

# 2018 LEGISLATURE GUIDE

ROADMAP TO THE 64TH WYOMING  
LEGISLATURE'S BUDGET SESSION



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# WHAT'S INSIDE

**Everything you need to know about the upcoming legislative session**

<b>BUDGET WOES NOT OVER</b>	<b>3-4</b>
<b>CAPITOL SQUARE PROJECT WORK ON TRACK</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>BILLS TO WATCH</b>	<b>6-9</b>
<b>HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>WEBSITE GUIDE</b>	<b>12-13</b>
<b>LOCATION, SCHEDULE AND SEATING CHARTS</b>	<b>14-15</b>
<b>LARAMIE COUNTY</b>	<b>16-19</b>
<b>ALBANY COUNTY</b>	<b>20-21</b>
<b>SWEETWATER COUNTY</b>	<b>22-25</b>
<b>CARBON COUNTY</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>GLOSSARY OF LEGISLATURE TERMS</b>	<b>27</b>

## WE WELCOME YOUR FEEDBACK

Welcome to our annual guide to the Wyoming Legislature. Each year, we strive to provide information that you, our readers, need to participate as active citizens in the lawmaking process.

If you have feedback on this guide, including ways we can improve it next year, please contact me at 307-633-3120 or [bmartin@wyomingnews.com](mailto:bmartin@wyomingnews.com).

– Brian Martin, section editor

## STAFF CREDITS

This section was produced by the Wyoming Tribune Eagle under the direction of Managing Editor Brian Martin, [bmartin@wyomingnews.com](mailto:bmartin@wyomingnews.com), and designed by Nicole Lebsack. The cover photo is a WTE file shot. Reporting was done by the staffs of the Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Laramie Boomerang, Rawlins Daily Times and Rock Springs Rocket-Miner.

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Index

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# WYO.'S BUDGET WOES AREN'T OVER IN 2018

Reverberations of economic downturn continue to challenge lawmakers

By Joel Funk

Wyoming Tribune Eagle

CHEYENNE - Whatever happens during the Wyoming Legislature's 2018 budget session, it will certainly be a consequential and historic period for state government.

The worst of Wyoming's most recent economic downturn appears to be over. However, as the Legislature faces another two-year budget cycle with a shortfall of more than \$700 million, most state leaders and economists agree that another mineral sector boom is unlikely.

Wyoming's economy depends on mineral extraction for around 70 percent of its revenue. After commodity prices dipped in late 2014, an economic bust began that saw the Legislature and Gov. Matt Mead make cuts to state agencies across the board.

Mead's 2019-20 biennium budget recommends restoring some of those agencies' funding levels, but it still leaves an uncertain future for how the state provides services going forward.



Sen. Eli Bebout, R-Riverton, listens as House Bill 118 is discussed during the 64th Wyoming Legislature's general session Feb. 13, 2017, at the Jonah Business Center. As the Legislature faces another two-year budget cycle with a shortfall of more than \$700 million, most state leaders and economists agree that another mineral sector boom is unlikely. Blaine McCartney/Wyoming Tribune Eagle

And while the governor thinks it's appropriate to cover the anticipated shortfall for K-12 education with a more than \$237 million appropriation from the Legislative Stabilization Reserve Account - commonly called the "rainy-day fund" - Mead said he knows it's

not a sustainable solution going forward.

The economic hardships facing the state have brought up consideration of raising taxes on Wyomingites, who are accustomed to receiving a high level of services for relatively little out of their own pockets.

Wyoming has a low tax burden on both businesses and individuals, but many are questioning whether that model can last. If the state cannot count on minerals to provide such a large portion of its revenue, it is faced with cutting services or raising taxes.

Raising taxes is not a popular notion among elected officials. While House Speaker Steve Harshman, a Casper Republican, has advocated for a balanced approach of conditional revenue-raising measures, Senate President Eli Bebout, a Riverton Republican, has said repeatedly during the interim that he wouldn't consider tax increases until meaningful budget cuts are made.

The Legislature's Joint Revenue Committee was considering a handful of measures to nickel and dime its way to meeting budget deficits. And while it passed some measures on to the session, renewed economic optimism at the end of 2017 seems to have lightened the feeling that significant revenue-raising actions were needed.

See Budget woes, page 4

Intro



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# BUDGET WOES

*Continued from 3*

The committee postponed considering sponsorship of sales and property tax measures until an 11th-hour meeting Jan. 31 to decide the proposals' fates. (That meeting took place after press time for this special section.)

The Revenue Committee did decide to send a tobacco tax hike on to the session, as well as a bill to increase the maximum state profit on sales of liquor and wine. However, any proposals that would dramatically change the state's revenue picture – such as a personal or corporate income tax – were never considered.

Some lawmakers hoped a recalibration of the state's K-12 funding model would yield information to help move toward meeting its biennial deficit topping \$600 million.

However, a draft report released at the end of 2017 didn't contain recommendations that move it anywhere close to that figure.

Legislative leaders, including Bebout, have continued to bring up arguments that Wyoming student performance isn't meeting expectations, considering how much the state spends per child. Opponents to reductions in K-12 funding say that it's a mischaracterization of the realities of Wyoming's educational environment and see it as a disingenuous pathway to cuts.

It's all happening amid a renewed effort to create economic stability in the state. ENDOW – standing for Economically Needed Diversity Options for Wyoming – is Mead's 20-year initiative to diversify the economy. A 2017 bill created the

ENDOW executive council, tasked with developing a strategy to meet that end.

The council's preliminary findings were released at the beginning of the new year, with recommendations that mostly focused on overcoming barriers to attracting new sectors and bolstering existing ones. It recommends passing legislation to provide reliable air service, developing and retaining the state's workforce, enhancing internet access and more.

Mead recommended a rainy-day fund allocation of \$37.5 million for the effort in the two-year budget. The executive council's proposal came in just under that figure at \$36.3 million, though a request for workforce training resources anticipates additional funding. The proposal also requests a \$20 million allocation from the Permanent Wyoming Mineral Trust Fund to go into a venture capital fund to invest in entrepreneurial activities.

Also included in the report is a note that the council believes tax policy recommendations are the province of state and local elected officials. Economists have pointed out that with most of the state's revenue coming from mineral extraction, changing how the state generates income will have to be modified, as economic diversification would otherwise be a moot point. So while the report acknowledges the importance of taxation to support public services, it makes clear the council does not intend to take a position on tax policies.

It's a lot for lawmakers to chew on in the 20 business days that comprise the 2018 budget session. It's also the last legislative session for Mead, so there could be a shift in policy direction from the executive branch in 2019. Decisions made during this session are likely to have an impact on where the state goes in a time of self-reflection and re-evaluation.

Intro



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**THANK YOU TO OUR SWEETWATER AND UINTA COUNTY LAWMAKERS IN THE LEGISLATURE**

We thank our Sweetwater and Uinta County lawmakers for their service to the community in the 2018 Wyoming Legislative Session.

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# WORK CONTINUES ON STATE CAPITOL

## Bebout: Capitol Square Project on track for completion in 2019

By Joel Funk

Wyoming Tribune Eagle

CHEYENNE – The Wyoming Legislature’s 2018 budget session marks the third year lawmakers are meeting in the Jonah Business Center in east Cheyenne.

It’s the temporary home for the state’s legislative branch as the Capitol Square Project continues to rehabilitate and restore the historic state Capitol.

In addition to the work on the Capitol itself, the project includes remodeling and expanding the Herschler Building, underground connecting tunnel and central utility plant.

It’s the first major renovation of the Capitol since the 1970s. Since then, issues with the 130-year-old building have been addressed by patchwork. Lawmakers undertook the \$300 million project under the premise that major work won’t be required again anytime soon.

While much of the Capitol is currently hidden by protective coverings, observers can see the Herschler Building coming back together. One of the most noticeable components of the latter is the removal of the atrium portion of the building, opening up a view of the north end of Capitol Avenue from the Capitol.

Senate President Eli Bebout, R-Riverton and a member of the project’s oversight group, said it’s a tight schedule, but he expects work will be done on time and on budget in spring 2019. That means two more legislative sessions in the current location.

“I think we’ve made a lot of progress,” he said. “It feels like we’ve turned the corner.”

While there’s good news for the project’s proponents, it also was the subject – both directly and peripherally – of several lawsuits in Wyoming courts in 2017.

The Wyoming Supreme Court

heard arguments in a civil case filed against some of the state’s top elected officials, which alleged they violated the Wyoming Constitution in their management of the Capitol Square Project.

In March 2016, former state lawmaker Gerald Gay of Casper and Uinta County resident Karl Allred filed the lawsuit against Gov. Matt Mead, Attorney General Peter Michael and legislative leaders. It alleged the defendants failed to follow constitutional provisions in awarding construction contracts and lease agreements for the Capitol Square Project, and violated separation of powers provisions in establishing an oversight group for the project.

Wyoming Treasurer Mark Gordon, a member of the oversight group, also had a lawsuit heard in the Supreme Court. The lawsuit contended the oversight group statutes were unconstitutional because they deprived the State Treasurer’s Office of its role in approving contracts.

In May 2017, the District Court ruled in favor of the state, finding the statutes did not expressly violate the treasurer’s authority. An appeal asking the Supreme Court to reverse the District Court decision and remand the case for further proceedings was filed in July, leading to oral arguments in October.

The court has not yet reached a decision in either case.

Finally, the state of Wyoming is being sued by a local company for allegedly not paying rent for offices in downtown Cheyenne. The offices are occupied by several statewide elected officials, who moved in as a result of the Capitol’s closure. The plaintiff is requesting the court rule in favor of an immediate eviction and compensation for both monetary and non-monetary damages in an amount of no less than \$1,496,043.

No court date is yet scheduled to settle the matter.



The Capitol Square Project is on track to be finished next year. Jacob Byk/Wyoming Tribune Eagle

Capitol renovation

## WYOMING PROMISE

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--former US Senator from Wyoming, Al Simpson

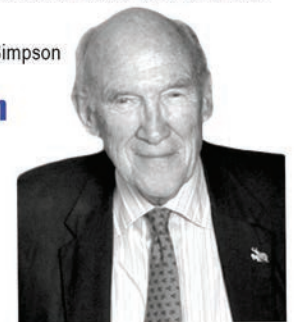
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## TAXES

Dramatic changes to Wyoming's tax structure are unlikely, at best, during the 2018 budget session.

Lawmakers went into the interim in 2017 with the understanding it could be the appropriate time to consider new taxes to cover deficits in the 2019-20 biennial budget. Leadership tasked the Wyoming Legislature's Joint Revenue Interim Committee with finding ways to generate additional revenues or diversions of existing streams in the amounts of \$100 million, \$200 million and \$300 million annually to offset deficits in state government operations and public education funding.

Taxes have always been a tough sell to lawmakers, their constituents and lobbyists. Wyoming residents are accustomed to not having to pay most of the taxes that fund their government services, since the burden is carried by mineral extraction industries. An average family in the state pays less than \$3,000 in taxes, but receives more than \$30,000 in services.

The opposition to new taxes was made clear when the Revenue Committee met in the latter months of 2017 to consider a buffet of options to meet its revenue goals. The approaches included sales and property tax increases, a leisure and hospitality tax, so-called "sin taxes" on alcohol and tobaccos products as well as savings diversions.

The committee voted to sponsor a measure to raise the tax on tobacco from 60 cents to \$1.60 on a pack of cigarettes and an equivalent amount on other products. Another would increase the maximum state profit on sales of liquor and wine from 17.6 percent to 20.6 percent.

But with hopes for an improved revenue forecast in January, the committee decided to punt on sales and property tax measures, as well as the leisure and hospitality tax. An 11th-hour meeting was scheduled for Jan. 31, less than two weeks before the session starts, where the committee was expected to give final consideration for sponsoring those bills. (This meeting took place after press time for this section.)

Charles Curley, Wyoming Republican Party secretary, made it clear those involved in the GOP in Wyoming are staunchly opposed to any tax increases, no matter the deficits. Republican entities in counties across the state and the party's State Central Committee have passed resolutions against any tax or fee increases, Curley told lawmakers.

The Wyoming Taxpayers Association also spoke out against most of the proposals. Representatives from the Wyoming

State Liquor Association, the Wyoming Petroleum Marketers Association and others also have firm stances against new taxes.

One proposal with strong support from the private sector was the leisure and hospitality tax, though it also has opponents. The draft bill would impose a 1 percent excise tax on the sale of tourism activities within the state.

A tourism activity is defined in the proposed legislation as a sale by any vendor in the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), regarded as arts, entertainment and recreation, as well as accommodation and food service. This would include promoters of performing arts and sports, museums, historical sites, RV parks, full-service restaurants and bars.

