



2020

Primary
Election



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Tuesday

August 18th

2020 Primary Election

Primary Election Section Overview

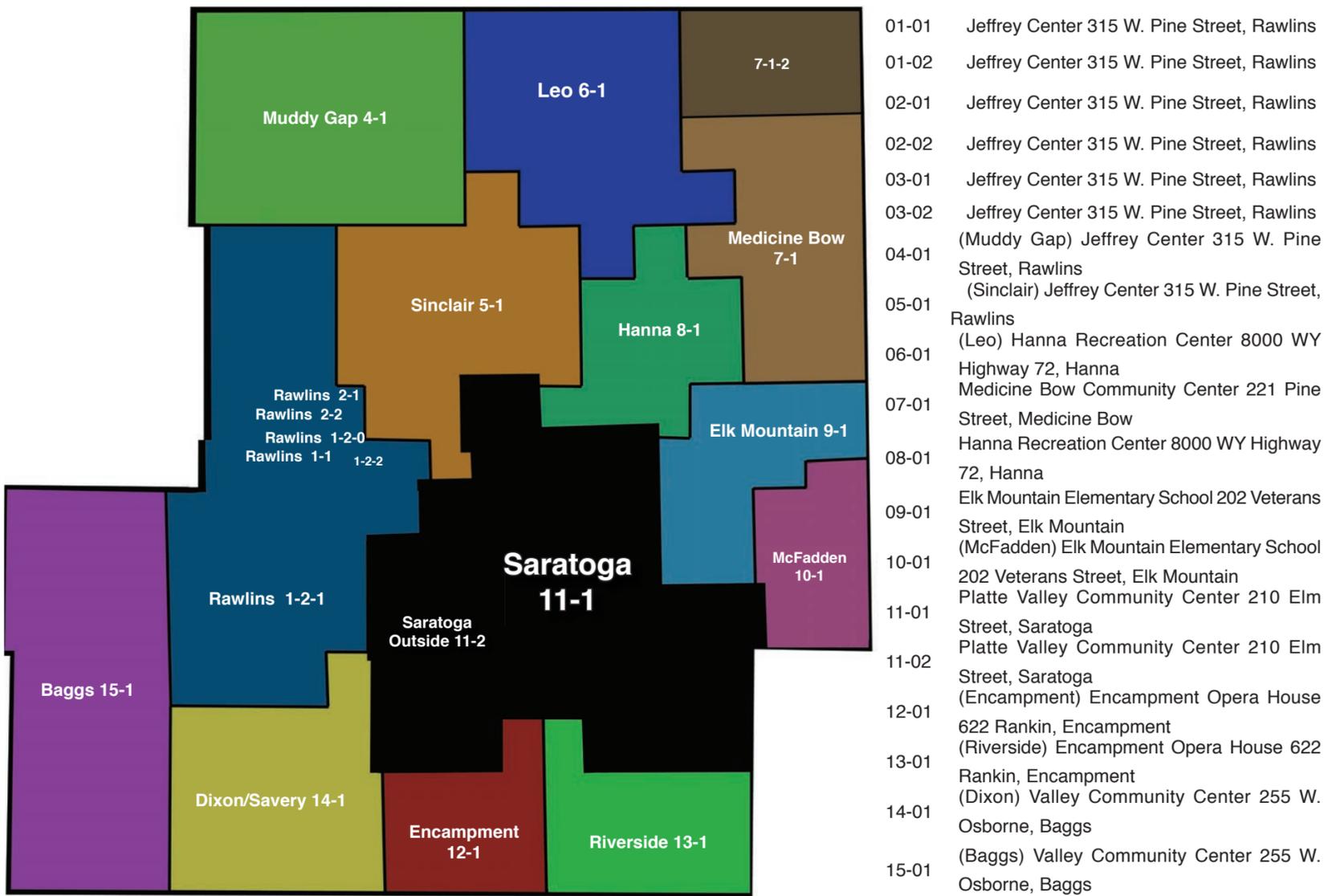
Candidates for each office are listed alphabetically by last name.*

The Saratoga Sun emailed questions to each candidate. Separate groups of questions were used for each office sought.

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

**Except where formatting supercedes alphabetization*

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2020 Primary Election



U.S. Senate - Republicans

**Mark Armstrong (R): P.O. Box 56, Centennial, WY 82055
(307) 399-8516; mr_geoman@yahoo.com**

Q. First and most important question, why are you running?

A. The Federal Government is broken and I know personally how a broken government impacts families and businesses. As an elected official, I'm the only candidate that reduced the size of government, did not raise taxes, stopped unwise projects and wrote law to hold government officials accountable. This seemed to change the bureaucracy's culture.

As a Geologist (PG) and Petroleum Engineer that has done environmental work for over 30 years, the interaction with government agencies has been nearly daily. Cultures at the USDA, EPA, DEQ, RWQCB, DTSC, Forest Service, Food Safety and Inspection Service do not put the best interest of Rural Americans foremost and that must be changed. I have the knowledge and ability to affect these changes.

Q. If elected, how will you work in the Senate to help the state and the country as a whole get past the COVID pandemic destruction to lives and economies?

A. I had Covid-19, which came from an encounter with a Californian on the campaign trail. The pandemic has less than a two percent death rate. It is not something people want but we must have an economy that is prosperous. Isolation works to lesson the spread of any disease, and when Trump stopped the travel from China to the USA it was a good move. I self isolated not because the government told me to but because I love my neighbor. Our society is being torn apart, these started with the abortion issue.

Because legislators have been lazy they have delegated the writing of law to bureaucrats. We should never allow unelected bureaucrats to write law. This violates our Constitutional rights and the US Supreme Court was wrong in the Chevron decision.

Q. What do you bring to the table over

other candidates to help the Wyoming constituents that elect you?

A. As an elected official I'm the only candidate that reduced the size of government, did not raise taxes, stopped unwise projects, and wrote law to hold government officials accountable. This seemed to change the bureaucracy's culture.

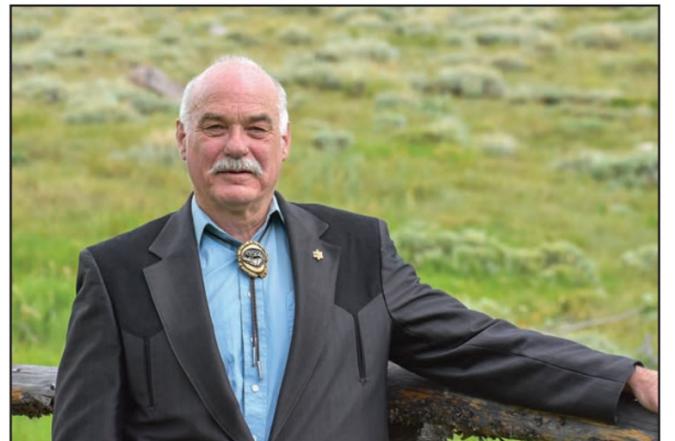
As a Geologist (PG) and Petroleum Engineer that has done environmental work for over 30 years, the interaction with government agencies has been nearly daily. Cultures at the USDA, EPA, DEQ, RWQCB, DTSC, Forest Service, Food Safety and Inspection Service do not put the best interest of Rural Americans foremost, and that must be changed. I have the knowledge and ability to affect these changes.

Q. What top three issues do you feel are the most important for you to focus on if you are elected?

A. The Debt reduce spending, Environmental Law (NEPA) rewrite, bring the Country back together.

The debt and spending; If we don't get spending under control our money will be worthless. Article 1 Section 10 (all currency must be backed by silver or gold) was designed to prohibit the Federal government from just printing money. We haven't had a Federal budget in 14 years. Moving away from baseline budgeting and back to a zero sum performance based budget will start to reduce the size of government. This will require the bureaucracy to justify every dollar spent, wasting taxpayer money is disrespectful to the taxpayer. The way the federal government is spending money is unsustainable.

The Nation Environmental Policy Act is being used to attack rural Americans, I have the experience and knowledge to change this. This is tearing us apart and can be fixed.



Q. Lastly, what do you want to say to readers that we did not touch on with the above questions.

A. Family: I have two children and two grandchildren. My son is a carpenter and my daughter is an artist.

Occupation: Geologist, Engineer, and Business owner

Education / Experience: Went to Colorado School of Mines, Doubled in Geology and Petroleum Engineering at University of Wyoming, Studied at Stanford. Was the Senior Environmental Engineering Geologist at SHP before starting my own consulting firm in 1993.

Biography: The Honorable Mr. Armstrong is the Great Grandson of Coach Corbett, was born in Laramie, Wyoming, and has deep roots here in Wyoming. Mr. Armstrong is the gggg Nephew of Abraham Lincoln and has always registered as a Republican. As a Geologist Mr. Armstrong worked for Halliburton, Earth Metric (SHP) as Senior Engineering Geologist, and then started his own company, Earth Engineers. Mr. Armstrong has worked to prevent adverse health affects from toxins. Mr Armstrong has worked oil and gas from throwing chain to developing prospects, and has never been out of zone when directing drilling. Mr. Armstrong has volunteered as a coach, librarian, Boy Scout assistant Scout Master, fire fighter, and at his church. He has a history of service and has sacrificed personal well being for the benefit of our society. Mr. Armstrong knows he is not perfect and must rely on his lord and savior Jesus Christ.

**Devon Cade (R): 4939 Pine St., Philadelphia, PA 19143
(267)997-11924; devon_cade@hotmail.com**

Unavailable for comment.



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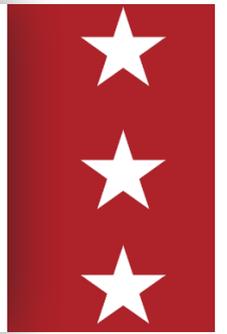
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2020 Primary Election



John Holz (R): 1167 Granito Dr. Laramie, WY 82072 (307) 745-6145; herrholtz@bresnan.net

Q. First and most important question, why are you running?

A. I am running to preserve the Constitution.

Q. If elected, how will you work in the Senate to help the state and the country as a whole get past the COVID pandemic destruction to lives and economies?

A. I would employ a gyroscopic analysis to do the right thing at the right time.

Q. What do you bring to the table over other candidates to help the Wyoming constituents that elect you?

A. I have international experience and qualifications unmatched by others. I have negotiated and designed weapons for America's defense. I was the head of the team to redesign the laser range finder, ballistic computer and thermal imaging system of the Army's main battle tank, the M60A3.

Q. What top three issues do you feel are the most important for you to focus on if you are elected?

A. Government is best that governs least. I will strengthen America's defense and reduce the deficit. I would make Social Security non-taxable once again. I would export our resources to Europe and Israel through the Straits of Gibraltar to broaden our opportunities. Wyoming is an energy treasure trove in an energy short world. Our natural resources should help our friends, not our enemies.

Q. Lastly, what do you want to say to readers that we did not touch on with the above questions.

A. I am an Eagle Scout and a member of the Christian Legal Society since law school.

I obtained the first double-digit firm fixed-price contract in the history of the Hughes Aircraft Company; I was the head of the team to redesign the fire control system; consisting of the laser range finder, ballistic computer and thermal imaging system of the Army's main battle tank, the M60A3.

I was in the Electro Optical and Space Division of the Hughes Aircraft Company. When I was at Hughes, they would tease me about the horse on my Wyoming license plates.

My grandmother met my grandfather in Gillette in 1919 and her brothers had the livery stable.

I was one of the youngest judges in Wyoming history and helped establish the Circuit Court system of today.

I was president of my college fraternity and the president of the Alumni Association of the Delta Gamma chapter of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity at the University of Wyoming from 1988 to 1992.

I was instrumental in placing the carrying of concealed weapon without a permit for Wyoming residents on the Wyoming Republican platform in 2010. I am a life member of the NRA.

I still drive the car I had as a judge in 1992, it has over

600,000 miles on the original engine and transmission. We have to learn to do more with less.

I was class president at Clark Air Base in the Philippines, where the Japanese first developed kamikaze tactics as a mass weapon of war.

I was on the Bataan Death March 20th anniversary march with three of the original survivors and received the historic trail award.

My grandmother and grandfather moved to Omaha after living in Gillette. I was born in Omaha and my father was in the Air Force. We lived all over the world. I began kindergarten on a base in Anchorage when Alaska was still a territory.

My father was an OSI agent and we spent many years in Del Rio, Texas, where our family friend, Major Rudolph Anderson, was the first casualty of the Cold War. He was shot down over Cuba in a U2 when we were at Clark in the Philippines.

I graduated high school in Omaha and began college at the University of Maryland, in Munich when my father received orders to be Deputy Inspector General of Security for the United States Air Force in Wiesbaden.

I graduated from the University of Wyoming and went to law school at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas.

I was a judge for many years in Douglas and I am currently in private practice in Laramie.

Michael Kemler (R): P.O. Box 812, Lander, WY 82520 (307) 349-9814; vote3things@gmail.com

Unavailable for comment.

