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15

SENATE FILE NO. SF0077

Open primary elections.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Rothfuss, Craft and Scott and Representative(s) Petroff and Zwonitzer, Dn.

A BILL

for

AN ACT relating to elections; providing for primary 1 elections allowing any voter to vote for any candidate 2 running; amending definitions relating to qualifications of 3 political parties; eliminating election of precinct 4 committeemen and committeewomen at primary elections; 5 providing for advancement to the general election; 6 providing for filling of vacancies in nomination; making 7 8 conforming amendments; and providing for an effective date. 9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:

10

12 Section 1. W.S. 22-5-404 is created to read:

22-5-404. Vacancies in nomination. 14

1 (a) A vacancy in nomination for office to be filled

2 at a general election occurs if a candidate nominated at a

3 primary election declines to accept the nomination, dies,

4 moves his residence from his constituency or becomes

5 disqualified to hold the office for any reason provided by

6 law.

7

8 (b) A vacancy in nomination shall be filled by the

9 chief election officer notifying the person who received

10 the next highest number of votes at the primary election as

11 shown on the official canvass, or, if no other candidate

12 exists, the vacancy in nomination shall be filled by:

13

14 (i) The state central committee of the political

15 party of the former nominee for an office to be voted for

16 by the electors of the entire state;

17

18 (ii) The county central committee of the

19 political party of the former nominee for an office to be

20 voted for by the electors of a county or a subdivision

21 thereof; or

22

23 (iii) If the former nominee for any office did

24 not indicate in the application whether he is a member of

- 1 an existing party as provided in W.S. 22-5-204(d), or if
- 2 the former nominee was a write-in candidate, the nomination
- 3 shall remain vacant.

- 5 **Section 2.** W.S. 18-3-524(d), 22-1-102(a)(xvii),
- 6 (xviii) and (xxv), 22-2-104(b), 22-2-117(a), 22-4-101(b),
- 7 22-4-103, 22-4-406, 22-5-101, 22-5-102(a)(i), 22-5-204(b)
- 8 and by creating a new subsection (d), 22-5-208(c),
- 9 22-5-209, 22-5-213, 22-5-215, 22-5-219(a), 22-5-220,
- 10 22-6-101, 22-6-112, 22-6-116, 22-6-117(a)(intro) and by
- 11 creating new paragraphs (xii) through (xxiv),
- 12 22-6-119(a)(intro) and (i), 22-6-120(a)(intro), (i) and
- 13 (vii), 22-6-123, 22-10-101(a)(vii) and (x), 22-10-108(a),
- 14 22-11-103(a)(vii), 22-11-104(b)(iii), 22-16-121(a),
- 15 22-18-106, 22-18-107, 22-18-111(c), 22-20-107,
- 16 22-23-103(c)(i), 22-23-202(a)(v)(B), 22-23-304 and
- 17 22-23-401 are amended to read:

18

19 18-3-524. Appointments to fill vacancies; term.

20

- 21 (d) For purposes of this section a person shall be
- 22 considered to "represent" a political party if he was a
- 23 nominee of that political party if his party affiliation
- 24 was indicated as provided in W.S. 22-5-120(a)(vii) or

- 1 22-5-204(d) when elected to office, or when appointed to
- 2 fill a vacancy in office of a person whose party
- 3 affiliation was indicated as provided in W.S.
- 4 22-5-120(a)(vii) or 22-5-204(d).

6 **22-1-102.** Definitions.

7

- 8 (a) The definitions contained in this chapter apply
- 9 to words and phrases used in this Election Code and govern
- 10 the construction of those words and phrases unless they are
- 11 specifically modified by the context in which they appear.
- 12 As used in this Election Code:

13

- 14 (xvii) "Major political party" means a political
- 15 organization whose candidate for any one (1) of the offices
- 16 of the United States president, United States house of
- 17 representatives, governor or secretary of state, received
- 18 not less than ten percent (10%) of the total votes cast for
- 19 that office in either of the two (2) most recent general
- 20 election elections;

21

- 22 (xviii) "Minor political party" means a
- 23 political organization whose candidate for any one (1) of
- 24 the offices of the United States president, United States

1 house of representatives, governor or secretary of state,

2 received not less than two percent (2%) nor more than ten

3 percent (10%) of the total votes cast for that office in

4 either of the two (2) most recent general election

5 elections;

6

(xxv) "Provisional party" means a political 7 organization which has filed a legally valid petition as 8 9 provided under article 4 of chapter 4 of this code. 10 filing of a legally valid petition entitles the provisional party to participate in the next general election. 11 provisional party's candidate for any one (1) of the 12 13 offices of the United States president, United States house 14 representatives, governor or secretary of receives not less than two percent (2%) of the total votes 15 cast for that office in that election, the provisional 16

18

17

19 **22-2-104.** Election dates.

party does not lose party status;

20

(b) A primary election shall be held at the regular polling places in each precinct on the first Tuesday after the third Monday in August in general election years for the nomination of candidates for partisan and nonpartisan

1 offices to be filled at the succeeding general election.

- 2 and for the election of major party precinct committeemen
- 3 and committeewomen.

4

5 22-2-117. Vote required for election; ratification.

6

- 7 (a) Partisan and nonpartisan Candidates who receive
- 8 the largest number of votes for each office to be filled at
- 9 the general election are elected.

10

- 11 22-4-101. Application; composition, election and
- 12 qualifications of county central committees; certificate of
- 13 election.

14

- 15 (b) The county central committee of each political
- 16 party consists of precinct committeemen and committeewomen
- 17 elected in the county at the regular biennial primary
- 18 election in accordance with the party bylaws which shall
- 19 comply with this chapter. Except as provided in subsection
- 20 (c) of this section, each political party in each precinct
- 21 shall elect one (1) committeeman and one (1) committeewoman
- 22 for each two hundred fifty (250) votes or major fraction
- 23 thereof cast for the party's candidate for representative
- 24 in congress in the last general election, but provided that

1 no precinct shall be entitled to less than one (1) precinct 2 precinct committeewoman. committeeman and 3 committeemen and committeewomen shall be electors 4 registered in the party and resident in the precinct. The 5 county clerk shall issue a certificate of election to the precinct committeemen and committeewomen elected and 6 concurrently notify the county central committee chairman. 7 The certificate shall state the term of office which shall 8 9 begin on the day the primary election is canvassed and 10 shall expire on the date the next regular biennial primary election is canvassed. If a precinct boundary line is 11 changed for any reason, the county commissioners shall 12 determine the number of precinct committeemen and 13 14 committeewomen to which the affected precinct is entitled.

15

16

22-4-103. County central committee vacancies.

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24

A vacancy in the county central committee shall occur in the case of death, resignation, failure of a qualified candidate to be elected to a precinct committeeman or committeewoman position, or removal of residence from the precinct. A vacancy in a county central committee shall be determined by the county central committee and filled by the county central committee and filled by

7

- 1 elector resident in the precinct in which the vacancy
- 2 exists and registered in the party or as provided by the
- 3 party bylaws.

5 22-4-406. Officers and nominating procedures.

6

- 7 A provisional party shall be subject to W.S. 22-4-302
- 8 through 22-4-307. Under no circumstances shall a
- 9 provisional party nominate by the primary election process.

10

11 22-5-101. How candidates nominated.

12

- 13 Nominations of candidates for all offices filled at a
- 14 general election, except school and community college
- 15 district offices and special district offices, may be made
- 16 by primary election., by petition for nomination as an
- 17 independent candidate as provided in W.S. 22-5-301 through
- 18 22 5 308 or by convention as provided in W.S. 22 4 303 and
- 19 22-4-406.

20

21 22-5-102. Eligibility to be a candidate for state

8

22 legislature; residency.