Advocates for the tax say it's meant to establish long-term sustainable funding for promoting tourism within the state. More money would be available for services with the Wyoming Office of Tourism allocation off the state's general fund. It also would provide a more sustainable funding structure for tourism promotion after consecutive years of cuts to its general fund allocation.

The Wyoming Travel Industry Coalition and the Wyoming Lodging and Restaurant Association, chain restaurant owners, as well as locally-owned bar and restaurant owners in areas that see high tourism traffic, testified multiple times in favor of the measure during the interim. However, several lobbyists also spoke in opposition, calling into questions whether it was appropriate to impose the same tax on businesses in areas that traditionally do not benefit from out-of-state travelers.

Senate President Eli Bebout, a Riverton Republican, also spoke out against the broad leisure and hospitality tax, preferring instead an increase on the statewide lodging tax to fund the Tourism Board's activities.

– Joel Funk, Wyoming Tribune Eagle

### KEY LAWMAKERS

■ **Rep. Mike Madden, R-Buffero**, chairman of the House Revenue Committee, Mike.Madden@wyoleg.gov

■ **Sen. Ray Peterson, R-Cowley**, chairman of the Senate Revenue Committee, Ray.Peterson@wyoleg.gov

■ **Sen. Eli Bebout, R-Riverton**, Senate president, Eli.Bebout@wyoleg.gov

## CANNABIS REFORM

Wyoming lawmakers advanced legislative options in November as they attempt to close loopholes in marijuana laws for the fourth consecutive year.

The Wyoming Legislature's Joint Judiciary Committee narrowly voted to advance two different draft bills to the 2018 budget session relating to the possession of marijuana and other products infused with its intoxicating agent, tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC.

The problem comes from a surge of non-plant form marijuana products – such as liquids and edibles infused with THC – coming into Wyoming from Colorado, where recreational use of the drug is legal.

Currently, possession of 3 ounces or more of marijuana in plant form is considered a felony in Wyoming.

The issue becomes complicated when the drug is mixed with other legal elements in the edible and liquid forms. While a brownie or soda infused with THC might weigh more than 3 ounces, for example, crime labs have yet to refine techniques that reliably discern how much of the illegal substance is contained within.

Lawmakers were able to advance a bill to the 2017 session codifying what amount of non-plant form THC products could be considered a felony, but a back and forth between the House and Senate stymied the legislation.

One of the two bills advanced during the committee meeting was essentially a resurrected version of a 2017 bill. It expands the definition of marijuana products to include items such as baked goods, candies, ointments and potable liquids, codifying that possession of more than 3 ounces of any of those products – regardless of the THC concentration – is a felony.

The second bill breaks down different products, assigning weights respectively. For example, possessing drinkable liquids comprising 36 fluid ounces or more could constitute a felony. On the other hand, 3 or more grams of a liquid – like that in the form of a concentrated oil – could be considered a felony.

– Joel Funk, Wyoming Tribune Eagle

### KEY LAWMAKERS

■ **Sen. Leland Christensen, R-Alta**, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Leland.Christensen@wyoleg.gov

■ **Rep. Dan Kirkbride, R-Chugwater**, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, Dan.Kirkbride@wyoleg.gov



# COURTROOM TECHNOLOGY

Some Wyoming courtrooms are in such dire need of technology upgrades that they don't even have adequate microphones or electrical power.

But an increase in court automation fees approved by the state Legislature in 2017 aimed to change that.

Since July 1, people using Wyoming courts have to pay \$15 more in automation fees when filing in probate and civil matters in district court, filing civil matters in circuit court and filing petitions in the Wyoming Supreme Court.

They also pay a \$25 fee – up from \$20 – if they have been found guilty in a criminal case or are placed on probation. Cities and towns across the state are now able to impose the increased fee for people found guilty of violating a local ordinance.

The money will primarily help update audio and visual systems in 69 courtrooms across the state, said Wyoming Court Administrator Lily Sharpe. It will improve court technology such as evidence presentation, hearing assistance and microphones.

Sen. Liisa Anselmi-Dalton, a Democrat from Sweetwater County who sits on the Judiciary Committee, said in November that deficits exist in technology and computer automation at the court level.

A 2016 survey of Wyoming courts found 50 percent lacked adequate power, 80 percent had no digital capacity for video and video conferencing, and 70 percent lack adequate audio systems, Sharpe said in an email.

The judicial branch recently created minimum audio and video standards for courtrooms, and they hope to make hardware improvements over five years, Sharpe said. It will cost about \$7.4 million for all the upgrades and maintenance.

The fee increase will likely generate about \$1.4 million per year, although that estimate was calculated using a \$20 automation fee.

– Katie Kull, Wyoming Tribune Eagle

## KEY LAWMAKERS

■ **Sen. Leland Christensen, R-Alta**, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Leland.Christensen@wyoleg.gov

■ **Rep. Dan Kirkbride, R-Chugwater**, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, Dan.Kirkbride@wyoleg.gov

# EDUCATION FUNDING

Just ask around: K-12 education funding shortfalls are the most vexing problem facing elected officials in Wyoming.

The Wyoming Legislature's 2019-20 biennium budget will likely be the third consecutive year that K-12 funding has been cut, with the most devastating reductions in 2017. Estimates of biennial deficits for education and school construction funding exceed \$600 million.

While Gov. Matt Mead was generally optimistic when he released budget recommendations for fiscal years 2019-20 in December, restoring funding to several agencies that took deep cuts, he was sober about the challenges facing K-12 education.

In 2017, the Legislature recognized the rainy-day fund would also be needed to cover shortfalls in K-12 education funding. Mead said he would go along with the "short-term fix" to the tune of \$237 million for the biennium.

With all that in mind, lawmakers are considering a wide breadth of measures to address its K-12 education woes. There are also a handful of bills for K-12 education unrelated to deficits.

Those include:

### House Bill 27: Continuing teacher contracts for military spouses

Allows teachers to achieve "continued contract" status faster if they are the surviving spouse of a veteran or they are married to a military member.

### HB 28: Education reporting-children of military personnel

Adds reporting of performance of children of military personnel to the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act.

### HB 29: Alternative School Accountability

Alters the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act to exclude alternative schools from the inclusive language of the bill and tasks the State Board of Education with setting targets and performance indicators for alternative schools.

### HB 30: School finance amendments

■ Requires districts to apply to the Wyoming Department of Education for bus purchases and for the state to reimburse those purchases 100 percent.

■ Denies districts the right to lease buses, rather than purchasing them.

■ Redefines special education educational assistants.

■ Amends funding for groundskeepers.

■ Requires the Wyoming Department of Education to study special education and transportation for fiscal efficiencies.

### HB 31: Hathaway Scholarship application deadline extension

Allows graduates to apply for the Hatha-

way up to four years after they graduate, rather than the two that currently is allowed.

### HB 32: School finance – major maintenance formula

■ Revises the major maintenance funding formula.

■ Requires districts to prioritize non-construction options, such as boundary revisions, changes to grade configurations and more.

### HB 33: School finance – capital construction amendments

■ Adds preschool and cooperative education space to a district's gross square footage calculation.

■ Requires the School Facilities Commission to approve alternate construction plans.

### Senate File 13: School facility property insurance

Allows districts to forgo required facility insurance in favor of a "school risk retention program," to be reviewed every five years.

### SF 28: School finance – health insurance

Modifies the formula districts use to calculate the employee health insurance funding needed through the block grant model.

### SF 29: Education-computer science and computational thinking

■ Replaces keyboarding with computational thinking in the common core of skills.

■ Allows high school students to take a computer science class to satisfy one of three science classes required.

■ Allows high school students to take computer science in place of a science or math credit for the Hathaway Success Curriculum, unless they used the class to replace a science credit for graduation.

■ Adds computer science to the common core of knowledge.

– Kristine Galloway and Joel Funk, Wyoming Tribune Eagle

## KEY LAWMAKERS

■ **Sen. Hank Coe, R-Cody**, Senate Education Committee chairman and Select Committee on School Finance Recalibration co-chairman, Hank.Coe@wyoleg.gov

■ **Rep. Dave Northrup, R-Powell**, House Education Committee co-chairman, David.Northrup@wyoleg.gov

■ **Sen. Bill Landen, R-Casper**, Select Committee on School Facilities co-chairman, Bill.Landen@wyoleg.gov

■ **Rep. Tom Walters, R-Casper**, Select Committee on School Facilities co-chairman, Tom.Walters@wyoleg.gov

■ **Rep. Albert Sommers, R-Pinedale**, Select Committee on School Finance Recalibration co-chairman Albert.Sommers@wyoleg.gov

Bills to watch

## ENDOW

Wyoming's elected officials are digesting a report on diversifying the state's economy that prioritizes improving commercial air service and broadband access and developing the state's workforce.

ENDOW – which stands for Economically Needed Diversity Options for Wyoming – is Gov. Matt Mead's initiative to diversify the state's economy through the next 20 years. Its executive council released its preliminary findings and recommendations to Mead and members of the Wyoming Legislature in early January.

Ten recommendations represent a mix of legislative and executive actions, policy changes and funding requests that total just more than \$36.3 million. The proposal also requests \$20 million be allocated from the Permanent Wyoming Mineral Trust Fund into a venture capital fund to invest in entrepreneurial activities.

It comes in below Mead's recommended allocation of \$37.5 million from the Legislative Stabilization Reserve Account, commonly called the "rainy-day fund." One recommendation on workforce training includes a note that an investment request is pending.

Of the 10 proposals, four have funding requests, with the one including a note that it will likely require an allocation:

- Improve and expand Wyoming's commercial air service (\$15 million)

- Improve access to broadband and technology (\$10.35 million)

- Establish a Wyoming research and innovation fund (\$6 million)

- Build Wyoming's entrepreneurial ecosystem by creating a dedicated organization called Startup: Wyoming (\$5 million)

- Allocate resources for workforce training (investment request pending discussions)

The remaining five do not include funding requests:

- Provide equitable opportunities for students to learn computer science

- Improve higher education attainment and retention of graduates

- Establish in-state contractor preference for state technology contracts

- Authorize virtual currency businesses to operate in Wyoming

- Update ENDOW statute to reflect the composition of the executive council or the leadership structure adopted by the executive council

A lack of reliable air service was identified as one of the top barriers to economic diversification, as businesses are reluctant to locate in a large, rural state without it.

In October, the Legislature's Joint Minerals, Business and Economic Development Interim Committee rejected a proposal to bolster reliable commercial air service throughout the state at a price between \$29 million and \$32 million.

The proposed legislation would have established an air service improvement council that would have contracted with one airline statewide to provide at least three flights each day from Wyoming community airports to Denver International Airport.

In addition to an air service bill, Jerimiah Rieman, a representative of Mead's office, said he's confident a number of the recommendations will turn into legislative action, executive action or both. Bills regarding virtual currencies and computer science education reflecting ENDOW priorities are active heading into the 2018 session.

Changes to the state's tax structure are not among the recommendations, however. Economists have pointed out that with most of the state's revenue coming from mineral extraction, changing how the state generates income is important, as economic diversification would otherwise be a moot point.

The last page of the report addresses government revenue, stating that tax policies are the province of elected officials at the local and state level. It does acknowledge "a stable and diverse tax system is important" and that broadening the tax base could reduce the volatility the state experiences in the boom-and-bust cycles associated with mineral extraction.

While it does not specifically state Wyoming's lack of personal and corporate income tax as an advantage to economic diversification, it points out that factor helps the state consistently score well in business index rankings.

However, the Tax Reform 2000 committee – formed by the Wyoming Legislature in 1997 – found several troubling elements to the state's tax structure and recommended major changes, including adopting both a corporate and personal income tax.

– Joel Funk, Wyoming Tribune Eagle

### KEY LAWMAKERS

■ **Senate President Eli Bebout, R-Riverton,** Eli.Bebout@wyoleg.gov

■ **House Speaker Steve Harshman, R-Casper,** Steve.Harshman@wyoleg.gov

## SPEEDING FINES

Drivers in Wyoming could end up generally paying less for speeding if a bill passes during the 2018 legislative session.

The Legislature's Joint Judiciary Committee is sponsoring the "speeding fines simplification" bill that would amend and reorganize provisions relating to fines for speeding violations.

There are currently nine different speeding categories, depending on where a driver is clocked, with a single category consisting of dozens of bond amounts, according to the Casper Star-Tribune. Lawmakers found the bond schedule confusing and wanted to simplify state law for courts, law enforcement and the public.

