

**WYOMING  
REPUBLICAN  
PARTY**

**Poll Watcher  
Training**

**2026**

**[https://sos.wyo.gov/Elections/Docs/2026/2026\\_Election\\_Calendar.pdf](https://sos.wyo.gov/Elections/Docs/2026/2026_Election_Calendar.pdf)**

**YOUR WYOMING ELECTION DAY OPERATIONS  
(EDO) NUMBERS:**

#1 Your County Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

#2 Your County Chairman's Designee:

\_\_\_\_\_

#3 Your County Clerk's Office:

\_\_\_\_\_

#4 Secretary of State's Office: Text, 307-317-7235; Call, 307-  
777-5860

#5 Other Poll

Watchers: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

EDO Hotlines:	Rick Martin, Albany	208-409-
7363 (Text)		
	Marti Halverson, Lincoln	307-413-
5236 (Text)		

9166

WRP Office

307-234-

In 2020, the RNC, and Republican parties in states all over the country, instituted the first poll watching effort in almost forty years. There were even Republican poll watchers in Chicago in November 2020 – and four wards flipped from blue to red.

On the 2020 general election day in Virginia, there were almost 400 Republican poll watchers throughout the state – not only did the Republican win for governor, but the Virginia statehouse flipped blue to red.

## **POLL WATCHING WORKS! • TRANSPARENCY WORKS!**

(News re Poll watchers. RNC, **197,000** poll watchers around the country in 2024!)

Often, your county clerk is working a polling location on Election Day – know where he/she is, and how to contact him/her, or someone in his/her office.

If you see something that you wonder should be reported, try your County Chairman or his/her designee – they will have the phone numbers of those up the chain.

The State Party Chairman and the Party's Legal Counsel are prepared to take your County Chairman's calls.

“Poll Watchers” are party volunteers. They are not to be confused with paid “Election Judges,” or that often-misused, meaningless term, “Poll Workers.”

NOTE: Volunteer Poll Watchers in Wyoming must be registered Republicans in the county they will serve.

Those Election Judges are paid and trained by the County Clerks. We wanted our Poll Watchers to be part of that training in 2022, but 2024 is the first year Poll Watchers have been invited to participate (in at least one county). However, we have many Election Judges, and a few County Clerks, participating in our Poll Watcher training – this is a good thing.

When everyone is on the same page, there is less chance of confusion or miscommunication. If you know an Election Judge who would like to take this training, please let us know.

Since the 2020 General Election, the WRP has been working with the County Clerks Association of Wyoming to address some of the issues that came up in 2020 – our first year of poll watching in 40 years. This continues.

As we observed in the 2022 Elections, a few County Clerks and a few of their Election Judges in Wyoming remain “unwelcoming” of Republican Poll Watchers. Be

prepared to stand your ground (within limits to be discussed later) – the law is on our side. (See below.)

We also have this from Page 19 of the 2024 Wyoming Secretary of State’s Election Judges Handbook:

***Poll Watchers***

*A poll watcher is a person certified by the county chairman of a political party to observe voter turnout and registration.*

*Each party is allowed one poll watcher per polling place unless the chief judge can accommodate one additional poll watcher, per party.*

*Poll watchers may NOT disturb or attempt to influence voters or the voting process, and poll watchers may NOT challenge voters. If a poll watcher has a concern, they can notify the election judge and/or the County Clerk.*

*Only those poll watchers whose names have been submitted to the County Clerk may serve. (W.S. 22-15-109)*

# REMINDERS

**Fri Feb 13, 2026 Purge & Update Voter Registration Lists (Deadline)** County Clerks purge & update voter registration lists; notify SOS when completed. W.S. 22-2-113(e). Was your Clerk in compliance?

By now, each county Republican Party should have participated in the preparation of ballot tabulating machines in your county. (W.S. 22-10-108) The machines are tested for accuracy, then all counters are set to zero and sealed. Rick Martin has a machine test checklist. Note to participating Chairmen, or Poll Watchers, or party designees: we will be asking for reports of your experience. Let us know if you need the checklist.

This is the time to ask your County Clerks: “Will you be preparing and processing mailed-in or dropped-off Absentee Ballots prior to Election Day?” If the answer is YES, be sure your County Party Chairman has designated Poll Watchers to observe this activity as the Clerk-appointed Counting Board performs this work. **NOTE: In 2024, some County Clerks informed their County Party Chairmen that Poll Watchers were NOT going to be permitted to watch the absentee ballot processing and tabulating. County Clerks are in no position to make this call. Please call/text/email Rick or me if this is still happening in your county. Please arrange to have Poll Watchers there.**

The 2022 Primary Election was the first time post-election AUDITS were performed in every county. Audits must be publicly noticed (date, time, place) and completed before the

meeting of the **county** canvassing board. Be sure your County Chairman designates an observer, and a report is sent to the EI&S Committee. (We have a copy of the Audit Rules if you want one.)

