

Resolution for Runoff Election

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A RUNOFF ELECTION WHEN NO CANDIDATE RECEIVES A MAJORITY OF VOTES IN THE PRIMARY ELECTION.

WHEREAS, currently, in the Wyoming Primary elections, the candidate with the plurality, or “most votes” is considered the winner of that office and advances to the General Election ballot; and

WHEREAS, Wyoming has a long history of electing candidates in the Primary Election who do not receive the majority (Greater than 50% of votes cast) of votes; and

WHEREAS Wyoming election systems are committed to ensuring fair, transparent, and representative elections that reflect the will of the majority of voters; and

WHEREAS, a runoff election ensures that the winning candidate secures a majority (over 50%) of votes, thereby enhancing the legitimacy and public acceptance of elected officials; and

WHEREAS, it is a civic right for all United States citizens to run for a public office, and similar candidates should not have to “get together in a room” to decide which ONE candidate “should” run in the Primary Election for fear of splitting the vote and allowing the less popular candidate to win. This should be the voter’s decision as well. Runoffs will reduce this likelihood as only a candidate with at least 50 percent of the vote proceeds to the General Election; and

WHEREAS, In the Wyoming Primary election, voters might feel pressured to vote for a "lesser evil" candidate, or the candidate they believe will win, instead of the candidate they prefer, to avoid wasting their vote. Runoffs allow voters to support their preferred candidate in the first round without fear that it will inadvertently help a less-preferred candidate win; and

WHEREAS elections with multiple candidates, voters may split their votes among similar candidates, allowing a less popular candidate to win. Runoffs mitigate this by narrowing the field to the top two (or more) candidates, ensuring the winner reflects a stronger consensus; and

WHEREAS runoff elections mitigate the effects of vote splitting, encourage broader voter participation, and promote candidates who appeal to a wider electorate; and

WHEREAS, under no circumstances is this resolution to be misconstrued as an “instant runoff” or “rank choiced voting” that does not require a second election; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of a runoff election system aligns with democratic principles of fairness and accountability, ensuring elected officials have a strong mandate to govern;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LINCOLN COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE:

1. **Runoff Election Specifics:** For nominations for governor, secretary of state, state treasurer, state auditor, state superintendent of public instruction and any federal office, a runoff election shall

be held with respect to that nomination if no candidate, including any write-in candidate, receives more than fifty percent (50%) of the votes cast for the respective partisan office on the primary ballot. The candidates in the runoff election shall be the two (2) candidates who received the highest number of votes in their respective partisan primary election. In the case of a tie for the highest number of votes in the primary election, the state canvassing board shall cast lots to determine which two (2) shall be runoff election candidates.

2. **Timing:** To allow for enough time to hold a runoff election, the primary election shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in June in general election years if the office will be filled at the succeeding general election. If a runoff election is required it shall be held on the first Tuesday after the second Monday in August in general election years to determine the winner who will be on the ballot at the General Election.
3. **Voting Procedures:** The runoff election shall be conducted in accordance with the established voting procedures as outlined Wyoming Statutes, ensuring accessibility and transparency for all voters.
4. **Notification:** The Wyoming Secretary of State and each County Elections supervisors shall provide adequate notice to the public regarding the runoff election, including information on polling locations, voting hours, and any other pertinent details.
5. **Eligibility:** All registered voters who participated in the initial election shall be eligible to vote in the runoff election.
6. **Certification of Results:** The results of the runoff election shall be certified by the Wyoming Secretary of State in accordance with Wyoming election statutes.
7. **Urgency:** It is critical that this resolution be addressed by the 2026 Legislature as a critical election will take place in 2026.

ADOPTED this 11th day of October, 2025, by the LINCOLN COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE