

# WELCOME TO VOTING IN WYOMING – THE NEXT DECADE!!

- Your County Clerks across the state are charged with conducting elections.
- We must look to the future to keep our voting equipment updated to handle elections in Wyoming.
- It's time to look for updated equipment and with the trends in America, also for the possibilities of what the next 10 years might bring to voting in Wyoming.
- With your help, we will review these options and determine what might be right for our county and our state.

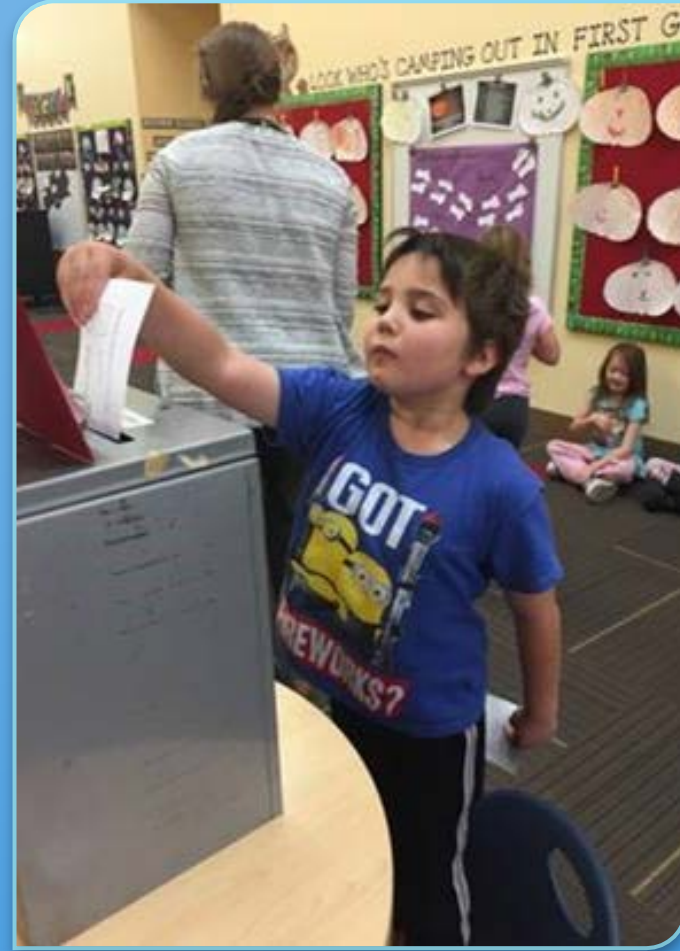


# **VOTING IN WYOMING – WHAT IS OUR FUTURE ?**

**Presented to you by the County Clerks Association of  
Wyoming**

# WYOMING COUNTY CLERKS MISSION STATEMENT

To provide the best election service to our constituents in the most efficient and equal manner



# 2002 HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT (HAVA)

HAVA was the catalyst for change in the way elections were conducted across the U.S.

- Punch card and lever voting machines were no longer to be used.
- Each state had to have a computerized voter registration system.
- The Election Assistance Commission was created to monitor all of these processes.
- HAVA requires ADA machines at every polling place.

Over \$8 million was provided from Federal and State Government

- Replaced voting equipment
- Built a computerized voter registration system
- Still in use today in all counties in Wyoming

Non-compliance of any of these new standards could bring in the Department of Justice for oversight in our elections.

# HOUSE BILL 0080 (HB0080)

County Clerks and then-Secretary of State Joe Meyer forecast the need for a plan to eventually replace the equipment, and proposed House Bill 0080.

- Would have set up a trust fund for the replacement of voting equipment
- Failed to be considered by the Senate Committee of the Whole in the 2005 session

Since that time, no effort has been made to work on the replacement of systems that would likely need replaced within a 10-year period.



# CURRENT VOTING ISSUES

Counties are experiencing a serious lack of election judges.

Three judges of differing parties are required by statute to man a polling location.

Counties are losing polling places.

Especially in schools and rural facilities with limited accessibility.

The state and most counties are in a budget crunch.

No money allocated to purchase equipment.

Voting machine vendors are warning that current equipment is nearing its useful life.

Although they are committed to supporting these systems, new technology is being presented every year and eventually they will not be serviceable.

County clerks are responsible to seek the best voting technology at reasonable prices.

Failure in any county could implicate the entire state, like in 2000.

Such failure could open the door for the Department of Justice to intervene in our election process.



# WHAT ARE THE TRENDS ACROSS THE NATION?

## ABSENTEE VOTING!!

Wyoming is a no-excuse absentee voting state.



## WHY IS IT POPULAR?

- Provides flexibility to people who are very mobile.
- Fits into voter's schedule better
- Provides voting to voters who lack transportation

## WHAT DO STATISTICS SAY?

Statistics show that Wyoming voters have increased voting by absentee by 35% since the 2012 Elections.

# OTHER TRENDS INCLUDE VOTING EARLY!!

CASTING A BALLOT PRIOR TO ELECTION DAY AT A POLLING PLACE

Early voting locations are available.

