

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. SJ0002

Upholding the principles of federalism.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Cooper, Crago, Crum, Driskill,
Landen, Nethercott and Pappas and
Representative(s) Byron, Campbell, E,
Connolly, Harshman and Wylie

A JOINT RESOLUTION

for

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION calling upon the members of the Wyoming
2 congressional delegation to uphold the principles of
3 federalism.

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5 WHEREAS, Article 1, Section 1 of the Wyoming Constitution
6 provides that "All power is inherent in the people, and all
7 free governments are founded on their authority, and
8 instituted for their peace, safety and happiness; for the
9 advancement of these ends they have at all times an
10 inalienable and indefeasible right to alter, reform or
11 abolish the government in such manner as they may think
12 proper"; and

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1 WHEREAS, the Wyoming Constitution recognizes that "equality
2 in the enjoyment of natural and civil rights is only made
3 sure through political equality"; and

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5 WHEREAS, the Tenth Amendment to the United States
6 Constitution affirms that any powers not delegated to the
7 federal government are reserved to the states or to the
8 people, reinforcing the principle of federalism; and

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10 WHEREAS, the states have long served as laboratories of
11 democracy, uniquely positioned to establish election laws and
12 policies that reflect the needs and interests of their
13 citizens; and

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15 WHEREAS, the people of Wyoming have compelling sovereign
16 interests in fostering robust political debate and self-
17 government, protecting the free speech interests of all
18 persons, securing the liberty and political equality of
19 Wyoming's citizens, guarding against corruption and advancing
20 the principles of federalism; and

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22 WHEREAS, a robust system of state-led election governance
23 strengthens self-government, promotes accountability and

1 preserves the integrity of the electoral process by ensuring
2 that the people of each state determine how best to protect
3 their representation and participation in the democratic
4 process; and

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6 WHEREAS, the framers of the United States Constitution
7 recognized the role of the states in structuring election
8 laws, procedures and mechanisms, understanding that a single,
9 uniform federal approach is neither necessary nor desirable;
10 and

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12 WHEREAS, the people of Wyoming and other states have a vested
13 interest in ensuring that their elections and electoral
14 processes remain responsive to their needs in ensuring that
15 their elections are free from disproportionate influence by
16 entities or persons that may not reflect the priorities of
17 the people; and

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19 WHEREAS, the principle of self-governance requires that
20 states retain the ability to establish laws governing the
21 influence of money in elections, consistent with each state's
22 unique circumstances and policy considerations; and

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1 WHEREAS, the process for amending the United States
2 Constitution provides an avenue for reaffirming the role of
3 the states in overseeing elections and ensuring that their
4 authority in this realm is preserved.

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6 *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE*
7 *LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:*

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9 **Section 1.** That the Legislature of the state of Wyoming
10 calls upon the three (3) members representing Wyoming in the
11 United States Congress to uphold the principles of federalism
12 and to be proponents of appropriate action, including the
13 adoption of an amendment to the United States Constitution,
14 that affirms the authority of the states to govern their
15 elections and election processes and establishes the ability
16 of each state to enact policies regarding campaign finance
17 and election influence.

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1 **Section 2.** That the Secretary of State of Wyoming
2 transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the
3 United States, to the President of the Senate and the Speaker
4 of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress
5 and to each member of the Wyoming Congressional Delegation.

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(END)