

*Legislative Report for the
Corporations, Elections &
Political Subdivisions Committee*

The first step of Wyoming's delegate selection process is a county caucus/convention in each of the state's 23 counties. Participation in Wyoming's delegate selection process is open to all voters who wish to participate as Democrats. All persons residing in the county and registered to vote as Democrats at least 15 days prior to the county caucus/convention may vote at the county caucus/convention and be elected as delegates to the state and national conventions. The second step is the election of National Delegates at the State Convention where state delegates meet in presidential preference caucuses and cast ballots to elect district-level national delegates.

This year, out of our desire to provide Wyoming Democrats greater access to the election process, we implemented a surrogate form, essentially an absentee ballot for the 2016 Wyoming Democratic Caucus. Our intention was that democrats across the state would have greater opportunity to get involved in the selection of their candidate and improve participation in the caucus. Surrogate forms were available to those whose presence was prevented by religious observance, military service, disability, illness or work schedule.

Wyoming Democratic Party Caucus by the numbers:

2016 Caucus

Democrats Registered : 41,314

Total Votes Cast: 7,265 (17% of registered Democrats)

Surrogate Ballots(Absentee): 3302 (45% of total votes cast)

In comparison:

2008 Caucus

Democrats registered : app 57,000

Total Votes Cast: 8690 (15% of registered Democrats)

Our goal at the Wyoming Democratic Party is to provide a voting system where all Wyoming Democrats may have a voice in selecting the Democratic presidential candidate.

As such the Wyoming Democratic Party would prefer a Primary voting system paid for by the state which would include the opportunity for voters to cast a ballot by :

- early voting with an absentee vote,
- walk-in votes on primary day,
- and a "caucus" meeting whereby voters can congregate and then vote, for both the sake of community and party building.

We believe it is important that the state commit funds to providing a more Democratic and more inclusive option for voters with a Presidential Primary. Recognizing that there are budget issues to consider, the Wyoming Democratic Party is willing to provide a caucus, using the same

parameters stated above. We believe this option would be equally as empowering for our voters and increase voter participation.

We also believe voting in a Presidential primary or caucus should be restricted to registered party members. We would not support open primaries or an open caucus even for independents.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ana Cuprill". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Ana Cuprill

State Chair- Wyoming Democratic Party

9/15/2016