



2024  
Primary  
Election



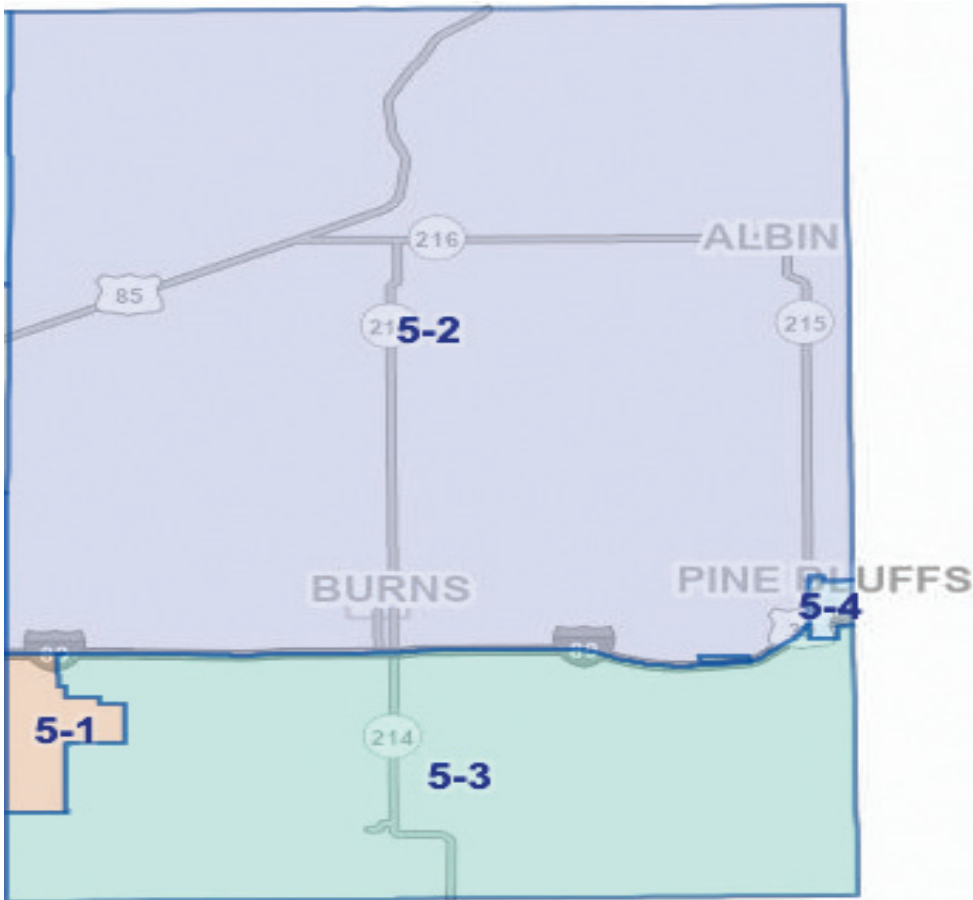
Vote on  
Tuesday,  
August 20, 2024





**Remember to Vote!**

**VOTING DISTRICTS**



**ELECTION DAY  
BRING YOUR VOTER ID**

Classic voting at the polls. From 7 am to 7 pm, bring your voter ID and cast your ballot at any voter center in Laramie County. Choose the center most convenient to where you live, work, or happen to be. Not yet registered? You can register on Election Day.

**Laramie County Vote Centers**

- David R Romero Park, 1317 Parsley Blvd
- Storey Gym, 2811 House Ave
- Kiwanis Community House, 4603 Lions Park Dr
- North Christian Church, 2015 Tranquility Rd
- Laramie County Community College, CCI Bldg, 1400 E College Dr
- Event Center at Archer, 3801 Archer Pkwy
- Pine Bluffs Community Center, 708 Lawson St

**DO YOU KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES?**

**UNITED STATES SENATOR**

- Republican John Barrasso - Casper, WY 82601
- Republican John Holtz - Laramie, WY 82072
- Republican Reid Rasner - Mills, WY 82644
- Democratic Scott D Morrow - Laramie, WY 82073

**UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE**

- Republican Harriet Hageman - Cheyenne, WY 82003
- Republican Steven R. Helling - Casper, WY 82605
- Democratic Kyle G. Cameron - Cheyenne, WY 82003

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE 10 - REPUBLICAN**

- Republican Jennifer James - Cheyenne, WY 82003
- Republican John Eklund - Cheyenne, WY 82009

**STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 06 - REPUBLICAN**

- Republican Darin Smith - Cheyenne, WY 82003
- Republican Eric D Johnston - Wheatland, WY 82201
- Republican Gary Bjorklund - Wheatland, WY 82201
- Republican Kim Withers - Cheyenne, WY 82003
- Republican Marc Torriani - Pine Bluffs, WY 82082
- Republican Taft C. Love - Cheyenne, WY 82009

**LARAMIE COUNTY ASSESSOR**

- Republican Todd A. Ernst - Cheyenne, WY 82009

**LARAMIE COUNTY COMMISSIONER**

- Republican Don Hollingshead - Cheyenne, WY 82009
- Republican Jess E. Ketcham - Cheyenne WY 82009
- Republican Lawrence "Larry" Milbourn - Cheyenne, WY 82001
- Republican Austin Rodemaker - Cheyenne, WY 82009
- Republican Kathy Scigliano - Cheyenne, WY 82001
- Republican Josh Tuttle - Cheyenne, WY 82007
- Republican Ty Zwonitzer - Cheyenne, WY 8200-

**PINE BLUFFS - MAYOR/TOWN COUNCIL**

- Pine Bluffs Mayor Justin Fornstrom
- Pine Bluffs Town Council Allie Leitza
- Pine Bluffs Town Council Janna Kestner

You get an hour off work to vote!  
Wyoming law allows persons entitled to vote one hour off work to vote in any primary or general election (your meal hour does not count).

The hour is at the convenience of your employer, between the time of opening and closing of the polls. The law does not apply to employees who have three or more consecutive nonworking hours during the time polls are open.

**WHO IS A CANDIDATE?**


Wyoming law defines a candidate as follows: "Candidate" means any person who knowingly seeks nomination or election to public office by:

- (A) Filing an application for nomination by primary election, nomination by political party convention or by petition for nomination;
- (B) Write-in, except that this subparagraph shall not apply to a person elected to public office by write-in at a general or special election who did not seek or campaign for election to the office;
- (C) Forming a campaign committee; or
- (D) Receiving contributions or making expenditures, or giving consent for any individual to receive contributions or make expenditures, in order to secure nomination or election to public office.

W.S. 22-1-102(a)(liii).

Wyoming statutes on campaign finance apply to candidates, candidate campaign committees, and PACs supporting candidates for Governor, Secretary of State, State Auditor, State Treasurer, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Legislature, County Offices, School Boards and Community College Boards of Trustees, and Municipal Offices. Federal Candidates & PACs: Candidates for U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives, candidate campaign committees and PACs supporting candidates for federal offices are required to file with the Federal Election Commission (FEC), 1050 First Street, NE, Washington, D.C., 20463. FEC's toll-free telephone number is (800) 424-9530 and the website address is <http://www.fec.gov/>.

**WYOMING, IT'S TIME TO GET AMERICA BACK ON TRACK.**



*That work starts with unleashing Wyoming energy. This is my plan:*


- More Permits and Exploration on Federal Land
- Rebuild Wyoming's Mining Industry
- Fight Woke-Anti-Energy Regulations

*The Biden agenda has driven up the price of everything and made America less safe and secure.*


*Together, we can make America energy independent, lower costs for families, and create good Wyoming jobs.*

*John Barrasso*

**John Barrasso**  
U.S. SENATE



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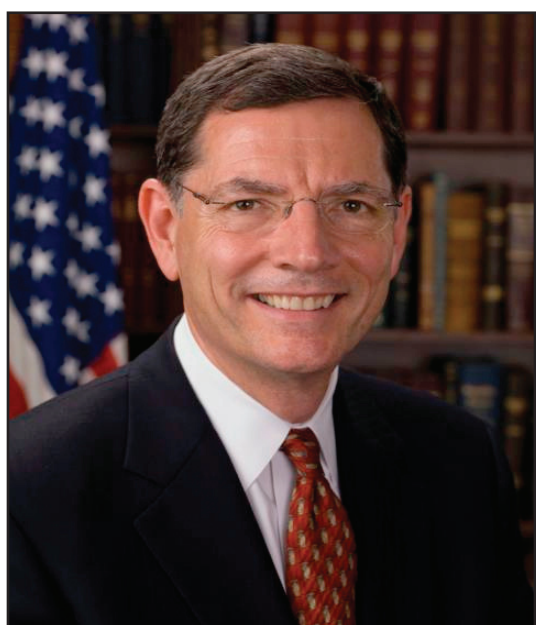


Your Vote is Your Voice!