23

1	(a) For the purpose of meeting residency requirements
2	of the Wyoming constitution, a person shall not be a
3	candidate for the state legislature from a legislative
4	district unless he has been a resident of that legislative
5	district for at least one (1) year next preceding his
6	election. In any general election year in which a plan of
7	legislative districts is required but has not been enacted
8	into law at least one (1) year prior to the applicable
9	filing periods, a person may be a candidate for the state
10	legislature from a legislative district if he:
11	
12	(i) Is a resident of the legislative district on
13	the date he files an application under W.S. 22-5-204; or a
14	petition under W.S. 22 5 301; and
15	
16	22-5-204. Application for nomination or election;
17	form.
18	
19	(b) An eligible person seeking nomination or election
20	for a partisan office shall be registered in the party
21	whose nomination he seeks and shall file an application in
22	substantially the following form:

24 APPLICATION FOR NOMINATION OR ELECTION BY PARTY

9

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1
                                PRIMARY
2
 3
    State of Wyoming )
4
                       )
                          SS
5
    County of ....
 6
         I, ...., swear or affirm that I was born on ....,
 7
    .... (year), that I have been a resident of the state of
8
9
    Wyoming since ...., and that I am a registered voter of
    Election District No. ...., in Precinct No. ...., residing
10
11
    at ...., in County of ...., (if for the office of state
    senator or representative) in Senate (House) District ....,
12
    state of Wyoming, and registered as a member of .... party,
13
    and I hereby request that my name be printed upon the
14
    official party ballot at the next primary election as a
15
    candidate for the office of ...., and hereby declare that
16
    if nominated and elected, I will qualify for the office.
17
18
19
         If desired pursuant to W.S. 22-5-204(d) by the
20
    applicant, I swear and affirm that I am registered as a
21
    member of ... party.
22
23
    Dated the .... day of ...., .... (year).
24
```

1	(Signature)
2	(Residence Address)
3	
4	(d) An applicant for partisan office may indicate in
5	the application whether he is a member of an existing party
6	and whether the applicant wishes to have that membership
7	indicated on the ballot.
8	
9	22-5-208. Filing fees; exception.
10	
11	(c) A filing fee shall not be required of candidates
12	for special district director, school district trustee- or
13	community college trustee precinct committeeman or
14	precinct committeewoman.
15	
16	22-5-209. Time for filing nomination applications;
17	certified list; names on ballot.
18	
19	An application for nomination shall be filed not more than
20	ninety-six (96) days and not later than eighty-one (81)
21	days next preceding the primary election. Not later than
22	sixty-eight (68) days before a primary election the
23	secretary of state shall transmit to each county clerk a
24	certified list of persons whose applications have been

1 filed in the office of the secretary of state stating as to

2 each his name, age, address, office sought, and party

3 affiliation if declared. The county clerk shall print the

4 names on the primary election ballot. The number of

5 candidates the voters are entitled to vote for at the

6 primary election is twice the number of candidates to be

7 elected to the respective office at the general election.

8

9 22-5-213. Entry in pollbook.

10

11 The judges of election shall check or enter in the pollbook

12 the name of each elector voting in the primary election and

13 his party affiliation, if declared. An elector voting only

14 a nonpartisan ballot shall be entered in the pollbook as an

15 unaffiliated voter.

16

17 22-5-215. Nomination of candidates and write-in

18 candidates.

19

20 On each party ballot the candidate or candidates equal in

21 number to twice the number to be elected to each office who

22 receive the largest number of votes shall be nominated and

23 shall be entitled to have their names printed on the ballot

24 for the next general election. A write-in candidate shall

1 not be nominated and shall not be entitled to have his name

2 printed on the ballot for the next general election unless

3 he received at least twenty-five (25) write-in votes.—An

4 unsuccessful candidate for office at a primary election

5 whose name is printed on any party ballot may not accept

6 nomination for the same office at the next general

7 election.

8

9 22-5-219. Further action by nominees or elect not 10 required; exception.

11

- 12 (a) Candidates nominated and major party precinct
