours a week and we

utilize the sheriff's department. Right now, the cost of a second police officer is extremely expensive and it's not justified."

Salisbury stated that, in the past, Encampment tried to work with Riverside with law enforcement, but that option didn't work out. The current mayor added that any major crime would have to go through the county, as opposed to the municipality, and so he felt it best to utilize the sheriff's department.

"If you see a big influx, then you'll have to change, but we're not seeing that influx," said Salisbury.

## ENCAMPMENT COUNCIL

Two open seats • Four-year term • Four candidates

### Stas Banach

P.O. Box 381, Encampment, WY 82325  
stanbanach99@hotmail.com phone not provided

Two seats are up for grabs this election on the Encampment Town Council and candidate Stas Banach is vying for one of them along with three other candidates. A recent issue that has come up a handful of times during town council meetings is that of Conex boxes that are showing up around the small town. It was stated during one council meeting that the question of whether or not Conex boxes were "semi-permanent" structures had been answered when the town determined that sheds on skids were not considered "semi-permanent."

"Regarding a specific issue such as Conex boxes being a permanent structure," said Banach, "existing rules and ordinances should be applied. The rules should be enforced

equally and fairly to everyone."

Banach added that, if an adjustment were needed to the rules due to a majority of residents wanting such a change and if it was legal to do so, then the council should follow the will of the people.

"I believe the town council's duty is to represent the residents for the good of the town," said Banach.

As for attracting new business to the area, Banach feels that the Town of Encampment should be open and supportive to new businesses that could provide more services as well as opportunities for jobs.

"Making utilities like water, sewer and street maintenance reliable and costs reasonable would be good," Banach added.

### Shannon Fagan

P.O. Box 497, Encampment, WY 82325  
sfagan05@gmail.com phone not provided

Shannon Fagan is one of four candidates running for two seats that are up for grabs on the Encampment Town Council. Many would know Fagan as a former director of the Grand Encampment Museum and her involvement with the Platte Valley Arts Council and Mother Mountain Anglers.



Recently, Conex boxes have appeared around the town of Encampment with some property owners trying to make the argument that they are "semi-permanent" structures.

"The town ordinances state that Conex boxes are a permanent structure," said Fagan. "A permanent structure is defined as without wheels, so you cannot easily move it."

As for the Town of Encampment's role in attracting new businesses, Fagan feels that a diversity of businesses to the area would be in the best interest of the municipalities.

"I think new businesses to the area would be great as long as they are different businesses," Fagan said. "I do not think the Town needs to spend any money or resources on research or seeking what businesses would or would not work in this area."

Fagan added that with Encampment having specifically zoned business area, and with the addition of the Industrial Park, the town is ready for "anyone to come with a proposal for a business permit."

More Encampment Council candidates on next page

Your community newsleader.  
**The Saratoga Sun**

**BEFORE  
YOU  
VOTE  
TEXT  
474747**



**TRAUNER  
FOR WYOMING**  
—CANDIDATE FOR U.S. SENATE—



- No Corporate PAC Money
- I work for you
- Will listen to YOU any time and any place

**A LEADER  
WHO PUTS**

**#COUNTRYB4PARTY**

*Vote your conscience,  
Vote your opinion ...*

**JUST  
VOTE!**



"Wyoming is at a crossroads. Our opportunities are boundless, but we must first tackle some serious challenges. As Governor, I'll use my knowledge, experience and passion for Wyoming to bring us together, make the hard decisions and set us on course for a bright future. On November 6th, I humbly ask for your vote."

*Mark Gordon*

Mark Gordon,  
Republican for Governor



**GORDON  
GOVERNOR**

PO Box 321 Buffalo, Wyoming 82834 (307) 514-3241  
gordonforwyoming.com f @markgordon4wyoming t @Mark\_Gordon\_WY

Paid for by Friends of Mark Gordon



## ENCAMPMENT COUNCIL ... CONTINUED

**Bimbo J. Nation** P.O. Box 366, Encampment, WY 82325 nationb@hughes.net phone not provided

Mr. Nation did not respond to repeated emails.

**Gary Stull** P.O. Box 419, Encampment, WY 82325 gstull@union-tel.com phone not provided

Mr. Stull did not respond to repeated emails.

## HANNA MAYOR

One open seat • Four-year term • Two candidates

**Lois Buchanan** P.O. Box 56, Hanna, WY 82327 loisanddaniel@yahoo.com 307-325-9808

One of my main goals, getting started, would be to implement, enforce, and revise, as necessary, town ordinances and regulations that are already in place. I believe that this would greatly improve the aesthetics and safety of the community. I am serving on the board of directors of Wee Folks and here served on the South Central Wyoming Emergency Medical Services (SCWEMS) board

which has given me insight to the needs and operations of our town. I am very much in favor of sustaining any and all of our existing businesses while searching for any ways that may bring new, stabilizing businesses to Hanna.

We would work in depth to find interested and suitable businesses to locate in our community. I believe we should use the Carbon County Economic Development

corporation as a resource to find out what opportunities there are for Hanna with businesses looking to come into the county. I am certainly in favor of anything that would, at the minimum, stabilize our economy. Zoning and re-zoning may play an important role.

As for impact monies or special purpose tax revenue, it needs to be used for infrastructure, infrastructure, and



infrastructure! The town cannot know exactly how it will be impacted by traffic and people coming through. We need to be prepared and making sure we have supporting infrastructure, whether it is roads, water or landfill, the funds should be spent in such a manner to offset the impact of these projects coming in the next few years.

Looking forward to the opportunity to serve.