# United States Senator

## Speaking with U.S. Senator John Barrasso

Jim Merryfield Pine Bluffs Post



Senator John Barrasso was sworn in to the United States Senate in 2007 having represented the people of Natrona County in the Wyoming State Senate from 2003-2007. In November 2018, Barrasso was reelected to the U.S. Senate. He is the third-ranking member in the Senate Republican leadership as Chairman of the Senate Republican Conference. He serves on committees that directly impact Wyoming's economy, energy interests, public lands, national parks and trade. He is the ranking member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Senator Barrasso is running again because he loves Wyoming. He wants to make a positive difference in Wyoming and its citizens. He wants to make sure that, "the world knows about cowboys, miners and farmers."

As a doctor in Wyoming, Senator Barrasso was used to caring for his patients, their families and the citizens of Wyoming. During his career he has learned how to be a politician and has drafted

several pieces of legislation for the good of Wyoming. "You never stop learning but you learn the "tricks of the trade" as you move forward in your career." He has 17 years' experience as the Senator of Wyoming and brings many years of experience and education to the table.

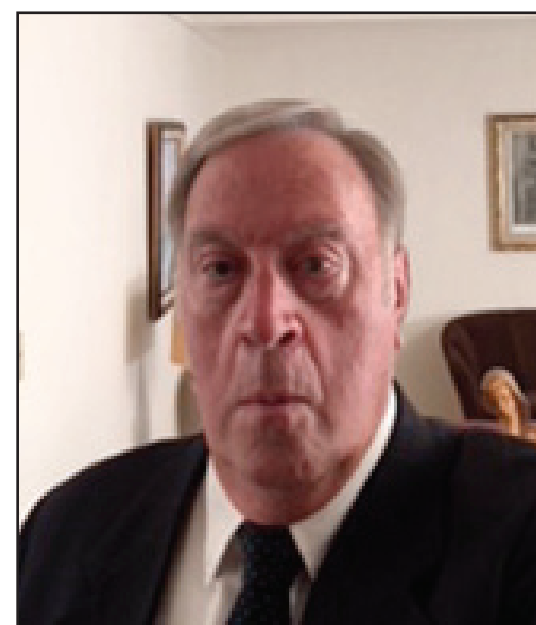
Senator Barrasso sees three key issues important to Wyoming. First is inflation. He says, "Prices are up about 20% across the board. It is important to get prices down so the citizens of Wyoming can afford to live comfortably." He sees this being done by getting back to the energy sources that Wyoming can produce. Also, the agricultural industry needs to be brought back up and help bring jobs and money back to the state. Second, he sees the border as a major threat to the state. Not only the border of Wyoming but to the country. "Over 10 million illegal immigrants come into this country yearly. This needs to stop." He added, "We need to find a way to shut down illegal immigrants from making it into the country/state and put our people back to work." He believes that the third most important issue to the state is energy. "We need to get the country back to using carbon-based fuel. Even though Wyoming has one of the largest deposits of carbon fuel, we are still importing coal into the state." He then said, "We need to get our miners back into the mines and farmers back into the fields."

Senator Barrasso believes in family. "I am home every weekend that I can. I try to listen to anyone who drops in or that I encounter in my journeys." He added, "I want to be available to everyone and anyone that wants to speak to me." Obviously, he can't meet and greet everyone, but he will do his best to see as many as he can.

This interview was conducted on 1 Aug.

## Candidate for U.S. Senator John Holtz

Karen Lipska Pine Bluffs Post



First and most important, Why are you running? John Holtz said, "I am a veteran. I have experience in military knowledge, and experience in weapons, war and contracts in the military. I have worked for the Hughes Aircraft company and was the head of the team that redesigned the laser range finder, ballistic computer, and thermal imaging system. I believe my experience of being an attorney, and past judge will also help Wyoming.

What do you bring to the table over other candidates to help the Wyoming constituents that elect you? Holtz said, "I would like to do changes in the administration and I am up to the leadership challenges that we need for today." Holtz came from a military family. He went to college at the University of Wyoming then attended law school at St. Mary's University.

What top three issues do you feel are the most important for you to focus on if you are elected?

Holtz stated, "First, work on military defense in the United States. Second, the constitution. Bringing everyone back to the government should be done, and third is the deficit budget. I would like to

have no tax on Social Security.

Lastly, what do you want to say to readers that we did not touch on with the above questions. Holtz said, "I was an Eagle Scout, and belong to the Christian Society. I was the youngest judge in Wyoming. I helped establish the circuit court system today." He has traveled all around the world, and was a special agent in the military.

## Remember to VOTE!

## Candidate for U.S. Senator Scott D. Morrow

Karen Lipska Pine Bluffs Post



First and most important question, why are you running? Scott Morrow said, "I moved to Wyoming to retire 20 years ago. I was so proud to move to the equality state. I quickly found out, it's really not the equality state because of our delegation. I think women should be supported and I think that we have a right to clean air, clean water and clean food. I want 60 democrats senators in the senate. I want to help the middle class. I want to apply some of the principles that I have learned since 1997 from the unionist. Any women that need it have the right to contraction. I want the equal rights amendment passed and enumerated in the United States Constitution. I believe no kid goes hungry and no teacher should have to make sure the kid is fed. I want medicaid expansion approved in Wyoming, and I want to support unions."

What do you bring to the table over other candidates to help Wyoming constituents that elect you? Morrow said, "Integrity, absence of moral bankruptcy, empathy, honesty and decades of experience in policy issues. I was an advocate for women being discriminated against. I learned a lot about the civil rights Act, National labor relation Act, and labor management reporting disclosure Act. I bring democracy and transparency due

to my decades of experience in the field.

What top three issues do you feel are the most important for you to focus on if you are elected? Morrow stated, "One, equality in the state, second, food and child nutrition, and third, health care."

Lastly, What do you want to say to readers that we did not touch on with the above questions. Morrow has a Morrowforwo.com. He is positive discipline. Morrow believes in the second amendment, and he wants to listen more and talk less for the people.

Vote your opinion  
Vote your conscience!

## Candidate for U.S. Senator Reid Rasner

Jim Merryfield Pine Bluffs Post



In a sit-down interview with Reid Rasner, republican candidate for United States Senator from Wyoming, Rasner voiced his views on several questions and topics regarding his platform and candidacy. Rasner is a financial advisor to many military personnel that were discharged from the service due to refusing to take the COVID vaccine. He also advises civilians on financial matters. "When you help handle someone's money you build a certain rapport and trust with them." He said that a couple of years ago he was asked to run but he did not want to. He was approached again this year, and this time considered it. He decided to run and after beating the first hurdle he is now pedal to the metal campaigning.

Question: Why are you running? Answer: "Our energy industry in the state is being decimated. There have been no new coal permits for 12 years. Our gas and oil industry has been decimated. We have to get back to coal and dig baby dig, mine baby mine." He then added, "These are the things that are most important to getting our economy and US economy going again. We need to keep our mines and gas and oil pumps going." He is against the windmills, "They are expensive and ineffective" He then said, "We need to get our coal and gas mining industry going in the right direction."

When asked, what do you bring to the table over the other candidates that will

help the state of Wyoming? Rasner said, "I am not a politician. I am a businessman. We need to move the needle and get someone in there that can do that. I am an American first and a businessman second." He then stated, "I stand with President Trump, and we need a congress that backs him." He then added on about the budget. "We have to move forward as if we are running a business. When you are spending more than you are making, some cuts need to be made. Wyoming needs to be an exporter again. Beef, auto, agriculture can all be exported to help Wyoming with the deficit."

On the top three issues that Wyoming faces today Rasner said, "First is border security issues. We are a border state with drugs coming across daily." He continued. "Cartels are getting fentanyl into our state and are poisoning our children. We need to stop this. Illegal immigrants are becoming an issue. Inflation is out of control." Second, he said was inflation. "The cost of goods here in Wyoming is \$1,100 to \$1,200 more than it was in 2019." He added, "We need to cut costs and get the deficit down." The third thing is energy independence for Wyoming. "Our energy industry is almost being methodically decimated." He believes that this point is to usher in this carbon green initiative.

Rasner added a fourth topic that he thought was important to the citizens of Wyoming. "We need term limits for our politicians." Adding "you need to break up these establishments and get rid of the establishment corrupt politicians. Three terms for the house and two for the senate." He thought that, "after that they could still go on to have careers in government."

Rasner was then asked if there was anything else he would like the citizens of Wyoming to know about. He said, "We are on the brink of something so special in this country. We are in a transitional change in the US senate. When voters choose who they want in government we may be able to get some key pieces of legislation passed and a more conservative government in place"

This interview was conducted at the Pine Bluffs Post, office on July 24th, 2024.



Think Twice Vote Wise!