**NOTE: The audits use ballot images, not actual ballots. There is nothing on the ballot image that can trace that ballot back to an individual voter. Party observers MAY, actually, observe the audit in every sense of the word.** Be sure to let us know what, if any, restrictions are placed on your Audit observation abilities. UW has developed a formula to determine the Number of ballots to be audited in each County. Audit Results are due to the SoS by November 12th.

County Canvassing Boards will meet by the Friday after the election. Ask your County Clerk when and where the Board is scheduled to meet, and be sure your County Chairman is able to **designate a member** and/or **an observer** (preferably, both). It is the Canvassing Board looks at the write-in votes and the provisional ballots cast on Election Day. **NOTE: The County Canvassing Board may go into “executive session” to consider Provisional Ballots. Names and other personal identifying information are used in this meeting, and party or public observers are not permitted.**

June 30th was the deadline for county clerks to make their Election Judges and Alternates selections. Ask your county party chairman to get a list of those appointments, by precinct and by polling location with their political party's designations. There should be an equal number of Republican and Democrat Election Judges, "as near as possible."

NOTE: The **State** Canvassing Board meeting is open to the public. If you are in Cheyenne on November 13th, stop in and observe. Few people do, and we know they welcome the attendance.

**POLL WATCHERS & COUNTY  
CHAIRMEN:  
PLEASE MAKE NOTES OF YOUR  
OBSERVATIONS AND REPORT BACK TO  
THE EI&S COMMITTEE.**

(Machine prep, absentee ballot prep and tabulating, post-election audit, election day operations, canvassing board meeting)

**THANK YOU!**

# Training Materials

- Introductions
- Poll Watchers
- Do and Don'ts
- Voting Process
- Issues to Monitor
- Questions

POLL  
WATCHERS:  
LISTEN,  
LEARN,  
OBSERVE,  
DOCUMENT,  
REPORT.

# WHAT IS POLL WATCHING?

**LISTEN. LEARN. OBSERVE. DOCUMENT. REPORT.**

- Poll Watchers Are the First Line of Defense in a Free & Fair Election
  - Poll Watchers are part of a coordinated system to quickly detect, mitigate, and document unintentional, or intentional, election-related disruptions that might arise during the registration, voting, ballot processing and counting periods.
  - Our goal is to ensure a fair and open process where every person who is legally entitled to vote has the opportunity to cast ONE ballot and have that ballot counted properly ONCE
- In Wyoming, Poll Watchers observe the voting activities and records in a manner that will NOT obstruct the rights of ANY voter.
  - Poll Watchers are the eyes and ears of the Party. Their role is to watch, take detailed notes and report problems up the chain. Their role is NOT to talk to voters, or in any way engage with voters.
- **POLL WATCHERS HELP MAKE IT “EASY TO VOTE & HARDER TO CHEAT.”**

# Certifying Poll Watchers

1) There is no prescribed time limit. Under state law, lists may be submitted the “day prior to the opening of the polls” on election day. However, by Friday, November 1st, county chairmen should have certified their Poll Watchers to their clerks. However . . .

Under a new Wyoming law, County Clerks may begin the “preparation and processing” (“tabulating”?) on the Thursday prior to Election Day. County Party Chairmen should arrange to have observers present. So, certification of those poll watchers to the County Clerk need to happen by October 30th. (Let us know!)

Those observers shall NOT, as per the statute, have any electronic devices within 10 feet of the preparation and processing area.

Two certifications are possible: #1 for the early processing observers, and #2 for the Election Day Poll Watchers.

2) County clerks WILL accept the county party chairman's list of poll watchers submitted via email. Nothing in the statute prescribes how notification shall be made.

3) State law does NOT compel County Chairmen to designate a time schedule, or Poll Watcher's designated locations.

However, as a courtesy to the Clerks and Judges, we suggest you include the polling places to which Poll Watchers have been assigned, emphasizing that they are not limited to those places. This will allow some flexibility in the event of illness, etc.

All that being said, some Wyoming Clerks are imposing conditions, sometimes bizarre, on poll watchers. In the Primary, one Clerk required county-issued, photo ID badges for poll watchers.

# Certifying Poll Watchers (Cont'd)

4) Clerks may ask names of poll watchers for “each polling place.” If your county party chairman has multiple volunteers for multiple polling places, your certification notification might look like this:

Alpine: Jane Doe, John Smith, Jack Brown  
Etna/Freedom: Mary Jones, Jane Doe  
Thayne: John Smith, Jack Brown  
Bedford: Mary Jones, Sally Brown  
Afton: Sally Brown, Jim White

This provides for poll watcher rotation, or the possibility of five, or six, or seven hour shifts, whatever your County Chairman arranges. Note: it is not required that Chairmen provide the TIMES, but if you have them, it would be a courtesy to the Clerks and the Election Judges. Of course, the Chairman should inform their poll watchers of the approximate times of scheduled relief, and all should have each other's cell numbers.

# Certifying Poll Watchers (Cont'd)

5) The law permits one additional poll watcher/per party at the discretion of the chief election judge at a larger location, or a location that serves multiple precincts. If you have a gymnasium or civic center serving multiple precincts, be sure you notify your clerk that you might be requesting one additional poll watcher at that location, if space allows and there will be no disruptions. This applies to other major parties as well. (One county is permitting two Democrats at the Court House.)

6) Although not prohibited by law, it is best that your poll watchers do not serve in any precinct where they, or a close family member, might be on the ballot for any position other than Precinct Committeeman or Precinct Committeewoman.

7) At the conclusion of the Poll Watcher training schedule, the EI&S Committee will notify the County Chairmen of the Poll Watchers who have completed the training and are eligible to be certified to their respective County Clerks.

# Certifying Poll Watchers (Cont'd)

8) NOTE: Making the actual poll watching assignments in your county is entirely up to your County Chairman. The EI&S Committee cannot guarantee that Poll Watchers who have completed this training will get an assignment by their Chairman.

[We would like the law amended to read "...county chairman **or his designee** ~~may~~ **shall**. . ."]

# Poll Watchers in Wyoming

There is only one section in the Wyoming Statutes that discusses poll watchers in Wyoming elections. Wyoming Statutes section 22-15-109 provides:

**Poll watchers; certification; qualification; authority; removal.**

*(a) The county chairman of each political party may certify poll watchers prior to the day of the election to serve in each polling place. Not more than one (1) poll watcher from each political party may serve simultaneously unless the chief judge determines that one (1) additional poll watcher from each political party may be accommodated in the polling place without disrupting the polling process.*

*(b) A poll watcher shall belong to the political party he represents and shall be a registered elector residing in the county. A poll watcher shall serve only at the polling place designated on the certificate. A poll watcher is authorized to observe but voter turn out and registration and may make written memoranda shall not challenge voters, conduct electioneering activities or disrupt the polling process.*

*(c) The chief judge may remove a poll watcher from the polling place for disturbing the polling place, or for any other violation of the Election Code.*

NOTE: “disturbing the polling place” is described elsewhere in statute. Suffice it say, poll watchers should not advocate for certain candidates, engage in debates with voters, threaten voters or election judges, or start fights – and, for goodness sake, leave your beer in your truck.

**Poll Watchers are “flies on a wall” – seeing everything, but not heard.**

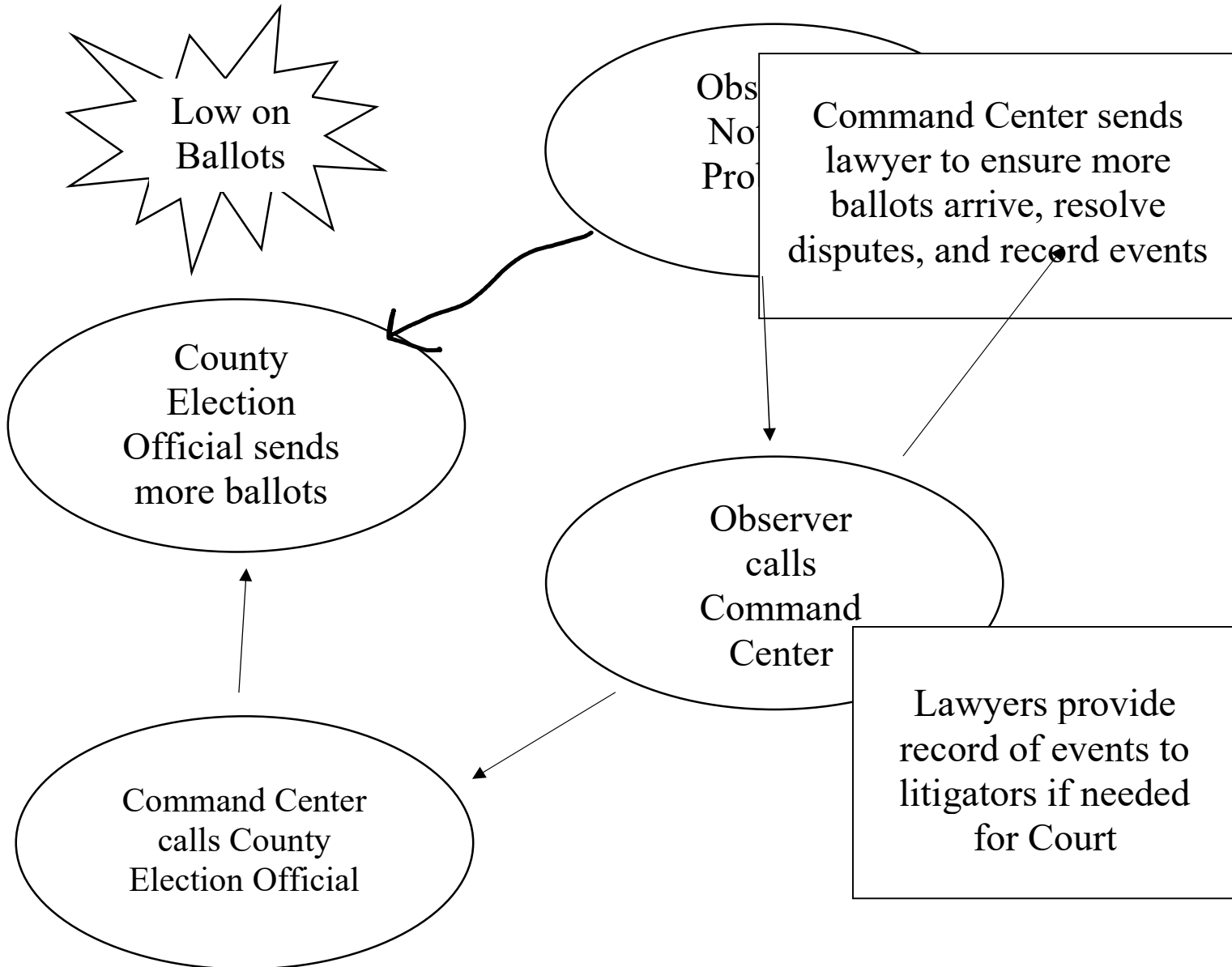
If you encounter an Election Judge or a County Clerk that tells you that the “RULES” prohibit certain poll watching activities, ask, nicely, to see the Rule. The Secretary of State’s office is the repository of all Administrative Rules. If the Rule is not there, it is not a “Rule”. <https://rules.wyo.gov>

