

Senate District 4 takes up much of north-central Cheyenne and the northwest quarter of Laramie County. It includes the Cheyenne Regional Airport, Henderson Elementary

School, the Four Mile Road corridor, Clawson Elementary School and the Quebec-01 missile site. The seat is currently held by Sen. Tony Ross, R-Cheyenne, who is not running for

re-election. The winner of the three-way Republican primary will face state Rep. Ken Esquibel, D-Cheyenne, in the November general election.

Election 2016 Q&A

Senate District 4



DAVID POPE
(R)



TARA NETHERCOTT
(R)



BILL WEAVER
(R)

Q: What do you think are the biggest issues Wyoming faces?

a. The decline in revenues; b. The loss of private-sector employment; c. The need to have a long-term, legislatively determined strategy for economic growth.

Wyoming's economic downturn is the most serious issue. The budgetary impacts are severely affecting jobs, education and health care. Thus, funding vital state services is the biggest issue. As your senator, I will ensure that thoughtful and strategic cuts still provide quality education, health care and infrastructure.

The biggest issue facing Wyoming is the loss of revenue from the minerals industry, which helped financially support government operations. Job losses due to over regulation has hurt job creation and growth. Wyoming needs a more diversified economy, and our state government needs to be more accountable and efficient.

Q: Do you support or oppose Medicaid expansion? Why?

Yes, under certain circumstances. We must provide a safety net for disadvantaged citizens. If someone is making 138% of the federal poverty level (the cutoff under expanded Medicaid, roughly \$15,700 per year), they cannot afford health insurance at the high rates created in part by Obamacare.

I support expansion. It will bring approximately \$268 million, significantly reducing our budget shortfall, allowing allocation of state monies to other critical areas. It will cover working residents who earn too little to purchase insurance but too much to receive Medicaid. It protects hospitals from the burden of uncompensated care.

Medicaid expansion and budget cuts related to Medicaid are affecting Wyoming. This is an issue we all need additional information to make an honest decision. When elected, I will listen to the pros/cons of these issues and make a decision based on what's in the best interest of Wyoming citizens.

Q: Do you support the development of alternative energy in Wyoming? How?

Alternative energy is part of our future. However, the ways in which we can support it as a state will have to be explored in years that are not so lean.

I support the development of all energy in Wyoming through environmental stewardship, fair regulations and taxes for all industries. I will provide an innovative and balanced approach to Wyoming's future energy development and will support efforts to add value and diversify Wyoming's energy portfolios through advances in research and technology.

Yes, I do support alternative energy in conjunction with coal, gas, hydroelectric and nuclear power plants. I do not support subsidies. We need a diversified energy plan using all possible sources.

Q: How should Wyoming compensate for lost revenue from the fossil fuel industry?

Most revenue enhancements will require at least two years to come to fruition. For now, we need to concentrate on making smart cuts to our budget, while continuing to find ways to enhance our revenue streams to avoid long-term austerity measures.

As your senator, I will be forward looking to long-term investments for Wyoming's growth with an aim towards economic diversification through partnerships with the economic development communities, local government and private industry. Strong partnerships with these entities allow for job growth and retention and infrastructure maintenance and development.

If a market exists for Wyoming products, we should expand into those markets. The United States does support global trade. Make government accountable and efficient, reduce government where needed, listen to the people on the level of government services they are willing to pay for.

Q: How do you think the state should respond to major infrastructure issues, such as roads and building maintenance?

We need to avoid deferring maintenance, make decisions about how to pay for what is necessary and concentrate on building efficiencies into the system – which will allow us to do more with the money we have.

Maintaining the state's infrastructure must be a priority. Investments in modern infrastructure lay the foundation for economic development and growth. Building and maintaining roads, bridges, transmission lines and other improvements create jobs and accelerate growth. Supportive regulations, strong project management and transparent procurement procedures are essential.

The federal government should be responsible for funding construction and maintenance of interstate highways and secondary roads used for interstate commerce. I do not believe the people of Wyoming have the financial capacity to fund those roads.

Q: Why should voters select you over your opponents?

As a CPA, I have helped thousands of clients to make some of the same choices Wyoming has to make. I'd be the only active CPA in the Legislature, and I'd bring all of my training, experience and knowledge as I help to right the ship in the state.

I am an effective and decisive leader that truly understands Wyoming. As a small business owner, I recognize the importance of a balanced budget and meeting the bottom line. As an attorney, I advocate daily for the people and businesses of Wyoming. I am a proven advocate and skilled negotiator.

I have experience starting and running numerous successful small businesses over the past 39 years. I have experience managing government budgets and workforce in bad and good times and managed construction projects from design through construction to completion. I will follow the U.S. and Wyoming constitutions and Wyoming state statutes.

Q: Do you support or oppose a ban on discrimination in housing and employment for LGBT Wyomingites? Why?

Everybody should be treated with equal respect, dignity and opportunity.

Current law provides these protections: Wyoming Statutes 6-9-101 and 27-9-105.

I'd oppose any discrimination. Wyoming Constitution, Article 1, Section 2.

Q: What are your opinions about marijuana legalization, whether for medical or recreational use?

Components such as cannabidiol and Delta-9 THC show promising results as pain treatments. We should allow and welcome this research.

I do not support the legalization of marijuana for Wyoming at this time.

A need exists for medical purposes.

Q: Do you think marijuana possession should be decriminalized for small amounts?

No, but we should not fill jails with nonviolent users.

No, not at this time.

Yes. When used for medical purposes.

Q: Describe your political views.

I am a conservative CPA believing in limited government/preserving our constitution. Let's put Wyoming to work – together. #VotePope

I believe in putting Wyoming first. I'm a common sense fiscal conservative dedicated to achieving results that strengthen Wyoming's future.

Conservative. All elected officials must be honest, trustworthy and follow the Constitution. All power is held by the people.