# U.S. State Representatives

## Candidate for U.S. Representative Steven R. Helling

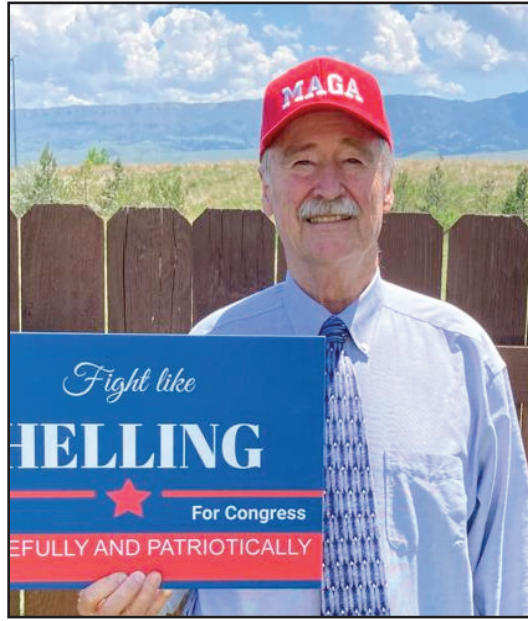
Jim Merryfield Pine Bluffs Post

Steven Helling is a republican candidate for the US House of Representatives from Wyoming. Helling is a Christian and a Pro-Life supporter. Helling believes in total transparency and that debates between candidates is vital to the voters. In this way they can see their candidate and hear the issues and how the candidates respond to them. Helling is a strong supporter of President Trump. He is also anti-nuclear and opposed to the experimental nuclear plant that they are planning on building in Kemmerer.

Helling was asked, why he was running now? Helling answered, "I signed up May 30th, three days after receiving an endorsement from the President." He added, "The president said that I was a good friend and voice of the people." Helling believes that all candidates should debate each other and not back down from the publicity. He added that "Debates give voters a chance to see the candidates and give them a choice." He also added that he was against the nuclear plant that is being planned in Kemmerer mainly because there are no plans for a permanent storage place for the nuclear waste. He also wants to vote for fossil fuel. He also believes that the money for nuclear power would be better spent on balancing the budget.

When asked what he would bring to the voters over his opponents Helling answered, "I am 70 years old and still working. I have been a litigation attorney and a University of Wyoming Law graduate." He also said that he has resolved 100's of cases. He thinks that Washington is defused. "I see myself as a difference maker. Wyoming is a clean state with clean water, air and land" He added, "I would like to keep it that way"

Helling thinks that the top three issues that face the residents of Wyoming are, nuclear power, protecting Wyoming's clean air and water and management of



lands and forests. Due to the fact that there is no plan to build a nuclear waste facility then putting in a nuclear power plant, especially an experimental plant is not in the best interest of the people. He also said, "50 percent of Wyoming land is federal. We need qualified people in this management area to maintain this land in original condition." We also need to "develop our fossil fuel energy and get our mines and pumps going again" He would like to see Wyoming be a good vacationing spot for tourists.

What else would you like the voters of Wyoming to know about you or your platform? "I am Pro-Life. I would support legislation banning or restricting the use of abortions." In a news release Steven Helling also said, "Term limits are needed to drain the swamp. I would propose 8-year limits for the house, 12 years for the Senate and 18 years for the Supreme Court Justices. We need a leader like President Trump advocating for term limits for it to have a chance for success."

This interview was conducted by phone on July 24, 2024.

## Candidate for U.S. Representative Harriet Hageman

Karen Lipska Pine Bluffs Post

U.S. Representative Harriet Hageman has been serving at State Representative since 2023. She is the incumbent in the race for U.S. Representative for the state of Wyoming.

First and most important question, why are you running?

Harriet Hageman said, "Same as last time, I'm running for the United States House of Representatives to keep the federal government out of the state and local government. To help keep our coal, oil, and gas prices down and still have them, along with continuing to keep our agriculture bills protected from the government. To keep from labeling our beef and chip them. To protect our land. I will be on the subcommittees on the constitution and limited government. Also the subcommittee on the Indian and Insular Affairs, the subcommittee on water, wildlife and fisheries. These are some of the subcommittees, and I will continue protecting them.

What do you bring to the table over other candidates to help the Wyoming constituents that elect you? Hageman said, "It is my experience being in congress for the past few years, the skills to knowing the constitution and continue to reinforce it in the government. Making sure the EPA is accountable, along with others to make sure the United States is safe. Being on a school board, and as an attorney I know different legal issues and fighting for education.

What top three issues do you feel are the most important for you to focus on if you are elected? Hageman stated, "First is to close the borders. It is challenging to the agricultural industry and hospitals.



Damaging crops and destroying land for farmers and ranchers. The illegals are filling the hospitals and taking the health care from the residents. Second, is to continue on with my bills for energy, coal, oil and gas. There are several other bills that I have started and want to finish. The third is civil rights. This keeps the government agents out of the the people lives. To stop the big brother with FBI, United States department of Homeland Security, the United States department of commerce, and so on. To not target the people.

Lastly, What do you want to say to readers that we did not touch on with the above questions. Hageman said, "Watch my videos. See that I am fighting for Wyoming. And if you do have questions call my office. I love to here from the people about issues."

**Remember to  
Vote on August 20th**

## Candidate for U.S. Representative Kyle G. Cameron

Karen Lipska Pine Bluffs Post

First and most important, why are you running? Kyle Cameron said, "I grew up in a politically active family, and I grew up understanding that being part of a democracy meant that you did certain things, you participated in certain ways. Voting and volunteering, trying to get out the vote. Knocking on doors and talking to constituents and hearing from them. I grew up being part of the democracy. I do encourage people to put their name on a ballot. If we are going to continue to have a democracy then we have to be willing to say I am going to write my name on a ballot, and run for a campaign office. I feel it is a duty, I feel like it is a responsibility. Now was as good a time as any to run for United States House of Representatives."

What do you bring to the table over other candidates to help the Wyoming constituents that elect you? Cameron said, "A real sense of my roots being from my Wyoming. What sets me apart is number one, I am a democrat in Wyoming. I am a progressive democrat. I have a vision for Wyoming that I have not heard from the Republican candidates. I want to focus on what really matters to people in Wyoming. Let's talk about the infrastructure that we need. I want to have a conversation with Wyoming people about items in Wyoming."

What top three issues do you feel are the most important for you to focus on if you are elected? Cameron stated, "First is reproduction rights. It goes to the fourth amendment of the constitution which says that we have the right to be secure in our persons. My body is my choice. What happens to it is my choice. Government is about protecting our individual freedoms. You have a right to be secure in your person with whatever bodily choice you want to make. It goes with freedom and women's rights. The second one is health care. I want to help with preventive measures to help with the cost. We



need to do better on health care for people. Number three is workers rights. I strongly believe about the Wyoming state statute on minimum wage, and tipping exporting workers. On the federal level we need to address the minimal wages, along with letting the workers know they are valued, that we see their contribution, what they're producing, and make sure that they get a fair wage. Learning about the wage gap is another issue, and we need to address it. We can do better."

Lastly what would you like to say to readers that we did not touch on with the above questions. She said, "I love Pine Bluffs. I used to live in Carpenter. I remember that we went to the Pine Bluffs Library. I have been to the Pine Bluffs parades. I love the little school tractor days. It is a beautiful community. I have met some really nice folks that live in Pine Bluffs. Very hospitable people. I would be happy to represent them in Washington D.C."

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Use Your Voice - VOTE!

# Senate District 6

## Candidate for Senate Dist. 6 Gary Bjorklund

Jim Merryfield Pine Bluffs Post

Gary Bjorklund is a republican candidate for the Wyoming State Senate. Bjorklund is a retired military pilot and flew with an oil company and civilian airlines. Bjorklund said, "I took an oath in the military and that oath does not have an expiration date."

Bjorklund says that when he sold his business, "I traveled around the country and took a look around and saw what was happening to our country and to the state of Wyoming." He said that he "heard that Wyoming was going to be the first state to go completely carbon neutral and thought that this was not in the best interests of the people." He added, "I wanted to make a change to what was happening and that this would be the best way to help the citizens of this great state." He added that, "Someone needed to fight for the state agriculture and natural resources."

He says, "The people will see that I am just a regular guy. I am not a politician and have no political connections to color my opinions." He added, "I call them like I see them." Bjorklund added that we need people to stand up to big government and fight for their states.

One of Bjorklund's top concerns is Green Energy. He says, "Green Energy is not as efficient as it seems and with out government subsidies it is not that economically sound." He added, "For Wyoming this takes away from our production of coal and natural gas. It is important to look to the future, but we cannot abandon Wyoming natural resources and our way of life." Bjorklund believes we need to go back to fossil fuels and less on so-called green energy. "Put our people back to work for this state and country". He also believes that we need



to take a much closer and harder look at the budget. "We need to go through the state budget and find smarter and more economically sound ways of doing it." He also believes that we need to go through the schools and other agencies' budget with a fine-tooth comb and find a way to trim their budgets. "He believes that there are always different and better ways to do things"

In closing Bjorklund reiterated, "I am not a politician, I am just an ordinary guy looking to improve life and help the people of Wyoming. I am very approachable." He is willing to listen to different ideas other than his own and willing to admit if he is wrong. "I call it like I see it. I will accept the consequences for my decisions and own them."