**THAT BEING SAID . . . it seems there are a flurry of new “rules” being proposed lately. The Secretary of State and the attorney for the Wyoming Republican Party are verifying as we speak. STAY TUNED! We might have to send out a late update.**

## Poll Watchers in Wyoming (Cont.)

- Note: Understand your role! Your role is NOT to intervene. If a poll watcher is vocal and/or is determined to be engaging in the prohibited activities outlined in the statute, it can cause the Wyoming Republican Party and the entire Republican National Party to be banned from poll watching and election day operations for decades.
- Takeaway: Being too aggressive and overstepping at the local level can have disastrous consequences statewide and nationally for years to come. It is considered “voter intimidation” and violates federal and state laws. The Democratic Party will be actively looking for overly-aggressive Republican poll watchers in an effort to renew the recently lifted EDO restraining orders.
- That being said - If there is a Democrat Poll Watcher present, be sure all rules are applied equally!

# Example of Observer-Based Response



# What is a Poll Watcher – And How Do I Become One?

- A Poll Watcher is a Party or Campaign Volunteer or Official. – *they do not work for the government.* They are NOT paid “Election Judges” working for the County Clerk.
- Your county party chairman, or the EI&S Committee will collect the names of poll watcher volunteers, verify that they meet the qualifications (registered Republican, residing in the county), and submit those names to the Wyoming Republican Party Poll Watching Committee (the EI&S Committee).
- They must be trained and certified by the Wyoming Election Day Operations Directors (Rick and Marti) and appointed (certified) by the County Party Chairman. This Poll Watcher Guide will serve as the training tool.
- Each Poll Watcher may be asked sign and file a form with the County Clerk at the polling location on election day – however, it is NOT required by law. If it is very simple, go ahead and sign it. If it seems onerous, thwarting your legal rights, call your Chairman, or Marti or Rick, right away.

- Poll Watchers must wear a **name tag** while in the polling place. Bring your own in case your clerk does not provide one. **DO NOT INDICATE “REPUBLICAN”**. Your badge will simply have “**your name**”, and “**Poll Watcher**”.
- Poll Watchers may cover the entire area of the polling location – hallways, parking lots, sidewalks, rest rooms, etc. Take a few minutes to step out into the parking lot – is there a massive motor home displaying a large candidate banner? Report that to the chief Election Judge – is it “electioneering”? (More on “electioneering” later.) Is the line around the block? Report it to the chief judge. Is there someone working the line on behalf of a candidate? Report it. Is someone handing out water bottles or fans with a candidate’s sticker on it? Report it. Is there a stack of candidate literature in the rest room? Are there an unusual number of cars in the parking lot with out-of-state license plates? **DO NOT TAKE ANY ACTION. Only the Chief Election Judge can act.**
- A Poll Watcher’s job is to know the process in advance and BE AWARE so they can gather and provide actionable information. The Wyoming Secretary of State’s Election Judges Handbook should be studied prior to election day. The 2024 Handbook will be distributed as part of this training. The Handbook has been updated since 2022. Bring it to the polls with you.

DOs  
and  
DON'Ts

# DO:

- Show up for all shifts on time with any necessary paperwork required by your County Clerk turned in, and a name tag. **Introduce yourself to the Chief Election Judge.** Bring a tablet of paper and a pen or a laptop. Mute your cell phone and turn off the volume on your laptop.
- You may sit near the check-in table, close enough to hear the names of the voters. (Note: you might have to provide your own chair.) You may wander the perimeter of polling place, taking care not to interfere with voters. You may stand at a distance from the tabulator and observe as voters insert their ballots, taking care not to look at the ballot. You may stand or sit near the registrar's table to observe new registrations.
- **You may check the vote count on the tabulator anytime there is not a voter there.** You will hear the Election Judges comparing numbers throughout the day. Pay close attention to those conversations. Note if there are any discrepancies, and note how they are resolved.

