



HOUSE SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE

Final Report

DATE March 4, 2026

TO Members, 68th Wyoming State Legislature

FROM House Special Investigative Committee

SUBJECT Findings and Recommendations

BACKGROUND

On February 12, 2026 the Wyoming House of Representatives voted unanimously to convene a special Committee to investigate whether checks were provided to members of the House of Representatives on the floor of the House of Representatives on February 9, 2026 and whether that action is a violation of the Wyoming State Constitution under Article 3, Section 42 or Section 43 or constitutes legislative misconduct as defined in Joint Rule 22-1(d). See Appendix 1.

On Saturday, February 14, the Laramie County Sheriff publicly announced that his office was launching a criminal investigation into the same allegations the 2026 Special Investigative Committee of the Wyoming House of Representatives (Committee) had been tasked with investigating.

On February 18, the House of Representatives considered this Committee's motion to hold these proceedings in abeyance pending the outcome of any criminal investigation or criminal proceeding. See Appendix 2. Twenty-one members voted in favor of abeyance. Thirty-seven voted to continue, and four were excused. Thus, the House directed this Committee to proceed.

Article 3, Section 12 of the Wyoming Constitution grants the House of Representatives the power to establish rules for its proceedings to protect its members against offers of bribes or private solicitation and punish or expel its members and other persons for corruption, contempt, and disorderly behavior in its presence.

Implied within that authority is the power of the House of Representatives to conduct investigations into matters for which discipline or other action may be warranted. Although such investigations are rare in Wyoming, when serious questions arise concerning the conduct of elected representatives, an inquiry of this nature becomes necessary.

The Committee convened for the purpose of fulfilling its responsibilities at the behest of the members of the House on February 26 at 3:00 PM. See Appendix 3. At the beginning of the Committee's investigative hearing, the following remarks were read by the chairman:

"It is important to remember what these hearings are, and what they are not. They are not a trial. It is not a criminal proceeding, a civil proceeding, or any other adversarial

proceeding. It is a legislative fact-finding inquiry. The Committee is not adjudicating guilt and is not functioning as a judicial tribunal. The procedural safeguards required in courts do not apply here.

This is also a legislative investigation of colleagues. Members serve alongside one another and inevitably bring prior impressions of the events, personal relationships, public information, and constituent concerns into this room. That reality does not prevent us from fulfilling our duty. I believe the Wyoming Constitution anticipated this very dynamic. Our duty is to come together today with open minds, to ask careful questions, and to determine the facts based on the evidence presented here.”

This investigation was constrained by the motion (Appendix 1) which created procedural restrictions and time frames that limited the scope and depth of the Committee’s work. For example, the investigation was to be conducted in public and broadcast. Further, the Committee was to conduct an “expeditious” investigation and file its report within four legislative days of convening. Because of these constraints, the Committee did not retain an outside law firm nor hire private investigators to conduct this work. A coexistent criminal investigation further complicated the efforts of the Committee. The criminal investigation was expected to last about four weeks and involve five detectives, according to information provided by the Laramie County Sheriff’s Office. Despite these constraints, the Committee endeavored to bring forth and share, with not only the House of Representatives but also the people of Wyoming, the relevant facts and information in an orderly fashion.

EXHIBITS

A significant amount of information is already in the public record. In the past two weeks there has been a substantial volume of public reporting and commentary. The Committee, assisted by Legislative Service Office (LSO) staff, sought to bring order to that virtual blizzard of information, provide context, and present a clear and cohesive factual record to the House.

Prior to convening, the Committee, with the vital assistance of our LSO staff, collected and cataloged 47 exhibits that were submitted voluntarily by individuals involved. In addition, with the assistance of LSO staff, the Committee collected 31 open-source documents, including news articles, other media publications, and security videos from public records requests. Please see Appendix 8 for a complete list of exhibits reviewed by the Committee.

Consistent with our mandate, these documents were posted on a public facing page online.

WITNESS ADVISEMENT

All witnesses were notified of the following:

- W1.** That their testimony would be included in the Committee’s investigation.
- W2.** The information provided will not be treated as confidential and may be used in future legislative, executive, or judicial proceedings.
- W3.** Each witness has the right to appear with legal counsel and to assert any privilege recognized under the United States Constitution or the Constitution of the State of Wyoming.