This interview was conducted on 8 August.

## Candidate for Senate Dist. 6 Eric D. Johnston

Karen Lipska Pine Bluffs Post

Former Platte County Commissioner Eric D. Johnston has returned to the world of governing and politics. He is running for Senate District 6.

First and most important, Why are you running? Eric Johnston said, "In 2022 the Senate redirected the senate districts. I feel that the former senators did not represent the area. Now with parts of Laramie county and parts of Platte county it is different. I want to represent the rural area. Being a rancher and being a former Platte County commissioner I know the needs in the smaller communities. I want to be the voice of the community, and get them what they will be needing in the future. Talk less and listen more."

What do you bring to the table over other candidates to help the Wyoming constituents that elect you? He said, "I have a degree in engineering. I was in the Army and a former Platte County commissioner. I will try to give back to the energy of the land. I make my decisions on facts. I learn about the issue in every way before coming to a decision. Being a farmer is all about bills and agriculture."

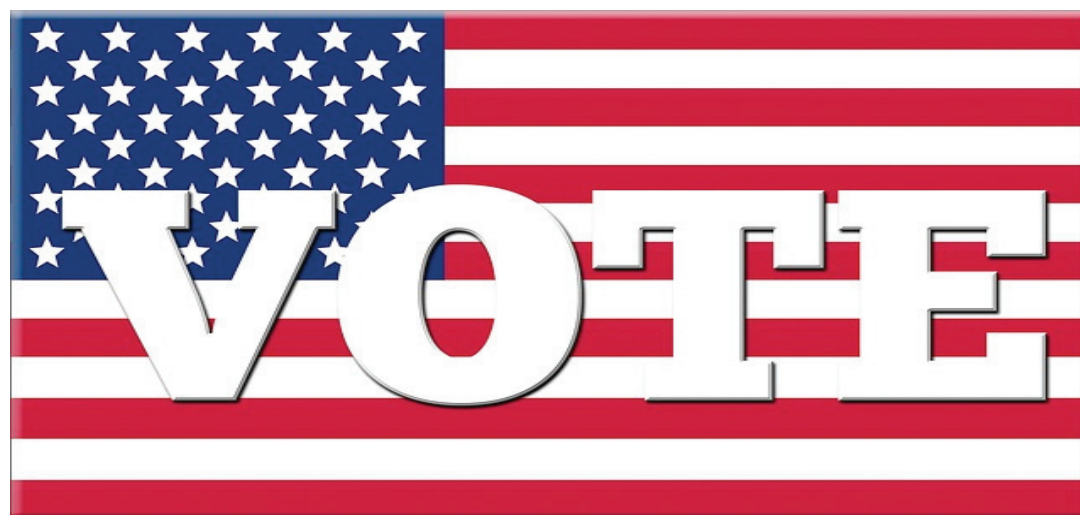
What top three issues do you feel are the most important for you to focus on if you are elected? Johnston stated, "First the economy. The energy sector is important about the coal, oil and gas. I will work on opportunities. Have food, water, and security of activities in some possibilities. Plus study uranium and other energy in



the counties. Second is jobs. Making sure with the oil, gas, and solar, there are opportunities for the future. The third is agriculture. Working on the water for the land and the people. Make sure there is water all around.

Lastly, what do you want to say to readers that we did not touch on with the above questions. He said, "Rural EMT funds statewide is my goal. I know how important the EMT's are to each community. I would like to thank all my competitors on giving the people a choice in the community."

Use your Voice  
Vote on August 20th



## Candidate for Senate Dist. 6 Taft C. Love

Karen Lipska Pine Bluffs Post

Taft Love has been in the community as a past Laramie County School District # 2 board member, a rancher, and owns his own business. Love is running for Senate District 6.

First and most important question, Why are you running? Love said, "People had asked me to think about stepping up into the senate position two years ago during redirecting. We had a senate representative that was removed from all of his committee seats, who was not being an effective voice for Laramie county. Lots of bills die in committee that affect the area. So I am running for the people."

What do your bring to the table over other candidates to help the Wyoming constituents that elect you? He said, "I want to be the voice for the people to representing inside of the legislature. I have listened to and have been known as a true public servant on the school board. I was on the school board from 2012 to 2022. I feel we did great things for the school district. They brought in the four day week. The board and I was able to take the schools that are struggling and get them up to where they were above the state standings. We built new facilities and made great strides in that time. I was blessed to be part of a very high functioning board and there were nine of us. We had hard conversations to come up with the best outcome. With the experience of School district #2 I was able to work with contracts to save money, and be able to help the school which led currently by the chairman of the Laramie County Republican party."

What top three issues do you feel are the most important for you to focus on if you are elected? Love stated, "Coming from the background that I have education will be a focus of mine. I am a biologist. Finding ways to make sure the dollars we have are focused on the students. As well as wanting to look at new avenues of bringing education to kids that are practical. Practical trades of the high schools for kids that drive them is the passion. Keep the school board in control with the government helping. Next is busi-



ness focus. Making Wyoming a friendly environment for new business. Wyoming is growing at .5 percent. Trying to keep the students in Wyoming is a challenge. I want to help keep our families here in Wyoming. The last is cultural source environment. Trying to increase tourism growth in business. Sporting the energy gas and coal. Working on the infrastructure in the state.

Lastly, what do you want to say to readers that we did not touch on with the above questions. Love continued by saying, "I endorse by the right for life. I believe in it. I feel that big brother is affecting the stock growers and others. Giving the growers no choice with there animals and controlling everything. The next issue is water in the county. It is not being watched very carefully. Some of the houses in Cheyenne are having problems with water. The water needs to be looked after. The last is health care. We need to lower the cost for the people to be able to afford and have health care. The cost is too much and the inflation is showing on the elderly." Love had more on property tax with a fixed income. The last was having an EMS district service in the counties. He has a lot of issues to work on and feels he is the one to help.

## Candidate for Senate Dist. 6 Darin Smith

Jim Merryfield Pine Bluffs Post

Darin Smith is a republican candidate for the district 6 State Senate. He is an attorney and business executive. Currently residing in Cheyenne, he wants to protect our state's core conservative values.

When asked, why did you decide to run now, Smith said, "The battle is no longer in D.C. It has come to the state of Wyoming. I decided to run to protect our state's core conservative values and ensure that our local government remains accountable to the people." He believes that Wyoming's heritage of strong families, personal freedom, limited government and fiscal responsibility is something that he deeply cherishes and would strive to uphold." He then added, "As a lifelong Wyomingite I have witnessed the positive impacts of Conservative policies firsthand."

He was then asked what he brings to the table above his opponents? "I have maintained an entrepreneurial law practice from 2000 to the present. In addition, I built an investment business that specializes in 401k management. I went to work as an executive with the Christian Broadcasting Network, where I played a key role in drilling thousands of water wells and sending countless doctors on medical missions around the world." He then said, "Since 2018, I have worked with the Family Research Council, an organization dedicated to advancing pro-family and freedom policies in the halls of government. My work with these two organizations has provided me with invaluable executive experience." Smith said, "I have become an expert at finding simple solutions to complex problems. These experiences have reinforced my commitment to making a positive impact in the lives of others."

Smith sees his top three legislative priorities as reducing property taxes, protecting Wyoming's industries (especially coal) from federal overreach, and enhancing parental rights and school choice. "I plan to introduce and support legislation that reduces property taxes



for all homeowners." As for protecting our industries he says, "I will work to ensure the Wyoming legislature is fighting for our mining, energy, and agricultural sectors and shielding them from excessive federal regulations." In addition, "I will advocate for policies that expand school choice options and strengthen parental involvement in education." Everything lives and dies on leadership" Smith says, "and I am a leader." Smith then added, "By leading in the legislature and engaging with community stakeholders, I hope to build broad support for these initiatives."

Smith then added, "I am deeply committed to serving the people of Wyoming with integrity and dedication. My background in law, business, and community service has given me a broad perspective on the challenges and opportunities facing our state." He then closed with this, "I am passionate about making a positive impact and believe that by working together, we can address Wyoming's needs and build a brighter future for all residents."

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Wyoming law allows persons entitled to vote one hour off work to vote in any primary or general election (your meal hour does not count).





Vote Vote Vote!

## Senate District 6

### Candidate for Senate Dist. 6 Marc Torriani

Jim Merryfield Pine Bluffs Post

Marc Torriani is a republican candidate for the US Senate for the state of Wyoming. As a rancher and with over 25 years of experience in managing and revitalizing telecom networks globally Torriani brings a unique perspective to his campaign. He is passionate about protecting Wyoming's way of life and ensuring sustainable agricultural practices. He also advocates for policies that benefit the local economy and our farming and ranching communities.