A revised bond schedule in the legislation would consist of only three categories, namely general, school and construction. Fines would increase depending on speed. While drivers today can be fined differently depending on the category of roadway, the new schedule would eliminate the distinction. Fines would also be capped at \$800, a decrease from the current maximum of \$1,000, for those caught speeding in school zones multiple times in a year.

The Star-Tribune reported the legislation was prompted by a request from the Wyoming Highway Patrol to simplify the bond schedule. While lawmakers said they thought it reflected their understanding that many in Wyoming are facing financial hardships because of the state's economy, it would reduce the amount of funding for K-12 schools, already in peril.

The Legislative Service Office found the legislation would have a significant fiscal impact on county school funds and required school foundation program funding. For fiscal year 2017, speeding fines paid to circuit courts equaled around \$3.7 million. A decrease of 20 percent represents around \$750,000 less in funding each year to county school funds from circuit courts.

Many estimate K-12 funding is facing a shortfall of around \$600 million for the upcoming biennium, with no new significant influxes of revenue in sight.

– Joel Funk, Wyoming Tribune Eagle

### KEY LAWMAKERS

■ **Sen. Leland Christensen, R-Alta,** chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Leland.Christensen@wyoleg.gov

■ **Rep. Dan Kirkbride, R-Chugwater,** chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, Dan.Kirkbride@wyoleg.gov



## STREAMING MEETINGS

The Wyoming Legislature has advanced proposals that would implement a pilot program for live video streaming of meetings during its interim months.

The Wyoming Legislature's Management Council discussed the possibility of streaming committee meetings online in 2018. With meetings spread across Wyoming during interim months, interest groups, media outlets and others have advocated for livestreaming to increase transparency and access.

During its November meeting, the Legislature's Select Committee on Legislative Facilities, Technology and Process passed a motion recommending the Management Council implement streaming on a trial basis for the 2018 interim. But it was clear there are a lot of barriers to overcome.

For one, some meetings are held in locations that lack the bandwidth to stream live video or audio. It could affect holding meetings in less-populated and rural areas – a notion some lawmakers think could decrease the public's ability to provide comments in person.

Livestreaming also would require technology, training and potentially additional staff to facilitate.

Lawmakers were given three options for video streaming, including contracting with Wyoming Public Broadcasting Service, contracting with Wyoming Enterprise Technology Services to broadcast meetings using Google Hangouts On Air or YouTube Live, or recording and broadcasting meetings using a packaged system that is integrated into a legislative management system.

The council voted to advance the first two options – to work with PBS and Wyoming Enterprise Technology Services – for a total of 20 meetings with live-streaming as a pilot project in 2018. The cost to implement the PBS option would be around \$9,000 for 10 meetings, and it's estimated the latter option would cost around \$3,000 for another 10.

A bill that would implement the project was tabled by the council until its final meeting just before the 2018 session.

– Joel Funk, Wyoming Tribune Eagle

### KEY LAWMAKERS

■ **Sen. Eli Bebout, R-Riverton**, Management Council co-chairman, [Eli.Bebout@wyoleg.gov](mailto:Eli.Bebout@wyoleg.gov)

■ **Rep. Steve Harshman, R-Casper**, Management Council co-chairman, [Steve.Harshman@wyoleg.gov](mailto:Steve.Harshman@wyoleg.gov)

## MILITARY

Wyoming Military Department facilities are behind on maintenance. And with funding cuts at the state level for maintenance in recent years, its advocates are hoping Wyoming's lawmakers will fund their budget requests before the problem becomes worse.

Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Luke Reiner, Wyoming Military Department director, and Deputy Director Doug Shope made their case in January to the Wyoming Legislature's Joint Appropriations Committee in Cheyenne. Reiner pointed out that Wyoming is among the top 5 percent of states nationwide in terms of supporting its military forces and veterans.

However, he said the department has taken a \$5 million – or 25 percent – reduction in state-shared funding in the last six years.

Consequently, Reiner said, the department's analysis indicates its operations are at "undue risk," manifesting in maintenance problems with its facilities.

It's all set against a backdrop of Wyoming service members already deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan, with preparations for more deployments underway.

The Military Department's budget recommendation includes 12 exception requests for additional funding, or requests for funding outside of its standard, ongoing requirements. For the 2019-20 biennium budget, the department has more than \$5 million in exception requests, with a net amount around \$1.2 million from the state's general fund.

Of \$1 million requested for Army and Air Guard facilities for the biennium, Mead recommended \$100,000.

Additionally, Wyoming lawmakers are expected to consider a bill during the upcoming session to build a retirement center for veterans and Gold Star spouses.

The Joint Transportation, Highways and Military Affairs Committee is sponsoring a bill that would provide a \$5 million loan from the Legislative Stabilization Reserve Account – commonly called the "rainy-day fund" – to pay for a facility in a yet-to-be determined location.

– Joel Funk, Wyoming Tribune Eagle

### KEY LAWMAKERS

■ **Sen. Bruce Burns, R-Sheridan**, Senate Appropriations Committee co-chairman, [Bruce.Burns@wyoleg.gov](mailto:Bruce.Burns@wyoleg.gov)

■ **Rep. Bob Nicholas, R-Cheyenne**, House Appropriations Committee co-chairman, [Bob.Nicholas@wyoleg.gov](mailto:Bob.Nicholas@wyoleg.gov)

## ELECTION LAWS

The upcoming elections will be a big deal for Wyoming. All five statewide elected offices, including governor, will be on the ballot. U.S. Sen. John Barrasso and U.S. Rep. Liz Cheney, both Wyoming Republicans, are also up for re-election.

But before those races really heat up, the Wyoming Legislature is going to tackle several pieces of legislation that would make significant changes to election law in the state.

The Wyoming Legislature's Joint Corporations, Elections and Political Subdivisions Interim Committee advanced several draft bills in 2017 for further consideration relating to 2016 election issues in the state.

A complaint filed by the Wyoming Republican Party against a left-wing organization's actions in 2016 was stymied when it was unclear how to prosecute the matter. It led to a bill clarifying that complaints against a statewide legislative candidate, committee or organization should be filed with the secretary of state, and referred to the attorney general for potential prosecution.

Complaints against municipal or county candidates would be referred to the county clerk in the appropriate jurisdiction, and then sent to the district or county attorney for prosecution.

Another bill advanced by lawmakers would make it unlawful for candidates or their campaigns, political action committees and other organizations to pay for advertising or campaign literature without making clear how it was funded.

Lawmakers also advanced another bill to stiffen penalties for those who fraudulently register to vote or cast a vote.

For some lawmakers, the intention is to address concerns about "precinct jumping" – where electors vote in multiple precincts, often because they own properties in different areas. However, at least one committee member is concerned it will actually punish people who inadvertently make mistakes.

– Joel Funk, Wyoming Tribune Eagle

### KEY LAWMAKERS

■ **Rep. Dan Zwonitzer, R-Cheyenne**, House Corporations, Elections and Political Subdivisions Committee chairman, [Dan.Zwonitzer@wyoleg.gov](mailto:Dan.Zwonitzer@wyoleg.gov)

■ **Sen. Cale Case, R-Lander**, Senate Corporations, Elections and Political Subdivisions Committee chairman, [Cale.Case@wyoleg.gov](mailto:Cale.Case@wyoleg.gov)

**Bills to watch**

**10 steps to a bill becoming a law**

**1** The process starts with an idea from citizens, legislators or a legislative committee. Then House bills go to the House. Their Senate counterparts, Senate files, go to the Senate.

**2** Bills must pass a first reading on the House or Senate floor to be referred to a standing committee.

**3** In a House or Senate standing committee: Each standing committee reviews the bills and invites the public to appear and present testimony, as well as discusses the proposed legislation. This is where public input can affect a bill prior to legislative debates. When the standing committee is ready for a decision, a vote is taken:

- Do pass
- Do not pass
- Do pass as amended
- Without recommendation

**4** Committee of the Whole: Endorses or rejects the standing committee's recommendation on the bill.

**5** Second reading of the bill: This is where the bill is first openly discussed on the House or Senate floor. Amendments are frequently introduced. A bill must be voted on to reach third reading.

**6** Third reading of the bill: Amendments are again permitted during third reading. Final passage of a bill on third reading is by a roll-call vote. If the bill is amended in the House

and passed on third reading, it is then engrossed (amendments are inserted into the bill) and sent across the Capitol to go through a similar process in the Senate. Vice versa for Senate files. If a bill passes both houses without amendments in the second chamber, it is then signed by presiding officers in the House and Senate and sent to the governor for action.

**7** Request for concurrence: If the bill is amended by the second legislative body, a message is sent to the other chamber requesting that the legislators approve, or "concur," with the amendments. If the legislators vote to "concur," the bill is enrolled, signed by the

residing officer and sent to the governor for action.

**8** Joint conference committee: If the original body votes not to concur with amendments made in the second chamber, the bill is sent to a joint conference committee to work out a compromise between the House and Senate positions. A joint conference committee consists of three members of the House and three members of the Senate. When a bill has been passed in identical form by the House and Senate, it is then enrolled, signed by the presiding officers and sent to the governor for action.

**9** Governor's action on the bill: Upon presentation of the en-

rolled act, the governor may:

- Approve and sign the bill
- Allow the bill to become law without his signature by taking no action
- Veto portions of the bill
- Veto the bill (If the governor vetoes the bill, it may still become law if both the House and Senate vote to override the veto. The vote to override requires a two-thirds vote in both the House and the Senate.)

**10** Session laws and Wyoming state statutes: Once the bill becomes law, it is then printed and bound into Wyoming Session Laws. The new law is then placed into the appropriate parts of the Wyoming State Statutes.

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# DO YOU WANT TO ATTEND A COMMITTEE MEETING?

Attending committee meetings to voice your opinion on issues before the Legislature is a great way to take part in the process. Here are a few guidelines:

## TO ATTEND

When you arrive at the committee meeting room, please sign the official meeting attendance sheet, indicating your attendance at the committee meeting.

You can keep track of the committee's schedule by reading the notices on the committee room door or by checking the Legislature's website. There, you can also sign up for email alerts for

committee meetings through the Legislative Service Office.

## TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE

Individuals who wish to address the committee will be recognized and called on by the chairman to speak.

After the chairman has recognized you, please stand and address the chairman (i.e. "Mr. Chairman").

Then clearly state your name and the name of the organization you represent prior to addressing the committee.

All comments, questions and

responses must flow through the chairman by addressing the chairman each time you wish to speak.

This procedure ensures an orderly flow of discussion during the committee meeting.

## TO GIVE A HANDOUT TO THE COMMITTEE

If you would like to provide written information to the committee and you would like your handout to be part of the official committee record, please fill out the committee handout form when you arrive at the meeting room and give the form and a

copy of your handout (including an electronic copy, if available) to the committee staff.

Please bring enough copies of your information for the committee, the committee staff and interested members of the audience.

You also can email an electronic copy to [legdocs@wyoleg.gov](mailto:legdocs@wyoleg.gov). Please include the committee name, meeting date, document author, document provider and agenda item in the body of the email, or include an electronic copy of this form along with your submission. Electronic copies of the form can be downloaded on the Legislature's website at [www.wyoleg.gov](http://www.wyoleg.gov).

**How to get involved**

## MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

During the legislative session, you can recommend support for or opposition to a particular piece of legislation by using the Online Hotline.

In addition to expressing support for or opposition to an identified bill, you can leave a short comment regarding the bill. This service is available on the Legislature's website at <http://lso.wyoleg.gov/Legislation>, under the "Other Resources" tab.

Comments will be available to all legislators, but keep in mind that legis-

lators consider a variety of factors when making decisions on pending legislation.

The telephone hotline also is available toll-free from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for those without internet access. In Wyoming, the number is 866-996-8683. For callers within the Cheyenne area, the number is 307-777-8683. Callers will not be able to leave comments regarding a bill.

The information you provide using these services is considered a public record.

## NO INTERNET ACCESS?

**Legislative Service Office:** 307-777-7881

**Senate Receptionist:** 307-777-7711 (message for senator)

**House Receptionist:** 307-777-7852 (message for representative)

**Voter Hotline/Bill Status Hotline:** 866-996-8683 or 307-777-8683 (in Cheyenne). Use to recommend a vote for/against pending legislation or to obtain the status of a bill in process.

**Bill Status Hotline:** 800-342-9570 or 307-777-6185 (out of state). Use only to obtain status of bill in process 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on days the Legislature is in session.