- Pay attention and take notes. NOTE THE TIMES WHEN MEMORIALIZING INCIDENTS OR CONCERNS. Many polling locations are under video surveillance. It's easy to go to the time on the recording if someone or some activity needs to be identified.
- Familiarize yourself with the election officials and the process. Read the Election Judges Handbook, and bring it with you to the polls.
- Know the location of the Spoiled Ballot box or bag. Know the location of the Provisional Ballot box or bag.
- Be courteous to county staff and other poll watchers – yes, even our Democrat friends!
- Be willing to speak up (politely) to the Chief Election Judge if you see something that concerns you. ASK QUESTIONS or REPORT - do not accuse. Write down the concerns you presented to the Chief Judge and his/her action or explanation.
- Be prepared to report concerns up the chain of command via the appropriate process, outlined above if concerns are not addressed.

- Share information with others on your team. Did your polling place flood overnight? Let your chairman and your fellow poll watchers know the new polling location.
- Did the electricity go off? Note how Express Vote voting machines, electronic poll books, ballots, and DS200 tabulators were secured.
- Dress comfortably but professionally, bring your own water, notepad & pen, this Guide, and your voter lists, if you have been asked by your chairman to do so.

# DO NOT:

- Speak to or in any way interact with voters – even your friends/neighbors.
- Wear any campaign gear (e.g., buttons, shirts, hats, etc.).
- Use your cell phone or other electronic device inside polling place, unless it is to quietly text. If you must use your phone to speak to someone, for example to call your chairman or the EDO Hotline, step outside the polling area.
- Take photographs or videos INSIDE the polling place. Exceptions . . .
- Attempt to determine for which candidates a person voted.
- Ask for, or write down, any personally identifying information about any voter.
- Attack, challenge a decision, or argue with the polling place officials.
- Interfere with the orderly conduct of the election and other poll watchers.

# DO NOT:

- Zone out, nap, or spend all your time on your phone.
- Demand information, unless specifically asked to do so by Party leadership.
- Gossip, chit chat or otherwise distract from the election process.
- **Have two poll watchers on the floor at the same time at shift change.**

\* We might ask you to take a photo if we think your concern requires documentation. In the example of a County Clerk's or Election Judge's failure to properly and prominently notice a **WITHDRAWN** candidate, we may ask for a photo.

IF YOU ARE ASKED TO LEAVE THE POLLING LOCATION BY THE CHIEF ELECTION JUDGE, ASK WHY. RECORD IF POSSIBLE. NOTE THE REASON GIVEN. DO NOT ARGUE. THEN, LEAVE, CALMLY. CALL YOUR CHAIRMAN IMMEDIATELY – HE MAY BE ABLE TO REPLACE YOU.

**THEN – CALL/TEXT MARTI OR RICK!**

# SEE SOMETHING? SAY SOMETHING!

- If you notice an issue, your first course of action is to address it with the Chief Election Judge at your location.
- If staff does not resolve the issue quickly or appropriately, contact your county party chairman or his designee(s), or call one of the Wyoming EDO Hotlines, or the County Clerk.
- Always take notes with as many specifics as possible.
- Finally: **REPORT!** The Wyoming Republican Party Election Integrity & Security Committee will want your feedback. Everything go well? Tell us. See or experience something hinky? We want to know that, too. Your commentary will be anonymous.

# RULES REGARDING VOTERS

- Voters are entitled to:
  - Receive a replacement ballot if the original ballot is spoiled.
  - Cast a provisional ballot if their registration or identity is in question.
  - Bring voting aid materials (e.g., sample ballot) into the booth.
  - Disabled or elderly voters are entitled to reasonable assistance from election staff.
  - Voters for whom English is not their first language, may bring an interpreter.
  - Take a photograph of their own ballot.
  
- Voters are prohibited from:
  - Taking photographs or videos inside the polling place, except as noted above.
  - Disturbing the polling place or harassing the Election Judges.

**Electioneering.** After a legal challenge, most of Wyoming's electioneering statute was upheld by the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals last October.

Judges should ensure that no electioneering (campaigning) takes place within **100 feet** of the public entrance to an absentee polling place prior to Election Day.

On Election Day, the prohibited electioneering distance shall be **100 yards**.

Electioneering includes:

The display of signs or distribution of campaign literature. This section does not apply to bumper stickers smaller than 4 x 16 inches on vehicles parked or passing by so long as there is only one bumper sticker per candidate on the vehicle.

The soliciting of signatures to any petition.

The canvassing or polling of voters (except exit polling by news media).  
([W.S. 22-26-113](#))

# Wyoming Election Code Violation Complaint Form

This form may be used and filed with the Secretary of State when any person believes a violation of the Wyoming Election Code by any statewide or legislative candidate, candidate committee, special interest group, or party organization has occurred.

The form may also be used and filed with the county clerk when any person suspects a violation of the Wyoming Election Code by any county or municipal candidate, committee or organization has occurred.

**This Form is on the Secretary of State's website, under Elections/Administration.**

Send your form to: [elections@wyo.gov](mailto:elections@wyo.gov) and be sure Rick and Marti are copied.

Secretary Gray logs in the Complaint Form and sends it on to the Attorney General.