Torriani initially was running to be a counter to the seated commissioner. He is quite concerned about the economic progress and goals that are going on in the county. Projects that he sees as endangering our water supply, which is vital to our community. He is concerned about projects that will impact on our water supply, our power grid and not bring in any new jobs for the county.

Torriani says, "I bring a unique perspective to the table. Having worked in 10 countries around the world I have seen how progress and economic growth can be bad." He added, "I don't want to see this happen to Wyoming." You don't have to drive very far to see what happened in Colorado that used to be a very nice place." He added, "I understand how economic development can be done right to provide for the good of the county." He went on to say that he is a farmer/rancher and has his hand in the dirt. "I am very empathetic to the issues that affect our ranchers and farmers" He added, "They do not need the electricity going up, they do not need the state to regulate their water use and build more subdivisions."

On the top three issues that face the state of Wyoming, Torriani stated, "Water is gold. It is vital to southeastern Wyoming and to cities like Chugwater and Guernsey." He added that there are projects that are going on up there that will affect the water table that need to be looked at. Second on his list Property Taxes. "What I would pursue is a roll back to what you



built or bought your house for in terms of valuation. This would protect seniors from rising taxes because someone overpaid for a house in their area or built a million dollar home next to theirs causing their taxes to go up." Take the education budget out of the property taxes and have it funded by a different pot of money. This would take the education topic out of politics and the state level and put it back down to the local level.

Torriani's third topic is term limits both at the state and national level. "When someone gets into politics for a long time, their interests start to mimic the other interests." He added that "I didn't get into politics for a career, and I would be happy to support any legislation that limits terms."

"I am very direct, very straight forward. My platform has been the same since I started. My message has never changed." He then said, "I am a "right to life supporter." Have been since the beginning." I am approachable and I am what you see. I am very straight forward and transparent with people." Torriani ended with "Lets keep Wyoming, Wyoming."

This interview was conducted on 30 July.

### Candidate for Senate Dist. 6 Kim Withers

Karen Lipska Pine Bluffs Post

New to the political arena, Kim Withers takes pride in being a mom, a grandmother and someone who has worked and ran a business. Withers believes that being new to politics is an advantage with fresh ideas and perspectives. "People deserve a Senator who isn't controlled by people or associations that do not live in our state." She stated.

First and most important question, why are you running? Kim Withers stated, "I want to give back to the roots of the district. That means to know the local communities in our district. We have ten towns and communities. We are the gem of the state. There are more things that are happening on this side of the state. My main platform is about getting back to the quality of life. Back to family values."

What do you bring to the table over other candidates to help the Wyoming constituents that elect you? She said, "To abide with the Wyoming constitution. I will bring the business aptitude. I am a mom, a grandma and a business woman. My family was in 4-H and Future Farmers of America. I have lived in the county for 40 years. I worked in the financial industries. I work with people and I am approachable and caring."

What top three issues do you feel are the most important for you to focus on if you are elected? Withers said, "Quality of life. To have a home life and not worry about high bills and health care. The next is infrastructure. Making sure the towns and communities have their resources that they need in order to do the job. Also, education is paramount and if we do not keep education



important how will the next generation lead us?"

Lastly, what do you want to say to readers that we did not touch on with the above question. Withers commented, "This is the best time and the most unique time for our district to really become a powerhouse with the state legislation. We need to be that way to protect our towns and communities. Growth is an important factor for our towns and communities. I believe in being there for the citizens in our district."

In closing, Withers stated, "Getting back to the issues that matter to our families and matter to the individuals in our district is one of the most important factors for me. There are so many things that we can affect and bring back to our traditional policies, which are important for our small Wyoming towns."

*Getting back to the issues that matter to our families and matter to the individuals in our district.... Harry Emerson Fosdick*

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## State Representative District 10

### Candidate for State Representative District 10 John Eklund

Jim Merryfield Pine Bluffs Post

John Eklund is a republican candidate running re-election for the State Representative seat from district 10. He currently sits on the Ag Board for the district and is very much involved in the business. He is dedicated to the agricultural significance that the industry brings to the state of Wyoming and wants to ensure that it continues to remain strong and vibrant for the future of Wyoming.

Eklund said, "I have been in Legislation for several years and enjoy it." He also added about being in the House, "there are some loose ends that have been started and I want to finish them up and see them through before I retire." He sees lobbyists trying to take over the state of Wyoming and change the fundamental foundation of the state. "I want to keep Wyoming going the way that Wyoming has been doing it. Keep the lobbyists out of our state"

Eklund brings experience and seniority to his candidacy. The agriculture business is most of his district. "I would like to see agriculture grow and become an integral part of the Wyoming way again." He also says, "I am in a position to help and influence decisions about the agriculture business"

One of Eklunds top priorities for the state would be property. He stated, "There are some legislative articles that have been started but are not finished. These pieces of legislation will help the homeowners and their communities with cuts and fund for schools and other local projects." There is still a lot of work to be done for these bills. "I am ready to stand up and get the people what they need and deserve." There are a lot of agricultural issues that need



to be addressed. "There are the Ag bills that still need to be pushed through and passed." Another issue that Eklund sees as important to Wyoming is Party Unity. "I would like to create a unity within the Republican Party that elects honest people to represent the great state of Wyoming." He added, "With a united party we can sort through the issues and vote for what is best for the state of Wyoming."

Eklund closed by saying that "It has been an honor and privilege to serve my constituents and district. The friendliness and kindness of the district is overwhelming and heart-warming." He has enjoyed serving in the House and in his words "I am not finished yet. Still a lot of work to be done and I am up for the challenge"

This interview was conducted on 7 August.

### Candidate for State Representative District 10 Jennifer James

Karen Lipska Pine Bluffs Post

Jennifer James is the owner of a non-profit healthcare training company with a doctoral degree. She lives in Burns.

First question why are you running? James said, "I am running because I think that Southeast Wyoming District 10 needs a fresh voice. There are some upcoming bills and issues that are going to be very important for our district. There are things changing in the political landscape. Hopefully for the better. They need me as a strong representative. As a representative who will collaborate with our new senate district. Looking forward to that."

What do you bring to the table over other candidates to help the Wyoming constituents that elect you? She said, "I bring vast knowledge about formal education, a solid understanding of the foundation of the United States and Wyoming constitutions. I have a law degree which comes in quite handy to understand regulations. I have a policy and Leadership Certificate from Harvard that specifically shows me how to break apart a bill and understand how it's going to affect us in the long run. If the bill is not created solidly from the beginning then it can cause problems down the road. I am committed to our traditional values and to the Republican platform."

What top three issues do you feel are the most important for you to focus on if you are elected? James said, "The first is the state budget, it needs to be reduced. I will offer to go through it line by line, and offer amendments that will reduce our funding in a lot of areas. We have to be balanced with money. It doesn't grow on trees. The second thing is we have to watch the gun laws that come up. Anything that will infringe on our second amendment. Third is any bills that liberals might bring that affect a person's right to life. I'm endorsed by Wyoming right to life. I feel that protecting that



sanity, at all costs is vital. I don't support abortion or ending of a pregnancy in any fashion."

Lastly, what do you want to say to readers that we did not touch on with the above questions. James said, "I do not accept money from any political action committee. These are lobbying groups. People who try to influence your vote a certain way and that makes it hard to run a campaign, but it is the most ethical way to do it. I will not be influenced by outside people coming into this state. Big corporations like Cigna, Glasgow, Smith and Klein. These are the National organizations who just literally, send checks to the seats of the elected, and they cash them. I'm not going to be bought and paid for. So, I think that is an important factor and it shows that I really truly will be working for the people. I have a podcast for people to follow me. It is good to have some open communication and some dialogue. This for the people to talk politics and to engage with me. It is time for a fresh start."

Vote your choice on August 20th



**Vote Your Choice!**

# Laramie County Commissioners

## Candidate for Laramie County Commissioner Don Hollingshead

*Jim Merryfield Pine Bluffs Post*

Don Hollingshead is a republican candidate for the County Commissioner seat. Hollingshead retired from the county sheriff's department last year. He believes that his experience and interaction with the community and its citizens make him a good candidate for the seat.

"After retiring from the sheriff's department last year, I still wanted to continue with public service. With all the information that I have in my head and contacts with public officials through my service in the sheriff's office what better way to serve my community than in the commissioner's role." He added that "there is still a lot of public service left in me."

Hollingshead believes that "my overall knowledge of the job and deep understanding of what the commissioners do and the responsibilities that they hold." He continued, "I am well versed in county budgets and worked within a fourteen-million-dollar county budget as captain of the sheriff's department." He believes that he is very adept in human resources and the county needs someone who understands the day to day of Laramie County. "I believe that the other candidates are smart and willing but with my background and experience I can hit the ground running."