Cynthia M. Lummis (R): 1825 Campstool Rd., Cheyenne, WY 82007 (307) 369-2442; info@lummisforwyoming.com



Q. First and most important question, why are you running?

A. As our country deals with the impacts of COVID-19 over the months and years to come, it will be more important than ever for Wyoming to have proven, effective leadership in the U.S. Senate. To have a fierce advocate for small businesses and free enterprise, an unwavering defender of the Constitution and the civil liberties it protects and a committed, seasoned conservative who will put Wyoming and its people first. I am running for the U.S. Senate to be that voice for Wyoming.

I'm ready to roll up my sleeves, head back to Washington and stand shoulder-to-shoulder with President Trump to get our economy booming again, unleash Wyoming energy production, tackle our national debt and hold China accountable for the devastation their irresponsible actions regarding

COVID-19 have caused to American families, business and communities.

Q. If elected, how will you work in the Senate to help the state and the country as a whole get past the COVID pandemic destruction to lives and economies?

A. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on our nation and state. The tragic loss of life has shattered families and communities. COVID-19 has also wreaked havoc on our economy, sending industries into freefall and our unemployment rate to skyrocket. It is essential we continue to be diligent in following health protocols while getting businesses reopened, letting people return to work and bolstering domestic manufacturing and energy production.

It's also critical we pivot away from U.S. reliance on China for goods and services.

From medicine and technology to transportation and rare earth minerals, this pandemic has exposed a weakness in our supply chain we must address once and for all. As your next U.S. Senator, I will lead efforts to end U.S. reliance on China for many manufactured goods.

Q. What do you bring to the table over other candidates to help the Wyoming constituents that elect you?

A. Wyoming voters can look at my track record serving in the U.S. House of Representatives and know what type of Senator I will be. I defended our conservative values and championed Wyoming's mineral and energy resources. I signed and delivered on the 'No New Tax Pledge' and was a founding member of the Freedom Caucus. I earned an 'A+' rating from the NRA and 100% voting record with Right to Life. I also opposed President Obama's radical agenda

more often than any other Member of Congress. I'm a proven fighter for Wyoming families, communities and industries.

Q. What top three issues do you feel are the most important for you to focus on if you are elected?

A. I believe the three most pressing concerns Wyoming's next U.S. Senator needs to tackle are facilitating the 'Great American Comeback', championing domestic energy production and cutting federal spending.

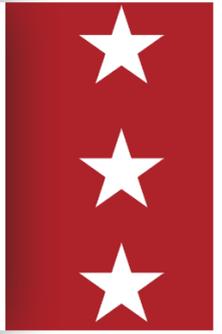
To get our economy back on track, we must reduce overly burdensome regulations on business, bring manufacturing and production of critical goods and services back to the United States and continue pro-growth tax policies that enable the private sector, and the critical jobs and revenues they provide, to thrive.

Wyoming is the energy state and during my eight years serving in the U.S. House of Representatives, I was proud to be a dedicated champion of Wyoming's mineral and energy resources. Should I be elected to the U.S. Senate, among my top priorities with respect to domestic energy are implementing recommendations of the President's Nuclear Fuel Working Group to revitalize domestic uranium mining; advancing the research and promotion of carbon capture technologies and coal-derived carbon products; enabling the export of Powder River Basin coal through western ports; and ensuring fair, transparent and timely permitting processes.

Lastly, it is imperative that we cut federal spending and reduce our staggering national debt which has direct and severe consequences for our economy, household incomes and savings, policy decisions, national security and ultimately American exceptionalism. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I stood up to moderate leadership of my own party to push back against overspending. In the U.S. Senate, I will continue to be a fierce budget hawk and work tirelessly to cut



2020 Primary Election



Cynthia M. Lummis (R): Continued...

spending and reduce the national debt.

Q. Lastly, what do you want to say to readers that we did not touch on with the above questions.

A. I'm proud to be endorsed by U.S. Senators Mike Enzi, John Barrasso, Ted Cruz, Rand Paul, the National Rifle Association, the American Conservative

Union, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Susan B. Anthony List and over 100 community leaders from all 23 Wyoming counties, among others.

**Bryan E. Miller (R): P.O. Box 6830, Sheridan, WY 82801
(307) 706-4557; Bryan.Miller@BryanMiller4Senate.com**

Q. First and most important question, why are you running?

A. I'm running for US Senate because I am Pro-Life, Pro-2nd Amendment, and Pro-Wyoming. I'm a Lifelong Wyoming Republican, Staunch Conservative, Protector of our Liberty and Defender of our U.S Constitution. I am a proven leader who has served in combat, combat support and disaster relief operations worldwide. For years now we've needed leaders, not administrators, in Washington. I trained to be a leader at the U.S. Air Force Academy and have consistently demonstrated my leadership skills in the military, as a successful Wyoming Small Businessman, and now, for nearly a decade, in direct engagement in our municipal, county, and state government's policy-making processes as well as have become a leader who has facilitated the grassroots comeback of conservatism in the Wyoming Republican Party. I have a track record of success in serving my family, friends, and neighbors across Wyoming and America. And, I see the turbulent times we are living in today as a call to those of us who love our country, our way of life, and our Great Republic to come forward and lead our state and nation to a better future.

Q. If elected, how will you work in the Senate to help the state and the country as a whole get past the COVID pandemic destruction to lives and economies?

A. I will provide bold innovative leadership and call for strength to overcome, not promote fear and anxiety, as an example to our children. I recognize the fact that not every state and local government experienced the same level of impact to citizens, their health, and morbidity rate. Some were greatly impacted while others hardly at all. Nor are all in the same position with their economy. I also know that adding several more Trillions of dollars to our national debt (debt that our great, great grandchildren will take on) will not make things better for those who have lost loved ones. It will simply reward those state and local governments who continuously make poor decisions regarding public safety. What you can expect I will do is follow President Trump's lead in using our constitutional concept of federalism to provide support to states only when necessary to save American lives. This can be done by affording temporary financial support to those American citizens who were forced by their Governors to become dependent on state or federal government programs to provide food, water, and shelter for their families. Beyond that, those who made poor governmental financial decisions must accept the

consequences for and work to rectify the damage and suffering they caused.

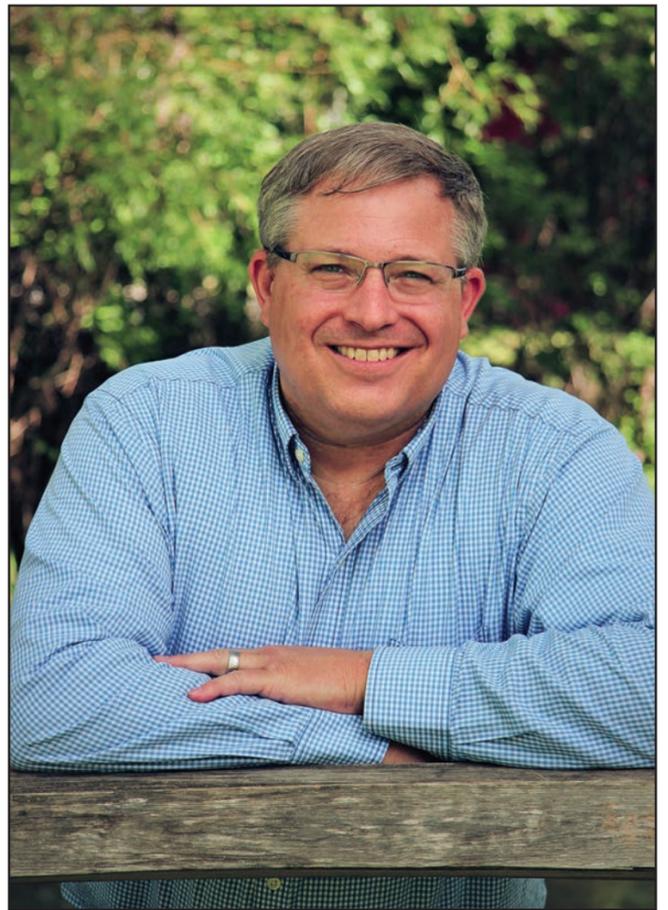
Q. What do you bring to the table over other candidates to help the Wyoming constituents that elect you?

A. I've spent more time over the past 10 years being involved in municipal, county, and state government than most members in our State Legislature who have been in office for those same 10 years. I'm not bragging or denigrating our legislators in saying so either. You can confirm that by talking to almost anyone who has been on the Wyoming Republican Party State Central Committee or Sheridan County Party Central Committee in the past six years. The combination of my military, national, and international worker bee level government experience and international business experience likely top any of the other candidates as well. I've been the Chairman of several statewide committees, been the lead of multi-agency working groups and task forces, understand parliamentary procedure, and handled multi-million-dollar budgets. I'm 54 years old with three decades of leadership experience. Career politicians are what brought the mess we find ourselves in today. We need leaders, not administrators, in Washington right now and I'm a proven leader.

Q. What top three issues do you feel are the most important for you to focus on if you are elected?

A. In no particular order here are a those that need immediate attention: 1) Growing the economy by bringing jobs relevant to small businesses back to America to reduce our dependence on foreign supply chains as they are critical to the recovery of our economy; 2) Readdressing the issues of Immigration, Education, Access to Healthcare, and Civil Rights, as each of these issues are marred by federal bureaucracy which inhibits our ability to our forming a more perfect union; and 3) Reduce our nation's debt by changing the way our government works for us, limiting its scope, size, and reach to eliminate the tendency of government to rule over us.

Q. Lastly, what do you want to say to readers that we did not touch on with the above questions.



A. As a cadet at the United States Air Force Academy, I embraced the spirit of a quote by John Stewart Mill that has stuck with me all these years, "War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things. The decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling which thinks that nothing is worth war is much worse. The person who has nothing for which he is willing to fight, nothing which is more important than his personal safety, is a miserable creature and has no chance of being free unless made and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself." Today, we are at a crossroads that will determine whether liberty or subjugation will prevail. For decades now, there has been a battle for the soul of our Republic. And while we may lack violence in the streets of Wyoming today, this does not mean we are not at war with the socialist, liberal agenda which wants to tear apart the very fabric that binds us as a nation. I am a Warrior for Liberty and Freedom for all citizens of Wyoming and America. I will provide the Bold Innovative Leadership needed to keep the Republic our Forefathers so valiantly fought to establish.

**Star Roselli (R): 18291 N. Pima Rd., Scottsdale, AZ 85255
(646) 659-7991; starroselli7@gmail.com**

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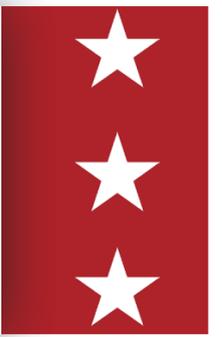
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2020 Primary Election



**Donna Rice (R): 1145 S. Wolcott St., Casper, WY 82601
(307) 797-8293; donna@donnaforwyoming.com**



Q. Why are you running?

A. I am running because I am deeply concerned about what I see happening in America today. We have civil unrest, property destruction and violence in the name of peaceful protests, and a move toward accepting socialist ideas that haven't worked elsewhere. I believe in America and Wyoming and want to see my children and grandchildren have a future intact with the liberties enjoyed by our citizens for generations. I will fight for the future of America. Our founding principles are timeless and create the best environment for people to flourish in a free society.

Q. If elected, how will you work in the Senate to help the state and the country as a whole get past the COVID pandemic destruction to lives and economies?

A. I am a small business owner and strong advocate of small business. I will work to find or create opportunities for small business incentives and improvement of infrastructure throughout our state and the country. COVID has shown the need for bringing supply chain, essential goods manufacturing and production back home to the United States. This need presents many opportunities for new business activity throughout our nation and state. We need to get America back to work and this is one way to do so. Existing businesses also need help to return to profitability and full employment. I favor incentives here also.

Q. What do you bring to the table over other candidate to help the Wyoming constituents that elect you?

A. By profession, I am an estate planning attorney. I have twenty-five years of experience helping families plan for end of life issues and managing a private law firm. I bring not only my legal training, but also small business management and interpersonal skills developed by working in an intensely emotional and personal area of the law. Managing conflict, identifying core issues in disagreements or conflict, finding solutions to thorny problems, and keeping peace are all skills I bring into the public service arena.

Q. What top three issues do you feel are the most important for you to focus on if you are elected?

A. Jobs and COVID19 economic recovery are on the top of my list. For Wyoming specifically, I will work to keep our continued coal, oil, gas, and minerals industry as healthy and productive as possible. I will also support and seek diversification by stimulating small business growth at the most local levels. I believe we need a strong foundation of small business in order to attract larger businesses. I support improving infrastructure for our business environment, particularly high-speed Internet access around the state. I also support bringing home supply chain, essential goods production and local food production and processing, with mandatory country of origin labeling. Cybersecurity, national defense, and securing our borders follow closely behind economic concerns.

Q. Lastly, what do you want to say to readers that we did not touch on with the above questions?

A. It has been a pleasure to travel the state and meet so many fine Wyoming people. I've been encouraged by how truly good the people of this state are and it would be an honor and privilege to represent their interests in Washington, D.C. I'm running for office because I care about the legacy we are leaving for our children and grandchildren. We have an obligation to fight for and preserve what is great about America so that our young ones inherit the freedom and opportunities we've enjoyed. I'd appreciate your vote on August 18th.