**Hearing Impaired Service:** 800-877-9965 (Wyoming Relay Service)

## THANK YOU.

*Thank you, Wyoming legislators, for your hard work on the public's behalf.*

*As you embark on a busy budget session, the Wyoming Press Association applauds your commitment to keeping the public's business public.*

WYOMING  
PRESS  
ASSOCIATION



<http://iso.wyoleg.gov>

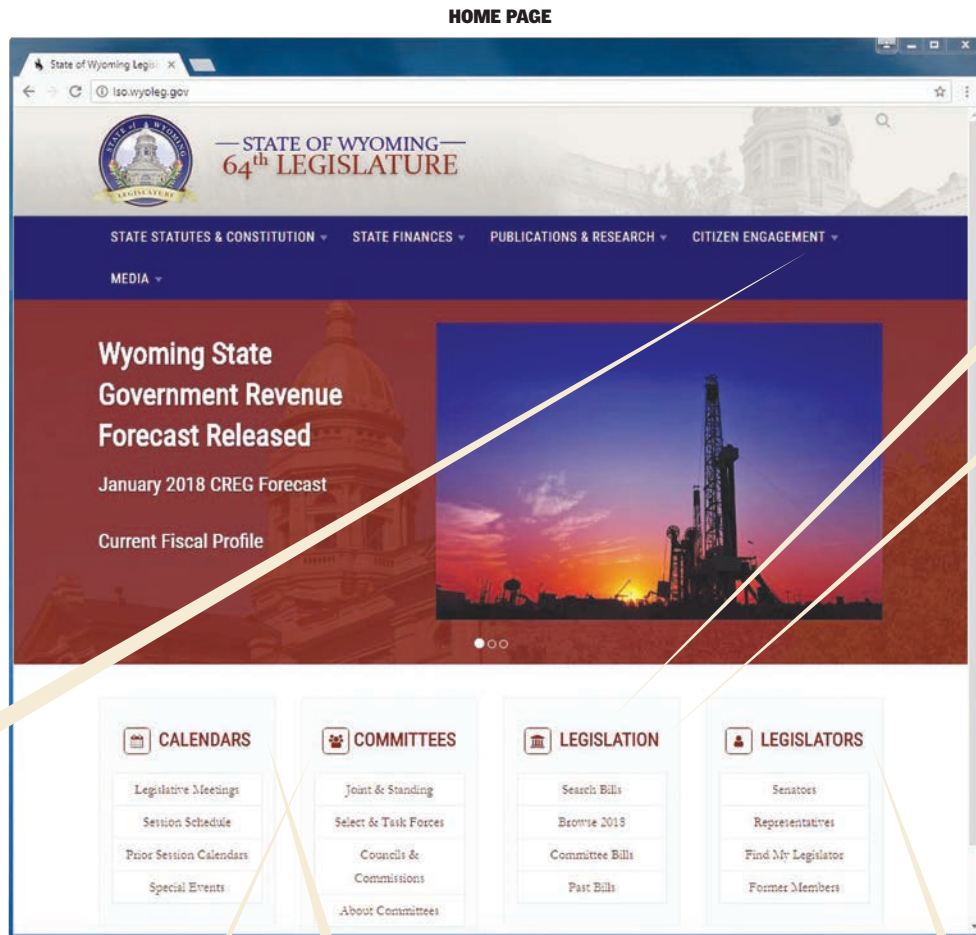
# ONLINE HIGHLIGHTS

Even the worst technophobes have easy access to up-to-the-minute information directly from the Legislative Service Office. This is by no means meant to be a comprehensive look at the Legislature's website. But it does show that the ability to keep an eye on your elected representatives and let them know what you think is at the tip of your fingers.

## Website guide

### Don't overlook these links

These links are worth exploring. The numbers, the law and quick Google search of this site are available. The Citizen Engagement tab will take you to the information about attending legislative sessions and committee hearings.



### Bill information

The Legislation tab leads you to the area where you can follow the progress of each bill, see the amendments added to it and the final version.



### Audio recordings

All of the floor debates and proceedings will be archived here and posted daily. But the files will be large MP3s covering many hours. Researchers can expect to spend hours if looking for something specific.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS



### Identify leaders/committee members

Here, the leadership and committee members are identified, and the links lead to their phone numbers and email addresses.

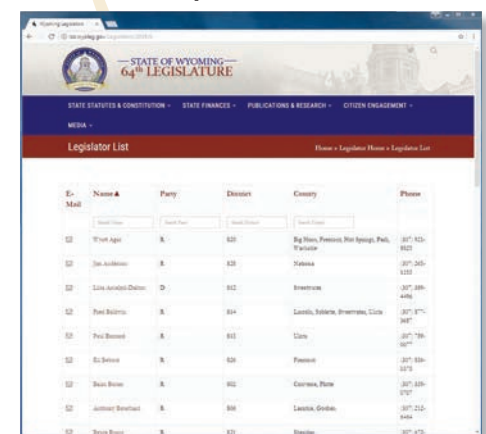
### SESSION SCHEDULES



### When are debates and hearings?

The schedules, calendar and meetings links tell you when to go to the Jonah Business Center if you are interested in hearing debates or committee hearings on a particular bill.

### HOUSE/SENATE MEMBERS



### Direct contact with legislators

You can, of course, fire off an email to your legislator. The effectiveness depends on your legislator's ability and willingness to check email during a busy session. Phone numbers are also available.



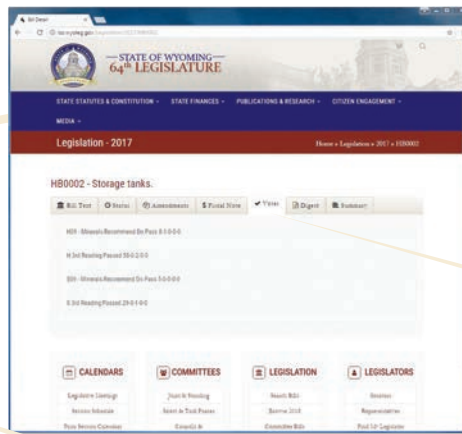
# TRACK BILLS ONLINE

There are several ways to track bills through the legislative process. Committee-sponsored bills traditionally have a better shot at making their way into law than those introduced by individual members. On the 2018 Bill Information Page, you can view summaries of committee-sponsored bills that are linked to PDF files of the actual bills, track a bill's status and find technical information, such as bill abbreviations.

## BILL INFORMATION PAGE



## VOTES ON BILLS



## Website guide

### Look up the votes by bill

Click on a bill then go to the Votes tab to bring up committee or floor votes.

## ALL BILLS

Bill & File Selection:

(Note: You can sort the grid in ascending or descending order by clicking on the Bill, Catch Title, Sponsor, Last Action or Last Action Date column headers).

Filter bills:  Active Bills  Enrolled Bills  Inactive Bills

Bill	Catch Title	Sponsor	Last Action	Last Action Date
HB0003	County clerk map recording fees-conforming amendment.	Paxton	Bill Number Assigned	12/06/2017
HB0004	Investment of state funds-amendments.	Cap Fin & Inv	Bill Number Assigned	12/06/2017
HB0005	Sale of wildlife information-prohibition.	Travel	Bill Number Assigned	12/07/2017
HB0006	Research and wildlife information-confidentiality.	Travel	Bill Number Assigned	12/07/2017
HB0007	Donation of antelope hunting licenses.	Allen	Bill Number Assigned	12/07/2017
HB0008	Stalking revisions.	Judiciary	Bill Number Assigned	12/07/2017
HB0009	Obsolete reporting-department of workforce services.	Labor	Bill Number	12/07/2017

### Tabs outline the legislative process

When you click on a bill, there are seven tabs to guide you through the process. A column on the right of the text includes links to the estimated fiscal and/or personnel impact and where the new legislation will appear in the law if it's accepted.

### A handy drop-down menu for sorting bills

A pull-down menu allows you to view the bills by house or all at once. Though they are all pieces of proposed legislation, in the House they are called "House bills," while in the Senate they are called "Senate files." This page is updated as the bill status changes and is a good spot to see where any bill is on a given day.



Location, schedule and seating charts

# ON LOCATION: NAVIGATING THE JONAH BUSINESS CENTER

The Jonah Business Center, located on East Pershing Boulevard in Cheyenne, will continue to host the Legislature while the Capitol undergoes a major renovation. In addition to hosting the legislative sessions, the building is the year-round home of the Legislative Service Office until the Capitol renovation is completed.

## Building layout for the legislative session

The Jonah Business Center is located at 3001 E. Pershing Blvd., across the street from the Okie Blanchard Sports Complex. Public parking is available in the east parking lot in front of the building via Pershing Boulevard to the north or Omaha Road to the south.



### House members

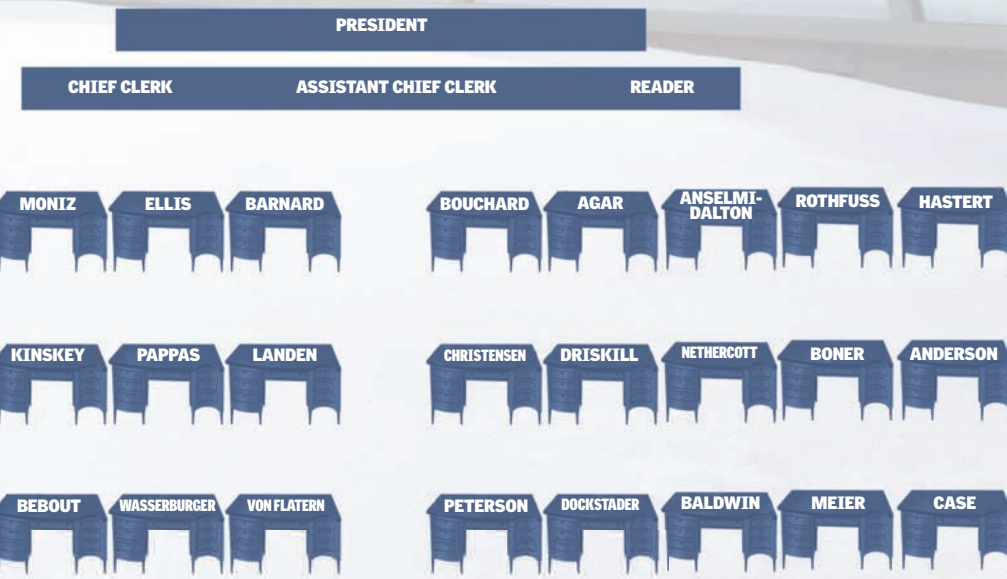
- Jim Allen, R-Lander
- Eric Barlow, R-Gillette
- Bo Biteman, R-Ranchester
- Jim Blackburn, R-Cheyenne
- Stan Blake, D-Green River
- Debbie Bovee, D-Casper
- Landon Brown, R-Cheyenne
- Donald Burkhardt Jr., R-Rawlins
- James Byrd, D-Cheyenne
- Aaron Clausen, R-Douglas
- Scott Clem, R-Gillette
- Cathy Connolly, D-Laramie
- Scott Court, R-Cody
- Tom Crank, R-Kemmerer
- JoAnn Dayton, D-Rock Springs
- Roy Edwards, R-Gillette
- John Eklund, R-Cheyenne
- Danny Eyre, R-Lyman
- Jamie Flitner, R-Greybull
- John Freeman, D-Green River
- Dan Furphy, R-Laramie
- Mike Gierau, D-Jackson
- Chuck Gray, R-Casper
- Mike Greear, R-Worland
- Bill Haley, R-Centennial
- Timothy Hallinan, R-Gillette
- Marti Halverson, R-Etna
- Steve Harshman, R-Casper
- Bill Henderson, R-Cheyenne
- Hans Hunt, R-Newcastle
- Mark Jennings, R-Sheridan
- Mark Kinner, R-Sheridan
- Dan Kirkbride, R-Chugwater
- Lloyd Larsen, R-Lander
- Dan Laursen, R-Powell
- Tyler Lindholm, R-Sundance
- Lars Lone, R-Cheyenne
- Bunky Loucks, R-Casper
- Joe MacGuire, R-Casper
- Mike Madden, R-Buffalo
- David Miller, R-Riverton
- Bob Nicholas, R-Cheyenne
- David Northrup, R-Powell
- Jerry Obermueller, R-Casper
- Jared Olsen, R-Cheyenne
- Jerry Paxton, R-Encampment
- Charles Pelkey, D-Laramie
- Garry Piiparinen, R-Evanston

- Bill Pownall, R-Gillette
- Tim Salazar, R-Dubois
- Andy Schwartz, D-Jackson
- Evan Simpson, R-Afton
- Albert Sommers, R-Pinedale
- Cheri Steinmetz, R-Lingle
- Clark Stith, R-Rock Springs
- Pat Sweeney, R-Casper
- Tom Walters, R-Casper
- Sue Wilson, R-Cheyenne
- Nathan Winters, R-Thermopolis
- Dan Zwonitzer, R-Cheyenne

### House Seating



### Senate Seating



### Tentative schedule

Assumes Legislature will not convene on Saturdays; schedule subject to change without notice. (Note: Additional three days may be added to schedule, if needed.)