- 13 committeemen and committeewomen elected at a primary
- 14 election shall be deemed nominated or elected without
- 15 further action. In addition, each write-in candidate
- 16 nominated at a primary election shall comply with the
- 17 provisions of W.S. 22-16-106.

18

- 19 22-5-220. Withdrawal of nomination application
- 20 restricted.

21

- 22 A candidate may withdraw a nomination application prior to
- 23 the primary election only by filing a written withdrawal in
- 24 the filing office in which he filed his application for

1 nomination. If a candidate withdraws after the party

2 ballots are finalized and approved for printing by a county

3 clerk in any county where the candidate's name will appear

4 on the party ballot, the county clerk shall not be required

5 to remove the candidate's name from the party ballot, but

6 shall post a notice at each polling place announcing that

7 the named candidate has withdrawn from nomination for the

8 office designated.

9

10 22-6-101. Certification of candidates nominated;

11 printing of names.

12

13 Not less than sixty (60) days before each general election

14 the secretary of state shall transmit to each county clerk

15 under party headings a certified list of the name and

16 address of each person nominated by primary election as

17 indicated by the state canvass. \cdot , the name of each person

18 nominated by provisional or minor party convention, the

19 name of each independent candidate qualifying for

20 nomination by petition, and the office sought. The names

21 of these candidates shall be printed on the official ballot

22 of the general election.

23

24 22-6-112. Name to appear only once.

- 2 No candidate's name shall appear on the partisan ballot
- 3 more than once., except that of a candidate for the office
- 4 of precinct committeeman or committeewoman, who may also
- 5 seek another office on the same partisan primary ballot.

6

7 22-6-116. Printing type size of party and candidate

8 names.

9

- 10 On official ballots and ballot labels the political party
- 11 name or title shall be printed in capital letters not less
- 12 than one eighth (1/8) inch nor more than one fourth (1/4)
- 13 of an inch in height. The names of all candidates shall be
- 14 printed in the same size letters not less than one-eighth
- 15 (1/8) inch nor more than one-fourth (1/4) of an inch in
- 16 height. The name of each political party, if declared,
- 17 shall be printed next to the candidate's name in the same
- 18 type size as that of every other political party.

19

20 **22-6-117.** Order of listing offices.

21

- 22 (a) The major party primary and general partisan
- 23 election ballots shall contain the offices and ballot
- 24 propositions to be voted on in the following order:

1								
2		(xii)	Retention	of	justice	es of	the	supreme
3	court;							
4								
5		(xiii) Retention	of d	listrict	court j	udges	<u>;</u>
6								
7		(xiv)	Retention	of ci	rcuit co	ourt jud	ges;	
8								
9		(xv)	Retention c	of mag	gistrate	5 <u>;</u>		
10								
11		(xvi)	Candidates	for	municipa	al offic	es;	
12								
13		(xvii) Candidate	es	for	communi	ΣУ	college
14	trustees;							
15								
16		(xvii	i) Candidat	es fo	or school	l board	trust	ees;
17								
18		(xix)	Candidates	for	special	distric	t dir	ectors;
19								
20		(xx)	Candidates	for	other	offices	s of	county
21	subdivisio	ons;						
22								
23		(xxi)	Constituti	onal	amendme	nts;		
24								

1	(xxii) Initiative propositions;
2	
3	(xxiii) Referendum propositions;
4	
5	(xxiv) Other ballot propositions.
6	
7	22-6-119. Format of primary ballot.
8	
9	(a) The primary ballot of each major political party
10	shall be printed in substantial compliance with this
11	format:
12	
13	(i) Across the top shall be printed "Official
14	Partisan Primary Election Ballot": followed by the name of
15	the major political party;
16	
17	22-6-120. Format of general election ballot.
18	
19	(a) The general election partisan ballot shall be
20	printed in substantial compliance with this format:
21	
22	(i) Across the top shall be printed "Official
23	Partisan General Election Ballot";
24	

1 (vii) The names of partisan party candidates, if candidates have filed, and independent candidates, if 2 3 candidates have filed, shall be printed in a separate 4 column or columns, row or rows, and the name of the party represented or the word "Independent" declared, if any, 5 shall be printed directly above next to the candidate's 6 name; or at the end of the row. If there are a number of 7 candidates representing a party, or independents, the 8 9 county clerk at his discretion may designate a separate 10 vertical column or columns, or row or rows to said 11 candidates and print the name of said party or the word "Independent" at the top of the column or beginning of the 12 13 row; 14 22-6-123. Nonpartisan offices on primary or general 15 election ballots and ballot propositions. 16 17 On primary and general election ballots for containing 18 19 nonpartisan offices and ballot propositions, those

