



☒ VOTER

★★★ **GUIDE**

2024 ★★★

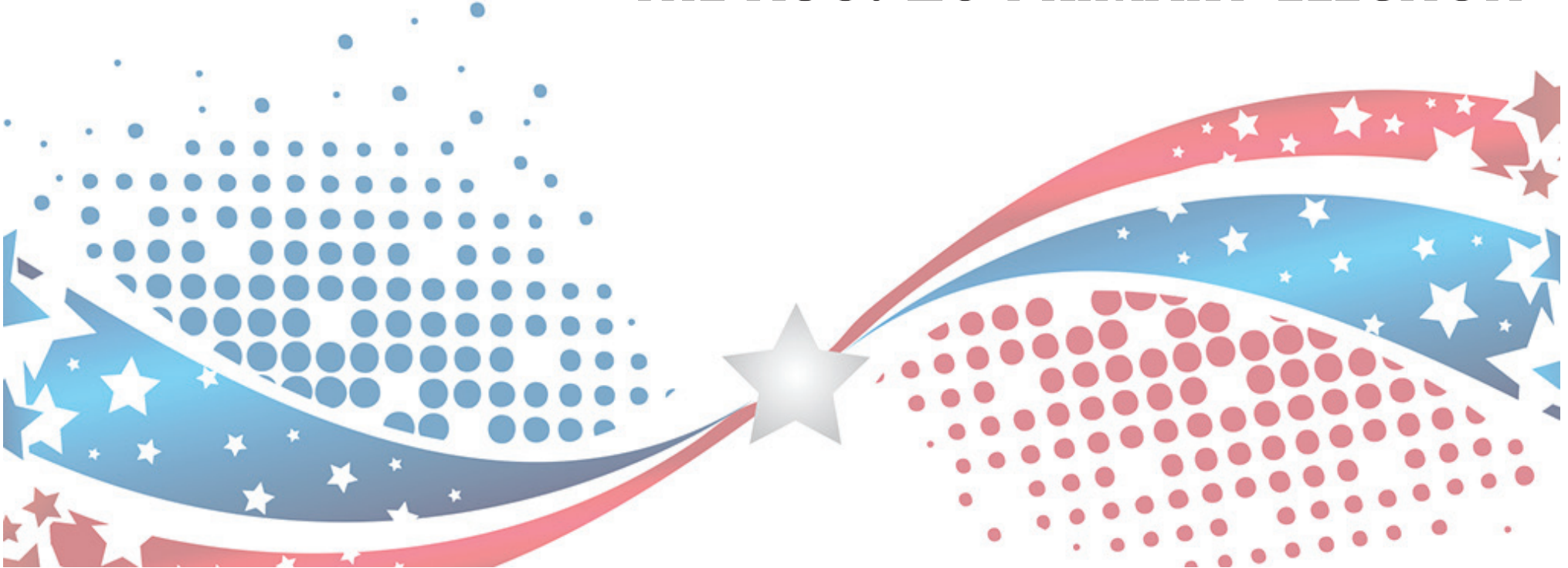


A special supplement to the

the kemmerer
gazette



**CANDIDATE PROFILES INSIDE FOR
THE AUG. 20 PRIMARY ELECTION**





Questions for city and county office:

1. What is your background, including your qualifications for the office you're seeking?
2. What are your top priorities for allocating city/county budget resources and how will you ensure fiscal responsibility?
3. How will you collaborate with state and federal agencies to advocate for the city's/county's interest and access resources for community development?
4. What measures will you take to ensure transparency in government operations and engage with constituents to address their concerns?

Lincoln County Commission

Republican: Jerry Hansen (Incumbent)

1. Thank you to the Kemmerer Gazette for publishing a special voter guide, and thank you to the voters for reading this information.

First and foremost, I am a husband, dad, and “Pops” (grandpa). Lincoln County is home to our family. We treasure the quality of life in Lincoln County, and I recognize the importance of protecting and preserving it.

I am a proud American and Wyoming native, and I am honored to currently serve as a Lincoln County Commissioner. I have served for many years in various capacities, including on a school district education foundation board, hospital board, town council, and as a mayor.

My wife, Jennie, and I are small business owners and ranchers. God, family, country and principle-based leadership are important to me. Personal integrity is imperative for elected officials.

2. As the public is likely aware, the other two county commissioners and I, along with

other county elected officials and department heads, develop the budget weeks, and oftentimes months, before it is adopted.

As part of the process, we meet with a variety of non-county organizations such as senior citizen centers, community centers, a non-district fire department, veteran services, search and rescue units, EMS providers, and other organizations that utilize county funds to operate effectively.

Many people are involved in the budget process. This, along with publishing the proposed budget, and holding a public budget hearing, helps set county priorities for the fiscal year and ensures transparency.

3. It is a team effort. Between the county commissioners and county staff, Lincoln



County has excellent working relationships with town, state and federal agencies including, but not limited to, the municipalities in the county, the Governor's office, the Wyoming State Land & Investment Board, the Wyoming DEQ Industrial Siting Council, the Bridger Teton National Forest Supervisor's office, the Kemmerer and Greys River Ranger Districts of the U.S. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management.

These relationships lead to cooperation on a variety of projects. In addition, Lincoln County joins with other counties and conservation districts in southwest Wyoming, in the Coalition of Local Governments (CLG) to collaborate and interact with various governmental and non-governmental entities

(NGOs) Good relationships have also been cultivated with members of the state legislature, the Wyoming congressional delegation and with county commissioners around the state, through the Wyoming County Commissioners Association (WCCA).

4. Lincoln County ensures transparency in government operations by giving public notice of county commission meetings and publishing minutes of commission meetings on both the county's website and in the newspaper of record in the county.

Personally, I am approachable and responsive. I welcome communications from the public in person, mail, e-mail and the phone. This and other pertinent information is available on the county's website at lincolncountywy.gov.

I frequently respond quickly regarding issues important to residents of Lincoln County. I would appreciate your vote for Jerry Hansen in the Primary Election on Aug. 20 or through utilizing an absentee ballot.

Republican: Eileen Merritt

1. My name is Eileen Merritt, and I'm running for county commission. I served my community as a volunteer in the EMTs for 20 years. I've been an advocate for Turning Point for over 25 years. I've spent 12 years as a board member for LCSD No. 2 and 10 years on the BOCES board, serving as chair for six years.

My husband and I owned and operated Wholesale Bait for 23 years. We have now owned and operated Legacy Homes Assisted Living for 26 years.

I've been asked what my platform

is. I don't have one, except accountability, transparency, communication. As a board member, it was my fiduciary responsibility to oversee and manage the budget.

I organized the Association of Assisted Living and Board of Care. I worked with legislators in Cheyenne to form a long-term care waiver, saving taxpayer dollars, and Lincoln County was the first to benefit from this program.

2. Property taxes remain the largest issue facing Lincoln County residents. Last year, 24,000 parcel

tax documents were sent out, and 405 residents applied for a Wyoming property tax refund. But 59 were denied, so only 346 were granted. I don't believe that's much relief.

I think we need to further investigate Secretary of State Chuck Gray's 50% property tax reduction initiative. I attended the budget meeting for the county after printing off a 45-page document. The meeting lasted eight minutes.

There are items I have questions about. Also, it concerns me that the commissioners voted themselves

a raise. This position is similar to being on the school board. It's my fiduciary responsibility to oversee the budget and ensure those dollars are spent with care.

3. Building relationships with state and federal agencies is very important. I did this while working with legislators to save tax dollars and implementing an Assisted Living Waiver, from which Lincoln County was the first to benefit.

I've traveled to state agencies to speak face-to-face and explain how policies affect us on the west side of

the state, and how it differs from the rest of the state. From that, a policy was changed to be more advantageous for the western side and fair for all involved.

4. I feel government operations get to be top-heavy, and decisions are made from the top down. Communication is the most valuable, and listening is second — listening to what my constituents need and want. Talking to those working in the trenches, asking them how we



Republican: Joe Heward

1. I live in Thayne, and I have dedicated 29 years to working with our local power company, Lower Valley Energy, where I've played a crucial role in maintaining some of the lowest power rates in the nation.

My public service experience includes 14 years on the city council, overseeing the Water Department,

Parks and Recreation Department, Community Center, and the Beautification Committee/Tourism Board.

Additionally, I have been continuously enhancing my skills by taking online business classes over the last eight years to adapt to new changes and demands.

2. My top priorities for budget-

ing city/county resources focus on ensuring that fundamental needs are met — this includes support for the sheriff's office, road maintenance, and essential public services.

I am committed to finding ways to save money for both the county and its citizens by updating our systems to be more efficient. Retaining

exceptional employees is also a key concern for me.

To enhance fiscal responsibility and transparency, I advocate for more accessible meetings through time shifts or online platforms.

3. In order to advocate effectively for our cities' and county's interests, I will actively seek input from our

state representatives and facilitate open communication with our municipalities. This approach will allow us to work collaboratively on projects and funding opportunities, ultimately saving money.

I am committed to sharing infor-

HEWARD, 12

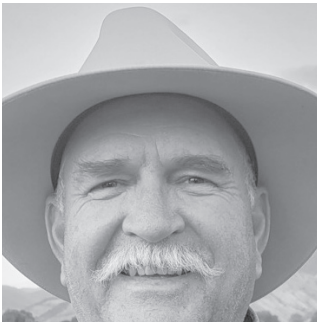
Republican: Mel Shumway

1. My name is Mel Shumway, and I am running for Lincoln County Commissioner. I grew up south of Afton on a family dairy farm, graduated from Star Valley High School, and attended Utah State University, where I pursued a degree in agricultural education.

I have lived and worked in the West my entire life, and I have a deep love for its people, communities, and way of life. We are blessed to live, work, and recreate in such a wonderful area, and I am committed to working hard to protect it.

My background is rooted in agriculture and natural resources. After many years in territory management, I started my own vegetation management business, primarily focused right here in Lincoln County. This work has allowed me to get to know the county well, from Alpine to LaBarge, and to connect with the wonderful people in every community.

Throughout my career, I have developed essential skills such as negotiation, cooperation, and leadership. These skills have been instrumental in



more. It will take a firm hand to steer some of the departments to make sure they are utilizing their budgets responsibly. Many departments run off mill levies.

Considering current tax issues, it is imperative to work with various departments to find ways to save constituents on their tax bill.

Property tax is a big issue. We could have up to four new senators and representatives in Cheyenne next year. We need to collaborate closely with them to find responsible tax reformation for our citizens. Also, it is imperative that we work closely with them to help achieve some of the goals for Lincoln County such as saving current industry and attracting more industry to the county.

3. Lincoln County is about 70% public land, so it is very important to have a solid working relationship with the various public land stakeholders. This has been a passion of mine for many years. I work daily with federal agencies and know the ins and outs of the way to get things done.

I also serve on the Wyoming Bureau of Land Management Resource Advisory Council. The RAC is an appointed position from the Department of Interior. We work side by side with the BLM in helping them focus on local needs for surrounding communities like the Muddy Creek Project in LaBarge.

Also, along the lines of protecting the landscape, I want to make sure we are protecting our waters and natural resources by utilizing the best current technology for wells and septic systems. Once rivers, streams and wells are in peril it is very difficult to

SHUMWAY, 5

Laura Taliaferro

PEARSON

Wyoming Senate District 14

PATRIOTIC REPUBLICAN

YOUR VOICE, YOUR SERVANT!

Our Constitutional Republic needs us, and I need you to get engaged, do your research and provide input! The future of our state, and the freedoms we want to pass to our future generations, rests in your hands.



Let's "right this ship" together!

I would appreciate your vote August 20th.

www.laura4senate14.com

Paid for by Laura Taliaferro Pearson

MERRITT / from 2

can make things happen.

Ensure bids, projects, positions are advertised; interviews held, with a process that is open and creates confidence and transparency.

I believe in being accountable. I believe in standing firm in what we value and what my constituents want. There is a reason people want to locate to our county. We need to preserve what our ancestors built, and we want to maintain for our posterity, so they can afford to live here.

I would be honored to serve as your county commissioner, and I would appreciate your vote on Aug. 20.

Kemmerer Mayor

Robert Bowen

1. I have been on the Kemmerer City Council for 10 years, so I have plenty of experience to draw upon. I have also been the commander for our local veterans organization for many years and I am a military veteran so I have the leadership skills needed to help run the city.