**Robert G. Short (R): P.O. Box 906, Douglas, WY 82633
(307) 527-0737; robertshort@shortfor307.com**



Q. First and most important question, why are you running?

A. I have a deep love for Wyoming and believe we need to restore the public's trust in our elected officials. The boom and bust nature of our economy forced me to leave the State in the 1980's to pursue economic opportunity. I was fortunate to be able to move back and want to help create a State where we stop exporting our kids and workforce. From my experience in small business, I know we must remove the federal barriers that I and others have faced trying to grow Wyoming's economy. I am running to make Wyoming the place I know it can be for future generations, while working to bring civility back into our national vernacular and prosperity within reach for those willing to work for it. I am running to help bring true diversity to our State and ultimately help provide energy independence, food supply certainty, medical stability and security to the people of our great nation.

Q. If elected, how will you work in the Senate to help the state and the country as a whole get past the COVID pandemic destruction to lives and economies?

A. The biggest impact of Covid-19 is economic destruction wrought on our country. I was forced to close our hotel and restaurant in Glenrock while the downturn hammered our energy services business. America witnessed the weaknesses in our supply chain and why we must not be dependent on foreign countries for manufacturing, food and medicine. Our national security is at risk. Our preparedness for health emergencies must be addressed, by working with State and local leaders, ensuring adequate resources, (especially PPE), and sound planning to limit effects on our economy. Congress failed to provide oversight of federal programs which allowed the distribution of funds to entities not in need (Harvard, Los Angeles Lakers, Shake Shack, etc.). Any stimulus funds apportioned in response to crisis must be adequately supervised so that no tax dollars are spent on or distributed to entities which do not need or warrant assistance.

Q. What do you bring to the table over other candidates to help the Wyoming constituents that elect you?

A. I am not a career politician; I am a successful small business owner who has made a career creating jobs in Wyoming. If we want to change Washington, we cannot send the same tired politicians who are beholden to the special interest. As a Converse County Commissioner, where I work closest to the people, I bring a wealth of working with people from diverse backgrounds, a tireless pursuit of problem solving, an ability to listen to different points of view, and a willingness to adapt to changing situations. As an electrical engineer, I have worked in the fields of science, technology, energy, manufacturing, agriculture, propulsion, medical, and many others. I understand business, deal making and what it takes to operate responsibly and balancing a budget.

Q. What top three issues do you feel are the most important for you to focus on if you are elected?

A. The Deficit, Economic Recovery and Domestic Investment. We must work to balance budgets, stop overspending due to government redundancy, inefficiency and bloat, while reducing our tax burden. Wyoming and our nation's bleak financial outlook improve greatly by getting people back to work and producing goods, services and natural resources domestically. We must re-establish our world leading economy through careful consideration of our investments into American infrastructure projects, while incentivizing private investments. We must repatriate stranded capital, and our critical manufacturing sector, through investments into our electrical systems, working to increase raw materials development, consumer goods, agricultural production and transportation efficiencies. And, we must rein in the heavy handed regulatory environment which drives many small businesses out of business. While appropriate regulation is beneficial, the out of control agencies which seek to create laws through regulatory overreach must be reminded of their mandates and held to account.

Q. Lastly, what do you want to say to readers that we did not touch on with the above questions.

A. Our energy resources must be maximized to eliminate our reliance on foreign sources and the influence of foreign actors. When OPEC flinches, our energy sector convulses. This is unacceptable for a world leading economy. The federal government must help open new export markets for our coal, oil, and gas. West coast States blocking the export of Wyoming coal is a clear violation of the Commerce Clause. Government must stop the dumping of uranium and trona on our domestic markets by foreign actors. Regulation wise, government must allow existing leases and permits to be extended as producers navigate the downturn in prices and reduce regulatory overreach. Accelerated decommissioning of power plants jeopardizes our electricity base and puts all aspects of our economy in jeopardy. Energy exploration and proper investment/incentives in technologies is also needed. We can accomplish these things while protecting Wyoming's agriculture, tourism, abundant wildlife and environment.



2020 Primary Election



**Josh Wheeler (R): P.O. Box 607, Casper, WY
(307) 439-4228; josh@fighting4wyoming.com**

Unavailable for comment.

U.S. Senate - Democrats

**Merav Ben-David (D): P.O. Box 1007, Laramie, WY 82073
(307) 214-0510; contact@mbendavid2020.com**

Q. What issue(s) currently facing Wyoming led you to decide to run for United States senate?

A. I'm particularly concerned about the implications of climate change for Wyoming. Global demand for fossil fuels is rapidly declining - this could cripple Wyoming's economy. My goal is to be an advocate for Wyoming in DC to ensure that our needs in terms of economic diversification, healthcare, education, and equality are met, and that our commitment to wide-open spaces, clean water and air, and public lands is respected.

Q. You are one of six candidates vying for the Democratic ticket in the General Election in November. What do you think sets you apart from the other candidates?

A. My skill set as a scientist gives me the ability to solve problems by posing the right questions, gathering all the relevant data and drawing evidence-based conclusions. The need for such a perspective is clearer than ever as we struggle with economic hardship and loss of life due to the pandemic.

I also grew up on a small family farm, am a combat veteran and have been an educator for more than twenty years. I know and understand the issues faced by Wyomingites and Americans today better than anyone else in this race.

Q. This year, the United States has seen varying protests with some people protesting public health orders while others protested for police reform. Similar protests took place here in Wyoming. What are your thoughts on these protests?

A. Freedom of expression is paramount to American democracy. The First Amendment explicitly protects "the right of the people peacefully to assemble." Peaceful protestors are American patriots. We should treat them as such, and reflect on their message.

Recent incidents of police violence have brought systemic racism to the forefront of our national conversation. We must rethink the ways in which we keep our communities safe. We don't need tanks and military tactical gear on our streets. Instead, we should invest in de-escalation and conflict management

training, in affordable housing and mental healthcare.

But police violence is only one of many inequities Black, Indigenous and People of Color endure in our country. One need only look at disparities in employment opportunities, health outcomes, educational attainment, prosecutorial practices, predatory loan targeting, mortgage availability and voting access to see built-in discrimination in most institutions in American life. In fact, due to environmental racism (the practice of placing polluting factories and waste sites near communities of color), Black and Brown children literally breathe different air than their White counterparts.

Today, even a majority of conservatives acknowledge the fact that systemic racism impacts Americans of color. It is long past time to right these wrongs.

Q. There has been much discussion about the role played by Dr. Anthony Fauci as the country responded to the COVID-19 epidemic. What role do you think health officials should play in helping set policy?

A. Dr. Fauci and other scientists and public health officials are some of the most informed and expert stakeholders in the policy conversation. That said, parents, teachers, business owners, and essential workers are all stakeholders too. We must engage all the stakeholders in such important policy discussions; the best solutions are reached when the discussions are inclusive, informed, and transparent.

Q. In light of the global pandemic, there is often discussion about what a government can and cannot do in regards to the individual rights of its citizens. What is the government's role and how can it be effective in that role?

Like many Wyomingites, I'm a strong believer in individual liberty. But when we face major crises like wars, natural disasters or pandemics, we look to the government for leadership, resources, and solutions. We need to make sure that our elected officials manage these crises with competence, transparency, and



integrity - something the current administration has failed to do.

Q. Wyoming was not immune to the effect of COVID on the economy. How would you plan to get Wyoming back on track?

A. The confluence of a global pandemic and economic recession has left millions of workers unemployed and uninsured. Medical emergencies are a main cause of bankruptcies, hunger and homelessness, so leaving Americans without the ability to feed their families, keep their homes, and access healthcare - in the middle of a pandemic - is unconscionable.

Here's how we get back on track.

First, we must pass the HEROES Act to provide all Americans—and small businesses—with additional assistance.

Then, we must adopt a universal healthcare system, in which healthcare access is independent of job status. Such a plan should address the needs of rural states like Wyoming by providing services for our far-flung ranches, support for rural hospitals and retention of healthcare professionals.

Finally, we need to invest in technology and innovation that will lead to renewed economic growth and prosperity, especially right here in Wyoming, where we've talked about diversification for decades. It's time to turn our words into actions.

**Kenneth R. Casner (D): P.O. Box 136, Elk Mountain, WY 82324
(307) 343-0129; casey@union-tel.com**

Q. What issue(s) currently facing Wyoming led you to decide to run for United States senate?

A. Real simple during the past twenty year on a quest to be a Statesman for Wyoming. I learned that Representation was a myth in all areas of Wyoming Government. Today our State must have solid Representation in Congress, that is why I choose the Open Seat of United State Senator.

Q. You are one of six candidates vying for the Democratic ticket in the General Election in November. What do you think sets you apart from the other candidates?

A. I consider myself an Independent. I have a record none of these candidates hold. I have ran for every office in Carbon County, and two times for Governor the past twenty years. I'm a Statesman, otherwise the quest would have been over a long time ago. I have never taken one dime. I believe voters really want representation. I tote my own load, which affords me the right to state,

Donations, PAC, and Special Interest, I will not have as baggage. I will then be able to Represent the Public Good at all levels.

Q. This year, the United States has seen varying protests with some people protesting public health orders while others protested for police reform. Similar protests took place here in Wyoming. What are your thoughts on these protests?

A. If elected I will uphold that OATH of Office. The Constitution is the law of the Land. Plans, Programs and Policies are determined by three levels of Government. Tyranny, violence, looting are not the answers. What is not mentioned in the Constitution are the States rights.

Q. There has been much discussion about the



role played by Dr. Anthony Fauci as the country responded to the COVID-19 epidemic. What role do you think health officials should play in helping set policy?



2020 Primary Election

Kenneth R. Casner (D): Continued...

I would state CDC is vital part of Americas defense, it is no different than Pentagon. We the People need a Secretary of Disease, not pick and choose what best fits whims of Leadership, with Senate confirmation.

Q. In light of the global pandemic, there is often discussion about what a government can and cannot do in regards to the individual rights of its citizens.

What is the government's role and how can it be effective in that role?

A. Well it is obvious, the current leadership has not promoted the general welfare of this nation today, nor insured domestic tranquility. Poor leadership, led to poor programs, policies and at all levels from Cities, States and Federal. We the people need to select

active leadership and remove stagnate leadership.

Q. Wyoming was not immune to the effect of COVID on the economy. How would you plan to get Wyoming back on track?

A. Representation as a Statesman for Wyoming's Public Good not the Party Good.

James Kirk DeBrine (D): P.O. Box 1242, Evansville, WY 82636 (307) 333-6742; jamesdebrine@yahoo.com

Unavailable for comment.

Yana Ludwig (D): 2252 Welsh Ln., Laramie, WY 82070 (307) 316-4662; yana4wyo@gmail.com



Q. What issue(s) currently facing Wyoming led you to decide to run for United States senate?

A. I spent my childhood in a former iron ore mining town and watched what happens when a mining-dependent place doesn't plan for what's next. We had a lot of suicides and addiction, and kids like me got used to noticing who didn't have lunch that day. I see Wyoming headed for a similar future because our elected officials stubbornly refuse to deal with the inevitable transition.

We are running out of time to get a handle on the climate crisis, and I don't believe we can solve it without also dealing with economic insecurity. My work with the New Economy Coalition and with various nonprofits has me uniquely suited to take on this pair of issues. We need a Green New Deal that is as much a jobs creation program as an "environmental" program, and it needs some particular focus on us fossil fuel states.

Q. You are one of six candidates vying for the Democratic ticket in the General Election in November. What do you think sets you apart from the other candidates?

A. I have had a 30-year career in the non-profit and cooperatives fields, mostly focused on sustainability, and economic and racial justice work. I'm the mom and stepmom of four Wyoming public school kids and a huge fan of public lands. My 2017 book, "Together Resilient: Building Community in the Age of Climate Disruption", focuses on locally self-determined

responses to the climate crisis and includes a full Green New Deal platform.

I've also stocked grocery shelves for \$10/hr during lean times and know better than any other senate candidate what it means to work hard and still struggle. I'm a member of the LGBTQIA+ community and spent three years disabled with chronic Lyme disease. I'm a voice for voices that are normally ignored in our political process.

Q. This year, the United States has seen varying protests with some people protesting public health orders while others protested for police reform. Similar protests took place here in Wyoming. What are your thoughts on these protests?

A. The protests for police reform have been urgent and necessary. I've worked for police reform for years, including as a founding member of Albany County for Proper Policing which formed in response to the murder of Robbie Ramirez by a Sheriff's Deputy in November 2018. But Black Lives Matter has been clear for years about systemic racism in America; police reform and a redefinition of what "public safety" means is just one piece.

While the BLM protests are based on data of actual regular police violence against people of color, the protests against public health orders are not based on data. I still support people's rights to protest, but I'm not personally moved by the arguments against needed public health measures.

Q. There has been much discussion about the role played by Dr. Anthony Fauci as the country responded to the COVID-19 epidemic. What role do you think health officials should play in helping set policy?

