

Election 2018 Q&A

House District 12



**RYAN
LINDSEY (D)**



**CLARENCE
STYVAR (R)**

Q: Why are you running for office?

Because I care deeply about the future of my home state. Wyoming is a special place because those that came before us worked hard for it. In exchange, we must do the same for ourselves and future generations who will call this state home. I have done this as a registered nurse and will continue as a representative in our state capital.

I'm running for the simple fact we desperately need representation in House District 12. I feel we need someone who has lived in the district for more than 14 years and understands the needs of its citizens. I believe with my background I can truly serve everyone in the district and Wyoming.

Q: What distinguishes you from your opponent?

I began this campaign with a promise to run in a way that all Wyomingites would be proud of. I have kept that promise by focusing on the issues that matter, not attacking others running for office. We are focused on investing in education, improving our health care, diversifying our economy, protecting our public lands and strengthening our communities. I am running for my neighbors, not against them – that is the difference that matters.

I'm a Wyoming native who understands the true values of our state "The Cowboy Way." I've also served my nation with honor and integrity. I would love to bring my leadership and love for this state to the Legislature and serve the working families of District 12.

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

There is no single issue or silver bullet that will fix it. Our schools, our wide-open spaces, our jobs, our small towns and our health-care facilities are all in need of real solutions to real problems. We must also clean up our budget and be better stewards of our taxpayers' money.

Fiscal responsibility and accountability of the budget, growing Wyoming's economy, and transparency. Wyoming must control its spending and have no new taxes. We must do what is right with the guidance from our Wyoming values, the Constitution and voting for bills that support living within our means.

Q: How would you address state education funding challenges?

We demand the best schools and teachers possible for our kids. The funds cut out of education should be returned, and a long-term solution for future funding must be found. The first can be done with funding from the LSRA, and the second with a debate in the state capital about how to prevent the next bust from crippling our state. This can be done, and we will do it.

I believe we should all work together at all levels of government to ensure the best possible education for future generations. We must have a system that ensures accountability for the funding, achievement standards are met, and one that provides for a curriculum that meets the needs of Wyoming's rural schools.

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

It is never wise to have all your eggs in one basket, and it is not wise for our state to depend on one industry to fund our government. However, bringing new businesses to Wyoming and encouraging small businesses to start and grow here is only half of the battle. We need to change our tax policy so those businesses are contributing to the health of our state and thriving as they do.

Economic diversity is a top priority. We live in a rural, but also industrial state. We need to have an educated workforce to work these jobs and keep our state growing at the same time working with all partners, public and private, to ensure new business comes to Wyoming.

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

Business has sped up in the last several decades, and the ability to get to several points on the map in a short time is a must. If a community is going to attract people and businesses that operate this way, reliable daily air service needs to be part of their infrastructure. We can make that happen by looking at how other states have done it and putting something in place that works for Wyoming.

Airlines in Wyoming are truly important, especially when tourism is our second-largest industry. We should again work with public and private industry to help promote air service in Wyoming. Also, any funds to be put toward airlines should be by a vote of the citizens of Wyoming.

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

As a registered nurse, I fight to save lives and keep people healthy every day. I will bring an inside perspective on health care and make real changes for our state. We need to expand Medicaid, reduce paperwork and bring in new insurance companies to give our citizens real options in their coverage. Wyoming can lead the way in telehealth, beating the opioid crisis, treating diabetes and many other fields.

In Wyoming, we believe in taking care of our neighbors. We need to explore solutions so health care is patient-centered, effective and cost-efficient in a rural state. We also need to improve care, supports and services for our elderly and for our citizens with developmental and mental health needs.

Q: How would you promote transparency, if elected?

Everything done in the halls of government should be done in the open. Every vote, debate and speech should be recorded and available for our constituents to see. Wyoming should put its checkbook online so any citizen can see where their money is going. I will vote and argue for these and other measures. Both caucuses should be open to the public – only one is now – and I will be proud to join it.

I will work to ensure Wyoming state government is transparent to its citizens in all aspects of its work. We should never, as a government, have any backdoor meetings to discuss public business. We should be open to any and all ways for the citizens of Wyoming to be informed.