

# Election Q&A 2018

## House District 42



**JULIET DANIELS (D)**



**JIM BLACKBURN (R), INCUMBENT**

**Q: Why are you running for this office?**

A well-functioning citizen democracy requires citizens to serve. I believe it is my responsibility to do what I can, and my career and family life are flexible enough to allow me to serve. Our democracy is only broken if people complain from the side but aren't willing to do what they can to contribute. I believe I can make a positive difference for our state.

During my last four years, I have learned a lot. Even though I accomplished some of my goals, there are a few things that I would like to finish first. Since there is more work for me to do, I don't want to leave a job half done.

**Q: What distinguishes you from your opponent?**

My experiences as a woman of a younger generation than my opponent combined with my work in community development has provided me a unique perspective in which to address the many challenges facing our state. Good legislation comes from individuals with differing perspectives debating ideas. My views on issues such as economic development, education and health care will contribute to vigorous debate and, ultimately, better legislation.

Through my many years in real estate, I have proven my character and integrity time and again. Recently, during my last four years in the Legislature, I have been able to show that I truly listen to both sides of a topic so that I can have all the information to make a good decision.

**Q: What do you think is the most important issue in this race?**

The boom-and-bust nature of our economy limits our ability to maintain the state services that contribute to our health, safety and quality of life. We need to expand our planning horizon to better match the cyclical nature of our revenues and adequately address budget shortfalls. Without managing our budget issues, we won't be able to effectively address our education and health-care concerns.

The budget is still the most important issue right now. Even though we escaped a huge bust, it showed us how unprepared we really are. This is a great opportunity to prepare for the future, that way we will be ready should a true bust happen.

**Q: Is economic diversification a priority for you? If so, how would you go about helping to diversify the state's economy?**

Economic diversification benefits everyone and especially our children by ensuring we have good, high-paying jobs. I support strategies that increase the number of and diversity of high-paying jobs and especially those that positively contribute to our economy. It is an investment into our future. The state's role is to provide leadership and resources to bolster the efforts that are taking place at the local level.

Done right, yes, it is a priority for me and could help our state. If it's done wrong, it will end up costing us money. Right now, our best solution is blockchain. Especially in agriculture, it could potentially put Wyoming in the international market. This is a great opportunity to bring in new businesses by making Wyoming the first blockchain-friendly state. It may even give our techno-minded generation a reason to stay here.

**Q: How do you plan to address education funding challenges?**

Education is crucial to the future of Wyoming and must be staunchly supported. Educating our children, as well as our adults, contributes to a strong workforce and a higher quality of life for all of Wyoming's residents. In the short term, savings could and should be used; however, it is critical that we develop a steady funding source. I place a high priority on education funding and stabilizing our economy from the boom-and-bust cycle.

Schools shouldn't look like the Taj Mahal. My generation learned just fine when the buildings were simple and looked the same. If we had standardized buildings for all the schools around Wyoming, it would save us time and money. This goes for the dorm rooms as well. Students would still have everything they need to learn, but there is no reason to make a new high school an architectural masterpiece.

**Q: How important is providing commercial air service to Wyoming communities? If it's important, how would you make it happen? If not, why not?**

Commercial air service is an important part of our economic diversification efforts. Businesses working regionally, nationally and even internationally require reliable air transportation. I would support the implementation of economic development best practices and the efforts of the Wyoming Aeronautics Commission.

Right now, commercial air service is not our biggest priority. I do not support it being subsidized by the government, though.

**Q: How would you plan to address challenges related to providing health care to all Wyoming residents?**

Expanding Medicaid through the Affordable Care Act would provide increased funding and access to care for a greater number of people. I would also work with health-care experts and community members to identify legislative and local actions that could be taken to provide more services and higher-quality care to all Wyomingites.

My granddaughter is in a Christian-based medical sharing program; it's affordable and she can't be penalized even though it's not insurance. There could be ways to bring other insurance companies to our state. With any program, new or existing, we need to make sure that we aren't allowing people to abuse the system. We can look into organizations that have low-cost prescriptions or help with medical costs.

**Q: How would you promote transparency, if elected?**

I would support funding to make the state's finances available online as well as to livestream interim committee meetings and all meetings during the legislative session. As much as I can, I would provide legislative updates on social media and organize electronic and in-person town hall-style meetings to share information and listen to constituents.

This is the people's money, and they should be able to see where it goes. The best way to see the money trail is to fix the way we do our budget, so it is easier to follow. Having a paper trail is great, but with our technology, all we need to do is put the information on a flash drive, or simply email it to the person.