A. We need to listen to scientists and take their advice seriously – health officials should absolutely play an important role in setting policy. In terms of future pandemics, we need to rejoin the World Health Organization and make sure the CDC and other US agencies dealing with health are fully funded. Our rural hospitals need better funding. The Trump administration has gutted a lot of what we needed

in the last 6 months. We also need to recognize the increasingly certain link between pandemics and climate disruption. This may be one of the best reasons to prioritize a robust Green New Deal.

Q. In light of the global pandemic, there is often discussion about what a government can and cannot do in regards to the individual rights of its citizens. What is the government's role and how can it be effective in that role?

A. The government's role is supporting citizens in need – not billionaires. In response to COVID we've thrown trillions of dollars to big corporations, and not nearly enough to individuals, hospitals, small businesses, and local and state governments. Big businesses are in it for profit; those other entities serve the people, and that's where our attention needs to be. The countries that have actually halted the spread of COVID have three main things in common: they paid people to stay home for about 3 weeks, masks are a culturally accepted practice in a crisis, and widespread testing was made available and required to go back to work or school. We should follow these patterns.

Q. Wyoming was not immune to the effect of COVID on the economy. How would you plan to get Wyoming back on track?

A. I believe that the Wyoming state budget shortfalls have deeper roots than the pandemic. We need to finally get real about the fact that coal is a beloved member of the Wyoming community that is in hospice. It is never going to be what it once was, and oil and natural gas are similarly in decline. Diversifying our economy means supporting wind and solar, getting robust rural broadband to expand our economic potential for many types of businesses, and legalizing marijuana. Those all mean revenues.

The state should also be looking at a Wyoming Public Bank. Our campaign released a proposal for this in June that shows we can save a lot of money on infrastructure projects, bring consistent, low risk revenue into the state budget (of at least \$18M per year if we were very conservative) and keep hard earned Wyoming dollars in Wyoming instead of sending them to Wall Street.

Rex Wilde (D): 1910 E. 22nd St., Cheyenne, WY 82001 (307) 365-0386

Unavailable for comment.

Check next week's Saratoga Sun for unofficial election results.



2020 Primary Election



**Nathan Wendt (D): P.O. Box 1216, Jackson, WY 83001
(307) 920-3771; nathanmwendt@gmail.com**

Q. What issue(s) currently facing Wyoming led you to decide to run for United States senate?

A. Wyoming is at a crossroads. For the past several decades, people across the state have lost good-paying, family-sustaining jobs. Communities are being hollowed out and young people are forced to leave the state to find opportunity. Our healthcare costs are among the highest in the nation. We need a fresh approach to fix these challenges. The status quo of yet another career politician will not improve the quality of life for people living in Wyoming. The state desperately needs a new type of leader that takes the best of the old and combines it with new ideas and opportunities that can take Wyoming forward.

Q. You are one of six candidates vying for the Democratic ticket in the General Election in November. What do you think sets you apart from the other candidates?

A. I've already been working on the key issues facing Wyoming, so I'm ready to hit the ground and go to work. Over the past half-decade I have been part of the next generation leadership at the Jackson Hole Center for Global Affairs (JHCGA). JHCGA is a family organization focused on developing winning strategies for Wyoming, particularly in job creation, economic diversification, and clean energy. This work has taken me across our state meeting with communities concerned by the direction Wyoming and the nation are headed.

At 39 years old I am the youngest candidate in this race and pride myself in being an independent leader. I do not believe in being a rubber stamper for either political party, I care about delivering results for the people of Wyoming.

Q. This year, the United States has seen varying protests with some people protesting public health

orders while others protested for police reform. Similar protests took place here in Wyoming. What are your thoughts on these protests?

A. Americans have the right to peaceably assemble under the first amendment. As long as Americans are not resorting to violence, their actions move the nation forward and are representative of democracy in action.

Q. There has been much discussion about the role played by Dr. Anthony Fauci as the country responded to the COVID-19 epidemic. What role do you think health officials should play in helping set policy?

A. Officials and scientists like Dr. Fauci should play an advisory role in setting policy. A public official like Dr. Fauci, does not make recommendations based off political decisions, they make recommendations based on science and judgments that consider the public interest. We elect political leaders and those leaders need advisors to help them make sensible, effective, decisions.

Q. In light of the global pandemic, there is often discussion about what a government can and cannot do in regards to the individual rights of its citizens. What is the government's role and how can it be effective in that role?

A. In a traditional sense, the role of government is to oversee justice, ensure national defense, and provide public goods like infrastructure. However, the pandemic has ripped wide open the vulnerabilities and inequities in our society that

have only gotten worse over the decades. Nearly 50% of Americans don't even have \$400 to spare if they face an unexpected expense. The middle class has been hollowed out to the extent that the top 10% wealthiest families own nearly 75% of all



wealth in America.

These realities mean that government has an expanded role; to provide a floor beneath each citizen where basic services—specifically a high quality public education and healthcare—are provided or are available to all for free or at low costs. If everyone had access to these same services, everyone would then be able to maximize their potential in life, benefiting the economy, society, and personal freedoms.

U.S. Representative - Republicans

**Liz Cheney (R): P.O. Box 697, Casper, WY 82602
(307) 247-1414; liz@teamcheney.com**

Q. The role of Representative is nearly as much campaigning for the next election as it is working for constituents, which leads to having a pretty full plate. What do you think you can do or have done effectively for the people of Wyoming?

A. I am a proud constitutional conservative with a track record of championing free markets, restoring our liberties, securing our country, and defending our constitutional rights. I have worked with President Trump to cut burdensome red tape and onerous Obama-era environmental regulations and to defend our constitutional rights. I have been a tireless advocate for Wyoming families and our key industries, including ag, energy and tourism, working to protect us from one-size-fits-all policy handed down from Washington, DC.

Q. Wyoming has discussed diversifying its economy for years, especially as it follows the boom or bust cycle some associate with the extraction industry. What do you think can be done on the federal level to aid Wyoming in the pursuit of a diversified economy?

A. I have been working closely with my colleagues in Congress and at the Departments of Interior, Agriculture and Energy, and at the White House to ensure the federal government provides regulatory and other relief especially during this pandemic. Some of this relief has included: extending exploratory unit deadlines for one year; allowing federal exploratory units to be the largest size proposed by operators that are geographically justified; granting surface commingling and allocation approval requests if all regulatory criteria are met rather than requiring separation of production; allowing for operators to pay APD fees when BLM issues a final decision on those filed in calendar year 2020, rather than at the time of filing the APD; facilitating the approval of applications for one-year suspension of operations and production for federal onshore leases; royalty and lease extension; and working with Dept. Of Energy

on clean coal technology and other pilot projects. I introduced the Ending Duplicative Permitting Act, which eliminates a repetitive federal permit required by the BLM for oil and gas operations located on private and state lands that access non-federal minerals.

Q. To many American citizens, it would appear that the country is more divided than ever before. What are some instances in which you have or would reach across the aisle to work with the opposing party?

A. Our nation is facing unprecedented challenges and we must work together but Speaker Pelosi continues to turn away from bipartisan solutions. House Democrats continue to pursue partisan legislation that they knew would not be signed into law instead of working across the aisle on common sense reforms that would lead to solutions for the American people. Republicans have tried again and again to reach across the aisle on matters such as COVID relief and holding China accountable for the pandemic. Speaker Pelosi continues to put partisan games ahead of what's necessary for our country.

Q. There has been much discussion about the role played by Dr. Anthony Fauci as the country responded to the COVID-19 epidemic. What role do you think health officials should play in helping set policy?

A. Physicians on the President's Coronavirus

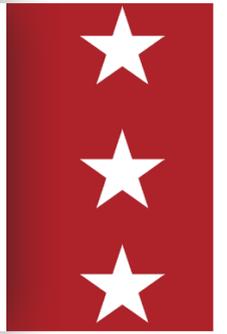
Task Force are important advisors, ultimately policy decisions are made by elected officials. We must continue to invest in development, manufacturing and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics. The Trump Administration has



launched Operation Warp Speed (OWS) for development, manufacturing and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics by January 2021. OWS will allow vaccines to be delivered to patients faster while maintaining the required standards for safety and efficacy. In addition to manufacture and development of a potential



2020 Primary Election



Liz Cheney (R): Continued...

vaccine, the Administration is also taking important steps to allow for widespread distribution of a vaccine once one is approved to come to market.

Q. In light of the global pandemic, there is often discussion about what a government can and cannot do in regards to the individual rights of its citizens. What is the government's role and how can it be effective in that role?

A. During a pandemic, the federal government and state

and local governments all have crucial roles to play in keeping citizens informed and safe. It is crucial that our federal government reject one-size-fits-all approaches, since the situation in Wyoming is very different from the situation in Manhattan, for example. As much as possible, decisions must be made at the local level.

Q. What is the most important issue facing Wyoming you would address in Washington, D.C.?

A. We face a wide range of challenges, including the public health and economic crises created by COVID, the assault on fossil fuels by those promoting the socialist 'Green New Deal,' the rise of China and Russia as growing national security threats, and attacks on American exceptionalism. Socialist proposals like the 'Green New Deal' would cripple Wyoming energy and ag producers and drive our state into bankruptcy. I will continue to stand firmly against radical reforms that would harm industries critical to our state and nation.

Blake Stanley (R): 4452 Hwy 87, Banner, WY 82832 (307) 264-3525

Unavailable for comment.

U.S. Representative - Democrats

Carl Beach (D): HC 63 Box 9G, Saratoga, WY 82331 (307) 329-3122; carl@beachforwyoming.org



Q. First and most important question, why are you running?

A. In my lifetime, Carbon County has experienced much of what many rural communities around the state are currently facing: an overreliance for revenue on one industry and the long process of recovery when that industry leaves; a community having limited or volatile access to healthcare and emergency services; a valley of family-owned ranches being squeezed by corporate agribusiness that threatens their livelihood or forces them to be bought out; public lands that are underfunded and cannot be appropriately managed, leaving conservation efforts and public access ever more constricted; and finally, seeing infrastructure dwindle to not meet the demands of a modern economy.

As such, I feel I can recognize, understand, and empathize with the obstacles and issues of rural Wyoming and rural America and offer innovative solutions to build resilient and sustainable communities for the 21st century.

Q. If elected, how will you work in the Congress to help the state and the country as a whole get past the COVID pandemic destruction to lives and economies?

A. Although the last months have been incredibly difficult, and I foresee the coming months to also be

challenging. We have a unique opportunity to truly rethink how our state and nation functions. After years of an overreliance on the mineral industry to support our public sector, we now know more than ever that we need to expand our economic base and attract a variety of industries to Wyoming. Combined with a dwindling market due the world moving away from carbon-based energy and the threat of automation and robotics to manual labor, we must provide the infrastructure, training, and education for the 21st century marketplace. This means widespread broadband access, transitional programs that provide workers with diverse skill sets, and high-quality education that focuses on the jobs of tomorrow.

Q. What do you bring to the table over other candidates to help the Wyoming constituents that elect you?

A. No other candidate brings to the table the awareness of growing up in rural Wyoming with the experience of living in seven different countries around the world. My family and home have remained rooted in Wyoming but my job has given me the unprecedented opportunity to see my state and country from a variety of perspectives. Such knowledge provides me with a unique vantage point to tackle our state and nation's issues without sacrificing who we are or, more importantly, who we want to be. The world is increasingly complex and advancing at a rapid pace around us, and we have a choice: either let it define us or use our pioneering spirit to define ourselves. I prefer the latter and will be the representative that helps provide the direction and vision to do so.

Q. What top three issues do you feel are the most important for you to focus on if you are elected?

A. Recent events have shown the need to address three main issues both in Wyoming and the US: healthcare, economic recovery, and social justice. First, rural healthcare remains a top priority for me, and I am a proponent of single-payer healthcare for the nation. As rural healthcare already depends on multiple

revenue streams to stay viable, having a national system that funds and supplies healthcare clinics and hospitals equitably would expand rural emergency and primary care, greatly benefitting many areas around Wyoming. Second, ensuring that our nation and state recover from the economic downturn will take a concerted effort from lawmakers and the private sector. The CARES Act was a step in the right direction but needed to be streamlined in order to get support to the people who needed it most: individuals, families, and small businesses. If we cannot return to full business operations due to health concerns in the near future, we will need a stimulus plan that focuses on retention and rehiring of employees. A direct, short-term subsidization of wages would provide both employers and employees incentive to either stay on the payroll or be rehired and allow workers to easily return to full time once safely able to do so. Third, we need to show an awareness of how demands for social justice are being articulated across our nation and respond to them with systemic changes to our public and private institutions. In the midst of all this, we cannot ignore environmental protection and conservation.

Q. Lastly, what do you want to say to readers that we did not touch on with the above questions.

A. I think it is important to understand how I intend to approach bridging the divide we currently see between the two main parties. Traveling the state (as safely as possible I might add) and meeting with primarily GOP candidates on the campaign trail, I have been very happy that we find common ground on many issues: data protection, bringing manufacturing back to the US, Country of Origin Labeling, breaking up big agribusiness, and working for state inspected meats and agriculture products to be processed locally and sold across the US. But I am not surprised, because we have shared values and shared experiences. Therefore, I am willing to work with anyone from any party on issues where we share those values because although I may be able to change my stance on a particular issue, I am not willing to sacrifice the principles that informs those stances. For example, I am very concerned with ensuring we protect our farmers and ranchers as well as ensuring we protect our personal data online. Both of these are bipartisan issues that we can work together on to start with.

