

**DRAFT ONLY
NOT APPROVED FOR
INTRODUCTION**

HOUSE BILL NO.

Declaration or change in party affiliation.

Sponsored by: Joint Corporations, Elections & Political
Subdivisions Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to elections; revising the date for
2 political party affiliation changes and declarations for a
3 primary election; and providing for an effective date.

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5 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

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7 **Section 1.** W.S. 22-5-214(a) is amended to read:

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9 **22-5-214. Declaration or change in party affiliation.**

10

11 (a) For a primary election, an elector may declare or
12 change party affiliation by completing an application

1 signed before a notarial officer or election official and
2 filing it with the county clerk on or before ~~the first day~~
3 ~~on which an application for nomination may be filed under~~
4 ~~W.S. 22-5-209~~ January 1 immediately preceding the primary.

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8 STAFF COMMENT

9 This request was made by the Committee make Wyoming similar
10 to Kentucky which has a deadline to change party
11 affiliation of December 31 immediately preceding the
12 primary. There was discussion by the Committee of how
13 Wyoming would compare to Kentucky based on the dates of
14 each state's primary elections:

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16 Kentucky: The party change deadline is December 31 and the
17 primary election date is the first Tuesday after the third
18 Monday in May, which is May 19 2026, for a total of 139
19 days. Kentucky currently has the longest deadline.

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21 Note: The party change deadline in Kentucky is
22 approximately 10 days before the candidate filing deadline,
23 which is the second Monday in January.

24
25 Wyoming current law: Party change deadline is before the
26 first day on which an application may be filed under W.S.
27 22-5-209, which is May 13, 2026 and the primary date is the
28 first Tuesday after the third Monday in August, which is
29 August 18, 2026, for a total of 97 days.

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31 The party change deadline in 2026 was 16 days before the
32 candidate filing deadline.

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34 Wyoming with January 1 date: January 1, 2026 to August 18,
35 2026, for a total of 229 days.

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37 If the party change deadline in Wyoming was changed to
38 January 1, the deadline would be 148 days before the
39 candidate filing deadline.

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4 **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2027.

(END)