## Wyoming Election Code Violation Complaint Form

This form may be used and filed with the secretary of state when any person believes a violation of the Wyoming Election Code by any statewide or legislative candidate, committee or organization has occurred. The form may also be used and filed with the county clerk when any person suspects a violation of the Wyoming Election Code by any county or municipal candidate, committee or organization has occurred. Please see W.S. § 22-26-121.

1. Printed name of person making complaint \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone number(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

2. State the facts of the alleged violation including date, time, place and relevant actions of people involved.

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3. If the secretary of state, or county clerk, as appropriate, finds this complaint has merit and suspects a violation of the Election Code, the secretary of state, or county clerk, shall refer the complaint to the Wyoming attorney general, or district attorney, for investigation and prosecution.

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Person Filing Complaint

We also have pre-formatted AFFIDAVIT FORMS. If you witness something particularly egregious, we might ask you to complete an affidavit. This affidavit needs to be notarized. We will walk you through it.

During the Primary, poll watchers observed instances of elected officials actually breaking the law.

We are closely following the Complaints and Affidavits that were filed in these instances.

# VOTER ID

- Voters are now required to present an I.D. when voting in person, both at the polling place on Election Day and at the Court House prior.

Valid Wyoming Driver's License or State ID Card

A valid Wyoming Digital Driver's License [as defined in W.S. 31-7-102(xlix)]

Tribal ID Card (any)

US Passport

US Military Card

Driver's License or State ID from another state

UW or CC Student ID

Wyoming Public School Student ID

Valid Medicare Insurance Card (sunsets in 2029)

Valid Medicaid Insurance Card

Concealed Carry Permit Card

NOTE: The ID is ONLY used to prove that the voter is who he says he is. It is NOT proof of voter eligibility.

An expired ID with a photo can only be used to prove a voter is who he says he is. An expired ID cannot be used to register to vote.

# PROOF OF RESIDENCE

- Wyoming law requires that voter registrants be “bona fide” residents of Wyoming. That’s it. (22-3-102 (iii))
- When observing voters registering for the first time at the polls, you will NOT see registrars asking for “proof” of residence (utility bill, etc.)
- A new registrant simply signs an oath, NOT under penalty of perjury, “...that the voter registration information contained herein is true and accurate to my best knowledge and belief.”
- The master Wyoming voter registration list, “WyoReg”, cross checks with WYDOT to validate a Wyoming driver’s license, the Division of Criminal Investigation regarding felony convictions, and the office of Vital Records Services to remove deceased voters. New same-day registrants are entered AFTER the election. If a red flag pops up, there is no way to void a ballot cast.

[Note: December 5th is the deadline to enter election-day registrants into WyoReg – a full month after the election, and well after Certification.]

- There is no mechanism by which Wyoming can check that a same-day registrant has not already voted in another jurisdiction.

# Proof of Residence (Cont'd)

Meanwhile, Article 6, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Wyoming:

## **Qualifications of electors.**

Every citizen of the United States of the age of twenty-one\* years and upwards, who has resided in the state or territory **one year** and in the county wherein such residence is located **sixty days** next preceding any election, shall be entitled to vote at such election, except as herein otherwise provided.

What happened?? In 1972, the Wyoming Supreme Court found this to be in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. However, the Court said a requirement that the “voter be a resident of the Precinct for at least 10 days” would be constitutional. Since then, the Wyoming legislature has done nothing with this Supreme Court guidance. Secretary Gray has been working with the legislature to develop durational residency legislation.

\* The Twenty-sixth Amendment to the US Constitution lowered the voting age to 18 in 1971.

# POLLING PLACE PROCESSES

- Election Judges come in two flavors: Poll Books Judges and Ballot Judges. Of these, one is appointed the Chief Election Judge at every polling location. Most locations have two of each, but smaller locations may have only a total of three.
- If the voter's name does not appear in the poll book exactly as stated, you may see a Poll Book Judge asking the voter a series of questions to verify his/her identity.
- The Poll Book Judge verifies that the voter is registered to vote in the precinct and marks his/her name as having voted.
- If Poll Book Judges are unable to confirm that a person is registered, or eligible to vote in the precinct, the voter may vote only by provisional ballot. Provisional Ballots are watermarked in such a way that they cannot be read by the Tabulator.
- A voter who presents at the wrong precinct must be informed of their correct precinct and the voter must go to the correct polling place.
- This provision does not apply in some counties, such as Teton, Fremont, Laramie, Albany, and Natrona, that use “electronic-poll books” where voters in the county may

vote at any polling location in the county. If you are serving in an “e-poll books county”, be sure to note any power or internet interruptions – the time they occurred, the duration of the interruption, and the remedy taken.

- Once the Poll Book Judge verifies the voter, the voter moves to a Ballot Judge. The Ballot Judge hands the voter the appropriate ballot, puts her initials at the top of the ballot, and instructs the voter to fill in the ovals, don't use Xs, etc.
- If a voter moved into the precinct before election day, but has not yet updated his voter registration record, he may update his address on the Wyoming Voter Registration Application and Change Form at the polls on election day. Voters who have been purged may also re-register at the polls on election day.
- You might see a situation where the tabulator bin, where the ballots are dropped, fills up, causing the tabulator to shut down. Watch this situation carefully and make notes. There is a slot in the DS200 (the tabulator used at most polling locations) where ballots can be placed in the event of a shut down. Observe how these ballots are handled.
- Watch how Election Judges handle difficult situations. Do NOT attempt to interfere. Take notes.