Lynette Grey Bull (D): P.O. Box 1661, Fort Washakie, WY 82514 (307) 213-9797; lynettegreybull@gmail.com

Unavailable for comment.



2020 Primary Election



**Carol Hafner (D): 514 Americas Way #2296, Box Elder, SD 57719
(212) 920-4809; votehafner@tutanota.com**

Q. First and most important question, why are you running?

A. Initially, the 49 year lifespan at Wind River, in America today, horrified me, worse than what conditions I have seen in Haiti or elsewhere. Wyoming has been an affluent state with longtime big money energy industry and government connections. To allow such glaring health disparities is unconscionable. Indigenous and minority populations in general are at greater comorbidity risks, especially seen with Covidvirus. My mom was a nurse, her parents, grandparents farmed. My dad's father worked for the railroad, so Wyoming lifestyles are rooted in me regardless of my zip code. Decisions are made in government. That's where change-for-good-happens or CAN happen. I remember the tumultuous '60's protests that precipitated change and want positive outcomes from today's negative.

Q. If elected, how will you work in Congress to help the state and the country as a whole get past the COVID pandemic destruction to lives and economies?

A. Impossible to determine where this pandemic will be come January 2021 or later but it needs to be a "United" States effort. Vaccines and treatments help but unlikely to 100% eradicate. My Family & Consumer Sciences/Business BS was followed: 60+ credits Criminal Justice, K-12 Teaching, Dietetics/Nursing perquisites including Microbiology. I also worked in Biotechnical Sales, Merck Pharmaceuticals my key account. "Lead by Example" following public health directives worked in New Zealand - 100 days without new cases. Then economies can safely resume. Financial assistance to small business and individuals to tide them over was and is the right action. I still support Medicare for All, especially with growing job losses=health insurance loss. Unethical price-gouging for testing and treatment deters patients, especially minorities, having higher comorbidity risks. America needs a LONG TERM PLAN, not just til November elections.

Q. What do you bring to the table over other candidates to help the Wyoming constituents that elect you?

A. I have an open heart, an educated mind and the highest integrity. Traveling the world for Eastern and Northwest Orient Airlines, I did humanitarian aid. I spearheaded assistance to striking Pittston Coal Mine families when health care was contractual issue. Witnessing poverty and human rights violations, I've taken action personally, not waiting for organized efforts. In Congress, I can act and support decisions to do even more. Working people are the backbone of America. The 99% deserve better. We are not here to be the exploited doormat

for the 1%. Working in Higher Education, I witnessed corruption resulting in prison sentences. I never compromised my values, wouldn't lie; can't be bought. My enduring commitment is to make lives better. I've been tested- and passed! I have integrity.

Q. What top three issues do you feel are the most important for you to focus on if you are elected?

A. Today, Covidvirus drives our focus on health and economy-intertwined. Ineffective divisive "leadership" has exacerbated challenges. Containment opportunities are diminishing. Initial response should have been nationwide close down but White House remains myopically focused on re-elections, not a long term plan. Public health experts must be allowed to direct response and "leaders" follow those expert directives so we can sooner return to a growth economy. Covid containment is #1 priority.

Jobs: Our world was already changing. Now global, Covidvirus impact has accelerated the fossil fuel consumption drop. Oil, coal industry diversification should have begun years back but big money influences maintained status quo. Even Afghan poppy growers are using solar power! A new tax base is needed for schools and necessary services. Since Republicans don't have the cash in hand to solve the problem, let's revisit that Green New Deal. Infrastructure repairs jobs seem to resonate with everyone.

Wyoming Agriculture Industries: Farming and ranching got another wallop with Covidvirus. I researched, finding rural farms nationally receive unsustainable pricing. Retail food prices don't equitably compensate the producer. Family farms nationwide are in peril. Suicides are an issue. There is strength in numbers and addressing these dire circumstances as a national issue will help Wyoming agriculture. Food scarcity and insecurity in America? Yes, and it's "growing." Better coordination to reduce waste, get food to isolated areas (reservations, urban low income neighborhoods, food banks) is needed. From Indian Country Today, a.m. I had tweeted about isolated Navaho elders lacking food and more. Shameful in America.

A. Lastly, what do you want to say to readers that



we did not touch on with the above questions.. Lots about my issue stances are at carolhafner.com. Before #BlackLivesMatter, I addressed "A Smart Crime Approach with Harm Reduction" to change policing in America. My Criminal Justice classes included visits to several prisons and Leadership Shore community leadership training addressed juvenile offenders. I have witnessed cop beatings; "Get out of here or you're next!" I personally know ICE detainees who contracted Covidvirus in jail. They may have died.

Q. I have had to fight for equal pay, been discriminated in the workplace and advocated for LGBT individuals. Federally legalizing cannabis is overdue and makes economic (dollars) and "cents." I support Net Neutrality/Broadband Access, Military Neutrality & Privacy Rights, Compliance with the United Nations Declaration the Rights of Indlgneous Peoples. Support for our vets, higher education and environmental stewardship are also addressed at carolhafner.com.

"The only time we are truly equal is when we vote." - Carol Hafner

House District 15

**Donald Burkhart (R): P.O. Box 852, Rawlins, WY 82301
(307) 324-6007; burkhart@wyoming.com**

Q. First and most important question, why are you running?

A. It is an honor and privilege to serve the people of District 15. To provide true representation for the people of House district 15. To work to get Wyoming back to work and support the local businesses and economy of the District. To keep Wyoming financially stable with a controlled State budget that addresses needs instead of wants. Enhance economic development and diversification. This specifically involves moving Wyoming to more of a high tech based economy that will keep our young people in the State. We need to provide as good an education possible for or children.

Q. If elected, how will you work in Cheyenne to help the state get past the COVID pandemic destruction to lives and economies?

A. By providing support for those most impacted by the virus. To get Wyoming back to work and maintain our freedoms in doing so. I have already taken a leading position in the important business

relief programs that have improved our local economy. I will continue to lead in that effort and have already started drafting additional legislation for relief programs. That legislation can be addressed in another Special Legislative Session.

Q. What do you bring to the table over other candidates to help the Wyoming constituents that elect you?

A. Leadership, experience, skills, knowledge. The proven ability to get the job done. A decisiveness that gets results. My experience includes serving as Speaker Pro Tempore, vice chairman of the Appropriations Committee, vice chairman of the Minerals, Business and Economic Development Committee, Liaison to the Wyoming Retirement System, I represent Wyoming nationally on the Energy Council and have represented Wyoming and the United





2020 Primary Election

Donald Burkhart (R): Continued...

States on an international committee. More than 60% of the legislation I have sponsored came directly from ideas suggested by the citizens of District 15.

Q. What top three issues do you feel are the most important for you to focus on if you are elected?

A. To provide true representation for the people of

House District 15. To work to get Wyoming back to work and support the local businesses and economy of the District. To keep Wyoming financially stable with a controlled State budget that addresses needs instead of wants. Enhance economic development and diversification. This specifically involves moving Wyoming to more of a high tech based economy that

will keep our young people in the State.

Q. Lastly, what do you want to say to readers that we did not touch on with the above questions.

A. I am pro-family, pro-life, pro-free speech and pro-free enterprise. I solve problems and do not make more of them.

Jaquelin Wells (D): 2175 Royal Court Rawlins, WY 82301 (307) 321-3480; jaquelinwells@gmail.com



Q. First and most important question, why are you running?

A. I am running because, as a community leader, I bring a variety of leadership roles, communication skills, and relationships throughout Wyoming. I hope to diversify the State Legislature. I am passionate about health, education, public lands, equality and human rights, and family. I hope to bring a unique perspective to the legislature and look forward to serving the great state of Wyoming and HD15!

Q. If elected, how will you work in Cheyenne to help the state get past the COVID pandemic destruction to

lives and economies?

A. As a Public Health Nurse, I have been on the front lines of the COVID-19 Pandemic. I have worked long hours and weekends to ensure the people of Wyoming have up to date local information, proper PPE, and the positive cases get proper follow up and a thorough case investigation. I feel this experience gives me a unique opportunity to serve the great people of Wyoming during this challenging time. It is truly a time that we need to come together as a society and not be driven further apart. I hope to help inspire a united front.

Q. What do you bring to the table over other candidates to help the Wyoming constituents that elect you?

A. I hope to bring diversity to the State legislature. As a young, educated woman I think I would bring a new perspective to Wyoming politics. With new perspectives, our democracy can now be a more appropriate and understanding voice for the people of Wyoming that are much more than just one type of race, class or gender. When more demographics are represented in our local governments, different perspectives, beliefs and ideas can be shared. Diversity leads to a broader frame of reference and nurtures social coherence.

Q. What top three issues do you feel are the most important for you to focus on if you are elected?

A. Health - As an advocate for health, I fully support the full expansion of Medicaid. Medicaid expansion has been proven to improve overall health, quality of healthcare, and to control costs for Wyoming's citizens (it could save the state 47 million over the next 6 years). We know that patients without insurance often don't

receive preventative or earlier care. This leads to costly chronic conditions leaving Wyoming Hospitals in a vulnerable position. The full expansion of Medicaid best serves the very uninsured and working poor population. Medicaid expansion is the right decision for Wyoming' citizens, Wyoming's health care providers, and for Wyoming's budget.

Diversify Wyoming's Economy - I think we need to look at the entire picture. It is important that we start to diversify Wyoming's Infrastructure. With I-80 being a cornerstone of Wyoming, we need to look at industries that are attracted to the proximity of I-80 to transport goods and services. We also need access to high-quality business and residential broadband. The development of advanced telecommunications capability would help to attract large industries to Wyoming. The Federal Communications Commission has established that advanced capability requires access to download speeds of at least 25 Mbps and upload speeds of at least 3 Mbps. Residents of rural Wyoming areas are limited by access, with an average download speed of just 17 Mbps.

Public Lands - As a lover of Wyoming, I value public lands. I enjoy hiking, biking, and spending time on Seminoe lake. My husband enjoys hunting and fishing. We enjoy sharing the beauty of Wyoming with our three boys and three dogs. I feel that public land needs to stay in public hands.

Q. Lastly, what do you want to say to readers that we did not touch on with the above questions.

A. As a lifelong Wyoming resident, I love this great state. I strongly believe in term limits and wish to diversify the political structure of the Wyoming legislature. If chosen for HD15, the public won't be disappointed. I work hard and strive to maintain integrity in all things that I do. Thank you for your vote in the general election!

House District 47

Joey Correnti IV (R): P.O. Box 1775, Rawlins, WY 82301 (307) 477-1776; joey_correnti_iv@yahoo.com



Q. The State of Wyoming is looking at a \$1.5 billion shortfall and Governor Mark Gordon has called for all departments to make cuts. What would you do in the House of Representatives to help Wyoming's financial future?

A. Firstly, I would bring legislation to immediately cut the pay, benefits and per-diem of all state elected officials, department heads and executive staff. As Governor Gordon stated a couple weeks ago. "Wyoming is in trouble, and Wyoming is going to feel the pain." I would like to remind the Governor that the state of Wyoming IS THE PEOPLE! So, if the people are going to "feel the pain" then those that administer the government on behalf of the people should be made to feel that pain first. Additionally, I have plans and drafted legislation to remove a majority of the \$550+ million the state has budgeted for

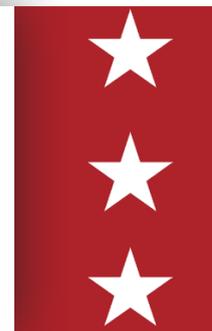
"Contracted Consultant Services" in the 900 series of the state budget. If we're paying executive staff and department directors hundreds of thousands of dollars a year to manage their departments, we should not have to be spending hundreds of millions of dollars a year to contract consultants to advise or do their jobs for them.

I have also created a program that would make it mandatory for all expenditures, down to the user level, in every department, to be reported quarterly and audited annually. As of now, the people of Wyoming can only see where their money is sent and not how their money is spent, that needs to change as soon as possible! We have a spending problem in the Wyoming legislature, and until that is addressed, no amount of increased taxation will actually fix the problem or address the bad habits that need to be broken.

Q. For years, Wyoming has relied upon revenues generated from the extraction industry. With the closure of several coal mines in northern Wyoming and the current Russian-Saudi oil war, do you think



2020 Primary Election



Joey Correnti IV (R): Continued...

that the State needs to begin looking in other areas for more stable revenue? If so, where do you think that revenue should come from?

A. The state will always need to look at ways to diversify the economy without directly subsidizing or paying a specific company to open up and operate here. The key to making that work is by fostering an environment that is low regulation and low tax burden to all industries, not just one industry or company.