2. Our infrastructure, bringing in jobs and new industry, and maintaining what we have already are my priorities. To help keep our budget in line, I will be tasking our department heads and administrative employees with seeking out more grants.

3. I will work closely, and have the employees working closely, with other government entities (there are many ways Kemmerer and Diamondville can work together to save us both money) to get grants and work together for the good of the whole community.

4. I will make sure that all of our meetings will continue to be broadcast for all of our constituents to watch at their leisure. My personal cell number (254-223-3204) has always been posted on the city website and available to anyone to contact me with any questions.

I will have the citizen notification system used much more and keep our website and social media more up to date and informative. I will make sure staff has more time to answer the public's questions by helping them prioritize and manage their time.



Kemmerer City Council

Bill Price (Incumbent)

Bill Price did not respond to our questionnaire despite multiple attempts to contact him.

Dale L. Hicks (Incumbent)

Dale Hicks did not respond to our questionnaire despite multiple attempts to contact him.

Emily Hartmann

Emily Hartman did not respond to our questionnaire despite multiple attempts to contact her.

David McConkie

1. I have lived in Kemmerer for the last 36 years. Most of that time was spent working for the City of Kemmerer. The first 20 years was with the police department, followed by 13 years with the street department, including several years driving the garbage truck. I retired in 2021 and spent time after that plowing snow at the Kemmerer Airport.

That means I've been involved directly with the issues facing the city for a long time. I've praised things the city has done and complained about others. I've seen a lot of changes and watched a lot of people come and go.

I figure it's my turn to help tackle the issues.

2. The issue that seems to be there year in

and year out is money. Some years we have it, but most we don't. I consider myself a conservative but I understand that the main function of city government is providing services to citizens.

I get concerned at times that we spend too much on things that are "nice to have" and not enough on "must have" things and services.

I've worked in and managed the two largest departments in the city. I think I have



some understanding of what they need and what they may not need, as well as insight into why they do the things they do.

3. I graduated high school in Star Valley and my law enforcement career started at the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office. I also spent time working in the Kemmerer schools as a DARE Officer and School Resource Officer.

This gives me a wide range of experience working with

lots of agencies and the people in them.

We all need to work together to get the most out of the last taxpayer dollar.

4. I use Facebook quite a bit. I think it's a great way to stay in contact with friends and family. But I cringe when I see people airing dirty laundry or complaining on social media. Person to person contact is a much more efficient and pleasant way to deal with issues.

I will never avoid someone trying to express their opinion and would be happy to hear the viewpoints of others. I know I don't have all the answers to all the questions.

I look forward to speaking to and working with everyone.



Diamondville Town Council

Nicole Petersen (Incumbent)

Nicole Petersen did not respond to our questionnaire despite multiple attempts to contact her.

Cokeville Mayor

Colby Martin Peck

Colby Martin Peck did not respond to our questionnaire despite multiple attempts to contact him.

Cokeville Town Council

Cameron Bird

Cameron Bird did not respond to our questionnaire despite multiple attempts to contact him.

Charles Dayton

Charles Dayton did not respond to our questionnaire despite multiple attempts to contact him.

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clean them up.

4. Government on any scale needs transparency. It is vital in building trusting relationships. I want to make sure that county meetings are open to the public and that the public feels that they can communicate with any county entity.

While it may not be feasible to move meetings around the county, it is feasible with current technology to make meetings assessable and open. I feel it is very important to have county commissioners attend the various departmental meetings around the county. It is important to make sure we all are working toward a common goal for success.

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Kemmerer 307-203-0365
Cortney Reed





LaBarge Town Council

Jess Meeker

Jess Meeker did not respond to our questionnaire despite multiple attempts to contact him.

Opal Town Council

Mary Hall

1. I have been a town clerk, a clerk of court, a planning and zoning member as well as mayor. I have a background in finance and human resources.

2. I am 100% for accountability and responsible spending. I have never been an advocate of spending it just because we have it. Saving for an emergency is imperative for a town the size of Opal.
3. We will tap the local resources through Lincoln County economic development for opportunities to expand growth in our community. We will continue to be involved in SLIB for special projects and improvements.

4. Meetings will always take place out in the open forum. No side deals for special interest groups. Open door policies have always worked for me in the past and will continue to be a keystone.

Wyo Senate District 14

Republican: Albert Sommers

1. Both sides of my family were early homesteaders in the Green River Valley. I attended the University of Wyoming, where I received a degree in electrical engineering.
- I returned to the Sommers family ranch after receiving my degree, and I have lived and worked on the ranch my entire life. I have served

House District 20, mostly Sublette County, as their representative for the last 12 years. I was elected by my peers to the leadership roles of Majority Whip, Speaker

Pro Tem, Majority Floor Leader, and I now serve as the Wyoming Speaker of the House.

I am a hardworking, solution-oriented legislator who will fight for the people, industries, businesses, and natural resources of southwest Wyoming.

2. I support jobs! I have always been an advocate of funding for the Wyoming Business Council, which enables economic development in Wyoming. In particular, I have supported the Business Ready Community grant and loan program, which provides financing for publicly owned infrastructure serving the needs of businesses.

I believe the state should help our local communities become more livable and ready for business. We need



voted for more funding for career and technical education programs, and I was instrumental in passing and funding the Wyoming Tomorrow Scholarship program, which will assist adult learners through workforce development.

I am an advocate for economic development and diversification, but I also want Wyoming to stay true to who we are.

3. I have a proven track record of supporting funding for education (K-12, community college and UW), and I believe education is the single most important service that Wyoming provides to its citizens. Alongside hard work, education is the true equalizer in society.

to ensure that these programs allow both small and large communities to become more business ready.

While serving in the Legislature, I have always helped local and state efforts to diversify our economy, while strengthening our existing industrial engine. I also have



Paid for by Tom Crank

Tom Crank
Wyoming House
District 18

Lets keep with Wyoming's
founding rooted in
Faith, Hope, Courage
and Truth.

I would appreciate your vote
on August 20, 2024



Republican: Bill Winney

1. Thirty years active duty in Nuclear Submarine Force, to include serving as a chief engineer. Also served in command, where I wrote regulations, observed how they were understood and had to rewrite some of them.

Our Legislature rarely looks to see how legislation is actually understood and applied. Duty serving in the Washington, D.C. area interacting with Congress. Observing our legislature beginning to end for many years and speaking in public comment successfully influencing some legislation.

Longtime member of the NRA; current member of Wy Gun Owners; fully supporting the Second Amendment as it is written.

Have previously served as both a chartering organization representative and a district chairman with the Boy Scouts. Eagle Scout. Bachelor's degree from US Naval Academy, masterss degree in engineering; The Catholic University of America. Past President of a Rotary Club. Married to Louise for 52 years with three sons and five grandchildren.

2. Ensuring that our transportation system, particularly aviation, operates well is key to

an economy. Along with this is an internet backbone enabling businesses to communicate nationwide. In our internet era, businesses can be run from many locations in Wyoming.

Keeping taxes (including property taxes) low enables businesses to operate more efficiently. I believe that the Kemmerer Nuclear Plant will open a large door to power generation along with supporting fields (mining and refining of nuclear fuels).

We cannot predict what businesses may relocate into Wyoming. What we can do is ensure that supporting infrastructure is there for them. The new data center going up in Cheyenne is a good example of fulfilling the needs of a business: transportation (the junction of I-25 and I-80) coupled with internet access. Note that WYDOT's maintenance and repair, along with winter plowing of roads, makes a difference in the thinking of businesses that might relocate to Wyoming.

3. In question two above, I spoke to nuclear fuels, that opens a door to more mining; but,

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Republican: Dan Dockstader

Don Dockstader did not respond to our questionnaire despite multiple attempts to contact him.

Republican: Laura Taliaferro Pearson

1. My name is Laura Taliaferro Pearson. I am running as a Republican for Wyoming Senate District 14. I live and work on a family-owned, sixth-generation sheep ranch in southwest Wyoming. I am also a school bus driver and small business owner.

The qualifications are that I am a Wyoming citizen, at least 25 years of age, and have resided in my district for at least 12 months preceding this election.

2. The measures I would support to promote economic diversification beyond traditional industries, such as energy and agriculture, would be the possibility of off-track betting (which is a self-imposed tax), tourism, and letting businesses grow with less regulation, therefore incentivizing capitalism.

That being said, we need to get back to



coal, oil, gas and agriculture. I will do everything I can to support and revive these critical industries. Without energy independence and food, our country is doomed.

3. I would propose maintaining adequate funding for education by bringing back the energy industries. The fate of our state should not be held in the hands of one man. We need to start pushing back!

Also, how about heavily taxing states that want alternative energy to use those energies? After all, our beautiful state is being destroyed to push, in my opinion, a false narrative. I would bet this "climate change" narrative would fall by the wayside quickly.

We are funding education at \$20,000 per

PEARSON, 9

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



ENDORSED BY PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP



PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF JOHN BARRASSO

P.O. Box 52008, Casper, WY 82605

Wyo House District 18

Republican: Scott Heiner (Incumbent)

Republican: Tom Crank

1. I have served in the Wyoming Legislature for the past four years. I am endorsed by Wyoming Right-to-Life, Gun Owners of America and U.S. Sen. Mike Lee of Utah.

The Center for Legislative Accountability gave me a 100% rating and the Institute for Legislative Analysis gave me an overall rating of 82% for limiting government.

I serve as vice-chairman of the House Minerals, Business and Economic Development Committee, co-chairman of the Select Federal Natural Resources Management Committee and am a member of the Federal Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage Task Force.

2. I have fought against the Rock Springs BLM RMP, Greater Sage Grouse EIS and the BLM's new Conservation Easement Leasing program to push back on the federal government's efforts to shut down our public lands, outdoor recreation and multiple-use of our state.

Especially now, we need strong legislators who will stand firm and protect the state of Wyoming from federal overreach.

3. I have not given up on coal and have been fighting to keep our coal mines in operation. The rich natural resources that



are in Wyoming have fueled our education system and are largely responsible for the quality way of life that we currently enjoy.

We have the technology to continue to use fossil fuels with little to no emissions. Rather than turn our backs on these legacy natural resources, I believe we can capture the carbon from our coal-fired power plants and also build coal-to-ammonia plants that will have zero emissions while still providing for America's energy needs.

I believe the future of Wyoming looks bright for future generations if we don't allow the federal government to shut down our natural resources.

4. Government spending has historically grown much faster than inflation in the state of Wyoming. If we just slow the growth of government spending, we will not have future revenue shortfalls. This doesn't mean that we need to cut any existing government programs.

We just need to stop the double-digit growth in government spending that has happened for many years in Wyoming. Wyoming is a conservative state, now we just need to have a conservative legislature to represent the people.

1. I am Tom Crank, and I am running to become the representative for Wyoming House District 18. It was my pleasure to have previously represented House District 18 from 2017 through 2020.

My experience includes 30 years as a business owner, 42 years of private engineering and land survey practice, six years as a Lincoln County representative on the Upper Green River Basin Joint Power Water Board and the last three and a half years serving on the Lincoln County Planning and Zoning Board.

In my professional role, I have worked for nearly all of the local communities in southwest Wyoming, along with several of our large industrial plants and mines. I have been active in the community for over 40 years and have always been open to meeting people and learning new things.

2. We need to look at local manufacturing and services that sell to the world. I feel we currently have adequate transportation to get our products



out, but more capital investment is needed to develop products.

New opportunities are now on the horizon for Kemmerer, Green River and Evanston. We will need to take advantage of them as they happen and develop products that contribute to their success.

But we need to expand these to the small communities of Granger, Opal, Cokeville, Bear River and McKinnon. The small communities just don't have enough foot traffic to keep a variety of

businesses afloat. They must look to sell to the outside world, either manufactured, grown or attracted by tourism.

3. A considerable source of education funding comes from constitutionally-driven requirements. An in-depth review of the sale and leasing of state properties needs followed to make sure school trust land brings in the most revenue it can.

Energy is still being produced, so a shift on how we tax it should (and has been) be looked at. Raising the tax on per kilowatt produced/sold would help. Tax incentive for production with more Wyoming developed support facilities and equipment. Sales tax on those types of items could go to schools.