**Jonathan C. Ostling** P.O. Box 447, Hanna, WY 82327 jcostling@gmail.com 307-325-6060

Ordinances within the Town Code are in desperate need of updating. The town still has code listed for a volunteer fire department which is no longer applicable and hasn't been for years. New codes put in as ordinances are not applicable to our community, for example the solar panel ordinance, the size of panel square footage and the annual renewal. A rigorous review of town codes most applicable and desirable by our community needs to be started. Public forums to accept input and guidance for what the residences want would be provided as specified.

Ordinances are just guidelines and treated as such. Over a year ago I had asked a town elected official, "why aren't ordinances enforced?". The response was that a discussion had been conducted with the Town's attorney and they indicated that the ordinances were just guidelines. This is reflected in actions taken and at town meetings. One example is; during a recent monthly town council meeting, residents brought forward an area in town which has vehicles, boats, and such stored on it and is an eyesore. The residents indicated that they would like the ordinances enforced on this property. They were asked if they completed a complaint form for investi-

gation by the Marshall. The conversation went on and ended with a statement from the town that this ordinance would not be enforced.

Simplify processes for residents to assure better compliance. During a recent monthly town council meeting a resident had conflict trying to get his fencing variance understood and approved. Providing pictures of code acceptable fencing could have possibly prevented this entire situation. In addition, this situation could possibly have been referred to the Planning Commission for review prior to bringing it to the Town Council.

*Do you have any ideas on how to be more user friendly in bringing businesses to the town?*

Yes, companies look for areas which will meet their business requirements. Our town has a multitude of advantages which businesses would find attractive. Today it seems like everyone is working on attracting businesses to their town. Understanding how to best connect with the business requirements and differentiate us from the other towns, in my opinion, is key. Some things our community has to offer is; land, close access to rail lines and I80, excellent schools, excellent Recreation Center



Facilities, and more. Note: Recently, a number of Midwest towns in multiple states have been providing land for people who relocate to their community. Potential steps would be: To assist in connecting the dots with the best suited business sectors I would suggest to town council that we utilize the U of W for assistance in conducting a survey of business requirements. Note: recently one of our local successful businesses indicated that U of W provided them a great resource in helping start their business.

With input from U of W, make individual business sector packages to compliment their requirements.

Actively pursue "best fit" businesses, which meet our town's goals

Work with the school district

to define business needs for providing work ready students. Work towards development of work ready transferable skills for students once a business has initiated moving.

*Impact funds are coming to the town from wind farms in the near future. How would you like to see those funds spent?*

Current impact funds have been designated for the following areas (just a broad summary provided): expanding Marshall's office staff, court recording system upgrades, water system, roads, public signs and safety related, Rec Center new floor and doors.

Within the scope of future related funds, I would focus on work activities to reduce the overall town cost burden to residents through replacement or repair of impact items. Obtain input from all Town Directors regarding opportunities for impact funds. One example is, with Hanna being the only close local town with a Recreation Center Facilities for the wind turbine workers requests, would be put forward for parking lot surfacing, repairing of hot tub, adding other popular desired features. At the same time review to assure impact funds meet the diverse needs of our residents.

In discussion with Medicine Bow, whom has been successful in obtaining much higher

levels of impact funding than us, the following was pointed out:

Impact funds, while viewed as short term, the true nature of the impact is much longer. Useful life decreases, additional wear and tear on all defined systems (roads, water, Marshall, local businesses, etc.), higher potential cost burden for residents (which residents should not have to incur).

Communities should derive a longer term benefit from the impact funds and plan accordingly.

Obtain and collect supporting data. Be aware of the shortfalls of prior impact funding and keep a lessons learned document, so you get better at the request process.

Review town business plans to provide longer term funding. Make and update business plans accordingly to facilitate future impact funding.

My campaign is continually being updated with requests and comments from our residents. I have collected over 20 pages of cataloged notes. I have also obtained resident funding for one community project. Our residents have great ideas on what they would like our town to be and suggestions on how this can happen. My focus is just that, to listen to our residents and assist getting actions implemented.

The Saratoga Sun keeps you informed

## HANNA COUNCIL

Two open seats • Four-year term • Three candidates

**Tracy L. Fowler** P.O. Box 572, Hanna, WY 82327 email not provided phone not provided

In regards to what the town needs be ready for, I believe that we need to make sure we have to prepare for a influx of people either moving into the town or traveling to town.

The Public Works Department has to make sure that water and sewer services are ready for the impact and are able to provide services without any hiccups. We have to make sure that our roads are in good standing and can

withstand the increase in vehicular traffic.

Law enforcement may see a increase in traffic stops or calls to which they need to respond and also make sure of proper staffing for this impact. The Municipal Court could see an impact from the possible increase in citations and cases

The recreation center could see an influx of new people and with the improvements

that have been made, which there could be a few more, I believe it is ready for the impact.

Fire and EMS have to make sure that equipment is in good standing and you have ample personnel to staff the services.

Housing is the number one issue. If we don't have enough housing for these people they will live elsewhere, which means Hanna will not profit from them being here whether they are shopping at the local

market or visiting the local bar and grills which means we as the town loose out on tax dollars and revenue.

I believe we have to start acting now to get ready for this impact in the next couple of years because it will be pretty hard to play catch up in order to make sure that we can provide these services to the Town of Hanna and the people.





# 2018 GENERAL ELECTION

## HANNA COUNCIL ... CONTINUED

**Sammy Sikes** P.O. Box 86, Hanna, WY 82327 sammysikes@yahoo.com 307-399-7062

Mr. Sikes did not respond to repeated emails.

**Michael Zedicker** P.O. Box 71, Hanna, WY 82327 michael@elkmtntech.com phone not provided

Mr. Zedicker did not respond to repeated emails.

## MEDICINE BOW MAYOR

### One open seat • Four-year term • Two candidates

**Kevin Colman** P.O. Box 128, Medicine Bow, WY 82329 boredinbow@yahoo.com 307-399-0567

Mr. Colman did not respond to repeated emails.

