



Wyoming Republican Candidate Profile Questionnaire

Note to All Wyoming State Republican Party Candidates in the 2018 Primary Election,

Thank you for filing as a candidate to represent our State and your Wyoming Republican Party. You have chosen a very difficult path that many would never consider going down. Your Wyoming State Party leadership recognizes the trials and tribulations each of you will encounter as the fight for your spot on the General Election Ballot. To that end, we are here to help both you and your constituency get to know one another as you blaze your path toward victory.

After the 2016 election cycle, your Wyoming State Central Committee (SCC) took for action numerous issues Republican voters raised ranging from a core desire to vote directly for our Republican Presidential Nominee to wanting more opportunities to meet with, and more information on, candidates at all levels of government as voters want insight into how a candidate may govern if elected for office. Historically, one of the most asked questions during election cycles is “Where can I find reliable information about our candidates?”.

Your Wyoming Republican Party recognizes this as a critical issue that must be addressed to get voters to turn out in support our candidates. We are committed to assisting by asking candidates to provide answers to questions, in their own words, which we can post to our state website, so voters have a reliable place to find relevant candidate information.

As a candidate you will receive dozens of surveys, questionnaires, and requests from the press as well as various watchdog entities to provide answers to questions that are typically geared to their organization’s specific bias. Some a candidate will choose to address all of them while others may not be addressed due time constraints or relevancy.

This questionnaire was initiated as a result of the extraordinary number of questions posed by voters to members of the Wyoming State Central Committee over the past year. And although every question here has not been specifically approved by the full SCC, the concept was endorsed by the full SCC in a unanimous voice vote, as a part of developing external and internal party feedback systems.

These questions were gathered from SCC members across several State Committees, from feedback at various County Party Precinct Caucuses and County Conventions, was compiled by our State Party 2018 Committee to Win, and recently approved by our State Party Executive Committee (18 June 2018) as our primary tool to provide our voters with robust, reliable, and relevant candidate vetted information.

The questions here reflect current issues you are likely to face during a coming term in office and ask each candidate to provide, in their own words, their thoughts and opinions



regarding a significant number of topics and questions. We appreciate your time and effort in responding to our questionnaire.

1) How would you describe the proper role of government? *To protect her citizens from foreign enemies and domestic criminals, promote liberty and justice, and provide those services that cannot be provided cost-effectively by the private sector.*

2) How would you describe your role as a Republican elected official in our constitutionally defined form of government? *My role is to make decisions based on my best judgment, gleaned from the will of the electors and grounded in the constitution.*

3) Describe your core values. *I am a Christian. I believe in self-sufficiency, accountability and the rule of law. I favor the least restrictive form of government but with that, favor punishment for those whose actions do not align with liberty and freedom and therefore cause more government. I will defend and fight for the bill of rights always.*

4) Where do you place yourself on the political, ideological spectrum? *The political spectrum is a circle. If two people go left and right too far they will meet each other at the bottom. The balance for a conservative occurs with a combination of liberty and morality. If it's midnight, I'm 0330.*

5) There is a nationwide push that has now come to Wyoming for the creation/expansion of protected classes in the form of additional anti-discrimination laws. Considering that Article 1, Section's 2 and 3 of Wyoming's Constitution respectively state:

“In their inherent right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, all members of the human race are equal.” and, “Since equality in the enjoyment of natural and civil rights is only made sure through political equality, the laws of this state affecting the political rights and privileges of its citizens shall be without distinction of race, color, sex, or any circumstance or condition whatsoever other than individual incompetency, or unworthiness duly ascertained by a court of competent jurisdiction.”



What, if anything, should Wyoming do in this arena? *Nothing. The constitution is sufficient.*

6) What are your thoughts about funding and cultivating Wyoming's K-12 education?