The real problem remains that revenue from minerals may not be enough. No one likes paying taxes, but neither do these industries. The fact is, something may need to give.

4. The question assumes

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more importantly, to processing and sending power out of state. There is a real issue with how property taxes are set with a constitutional requirement for all property to be taxed on an equal basis.

Ensuring business is not overly burdened

with taxation is important. To the extent our business environment is active and vital, our education system can be properly funded.

4. The start is to control spending. The way appropriations are currently developed actually limits the ability of individual senators and representatives to get down into the details.

Despite some 50 or even 60 amendments

offered up on any given budget as presented to the entirety of the bodies, the real meat is developed in committee at a level where most legislators do not have detailed visibility.

The Wyoming Legislature, as a body, needs an ability to get down into the details and apply a sense of controlling spending.

Our savings accounts provide a cushion,

as intended, but should a serious, extended national economic downturn occur, could be exhausted.

It is seductive for current spending to rise to the level of revenues available; such thinking leads to the historic boom and bust cycle Wyoming has endured. Controlling spending in the present is required of the legislature.

SOMMERS from 6

Furthermore, we are constitutionally obligated to fund an equitable, adequate education to every child K through 12. During my time in the legislature, we have made the state's "Rainy Day" account the backstop for K-12 education funding. This funding mechanism, coupled with the Supreme Court rulings on education funding, will

ensure we can fund education into the near future.

Remember, K-12 funding comes primarily from property taxes, not the state's coffers and, of course, the minerals industry pays a large percentage of those property taxes. I have supported and sponsored residents' property tax relief during my tenure in the House, and I will continue to support responsible property tax relief.

However, we cannot reduce

property tax to the point local government is unable to provide important services, like plowing roads, providing senior services, or where we bankrupt K-12 funding.

4. I served on the House Appropriations Committee for four years, and I helped develop five state budgets and supplemental budgets.

During that time, we had significant revenue shortfalls, and I helped cut \$900 million from those budgets. It was incredibly difficult.

We have a constitutional mandate to have a balanced budget. Therefore, we cut in times of shortfall, and we address needs in times of surplus. This is much like any small business or ranch.

Wyoming can maintain fiscal stability by supporting its core industries of natural gas, oil, trona, coal, agriculture and tourism; fostering emerging industries; and looking to the future through economic development. We need to

find businesses willing to relocate to Wyoming, hopefully small-town Wyoming, while keeping our state the Wyoming we love.

The investment income generated from Wyoming's Permanent Mineral Trust Fund provides nearly one-third of our general fund revenue. The legislature's prudent fiscal policy and our ability to save money will keep our taxes low, while providing much needed services to Wyoming's citizens.

Wyo House District 20

Republican: Cat Urbigkit

1. I've lived in Sublette County most of my life, graduated from Pinedale High, and married my oilfield roughneck boyfriend, Jim, at the age of 20 (38 years ago). Our son, Cass, graduated from Big Piney High School before Jim and I moved out to the Big Sandy area, where we run livestock.

I'm a writer with works published in articles, opinion columns, books and various news media, and scientific journals. I was one of the founders of the Sublette Examiner. I quit the newspaper business to write non-fiction books and owned a national sheep industry magazine for 12 years before selling it earlier this year.

Prior to launching this campaign, I was a columnist for Cowboy State Daily, and I write for a variety of other publications as well.

I've been involved in policy issues for decades, and have served on numerous local, state and national advisory boards. I have a history of holding public officials

accountable, fighting for the underdog, promoting open government, researching and reporting on the facts, and challenging governments to improve flawed programs, including suing the federal government. I am a former chair of the Sublette County Republican Party and a lifelong Republican.

2. Through promoting individual liberties, reducing government intrusion, and actively promoting the state as a place where innovation is welcome. We should provide comprehensive infrastructure and increase connections between communities, offer both technology and vocational programs to our citizens, and support programs that enable community-driven celebrations that incorporate arts, history and culture in our small towns to drive visitation.

I support efforts to develop infrastructure to disperse outdoor users into Wyoming's smaller communities and into areas with room to grow.

We should remain a top

energy producer through development of our rich variety of energy resources, and I support the Wyoming Energy Authority's matching funds program used to leverage private and federal investment for commercial deployment of a broad array of Wyoming energy resources.

Our economic development won't make sense if our workers can't make a living wage and have an affordable place to live. State government should play a role in structuring and incentivizing policies that make it easier for our families to thrive here — things like easing regulatory burdens and providing incentives for those providing childcare, health care access and affordable housing, three areas of huge financial burden for families that impact our



economy.

3. I believe that Wyoming's energy industry will continue to power the world as well as provide substantial revenues for our education system. The demand for energy will continue to increase, and Wyoming can help meet that demand.

I support programs that advance our energy economy, from preserving existing markets through improved technology and increasing recoverable reserves, to bringing new commercial energy projects to fruition.

Industrial minerals and rare earth extraction and commercial development are areas with great potential for increasing state revenues while meeting our national security and energy needs.

4. Again, I point to the

continued importance of the energy industry in meeting rising demand while providing revenue streams for public services. Wyoming has smartly invested in advancing policies, technologies and research for bringing new energy projects to commercial development.

Our energy portfolio has expanded from traditional and reliable resources such as oil, gas and coal, to carbon capture and utilization technologies, nuclear energy, and renewables such as solar and wind.

Wyoming is now known as an energy innovator and has strategically used matching funds to leverage sub-

stantial private and federal investment within our borders. All of these projects open new revenue streams for the state.

Wyoming has also been smart with its investments into savings, generating interest from investments that help to pay for state services. The legislature has also implemented fee increases for certain services provided by agencies.

Wyoming has tightened its fiscal belt during economic downturns and will continue to do so. But we've also advanced a regulatory and policy structure that makes our state a great place to do business.

Check us out on the web!
www.kemmerergazette.com

CRANK / from 8

that mineral extraction will continue to fall but, with some changes in federal government leasing and regulation, this assumption may be avoided. Let's, however, assume it does not change. Then, as in the past, cutting government services has for the last decade been the answer to this problem.

Time goes on, things get more expensive, and the problem persists. We can look to cut where we can, but a revenue fix is needed. We all know what has happened with property tax reform, so additional property tax increases soon are probably out of the picture.