**Kay Embree** P.O. Box 312, Medicine Bow, WY 82329 hkembree@msn.com phone not provided

*During a primary election forum, it was mentioned that Medicine Bow has begun to see a criminal element grow. What steps have you taken, or will you take, to combat rise in crime in the town?*

Medicine Bow does not have a "rise" in crime. The current Mayor & Council began taking the right steps when they decided to create

an "Ordinance Officer" position. However, there has not been any follow through that I can see. We still do not have that position filled and need to concentrate on doing that. The Carbon County Sherriff's Office has offered to look into creating a shared officer program and I would take steps to get a county officer residing in

Medicine Bow.

*As wind energy companies continue to pour into the area, the amount of impact funds increases. How would you ensure that these funds are spent responsibly?*

The impact funds are a major boost for the whole county and it appears that Medicine Bow is looking at the impacts

that the projects bring and planning to spend most of the monies responsibly. I am particularly interested in the dust problems with our streets; it is a health problem for all of our citizens and any others that choose to live here.

*With the amount of impact funds coming to Medicine*

*Bow, what projects would you look at to improve Medicine Bow and the lives of its residents?*

Projects that would improve Medicine Bow and the lives of our residents would be the streets, a possible police presence and insuring that our rural health clinic remains open.

## MEDICINE BOW COUNCIL

### Two open seats • Four-year term • Four candidates

**Sharon Biamon** P.O. Box 295, Medicine Bow, WY 82329 shar50@live.com 307-703-8084

Ms. Biamon did not respond to repeated emails.

**Cindy Chase**

P.O. Box 66, Medicine Bow, WY 82329 gibmellor@mail.com 307-703-1290

Ms. Chase did not respond to repeated emails.

**Kenda Colman**

P.O. Box 296, Medicine Bow, WY 82329 kjcolman@gmail.com 307-379-2635

*As wind energy companies continue to pour into the area, the amount of impact funds increases. How would you ensure that these funds are spent responsibly?*

This is something that our council has worked on diligently. We considered what impact we would see and discussed what projects would benefit the citizens of our community. We contacted our engineering company to help us gather information and a cost for these projects. Once that was accomplished, then a cost percentage could be calculated. That way each energy company was assigned a portion of the total cost. That way we avoided asking for funds multiple times.

*With the amount of impact funds coming to Medicine Bow, what projects would you look at to improve Medicine Bow and the lives of its residents?*

Medicine Bow has had community assessments in the past. Each of these assessments brought to light two main needs. These needs included the desire for a police department and an improvement of our streets



and drainage system. The residents of Medicine Bow see a need to have a local police department that can enforce local ordinances of our community. The other need is to address issues with our streets. We do not currently have paved streets and dust is a major problem for many in town. We have elderly citizens with lung issues along with others that suffer from asthma. The streets need a sealant along with a better drainage system to make life better for our residents. With impact money these two issues can be addressed and improved.

More Medicine Bow candidates on next page

**John Barrasso**  
U.S. SENATE

**ON THE JOB FOR WYOMING.  
MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN WASHINGTON.**

**PUTTING WYOMING FIRST**  
www.barrassoforwyoming.com

f /barrassoforwyoming @barrassoforwyo

PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF JOHN BARRASSO P.O. BOX 52008 • CASPER, WY 82605

The Saratoga Sun is your election information source.



# 2018 GENERAL ELECTION



## MEDICINE BOW COUNCIL ... CONTINUED

**Karla Denzin** P.O. Box 262, Medicine Bow, WY 82329 [kdenzin@gmail.com](mailto:kdenzin@gmail.com) 307-752-7497

*Ms. Denzin did not respond to repeated emails.*

### Two open seats • Two-year unexpired term • Four candidates

**John Cowdin** P.O. Box 69, Medicine Bow, WY 82329 *email not provided phone not provided*

*Mr. Cowdin did not respond to repeated emails.*

**Cynthia Culver** P.O. Box 175, Medicine Bow, WY 82329 [cynsins@hotmail.com](mailto:cynsins@hotmail.com) *phone not provided*

*Ms. Culver did not respond to repeated emails.*

**Lyle Flansburg** P.O. Box 194, Medicine Bow, WY 82329 [l\\_lindsey@netzero.com](mailto:l_lindsey@netzero.com) *phone not provided*

*As wind energy companies continue to pour into the area, the amount of impact funds increases. How would you ensure that these funds are spent responsibly?*

Medicine Bow will be disproportionately impacted by the proposed wind energy projects compared to the surrounding communities. Projections predict a 400 percent increase in our population and as many as 100 trucks per day carrying windmill parts through Medicine Bow.

The first four companies coming to our area have al-

ready gone through the process that determines where the money will be spent. So far, impact funds are earmarked for police and improvements to streets, water and sewer. When that money is received, it can not legally be used for anything else. Also, there is no guarantee that we will see that money until the projects are in construction.

*With the amount of impact funds coming to Medicine Bow, what projects would you look at to improve Medi-*

*cine Bow and the lives of its residents?*

Unfortunately, the impact monies cannot be placed into a general fund just to be used to improve our lives, but can only be used to mitigate those things that may be damaged by these projects. Anyone who has been to any of the last few council meetings will know that in order to receive any money, we must show that these impact monies will be spent only on those things that will be directly impacted during construction.

Even though the impact

money for the first four projects has already been allocated, there is the possibility of another four companies placing windmills or transmission lines here in the future. When these new projects start the approval process, I will ask the residents to share their ideas as to where possible future funds need to be used. I will work with the council to continue the great work they have been doing to ensure Medicine Bow receives its fair share of the available impact funds. When elected, I will join



with the community to address the concerns of all the residents of Medicine Bow.