Having served in the legislature for ten years, I was there when we did not have money and when we did. The struggle comes about when, because we have money, we spend it—we build new schools and develop better programs and curriculum. This isn't a bad policy, per se. I believe we should fund education to fully meet our goals. However, people cannot seem to accept that when tough times hit, we must throttle down a bit. We can still get a great result. Money, once a certain level is reached, does not translate into better results. We rank in the top ten in spending pupil. Our neighbor, Utah ranks last. Yet they have higher graduation rates than we do. Why? They, too, produce good students ready for the workforce. I don't believe in raising taxes to maintain the same levels of funding. We must fully prioritize our spending. Also, I would like to see shift, to some degree, towards more vocational programs

7) Are you familiar with, and do you generally support or oppose, the Wyoming Education Association's position statements and legislative platform? *I oppose the WEA's position when it comes to spending/taxes and some curriculum stances. Nobody disagrees that education is important or that we should fund it, but again, there is a point of diminishing returns. I received money in 2002 (my first campaign ever) because they didn't like the guy I was running against. Apparently, I wasn't an improvement for them. They haven't supported me since.*

8) What is your position on federal management of public lands in Wyoming?

I would rate them as "fair" at best. I support the movement for federal lands to be given to the western states. I think Wyoming should join with states like Utah to litigate the issue if legally realistic. However, we do need a comprehensive plan to manage these lands for their maximum economic benefit and plan for the expense that will be incurred in doing so. In other words, go into it with our eyes wide open.



9) What is your view on the Federal debts/deficits and Wyoming's budget gap between proposed spending and revenue as they impact on our nation and state, and how will you address them as an elected official. What do you think about raising taxes to meet our state's projected budget shortfall?

I will not support additional taxes to meet the shortfall. It is not necessary. Elected officials must face the reality that we must prioritize spending. Budget challenges must be addressed by ending unnecessary regulation for the creation of new businesses which in turn will create more revenue without raising taxes. This approach should be complemented with zero-based budgeting or an efficiency model that will force prioritized spending so that government lives within its means and so that we don't have to raise taxes. I am opposed to a state income tax and think it can and should be avoided. Finally, we should support the politicians, local state and federal, that support our legacy industries of minerals, agriculture and tourism. When I was majority floor leader and speaker we said no to a lot of wants and wishes and we placed the excess revenue in the BRA and LSRA. There are states that operate like our federal government and it is a disaster. Illinois comes to mind.

10) Do you support or oppose an income tax for Wyoming? Why?

See #9

11) Do you support continued state funding to cities, towns, and counties?

I do support continued funding because they are the government closest to the people and infrastructure is an area where I believe government plays a proper role. The question is not if but how much AND they are no different....they too must prioritize spending.

12) When it comes to the state budget, what are your priorities? For example, Transportation, Education, University of Wyoming, Community Colleges, Agriculture, Department of Health, Game & Fish, etc.? *I can tell you from experience, nothing has been neglected. Therefore, spending priorities change year to year. The biggest budget-busters are education and Dept of Health. So, I would say I don't have spending priorities. Spending should be based on need and circumstance.*



13) In what instance(s) should the federal, state, or local government restrict the right to carry arms? *Firstly, it's a state issue. Second, I don't believe in restrictions except as to age and think it would be beneficial for everyone to take a firearms safety class (although I would not mandate a class). I do believe private businesses should be allowed to restrict or allow as they see fit (constitution doesn't apply to them anyway). Same with smoking, service based religious beliefs or just about anything. The market would sort it out.*

14) For many years now, federal bureaucratic and regulatory actions are often initiated against Wyoming residents for issues related to what have been standard agricultural or energy production practices for decades, but now deemed recently as incompatible with federal policy by administrative edict. How would you as an elected official respond to instances of federal overreach? *To the extent I had the capacity, I would litigate to stop the overreach. This is precisely why our Wyoming economy is struggling.*

15) Have you reviewed the 2018 Platform and Resolutions developed at convention by the Wyoming Republican Party? *Yes, printed them off after Laramie.*

16) It is the rare Republican who agrees with our Platform 100%. Article 1, Paragraph 3 of the **2018 Bylaws of the Wyoming Republican Party** defines the role of the Republican Party as:

3. Role

1. The role of the Wyoming Republican Party is: to recruit citizens to join the Republican Party; to establish the Platform of the Wyoming Republican Party; to achieve the election of Republican candidates who substantially uphold the platform of the Wyoming Republican Party and to conduct the business of the Wyoming Republican Party.



What is your definition of the word “substantially”? Are there planks in the 2018 Platform with which you oppose to a level of non-support in legislation? Will you identify those during your campaign if asked by constituents?

I would say, just as an estimate that “substantially” should mean that one supports 85-90% of the platforms. Personally, I agree with the 2018 platform 100 %.

Candidate: _____

Office Running for: _____

Candidate’s Signature _____ Date: _____