

# Wyoming Primary Election

**Editor's Note:** All candidates for Wyoming United States Senator and Wyoming United States Representative were provided the opportunity to submit a position statement (no more than 600 words). In the position statement, the candidates were asked to **"Please address agriculture issues to show our members your vision to support food production in Wyoming and America."** Those candidates (in alphabetical order) who replied have their responses printed as received in this special election issue.

## CANDIDATES FOR UNITED STATES SENATOR

### John Barrasso, Republican

**A**griculture is the heart of Wyoming. It is the foundation of Wyoming's economy, energy and natural resource industries, and families across the state. I am proud to represent Wyoming and to continue working for a better future for our family producers.

In the last decade, we have seen a shift across the nation where the gap between consumers and producers has become larger than ever before. Urban areas control a mass majority of politics in many states and in our Capitol. Policies from Washington continue to overlook our rural agriculture producers.

Between the Rock Springs Resource Management Plan, the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Public Land Health Rule and the proposed Greater Sage Grouse Resource Plans, it is clear the policies coming out of the Biden administration are written with no regard for the people who live and work on the land every day.

Our federal lands make up nearly half of the state of Wyoming. We don't need the BLM to mandate conservation – it's always been a big part of everything we do. 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." The people of Wyoming depend on access to these lands for our livelihoods – including energy and mineral production, grazing, and recreation. I continue to lead the fight to stop this attack on our Wyoming way of life.

In the Senate, I've introduced legislation that makes it easier for ranchers to make range improvements on federal land. We need to streamline the permitting process and ensure a timelier response from federal agencies for our ranchers. Right now, ranchers who hold grazing permits, either with the BLM or the U.S. Forest Service, must renegotiate their permit to make range improvements not outlined in their original agreement. I'm working to remove this restriction on ranchers and allow producers to continue conducting their operations while still protecting our lands from unapproved changes.

I have long said that the BLM must rely on local experts in Wyoming and across the West as it updates its Greater Sage Grouse Resource Plan. This one-size-fits-all approach to land management is a disaster for local experts and officials. It will create even more strife for stakeholders with vested interests in these acres that are de-facto withdrawn from development. BLM must

continue the good faith understanding between state and local governments and impacted communities and preserve flexible management practices.

Throughout my time working for you in the U.S. Senate, I've supported pro-growth policies that cut taxes for farmers, ranchers, and working families. I've fought against the punishing and supercharged death tax proposals which would wipe out generationally owned Ag operations and family businesses. I've also sponsored legislation to protect the small business pass-through deduction which has benefited farmers and Main Street businesses. And I've supported and introduced legislation to help accelerate tax write-offs for purchases of equipment and machinery that help American farmers and ranchers put clothes on our backs and food on our tables.

In Wyoming, our agriculture industry has a long and proud history. We know if agriculture is strong, so are our western communities. I will continue the fight to eliminate destructive regulations hurting our communities. This will ensure Wyoming's farmers and ranchers can focus on running their operations - not dealing with Washington red tape.

John Barrasso, M.D.  
U.S. Senator

### John Holtz, Republican

**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; and 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 concealed weapon without a permit for Wyoming residents on the Wyoming Republican platform in 2010. I am a life member of the NRA.

I was class president at Clark Air Base in the Philippines, where the Japanese first developed kamikaze tactics as a mass weapon of war. I was on the Bataan Death March 20th anniversary march with three of the original survivors and received the historic trail award.

My grandmother and grandfather moved to Omaha after living in Gillette. I was born in Omaha and my father was in the Air Force. We lived all over the world. I began kindergarten on a base in Anchorage when Alaska was still a territory.

My father was an OSI agent and we spent many years in Del Rio, Texas, where our family friend, Major Rudolph Anderson, was the first casualty of the Cold War. He was shot down over Cuba in a U2 when we were at Clark in the Philippines.

I graduated high school in Omaha and began college at the University of Maryland, in Munich when my father received orders to be Deputy Inspector General of

Security for the United States Air Force in Wiesbaden. I graduated from the University of Wyoming and went to law school at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas. I was a judge for many years in Douglas. I was a Space Systems Operations Officer in the United States Air Force. I am passionate about strengthening America's defense and reducing the deficit before we experience hyperinflation.

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.

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

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.

CANDIDATES FOR **US SENATOR** CONTINUED ON **PAGE 11**

**VOTE • AUGUST 20 // VOTE • AUGUST 20 // VOTE • AUGUST 20**

# Wyoming Primary Election

CANDIDATES FOR **US SENATOR** CONTINUED FROM **PAGE 10**

## Scott Morrow, Democratic

No response received.

## Reid Rasner, Republican

**A**s a fourth-generation Wyomingite, I understand the pressures on everyday people from higher food prices, declining food standards, and increased dependence on foreign interests for food, fertilizer, and various farming products that used to be made right here in America. It's high time we stop outsourcing our best bet at winning the future and start making these products at home.

Our farmers rely on subsidies, many of which Democrats in Congress threaten to cut. We cannot allow that to happen. Maintaining and protecting our domestic farming industry is crucial for our national security and economic security. The U.S. is the leader in food availability and selection around the world, and protecting our farmers is paramount to our national identity.