**Trevor Stauch** P.O. Box 112, Medicine Bow, WY 82329 [tstauch307@gmail.com](mailto:tstauch307@gmail.com) *phone not provided*

*Mr. Stauch did not respond to repeated emails.*

## RIVERSIDE MAYOR

### One open seat • Four-year term • One candidate

**Leroy Stephenson** P.O. Box 7, Riverside, WY 82325 [wyoupser@yahoo.com](mailto:wyoupser@yahoo.com) 307-327-5968

Incumbent Riverside mayor Leroy Stephenson is running for re-election unopposed. The co-owner of Lazy Acres RV Park, Stephenson was first elected to the position in the 2014 midterm elections. Since being in office, the mayor and business owner has faced some issues in regards to WHATFest, which called Riverside home from 2012 to 2017 before moving outside Centennial this year. These issues ranged from parking to noise and waste disposal and prompted a discussion of an ordinance in regards to music events.

Following several months of discussion, no ordinance was ever officially adopted in response to concerns sur-

rounding the music festival. "The Town of Riverside has never gone to any lengths to attract any music festival. The WHATFest approached Margaret Weber and, amid citizens' concerns, the town council held a discussion that attracted many interested parties," said Stephenson. "The WHATFest organizers and Margaret convinced the Town that everything would be taken care of and that it would not be the nuisance that some were anticipating."

Stephenson added that, since an ordinance was neither in place then or now, preventing the festival from taking place, the council made the decision that a nod of support was appropriate.



"The Bear Trap continues to be a music venue and I am sure that Margaret, or any future owner, will utilize

that as part of their business plan," Stephenson said.

Another concern that has been raised recently has been the lack of law enforcement, aside from the Carbon County Sheriff's Department, in the area and what some have seen as a delayed response to emergencies.

"I have every confidence in the abilities of Sheriff (Archie) Roybal's officers to police this part of the county and our town," said Stephenson. "There may be times when their response times might be a bit long because they are in another part of the county, but there is always a deputy on duty somewhere."

Stephenson added, in regards to Encampment's Police

Chief, that it was a large part of their budget.

"That officer constitutes a very large part of their budget when you figure in a car, radio, training, salary and a pension," Stephenson said. "Then, assuming he worked 40 hours each week, he is only available about 20 percent of the time. That means, for approximately 19 hours each day, there is no law enforcement coverage in that town except for what the county sheriff can provide. Riverside cannot afford that in our budget and we did try sharing the cost of that officer at one time, along with a municipal court, but our priorities were different and it did not work out."

## RIVERSIDE COUNCIL

### Two open seats • Four-year term • One candidate

**Ed Golden** P.O. Box 402, Encampment, WY 82325 [segolden@union-tel.com](mailto:segolden@union-tel.com) *phone not provided*

With two seats available on the Riverside Town Council, only one person is running and that is incumbent Ed Golden. Two issues have recently been raised concerning the semi-trucks that drive through Riverside and

what is entailed within the municipality with dirt work and building permits.

"We have a number of logging trucks pass by our house quite frequently. The drivers are very respectful of the speed limits and maintain-

ing our gravel roads in good conditions," said Golden. "We should be concerned about the large trucks containing Hazardous Material that (are) passing through Riverside on WY 230, many times at excessive speed. They are

the real safety issue and that is a County and State Law Enforcement issue."

As for dirt work and building permits, current Riverside ordinances require a site plan for any dirt work as does the building permit

application. Currently, according to Golden, the Town of Riverside is reviewing building permits from other towns within Carbon County to compare their compliance procedures.

**The Saratoga Sun would like to thank the candidates who took the time to reply to our questions and thereby help inform the voting public.**



2018 GENERAL ELECTION

SARATOGA MAYOR

One open seat • Four-year term • Two candidates

**Ed J. Glode** P.O. Box 605, Saratoga, WY 82331 [ejglode@yahoo.com](mailto:ejglode@yahoo.com) 307-329-3313

*Transparency has been a common concern brought up over the past few years. What steps would you take to ensure that the Town of Saratoga is more transparent with residents on how decisions are made?*

The current Town Council

does not support a lot of private decision making. We don't go into Executive Session very often, and we always ask for and support public comments.

"Transparency" seems to have been lost in the public eye lately, and I believe that

has to do with the current situation at our Medical Clinic. I don't know that there is anything we could have done a better job with concerning this issue and making it appear more transparent. We are doing what we think is best moving forward when

it comes to healthcare in our Valley.

*How would you balance, or continue to balance, the demands of being mayor with the demands of your family and career?*

We have a great staff at

Shively Hardware and at the Town. Our family has always served the public to one level or another. Kelly and Bailey support my decision to refile for Mayor. Yes, it gets a little busy now and again. That's as balanced as I can make it.

**John Zeiger** P.O. Box 554, Saratoga, WY 82331 [johnzeiger50@yahoo.com](mailto:johnzeiger50@yahoo.com) 307-321-1514

*Transparency has been a common concern brought up over the past few years. What steps would you take to ensure that the Town of Saratoga is more transparent with residents on how decisions are made?*

Transparency is one of those words that surface during every election. It usually is used by every individual that is running for office saying they will be more transparent than the previous elected officials. In most cases that same individual gets accused of the same

thing when it comes time for re-election

I would encourage the public to attend the council meetings and ask questions on the decisions we have made, or ask questions on the discussion we are having, but would also ask that, when asking the question, be professional and polite. It has been suggested that we move the meetings to 7 p.m. instead of 6 p.m. to allow more of the public to attend. I think that would be a good discussion for the new council to have

and, if nothing else, try it for a few meetings and see if it makes a difference in public attendance.