The growth and diversification of the Wyoming economy will first come from within in this newly fostered environment from our current important industries such as agriculture, mineral and oil extraction. We do not need to give up on these industries, we have to give them the freedom to expand into processing, refining, and creating retail products with their current interests. This low tax / deregulated environment will also be very appealing to many of the companies looking to come back from overseas under President Trump's "AMERICA FIRST!" plan, and Wyoming could be a very profitable and successful recipient of the results of that plan if we begin fostering this environment right now.

Q. Are there areas you would foresee yourself reaching across the aisle to work with the opposite party? What areas would you not work with the opposite party?

A. I have not been shy about my values and principles

so I don't think it will be a surprise that abortion, infringement on the second amendment, and wasteful spending / unnecessary taxation and fee increases will be off the table.

I do believe that the ideas I have are not the only good ideas that are out there and I know there are some Wyoming Problems that are Wyoming problems and not partisan problems, and I'm interested in solving Wyoming problems! I can happily negotiate the strength of my position on some things, BUT I WILL NEVER COMPROMISE MY VALUES!

Q. During the 2019 General Session, legislation was introduced to increase the tax on wind energy by 500 percent from \$1 per megawatt hour to \$4 per megawatt hour. Should there be an increased tax on wind energy produced in Wyoming? If so, what rate do you believe it should be set at?

A. I would like to note that this question does not come close to addressing my issues with wind energy production. That being said, the answer to the question asked here is: I believe all production of a product in an industry should be taxed equally. If you are producing electricity, you should pay an "electricity production tax." We are Wyoming, we are the Equality State, we do not pick winners and losers in an industry, the market will do that on its own.

Q. House District 47 is the largest district in the state of Wyoming. How much time will you be able to commit to traveling the district to visit with constituents?

A. I have not only committed, and been present, all over the district for the past 3 months, I have also retooled my plans for opening a barbershop in Saratoga to instead open the first fully licensed mobile barbershop in the State of Wyoming.

This gives me not only the opportunity to travel the district regularly, but also to bring with me an amenity that is absent in many of our Rural Wyoming communities. Additionally, it will give me the opportunity to be in the Rural Communities across the district for more than just an afternoon visit, and allow me to spend some real time, over a series of days, being with the people and truly hearing them, answering to them, so I can properly represent them.

Q. What goals do you have for your time in office?

A. To no longer be so severely needed for the protection of Rural Wyoming's voice!

If I am successful in bringing the equitable focus back to Rural Wyoming, her people, and her industries, then then whoever replaces me down the road will have an easier time of maintaining that voice and focus on the things that make Wyoming strong, great, and profitable, and all those things can be found in Rural Wyoming!

Dee Garrison (R): P.O. Box 63, Bairoil, WY 82322 (307) 320-3124; dgarris3@aol.com

Q. The State of Wyoming is looking at a \$1.5 billion shortfall and Governor Mark Gordon has called for all departments to make cuts. What would you do in the House of Representatives to help Wyoming's financial future?

A. The first thing is to close the existing loopholes in the system so Wyoming can collect all the taxes it is owed. I would also request the Governor pressure DC to have the EPA release the permits that have been green lighted on our minerals, oil, gas, coal.

Q. For years, Wyoming has relied upon revenues generated from the extraction industry. With the closure of several coal mines in northern Wyoming and the current Russian-Saudi oil war, do you think that the State needs to begin looking in other areas for more stable revenue? If so, where do you think that revenue should come from?

A. Increasing the tax base by making it more favorable for business to relocate to Wyoming. Making our state accessible to encourage Hi-Tech companies that have been looking our way.

Q. Are there areas you would foresee yourself reaching across the aisle to work with the opposite party? What areas would you not work with the opposite party?

A. I will work with anyone on any issue as long as they openly and honestly negotiate in good faith. Liberty is a non-negotiable, ever.

Q. During the 2019 General Session, legislation was introduced to increase the tax on wind energy by 500 percent from \$1 per megawatt hour to \$4 per megawatt hour. Should there be an increased tax on wind energy produced in Wyoming? If so, what rate do you believe it should be set at?

A. All energy should be taxed equally across the board. All forms of energy production can be converted to BTU's and the tax rate could be equalized in that manner.

Q. House District 47 is the largest district in the state of Wyoming. How much time will you be able to commit to traveling the district to visit with constituents?

A. I'm retired and can be anywhere in the district any time I am needed.

Q. What goals do you have for your time in



office?

A. Intend to represent the District and push as much of the decision process down to the local level.

Julie McCallister (R): P.O. Box 187, Rock River, WY 82083 (307) 343-3663; juliemccallister47@gmail.com

Q. The State of Wyoming is looking at a \$1.5 billion shortfall and Governor Mark Gordon has called for all departments to make cuts. What would you do in the House of Representatives to help Wyoming's financial future?

A. Wyoming MUST diversify its economy, this needs to be done by supporting small business in a fundamental way, while attracting and fostering ideas to expand sources of revenue. It is also imperative that Wyoming passes a comprehensive budgeting accountability and transparency bill, this was needed when it was my head platform point in 2014, now it is needed on emergency status. We have to cut \$1.5 billion from our budget, and we do not have the needed clarity to even know where money is being spent inefficiently. It is also important that legislature do not tax themselves out of a shortfall.

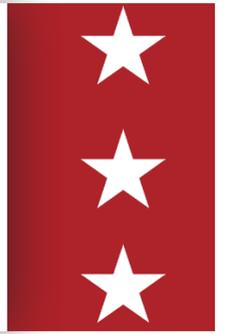
Q. For years, Wyoming has relied upon revenues generated from the extraction industry. With the closure of several coal mines in northern Wyoming and the current Russian-Saudi oil war, do you think that the State needs to begin looking in other areas for more stable revenue? If so, where do you think that revenue should come from?

A. Wyoming should not walk completely away from extraction revenue, but we MUST take an upgraded foresight to our extraction industry. All things extracted from Wyoming should be upgraded prior to export from the state. Wyoming also needs to diversify its economy, this needs to be done with small business as the focus, as small business is the backbone





2020 Primary Election



Julie McCallister (R): Continued...

of our state.

Q. Are there areas you would foresee yourself reaching across the aisle to work with the opposite party? What areas would you not work with the opposite party?

A. Being a statesman, by definition means that you are willing to work across the aisle on all issues. It is not possible to solve any issue without looking at both sides of the argument, to do any different is illogical, and not productive. This does not mean that you question or betray your ethics. The term "across the aisle" automatically assumes a mindset of division. I simply do not have this mindset, everyone is a resource. Wyoming needs problem solvers that are more committed to solutions than personal agenda.

Q. During the 2019 General Session, legislation was introduced to increase the tax on wind energy by 500 percent from \$1 per megawatt hour to \$4 per megawatt hour. Should there be an increased tax on wind energy produced in Wyoming? If so, what rate do you believe it should be set at?

A. Taxation of wind in Wyoming is a unique and much more complicated issue than it appears to be on the surface. There are windows of time (3 years normally) where producers do not have to pay any tax. There is also legislation and ways that this window of time when they are tax exempt can be restarted. This needs to

stop, the monies collected by the producer start right away from wind energy, and the taxation should follow suit. If Wyoming is to rise its tax rate, it must be done in a way that makes those taxes more restrictive for the producer to pay, and due in a timely fashion. While the rate as is seems low, it is the highest tax rate for wind energy. That being said, as we all know, wind is something Wyoming is not in short supply of, a higher tax, possibly 1.25, would be a good idea.

Q. House District 47 is the largest district in the state of Wyoming. How much time will you be able to commit to traveling the district to visit with constituents?

A. House District 47 needs a representative who will travel the district on a regular basis, hold events not just in election season, answer questions to voters after every single legislative session, and have a regular set of commitments that keep them moving across the district meeting with voters as much of the year as possible. Online capabilities assist in this ability, as email and other electronic forms of communication are very useful, but HD47 MUST be covered on foot. As a representative I will be poling voters on issues on my own dime (there is not money available from the state for this, and quite frankly that should be the responsibility of the representative) I will be setting a yearly schedule to see every town multiple times a year to connect with voters. I also think that it is incredibly important that the representative for HD47 listens to all voters, especially those who may not support that

representative, to cut off communication of any source in Wyoming, is poor representation. These are just a few of the things I will be doing in office.

Q. What goals do you have for your time in office?

A. Many is the short answer. Wyoming is in desperate need of the proper fiscal transparency and accountability in budgeting, this is a tool for government spending that we dearly need in order to implement the state budget effectively. Taxation is going to be a go to for a solution to our budgeting shortfalls, it is a mistake in many ways to look to taxation as a solution, especially without analyzing the collateral effects. The coming legislative sessions will be the most important to Wyoming's economy, that have happened in decades. It is also my goal, and has always been a goal to encourage more women to get involved in politics, and foster a sense of inclusion. This election is the most important election Wyoming has had in Decades. We NEED cool headed, logical, strong, statesman leaders to conduct these sessions going forward. I am asking for your vote, and reminding you that YOUR vote matters!

I encourage all voters to contact me with any questions, comments, or ideas at 307-343-3663. Juliemccallister47@hotmail.com, or on my website at juliemccallister47.com

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



Q. The State of Wyoming is looking at a \$1.5 billion shortfall and Governor Mark Gordon has called for all departments to make cuts. What would you do in the House of Representatives to help Wyoming's financial future?

A. The latest projections show some improvement in our financial picture with a projected \$760 million general fund deficit. All of the financial experts are telling us that we cannot cut our way to a balanced budget without additional revenue. The Governor has proposed \$250 million in cuts which will certainly go a long way toward resolving the problem. In addition, I believe it is time to use the Legislative Stabilization Reserve Fund to help make up some of the deficit.

Q. For years, Wyoming has relied upon revenues generated from the extraction industry. With the closure of several coal mines in northern Wyoming and the

current Russian-Saudi oil war, do you think that the State needs to begin looking in other areas for more stable revenue? If so, where do you think that revenue should come from?

A. We need to prioritize the potential revenue sources with taxes that have minimal impact on the average working citizens considered first. I would put a corporate income tax at the top of my list. It is time for Wyoming to join the other 48 states that are benefitting from this tax. If additional revenue is required I would favor putting a sunset date or a sunset target so the tax would expire when our financial picture improves. I believe we should also continue to pursue a deep-water port on the west coast. This could certainly open up some additional markets for our mineral extraction industries.

Q. Are there areas you would foresee yourself reaching across the aisle to work with the opposite party? What areas would you not work with the opposite party?

A. I think it is imperative that we work together to find solutions to our financial challenges regardless of political affiliation. I would strongly resist any effort which would infringe on our second amendment rights, defund law enforcement or weaken our ability to uphold the rule of law.

Q. During the 2019 General Session, legislation was introduced to increase the tax on wind energy by 500 percent from \$1 per megawatt hour to \$4 per megawatt

hour. Should there be an increased tax on wind energy produced in Wyoming? If so, what rate do you believe it should be set at?

A. I would resist any increase to the wind tax on projects that have been permitted or are under construction. I don't believe it is fair to change the rules in the middle of the game. Moving forward I would be willing to consider changes to our current tax laws on any new project as long as they were not designed to kill the industry in Wyoming.

Q. House District 47 is the largest district in the state of Wyoming. How much time will you be able to commit to traveling the district to visit with constituents?

A. There is no doubt that covering House District 47 is a challenge. I am retired and my first priority is to the citizens of my district. I have found the best way to maximize my time is to have key stakeholders in each community keep me informed of issues that need my attention or let me know about public gatherings where I will have the opportunity to interact with the voters.

Q. What goals do you have for your time in office?

My first priority is to help stabilize and diversify our economy to prevent another occurrence of our current problem. One of the factors according to industry leaders, is to provide a skilled workforce to help expand current Wyoming businesses and to attract new businesses. In order to accomplish this, we must improve access to career and technical education in our K-12 system and help community colleges meet the needs of their students. It is time to revisit the funding mechanism for community colleges and provide a more predictable, reliable revenue stream

Check the August 19th Saratoga Sun for unofficial election results.



2020 Primary Election



Carbon County Commissioner

**Byron R. Barkhurst (R): HC 63 Box 12, Saratoga, WY 82331
(307) 327-5063; byronbarkhurst@carbonwy.com**

Q. First and most important question, why are you running again?

A. It probably sounds strange hearing it, but I really enjoy being involved in our communities in this capacity. We are seeing a lot of growth in Carbon County and it's important to me that we work at maintaining the livelihood that we have all come to enjoy. It's important that our elected officials protect this, all while being open minded to multiple areas of industry that can bolster our local economies.

Q. If elected, how will you work to help the county get past the COVID pandemic destruction to lives and economy?

A. This has become somewhat of a divisive topic unfortunately. I believe we all need to do our part in being as safe as we possibly can. After all, we are all in this together. My honest concern going forward is that we have some very serious mental health needs coming up on the horizon just from the situation as a whole. As we all know, some are able to cope with what we have been experiencing better than others and many are needing to get back to some sense of normalcy just for the collective mental health of our friends and neighbors. Further, we must also remember that this begins and ends with the individual, and the liberty to choose what's best for you, all the while being respectful and understanding the needs of some of those around us.