- Day 1: Monday, Feb. 12**  
Session convenes.
- Day 3: Wednesday, Feb. 14**  
Noon deadline for all bill drafts to be in final form at LSO.
- Day 5: Friday, Feb. 16**  
Last day for bill introductions.
- Day 9: Thursday, Feb. 22**  
Last day for bills to be reported out of committee in house of origin.
- Day 10: Friday, Feb. 23**  
Last day for Committee of the Whole in house of origin.
- Monday, Feb. 26**  
Mid-session recess
- Day 11: Tuesday, Feb. 27**  
Last day for second reading in house of origin.
- Day 12: Wednesday, Feb. 28**  
Last day for third reading on bills in house of origin.
- Day 15: Monday, March 5**  
Last day for bills to be reported out of committee in second house.
- Day 16: Tuesday, March 6**  
Last day for Committee of the Whole on bills in second house.
- Day 17: Wednesday, March 7**  
Last day for second reading on bills in second house.
- Day 18: Thursday, March 8**  
Last day for third reading on bills in second house.
- Day 19: Friday, March 9**  
Concurrence on amendments/Joint Conference Committee reports.
- Day 20: Saturday, March 10**  
Joint Conference Committee reports; all JCC reports due to front desk by 2 p.m.; adjourn by midnight.

### Senate members

- Wyatt Agar, R-Thermopolis
- James Anderson, R-Casper
- Liisa Anselmi-Dalton, D-Rock Springs
- Fred Baldwin, R-Kemmerer
- Paul Barnard, R-Evanston
- Eli Bebout, R-Riverton
- Brian Boner, R-Douglas
- Anthony Bouchard, R-Cheyenne
- Bruce Burns, R-Sheridan
- Cale Case, R-Lander
- Leland Christensen, R-Alta
- Hank Coe, R-Cody
- Dan Dockstader, R-Afton
- Ogden Driskill, R-Devils Tower
- Affie Ellis, R-Cheyenne
- Fred Emerich, R-Cheyenne
- John Hastert, D-Green River
- Larry Hicks, R-Baggs
- Dave Kinskey, R-Sheridan
- Bill Landen, R-Casper
- Curt Meier, R-LaGrange
- Glenn Moniz, R-Laramie
- Tara Nethercott, R-Cheyenne
- Stephan Pappas, R-Cheyenne
- Drew Perkins, R-Casper
- R. Ray Peterson, R-Cowley
- Chris Rothfuss, D-Laramie
- Charles Scott, R-Casper
- Michael Von Flatern, R-Gillette
- Jeff Wasserburger, R-Gillette



# CITY PLANNERS' COUNTY JURISDICTION DEBATED

**Bills call to end a requirement that some say gives city control over county residents**

**By Austin Huguelet**  
Wyoming Tribune Eagle

CHEYENNE – A contentious debate over whether cities should be able to extend their rules to some county residents is again set to come before the Wyoming Legislature this session.

Two bills filed in December will reprise last year's calls to end a requirement for county developments within a mile of city limits to get approval of both the local county commission and city council.

City planners in Cheyenne and across the state say they use extraterritorial power for growth.

New subdivisions or business parks built close to city limits are often targets for future annexation, said Charles Bloom, a Laramie city planner and former president of the Wyoming Planners Association. Planners usually want to ensure new roads will align with existing city routes and that new sewer lines will easily fit city water system standards.

But some legislators and county commissioners believe the law unfairly puts county developers and residents in

positions where they can't vote for control of their land.

Laramie County Commissioner Buck Holmes is one of them.

"There is some feeling among county residents that live in close proximity to the city that the city has jurisdiction over them, but they have no recourse," he said.

"They can't vote and have no representation on the council. If I'm going to be a commissioner and my decisions affect you, I think you should be able to come up and talk to me as a constituent."

He emphasized that Cheyenne and Laramie County had worked well together on planning issues – though the city did sue the county in 2011 over subdivision regulations – but said the philosophical issue bothered him.

Sen. Cale Case, R-Lander, who co-chaired the interim committee that sponsored the bills, said lawmakers asked the Wyoming Association of Municipalities and the Wyoming County Commissioners Association to try to find a compromise after a similar effort failed in the Senate last year.

But he said the groups made little progress, and the committee voted to advance proposals leaning toward the county's side.

Rep. Dan Zwonitzer, R-Cheyenne, said he thought House Bill 14, which repeals the planning buffer – but leaves in place cities' rights to extend laws that don't involve taxation and urban blight policy into counties – could be a reasonable end.

"I think it makes a better process that brings everyone to the table and takes out the veto by the cities," he said.

"And I think good developers will look at the long-term plans for the cities when they're building."

Rep. Jim Byrd, D-Cheyenne, said he voted against the limited bill in the committee because he thought it didn't go far enough.

"People moved into the county for a reason," he said. "And the reason is often because they wanted to avoid the overburdens of the city. If you live in the county, you shouldn't be subject to city covenants and regulations."

But Case said he hoped legislators could still find some middle ground.

The Wyoming Planning Association offered one potential compromise this fall with language keeping the 1-mile planning allowance and adding county commissions could nullify city planning requirements with a three-fourths vote.

And while the language didn't make it into either of the final bills, Case said it was "something in the area of what we're looking for."

Rick Kaysen, former Cheyenne mayor and current president of the Wyoming Association of Municipalities, said any changes could have costly consequences, especially full repeal.

Any necessary fixes to bring a new property into the city could be expensive, he said.

"And who bears the costs of improvements?" he asked rhetorically. "It's going to be the city residents."

But Holmes thought those claims were a bit overblown.

"That's probably BS, at least around here," he said.

"Our planners work well together. Regardless of what happens, if we continue to collaborate, I don't really see much difference."

## LARAMIE COUNTY LEGISLATORS



**TARA NETHERCOTT, REPUBLICAN**

**Senate District 4, Cheyenne**

SD 4 primarily covers the central and northern portions of Cheyenne

**Legislative experience:** Senate, 2017-

present

**Age:** 35

**Current employment:** Partner at Woodhouse, Roden and Nethercott

**What are your priorities for this year's budget session?**

"There is no greater priority than establishing the state's budget during an improved, but still financially challenging, time. ... With an equal, if not greater level of importance is

education funding. The Legislature will have to grapple with two key questions concerning what levels of education should be funded and how to pay for that level of funding.

"The state's budgetary constraints have resulted in creative solutions by legislators and stakeholders concerning revenue generation for continued growth and sustainability for our state and communities. I am pleased to bring forth a bill creating community development districts to allow for revenue generation flexibility in specific

locations for infrastructure development and special projects."

**Session contact info:** 307-399-7696, Tara.Nethercott@wyoleg.gov



**FRED EMERICH, REPUBLICAN**

**Senate District 5, Cheyenne**

## Laramie County legislators

SD 5 primarily covers the area north of Pershing Boulevard on the west side of Cheyenne near Interstate 25 and north of Instate 80. The northern boundary is the intersection of I-25 and Lodge Pole Creek all the way to the Albany County line.

**Legislative experience:** Senate, 2011-present

**Age:** 72

**Current employment:** Retired

**What are your priorities for this year's budget session?** "

"My priorities for the session are to balance the budget and try to find funding for education. The economy of the state is improving, but not enough for clear sailing. We need a more diverse economy, but we must focus on what we have now. Recreation and tourism must be enhanced and promoted through a new strategic plan from State Parks and Cultural Resources."

**Session contact info:** 307-634-8783, Fred.Emerich@wyoleg.gov



**ANTHONY BOUCHARD, REPUBLICAN**

**Senate District 6, Cheyenne**

SD 6 covers all of eastern Laramie County, with an appendage extending into part of the northeast portion of Cheyenne; since redistricting, it also includes a narrow strip of Goshen County

**Legislative experience:** Senate, 2017-present

**Age:** 52

**Current employment:** Self-employed

**What are your priorities for this year's budget session?**

"I'm working on legislation to ensure transparency on expenditures and contracting. I will also be introducing a bill to make the Attorney General's Office elected and accountable to the people and not working only for the central government."

**Session contact info:** 307-212-6464, Anthony.Bouchard@wyoleg.gov



**STEPHAN PAPPAS, REPUBLICAN**

**Senate District 7, Cheyenne**

SD 7 generally covers the area of southeast Cheyenne. It includes some areas south of Pershing Boulevard, east of South Greeley Highway and east of Central Avenue.

**Legislative experience:** Senate, 2015-present

**Age:** 67

**Current employment:** President of Pappas &

Pappas Architects P.C.

**What are your priorities for this year's budget session?**

"Since we will be in a budget session, my main priority will be seeing that we develop a sound and fiscally responsible budget. I will not be opposed to more spending cuts where they make sense, and there probably will be areas that could sustain more cutting. However, I also feel there are areas that we have possibly already cut too far, such as suicide prevention and substance abuse services.

"Since the gorilla in the room will be educational spending, I will be concerned how much and where cuts will be made to our educational funding model. I am not interested in reversing the gains we have made in the past, so reviewing the recommendation of the Select Committee on School Finance Recalibration will be a major emphasis of mine. Funding for towns and counties will also be a critical area of concern."

**Session contact info:** 307-360-7180, Stephan.Pappas@wyoleg.gov



**AFFIE ELLIS, REPUBLICAN**

**Senate District 8, Cheyenne**

SD 8 primarily covers the area south of Pershing Boulevard to the Colorado state line and west of Central Avenue toward Albany County.

**Legislative experience:** Senate, 2017-present

**Age:** 39

**Current employment:** Small business owner

**What are your priorities for this year's budget session?**

"Wyoming currently spends \$16,000 per K-12 student; the national average is around \$10,000. With declining revenues derived from our energy sector, Wyoming's K-12 system faces a \$500 million structural deficit. Taxing our small population base would mean creating a new ongoing tax liability of \$3,333 for a family of four. Such taxes would hit the low-income families that I represent hard. As a taxpayer and mother of three children, my priorities are to maintain Wyoming's low tax environment while protecting dollars that are actually spent in the classroom on students and teachers."

**Session contact info:** Affie.Ellis@wyoleg.gov



**SUE WILSON, REPUBLICAN**

**House District 7, Cheyenne**

HD 7 covers the area north of Melton, Bluegrass Circle, Storey Boulevard exten-

sion and Dell Range Boulevard in Cheyenne all the way north to Platte County, with major borders being Interstate 25, the Albany County line and Christensen Road.

**Legislative experience:** House, 2013-present

**Age:** 57

**Current employment:** Owner, La Frontera Language Services

**What are your priorities for this year's budget session?**

"While serving on the Appropriations Committee, my top priority is to develop a budget that addresses the needs of the people of the state within the restrictions of our current and future revenue picture. I also hope to work on identifying parameters for use of the "rainy-day" fund. Because of my health-care background, I will continue to look for ways to address access to health-care services across the state."

**Session contact info:** 307-316-7497, Sue.Wilson@wyoleg.gov



**BOB NICHOLAS, REPUBLICAN**

**House District 8, Cheyenne**

HD 8 primarily covers the area north of Pershing Boulevard on the west side of Cheyenne near Interstate 25.

**Legislative experience:** House, 2011-present

**Age:** 60

**Current employment:** Attorney with Nicholas Law Office in Cheyenne

**What are your priorities for this year's budget session?**

"Since I'm the chairman of (the Joint Appropriations Committee), my priority is to come in with a balanced budget. As a legislator generally, my priority is to see if we can come up with a short-term and long-term fix to education funding. I don't know that we'll get there, but if we can at least get a road map with a balanced budget and adequate funding to move forward to the next biennium, that's the biggest thing."

**Session contact info:** 307-634-6057, Bob.Nicholas@wyoleg.gov



**LANDON BROWN, REPUBLICAN**

**House District 9, Cheyenne**

HD 9 covers the area north of Dell Range Boulevard from the post office on the east side of Cheyenne. It includes attendance areas of Dildine,

*More legislator profiles on pages 18-19*



# Laramie County legislators

*Continued from 17*

Buffalo Ridge and Anderson elementary schools, as well as some areas on the south side of Dell Range Boulevard.