I would like to have a couple days a month where elected officials make themselves available for coffee time at town hall so the public can come in and visit and ask questions. I would encourage department heads to attend this coffee time as well so the public can visit with them as well and, on occasion, even town employees as it is important to know who works

for you.

When I was mayor in the past I would have a sit down once a week with the *Saratoga Sun* and brief them on things that have been going on. I would encourage a council member to join me each time so the public is hearing from two of us.

*How would you balance, or continue to balance, the demands of being mayor with the demands of your family and career?*

Balancing my time between mayor, family, and

career. I would be lying if I said that its never an issue because it can and will be at times. However, the ten years that I was mayor I was able to balance the time as needed between the three positions without any major issues. I do run on the ambulance and this is one thing I am committed to continue doing, if the pager goes off during a council meeting I will turn it over to the Mayor Pro-tem to continue the meeting and will respond to the call because someone is needing help

SARATOGA COUNCIL

Two open seats • Four-year term • Three candidates

**Will Faust** P.O. Box 484, Saratoga, WY 82331 [will.f.faust@gmail.com](mailto:will.f.faust@gmail.com) 307-326-8013

*The Saratoga Volunteer Fire Department has been struggling with funding recently. Do you think the SVFD should receive annual funding out of the Town of Saratoga budget?*

The great work and organizational efforts of our volunteer fire department were on display when they saved our town from ruin during the fire at the mill this past year. Their thankless volunteer efforts have been on display numerous times throughout the past several years.

When considering the town budget, especially with current budget constraints, we must get creative with funding measures. I believe that the 6th penny sales tax could help provide funding for new bunker gear and air packs which are top priority right now.

*What role, if any, do you think a council member should have in improving or maintaining affordable medical access for the community?*

Our town has an extremely valuable asset in the Corbett Medical Building. The facility serves the needs of all valley residents and is more than just a town asset. The support of the community members through their generous donations via the Corbett Medical Foundation and this organizations efforts to sustain healthcare services

in the valley have endured for over 25 years. While providers have come and gone we as a community must come together to ensure these services remain and thrive. It truly takes a village to tackle our current difficulties.

Our system is on the mend and our partners at HMS are up for the challenge. I have worked in close conjunction with The Corbett Medical Foundation to see this transition through, to vet our new partners and to visit with concerned valley residents. HMS has a long track record of innovative solutions and the expertise to bring new ideas to fruition. The future is bright.

I admit that there has been significant heartburn over the past several months given the current state of affairs. I have devoted a significant amount of time and political capital to our efforts. My reputation is in question as to how this thing plays out and I feel we as a council have made the best decisions possible given the extremely dynamic and difficult situation. What we have had to endure ... I would wish on no one. That said I firmly believe that the decisions that have been made were in the best interest of our community.

I would propose that in the next few years, the town relinquishes all operational control of the town owned



facility to an operationally focused 501(c)(3) that is tasked with ensuring quality healthcare in the Upper North Platte River Valley. The town could lease the physical structure to said group on a long term basis and keep our healthcare system apolitical. Because of the regional nature of the town owned asset I feel that broader representation and a more stable board tasked with being the local experts on healthcare quality metrics will result in a more sustainable system overall. Such models are used extensively in other communities for a reason, and should be considered.

I strongly feel that it is the town council's responsibility to support any care provider capable of providing quality healthcare services for our community, however I emphatically believe that the broader Valley must have a voice in the direction and

quality of future healthcare services. As a community we must work together to figure out what works best for the valley and move boldly to ensure sustainability and affordability is achieved.

*The traffic at the Saratoga Jet Center and Shively Airfield has continued to increase in recent years. If it became affordable for commercial airline flights, such as commuter flights, to be offered to Denver or Salt Lake City would you be in favor of such a move? Why or why not?*

I feel that our airport board, FBO operator and facility engineer are more qualified to advise the council if this scenario materializes. They have done a fantastic job in the past in leveraging town resources with federal and state funds to improve our airport. This must continue. There has been considerable efforts made to alleviate the towns funding burden by implementing user fees. I support these ideas.

Should such a service prove economically feasible I would support it with open arms, however I feel the council should be more focused on ensuring infrastructure that directly support the residents of Saratoga. Water, sewer and streets are the basic pieces we as council men and women are tasked with maintaining. Our efforts should

be focused on finding grants, loans and funding sources that keep us ahead of the maintenance curve.

*The topic of affordable housing has been raised more than once during town council and planning commission meetings. As Saratoga continues to become a vacation destination and wind energy companies move into the county, the cost of real estate increases. What affordable housing models, if any, do you think would work for Saratoga?*

Affordable housing is a tough issue in small rural towns. There are extreme limits as what is available from the town's budget. I would welcome a partnership with any nonprofit or governmental agency that can access federal funding to help alleviate the problem.

In the past year the Mayor and I met with Jim Hatfield of the Wyoming Housing Network, who's nonprofit facilitates the development of affordable housing. Unfortunately, the market conditions that he examined were unfavorable for moving forward with a project. I feel the work I have done on fixing the RV and Mobile Home permit process has provided an avenue for private business people to expand local offerings.