Q. What do you bring to the table over other candidates to help the Carbon County constituents that elect you?

A. I can't speak for the other candidates, but one

of my strongest attributes is the ability to listen and then next is problem solving. It truly has been an honor to serve with Commissioners Johnson, Espy, Jones and Moore these last two years. Regardless of how the election goes this fall, my experience with them has been positive as well as gratifying. The collective efforts in the pursuit of better, as I have had the opportunity to observe, of those that work for, or even those who serve as elected officials of this county has been a wonderful experience. Conversely when one observes what is happening on the national level, honesty and integrity in government is critical and Carbon County is a special place where those qualities reside.

Q. What top three issues do you feel are the most important for you to focus on if you are elected?

A. 1. Working to continue to keep our economy open and moving forward is important for all of us in Carbon County.
2. We are getting closer to the remodel of the Carbon Building and the Court House and lot of work and thought has gone into the flow and function of the remodel. It is important that the Board continue to be frugal and thoughtful throughout the remodel of these two projects.
3. I still feel that a Fire Based EMS district is necessary and would be beneficial in providing needed funding for volunteer and staff hours, fire and safety gear, and equipment. I believe this is critically necessary to meet the needs of the growth that



Carbon County has experienced and is continuing to experience.

Q. Lastly, what do you want to say to readers that we did not touch on with the above questions.

A. Serving as a Carbon County Commissioner has truly been a honor. Regardless of what happens this fall, it has been my pleasure to serve in this capacity. It would be an honor to serve again and want to remind everyone that the county employees are truly exceptional, and they are passionate about our county. Carbon County truly is blessed.

**Dustin G. Buffington (R): P.O. Box 74, Encampment, WY 82325
(307) 338-8881; bdusty1990@outlook.com**

My name is Dustin G. Buffington I was raised in Saratoga where I was active in 4-H and FFA. I have lived in many places around our great state and decided to move my family and our small business home to Encampment. I wanted our kids to be raised in a prosperous and welcoming atmosphere like my wife and I were.

I have noticed that nothing seems to be moving forward we as a county seem to be stalled out. I hope to bring new ideas and ways for this county to become more prosperous. Another issue that concerned me was the budget. I feel that there are better ways we can be spending tax payer money. I am not looking to cut the budget we have but use the money more wisely. I decided to run for office because I believe

it is time my generation becomes more involved in their local communities.

All too often younger people are swept under the rug because it is thought they are young so they don't know. I believe everyone should be heard and my generation can help propel our county in the future and make us more prosperous for our future generations without losing the culture we all love. I would also like to talk to more of the people of Carbon County so please feel free to call me at (307)338-8881 or email me at bdusty1990@outlook.com. Thank you and I hope for your vote on August 18.



**John Espy (R): 906 13th St., Rawlins, WY 82301
(307) 320-8230; johnespy66@gmail.com**

My name is John Espy and I'm a Republican running for another term for Carbon County Commissioner. I am a 5th generation rancher in Rawlins Wyoming. I am 54 years old, married 26 years to Diana who is a middle school science teacher. We have twin 24-year-old sons both of whom ranch with me. I am an University of Wyoming alumnus, earning a B.S in Agricultural Economics in 1989. I am a life member of the NRA, Past Master of Masonic Lodge #5, Past Potentate of Korein Shriners, and past president of Carbon County Stock Growers.

I have served on various state boards including the Animal Damage Management Board. I am currently serving as the vice-chair of the Wyoming County Commissioner Association Public Lands committee and the county representative on the Sage Grouse Implementation Team. I was the co-chair of the Carbon County, Wyoming Public Lands Initiative. Currently the recommendation from the Wyoming Public Lands Initiative is being drafted into legislation by Senator Barrasso for introduction to the U.S Senate regarding three of the Bureau of Land Management wilderness study areas in Carbon County. This legislation proposes the Encampment River Canyon and Prospect

Mountain as wildness areas and Bennett Mountain as a special management area. If approved, these areas will be then be under permanent management status of U.S. Congress thus ensuring permanent protection of these unique natural resources.

I have been serving as a Carbon County Commissioner for 8 years, serving 2 years as vice-chair and 2 years as chairman. During my tenure, my fellow commissioners and I have been able to balance quality of life services such as funding the senior centers and branch libraries in outlying communities; meet all statutory requirements and assure all functions of the courthouse even during these times of declining revenues with the main focus protecting health and human safety of Carbon County residents. I desire to continue working to expand the economic base of Carbon County while preserving the multiple use of Carbon County's varied, unique and important resources.





2020 Primary Election



Sue Jones (R): P.O. Box 131 Encampment, WY 82325
 (307) 329-5121; suejns@hotmail.com



Q. First and most important question, why are you running again?

A. I would like to see the projects we have started completed such as, the Courthouse/Carbon Building remodel, road improvement projects, as well some other items in the works. I would also like to stay on

the Commission to assist in keeping the County government solvent through the upcoming projected dire financial times due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Q. If elected, how will you work to help the county get past the COVID pandemic destruction to lives and economy?

A. For the past 7 ½ yrs. we have had to watch the County finances very closely and have had to make some very difficult cuts in spending over those years. We had to cut expenditures by millions in 2013 and for several years thereafter. We have streamlined county services and have employees who are cross trained in many departments and are very efficient in their jobs. We have worked with the Library, Carbon County Museum, and Memorial Hospital of Carbon County to better utilize County funds, as well as to better fund themselves through other sources. We have also been able to continue to fund very important non-county agencies such as, the Senior Services.

It will be next fiscal year that we will probably see a serious drop in funding levels from the economic effects of COVID-19. We have kept that in mind when doing this fiscal year's budget and hope we can continue to provide the Statutorily required (basic services) of County government without interruption or negative consequences to the public. We feel we have reached a point currently where further deep cuts

will have an effect on services. We hope not to reach that point and will continue to be very frugal in our spending.

Q. What do you bring to the table over other candidates to help the Carbon County constituents that elect you?

A. I have 37 yrs. of public service, serving on many levels from elected office to civic organizations. I have served on the Carbon County Commission for 8 yrs. and am currently the Vice Chair. I am experienced in all aspects of county government. I am very accessible to the people and have worked very hard to serve the citizens of this county. I feel it to be an honor and a privilege to serve another four years.

Q. What top three issues do you feel are the most important for you to focus on if you are elected?

A. Adequately funding county government service with limited financial resources. Most all areas fall under this one task. There is no one aspect of county government that is more or less important than another. County government service is vital to all the citizens of our county. We must fund it properly, plan & develop it properly, and keep moving forward in a positive direction.

Q. Lastly, what do you want to say to readers that we did not touch on with the above questions?

A. I would ask for your vote on August 18th. I will continue to give you my very best as a Carbon County Commissioner, and thank you for honoring me with the privilege of service for the last 8 yrs.

Gerald "Jerry" Steele (R): 115 W. Pine St., Rawlins, WY 82301
 warden12@gmail.com



Q. First and most important question, why are you running again?

A. I have been a public servant all of my adult life. Being born and raised in our county, I have a deep love for the country and people who reside here. I believe I bring a wealth of experience that will be an asset to

our county and it's residents. I understand the challenges we are facing and I believe I have the leadership ability to tackle those upcoming trials. I would like the opportunity to continue to serve the people of Carbon County.

Q. If elected, how will you work to help the county get past the COVID pandemic destruction to lives and economy?

A. If elected I will work with the senior Commissioners in an effort to continue supporting each of our County Agencies/ Departments in following our State Health guidelines. This includes supporting our County Health department in their efforts.

Q. What do you bring to the table over other candidates to help the Carbon County constituents that elect you?

A. I am a Carbon County Native born and raised in Rawlins and the Platte Valley. I have over 33 years of government experience with the Department of Corrections. Twenty three years of that experience was served as an Administrator tasked with the responsibility and oversight of a multi-million dollar budget. I have a strong agricultural background growing up on several ranches in the Platte Valley. My family currently operates a small cattle operation in Carbon County. Lastly, I serve on several boards to

include the Board of Trustees of the Memorial Hospital of Carbon County. As a MHCC Board Member I have direct oversight of a large budget and payroll.

Q. What top three issues do you feel are the most important for you to focus on if you are elected?

A. I feel the top three issues facing our County is the upcoming budgetary shortfall, providing health care for all of our county, and continuing to support and promote economic development in our county. As a Commissioner we will be tasked with sharpening our pencils as we address budget tightening all the while maintaining department services to all of our county residents. I want to continue to support the expansion of health care services to the Platte Valley and Little Snake River Valley. Lastly I want to promote economic growth but in a prudent manner that doesn't compromise our integrity and identity.

As previously stated I am a Carbon County Native. I graduated from Rawlins High School and attended the University of Wyoming and Western Wyoming College receiving a degree in Criminal Justice. I am married and have four children and three grandchildren. I began my career with the Department of Corrections as a Corrections Officer and worked my way up the ranks to Warden and Administrator. In addition to serving on several public boards I have served as District Court Bailiff under Judge Wade Wadrip and Judge Dawnessa Snyder for the past 4 years. I understand the importance of hard work, honesty, transparency and dedication which I believe I will bring to the role as County Commissioner.

Saratoga Town Council

The following candidates dropped out of the race for Saratoga Town Council:

- Michael E. Cooley**
- Steven Heinitz**
- John Jump**
- Kristen Teubner**



2020 Primary Election



Saratoga Town Council

**Danny Burau: P.O. Box 646, Saratoga, WY 82331
(307) 326-3220; danny.burau@gmail.com**

Q. As the current town council held readings of the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 budget, concerns were raised about the projected revenues. How involved do you believe the public should be in the budget process? Should the council actively work to gather input from the public?

A. I believe the public should be involved in the budgeting process a bit more. The council should look to understand where the public wants to see their money spent. While there will have to be money spent in unpopular and less interesting ways, the public input could make clear the priorities of the many.

Q. It was recently revealed that the Town of Saratoga had a total general fund deficit of \$3.7 million over the last decade and that enterprise funds were used to maintain a positive balance. Do you believe the Town should work towards repaying that full amount or work towards establishing depreciation funds?

A. As I would say to any individual who may manage to use money that was not theirs to spend, the money should be repaid. Understandably, that will be a long-term process to repay, but it is the only proper way forward.

Q. What do you think is one of the most important challenges the Town of Saratoga is facing in light of the COVID-19 pandemic?

A. With tourism being such a substantial component of our economy, the future is unknown. Restrictions in our state and others, and the comfort of those traveling, create questions about the consistency in visitor spending, and therefore the financial future of the many businesses and town itself. With financial concerns already upon the town, an inconsistency in dollars going forward makes the current budget more challenging.

Q. Tourism has been touted as the second largest

industry in Wyoming. What do you think Saratoga can do or continue to do to capitalize on this?

A. We first came to Saratoga as tourists and fell in love with so much that it offered, from a small community feel to the beauty of the surrounding area. I understand the hesitation of many here to drive more tourism. It brings more people to the trails and rivers we love, and part of what we love is that very absence of people in our Valley. However, I do believe the tourists will find this place in larger numbers, and so we can do our best to control that growth, or we will be controlled by it. Focusing our efforts on leading tourists to the right places, and offering the most positive experiences will be extremely valuable. Developing a river park on the banks of the North Platte, or even a river walk through town will guide how visitors use our resources. In the end, these kinds of projects will help encourage economic development and improve quality of life in a time when the town and valley are changing.

Q. If elected to the Saratoga Town Council, what do you think you could bring to the governing body that would benefit the Town of Saratoga?

A. My desire to be on the Town Council is borne of a love for this place. I think I will bring an excitement for the future of Saratoga, as well as an understanding that we, as citizens, don't want this place to grow too rapidly or become something entirely different. I want to protect the components of Saratoga that we all love, but I appreciate that there are only two directions a town can go: you're either growing or you're dying. I want to be part of that growth and help guide a long-term plan for growth in infrastructure, services, economic development, and general quality of life.



Q. Part of being in a public office is making yourself available to your constituents. How available would you make yourself to the people of Saratoga?

A. I will do everything in my power to be available to the citizens. Sometimes answering a quick question as you pass a member of the community at the store can help assuage some fear or unease. I understand the hesitation of coming to a council meeting and standing up to ask a question in front of a group. I want the people of Saratoga to feel comfortable asking those questions, sharing their concerns, and just helping them to understand the business of the town more completely. That is how we maintain an engaged citizenry, and representing those citizens is exactly the job of the town council.

**Creed James: P.O. Box 1282, Saratoga, WY 82331
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Q. As the current town council held readings of the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 budget, concerns were raised about the projected revenues. How involved do you believe the public should be in the budget process? Should the council actively work to gather input from the public?

A. Absolutely I think the council should actively seek input from the public when it comes to setting a budget for the coming fiscal year. Talking to the public to get their thoughts on all items that will affect the town is part of what each council person should be doing especially when it regards the budget. I think there are opportunities at budget workshops for the public to come and listen and be involved in the process, but I don't know if the public knows that they can come to these workshops. I have been attending these workshops as the treasurer for the Saratoga Volunteer Fire Department and the Platte Valley Little League for a number of years. These workshops are critical for the town to set a realistic budget and the public should have their thoughts heard at these workshops.