- Voters casting a provisional ballot must complete and sign, in front of an Election Judge, an affidavit. The Election Judge must provide the voter with a receipt that contains a unique ID number and information on how the voter may determine whether or not his provisional ballot is counted.
- The sealed provisional ballot envelope must be placed in a ballot box or similar enclosure (i.e., sealed envelope) to be reviewed by the county elections officials and the Canvassing Board before being counted. Poll Watchers – note the location and security of the Provisional Ballot box or similar enclosure (i.e., sealed envelope) at your polling place. Ask an Election Judge if you have to.

# ABSENTEE BALLOTING

- Absentee Balloting is governed by Wyoming Statutes § 22-9-101 through 22-9-125.
- Because of the record number of absentee ballots requested in 2020 because of COVID, some County Clerks were given permission by then Secretary of State Buchanan to start a few days before election day with “preparing and processing” absentee ballots, by a Clerk-appointed “Counting Board”, such as confirming that the voter is a registered voter in that county, voted the proper ballot, etc. The Secretary of State permitted this under the “declared emergency” outlined in W.S. § 22-2-121(f).
- • • In 2022, HB 52 was passed and codified this early processing, which may begin on the Thursday immediately preceding election day, and up to the close of the polls on election day. There is a felony penalty for disclosing voting results prior to the closing of the polls.
- HB52 requires the County Clerk to notify each political party of the date, time and place that absentee ballot preparation and processing will occur. However, no candidate or candidate’s representative shall be allowed to observe.
- County Party Chairmen must arrange to observe this process at the Clerk’s office on the Thursday or Friday before election day, in addition to Election Day and evening.

# ABSENTEE BALLOTING (Cont.)

- Absentee ballots returned to the County Clerk not later than 7 p.m. on election day shall be counted. Wyo. Stat. § 22-9-118.
- In the process of processing ballots, if the election judges determine that the voter's affidavit is not legally sufficient, then they shall write on the unopened inner envelope "REJECTED" and the reasons for rejection. The rejected ballot should be returned to the clerk who delivered it and retained by the clerk.
- If the absentee ballot affidavit is sufficient, the absent elector's name shall be entered in the poll book, the inner ballot envelope shall be opened by the election judge, and the ballot therein shall be removed. The ballot shall then be deposited in the proper box and mixed in. Once the polls open, and as activity permits, the absentee ballot will be voted on a vote tabulating machine. See Wyo. Stat. § 22-9-121(c.)(ii). Note: Some counties, particularly those that do not use voting machines, vote the ballots by placing them in the ballot box, but not by putting them through a tabulating machine, so practices may vary from county to county. Wyo. Stat. § 22-9-121 (c.)(i). On election day, election staff may continue to process absentee ballots and tabulate those absentee ballots throughout the day. **Poll Watchers need to be there!**

# ABSENTEE BALLOTING (Cont.)

- An absentee ballot received by the clerk **after the polls close at 7:00pm shall NOT be voted.** Wyo. Stat. § 22-9-119. Such late absentee ballots shall be marked “REJECTED – Received after polls closed.” These late ballots shall be kept by the clerk. The opened inner ballot envelopes for all absentee ballots shall be returned to and retained by the County Clerk. Wyo. Stat. § 22-9-122.
- A person shall not vote by absentee vote and in person at the same election. If more than one absentee ballot is received by a clerk from the same person for the same election, only the first ballot received shall be counted. Wyo. Stat. § 22-9-123.
- You WILL see at least one voter come into the polls with his absentee ballot, but wants to vote in person. The Election Judge will call the Clerk’s office, verify that the office has not yet received the ballot, collect the absentee ballot, put it in a separate container, and give the voter a regular ballot. At the Clerk’s office, they will remove the “A” from their poll books for that voter.

- You WILL hear a voter tell an Election Judge that his Absentee Ballot is “lost” or “at home.” Observe how these situations are handled. You may see an Election Judge call the County Clerk and ask for verification that an Absentee Ballot has NOT been received – in which case, the voter may cast a ballot at the polls.
- It is possible that in some counties, alternate procedures for collecting and counting absentee ballots may be used. Check with your County Clerk, or county Election Director. See Wyo. Stat. § 22-9-125.

**NOTE:** If you are watching the tabulating of the mailed-in or absentee ballots at your Court House, note which tabulating machine is being used – the DS200 or the DS450 or the DS850. Make note of the number of ballots rejected (if any). Pay attention to how those rejected ballots are processed further. Are they run through another machine? Are they hand counted and added to the tally?

**NOTE:** Observers of this process are always struck by the number of mailed-in ballots that are deemed invalid for any number of reasons. Mailing in your ballot does not guarantee that it can be counted. At the polls, ballot mistakes can be cured before the voter leaves the polling place. Not so with mailed ballots.