**Kimberly A. Hytrek** P.O. Box 1851, Saratoga, WY 82331 *email not provided phone not provided*

*Though Ms. Hytrek still appears on the ballot, she has withdrawn from the race.*

**Bob Keel** P.O. Box 1774, Saratoga, WY 82331 [rpkeel@gmail.com](mailto:rpkeel@gmail.com) *phone not provided*

*Mr. Keel did not respond to repeated emails*

Saratoga Council candidates continued on next page



# SARATOGA COUNCIL ... CONTINUED

**Jon Nelson** P.O. Box 746, Saratoga, WY 82331 jonrobnel@gmail.com phone not provided

*The Saratoga Volunteer Fire Department has been struggling with funding recently. Do you think the SVFD should receive annual funding out of the Town of Saratoga budget?*

Yes. When the Saratoga Volunteer Fire Department was established, (see Ordinance 455), it was intended that money would be appropriated from the Town's general fund for the capital and operating expenses of the fire department. This was to be supplemented by any fundraising activities undertaken by the fire department itself. To my knowledge, the Town does still appropriate funds to the SVFD, although ensuring the availability of those funds has been an issue in recent years. Moving forward, I think the Town and the SVFD should work together to develop written objectives and address both short- and long-term goals. Large capital expenses that aren't necessary every year such as bunker gear, air packs and fire trucks should be planned on a replacement schedule so that the funds can be reserved across multiple budget years. As a council member, I will welcome the opportunity to work directly with the SVFD to improve coordination and help bridge

the gap between town hall and the fire department.

*What role, if any, do you think a council member should have in improving or maintaining affordable medical access for the community?*

Ensuring that residents of our community and those around Saratoga have access to medical care is an issue everyone in the Valley should be concerned with. Maintaining affordable medical access is something that affects us all. This not only includes having a doctor and dedicated medical professionals at the clinic, but also extends to the Care Center and ambulance service. That said, I believe the direct role a council member should have in this effort should be fairly limited, unless they are serving on a board or committee outside their capacity as a councilperson. For example, the operation of SCWEMS is managed by a joint powers board that is comprised of residents from the member communities. Decisions regarding SCWEMS are made by the SCWEMS board, with input from the municipalities and residents.

As for the medical clinic, the Town owns the building and serves as the landlord. A Town council member's role in managing the medical clinic



should stop there. I do not think making decisions about the healthcare models that fit our community is part of a council member's role. However, if a council member also serves on a medical board or foundation, their efforts outside of Town Hall to improve and maintain medical access in the community should be welcomed and appreciated.

*The traffic at the Saratoga Jet Center and Shively Airfield has continued to increase in recent years. If it became affordable for commercial airline flights, such as commuter flights, to be offered to Denver or Salt Lake City would you be in favor of such a move? Why or why not?*

I would not be in favor of commercial airline services operating out of Shively Field. I believe being geographically detached from

places like Denver and Salt Lake City is part of what makes Saratoga special. I fear this would negatively impact our community with additional traffic, noise and change the cultural landscape of the entire Valley. However, I also understand that the airport, and tourism in general, is a major asset to our local economy. As a councilman, I want to ensure that local government action does not hinder the growth of any private business, including that of the Saratoga Jet Center, while at the same time doing what is right to protect the nature of our rural community that I hold dear.

*The topic of affordable housing has been raised more than once during town council and planning commission meetings. As Saratoga continues to become a vacation destination and wind energy companies move into the county, the cost of real estate increases. What affordable housing models, if any, do you think would work for Saratoga?*

I believe the key to affordable housing models that work lies in creating a reasonable path to ownership. Models that simply subsidize rent only serve to perpetuate a cycle of inequity. The chal-

lenge I believe we are facing in Saratoga is partially an issue of supply, and the free market holds just as many solutions as local government policy. There are, however, things we can do through policy to encourage the development of affordable housing, such as multifamily buildings and duplexes, that may provide a lower then entry-level home price compared to that of the predominantly single-family building activity we see today. Establishing deed-restrictions on a certain number of units within our neighborhoods may also be a feasible option. Without going into too much detail here, models which create, dedicate and reserve workforce housing and/or senior housing, such as those developed in Garfield County and Pitkin County, Colorado, should be explored. Our ultimate goal should be to ensure that people who work in this community can always afford to live here. That includes those who are early in their careers, in the service industry, education and the trades, just to name a few. It also includes anyone who has built a life and a community here over decades who may be at risk of being forced to move after retirement due to rising housing costs.

**Polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. Nov. 6**  
**See page 8 of the General Election Section for your polling location.**

## TAX QUESTIONS

### One percent (1%) Sales and Use Tax • Vote “For” or “Against”

Shall the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Carbon, State of Wyoming, be authorized to continue an excise tax within Carbon County, Wyoming for the purpose of general revenue at the rate of one percent (1%) upon retail sales and use of tangible personal property and other transactions authorized by Section 39-15-201 et. seq., Wyoming Statutes?

### Two percent (2%) County Lodging Tax • Vote “For” or “Against”

Shall Carbon County be authorized to renew the existing 2% lodging tax upon the sales paid for sleeping accommodations for guests in hotels, motels, campgrounds, dude ranches and similar lodging services as defined under W.S. 39-15-101(a), the primary purpose of which is the promotion of local travel and tourism in Carbon County?

## OTHER QUESTIONS

Many other questions will be on general county ballots and/or individual town ballots. While we do not feel these are unimportant questions, many of these races are uncontested.

The Saratoga Sun has listed as many of those as we could find

**TOWN OF SINCLAIR MAYOR**  
**1 SEAT - 4 YEARS**

Asa (Ace) Meeks, POB 162, Sinclair, WY 82334, [asaheidi@q.com](mailto:asaheidi@q.com)  
 Michelle Serres, POB 61, Sinclair, WY 82334

**TOWN OF SINCLAIR COUNCIL**  
**2 SEATS - 4 YEARS**

Emily Townsend, POB 254, Sinclair, WY 82334, 307-328-5297, [townsend.1@hotmail.com](mailto:townsend.1@hotmail.com)  
 Leif Johansson, POB 11, Sinclair, WY 82334, 307-328-5600, [dilewo@msn.com](mailto:dilewo@msn.com)  
 Ellie Bennett, POB 201, Sinclair, WY 82334  
 Cullen Meeks, POB 17, Sinclair, WY 82334, [cullenmeeks@hotmail.com](mailto:cullenmeeks@hotmail.com)