Q. It was recently revealed that the Town of Saratoga had a total general fund deficit of \$3.7 million over the last decade and that enterprise funds were used to maintain a positive balance. Do you believe the Town should work towards repaying that full amount or work towards establishing depreciation funds?

A. I do believe the Town should work to repay the funds that were taken from the enterprise funds. These enterprise funds are critical to the town's infrastructure. I understand what Mr. Childress was trying to accomplish with his report and his use of the Interfund Overhead Allocations to

show the town was not running a deficit year over year for almost a decade, but disagree with his concept of saying the town should have been charging these enterprise funds for the day to day operations retroactively. Anyone who has been in business understands that you can't go back in the past and just charge customers more because you were not actively monitoring your financial situation.

That being said I do not know how feasible it is to expect the town be able to pay the full amount back to these accounts especially in the near future. It took a decade to create this mess and I think it will take longer to repay it back. I think the town needs to do two things to right this wrong. First is start setting a realistic budget with the intention of using any surplus revenues to repay these funds. Second is open a line of communication with the Joint Powers Board to see if they have ideas on how the town can work with them to repay these funds.

Q. What do you think is one of the most important challenges the Town of Saratoga is facing in light of the COVID-19 pandemic?

A. The biggest challenge the town faces regarding the COVID-19 pandemic is how do we deal with it and still try to maintain our way of life and allow our businesses to thrive and prosper. It is not just a local issue and I think the town should look to the county and the state for



guidance on how to navigate this new norm that we find ourselves in.

Q. Tourism has been touted as the second largest industry in Wyoming. What do you think Saratoga can do or continue to do to capitalize on this?

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2020 Primary Election

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Creed James: Continued...

A. I think the town can or should continue to work with the boards that work to promote tourism at the local, county and state level. The Saratoga/Platte Valley Chamber of Commerce, Carbon County Visitor's Council and Wyoming Tourism Board are all great assets to promote tourism and Saratoga.

Q. If elected to the Saratoga Town Council, what do you think you could bring to the governing body

that would benefit the Town of Saratoga?

A. If elected I think I can bring a lot to the council that would benefit the Town of Saratoga. Leadership, teamwork, communication, setting a clear goal of what you want to accomplish. These are traits I think any organization or group needs to have to be successful and I feel like I can bring these to the council and hopefully make a difference.

Q. Part of being in a public office is making yourself available to your constituents. How available would you make yourself to the people of Saratoga?

A. I would try to make myself as available as possible. I try to do as much as I can in the community to interact with the public already, but am always available for a phone call, email or a sit down meeting.

**Benjamin R. Spaulding: P.O. Box 373, Saratoga, WY 82331
usmcwarrior2@yahoo.com**



Q. As the current town council held readings of the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 budget, concerns were raised about the projected revenues. How involved do you believe the public should be in the budget process? Should the council actively work to gather input from the public?

A. The public should be always be involved in the budget process. Gathering input from the town and its citizens shows that we are actively working together as town officials and as a public to spend tax payer's dollars wisely and efficiently. More importantly, this hold the town officials accountable. Also, there are resilient people in our public and I believe it is important to gather all information as town officials. This goes both ways as well. There needs to be support from the public to come to town meetings and I believe that the current administration has silenced the public by consistently closing down public comments. I believe that the current administration's goal is to bypass and silence the public so there is no longer accountability for their actions. Also as town officials we should utilize the knowledge and business experience of all our citizens.

Q. It was recently revealed that the Town of Saratoga had a total general fund deficit of \$3.7 million over the last decade and that enterprise funds were used to maintain a positive balance. Do you believe the Town should work towards repaying that full amount or work towards establishing depreciation funds?

A. I believe that we need to repay the deficit that has been brought to light in the past 10 years. This will be a very trying time for our community. I don't feel that it is the public's responsibility to repay the deficit. It will take wisdom from all aspects of the town to come up with a solution to provide the best possible answer to paying off the deficit.

The first thing that we as a town need to do is to stop robbing Peter to pay Paul. We need to keep the money that comes in from the enterprise funds and leave the remaining dollars in those enterprise accounts.

Secondly, we have to pull back on our spending from our general fund. For instance, we have been paying a Recreation Director on average 36.5 hours during the 2019-2020 fiscal year. There are no youth recreation programs that are in place that would allow for those hours to occur. To me it is a position that we are throwing money away with no reward.

Lastly, individuals were elected into office to provide the best customer service for the public and to put the town's best interest above their own. This has been neglected and pushed aside for a long time. I feel the bigger issue is these individuals have to answers as to why and where has the money gone. These questions must be answered and these individuals need to be held accountable.

Q. What do you think is one of the most important challenges the Town of Saratoga is facing in light of the COVID-19 pandemic?

A. Personally, I feel that one of the most important challenges that we are facing with the COVID-19 pandemic is how to survive as a town financially. Though I believe that the Covid-19 is an issue to our personal health I believe we cannot shut down our economy. We have to look at the personal welfare of every individual in our town and that means looking at the risk vs benefit. This is a tactic that has been used in my life either through the Marine Corps, Fire Department or personal life. We should take the necessary precautions to ensure personal safety, secure the incident stabilization and, finally, property conservation. We as a town need to allow the public, schools and business owners to have the freedoms to do what they feel is

necessary in providing the precautions and steps necessary to ensure public safety with the intent of keeping our economy on track.

Q. Tourism has been touted as the second largest industry in Wyoming. What do you think Saratoga can do or continue to do to capitalize on this?

A. One of the best ways Saratoga can capitalize on tourism is to start allowing more small business in. The town owns properties that are sitting in our town abandoned. I feel that we need to start to capitalize and allow business in that would help benefit our town in tourism. It is my opinion that we need to start putting some of the town's land up for auction to try and promote revenue for our town. I also believe that we need to push for more winter tourism as well. The town has been very big on summer and fall tourism, but as an industry setting the town needs to look at ways to capitalize on all year tourism. It might be looking at ways to keep the 130 pass open all year.

Q. If elected to the Saratoga Town Council, what do you think you could bring to the governing body that would benefit the Town of Saratoga?

A. What I would bring to the governing body would be some one that is there for the people of Saratoga. Saratoga is my home and the people in this town are what make this town enjoyable, beautiful and a place that I will continue to live. I believe that Saratoga has a lot of great qualities and we have people that want to see this town flourish. Saratogains are a people that hold on to our beliefs and want to continue to see positive growth such as programs dedicated to our youth and families, to see a stable infrastructure and the growth of small business. We are a people that care for each other, which I have been on the receiving end on more than one occasion. I want to be someone that will be there for our town and to do the right thing every time.

Q. Part of being in a public office is making yourself available to your constituents. How available would you make yourself to the people of Saratoga?

A. I believe it is my personal responsibility to be available to every one of my constituents. If I am elected it is my duty and service to provide the best quality customer service to people within the town limits of Saratoga, the people outside our town limits, the tourists that visit our town, and to the neighboring communities. I will attempt to be at every meeting as well as following through on items that are addressed

Tasha Worthington: P.O. Box 1001, Saratoga, WY 82331

Unavailable for comment.

**The Saratoga Sun will have unofficial
election results August 19th, 2020.**



2020 Primary Election



Encampment Town Council

Stas Banach: P.O. Box 381, Encampment, WY 82325
stasbanach99@hotmail.com

Q. What do you believe is one of the most pressing issues facing Encampment at this time?

A. I believe Encampment is at a pivotal growth point. We need to find the right balance of accepting and encouraging new growth for the health of the town while still maintaining our integrity and unique character.

Q. If elected, what do you think you could bring to the Encampment Town Council that is not already there?

A. I look forward to serving the citizens of our town and contributing a constant cooperative spirit.

Q. Part of being in a public office is making yourself available to your constituents. How available would you make yourself to the people of Encampment?

A. I would be easily reachable by phone, email or even a note at town hall.

Q. What would you hope to achieve in your time in office?

A. As with all things I do in life, I would hope to

leave the town in an ever better position than when I started.

Q. In the past, Encampment has often worked with Riverside to provide law enforcement. Do you foresee this happening in the near future?

A. I would like to see a fair and balanced arrangement with Riverside. We can all be cooperative and supportive of our neighbors.

Q. Tourism is often touted as being the second largest industry in Wyoming. What do you believe Encampment can do or continue to do to capitalize on this?

A. Tourism is a natural for us. All we have to do is open our door. The balance to making it beneficial for everyone is not to lose our uniqueness. Visitors need to be encouraged to value this place as we do.



Bill Craig: P.O. Box 243, Encampment, WY 82325

Unavailable for comment.

Kelly Ralston: Encampment, WY 82325 - Dropped Out

Matthew Wagy: P.O. Box 716, Encampment, WY 82325
(970) 402-6788

Unavailable for comment.

Riverside Town Council

Mark Helwick: P.O. Box 1007, Encampment, WY 82325
(303) 324-6323; markhelwick@hotmail.com

Unavailable for comment.

Medicine Bow Mayor

Sharon Biamon: P.O. Box 295, Medicine Bow, WY 82329
biamonsharon@gmail.com

"I am running for mayor because I believe I am the best choice at the moment," Sharon Biamon current mayor of Medicine Bow said. "I ran for town council because I really wanted to help the town, and that hasn't changed."

Biamon has been elected for two four year terms. "The second term, I was bumped up to mayor the last year," Biamon said. "It has been a challenge sometimes, but I have never been the type to shy away from challenges. I just want to do the best for my community."

A big problem for her is getting resident involved in the boards.

"People just don't seem to want to put the volunteer time it takes to be on a board," Biamon said. "With only

one person running for town council and four open seats, I find myself trying to inspire people to run. It isn't easy, but I love this town and its why I try to inspire people to get involved."

Biamon is proud the town has law enforcement again. She said the drainage problems are being worked on and soon the streets will be worked on.

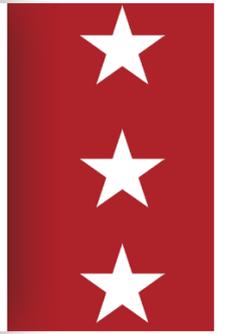
"It helps a lot having an excellent public works director," Biamon said. "Charlie (George) does a great job." Biamon said a major reason she is running for mayor is to galvanize other residents of Medicine Bow to take an interest in the town's affairs.

"If I am not willing to work for the town, I can't ask others," Biamon said. "I was taught to lead by example and that is what I am going to do."





2020 Primary Election



Medicine Bow Town Council

Lucinda L. Schofield: P.O. Box 133, Medicine Bow, WY 82329
(307) 299-6643; lucyschofield27@gmail.com

Unavailable for comment.

Hanna Town Council

Jayson Nordquist: P.O. Box 579, Hanna, WY 82327
(307) 710-4812; jaysonrn@gmail.com



I am running because I would like to contribute to the Hanna infrastructure in any way I can and give back to the community that I enjoy living in so much.

I bring to the table my past experiences of running large projects(wind turbine supervisor and electrical project supervisor), handling budgeting and scheduling which I feel will give me a leg up on the other candidates.

The top three issues that I feel need to be addressed would be the current situation with sanitation and trash waste in Hanna now that the landfill has been decommissioned.

Streamlining of the town's expenses and activities to make the most of the resident's billing MONEYS. Lastly I would like to get the town council, mayor and resident's working together as a more cohesive team so that decisions can be made in the best interest of the town in a timely and efficient manner.

I think that Hanna deserves to have compitant people on the council that are going to show up for the meetings and be passionate about representing the people and making the best decisions for the community, I believe that I am that person.

Elk Mountain Town Council

Angie E. Hobbs: P.O. Box 78, Elk Mountain, WY 82324
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Why am I running again? 10 years now. Whenever it is back and allowed others the opportunity to put their name in the hat and if there is a seat

not being filled, I will run for the seat. This election there are two seats and two of us running so I guess that ensures all of our council positions are filled for Elk Mountain. I have enjoyed my many years serving on the town council for Elk Mountain and look forward to serving another term. We have accomplished a lot and made some vast improvements and I look forward to keeping the momentum going. I guess what I bring to the table is experience and a knowledge of what is in the works, how it works and what needs to happen next. I have helped secure impact money for the town by attending the meetings and hearings for the many wind projects that are happening in our county. As far as what issues are



important at this time ... I would have to say that we need to figure out our garbage hauling situation with relation to the High Country Joint Powers Board, get moving forward on bringing Natural Gas to town and keep working towards a community center here in town. There are of course a myriad of other projects and needs that the town council addresses every month and changes and improvements are continually happening. Elk Mountain is a great place to live and be and as a council member I will do all I can to help ensure that it stays that way.

WASHINGTON STINKS,
IT'S TIME FOR A
CHANGE!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

WYOMING VOTERS, YOU HAVE A CHOICE ON AUGUST 18TH

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Tammy Page: P.O. Box 143, Elk Mountain, WY 82324
(307) 348-7222; tpage4813@gmail.com

Unavailable for comment.