



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.

If you have questions regarding this questionnaire, please contact your Wyoming Republican Party Chairman, Mr. Frank Eathorne at chairman@wyoming.gop.



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?

The proper role of state government is to fulfill those duties outlined in the Wyoming Constitution, to empower free enterprise, and to facilitate the delivery of high quality essential services such as public education, infrastructure, and law enforcement. Prosperity is created through growth of the private sector and the state should support that growth by placing smart limits on government regulation and by efficiently managing state lands, utilities, and resources.

2) How would you describe your role as a Republican elected official in our constitutionally defined form of government?

It is my belief that elected officials are constitutionally entrusted with fulfilling their respective duties on behalf of the people of Wyoming, from whom they are given their power. As Treasurer, I would work on behalf of the people of Wyoming to maximize Wyoming's investment returns and fulfill Wyoming's Constitutional responsibility to manage state lands for "long-term growth in value and optimum, sustainable revenue production."

3) Describe your core values.

My core values are fully influenced by my faith, my family and my belief in the U.S. and Wyoming Constitutions. When making decision, I first decide if its moral, if it will make my family proud, and if it is constitutional. I believe it is with this compass that I am able to make the best decisions in my life.



4) Where do you place yourself on the political, ideological spectrum?

I am a lifelong pro-life conservative who believes in limited government, low taxes and a government closest to the people. I have an 'A' rating from the NRA and believe the right to bear arms as protected by the Second Amendment is non-negotiable.

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?

I stand by the above statements and believe all Wyoming people should have the rights guaranteed to them in the Wyoming Constitution.

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

In Wyoming, we have the constitutional duty to provide for the education of our children. As Treasurer, I would work overtime to make sure Wyoming's savings work harder for Wyoming families.

As a member of the State Board of Land Commissioners and State Loan and Investment Board, I will support investing in Wyoming communities and seek a balanced approach to economic activity on state lands that maximizes the earning potential of the land for the benefit of Wyoming taxpayers while making sure those who rely on state lands thrive.



7) Are you familiar with, and do you generally support or oppose, the Wyoming Education Association's position statements and legislative platform?

As a legislator, my guiding principle in deciding education legislation is what is best for Wyoming's children. I am happy to hear from any Wyoming resident about legislation but will not be beholden to special interest organizations in the process.

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

In the Wyoming Legislature, I voted for greater state management and oversight of public lands to improve access and multi-use. Federal lands belong in public hands. Giving federal land to the states is an extra financial burden on Wyoming taxpayers and creates the risk that it will be locked up in private hands. The dad whose only vacation all year is taking his son hunting in the fall loses that opportunity because the land that used to be public is now private. I won't risk taking away opportunities for recreation that are core to Wyoming's quality of life and western spirit; especially for those middle-class families who enjoy public lands as a vehicle to improve their quality of life and come together as a family in the state we all love. I've lived much of my life working and recreating on federal lands – teaching my kids how to hunt and fish and how to protect and respect these public spaces.

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?

Wyoming's current funding gap is eating through our savings. Our current spending is outpacing revenues and is unsustainable over the long term. Wyoming families find ways to pay their bills and live within their means. State government must do the same.

Wyoming must seek ways to put its money to work overtime so taxpayers don't have to bear the long-term cost of budget shortfalls. As Treasurer, I will work to grow Wyoming's investment returns in order to reduce pressure on the state budget.



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

I oppose a state income for any reason. I know first-hand the impact taxes and government regulations can have on a person's livelihood and freedom. Wyoming's next Treasurer can help keep the threat of a state income tax at bay through the smart investment of Wyoming's \$20 billion investment portfolio. I have served my community through economic ups and downs and passed statewide tax relief for Wyoming agriculture producers. I understand responsible money management and am ready to hit the ground running for Wyoming taxpayers.

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

Wyoming's financial structure places limits on the ability of cities, towns and counties to raise their own revenues, making state funding a necessity. As a Republican, I believe there is no such thing as a one size fits all approach and that a government closest to the people is best. Therefore, I support allowing cities, towns and counties the ability to decide how best to spend the revenues they do receive from the state.

Recent discussions around allowing local governments to raise their own revenues have surfaced in recent years. While this is a novel concept, I would only lend my support in exchange for offsetting cuts at the state level. Wyoming taxpayers bear enough of a burden without additional taxes at the local level.

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 believe Wyoming is best served by a limited government that is closest to the people. State government should only be as large as necessary to conduct its Constitutional responsibilities and meet the needs of Wyoming residents. As Treasurer, I would work



hard to make sure Wyoming's \$20 Billion investment portfolio works hard to help close the state's budget gap.

13) In what instance(s) should the federal, state, or local government restrict the right to carry arms?

Our Second Amendment rights are non-negotiable. Period. As a lifelong sportsman, veteran and former law enforcement officer, I will be a tireless champion for your right to bear arms.

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?

As Treasurer, I believe there are several ways I could help position Wyoming in its fight against federal overreach. It is important for Wyoming's elected officials to present a united front against federal overreach in any form and I would work with other four statewide elected officials and the legislature to do so. Additionally, land management seems to be the largest area of intrusion by the federal government. It is imperative that Wyoming shows it can best manage natural resources within its borders. As a member of the State Board of Land Commissioners and State Lands and Investments Board I will continue Wyoming's long history of balanced multiple use that benefits the state economically and over the long term.

15) Have you reviewed the 2018 Platform and Resolutions developed at convention by the Wyoming Republican Party?

I have reviewed the Wyoming Republican Party 2018 Platform and Resolutions.



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?

The Wyoming Republican Party Platforms are the guiding principles of the party and as a lifelong Republican I believe I can substantially uphold the platforms in execution of the duties of Treasurer. I welcome the opportunity to openly and honestly discuss the Party platforms, my qualifications, and the role of Treasurer with constituents along the campaign trail.

I would use the party platform and resolutions, helping to guide my decision-making process. As Republicans, we believe in limited government, low taxes and fiscal responsibility. As Treasurer, I would use these principles to increase returns on Wyoming’s investments so we can kill a state income tax before it is even discussed, keeping Wyoming residents’ money in their own pockets.

Candidate: Leland Christensen

Office Running for: State Treasurer

Candidate’s Signature _____ Date: _____

NOTE: Your submission via e-mail (alldta@gmail.com) will serve as a signature, or if you chose to send the hard copy back, please sign and return to:

CTW2018 C/O Taylor Allred



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