"With the growth of Laramie County, we need to make sure that we are not growing faster than our resources can provide." He wants to make sure that we have a very diverse workforce. "Ensure that we are reviewing our land use regulations and all of the roadblocks that come up in the permitting process to help businesses coming in." Hollingshead believes that the schools are doing a good job educating the students in the 11th and 12th grades to go into either college or trade schools. But also believes that there is room for improvement. He stated, "We need to provide not only workforce op-



portunities but also social activities to keep our young people here. There has to be something for the younger generation to do to keep them active in the community and want to stay" He added, "Things like the community center, parks and centers like the trampoline facility are needed for our kids to enjoy."

Other than his experience with the community as a sheriff he is also involved in the community as a Laramie County citizen. "I have been a volunteer with the Special Olympics for 25 years, I have been on the board for Special Friends and Safe Harbor Children's Justice Center." He continues, "Not only am I involved in community safety through his sheriff's position but also ties to the community in my personal life. I just want to make a difference in Laramie County. It's not just a job to me it is my way to continue giving back to Laramie County as I have done in public service for 30 years."

This interview was conducted on 6 August.

## Candidate for Laramie County Commissioner Jess E. Ketcham

*Jim Merryfield, Pine Bluffs Post*

When asked, why are you running for Laramie County Commissioner, candidate Jess E. Ketcham replied, "I have two boys, and I am a fifth-generation resident, and I want to keep Laramie County growing in the right direction and keep young people here." He added that "seems more and more of our businesses are leaving the state/county and I want to have an impact on keeping them here" Ketcham also wants quality growth and not just growth. He wants to see a mission plan for the county and commissioners for the future of the county. He is currently on the Board of Trustees for Laramie County Community College and has seen major changes and growth in the college.

Ketcham believes that his experience at LCCC during the COVID crisis will give him an advantage over his opponents. "There were a lot of hard decisions that needed to be made. We needed to lay people off, cut budgets and things that the other candidates didn't have to do." He added, "As the board chairman some of the notifications came down to me to make." Also, he is the state budget coordinator for the state. He knows most of the state government and can talk with them.

Ketcham believes that the first priority for the county would be infrastructure. "Roads, roads, roads in particular. You need roads and bridges to get to wherever you are going." Wants to get grant money and not use our operating budget to build the infrastructure up and improve the transit system. "I think that we are in a good position now, this will just help and improve what we already have." Secondly is water. Wants to find out the level of our water system. "This will help determine if we can put in a new subdivision or whatever". "I want to work with other small communities like Pine Bluffs, Burns, Carpenter and Albin to help with their taxes and water issues. I want to make sure that their voices are heard." His next big



issue is Archer. "I want to make sure that we have a good plan for the future, 10-15 years down the road." He added, "What's going to be built out there and what is going to happen down the road." He wants to make sure we have a good plan for the area and what the community wants.

Ketcham has good experience with the farming community as well as the big city. He's been involved with 4-H since he was eight years old. "I grew up with a lot of the farmers and ranchers and know them. I understand their needs and wants." Ketcham also has an FFA degree.

Ketcham ended with saying that "I always want to be available to them. I want to be transparent about everything. I want them to look at my record at LCCC and see what I have done and hopefully see what I can accomplish." He then added, "I have stock in Laramie County. I am a fifth-generation county resident, and I want my family to continue in Laramie and to thrive here. I'd like to see a sixth generation Laramie County resident."



## Candidate for Laramie County Commissioner Lawrence "Larry" Milbourn

*Karen Lipska Pine Bluffs Post*

Larry Melbourne is the kind of person that is elated to meet everyone. He is one that enjoys helping others. He has been in Wyoming for many years. Melbourne is a fair man, and he wants to help Laramie County completely. Most important question is why are you running? He said, "I have worked the Laramie County Fair, being an integral part the development at the Archer property outer part. I am near the end of my working career and going into retirement. That has kind of saddened me because there is still some things that I want to do. So I talked with some people about the things that I have yet want to see come to fruition. And several friends said, "Why don't you run for commissioner." I am not a politician I am a worker. I want to represent the people. I want to know what they want from the decision makers for the county. I want to be approachable and accessible to the citizens and Laramie County. I want to hear what they have to say. All through my my working career I really embraced getting everybody's opinion. Then coming up with the best possible solution for the problems. That is what kind of leader I want to be. I want to develop some other things out at Archer. Archer has money to help the whole county from the events. Last year there were eight events that made a million dollars for the county. With more events, means more money for the towns in Laramie County. I really want to preserve and protect the valuable resource that we have which is our water in those aquifers. With the population increasing and the Sentinel Missile project going on, also those big data centers, we need to be careful."

What do you bring to the table over other candidates to help the Wyoming constituents that elect you? Melbourne said, "I bring proven effective leadership all through my careers. And several boards of different organizations I have been on. I get on a project and I work to see it through to the end. I was president- elect and vice president - elect of the Wyoming Association Affairs. We helped the Wyoming State fair get funding after they lost it from the state of Wyoming. I have been president of the Arc of Laramie county



for six terms. I am a worker and I will work hard for Laramie County."

What top three issues do you feel are the most important for you to focus on if you are elected?

He said, "First one that I'm gonna to say that I think we need to be proactive rather that reactive on is preserving our valuable water resources. That can be done by careful management of the growth in the county. The second issue that I feel is our roads and infrastructure that we have. So, with growth increasing, traffic on all our county passageways is being used more. That includes higher demands on the energy services along with the first responders and law enforcement.

The third is working towards creating some facilities at Archer that will aid the tourism. The tourism will help Laramie County on funding for the six penny.

Lastly What do you want to say to readers that we did not touch on with the above questions. Melbourne said, "I was born and raised in Laramie County. I love this place. My family has been here for six generations. Wyoming is in my blood and I enjoy being in Wyoming. I want to represent the people of Laramie County. I want to know what the people in Laramie county need and help the best I can. I appreciate everybody's vote. "

**"By voting, we add our voice to the chorus that forms opinions and the basis for actions."**  
**... Jens Stoltenberg**

## Candidate for Laramie County Commissioner Austin Rodemaker

*Karen Lipska Pine Bluffs Post*

Austin Rodemaker came to Laramie county after being in the military. He loves Laramie county and decided to stay. He works for a utility company that will assist him with any questions about issues in the county.

Most important, why are you running? He said, "I think Laramie county is at a key juncture right now where it is growing and will continue their growth. I think that given my background I can help the county, embrace that growth without losing what makes Wyoming special. So that is my goal. I want to help the county grow in a sustainable manner but also maintain the culture that we all love."

What do you bring to the table over other candidates to help the Wyoming constituents that elect you? Rodemaker said, "I know I am one of the younger if not the youngest candidate. Even though I am younger I have the experience in the military. I was active duty for five years. I went to the Air Force Academy before that. I started a La Crosse program in Laramie County. I worked for and led a non-profit organization that worked with homeless teenagers. I worked as the CEO for the foundation at the Laramie County Community College. Now I work in government relations for a public utility company. There is lots of experience I have gained in the time I have been in Laramie County. I am zeroth generation in Wyoming but I have built myself here. I take pride in that. I came out here because the Air Force told me to come out here. And then I made my way in the community and absolutely love the community."

What top three issues do you feel are the most important for you to focus on if you are elected? He said, "So, the number one goal is fiscal responsibility. That is the main focus of a county commissioner. Allocating tax dollars and allocating tax dollars in a way that it seeks high returns on investments for the constituents. It is also important that we not only look for high returns on investments, but that we spend the money wisely. That means focusing, making sure we pay for what we get. We want strong county employees. We need to pay them decently. Number two is Public Safety. Making sure that our firefighters, our police, our public



works, our roads, all those things are taken care of. Making sure our firefighters have enough training along with having enough equipment and same for the sheriff's office. Making sure our roads are worked on to be able to drive on them. It is the general infrastructure that needs to be maintained. The third thing is going to be economic development. The county is growing. So make sure that we are bringing in the right types of jobs and the right industry to ensure that Laramie County grows. Make sure the businesses have the right environment for them to be successful.

What do you want to say to readers that we did not touch on with the above questions. Rodemaker said, "I want the readers to know that I bring a level headed and balanced approach to everything. It is not always about being right. It is about listening to all and doing what is best. 80 percent of job is showing up and listening to do the best," a quote from Governor Freudenthal. It is not necessarily always what I might think, but taking the perspectives of the constituents, the experts in the certain fields, the employees, bringing that all together to make the most beneficial decision and weighing all options. It is not firing from the hip. It is doing cost benefit analysis on everything that we have to decide upon."



### It's Your Right to Vote!

# Laramie County Commissioners

## Candidate for Laramie County Commissioner

### Kathy Scigliano

*Karen Lipska Pine Bluffs Post*

Kathy Scigliano is a mother that does home schooling with her children. She also works in the Real Estate industry. Most important question, why are you running? She said, "Because the officials are not out for the people and I want to change that. I want to have more transparency in Laramie County."

What do you bring to the table over other candidates to help the Wyoming constituents that elect you? Scigliano said, "I bring the experience of business. I saved on the board of directors for the Cheyenne Board of Realtors. I have been on the board of the Zonta club of Cheyenne, and the Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce. I have leadership skills to help Laramie County."

