



Wyoming Republican Candidate Profile Questionnaire

Note to All Wyoming State Republican Party Candidates in the 2018 Primary Election,

Thank you for filing as a candidate to represent our State and your Wyoming Republican Party. You have chosen a very difficult path that many would never consider going down. Your Wyoming State Party leadership recognizes the trials and tribulations each of you will encounter as the fight for your spot on the General Election Ballot. To that end, we are here to help both you and your constituency get to know one another as you blaze your path toward victory.

After the 2016 election cycle, your Wyoming State Central Committee (SCC) took for action numerous issues Republican voters raised ranging from a core desire to vote directly for our Republican Presidential Nominee to wanting more opportunities to meet with, and more information on, candidates at all levels of government as voters want insight into how a candidate may govern if elected for office. Historically, one of the most asked questions during election cycles is “Where can I find reliable information about our candidates?”.

Your Wyoming Republican Party recognizes this as a critical issue that must be addressed to get voters to turn out in support our candidates. We are committed to assisting by asking candidates to provide answers to questions, in their own words, which we can post to our state website, so voters have a reliable place to find relevant candidate information.

As a candidate you will receive dozens of surveys, questionnaires, and requests from the press as well as various watchdog entities to provide answers to questions that are typically geared to their organization’s specific bias. Some a candidate will choose to address all of them while others may not be addressed due time constraints or relevancy.

This questionnaire was initiated as a result of the extraordinary number of questions posed by voters to members of the Wyoming State Central Committee over the past year. And although every question here has not been specifically approved by the full SCC, the concept was endorsed by the full SCC in a unanimous voice vote, as a part of developing external and internal party feedback systems.

These questions were gathered from SCC members across several State Committees, from feedback at various County Party Precinct Caucuses and County Conventions, was compiled by our State Party 2018 Committee to Win, and recently approved by our State Party Executive Committee (18 June 2018) as our primary tool to provide our voters with robust, reliable, and relevant candidate vetted information.

If you have questions regarding this questionnaire, please contact your Wyoming Republican Party Chairman, Mr. Frank Eathorne at chairman@wyoming.gop.



The questions here reflect current issues you are likely to face during a coming term in office and ask each candidate to provide, in their own words, their thoughts and opinions regarding a significant number of topics and questions. We appreciate your time and effort in responding to our questionnaire.

1) How would you describe the proper role of government?

Limited, as defined by our Constitution.

2) How would you describe your role as a Republican elected official in our constitutionally defined form of government?

As a servant of the people and a slave to our constitution, as our founders intended.

Daniel Webster wrote: *"Hold on, my friends, to the Constitution and to the Republic for which it stands. Miracles do not cluster, and what has happened once in 6,000 years, may not happen again. Hold on to the Constitution, because if the American Constitution should fail, there will be anarchy throughout the world."*

He was indeed right, if we do not, as elected officials, hold to the constitution, we will lose our republic and the world will be in chaos.

3) Describe your core values.

I am a man of faith, pro-life, pro-family, pro-2nd amendment and pro limited government.

4) Where do you place yourself on the political, ideological spectrum?

Conservative



5) There is a nationwide push that has now come to Wyoming for the creation/expansion of protected classes in the form of additional anti-discrimination laws. Considering that Article 1, Section's 2 and 3 of Wyoming's Constitution respectively state:

“In their inherent right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, all members of the human race are equal.” and, “Since equality in the enjoyment of natural and civil rights is only made sure through political equality, the laws of this state affecting the political rights and privileges of its citizens shall be without distinction of race, color, sex, or any circumstance or condition whatsoever other than individual incompetency, or unworthiness duly ascertained by a court of competent jurisdiction.”

What, if anything, should Wyoming do in this arena?

Nothing, our laws are adequate.

6) What are your thoughts about funding and cultivating Wyoming's K-12 education?

Education choices are best at the local level, beginning with the parents. I believe, based on my past experience, that I can be a valuable asset to your education community. I have a deep background in understanding of technology and its application and believe that we can continually improve the quality education we provide today while ensuring it is applicable to the new economy and at the same time be cost effect.

My belief is that we need to define the outcome of our education system, such as what the measurements of success will be, prior to determining what the funding requirements should be.