**Legislative experience:** House, 2017-present

**Age:** 30

**Current employment:** Contract specialist, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality

**What are your priorities for this year's budget session?**

"My main focus is the same this year as it was last year: to work with the 89 other lawmakers in the Wyoming Legislature to find new opportunities to change the way Wyoming conducts business. We must realize the current model for Wyoming isn't working, and we need to change it now. We must make calculated priorities and fund those accordingly, and cut fraud, waste and abuse. I will be introducing legislation that will provide all public employees (local, county, school district and state) the opportunity to report incidents anonymously. We currently have no system in place to solve these types of issues. I hope to get my colleagues' support in this time of changing Wyoming to find inefficiencies and cut the waste in our government."

**Session contact info:** 307-630-0852, Landon.Brown@wyoleg.gov



**JOHN EKLUND,  
REPUBLICAN**

**House District 10, Albin**

HD 10 covers the eastern half of Laramie County and a small portion of Goshen County. Albin, Burns, Carpenter, Hillsdale and Pine Bluffs are all part of this district.

**Legislative experience:** House, 2011-present

**Age:** 66

**Current employment:** Farmer/rancher

**What are your priorities for this year's budget session?**

"The budget is a priority. We have other bills, and personally I'd like to see a few of the committee bills we worked on in Transportation, Highways and Military Affairs go to the floor.

"I'm not bringing any bills myself. I think we're going to struggle enough with the budget and trying to get things settled, so we're not going to have energy to do much else."

**Session contact info:** 307-630-6232, John.Eklund@wyoleg.gov



**JARED OLSEN,  
REPUBLICAN**

**House District 11, Cheyenne**

HD 11 primarily covers the central part of Cheyenne, south of Pershing Boulevard and north of Campstool Road. College Drive is the district's eastern border, and Central Avenue is the western border.

**Legislative experience:** 2017-present

**Age:** 30

**Current employment:** Attorney and owner of Olsen Legal Group, LLC

**What are your priorities for this year's budget session?**

"My No. 1 priority is focusing on the state budget. We must continue to reduce government to its responsible size and scope, which also means maximizing efficiencies in the critical services we provide. Second, we must focus deeply on our education system, meaning how we spend our money and maximizing our resources so that our children receive the best start possible. Finally, I think it's important in all legislative choices that we make this session that we empower individuals,

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families, businesses and our communities. Without doing so, economic diversification will not come to fruition in our great state."

**Session contact info:** 307-509-0242; Jared.Olsen@wyoleg.gov; P.O. Box 4333, Cheyenne, WY 82003.



**LARS LONE,  
REPUBLICAN**

**House District 12,  
Cheyenne**

HD 12 primarily covers the area from Interstate 80 south to the Colorado state line. Its eastern border is South Greeley Highway, and its western border is the Albany County line.

**Legislative experience:** House, 2017-present

**Age:** 39

**Current employment:** Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality

**What are your priorities for this year's budget session?**

"The budget. There's a lot we have to tackle, especially with a \$700 million deficit right now. There's a lot that has to be looked at in different ways to meet those needs."

**Session contact info:** Lars.Lone@wyoleg.gov



**BILL HENDERSON,  
REPUBLICAN**

**House District 41,  
Cheyenne**

HD 41 primarily covers the central to northern areas of Cheyenne.

**Legislative experience:** House, 2017-present

**Age:** 69

**Current employment:** Business development officer, FirstTier Bank

**What are your priorities for this year's budget session?**

"I'm working with others: 1) to promote technology, processes and workforce opportunities for training and good jobs; 2) to ensure health care is funded and affordable for everyone; and 3) to fully fund quality education programs. I feel new taxes seem premature as education recalibration is in progress and initial ENDOW recommendations and 20-year plan will require closer review and assessment by the Legislature."

**Session contact info:** 307-201-989, Bill.Henderson@wyoleg.gov



**JIM BLACKBURN,  
REPUBLICAN**

**House District 42,  
Cheyenne**

HD 42 extends north to the Ridley Road area, Interstate 80 to the south, Interstate 25 to the east and the Albany County line to the west.

**Legislative experience:** House, 2015-present

**Age:** 74

**Current employment:** Retired

**What are your priorities for this year's budget session?**

"I'm interested in holding taxes where they are; finding more places to not oversize government, but to downsize it more; and save some money that way, rather than tax.

"(I'm also) really not interested in seeing us spend any more money to get another task force group or consultant. We've had groups try to tell us things that we need to do that we've already investigated, and have paid money to a firm or group to consult with us, and then we do little or nothing with it."

**Session contact info:** 307-514-4318, Jim.Blackburn@wyoleg.gov



**DAN ZWONITZER,  
REPUBLICAN**

**House District 43,  
Cheyenne**

HD 43 covers south-central Laramie County, including eastern Cheyenne. It includes all of the Sun Valley area south of Pershing Boulevard and east of College Drive, as well as the area south of Allison Road to the Colorado state line east of South Greeley Highway.

**Legislative experience:** House, 2005-present

**Age:** 38

**Current employment:** Faculty member at Laramie County Community College

**What are your priorities for this year's budget session?**

"The budget and the fiscal health of the state are the utmost priority. We continue to have a structural deficit the Legislature as a whole is unwilling to solve, and does not communicate well enough to the public. We are diverting money from multiple funds and sources to prevent any type of tax increase, while using up our savings accounts. This is unsustainable, and the longer we let it go, the worse it

gets. I will be fighting for any solid proposal that doesn't kick the can down the road. Other major issues I'm working on include insurance rates, insurance coverage for kids, preservation of Wyoming's water and campaign/election reform."

**Session contact info:** 307-214-7826, Dan.Zwonitzer@wyoleg.gov



**JAMES BYRD,  
DEMOCRAT**

**House District 44, Cheyenne**

HD 44 primarily covers the downtown Cheyenne area, south of Pershing Boulevard and north of Interstate 80.

**Legislative experience:** House, 2009-present

**Age:** 63

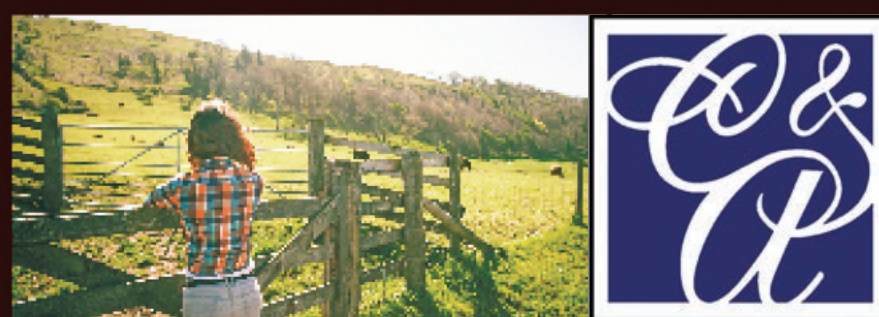
**Current employment:** Owner of Professional Cleaners and Tailors, IT network infrastructure analyst/consultant, oil and gas exploration and produced water consultant

**What are your priorities for this year's budget session?**

"To not damage state government in the course of budget negotiations."

**Session contact info:** 307-634-5803, James.Byrd@wyoleg.gov

## Laramie County legislators



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# UW HOPES BUDGET CUTS OVER

By Jeff Victor  
Laramie Boomerang

LARAMIE – The University of Wyoming is hoping to avoid further budget cuts as the Legislature gears up for the 2018 budget session.

Throughout the past biennium, UW was forced to cut more than \$40 million from its budget when the Legislature slashed its block grant. Roughly three-fourths of UW’s total budget comes from this grant.

“Our biggest concern is over the budget,” said Chris Boswell, vice president for governmental and community affairs. “Part of our message is to ask that we not be cut any further.”

UW President Laurie Nichols spent time in the weeks leading up to this year’s session traveling around the state, delivering this message to legislators.

The budget cuts enacted during the current biennium saw UW reduce its faculty and staff by a combined total of roughly 370 positions. University administrators also implemented a number of consolidations and reorganizations across campus aimed at making UW more efficient and put a large emphasis on increasing enrollment.

Boswell said UW is also closely watching a few exception requests – additional funds or permissions the university hopes the Legislature will approve. He said the most important of these involves the release of previously appropriated money for the planned Science Initiative Building.

“That is the trustees’ No. 1 priority,” Boswell said.

“That is the president’s No. 1 priority.”

Gov. Matt Mead recommend-

ed the Legislature approve the release of these Science Initiative funds, also recommending no further cuts to the university’s overall budget.

UW officials brought their requests before the Legislature’s Joint Appropriations Committee on Dec. 7.

“So, now we work with the Appropriations Committee and hope that (it votes) to include the release of those funds in the capital construction bill,” Boswell said.

David Jewell, associate vice president for budgeting and fiscal planning, explained the purpose of the Science Initiative to lawmakers during the committee meeting.

“Boldly, it is to recruit and retain the brightest and most talented,” Jewell said. “So, while it is brick and mortar, while it is a building ... what this

request and what this building represents is really the investment in research, investment in diversification of this economy, investment in students and education.”

He added the release of Science Initiative funding was the university’s most important exception request on its fiscal years 2019-20 biennium request.

“It really adds to the final phase of the university’s overall strategic plan around science and technology education,” Jewell said.

Boswell said there could be other bills that impact the university, but said he has not seen any yet.

“In a budget session, it’s a little hard to know what’s going to come,” he said. “But we’ll largely remain focused on the budget itself.”

Albany County

Just like you, I am concerned about Wyoming’s future. We have challenges, but challenges come with opportunity. Looking at different approaches and options can lead to potential solutions.

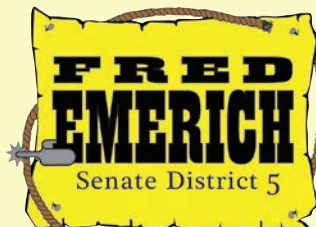
During the session, the best way to reach me is via email:

[Fred.Emerich@wyoleg.gov](mailto:Fred.Emerich@wyoleg.gov)

Please send an email to let me know your thoughts on legislation.



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**GLENN MONIZ,  
REPUBLICAN****Senate District 10,  
Laramie**

SD 10 covers Albany County and the east side of Laramie.

**Legislative experience:** House, 2009-16; Senate, 2017-present

**Age:** 73

**Current employment:** Business partner in a commercial property limited-liability company

**What are your priorities for this year's budget session?**

"With 70 percent of Wyoming's revenue coming from minerals and a downturn in that industry, we must look to diversify our economy. With that, I believe it is important to support the governor's ENDOW initiative.

"We need to continue to support the University of Wyoming and the Science Initiative. The big elephant in the room is school facilities and K-12 education."

**Session contact info:** 307-745-4711,  
Glenn.Moniz@wyoleg.gov

**CHRIS  
ROTHFUSS,  
DEMOCRAT****Senate District 9, Laramie**

SD 9 covers the west side of Laramie and parts of Albany County west of Laramie.

**Legislative experience:** Senate, 2011-present

**Age:** 45

**Current employment:** UW Honors Program/  
Consulting chemical engineer

**What are your priorities for this year's budget session?**

"Our most important priority will be to maintain our statewide educational excellence despite the downturn in mineral revenue. That will require identifying some additional cost-saving measures in the K-12 educational funding model, the reallocation of existing state revenues, spending from our savings and ideally the addition of new revenue.

"That gets to a second key priority for the upcoming session: diversifying state and local revenue. The Wyoming economy will never get beyond boom-and-bust without a more thoughtful and diversified tax structure that generates substantial and equitable revenue from industries other than coal, oil and gas."

**Session contact info:** 307-399-3556,  
Chris.Rothfuss@wyoleg.gov

**DAN FURPHY,  
REPUBLICAN****House District 14, Albany  
County**

HD 14 covers northern and parts of western Albany County.

**Legislative experience:** 2017-present

**Age:** 66

**Occupation:** Retired banker

**What are your priorities for this year's budget session?**

"Properly fund our schools and minimize any further cuts to their programs. We will have the report on recalibration by the end of January and will have the difficult task of addressing methods of funding the schools appropriately.

"Continue to fight for funding for the University of Wyoming. The university has already taken significant cuts and has done a good job of addressing the reduced funding. They should not have to face further reductions. Development and diversification of revenue sources is also important."

**Session contact info:** 307-760-0148,  
Dan.Furphy@wyoleg.gov

**CATHY  
CONNOLLY,  
DEMOCRAT****House District 13, Laramie**

HD 13 covers central Laramie.

**Legislative experience:** 2009-present

**Age:** 61

**Occupation:** Professor of gender and women's studies, University of Wyoming

**What are your priorities for this year's budget session?**

"We ended the last legislative session understanding that we were facing a large revenue shortfall based on significantly decreased revenues from the mineral industry. I remain committed to the highest-quality education for our kids, including maintaining low class sizes and a robust basket of goods.