On primary and general election ballots for containing
nonpartisan offices and ballot propositions, those
candidates and ballot propositions shall be printed on
yellow paper or paper with yellow demarcation as provided
by rule and regulation of the secretary of state, separate
from partisan ballots. They shall contain no political
party designations, but otherwise shall conform to the same

1 general requirements for official $\frac{partisan}{partisan}$ ballots except

2 as otherwise specifically provided.

3

4 22-10-101. Criteria for approval.

5

6 (a) To be approved for use in Wyoming a voting 7 machine shall:

8

9 (vii) Have separate voting devices for 10 candidates and ballot propositions, which shall be arranged

11 in separate rows or columns, so that one (1) or more

12 adjacent rows or columns may be assigned to the candidates

13 of each political party at a primary election;

14

15 (x) Have the capacity to contain the names of
16 candidates constituting the tickets of not less than five

17 (5) political parties and independent groups and not less

18 than fifteen (15) ballot propositions;

19

20 **22-10-108.** Procedure for preparing machines for 21 election; inspection and certification.

22

23 (a) Before preparing a voting machine for an 24 election, the county clerk shall notify in writing the

1 county chairman of each political party having a registered with the secretary of state, and each candidate on the 2 ballot, stating the time and place where the voting machine 3 will be prepared for the election. The political party 4 5 representatives and representatives of independent candidates may be present at the preparation of the voting 6 machine for the election, to see that the machine is tested 7 for accuracy and is properly prepared and 8 that all 9 registering counters are set at zero (00000). The county 10 clerk in the presence of these representatives shall 11 prepare the voting machine for the election and set all registering counters at zero (00000). He shall then test 12 13 each registering counter for accuracy by casting votes on it until the registering counter is correctly registering 14 each vote cast on it. The county clerk shall then reset 15 registering counter to zero (00000)16 and shall 17 immediately lock and seal the voting machine with a numbered metal seal and make a record of the number of the 18 seal on the certificate for the machine. The seal shall be 19 so placed as to prevent operation of the machine or its 20 21 registering counters without breaking the seal. The county 22 clerk shall then immediately make a record the certificate for the machine of the reading shown on the 23 24 protective counter.

2 22-11-103. Capabilities required.

3

4 (a) Every electronic voting system adopted for use in 5 Wyoming shall:

6

- 7 (vii) Provide automatic tabulating equipment
- 8 which shall reject choices recorded on a ballot exceeding
- 9 the number allowed; , and at a primary election reject
- 10 choices for candidates from a party other than the party
- 11 for which a preference is expressed;

12

- 22-11-104. Conduct of elections in which systems
- 14 utilized.

15

- 16 (b) The county clerk of each county using an
- 17 electronic voting system shall:

18

- 19 (iii) Before testing an electronic voting system
- 20 for an election, notify the county chairman of each
- 21 political party having a registered with the secretary of
- 22 state, and each candidate on the ballot, stating the time
- 23 and place of the test. The political party representatives
- 24 and representatives of independent candidates may be

1 present for the test, which shall be held at least two (2)

2 weeks before the election. The test shall ascertain that

3 the automatic tabulating equipment will accurately count

4 the votes cast for all offices and all measures. The test

5 shall be conducted by processing a preaudited group of

6 paper ballots or ballot cards on which are recorded a

7 predetermined number of valid votes for each candidate and

8 on each measure and shall include for each office one (1)

9 or more ballots which have votes in excess of the number

10 allowed by law in order to test the ability of the

11 automatic tabulating equipment to reject such votes.

12 During the test a different number of valid votes shall be

13 assigned to each candidate for an office, and for and

14 against each measure. If any error is detected, the cause

15 of it shall be ascertained and corrected and an errorless