**Carbon County School Dist. #2 Trustee Area 2**  
**4 YEARS**

Karen D. Condict, POB 854, Saratoga, WY 82331, 307-326-8168, [k\\_condict@yahoo.com](mailto:k_condict@yahoo.com)

**Carbon County School Dist. #2 Trustee Area 2**  
**2-YEARS Unexpired**

Georgia Miller, POB 531, Encampment, WY 82325, 307-329-7570, [gr.miller@hotmail.com](mailto:gr.miller@hotmail.com)

**Carbon County School Dist. #2 Trustee Area 4**  
**SEATS - 4 YEARS**

KayCee T. Alameda, POB 251, Saratoga, WY 82331, 307-710-8646, [2cowcattle@gmail.com](mailto:2cowcattle@gmail.com)  
 James Sewell, POB 788, Saratoga, WY 82331, [jsewell@crb2.org](mailto:jsewell@crb2.org)

**Carbon County School Dist. #2 Trustee Area 1**

No Candidate Filed

**Carbon County School Dist. #2 Trustee Area 3**

No Candidate Filed

**Medicine Bow Conservation District - Rural**  
**2 SEATS -4 YEARS**

Shanon Sims, 1991 CR 1, McFadden, WY 82083, 307-360-6787, [shanon@simscattlecompany.com](mailto:shanon@simscattlecompany.com)  
 Owen Williams, POB 62, Elk Mountain, WY 82324, 307-760-6991, [owilliams@tetradcorp.com](mailto:owilliams@tetradcorp.com)

**Saratoga Encampment Rawlins Conservation District**  
**Rural - 2 SEATS - 4 YEARS**

Scott Kerbs, POB 477, Saratoga, WY 82331, 307-326-5914  
 Arla Strasser, POB 424, Encampment, WY 82325, 307-327-5887, [arlastras@gmail.com](mailto:arlastras@gmail.com)



## OTHER QUESTIONS... CONTINUED

### Saratoga Cemetery District 3 SEATS - 4-YEARS

Winifred Allen, POB 231, Saratoga, WY 82331, 307-326-3777  
Wanda L. Erger, POB 161, Saratoga, WY 82331, 307-326-5205, [lerger@yahoo.com](mailto:lerger@yahoo.com)  
James Wiant, POB 805, Saratoga, WY 82331, 307-326-5673

### Medicine Bow Rural Health Care District 3 SEATS - 4-YEARS

Leslie N. French, POB 172, Medicine Bow, WY 82329, 307-379-2271  
Sharon Kahl, POB 241, Medicine Bow, WY 82329, 307-761-8997, [kahlsharon50@gmail.com](mailto:kahlsharon50@gmail.com)

Sandy Levengood, POB 282, Medicine Bow, WY 82329, 307-761-9888, [slevengood1@gmail.com](mailto:slevengood1@gmail.com)  
Cynthia A. Chace, POB 66, Medicine Bow, WY 82329, 307-703-1290, [gibmellor@mail.com](mailto:gibmellor@mail.com)  
Kay Embree, POB 312, Medicine Bow, WY 82329, 307-379-2220, [hkembree@msn.com](mailto:hkembree@msn.com)

### Medicine Bow Rural Health Care District 2-YEARS Unexpired

Cynthia J. Culver, POB 175, Medicine Bow, WY 82329, 307-379-2517, [cynsins@hotmail.com](mailto:cynsins@hotmail.com)  
Toby Smith, POB 71, Medicine Bow, WY 82329, 307-379-2201, [wyograywolf@hotmail.com](mailto:wyograywolf@hotmail.com)

# Voters could deal double whammy

If “penny taxes” not approved impact assistance funds also disappear

*By Joshua Wood*

At a recent impact assistance meeting held in Medicine Bow, both municipal and county residents were surprised to find out how important the Sales and use Tax (5th penny tax) actually was to what could be received for impact assistance funds in regards to incoming wind energy projects. In Chapter 39 of the Wyoming State Statutes, “Taxation and Revenue,” it is stated that impact assistance funds for construction is dependent upon what local taxes are being implemented.

Under Wyoming State Stat-

ute 39-16-111(d)(i), it reads “...no impact assistance payment shall be made for any period of time in which the county or counties are not imposing at least a one percent tax authorized by W.S. 39-15-204(a)(i) and 39-16-204(a)(i) or at least a total of a two percent sales tax authorized under W.S. 39-15-204(a)(i), (iii) and (vi) and at least a total of a two percent use tax authorized under W.S. 39-16-204(a)(i), (ii) and (v).”

Statute 39-15-204 covers taxation rate under sales tax within the State of Wyoming. Section (a) reads “In addition to the state tax imposed ...

any county of the state may impose the following excise taxes.” One of those taxes, as outlined by subsection (i), is the 5th Penny Tax: “an excise tax at a rate in increments of one-half of one percent not to exceed a rate of two percent upon retail sales of tangible personal property, admissions and services made within the county, the purpose of which is for general revenue.”

State Statute 39-16-204(a)(i), meanwhile, covers taxation rate under use tax. While sales tax is fairly easy to understand, it’s the tax a consumer pays when a sale

is made, use tax is lesser known. While similar to a sales tax, a use tax is applied to the purchase of a good, or goods, that is made outside of the state or tax district where a sales tax may not have been charged.

Statute 39-16-204(a)(i) reads pretty much the same as 39-15-204(a)(i), except instead of “retail sales of tangible personal property, admissions and services made within the county,” it reads “sales and storage, use and consumption of tangible personal property as provided by this article made within the county.”

Under 39-15-204, (i) refers to general revenue, (iii) refers to a specific purpose (i.e. the “Specific Purpose” or 6th Penny Tax) and (vi) refers to economic development. Sections (i), (ii) and (v) under 39-16-204 refer to the same uses, but for the use tax instead of the sales tax.

