



League of Women Voters/Boomerang Candidate Questionnaire—Deadline Sept. 14

Time is short to reach voters this year before absentee (early) voting begins Friday, September 18, 2020, responses will be published on the LWV's national site: VOTE411.org. Boomerang publication is scheduled for Sunday, October 11. A copy of this questionnaire is being sent to you by e-mail and USPS if you provided both addresses. We prefer e-mailed responses, and look forward to your participation in this method of reaching voters for General Election 2020.

Photos will be published in the newspaper and in VOTE411.org (this year that includes all districts like school and hospital boards). Please attach a headshot unless one was supplied for the primary; it can be taken with a smart phone and should be submitted as a .jpg, which is what the phone provides. Make the photo a separate attachment with your name as the file name. If you do not supply a photo, a generic silhouette will be published. Please follow these instructions:

- Responses must adhere to the word limit of 600 characters, about 95 words. A word is anything with white space on either side. “Characters” include spaces and punctuation – find it in (Microsoft Word) “tools” file on computer top bar menu, it is in the “word count” pop-up menu.
- Responses over the word limit will be cut up from the bottom. Three dots (. . .) will indicate where it has been cut, so do not use them in your writing.
- Exactly what you write will be printed—have another proofread it for typos before submission.
- Use first person writing style (“I am a teacher . . .”), not third person (“He is a teacher . . .”).
- Use a single paragraph for each response, no bullets, numbered lists, or multiple paragraphs.
- Avoid SHOUTING for more than a couple of words, that is, using all caps for emphasis.
- Put your name and the office you are running for at the top of the page with your responses.
- We will confirm that we received your response. **Contact us if you do not hear by the deadline.**
- “No response” will be published next to your name if you choose not to respond.

Candidates for WYOMING LEGISLATURE

1. Biographical information: Include headshot photo as a separate attachment and give your contact information such as email, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter, phone, website etc. Then add anything up to the character (word) limit about your background that would help voters understand your qualifications, like job-related, political, family or volunteer experiences. Your name and political affiliation do not count in the character count.

Name: Jackie Grimes

Party: Democrat

www.facebook.com/electjackiegrimes.org

www.electjackiegrimes.org

(307) 223-5763

jacqueline@electjackiegrimes.org

I am school psychologist working for Albany County School District #1, mother of two young children, and wife of Laramie native and small business owner James Grimes. In addition to having over 17 year experience working in mental health, I have worked the last 7 years in public education and have also worked in banking and research. I have been dedicated to fighting suicide in Wyoming by bringing evidence-based programming to Albany County to help our local youth. I founded the Laelia Gala, an annual event raising money for the Wyoming Breast

Cancer Initiative. As the wife of a small business owner, I know the financial, regulatory, and tax challenges of running a viable business as well as the hardships experienced during COVID-19. As a mother, I have firsthand experience with the current needs of families with respect to health care costs, day care cost, educational needs, employment needs, housing, and other family needs. As a school psychologist and educator, I am trained in helping people identify their needs and solving problems as well as operating within an inflexible budget; there is no way to operate education other than with what is already been financially provided. I know making excuses about problems is easy; solving problems is my skill. We have a choice this election and it is time to choose leadership who will take action on the needs of Wyoming.

2. *Given the cuts to the Wyoming Departments of Health and Family Services already made by Governor Gordon, how would you immediately protect the most vulnerable among us?*

Wyoming ranks number one in rainy day fund size with approximately 109% of its annual budget set aside. For comparison, Alaska at #2 has 52.6%; #3 North Dakota has 30%; for our adjoining states the highest (besides North Dakota) is South Dakota at 11.1% and the lowest is Montana at 4.6%. We pay extra taxes to a rainy day fund to ensure continued services during difficult times. That is what rainy day funds are for and we need to release those funds to ensure vulnerable families make it through this crisis. I would restore the cuts to the Wyoming Departments of Health and Family Services.

3. *Do you support any legislation that may come before the 2021 session of the Legislature that could result in raising revenue? Please explain.*

More than half of Wyoming's taxes come from Mineral extraction, which is declining. The public service cost of new industries is greater than tax revenue from new residents and businesses. We need a tax on business to pay for those services. We also need a fair income tax that exempts lower-income families and fairly increases for higher incomes. We need an alcohol and tobacco tax like surrounding states dedicated to health related programs such as subsidized health benefits or addiction treatment programs.

4. *What is your position on "Medicaid expansion" that allows low-income adults to be eligible for healthcare coverage with 90% funding from the Federal government and 10% funding from the State?*

Affordable health care should be a basic human right and I strongly favor Medicaid expansion. The state is declining \$1.3 billion over the next decade from the federal government. About 58,000 people are covered and an estimated 27,000 additional people could be covered including 6,000 without any access to health insurance. 61% of adult Medicaid enrollees are working but have income so low they qualify. These funds help children, nursing home residents, individuals with disabilities and 10% of Medicare seniors. Wyoming is a caring, compassionate community and we need those federal funds. This would also stabilize our rural healthcare systems that are folding. However, I also believe this is only the beginning of addressing our healthcare coverage needs as Wyoming has higher premium rates than any of our surrounding neighbor states, including states with similar demographics. Healthcare is unaffordable in the state of Wyoming and we need action to address it.

Deadline Monday, September 14, 2020 by 10 p.m.

Email or deliver to: (send to both names so there is a backup)

**Judy Knight, (je.judy@gmail.com), 1912 E. Custer St., Laramie WY, 82070
Nancy Lockwood (nanlockw@gmail.com), 2069 N. 16th St., Laramie, WY 82072**