What top three issues do you feel are the most important for you to focus on if you are elected? She said, "First is transparency. To be more in the public for the people. Second is responsible growth. We need to have water studies to be able to help with the growth of the county. The third is communication, which is a priority. Being able



to let the Laramie county people know what is going on."

What do you want to say to readers that we did not touch on with the above questions. Scigliano said, "Being able to vote with transparency. Again always having communication on every issue. I feel I can bring that to the people."

## Candidate for Laramie County Commissioner

### Josh Tuttle

*Karen Lipska Pine Bluffs Post*

Josh Tuttle is a hard worker with management training and an eye for detail, and he wants to help people. First and most important, why are you running? He said, "I have always felt I have held sort of a calling to try to help. I do want to try to help others. When I was told that the county roads were handled by the county commissioners, I thought well, try running to see what I can do about that."

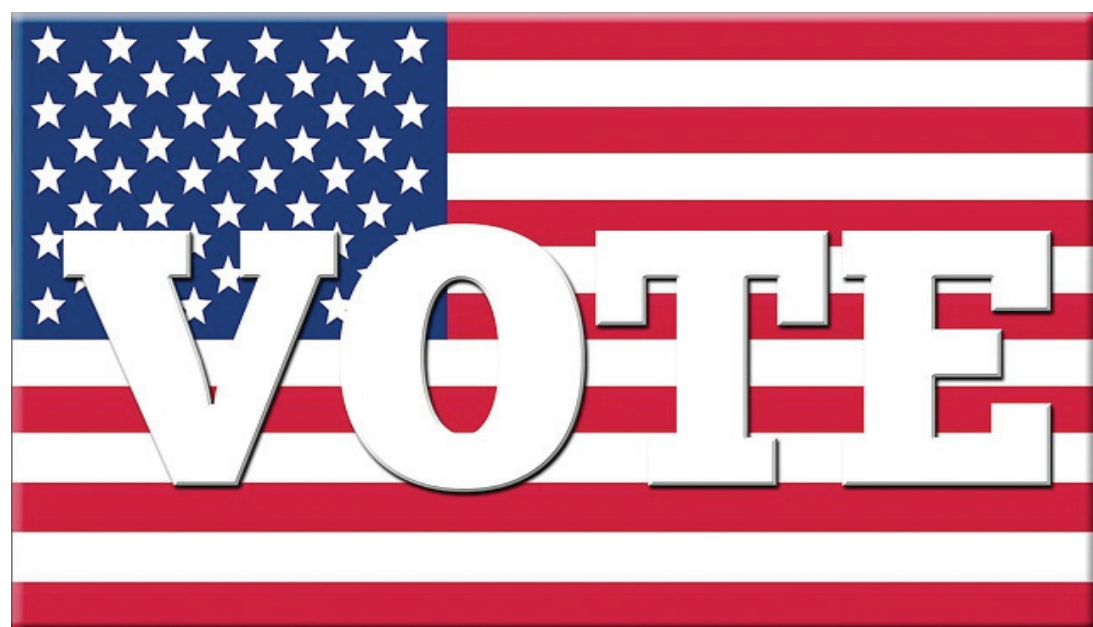
What do you bring to the table over other candidates to help the Wyoming constituents that elect you? Tuttle said, "I came from a working class background. My dad was an engineer. I have several different jobs. I see things from the working class perspective. I know what they are dealing with on a day by day basis. Thus I can try to address those needs."

What top three issues do you feel are the most important for you to focus on if you are elected? He said, "Primarily it's the roads, getting those fixed up. That allows people to kind of get to and from places. Second one is the libraries, since they are a very important thing no matter where and when in society. They have always been important to the people. The third thing



would be the budget. Just make sure that things are not overextended and we are spending things properly."

Lastly What do you want to say to readers that we did not touch on with the above questions. Tuttle said, "I am just a guy that has a full time job. I understand a lot of the concerns that people would have. I want to let people know that I want to represent that. I want to bring that to the table."



*"Voting is the expression of our commitment to ourselves, one another, this country, and this world."  
... Sharon Salzberg*



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**Laramie County Commissioners**

**Laramie County Assessor**

**Candidate for Laramie County Commissioner  
Ty Zwonitzer**

*Jim Merryfield Pine Bluffs Post*

Ty Zwonitzer is a republican candidate for the Laramie County Commissioner seat. Zwonitzer is a first responder and serves his community as a firefighter for the city of Cheyenne. Zwonitzer gets great joy giving back to the community and enjoys the challenge of overcoming and adapting to changing situations as a firefighter. He believes that this type of problem solving and adapting will help him as commissioner.



Zwonitzer thinks that being a county commissioner is a great way to give back to the community. Not so much different than being a firefighter just on a larger scale. He believes that being a commissioner is a way to help the community and make sure that their voice is being heard. Both Zwonitzer's father and brother are in the state house of representatives and has been around politics for quite a while. He said, "I am not really into the socializing aspect of the job but rather the neighbor helping neighbor aspect and planning for the future." He wants to be in public service.

One of Zwonitzer's top three issues for the county is economic growth. This includes water supply and demand. "Economic growth is killing us right now. We need to use our resources adequately; grow responsibly and keep our infrastructure right." If he had to narrow it down to the top three, he would say, "economic growth, infrastructure and resources."

On a different topic Zwonitzer stated, "It's always hard to pit yourself against others. There is such a diverse group of people running and they all have their hearts in the right place." He said that it goes back to what he thinks that the county commissioner is, "a representative of the public." Being a firefighter he has been around all the different areas of the county and seen some of what goes on there, both good and bad. "I feel like I have a good understanding of the diversity of the county and a good understanding of the people." He added, "Being a firefighter I feel like I have my finger on the pulse of the community." He then added that, "I really don't have an agenda that I am going for, I just want to represent the people."

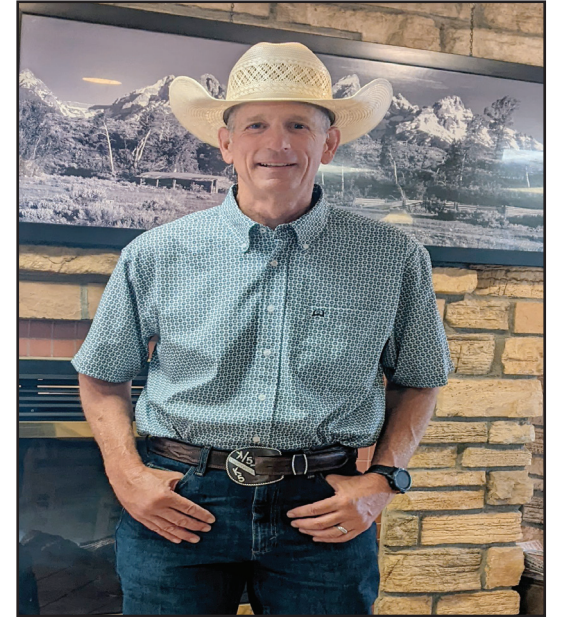
Zwonitzer wants the people to know that he is all about less government involvement. "People should be able to live their lives the way that they see fit. As long as it doesn't affect or harm others." He also added that he is just trying to do "what he does on a daily basis only on a larger scale." He added, "I like helping others and want to do right by the county and hopefully represent every demographic to the best of my ability."

This interview was conducted on 30 July.

**Candidate for Laramie County Assessor  
Todd A. Ernst**

*Karen Lipska Pine Bluffs Post*

Todd Ernst has been an assessor for years. He loves the job and numbers. In the summer Ernst volunteers for Cheyenne Frontier Days.



Most important question is why are you running? Ernst said, "I've been in the office for 31 years. I think I have the experience and the knowledge to run the office efficiently for the property owners for Laramie County. I have a great staff that I work with. We treat the people fair and equally for all the properties."

What do you bring to the table over other candidates to help Wyoming constituents that elect you? He said, "Hopefully I can educate the public about their homes. We are statutory, required to follow the rules and the policies of the legislation of the a state of Wyoming. We are not in the office make up our own values. We do have policies and procedures that are coming down from the state of Wyoming. How we value property is within their accounts."

people to know that I work hard for them year round. Trying to help the legislation put in correct procedures and policies to help the taxpayers not only in Laramie County but the state of Wyoming. My office helps educate and helps the taxpayers of Laramie County to understand what our job is and what the Wyoming statute and constitution will allows us. What we can do is mostly educate the people. A lot of people thinks the assessor's office is the taxing off, which we really are not. To let them know what their property taxes are going to. All property tax pays local, going to the local government, our schools districts, and fire districts. Everything is local, nothing goes to the state. There is a chart on the wall in the office of where everything goes in Laramie County."

What top three issues do you feel are the most important for you to focus on if you are elected? Ernst said, "To make sure our values are correct. Make sure that we are getting out meeting the state requirements, and visiting every property once every six years. Second to help educate the people with all the tax relief that are in play throughout the state of Wyoming. That includes upcoming long-term homeownership exemption. Third to help people understand what the qualifications are along with all other tax relief policies that are in play right now."