Given the restrictions the Wyoming constitution places on taxation, we are pretty much limited to sales tax as the only equitable solution.

How we look to mix up exempt items (food, for example), will in my opinion, be the real debate. Everyone pays sales tax, so it is more equitable than property tax.

No one wants more taxes, so the best laid plans in this committee often get killed on the floor.

If elected, I would like to serve on the Revenue Committee, become better educated in what we can do and help find a solution to this long-standing problem. It is a tough problem that needs to be figured out equitably.

PEARSON from 7

student per year. That money isn't getting to the "boots on the ground" employees, and is not producing adequate results.

This is not the fault of our teachers! We need to remove obstacles that are restricting our teachers, get the politics

and federal overreach out, figure out where the money is going, and get to the root of the problem.

4. I would propose maintaining fiscal stability and addressing potential revenue shortfalls by lowering taxes, reducing regulation, reducing government overreach and expanding capitalism. We need to live within our budget. It's not a revenue

problem — we have a spending problem.

We have nearly \$30 billion dollars in reserves. How much do we need before we start providing relief to our citizens? I am running to be a voice for the citizens of Senate District 14. I see the frustration, and I believe that, together, we can "right this ship." I will be your voice, your servant.

ALBERT SOMMERS

For State Senate District 14

EXPERIENCE

INTEGRITY

COMMUNITY

Experience

Current Speaker of the House, community leader focused on local control

Integrity

Independent thought leader focused on real-life solutions for Wyoming problems

Community

Focused on jobs, our schools, and natural resources

Vote

On August 20th

Paid for by Albert Sommers

Republican: Mike Schmid

Mike Schmid did not respond to our questionnaire despite multiple attempts to contact him.

United States Senate
Democrat: Scott D. Morrow

1. I serve as an unpaid elected president of the largest retiree chapter chartered by the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) in this region. I previously served as the elected president of the 9th largest local Union of APWU. I followed that up with service as the elected director of industrial relations.

All these positions require an advanced knowledge of "Robert's Rules of Order," a voluminous book that closely resembles the 99-page Senate Rules. To be a successful senator you had better be able to read the rules, digest the rules and follow the rules. In all my officerships, I learned to negotiate, work on numerous committees. I was and am a fiduciary officer, budget officer and litigator when negotiations break down. I negotiated numerous local collective bargaining agreements with USPS management.

As the retiree chapter elected president, my constitutional duties are legislative and political as the main mission of the chapter. I have communicated hundreds of times with our Wyoming Congressional delegation.

In each case, the staff said they would pass it along even though the delegation voted 100% of the time against my current constituents. I advocated for and continue to pursue equality in forums like, but not limited to, EEOC, MSPB, etc.

2. It is not just Wyoming rural communities burdened with these challenging issues but all of rural America. The difference in Wyoming is that 37% of our brother and sister citizens are poor, many in the rural areas.

Wyoming refuses Medicaid expansion, leaving tens of thousands of us without adequate or affordable healthcare. I cannot force the legislature or the governor to do the moral thing regarding healthcare and poverty. I'll introduce legislation to have the federal taxpayers pick up the tab to shame the legislature and governor to expand Medicaid to all of our poor and uninsured citizens by making Medicaid a program fully-funded by the feds.

I have come up with multiple ways to pay for this program, for example, trimming a few hundred billion from the world's largest, by far, military funding. Congress dished out \$847 billion via the National Defense Authorization Act for 2024, and to the most corrupt and wasteful agency in the history of the world.

If we continue to allow children in Wyoming and elsewhere to go to bed hungry, go without healthcare when we have the resources to turn this around, while funding the war industrial complex at levels more than the next highest eight countries war budgets combined, we must stipulate to being cruel with extreme moral bankruptcy.

3. Question two covered this. Medicaid expansion, Medicare for all, a public health option added to the PPACA (Obamacare) are just a few of the policies that will improve healthcare access and affordability in rural areas of Wyoming changing federal law to allow Medicare to negotiate drug prices.

We pay the highest prices in the world for life-saving medication and that includes our rural communities. The Inflation Reduction Act took the first step toward this, and I support going all the way.

Our congressional delegation voted against these provisions and have voted to repeal Obamacare. That would be going in the wrong direction. Please also look at my responses to question 2.

4. Stay the course. In this democracy, if you like democracy, the BLM regularly develops regulations to manage all these areas. Every citizen of Wyoming has an opportunity to comment on these proposals before they are codified into the Code of Federal Regulations.

It seems to me, based on the written correspondence I have archived after receipt from our Congressional delegation, their priority is to lease the land to the dirty energy monopolies as cheaply as possible as they represent the rich and powerful.

I think leasing federal lands to ranchers to use for their cattle herds, etc., is actually helpful to the environment if done properly. Conservationists used to be a Republican thing but now seems to be more of a progressive position and a very important one at that.

I already mentioned the damage due to poor management to outdoor recreation enthusiasts like fishermen and hunters.

We need to provide spaces for motorcyclists and quad users, in a smart way that fits in with the other interested users.

I have entered numerous comments on these issues accordingly when the federal register announces the comments period for relevant issues.



Republican: John Barrasso (Incumbent)

1. During my 24 years as an orthopedic surgeon in Casper, I served as President of the Wyoming Medical Society and was named Wyoming Physician of the Year. I've had decades of experience caring for patients and families across Wyoming.

Before serving in the U.S. Senate, I represented Natrona County in the Wyoming State Senate. The Wyoming Legislature trained me to effectively represent the interests and advocate for the issues that matter most to our state.

In the U.S. Senate, I'm proud of my strong, conservative record that puts Wyoming first. I serve on committees that directly impact our state's energy industry, public lands, national parks, and trade. With my leadership positions, I've successfully promoted Wyoming's economy and natural resources, strengthened our national security, cut wasteful Washington spending, and fought against overreaching regulations.

2. As a doctor, I know how important it is to train the next generation of Wyoming physicians. During my time practicing medicine, I was honored to mentor young health care professionals early in their careers. In rural states like Wyoming, it can be challenging to train, recruit and retain physicians to practice in



our communities.