I'm concerned that recently we incorporated computer science into our basket of goods for education and that we have allowed a 5-year period for its implementation. This is not being responsive to what is happening to our economy and places our kids at risk of being left behind.

7) Are you familiar with, and do you generally support or oppose, the Wyoming Education Association's position statements and legislative platform?



I find that the WEA positions and legislative platform are largely in service to the education bureaucracy rather than what will create good learning and prepare our kids to be successful for the future.

8) What is your position on federal management of public lands in Wyoming?

I do not support the transfer of federal lands to the state, but I believe the state should have the greatest amount of input and control in management of the land as possible.

9) What is your view on the Federal debts/deficits and Wyoming's budget gap between proposed spending and revenue as they impact on our nation and state, and how will you address them as an elected official. What do you think about raising taxes to meet our state's projected budget shortfall?

I do not agree with people that have defaulted to raising taxes in order to solve our financial deficit. Our first priority must be to control state spending and it would be irresponsible to raise taxes or impose an income tax when we cannot even assure our citizens we are not wasting the money they have already given us.

10) Do you support or oppose an income tax for Wyoming? Why?

Oppose

11) Do you support continued state funding to cities, towns, and counties?

Yes. Ever since I entered this race I have been communicating my motto that growth never happens at the top, it always happens at the bottom. Understanding that timeless principle, we need to seriously evaluate the current funding model for



our local communities. This is something I look forward to working with the business community, our local communities, the legislature and others to identify a strong funding methodology that works for everyone and creates real growth across our state.

12) When it comes to the state budget, what are your priorities? For example, Transportation, Education, University of Wyoming, Community Colleges, Agriculture, Department of Health, Game & Fish, etc.?

My first priority is to address wasteful spending at the state level. I would begin this process by leveraging the efficiency studies already conducted by the Legislature, as well as Phase 2 of that study to begin this process. Every dollar of wasteful spending we capture can then be used to create the most benefit for the people of Wyoming, whether in transportation, education or health services.

13) In what instance(s) should the federal, state, or local government restrict the right to carry arms?

I am a strong defender of the 2nd amendment. I believe it states what it states. I don't believe there is any slicing or dicing of its meaning. Citizens have the right to bear arms. I believe that gives them the right in any public venue to exercise their right. So, if it is a public place, owned by the citizens of the state, then everyone has the right to carry. I do also believe in private property rights. And therefore, on private property I believe the property owner has the right to set the rules on their property.

14) For many years now, federal bureaucratic and regulatory actions are often initiated against Wyoming residents for issues related to what have been standard agricultural or energy production practices for decades, but now deemed recently as incompatible with federal policy by administrative edict. How would you as an elected official respond to instances of federal overreach?

I have worked at the local, state, federal and international level and I have seen first-hand how much government can get in the way. There is no doubt government



regulations are destroying economic growth in our state and all across this country. I am pleased with the efforts so far in Congress to roll back federal regulations, but I know we can do much, much more.

I think it absolutely necessary for the next governor to take a logical, deliberate and aggressive approach to identifying rules and regulations that inhibit economic growth in Wyoming and execute a plan to remove them immediately.

15) Have you reviewed the 2018 Platform and Resolutions developed at convention by the Wyoming Republican Party?

Yes.

16) It is the rare Republican who agrees with our Platform 100%. Article 1, Paragraph 3 of the *2018 Bylaws of the Wyoming Republican Party* defines the role of the Republican Party as:

3. Role

1. The role of the Wyoming Republican Party is: to recruit citizens to join the Republican Party; to establish the Platform of the Wyoming Republican Party; to achieve the election of Republican candidates who substantially uphold the platform of the Wyoming Republican Party and to conduct the business of the Wyoming Republican Party.

What is your definition of the word “substantially”? Are there planks in the 2018 Platform with which you oppose to a level of non-support in legislation? Will you identify those during your campaign if asked by constituents?

I agree with Webster’s definition of substantially, which states, “significantly great.”

I support the platform.



Candidate: Sam E. Gateos
Office Running for: Governor of Wyoming
Candidate's Signature [Signature] Date: 7/11/18

NOTE: Your submission via e-mail (allda@gmail.com) will serve as a signature, or if you chose to send the hard copy back, please sign and return to:

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