Consider this: American farmers contribute over \$136 billion annually to the economy, and agriculture employs

more than 22 million Americans, directly and indirectly. Yet, 30% of our fertilizer is imported, increasing our vulnerability to global market fluctuations and foreign policy issues. By revitalizing our domestic production, we can reduce these dependencies and strengthen our food security.

From day one, I will fight tooth and nail to protect our farmers. They are the backbone of our nation, and ensuring their success is vital for our future.

# CANDIDATES FOR UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

## Kyle G. Cameron, Democratic

**W**yoming, with its vast landscapes and sparse population, plays a pivotal role in the United States' agricultural framework, particularly in livestock and increasingly in crop production. Despite its contributions, the state faces significant challenges that threaten the sustainability and efficiency of its agricultural sector. Addressing these issues is crucial not only for Wyoming's economic well-being but also for national food security. This position statement highlights the main challenges and proposes a comprehensive strategy to bolster agricultural practices in Wyoming and the wider U.S.

Water scarcity stands as a critical challenge for Wyoming's agriculture. The state's semi-arid climate and the increasing unpredictability of water availability necessitate innovative water management and conservation strategies. Emphasizing efficient irrigation techniques, enhancing water storage, and developing drought-resistant crops are essential steps toward mitigating this issue.

Soil erosion, particularly from wind, threatens Wyoming's agricultural productivity by depleting fertile topsoil. Addressing this requires the adoption of soil conservation practices such as cover cropping, reduced tillage, and the preservation of natural vegetation to prevent erosion and improve soil health.

Fluctuating commodity prices, high operational costs, and limited market access place significant economic strain on Wyoming's farmers and ranchers. Enhancing local and regional food systems, fostering cooperative marketing efforts, and promoting value-

added agriculture could alleviate some of these financial challenges.

The agricultural sector in Wyoming, reflective of a nationwide trend, grapples with labor shortages. The demanding nature of farm work and the rural setting of operations complicate efforts to attract and retain a stable workforce. Solutions include investing in agricultural education, offering worker incentives, and exploring the potential of mechanization and automation to fill labor gaps.

The effects of increased temperatures, altered precipitation patterns, and more frequent extreme weather events, are already being felt in Wyoming. Adopting adaptive strategies, diversifying crops, and implementing climate-smart agricultural practices are vital for the sector's resilience and sustainability.

To support and enhance Wyoming's agricultural sector and its contribution to U.S. food production, a multifaceted approach focusing on sustainable water use, soil health, economic stability, labor solutions, and climate adaptation is necessary. Promoting modern irrigation technologies, encouraging regenerative agricultural practices, strengthening local food systems, investing in agricultural education and workforce development, and incentivizing climate-smart agriculture are key components of this strategy.

Advancements in irrigation technology and water-saving practices can significantly reduce water wastage, while the development of drought-resistant crops can ensure consistent yields despite water scarcity.

A statewide initiative promoting soil health through regenerative practices such as crop rotation and agroforestry can improve soil fertility, reduce erosion, and enhance water retention.

Developing local and regional food systems can offer farmers more stable markets, reduce dependency on distant markets, and support local economies through direct-to-consumer sales and local food procurement policies.

Enhancing agricultural education and offering training in modern agricultural technologies and practices can attract new talent to the sector and prepare the workforce for future challenges.

Encouraging practices that increase carbon sequestration, improve water management, and enhance resilience to climate variability is essential. Providing incentives and support for farmers adopting these practices can drive the transition towards a more sustainable agricultural model.

Addressing the agricultural issues in Wyoming requires a multifaceted approach that embraces sustainability, innovation, and resilience. By focusing on water management, soil health, economic viability, labor solutions, and climate adaptation, Wyoming can strengthen its agricultural sector and contribute significantly to the United States' food production. This vision for the future calls for collaboration among farmers, policymakers, researchers, and communities to create a resilient and prosperous agricultural landscape in Wyoming and beyond. Vote for me in November and I'll vote for you in Washington.

As always,  
El

CANDIDATES FOR **US REPRESENTATIVE** CONTINUED ON **PAGE 12**

# Wyoming Primary Election

CANDIDATES FOR **US REPRESENTATIVE** CONTINUED FROM **PAGE 11**

## Harriet Hageman, Republican

**W**hile I frequently discuss the importance of domestic energy production to national security—the same can be said of our ag industry. The relationship between affordable and reliable energy and our ability to produce affordable, abundant food is obvious. Our food producers are often the hardest hit whenever the cost of gasoline, diesel, natural gas, and electricity goes up. Increasing energy costs translates to an immediate increase in the cost of operating center pivots, buying fertilizer, and purchasing livestock feed. Thus, we should support our ag industry's ability to produce high quality food and fiber, our government bureaucrats are saddling them with ever increasing red tape and cumbersome regulations, putting them out of business.