# EARLY, IN-PERSON VOTING

- Early voting will begin on October 8th. Political parties are entitled to have a representative at the early, in-person voting location in the county (usually the Court House).
- In Albany County, the Party Chairman has scheduled Republican early voting observers/poll watchers all day, every day, from 9am to 5pm, in 2-hour shifts. Every poll watcher is asked to write up his observations. Consider doing this in your own county.
- Clerks might be tempted to impose restrictions on party observers at early, in-person voting sites, suggesting that certain behaviors, like carrying a cell phone, are not authorized by law or by rule. Ask to see the statute or the rule. “Rules” are only those authorized by statute and posted on the SoS website under the Administrative Rules System tab. “Rules” are not whatever your County Clerk says they are.
- A new law says that voters arriving at the Court House to vote early must present ID, and no one can pick up two ballots “to take one home to my husband.”

# VOTER CHALLENGES

- Poll watchers are NOT permitted to challenge the qualifications of a voter. That is the duty of the Election Judges. (See Wyo. Stat. § 22-15-108)
- There are few permissible reasons for challenging a voter if an election official, another voter, or an election observer has personal knowledge that:
  - The voter is not the person he/she claims to be.
  - The voter has already voted in this election.
  - The voter is not a qualified elector.
  - The voter is not entitled to vote in the precinct.
  - The voter's name does not appear on poll list and cannot meet requirements to vote at polls.
- Poll Watchers with knowledge of any of the above may approach the chief Election Judge with the information, but may take no action. Make note of the Judge's action.
- Challenged voters will be issued a provisional ballot **if** they sign an affidavit affirming, under penalty of perjury, that they are eligible to vote. Voters challenged on the basis of their identity must provide proof of identity by the close of business on the day after the election.
  - If successfully challenged, the voter may still vote by a provisional ballot.

# ISSUES TO MONITOR

- Hours of Operation – Polls not opening/closing on time should be reported. Polls must open/close at posted times and 7 p.m. on election day. Voters in line at 7 p.m. may vote. (*W.S 22-23-117: “At 6:30 p.m. the judges of election shall announce that the polls will close in thirty (30) minutes. Electors present and waiting to vote at 7:00 p.m. shall be permitted to enter the polls and vote. No other elector shall be admitted to vote after 7:00 p.m. After all ballots are cast, the polls shall be declared closed by a judge of election making an official proclamation of closing.”*)

If a court orders polls to remain open after 7 p.m., voters must vote provisional ballots that are segregated from all other ballots.

- Poll watchers are permitted to stay until the last ballot is cast. There was some confusion on this in previous elections.
- If there are voters in line at 6:50PM, ask the Chief Election Judge how he or she will determine the “last voter in line” if the line is very long and out the door.
- Improper Voter Assistance
  - Voters with a physical disability, or who do not speak English, may receive assistance from Election Judges in preparing and casting their ballot.

# Issues to Monitor (Cont.)

- An Election Judge or another person chosen by the elector (say, a nurse aide) may assist (but not persuade) the voter throughout the voting process.
- A voter's employer or labor union official may NOT provide assistance. You should NOT see the same "assistant" assisting multiple voters. If you do, make a note. Talk to the chief Judge. Note the Judge's actions. This would require a phone call.
- Voter Already Cast Ballot
  - A voter who has already voted an early or absentee ballot is not entitled to vote a regular ballot on election day.
  - A voter who has not yet voted an absentee ballot may vote in person if they have returned the unmarked ballot to the County Clerk, or chief election judge at the polling location.
  - A voter may not vote by absentee ballot and in person in the same election. (See Wyo. Stat. § 22-9-123)

# Issues to Monitor (Cont.)

- Immediately report any instances of the following:
  - Shortage of ballots (new should be delivered by LEO or bonded courier).
  - Ballots are not being initialed / Change forms are not being completed
  - Provisional/Spoiled ballots are not being secured
  - Malfunctioning voter equipment (observe repairs/restarts)
  - Unusually long lines (try to determine bottle neck)
  - You are not being allowed to do your job
  - Intimidation/coercion/harassment of voters by any person

## **TRAINING DATES:**

1. SATURDAY, September 28th, 9:00AM
2. SUNDAY, September 29th, 7:00PM
3. WEDNESDAY, October 2nd, 7:00PM
4. THURSDAY, October 3rd, 7:00PM
5. THURSDAY, October 10th, 7:00PM
6. TUESDAY, October 15th, 7:00PM
7. SATURDAY, October 26th, 9:00AM
8. WEDNESDAY, October 30th, 7:00PM

If you are unable to attend the training on any of these dates, please let us know. It may be possible to customize a training date/time.

After October 30th, you will receive a copy of this training document.

After the last training session, your County Party Chairman will receive your names and email addresses with a note from Rick and/or me that you participated in, and completed, this training.

Remember – your poll watching assignment is entirely up to your Chairman.

# THANK YOU!

# QUESTIONS?

The Wyoming Republican Party  
Election Integrity & Security Committee

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