- Insert paper ballot into voting machine
- Vote on a Direct-Recording Electronic Voting Machine (DRE or touch screen)
- DRE's are allowed in Wyoming if three judges are present at all times during voting.
- Fits into voter's schedule better

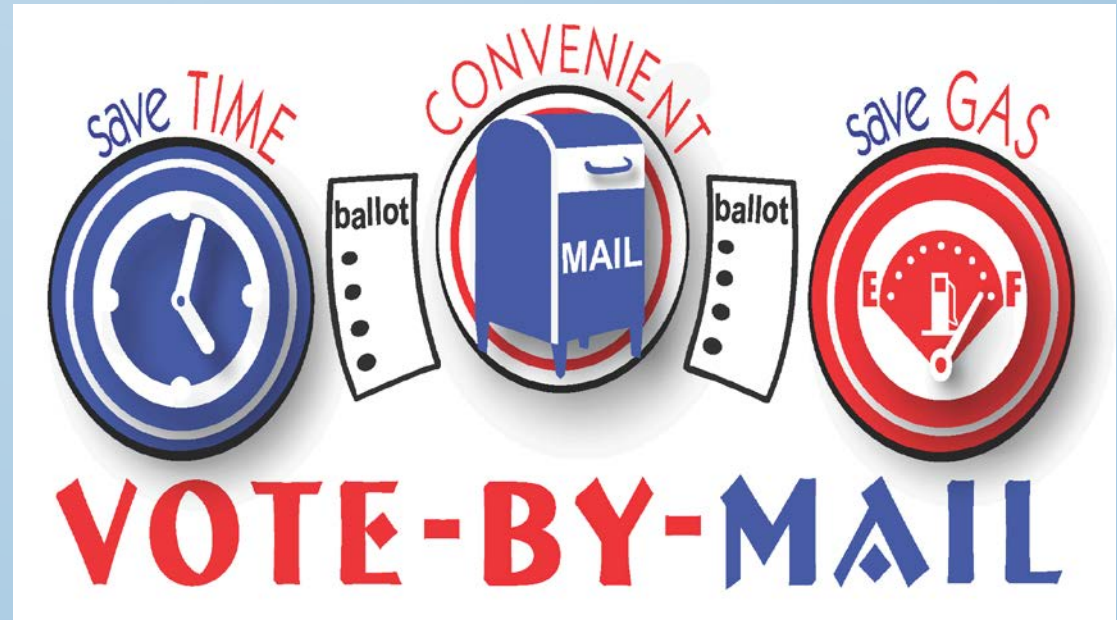




# VOTE BY MAIL OPTION

Vote-By-Mail is available in many other states.

- Appeals to young voters
- Allows flexibility to vote at a time that works in their schedule.
- Allowed in Wyoming in certain circumstances.
- Legislature would have to pass a law allowing this method.



# WYOMING ALREADY ALLOWS VOTE-BY-MAIL

- For Special District Elections
- If an election has to be done again
  - Absentee Voting

Wyoming voters have  
increased voting-by-mail by  
35% since 2012

# PRECINCT VOTING MACHINES OR DRE'S

Every precinct is open for voting.

Go to your precinct and vote in person on Election Day.

- Pro: Familiar and Comfortable
- Con: High replacement costs
- Con: Requires greatest number of election judges, without whom it's not possible!



# REGIONALIZED PRECINCT VOTING

It might be necessary to combine your precinct with another precinct and have one polling place.

Your polling place is likely to move to another location.

- Pro: Saves on machine replacement costs
- Pro: Fewer judges required
- Pro: Likely close to one's previous precinct
- Con: It's a change!!
- Con: It could mean greater travel distance for some to vote.



# VOTE-BY-MAIL PROCESS

- Ballots would be mailed to every registered voter, which would increase voter turn-out for elections.
- Election Day voter registration, address and party changes would still be possible at a polling place or places the day of the election.
- Ballots would be returned by mail, via secure drop box, or to the County Clerk.

## PROS

- Saves money! DECREASED cost to counties of about 46%
- Curtails fraudulent activity
- Provides more oversight of the election process
- Works with voter's schedules
- Provides time to research issues and candidates before voting
- Uses fewer judges and machines. Clerk can control amount of ballots printed for use.
- Signatures would be compared to prevent fraud

All mail-balloting  
**REQUIRES** legislative  
approval.

## CONS

- Misperception that mail balloting causes fraudulent voting
- People don't trust the mail system



# VOTE CENTERS

A COMBINED POLLING PLACE WHERE ANY REGISTERED VOTER IN THE COUNTY CAN VOTE

All precincts use machines and e-poll books.

- Pro: Voters can vote at any vote center in the county.
- Pro: Vote where you live or work in the county.
- Pro: Saves money on ballot production.
- Pro: Saves money on machines and judges.
- Con: It's a change!! May be confusing at first.



# PLAN FOR AGING VOTING EQUIPMENT (PAVE)



PAVE TASK FORCE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO HELP FIND FUNDING FOR ELECTION METHOD/EQUIPMENT

Members (Left to Right): Representative Robert Nicholas, Teton County Clerk Sherry Daigle, Secretary of State Technology Director Andrea Byrne, Secretary of State Election Director Kai Schon, Deputy Secretary of State Karen Wheeler, Sublette County Clerk Mary Lankford, and Senator Tara Nethercott. Not pictured is Park County Commissioner Jake Fulkerson.

Ex-Officio Members: Secretary of State Ed Murray, Senator Cale Case and Representative Dan Zwonitzer – Joint Corporations, Elections, and Political Subdivisions Co-Chairmen

# WHAT'S YOUR ROLE ?

Please ask questions.

- Input from voters and constituents is vital!

Please take the survey.

- Complete the paper copies
- Go online at  
<https://goo.gl/forms/7X83mXB54dC9ViTy2>

Get the word out!

- Tell your friends, family and coworkers
- Attend another Town Hall Meeting
- Get involved

Thank you for coming!!

