

OTHER ISSUES

Life

I believe that every life is precious. The people of Wyoming should support a culture of life--for the unborn, for all children, for people with physical, mental and emotional challenges, and for the elderly. Everyone's life has value.

Liberty

I particularly value the first amendment to the U.S. Constitution: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances." These freedoms are the inalienable rights of all Americans, and I will work to make sure these rights are not infringed in Wyoming--in particular, religious freedom, free speech, and freedom from compelled speech.

I like the second amendment too. I am a Life Member of the NRA, and own guns for hunting and personal protection (and as a defense against government tyranny, if necessary). It is my general observation in life that people who are not law-abiding citizens don't care what the laws are, so it doesn't seem to me that restrictions on where you can carry firearms and how many bullets you can have will have much impact on people who intend to commit crimes. In fact, criminals prefer helpless victims. We do not make schools, businesses and government facilities safer by declaring them "gun-free zones" unless we institute metal screening and other security measures. Simply posting "gun-free zone" leads to a false sense of security. We do need to make sure Wyoming has adequate mental health services for people who need them, and people who use a firearm in the course of a crime should be fully prosecuted and it should be very difficult for them to regain the right to possess a firearm.

Water

In Wyoming we love our sagebrush, but we rely on sweet, clean water. We need to be sure that mining, agriculture, and residential development do not negatively affect our water. Since I was elected I have attended several meetings on water issues in the Laramie County Control Area. If you are on a well in the Control Area (roughly the part of the county east of I-25) and would like more information please email me.

Private property

The right to private property is foundational to this country. All of us, though, hope that our children and grandchildren will be able to enjoy hunting, fishing, camping and hiking in Wyoming, just as we have. It is important to protect our wildlife, grasslands, and forests for future generations, while not impeding private and economic uses. I believe in being a good steward of my own property and Wyoming's public lands.

I have voted to fund conservation easements and habitat restoration around the state, to prohibit the state from funding conservation easements that restrict hunting, fishing, ranching or farming, and to protect landowners from over-enthusiastic eminent domain condemnation.

Attitude!

The households in Wyoming's House District 7 come in all sorts. There are couples with children, couples without children, single parents, individuals, roommates, multiple generations, various languages and faiths, hunters and vegetarians. We are all neighbors and part of the community. Whether we agree or disagree on life, religion, marriage, guns, or sports (Go, Packers!), it is my intention to work in a positive way with all my neighbors, fellow legislators, and people across the state to keep Wyoming a wonderful place to live.