We have witnessed the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) purchasing our farmland. Our pork and poultry industries have been largely corporatized, with just a few big names controlling the supply chain. Our beef industry is being vertically integrated, with independent producers being squeezed out because of higher production costs, while three of our largest meat packers are foreign owned. These developments spell a potential disaster for our food supply and must be addressed, but we must also acknowledge that the relentless drive to

destroy production of affordable and reliable energy is at the heart of this destabilization.

Congress can and should address the food/energy relationship and bring common sense back into vogue. I am working with like-minded conservatives to prohibit foreign entities from buying land and introduced a bill to mandate “country of origin” labeling or “MCOOL” for meat. With the Biden administration's new regulations targeting our food and energy industries (his “war on the west”), however, we must do more, including blocking the BLM from using the “Conservation and Landscape Health” rule to deny access, management, use and development of our public lands. This BLM rule would redefine “multiple-use” to elevate their definition of “conservation” above the long-standing statutory uses under FLPMA, including livestock grazing. We must fight the BLM's illegal Rock Springs and Buffalo RMPs, the USDA's EID mandate (requiring the use of electronic eartags), and the EPA's war on everything (water use, land use, energy production, food production). These are a few important policies, but there are many more.

Despite these challenges, I remain optimistic. America is blessed with an abundance of natural resources, water, and high-quality lands for producing food and energy. We are blessed with a climate and weather patterns from north to south and west to

east that allow us to maximize food production; raise millions of head of livestock; and provide the resources for an abundance of wildlife, waterfowl, flora and fauna. We lead the world in protecting our environment, while having the highest standard of living and prosperity. In the last 100 years—with commercial production of affordable energy and food—we have dramatically increased our life expectancy, reduced infant mortality, and been at the forefront of every major innovation in healthcare, technology, manufacturing, and agriculture.

America has made these advances despite the overbearing regulatory state, not because of it. The Biden administration's onslaught of regulations has created a tipping point for whether we will continue to be “the bright shining city on the hill,” including with regard to food production.

The upcoming election is monumentally important at both the federal and state levels. I encourage you to study the voting records and history of those seeking office. Ensure that everyone's actions align with their words, and demand accountability. We can then take back our country, restore our Constitutional Republic, and protect those who have dedicated their lives to providing us with the highest quality agriculture products in the world.

## Steven R. Helling, Republican

**T**hank you for this opportunity to submit a position statement. I am a Christian, very pro-life, and a huge Donald Trump supporter. Farming and ranching are a big part of our Wyoming heritage, but family operations are under great pressure from inflation and Big Agra. Wyoming lost 500,000 acres of farm and ranch land last year. Reducing energy costs and low inflation are critical to keep family operations affordable. I am a supporter of the use of fossil fuels, which have provided clean and reliable energy for years. I am opposed to the construction of new nuclear power plants, including the highly experimental plant in Kemmerer until such time as there is first a permanent storage site for the resulting nuclear waste.

President Joe Biden wants a rapid expansion of civil nuclear deployment in the United States, even if there is no permanent storage site for the nuclear waste. TerraPower has agreed with Joe Biden and has already requested an expedited review of its application in Kemmerer. Meanwhile, Joe Biden has repeatedly shown he does not care about the best interests of this country and its people. In addition to promoting

open borders (and even flying to foreign airports to bring in hundreds of thousands of additional illegal migrants), and thereby allowing terrorists, criminals, mental patients, and others to enter our country, he has depleted our strategic petroleum reserves from 638 million barrels (Jan. 2017) to 367 million barrels (May 2024). He wants us to have electric tanks in our military. He wants biological men to be able to participate in women's sports.

The people of Wyoming should not trust Joe Biden. There is no place to permanently store nuclear waste, which remains dangerously radioactive for hundreds of thousands of years. We must not burden thousands of future generations with the problem of dealing with our nuclear waste. The nuclear waste in Kemmerer will remain in Kemmerer. There is a possibility Kemmerer will become the permanent nuclear waste storage dump for the entire nation. In Germany, where they shut down their last nuclear reactor in 2023, after Germans got fed up with the lies, cover-ups, and radiation poisoning, a government official was quoted as saying 3 generations of Germans had

received benefit from nuclear power and about 30,000 generations of Germans would have to deal with the resulting nuclear waste. There was concern about how to label any nuclear waste storage site so that people 100,000 or more years from now could be warned of the danger, as languages and signs could change over hundreds of thousands of years.

Wyoming will be one catastrophe away from thousands of square miles of nuclear radiation poisoning. Twelve states already have nuclear moratoriums against new nuclear construction until such time as the United States has a permanent storage site for nuclear waste. The whole country should have such a moratorium. President Reagan, in a different context, once stated “history will record with astonishment that those who had the most to lose did the least to prevent its happening.” Wyomingites must not sit back and simply let Joe Biden, Bill Gates, and TerraPower build their experimental nuclear power plant in Kemmerer. We need to “fight like Helling” to keep this from happening. Steve Helling, Wyoming Republican Candidate for U.S. House.

# VOTE • AUGUST 20

VOTE • AUGUST 20 // VOTE • AUGUST 20 // VOTE • AUGUST 20