"While some argue for cutbacks, instead I support innovation such as voluntary pre-K for 4-year-olds, a move that would enhance student outcomes and ultimately save money. Maintaining funding for our communities, as well as UW, and restoring funding for needed health and social services will remain important. Ultimately, a hard look at redefining our revenue streams for better economic stability and growth is absolutely necessary."

**Session contact info:** 307-399-0482,  
Cathy.Connolly@wyoleg.gov

**BILL HALEY,  
REPUBLICAN****House District 46,  
Laramie**

HD 46 covers parts of southwestern Albany County, including the communities of Centennial, Albany and Woods Landing-Jelm.

**Legislative experience:** House, 2017-present

**Age:** 66

**Current employment:** Retired

**What are your priorities for this year's budget session?**

"One of my priorities for this upcoming budget session is K-12 education funding. With the Wyoming economy slightly improving and recalibration, I am looking forward to seeing what solutions are going to be presented by the legislators with several years of experience.

"I will also be supportive of bills that will benefit UW. There are several other funding challenges, such as the Health Department, substance abuse, funding for Medicaid and Title 25 funding. Another priority for me is to help keep public lands public."

**Session contact info:** 307-745-0450,  
Bill.Haley@wyoleg.gov

**CHARLES  
PELKEY,  
DEMOCRAT****House District 45, Laramie**

HD 45 covers parts of central and western Albany County.

**Legislative experience:** House, 2015-present

**Age:** 59

**Current employment:** Founding partner at the law firm of Neubauer, Pelkey, Merseal and Goldfinger, LLP

**What are your priorities for this year's budget session?**

"The big priority for me entering this budget session is to bring a sense of balance to the table. These past two years, we've seen drastic cuts to the university, to K-12 education and critical needs that have gone unmet. As a Legislature, we need to make sure that budget cuts now don't end up costing the state more in the long run.

"Given the unbelievable problems we now see at the federal level, we need to ensure that our own investments in education, health and infrastructure are protected. We need to address the question of diversification, both in the economy and with regard to our state government's revenue streams."

**Session contact info:** 307-920-0542,  
Charles.Pelkey@wyoleg.gov

**Albany  
County  
legislators**



# LEGISLATORS EXAMINE IMPACT OF ADDITIONAL EDUCATION CUTS

By Gregory R.C. Hasman  
Rock Springs Rocket-Miner

ROCKSPRINGS—Wyoming legislators will be tasked with finding ways to deal with projected deficits in K-12 education in the upcoming session.

In December, Gov. Matt Mead released his budget proposal, requesting the state use transfers and reserves to help combat a projected \$340 million annual shortfall in each of the fiscal years 2019 and 2020.

Mead said it would cover the upcoming biennium's shortfall, though it is only a short-term fix.

During the 2017 legislative session, legislators voted to cut \$56 million for K-12 education for fiscal years 2017 and 2018. In the same session, they decided not only to make cuts, but to reinstate the Select Committee on School Finance Recalibration early to take another look at the state's school funding system.

Recalibration typically takes place every five years, but the Legislature undertook it three years early to address the deficit. It factors in items like

inflation, how much legislators will fund education and how to divvy up funding for districts.

The state hired consultant Augenblick, Palaich and Associates from Denver to look at the K-12 funding model and provide suggestions to legislators.

In addition to the consultants working on recommendations, legislators held interim committee meetings during the year to consider different possibilities, ranging from increasing revenue to making cuts in order to address the funding problem.

What would the impact be if the Legislature decided to implement more cuts? Sweetwater County legislators weighed in.

## Fred Baldwin, SD 14

Sen. Fred Baldwin, R-Kemmerer, said success in K-12 education will lie in school administrators' abilities to learn to do more with less.

"I believe we need to improve our focus on the student-level functions and trim some of the excess administrative costs," he said.

Baldwin added, "our students need more real education and less training about how to take tests."

## JoAnn Dayton, HD 17

Rep. JoAnn Dayton, D-Rock Springs, said K-12 education is a top priority for legislators.

"During the interim, the Revenue Committee looked at all revenue streams, with nothing off the table," she said. "We have enough in savings to balance our budget and fund schools for the next biennium, keeping in mind this is not a long-term solution."

"Correspondence from around the state signified Wyoming citizens are in favor of funding K-12 education, even if it requires an increase in their taxes."

## Tom Crank, HD 18

Rep. Tom Crank, R-Kemmerer, said the state needs to explore all of its options.

"I am not an expert in school funding and will do as I have in the past year and try and talk to the superintendents in the area and get their input," he said.

"The issue will again be contentious, as we find ourselves faced with no sure fix and split opinions on how to best address the issue. It is my position that additional cuts, along with new sources of revenue, will be needed."

"I feel that regardless of the legislative outcome, litigation will likely be initiated. Citizens, rather than courts, should be the ones that determine the appropriate level of funding, but that has not been the history of education funding in Wyoming. The current funding level of around \$17,000 per year, per student, compared to \$7,000 per year in neighboring states, points to a problem that cannot be ignored."

## Liisa Anselmi-Dalton, SD 12

Sen. Liisa Anselmi-Dalton, D-Rock Springs, said maintaining a quality education in schools is "a fundamental right guaranteed by the Wyoming Constitution."

"The state is paying over \$500,000 for recalibration experts to review how we fund this guarantee," she said.

For example, she would "favor rewarding savings, spending what is needed and saving for tomorrow."

"The successful schools model looks at the best schools in the state to see how they spend the money received," Anselmi-Dalton said. "This model seems better—copy something that is working."

She added, to keep quality education, "we cannot cut pay for our teachers and should not cut instructional facilitators."

## John Hastert, SD 13

Sen. John Hastert, D-Green River, said he does not believe the state could provide a quality education if it makes more cuts.

"Lower funding will lead to larger class sizes and less individual attention," he said. "The Legislature needs to identify funding sources to properly fund education to leave class sizes lower and provide complete opportunities for our youth."

Sweet-  
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## Stan Blake, HD 39

Rep. Stan Blake, D-Green River, said the state can't keep cutting funds to school districts and "hope they maintain a high level of achievement."

Rather than make cuts, he said, perhaps the state could dip into the rainy-day fund to help in the short term.

"Maybe reallocating where the money flows to is one option that needs to be looked at," Blake said. "I know there will be options to look at, and I look forward to everyone's input on the best course to take."

"We have to keep our teachers in Wyoming with a competitive wage and benefits or our children will suffer."

## Jerry Paxton, HD 47

Rep. Jerry Paxton, R-Encampment, said the state is going to have to do more with less.

"We just don't have the kind of money as before," he said.

"We're going to have to do more with less, just like we do with every other agency."

He also said it will be important to get input from educators because they are the "folks in the trenches."

"We will rely on them to help us through this process," he said.

## Clark Stith, HD 48

Rep. Clark Stith, R-Rock Springs, said Wyoming needs to play "moneyball" with K-12 education.

He looked at five areas, including:

- Increasing class sizes for students from the fourth to 12th grades

- Trim administration

- Transportation

"Wyoming's school bus transportation costs are twice as high per pupil as in neighboring South Dakota," Stith said.

- Consolidate districts

"I was disappointed that the select committee on education

finance rejected consolidation of school districts because it would only save \$8 million per year. That's \$80 million in 10 years," he said.

- Cap school superintendent salaries

"I am sponsoring a bill that could cap school superintendent salary at no more than recommended by the state education resource block grant model," he said.

## John Freeman, HD 60

Rep. John Freeman, D-Green River, said he doesn't think Wyoming schools can maintain the quality of education "with future significant K-12 education cuts."

"The Legislature has essentially not provided an external cost adjustment to schools since the 2010 recalibration to cover inflation," he said. "School districts have reported they have lost approximately 15 percent of their buying power,

in addition to the cuts made by the Legislature."

Freeman said he has been told the current recalibration process "will not find significant areas to reduce current funding and that other states fund their schools at a similar level as Wyoming."

"Most research tells us that K-12 education has improved throughout the U.S. in recent years, and Wyoming has improved compared to other states during that period," he said.

"There is no doubt that Wyoming still has room for improvement, and I think you will see continued improvement after schools and students adjust to Wyoming's third statewide test to measure student progress."

Significant cuts will not improve education, he said.

"Drastic state cuts will hurt student progress and begin Wyoming's sixth school funding lawsuit since the 1970s," Freeman said. "The Legislature has lost the first five lawsuits."

Sweet-water  
County



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## Sweet-water County legislators



**LIISA ANSELMI-DALTON,**  
**DEMOCRAT**

**Senate District 12,**  
**Rock Springs**

SD 12 includes central and southern Sweetwater County.

**Legislative experience:** Senate, 2017-present

**Age:** Did not disclose

**Current employment:** Owner/operator of the Holiday Inn, Holiday Inn Express and Quality Inn

**What are your priorities for this year's budget session?**

"Protecting vulnerable populations in Wyoming is a priority. We must ensure access to health care and care services for our senior citizens. In addition, we have one of the highest rates of teen suicide in our nation. Education and awareness are critical to prevention. Finally, I will work to increase support services for victims of bullying, domestic violence and sexual assault."

**Session contact information:** 307-389-4496, Liisa.Anselmi-Dalton@wyoleg.gov



**FRED BALDWIN,**  
**REPUBLICAN**

**Senate District 14,**  
**Kemmerer**

SD 14 includes western Sweetwater County, a part of southeastern Lincoln County, central and southern Sublette County, and northwestern Uinta County.

**Legislative experience:** Senate, 2017-present; House, 2015-16

**Age:** 61

**Current employment:** Physician assistant

**What are your priorities for this year's budget session?**

"My priorities for the upcoming session include managing the health-care needs of Wyoming citizens in both medical and mental health areas. This is not just another bust in our traditional boom-and-bust cycle. There is a change in our revenue landscape for the longer term, and we must change with it or begin to go backward."

**Session contact information:** 307-877-3687, Fred.Baldwin@wyoleg.gov



**JOHN HASTERT,**  
**DEMOCRAT**

**Senate District 13,**  
**Green River**

SD 13 covers parts of Rock Springs, Green River and Jamestown.

**Legislative experience:** Senate, 2007-present; House, 2004-06

**Age:** 59

**Current employment:** Mechanic

**What are your priorities for this year's budget session?**

"Serving on the Appropriations Committee, my focus will be on the state budget, with attention to education funding, early childhood intervention, health care and assistance for veterans.

"The Legislature has cut funding to our child developmental programs to a level where they're not able to compete with school districts for many professional services.

"There are several issues facing us with health care. Wyoming will be faced with increased challenges, including health care and counseling for veterans."

**Session contact information:** 307-871-1001, John.Hastert@wyoleg.gov



**STAN BLAKE,**  
**DEMOCRAT**

**House District 39,**  
**Green River**

HD 39 encompasses Green River and Purple Sage.

**Legislative experience:** 12 years in the Legislature

**Age:** 63

**Current employment:** Union Pacific Railroad conductor

**What are your priorities for this year's budget session?**

"Priorities this year are to keep funding for schools at the right level and to keep our schools competitive with other states."

**Session contact information:** 307-875-3779, Stan.Blake@wyoleg.gov



**TOM CRANK,**  
**REPUBLICAN**

**House District 18,**  
**Kemmerer**

HD 18 includes northwest Sweetwater County, southern Lincoln County and northeast Uinta County.

**Legislative experience:** House, 2017-present

**Age:** 57

**Current employment:** Crank Companies Inc.,

civil engineer and land surveyor

**What are your priorities for this year's budget session?**

"The school funding shortfall remains the largest single issue facing the state. Funding for local government must be improved. The state needs to promote and invest more in our communities, and we need to make it easier for them to generate local revenues.

"Economic development is an overriding concern. Our options are to cut services, spend from savings or generate new revenue. We need it to be a balance of all three.

"We keep seeing statements that Wyoming is the most business-friendly state, but a look next door to our neighbors indicates we are using the wrong methods to determine what defines business friendly. The Economically Needed Diversity Options for Wyoming initiative is a good start."

**Session contact information:** 307-727-6810, Thomas.Crank@wyoleg.gov



**JOANN DAYTON,**  
**DEMOCRAT**

**House District 17,**  
**Rock Springs**

HD 17 touches parts of Rock Springs, Reliance, Superior, Point of Rocks and Wamsutter.

**Legislative experience:** House, 2015-present

**Age:** Did not disclose

**Current employment:** Retired from OCI as executive assistant for the site manager

**What are your priorities for this year's budget session?**

"During the interim, the Revenue Committee looked at all revenue streams, with nothing off the table. As the 2018 session approaches, the big questions are can Wyoming afford it and where will the funding come from?

