

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DECLARE VACANCIES FOR WESTON COUNTY LEGISLATORS

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On the heels of a rousing discussion during the Weston County Commissioners meeting on February 6th (reported by the *Weston County Gazette* in its February 15th edition), concerned citizens and the Weston County Republican Party brought a promised proposed Resolution before the Commissioners during their regular meeting on April 2nd. This Resolution, if passed by the Commissioners, would declare legislative vacancies in Weston County for not adhering to the Wyoming Constitution. Also in attendance was Wyoming House District 1 Representative Chip Neiman, Wyoming House District 2 Representative Allen Slagle, and Wyoming County Commissioners Association (WCCA) Executive Director Jeremiah Rieman.

William Curley and Danny Bau have spoken with the Commissioners at length in the past about declaring vacancies in Weston County for State Representative and State Senator, as the current legislative

districts don't adhere to the districts originally laid out in the Wyoming Constitution, which states that each County shall have its own Senator and Representative. This Resolution would declare such a vacancy and send it to the desk of Wyoming Secretary of State Chuck Gray, the State Elections Officer, who has expressed to the Weston County Republican Party a willingness to ratify it, though he did caution a lawsuit would likely be immediately imminent.

The legislative districts based on Wyoming county lines were changed in 1992, when Wyoming counties were asked by the State Legislature to pass resolutions in support of redistricting outside of county lines to be in accordance with federal requirements of "one man, one vote", adding a footnote to the Wyoming Constitution explaining that the countywide legislative districts were essentially null and void once redistricting had taken place. Redistricting...

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