

House District 7 generally encompasses the northwestern chunk of Laramie County and many of the ranchettes north of Cheyenne, and it dips down to include a section of the

Dell Range Boulevard area. It includes the area around Frontier Mall, the Four Mile Road corridor, Horse Creek, Clawson Elementary School and the former Quebec-01 missile site.

The seat is currently held by Rep. Sue Wilson, R-Cheyenne, who is running for re-election. The winner of the Republican primary will be unopposed in the November general election.

# Election 2016 Q&A

## House District 7



**SUE WILSON**  
(R-I)



**CODY HAYNES**  
(R)

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

The biggest issue is matching up our state expenditures with our current revenue with as little impact as possible to safety-net programs and the services that the state is required to provide (education, public safety, etc.). Other issues that I will work on are access to health care and economic diversification.

Right now, the biggest issues we face are losses in the energy sector, both in jobs and lost revenue. None of us are immune.

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

Although I have supported it in the past, I do not support it now. The 100 percent federal match is no longer available and the state does not have the funds for our portion, and there is uncertainty about entitlement spending at the federal level, pending the November election.

We have a serious problem with health care, and it's out of control. I've never been a fan of Obamacare, but it's the law. That being the case, we are losing jobs and money by not participating, and as long as we have an exit strategy, I believe we should proceed.

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

I support economic diversification in general, and welcome businesses involved in alternative energy. Eleven percent of Wyoming's electricity generation comes from renewable sources, and there is room for growth, but I do not support a renewable energy mandate. I support alternative energy research at UW.

I have no problems with wind or solar projects so long as we can be honest about the cost and benefits of these programs. If the numbers are there, great, but I don't want to do what feels good but isn't.

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

Our revenue this year is about the same as it was in 2005. Our first step should be to reduce our expenditures to the same level. People should also vote for the constitutional amendment to allow non-permanent funds to be put into higher-returning investments when prudent.

The state isn't much different than our personal budgets; if we have less income, we have to make sure we are spending our money properly and cut what we don't need. Personally, I don't put money into savings when I can't make my bills.

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

Currently we are using a mix of energy/mineral taxes, savings and federal funds for roads. We may need to shift some general funds to maintenance. At this time, we need to avoid new construction unless it's a life-safety issue.

Again, we need to spend our money properly, and infrastructure needs proper maintenance.

**Q: Why should voters select you over your opponents?**

My business and health-care experience gives me the background to understand budgets and finances, and I've shown the ability to get legislation through to increase the number of health-care providers in Wyoming. I work hard to be available to my constituents via email, phone calls and participation in public meetings.

I would like the voters in my district to select me because I believe I can add a new perspective to the Legislature. Sometimes another set of eyes with different ideas can bring new solutions to old problems.

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

I oppose statutory bans. Increases in regulations impact small businesses.

Practice what we preach and look at their abilities and work ethic, not stick our noses into personal life choices.

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

There are too many banking and law enforcement challenges to legalize it here while it is still illegal nationally.

I agree with honoring and sustaining Wyoming law, even if it's hypocritical.

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

Yes, but not legalized.

The whole issue needs more attention.

**Q: Describe your political views.**

I support individual freedoms; strong communities; and a government that is limited, transparent, and protects life, liberty and property.

Most of the state's problems, and our country's problems, can be solved with simple honesty.