"K-12 education for Wyoming is a top priority for all of us. We have enough in savings to balance our budget and fund schools for the next biennium, keeping in mind this is not a long-term solution. Correspondence from around the state signified Wyoming citizens are in favor of funding K-12 education, even if it requires an increase in their taxes."

**Session contact information:** 307-382-5623 (home), 307-389-1296 (cell), JoAnn.Dayton@wyoleg.gov



**JOHN FREEMAN,**  
**DEMOCRAT**

**House District 60,**  
**Green River**

HD 60 includes a section of Sweetwater County consisting of two-thirds of Green River, south of the river.

**Legislative experience:** House, 2011-present

**Age:** 63

**Current employment:** Western Wyoming Community College high school transition coordinator

**What are your priorities for this year's budget session?**

"My priorities for this session are to pass a fair budget that provides the services Wyomingites have enjoyed in the past. Education must be funded to meet our constitutional mandate. Education efficiencies, using savings and capturing revenue streams that have gone to savings in the past are the most likely ways we will meet our obligation. Ways to diversify Wyoming have to be explored."

**Session contact information:** Through the House receptionist, 307-777-7852, and John.Freeman@wyoleg.gov



**CLARK STITH,  
REPUBLICAN**

**House District 48,  
Rock Springs**

HD 48 encompasses Rock Springs from Foothill Boulevard east to the South Side Belt Route.

**Legislative experience:** This will be Stith's first legislative session. In June, he was appointed by the Sweetwater County commissioners to replace Mark Baker, who resigned in May 2017.

**Age:** 56

**Current employment:** Attorney

**What are your priorities for this year's budget session?**

"My priorities for the upcoming session are: continue working on obtaining Abandoned Mine Lands funding for the Bitter Creek Renovation Project so that voters in House District 48 can have their properties removed from the federal flood plain designation that currently discourages economic development; sponsoring the Medicaid Fairness Act, which should save the state approximately \$8 million per year by recouping from higher-income single fathers the birth expenses of unmarried mothers paid by state Medicaid; and standing firm against efforts to increase the statewide sales tax rate or any gross receipts tax."

**Session contact information:** 307-382-5565 (office), 307-389-7735 (cell), Clark.Stith@wyoleg.gov



**JERRY PAXTON,  
REPUBLICAN**

**House District 47,  
Encampment**

HD 47 covers all of Carbon County, except for Rawlins and Sinclair; parts of Albany County, including Rock River; and about one-third of Sweetwater County, including Bairoil, Wamsutter, Farson and Eden.

**Legislative experience:** 2013-present

**Age:** Did not disclose

**Current employment:** Retired school principal

**What are your priorities for this year's budget session?**

"Obviously the biggest elephant in the room is the budget. The state is going to have to try and do more with less, and that's the total focus as far as I'm concerned."

**Session contact information:** 307-327-5373, Jerry.Paxton@wyoleg.gov

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# PRISON ISSUES A PRICEY FIX

**By Joel Funk**  
Wyoming Tribune Eagle

CHEYENNE— Work continues at the Wyoming State Penitentiary in Rawlins to make repairs and mitigate further structural damage.

Built just 16 years ago, the State Penitentiary, which sits on unstable soil, continues to experience structural problems. Floors and walls buckle and crack at the facility, which also experiences mechanical failures.

Soil conditions at the prison site have led to areas that expand or contract when moisture is introduced, usually by rain and melting snow.

In 2016, lawmakers allocated \$7 million for repairs while they try to figure out a long-term solution for the prison.

Estimates for replacing the facility are in the \$250 million to \$300 million range, while repairing the current facility would cost around \$100 million, Sen. Bruce Burns, R-Sheridan, chairman of the Joint Appropriations Committee, told the Wyoming Tribune Eagle in July.

The Department of Corrections, the State Building Commission, contractors and consultants are continuing to monitor conditions at the prison. Safety and security concerns are being addressed with emergency major maintenance funds.

Work to address drainage issues continues in 2018. Along with an extensive amount of work accomplished in the closing months of 2017, water mitigation work was recently completed around the Central Production Facility and K Unit, Dave Webb of the state Construction Management Department told the State Building Commission on Jan. 10. However, he said there's still a lot of work to be done inside the facility.

"On the interior, we still have a lot to do, but the exterior, with water mitigation, I think, is 100 percent complete," he said.

Along with warped walls and door frames, dozens of glass windows in the facility have sustained damage. Webb said 114 damaged windows have been replaced, allowing guards to keep eyes on inmates.

The state is also footing the bill to rent a mobile steam plant, since the facility's boiler room became inoperable toward the end of 2017. It comes at a cost of \$22,000 each month.

In addition to replacing the current model with the same system, Webb said they could install a hydronic system. Either option would cost around \$1.2 million.

Senate President Eli Bebout, R-Riverton, told Webb during the Jan. 10 meeting that it was obvious the original construction project lacked proper supervision, leading to many of the problems the state now faces. It also seemed major maintenance and routine maintenance had been neglected through the years, he said.

"I look at pictures, and it's alarming to see those problems that, frankly, we should have taken care of a long time ago," Bebout said.

"Is this the tip of the iceberg? These are all surprises to me, and they're substantial."

While he is relatively new to the project, Webb said he agreed it appeared maintenance had been lacking in several areas.

Webb told the commission that mitigation work was starting to curtail some of the movement causing structural damage, and further surveys could potentially stop the facility from moving.

Lawmakers are in the process of exploring remediate-or-replace options.

Senator Burns said in July there's a lobby that wants to let private enterprise build a new prison and operate it. Though Burns doesn't think privatizing operations is a "particularly popular option," he said handing the building component to private enterprise has its advantages.

The state entered into a \$5 million contract with a private prison company, CoreCivic, in 2017 to house inmates should the facility fail. Daniel Shannon, Wyoming Department of Corrections Prison Division administrator, said the contract is only a precaution, in case the situation puts security or safety at risk.

Burns has some thoughts on how to approach the dilemma, but he said he's not set on any particular approach.

## Carbon County

## CARBON COUNTY LEGISLATORS



**LARRY HICKS,**  
**REPUBLICAN**

**Senate District 11,**  
**Baggs**

SD 11 covers all of Carbon County and parts of Albany County, including Rock River.

**Legislative experience:** 2011-present

**Age:** 59

**Current employment:** Natural resource coordinator for the Little Snake River Conservation District

**What are your priorities for this year's budget session?**

"My No. 1 priority is going to be the budget, and that we come out of there with a fiscally sound, responsible budget."

**Session contact information:**  
307-777-7711, Larry.Hicks@wyoleg.gov



**DONALD BURKHART,**  
**REPUBLICAN**

**House District 15,**  
**Rawlins**

HD 15 covers all of Rawlins, excluding the state penitentiary, the city limits of Sinclair, and land between Sinclair and Rawlins on Interstate 80.

**Legislative experience:** House, 2011-present

**Age:** 69

**Current employment:** Independent safety consultant since retiring from the oil and gas industry.

**What are your priorities for this year's budget session?**

"Provide a balanced budget by reducing waste and duplication of effort; strengthen the Wyoming retirement system; enhance the efficiency of Wyoming government based on the recently conducted independent efficiency study; enhance the economic outlook of Wyoming by applying the recommendations from the recently completed ENDOW study."

**Session contact information:** 307-324-6007 (home); 307-321-7074 (cell); P.O. Box 852, Rawlins, WY 82301; Donald.Burkhart@wyoleg.gov



**JERRY PAXTON,**  
**REPUBLICAN**

**House District 47,**  
**Encampment**

HD 47 covers all of Carbon County, except for Rawlins and Sinclair; parts of Albany County, including Rock River; and about one-third of Sweetwater County, including the areas of Bairoil, Wamsutter, Farson and Eden.

**Legislative experience:** 2013-present

**Age:** Did not disclose

**Current employment:** Retired school principal

**What are your priorities for this year's budget session?**

"Obviously, the biggest elephant in the room is the budget. The state is going to have to try and do more with less, and that's the total focus as far as I'm concerned."

**Session contact information:**  
307-327-5373, Jerry.Paxton@wyoleg.gov

# BRUSH UP ON YOUR LEGISLATURE TERMS

## Glossary

### ACT

A bill passed by both chambers of the Legislature and signed by the governor.

### ADJOURN

Used to close each day's session with intent to resume on a given date and time.

### ADJOURN SINE DIE

A motion at the end of the legislative session to adjourn "without date" for resumption.

### ADOPTION

Approval or acceptance; usually applied to amendments or resolutions.

### AT EASE

An announcement from the chairman indicating a short break.

### BILL

A proposed law, introduced during a session for consideration by the Legislature. Called a file in the Senate (House Bill 101, Senate File 101).

### CALENDAR

A daily listing showing bills ready for action.

### CALL OF THE HOUSE OR SENATE

Action compelling all members to be present in the chamber.

### COLA

Cost-of-living adjustment.

### COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

A committee of the entire body. Usually assembled by a move to consider bills, make amendments and recommend action to be taken by the body.

### CREG

Consensus Revenue Esti-

mating Group. Meets in October and January to put out a report that predicts state revenues for the near- and long-term future. Leadership consists of the administrator of the Economic Analysis Division of the Department of Administration and Information and the budget and fiscal manager from the Legislative Service Office, each serving as a co-chair of the group. Additional members include representatives from the State Auditor's Office, State Treasurer's Office, Department of Revenue, Department of Education, Wyoming Geological Survey, Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission and the University of Wyoming.

### DECORUM

Proper order, etiquette and conduct of members during a floor session.

### ENGROSS, TO

To incorporate all adopted amendments into the text of the bill.

### ENROLL, TO

To revise a bill after passage by both bodies of the Legislature by incorporating all of the amendments adopted by both bodies. The Enrolled Act becomes law after being signed by presiding officers of the House and Senate and the governor.

### FIRST READING

When a bill is introduced, the short catch title and the sponsors are read.

### GENERAL FILE

Position of bills after having been considered by the standing committees to which they were assigned. These

bills can go either to Committee of the Whole or back to a standing committee.

### HOUSE OF ORIGIN

The chamber – either the House or Senate – where legislation was originally introduced.

### INDEFINITELY POSTPONE, TO

If the motion carries, it kills any future possibility for reconsideration of the bill in a session except by reintroduction as a new bill.

### INTERIM

The interval between sessions of the legislature.

### INTRODUCE A BILL, TO

The only way to pass a law is to introduce a bill for consideration, amendment and passage by both bodies, and with the governor's signature.

### JAC

(Pronounce each letter separately) Joint Appropriations Committee; the committee thoroughly reviews both the biennial and supplemental budget requests from the governor and makes recommendations to the full House and Senate.

### JOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Composed of three members from each body appointed by the speaker of the House and the Senate president. The committee reconciles the differences in the content of a bill that has come through both houses with differing amendments.

### LAY BACK, TO

Bills on General File in the Committee of the Whole, or

on Second or Third Reading, may be laid back for a specified time.

### LSO

Legislative Service Office. It is the permanent, nonpartisan central staff office of the Legislature.

### LSRA

Legislative Stabilization Reserve Account, also known as the rainy-day fund.

### PMTF

Permanent Mineral Trust Fund. The Wyoming Constitution blocks the state from spending the corpus of the multi-billion dollar account.

### QUESTION, CALL THE

An informal use of the motion "previous question." Both are used to stop debate and force a vote on the main question and all amendments to it.

### RECESS

A motion to resume the session at a later time that day.

### RE-REFER, TO

A motion made by any member to assign a bill to a committee other than the one that has already considered it.

### RECONSIDER, TO

A motion to take a roll call vote. Carried by voice majority vote of members present. Must be made by a member who voted on the prevailing side and must be made and be acted on the same day or the next legislative day. Cannot be made once the bill in question has passed out of possession of the body.

### RECOMMIT, TO

A motion made by any

member to return a bill to the committee that has already considered it.

### RISE AND REPORT

A motion to adjourn the body of the House or Senate.

### SECOND READING

Usually is ordered at least a day after adoption of recommendation of Committee of the Whole. The short catch title is read and notifies members the bill will be up for Third Reading and final passage the following day. No action is required, but any action, including amendment, may be moved on the bill by any member.

### SPONSOR

The lawmaker or lawmakers who filed a given bill. Committees can also sponsor legislation.

### SUNSET

Expiration date of a measure.

### THIRD READING

Usually is ordered on the legislative day following Second Reading. Amendments may be offered only prior to the reading of the bill. The catch title and the enacting clause are read, and roll call is taken for final passage.

### WITHDRAW

A motion to remove a bill from further consideration by the member who introduced the bill. It can only be made when the bill is in possession of the body and must carry by unanimous consent.

### WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION

A committee may return a bill without recommending approval or disapproval.



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