16 count shall be secured and certified to by the county

17 clerk. On completion of the count, the programs, test

18 materials and ballots shall be sealed and retained as

19 provided for paper ballots;

20

21 22-16-121. Certificates of nomination and election

22 following state or county canvass.

23

1 (a) When the state canvass is concluded, the
2 secretary of state shall issue a certificate of nomination
3 to each candidate nominated at a primary election and
4 certify the names of nominees as provided in W.S. 22-6-101.
5 When the county canvass is concluded, the county clerk
6 shall issue a certificate of nomination to each candidate

8

9

7

2014

22-18-106. Filling vacancy of congressman.

nominated at a primary election. or by petition.

10

11 An elector qualified to hold the office of representative in congress shall be nominated by the state central 12 13 committee of the respective parties to fill a vacancy for the unexpired term of that office. Nominations from such 14 15 parties shall be filed with the secretary of state and fees paid within fifteen (15) days after the vacancy is 16 17 officially declared. Independent candidates shall file an application and pay the filing fee with the secretary of 18 state within fifteen (15) days after the vacancy is 19 officially declared. 20

21

22 22-18-107. Filling vacancy of congressman;
23 certification of candidates.

2324

23

- 1 Within twenty (20) days after the vacancy is declared, the
- 2 secretary of state shall certify to the clerks of counties
- 3 voting to fill the vacancy the name of each candidate
- 4 qualified to appear on the ballot., and his party
- 5 affiliation or the name of a group or organization
- 6 sponsoring an independent candidate.

- 8 22-18-111. Vacancies in other offices; temporary
- 9 appointments.

10

- 11 (c) For purposes of this section a person shall be
- 12 considered to "represent" a political party if he was a
- 13 nominee of that political party his party affiliation was
- 14 indicated as provided in W.S. 22-5-120(a)(vii) or
- 15 $\frac{22-5-204(d)}{d}$ when elected to office, or when appointed to
- 16 fill a vacancy in office of a person whose party
- 17 affiliation was indicated as provided in W.S.
- 18 22-5-120(a)(vii) or 22-5-204(d).

19

20 22-20-107. Statement of purpose on ballot.

21

- 22 The county clerk shall print on the official nonpartisan
- 23 general election ballot for the next general election the

1 statement of purpose of each proposed amendment certified

2 to him by the secretary of state.

3

4 22-23-103. Division of city into wards; residency.

5

- 6 (c) In any general election year in which city wards
- 7 are redrawn but not enacted into law at least one (1) year
- 8 prior to the applicable filing periods, a person may be a
- 9 candidate for a ward if he:

10

- 11 (i) Is a resident of the city on the date he
- 12 files an application under W.S. 22-5-204; or a petition
- 13 under W.S. 22-5-301; and

14

- 15 22-23-202. Optional mode of election for towns;
- 16 procedures by charter ordinance.

17

- 18 (a) Any municipality may, by charter ordinance
- 19 enacted pursuant to article 13, section 1(c) of the Wyoming
- 20 constitution, elect not to conduct its elections for office
- 21 or for municipal ballot propositions in the same manner as
- 22 statewide elections, in which case the charter ordinance
- 23 shall at a minimum provide:

24

(v) That the municipal clerk is responsible for: 1 2 3 (B) Preparing the ballots in substantially the same form as the general election nonpartisan ballot; 4 5 6 22-23-304. Ballot form. 7 The county clerk shall prepare the municipal primary ballot 8 9 as provided in chapter 6 of this title for nonpartisan ballots. 10 11 12 22-23-401. Preparation of ballots and voting machine 13 labels; cost. 14 The county clerk shall prepare ballots which shall be in 15 16 substantially the same form as the general election 17 nonpartisan ballot, and voting machine ballot labels for the municipal general election. 18 The name of every candidate legally qualified to appear on the ballot and all 19 20 municipal ballot propositions to be voted on at the 21 election shall be printed thereon. The cost of preparing the municipal ballots shall be determined by the county 22

clerk and paid by the municipality.

24

23

1 **Section 3.** W.S. 22-4-303, 22-4-304, 22-5-202,

2 22-5-203, 22-5-205, 22-5-212, 22-5-218, 22-5-301 through

3 22-5-308, 22-5-401 through 22-5-403, 22-6-117(a)(xi),

4 22-6-118, 22-6-121, 22-6-124 through 22-6-127,

5 22-9-104(a)(iii), 22-10-101(a)(vi), 22-18-108,

6 22-18-111(a)(iii)(A) and (B) and 22-25-107(a)(vi) are

7 repealed.

8

9 **Section 4.** This act is effective January 1, 2016.

10

11 (END)