What do you want to say to readers that we did not touch on with the above questions. He said, "I'd like Laramie County

***"Voting is not only our right—it is our power."  
Loung Ung, Human Rights Activist***

**Local Elections**

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# Town of Pine Bluffs Town Mayor

## Candidate for Mayor Town of Pine Bluffs Justin Fornstrom

*Karen Lipska Pine Bluffs Post*



Justin Fornstrom has been in Pine Bluffs all his life. He has several businesses that have been a success in the community. Fornstrom attended different events that have helped out in the community and he is always committed to helping out. He supports school activities with his wife Kara and daughter in the spirit of the Hornets. First and foremost, why are you running? He said, "I am running because I think I have a good feeling for a lot of the goings on in town. The projects that we have and some of the needs of our community. I feel I am able work on those projects. I am in a pretty good position to be able to carry them out. Another reason, probably the primary reason I am running for election is that we have this project, a big project, maybe one of the biggest projects the town has ever taken on. The Prairieview subdivision is just getting on its way. Giving that was something that was started under my watch, I would like to see that through. I have enough background in that particular project that I would like to continue. In general I feel like the community needs good leadership. To that extent, I have a fair amount of experience in that area. I would like to continue to serve the citizens of Pine Bluffs in the max capacity."

What do you bring to the table over other candidates to help the Wyoming constituents that elect you? Fornstrom

said, "Running unopposed it is hard to say, but I do think I finished my last one with that. I have some knowledge of the process, and what it takes to do the job. Given that I had three and half years of experience. I have a number of years of experience on the project. I have management of all different kinds, from human resource management and budget management that I think is valuable in these situations. But I also think that there is always something to learn. I try to be responsive to people's concerns. Being able to work through those to the best of our ability within the framework

of our ordinances and what not. For various reasons, I just think experience is a big deal. Not just in government but in other facets of my collective life."

What top three issues do you feel are the most important for you to focus on if you are elected? Fornstrom stated, "Well, obviously the first thing is the Prairieview subdivision. The completion of that and potential future phases of it is a pretty big issue. We have got a lot of time and effort, and investment in it. It is kind of outside the box for a municipality to build a subdivision. I am not talking homes, but building the infrastructure for a subdivision. But that seemed like the only avenue available to us, so that's where we are at. Another issue I think is that during the next four years we will obviously be on track to go through another round of sixth penny. Identifying the projects that best serve our citizens during the next go round. We have spent a fair amount of the previous sixth penny trying to get this project out north off the ground. But we will have future projects. So, identifying our needs, not only the citizens needs, but the internal government structure. Hopefully we identify things that mostly benefit the citizens in some way. Then, the third thing. I would say is that I would like to continue to identify things that improve the quality of life for people in Pine Bluffs. Like the first thing was a

sub division. I think if we could get more available lots we may get more housing started and we possibly stabilize the cost of housing for citizens. I think if we can get that under control then we can focus on quality of life issues. Some of them are really basic, for example, potholes being repaired, and opportunities for different recreational activities. Maybe improve in small areas that are unnoticed by some members of the community but other members really enjoy them. Finding small things that continue to improve our community as a whole."

Lastly, what do you want to say to readers that we did not touch on with the above questions. Fornstrom said, "I'd like to say that Pine Bluffs is a great community. It has fantastic citizens that really kind of all come together to make a family type community atmosphere. To expand, we continue to do things that bring people together through cooperation and volunteering, things like that. We all have a better quality of life here in Pine bluffs. We also have a lot of things to look forward to. We have a potential missile project, and some other other things that are on the horizon. That brings a lot of potential influx of employment to the area. Let's make Pine Bluffs a great place to settle in to and call your home. We hope to keep expanding on this community, which really is a great place to call home."

**"A politician thinks of the next election. A statesman, of the next generation."...- James Freeman Clarke**

# Town of Pine Bluffs Town Council

## Candidate for Town of Pine Bluffs Council Member Allie Leitza

*Penny Merryfield Pine Bluffs Post*



Running for re-election to the town council of Pine Bluffs is current Council member Allie Leitza. Being a third generation resident of Pine Bluffs, Leitza holds Pine Bluffs near and dear to her heart. It is this love of Pine Bluffs that has kept her here and trying to do what's best for Pine Bluffs is her main interest. She confirmed her candidacy for re-election by stating, "As cliché as it might sound I truly love serving this community. It's the easiest community to serve. While it's not without it's challenges at the end of the day my love of Pine Bluffs and my love of the residents is what keeps me wanting to do this job."

Leitza was asked what are you bringing to the table this year for your reelection that you'd like to hit on maybe more into in the past few years. She responded, "I've had the opportunity to become more involved in the Wyoming Association of municipalities and I have loved that association so much for the fact that I get to work with other communities in the state of Wyoming. I get to work together with the elected officials and appointed officials in those communities as we work through our own problems together, and I hope that something I can bring in this term is some more innovation, some better problem-solving strategies that I have gained through working in this network of excellent humans throughout the state of Wyoming."

Seeing growth within the community through residents and businesses, with one of her top priorities being housing. "I hope to in the next few months, join the Wyoming CDA on their task force to be able to work together with other leaders in the state of Wyoming to help find solutions to attainable housing in the state of Wyoming and specifically Pine Bluffs. My second priority is to help market Pine Bluffs better. I think that we have such an offering of wonderful experiences. Outdoor recreation is something that we don't spend enough time working through and telling people about and I would love to spend even just a fraction more time telling people of what we have in Pine Bluffs."

Leitza is also on the Pine Bluffs Trail Days committee. "It is a pleasure to be a part of hosting the event that celebrates our community, showcases our businesses, gives our residents a chance to join each other in fellowship, and opens its doors and hearts to visitors and former residents." She mentioned, "Trail Days was thoroughly enjoyed by the community this year."

Another way to sustain our small town life is by supporting, promoting and creating recreational opportunities for residents of all ages. Some of my best memories of childhood in Pine Bluffs were participating in the activities provided by our recreational department. As an adult I personally enjoy having the hiking trails in the Bluffs available. When individuals

and families are looking for a place to set their roots, such opportunities are vital."

She was then asked, "What else would you find that would fall in this category of the three things most important to address?" Leitza stated, "I think to go back to housing as something that is so important for us. To find attainable housing or some people would call it workforce housing is that our businesses are currently at a spot that they can't grow because workers can't afford to live here, and then ultimately we can bring new business. So, part of my focus of trying to find this type of housing for our community is to allow not just our community to grow, but our business is to grow our business selections and to grow our schools to get better teachers, bigger swing because they're able to bring people here and not that the teachers aren't great but I think we have a hard time getting applicants in a community that doesn't have homes for people to live in."

In closing, she stated, "I hope that the members of our community think about Pine Bluffs as they cast their votes in the upcoming primaries, to do their research and to know which candidates know the issues of their communities, of the places they're living that they are choosing representation who will take care of them. I also hope that they know that as I am one of those candidates, that at the end of the day, my job is to take care of the residents of Pine Bluffs and to serve them in the best way that I can. The Pine Bluffs community is important to me. It is the place that I have chosen to make roots. I think that is true for many of the residents. I would like to see the town make progress while still holding true to the overall conservative nature of the town. It is of importance to me to see our businesses thriving, our housing shortage solved and our community outreach increased. I thank them for allowing me the ability to do that for the last three years and I'm looking forward to the next four years."

## Candidate for Town of Pine Bluffs Council Member Janna Kestner

*Jim Merryfield Pine Bluffs Post*



Janna Kestner has been a Pine Bluffs resident for the past 10 years. She has also been on the city council for the past seven years. She is dedicated to helping her fellow citizens and making the city grow and prosper.

Kestner is running for her seat again mainly because no one else was running. She didn't want to see an empty seat on the council so decided to run again. She also enjoys helping people and sees this as a great way to do that.

One of Kestner's top topics is available and affordable housing. She would like to see the market affordable to all. She also thinks that the north well is one of the more important topics. She is concerned about maintaining a clean and available water supply for the city and its residents. Kestner also feels that maintaining our cities' standards is important. "I want to keep our roads in good condition. Not that they are in bad condition now, but we need to ensure that the funds are available to keep them that way. They are our life-line to other services." She also believes that our parks and recreation services need to be in good condition. "It is important for families to have some place nice to go and get their children out of the house. Our parks and other recreation services need to be kept up and maintained." As

a city council member, she sees that it is their responsibility to ensure that the funds are available for that to happen. "A clean and available water supply is vital to the city." We must ensure that the city does not grow beyond the natural resources' capabilities."

Kestner wants the citizens of Pine Bluffs to know that she is always available to them. She is happy to listen and hear what they have to say. She is willing to help when and wherever she can.

★ ★ ★ ★

# Remember to VOTE!

★ ★ ★ Your voice, your choice, your vote. ★ ★ ★