I've introduced bipartisan legislation that provides incentives for urban hospitals to send residents to train at rural health care facilities. This is a critical step in getting more doctors to rural areas to provide the highest quality of care to our patients in Wyoming and across America.

3. Rural health clinics and frontier hospitals across Wyoming work hard every day to provide our rural communities with primary care close to home. I am committed to helping to ensure all patients receive high-quality care.

As co-chairman of the Senate Rural Health Caucus, one of my top priorities is improving access to health care in communities across our state. Rural health clinics in Wyoming have faced outdated and burdensome regulations for far too long.

That's why I introduced bipartisan legislation to modernize the 30-year-old law governing rural health clinics across the country. It would provide rural clinics with guidance regarding the use of nurse practitioners and physician assistants, improve the ability

RE-ELECT
SCOTT HEINER
For WYOMING HOUSE
DISTRICT 18
RELIABLY CONSERVATIVE
"I represent the people"
PAID FOR BY SCOTT HEINER

Republican: John Holtz

1. I am an Eagle Scout and a member of the Christian Legal Society since law school. I obtained the first double-digit firm fixed-price contract in the history of the Hughes Aircraft Company. I was the head of the team to redesign the fire control system, consisting of the laser range finder, ballistic computer and thermal imaging system of the Army's main battle tank, the M60A3. I was in the Electro Optical and Space Division of the Hughes Aircraft Company.




My grandmother met my grandfather in Gillette in 1919, and her brothers had the livery stable.

My grandfather wouldn't let my dad become a navy pilot because cousin Earl Holtz was killed in a crash with Doyen Wardwell, the head of the Wyoming Aeronautical Commission at the Casper airport in 1929. My dad had to enlist in the Marines in World War II.

I was one of the youngest judges in Wyoming history and helped establish the circuit court system of today. I was president of my college fraternity and the president of the Alumni Association of the Delta Gamma

chapter of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity at the University of Wyoming from 1988 to 1992.

I was instrumental in placing the carrying of a concealed weapon without a permit for Wyoming residents on the Wyoming Republican platform in 2010.



2. Government is best that governs least. I will strengthen America's defense and reduce the deficit. I would make Social Security non-taxable once again. I would export our resources to Europe and Israel through the Straits of Gibraltar to broaden our opportunities. Wyoming is an energy treasure trove in an energy short world. Our natural resources should help our friends, not our enemies.

3. I have international experience and qualifications unmatched by others. I would cut social programs. I support Wyoming agriculture, absolutely.

4. I will follow the Constitution. I will strengthen America's defense and reduce the deficit and uphold the Constitution of the United States of America. I am not afraid to risk my career to do the right thing.

1. I am a lifelong Wyomingite. I began working at Wyoming Glass, a fourth-generation family-owned business, and attended the University of Wyoming.

My experiences have given me a deep appreciation for what our state has to offer, as well as insight into the challenges we face.

As a financial advisor, I have witnessed the detrimental effects of federal military mandates during COVID, which caused millions of dollars in damage by eliminating pensions and dishonorably discharging individuals who were faithfully serving our nation.

Frustrated by the inaction of current leaders, I decided to run for office to give a voice to those who have been trampled by big government. The path forward is to reduce government's size, not let it continue like the status quo has.

Republican: Reid Rasner



up. This involves moving away from the ACA and fostering a private, competitive healthcare market. Increased competition will lower prices, save taxpayers billions in the long run, and enhance the viability of local healthcare providers.

Additionally, we should reduce the statute of limitations for malpractice claims to lower malpractice insurance costs, making it more feasible for local practitioners to maintain their practices.

4. We need to allow the state to manage federal lands. The state has demonstrated the capability to handle these affairs more effectively, while the federal government has often mismanaged lands elsewhere. s

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is not equipped to oversee this extensive amount of land.

2. To address the unique challenges faced by rural communities, we need to encourage more private investment, cut tax rates, increase investment opportunities, and streamline regulations.

These measures will help supercharge Wyoming's economy and stimulate significant economic growth.

3. We must reform rural healthcare from the ground

U.S. House of Representatives

Democrat: Kyle G. Cameron

1. I am excited to share my background and qualifications as a candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives, reflecting a blend of professional expertise, educational accomplishments, and personal experiences that have prepared me for this role.

Currently, I work in program management for a company based on the East Coast, specializing in the application, submission, and administration of non-dilutive funding for small research companies. This

role has honed my administrative skills, such as attention to detail, time management, and the ability to consistently meet deadlines. Moreover, it has allowed me to work with individuals from diverse backgrounds, enhancing my communication skills and my ability to facilitate group discussions, resolve conflicts, and find common ground.

My educational background is robust, with a BA in Social Science from the University of Wyoming, a master's degree in

organizational leadership from Colorado State University, and a master's degree in philosophy from Walden University.

These degrees have equipped me with a deep understanding of social systems, organizational dynamics, and critical thinking, all of which are crucial for effective governance and policymaking.

2. As a candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives, I am committed to addressing the unique challenges faced by rural communities in Wyo-

ming. My policies focus on improving healthcare access, infrastructure development, economic diversification, reproductive freedom, workers' rights, transportation, climate change, water infrastructure, and housing.

I will advocate for increased funding for rural health clinics and telemedicine, lowering insurance premiums, deductibles, and co pays, and expanding Medicaid and community

CAMERON, 12

BARRASSO

from 10

of rural health clinics to provide mental health services, and remove outdated lab requirements.

4. In Wyoming, our livelihoods depend on preserving the health of our federal

lands. Wyoming landowners and leaseholders have proven to be the best stewards of the land.

Despite our incredible track record, the Biden administration continues to roll out rules and plans aimed at turning Wyoming's federal lands from "multiple-use" to "non-use." We depend on access to these lands

for energy and mineral production, grazing, and recreation. I'm leading the fight to stop this attack on our Wyoming way of life.

I'll continue to do everything in my power to roll back the harmful rules and regulations that are blocking access to our federal lands and energy production across Wyoming.

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VOTE

Mel Shumway,
Lincoln County
Commissioner 2024

★★★★★★★★★★

I work daily protecting our industry,
infrastructure and natural resources in
our county. I want to bring my years of
experience to work for Lincoln County as
your Commissioner. I am asking for your
support and vote this election year.

