House District 8 is an urban district that includes the portion of the Avenues neighborhood north of Pershing Boulevard and neighborhoods on the Yellowstone Road corridor to just north of Gardenia Drive. It includes Lions Park, Cheyenne's Central High School and Mylar Park. The seat is currently held by Rep. Bob Nicholas, R-Cheyenne, who is running for re-election. The winner of the Republican primary will face Democrat Linda Burt in the November general election.

Election 2016 Q&A

House District 8

BOB NICHOLAS
(R-I)

LARRY WOLFE
(R)

Q: **What do you think are the biggest issues Wyoming faces?**	Our biggest challenge is economic diversification: increasing job opportunities and enlarging our tax base. Budgeting must be responsible and conservative, matching our incoming revenues. Revenues must be carefully managed to forestall tax increases. Long-term strength of state employee retirement funds and management of all state investment funds is crucial.	The budget, and the diminished revenues from mineral production, overshadow all other issues. The budget discussions have not yet addressed the shortfalls in education operations funding and school capital construction. We must continue to support essential human services and education (K-12 and higher education) while investing in economic diversification.
Q: **Do you support or oppose Medicaid expansion? Why?**	I supported expansion, using federal funds to assist the uninsured, strengthen our medical community and free up state-contributed dollars for other state expenses. I support efforts of our congressional delegation to create more flexibility to allow implementation of a plan that eliminates unwanted cliff effects and embodies Wyoming values.	Support. It will provide health insurance to about 20,000 Wyoming citizens. It will help with Wyoming's budget challenges and help to stabilize revenues to hospitals and health-care providers.
Q: **Do you support the development of alternative energy in Wyoming? How?**	I'm a strong supporter of energy diversification. Wyoming must remain technologically advanced and a top energy exporter. I support sales tax relief with simplified, responsible permitting to encourage development of new energy sources. Development must be smart. We need to protect our quality of life, including our world-class vistas.	Strongly support. I have spent my career as an energy lawyer and have worked on wind and transmission projects. I was instrumental in the development and passage by the Legislature of the regulatory schemes for state and county permitting of wind projects. Uncertainty over tax policy is not helpful.
Q: **How should Wyoming compensate for lost revenue from the fossil fuel industry?**	We must increase efforts to challenge federal policies that deny Wyoming access to energy markets. Continued development of our permanent trust funds along with prudent investment policies to provide offsetting long term income is essential. Economic development efforts directed at broadening our existing tax base is important.	The drop in revenue from the energy industry is, unfortunately, likely a permanent feature of Wyoming's revenue outlook. The loss is primarily in the continued decline in coal production, and the low price of natural gas. Our current tax structure is not well suited for replacing this revenue.
Q: **How do you think the state should respond to major infrastructure issues, such as roads and building maintenance?**	The fuel tax helped highway funding, while keeping taxes lower than neighboring states. We currently provide major maintenance funding for state facilities, higher education and K-12 schools in the budget. Maintaining infrastructure is a top priority, and helps promote Wyoming as an attractive place to live and invest in.	We must continue to invest in Wyoming's infrastructure, including roads and bridges, and state funded buildings (prisons, UW, community colleges, K-12 schools, state facilities) and water projects. The state needs to prioritize all these projects and develop a multi-year plan for them.
Q: **Why should voters select you over your opponents?**	My sole commitment is to this community and a long-term vision for Wyoming. My effectiveness is demonstrated by my appointment to the Appropriations Committee, which provides the Capital City with strong representation. With strong leadership, Cheyenne and Laramie County have great economic potential to lead Wyoming in economic diversification.	My opponent has mishandled the budget, imposing staggering and thoughtless cuts on essential human services and education and then dumping the problem in the governor's lap for another quarter billion in cuts. We need new and fresh thinking about how to fund and operate government. See wolfeforhouse.com and Facebook.
Q: **Do you support or oppose a ban on discrimination in housing and employment for LGBT Wyomingites? Why?**	I oppose discrimination and support protection of all individual liberties.	Generally supportive, although I'd have to see the specific legislation.
Q: **What are your opinions about marijuana legalization, whether for medical or recreational use?**	I support individual liberties without endangering youth and public morals. Clinical testing has just begun. Legislating this issue is premature.	I don't have strongly held views on this issue, pro or con. I am open to listening to the discussion.
Q: **Do you think marijuana possession should be decriminalized for small amounts?**	Oppose criminalizing youth for life who make one poor decision.	I am open to listening to the debate.
Q: **Describe your political views.**	Compassionate conservatism. Less government, more individual freedoms and the right to pursue happiness – the Wyoming way.	I am a pragmatic lawyer who has spent a career solving complex problems. I am a Republican and conservative fiscally.