If the 5th penny tax is not renewed on the Nov. 6 ballot, any impact assistance that could be available to Carbon County would not be paid unless voters approved of the 6th penny tax in May.

## On and off the ballot

Write-ins, dropouts change face of county choices

*By Joshua Wood*

Following the primary election on Aug. 21, southern Carbon County saw a number of write-in candidates in municipal elections. As was reported on the front page of the Aug. 29 edition of the Saratoga Sun (“Write-ins move right on”), Hanna had a three-way tie between write-in candidates and Riverside saw incumbent town

council member Fred Lorenz win 11 votes.

Since the primary election, however, multiple races have seen both write-in and registered candidates withdraw their candidacy.

In Saratoga, Saratoga Town Council candidate Kim Hytrek withdrew via a letter citing personal reasons. Elk Mountain had something similar take place as Elk

Mountain Town Council candidate Kellsie Domnitz withdrew from the race as well.

Also in Elk Mountain, write-in candidate Sam Johnson declined to advance to the general election and so the candidate with the second most votes, Bryson Kennedy, advanced to the general election.

Despite not running for

re-election, Lorenz received enough votes in the race of Riverside Town Council to continue onto the general election with fellow incumbent Ed Golden. Lorenz, however, declined following notification from the county clerk’s office.

In Hanna, a three-way tie occurred between Sean Campbell, Shana Romero and Sammy Sikes. The

county clerk’s office, in the event of a three-way tie, put names into a hat and pulled out two names that would advance to the general election. Those two had been Campbell and Romero, but both declined to be on the general ballot. Due to this, Sikes joined fellow write-in candidate Michael Zediker on the ballot.

# Overseeing generations

Four generations have performed election judge services

*By Joshua Wood*

An election has a multitude of moving parts and important roles. Whether it’s the candidates running, the campaign managers who help the candidates or even the Secretaries of State and the county clerks who oversee the election, each has a role to play. One role that might often get overlooked, though, is that of the election judge. When citizens go in to cast their vote, these are the smiling faces that greet them and present them with their ballot.

“I think it’s important to give back to the community. As a single mom, I don’t have a ton of time to do as much as I would like, so the little things that I can do, I thought that was one thing that was important,” said Shelby Hizer.

Shelby is the fourth generation in her family to work as an election judge, having begun with the 2016 General Election. Shelby’s grandmother, Peggy Hizer, has worked as an election judge for nearly two decades and, before that, both Peggy’s mother and grandmother were election judges as well.

“They enjoyed it, they felt

patriotic and I felt patriotic because they were getting to do it. I thought “That’s what I want to do,” said Peggy.

Joining the long line of election judges this election cycle, starting with the 2018 primary election, was Shelby’s son, Riley Hopkins.

“When I heard about the student election judges, I thought it would be a really good thing for my son to get involved and understand, really, everything that went into the elections,” said Shelby. “I feel like, me growing up, I knew voting was important, but I feel like recently, in the last four or five years it’s just become a hotter topic and kids my son’s age, they’re getting back into it and becoming more involved.”

There may be those who think that all election judges have to do, especially with the advancement of technology, is ensure that people go to their proper district and get the right ballot. That, however, is only a portion of the job.

“It was good for me to see, and for Riley to see, all the math we do and the tallying and the reconciling,” Shelby said. “We keep two books, we

fill out. Everything ties, every vote is counted. There’s just ten ways to Sunday to prove,



**“Get involved on the local level and make sure you are voting for the people you want representing you and running your community. I didn’t realize how tight the elections were locally and, until recently, I didn’t realize how important local government was.”**

Shelby Hizer  
*Saratoga election judge*



whether you do the touch screen or the paper ballot, it’s going in there.”

This is especially important as, according to Shelby, many members of the older generation have an adverse reaction to the electronic voting machines.

“The older generation, they want nothing to do with those touch screens. They want to guarantee their vote gets counted,” said Shelby.

It was, in fact, the introduction of the electronic voting machines that led Peggy to ask Shelby to get involved. As technology has advanced and the methods of getting to votes to Rawlins changed, Peggy asked her granddaughter to get involved.

“I went from a paper ballot—that probably had ten names on it and they brought it back and you folded it up and put it in the box and then we counted all the ballots by ourselves — to what they have now, the electronic things,” Peggy said.

Peggy added that, while it seems that voter turnout may wax and wane, she believes she has still seen a fairly decent turnout every election that she has worked.

“People are patriotic and they want to say what they want to say, and one way they can do it is make the “x” or push the button on the machine,” said Peggy.

For the family of election judges, now entering its fifth generation, the focus on local government, in their opinion, is just as important if not more than keeping an eye on the federal government.

“Get involved on the local level and make sure you are voting for the people you want representing you and running your community. I didn’t realize how tight the elections were locally and, until recently, I didn’t realize how important local government was,” said Shelby.

There are plenty of other people in the area who are also doing the important work of an election judge on Nov. 6 and who did it on Aug. 21. Their devotion to the process is not to be discounted, either. For some, though, it may be comforting to know that at least one family passes down the importance of the voting process from one generation to the next.

A vertical advertisement featuring a night sky with a meteor streaking across it. Below the sky, a silhouette of a tent is visible, illuminated from within. The text is overlaid on the sky and tent areas.

speeds so fast you'll see stars

*Coming  
Soon Saratoga*

Reliable High-Speed Internet

The logo for Union Wireless, featuring a stylized mountain range with a sun or moon in the center, above the word "Union" in a bold, serif font. Below it, the address "108 West Bridge" is written in a smaller, sans-serif font.

**Union**  
108 West Bridge

(888) 926-CARE • [UnionWireless.com](http://UnionWireless.com)