Thank You



ELECT

★★★★★★★★★★


Mel Shumway
County Commissioner
For ALL Lincoln County

Paid for by Mel Shumway.



Republican: Harriet Hageman (Incumbent)

Harriet Hageman did not respond to our questionnaire despite multiple attempts to contact her.

Republican: Steven R. Helling

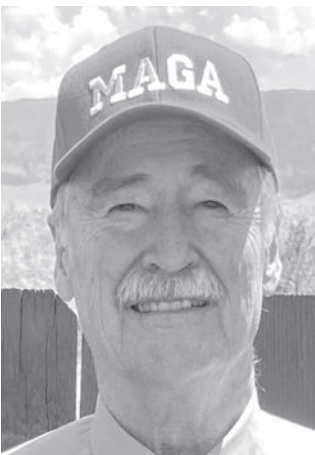
1. I have been a litigation attorney and have resolved literally hundreds of disputes. I have been chairman of an independent ethics commission that had jurisdiction to review the actions of public officials. I have been a problem solver for most of my adult life.

2. Wyoming needs to emphasize its quality of life and clean environment. To do this, we must maintain our nuclear free status. People will probably not want to come to a state if it is known as a nuclear waste dump, home to a dangerous experimental nuclear power plant with bomb-grade radioactive fuel.

I am opposed to the building of the experimental first of its kind nuclear reactor in Kemmerer. There is no permanent storage site for nuclear waste anywhere within the

United States, such that the waste will be stored on site in Wyoming. In addition, the safety of the plant itself is uncertain. There will be no prototype built to see if it works, the plant in Kemmerer will, in effect, be the experimental prototype.

Until such time as there is a permanent site to store the highly radioactive waste, there should be a moratorium on the construction of new nuclear plants. Joe Biden wants rapid expansion of civil nuclear. We should not trust Joe Biden with our health and infrastructure. We should all



be suspicious of Joe Biden. Twelve states already have moratoriums against new nuclear construction. Wyoming should become number 13, until such time as there is an operational permanent nuclear waste storage site.

3. Telehealth is one possibility. Another possibility is providing incentives for health-care professionals. Wyoming already does that for its medical students, who agree to practice medicine for three years in Wyoming, in the WWAMI program.

Unfortunately, only about 65% of the stu-

dents actually return to practice in Wyoming and the 35% or so that do not instead agree to pay the State back for their medical education. We could make it harder for doctors not to return to Wyoming to practice, which could result in about 50 percent more new doctors for rural Wyoming.

4. I would not micromanage federal lands, which comprise about 50% of the lands within Wyoming. Hiring competent and knowledgeable people to manage the land is the key, people that fully understand the various interests. We need competent, fair people in charge of management. I am Steve Helling, 2024 Wyoming Republican candidate for U.S. House. My email address is fightlikeHELLINGforcongress@outlook.com.

CAMERON from 11

health centers. I support funding for road maintenance and repair, developing passenger rail services across northern and southern Wyoming, and investing in broadband internet.

I will promote small businesses and emerging sectors like renewable energy and technology, providing retraining programs for workers in traditional industries. I will protect reproductive health care rights and work to reduce overall healthcare costs. I will advocate for equal pay, workers' rights to organize, and raising the minimum wage.

I will prioritize road maintenance and support establishing passenger rail services. I will promote policies that reduce carbon emissions and invest in renewable energy. I will

support initiatives to upgrade water systems and advocate for affordable housing projects. These initiatives will create a brighter future for all Wyomingites.

3. Improving healthcare access and affordability in rural Wyoming is crucial. Here are several policy recommendations to address this issue. By collaborating with colleagues in the House of Representatives, we can take real action:

Secure federal funding to support OBGYNs in rural Wyoming through housing and loan repayment incentives, ensuring access to essential reproductive health services. Invest in telehealth to provide remote consultations, diagnostics, and follow-ups, bridging the gap for patients in remote regions. Offer incentives like loan forgiveness or scholarships to attract and retain healthcare providers

in rural areas.

Deploy mobile clinics to reach underserved communities, providing basic healthcare services, screenings, and preventive care. Train and employ community health workers who understand local needs and can provide education, preventive care, and referrals. Enhance Critical Access Hospitals and Rural Health Clinics, which are vital for rural healthcare delivery.

Advocate for Medicaid expansion to cover more low-income residents. Currently, 11.6% of Wyoming residents lack health insurance. Work closely with tribal health services to address the unique needs of Native American communities in rural Wyoming.

Each community has specific challenges, so tailoring policies to local contexts is essential for effective

healthcare solutions.

4. Balancing the interests of various stakeholders regarding federal lands in Wyoming is crucial. Here are my proposals for managing these lands:

Establish strong legal protections for wildlife corridors on public lands to ensure the survival of game herds and mitigate shocks from severe weather and disease. Support the BLM's "public lands" rule to allow industry to offset environmental damages by restoring big-game habitat elsewhere on BLM land.

Facilitate dialogue among ranchers, conservationists, and outdoor enthusiasts. Engaging these groups in decision-making processes ensures sustainable solutions. Recognize that public lands provide significant economic benefits.

In fiscal year 2021, BLM-adminis-

tered lands supported \$201 billion in economic output and nearly 783,000 jobs. Embrace multiple-use management, allowing activities like recreation, grazing, energy development, and conservation to ensure economic benefits while safeguarding natural resources.

Promote renewable energy projects on public lands, such as wind, solar, and geothermal, to create jobs and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. Invest in infrastructure for outdoor recreation, such as national parks, trails, and scenic byways, to attract visitors and stimulate local economies. Recognize the value of ecosystem services like clean air, water, and wildlife habitat. Conservation efforts contribute to long-term economic stability.

Utilize scientific research to inform land management decisions, ensuring data-driven, sustainable practices.

HEWARD / from 3

mation about grants and funding options with mayors, town councils, water boards, and cemetery boards, ensuring that these resources

are accessible to the volunteers serving our community.

4. Transparency and constituent engagement are paramount to me. I propose expanding the number of commissioners from three to five, redistributing the current pay among them.

This change would include three commissioners representing specific regions and two at large, which would improve input and

accessibility. Additionally, I will advocate for scheduling meetings in the evening to accommodate the working class, allowing more residents to participate without needing to take time off work.