HOUSE SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE *Memorandum*

W4. No witness is being granted or purported to be granted immunity for testimony given here.

W5. No person is compelled to appear, to testify, or to produce materials. Participation in this proceeding is voluntary.

See Appendix 6 for the Witness Oath and Advisement.

COMMITTEE FINDINGS

The Committee finds the following:

F1. Representative Nina Webber escorted Rebecca Bextel onto the House Floor and pointed in the direction of the Representatives who would subsequently receive checks.

F2. Campaign contribution checks were handed out on the Floor of the House on February 9, 2026 on or about 5:20 PM after the chamber had adjourned for the day and that Rebecca Bextel was the person who handed out those checks. Representatives Joe Webb, Marlene Brady, Darin McCann and Chris Kanpp each received one of those checks. Those checks were from Don Grasso, and each was in the amount of \$1,500. The checks to Joe Webb, Marlene Brady, and Darin McCann were made payable to the campaign accounts of the representatives. The check given to Representative Chris Knapp was made payable to him. None of the checks bore a notation of purpose.

F3. Dissemination and receipt of campaign contributions on the floor of the House is highly unusual and perhaps unprecedented in the history of the state.

F4. Were it not for the actions of Rebecca Bextel on the House Floor, the subsequent disruptions of the House calendar and public uproar would not have occurred.

F5. Under certain statutorily defined circumstances, a campaign contribution may constitute bribery.

F6. Taken together, the evidence collected and testimony given did not reveal a violation of Article 3, Sections 42 or 43 of the Wyoming Constitution.

F7. Taken together, the evidence collected and the testimony given did not reveal an explicit violation of any specific Rule of the House of Representatives or Joint Rule of the Senate and House of Representatives.

F8. Despite findings **F6** and **F7**, the Committee recognizes that the conduct that occurred on the House Floor was undesirable and must never occur again.

F9. Existing rules, while not specific to the conduct investigated by the Committee, when taken as a whole, recognize that the Floor of the House of Representatives is a specially designated place unlike most others. It is an area deserving of particular reverence and respect. Campaign activity on the House Floor, even if de minimis or otherwise lawful, may attract heightened scrutiny because of the chamber's institutional and historical significance. The chamber is the designated forum in which the House exercises its constitutional legislative authority. "The bar" marks the boundary separating members' space from non-members, particularly while the House is in session but also when recessed. Private electoral conduct on the chamber floor may also create the perception, fairly

HOUSE SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE Memorandum

or not, that financial support provided in the chamber by individuals with political interests is intertwined with the lawmaking process.

The Wyoming Constitution charges each house with the power “to protect its members against ... offers of bribes or private solicitation.” Wyo. Const. Art. 3, Sec. 12. That charge may be reflected in restrictions the Legislature has adopted to limit lobbying and efforts to influence legislation within spaces reserved for the exercise of official authority.

The following House Rules reflect those principles:

- H.R. 15-1(a) limits who may enter within the bar of the House to members, certain officials and employees, invited guests, and those approved by a majority of the House;
- H.R. 15-1(a) further provides that, except for members, no person may influence the passage or defeat of legislation in the House chamber;
- H.R. 15-1(b) denies floor privileges during session to any former member who is registered as a lobbyist.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends the following:

Generally

Management Council is urged to consider additional signage at the entry to the Floor of the House of Representatives detailing expectations and guidance to visitors.

Rule Changes

When a Representative escorts any member of the public onto the Floor of the House of Representatives, that member is personally responsible for the behavior of that person while on the Floor of the House of Representatives.

Management Council is urged to review the rules of legislatures in neighboring states concerning political campaign activities during the legislative session and especially on the floor of the legislature and related ethical considerations to determine if further rule changes may be appropriate to ensure against similar conduct in the future.

Legislator Training

Existent rules reflect that a history and tradition regarding the Floor of the House of Representatives exists. Violations of this history and tradition should result in some level of condemnation. Adoption of a specific rule in response to this incident is an acknowledgement of the special nature of the House Floor. All of us can likely think of non-criminal conduct that we would not want to see on the House Floor. Even so, drafting specific rules regarding such conduct seems unwarranted given the number of topics which may need to be addressed.

Rather, the Committee recommends the development of a lesson on the institution, the need to avoid appearances of impropriety and the rationale behind the existing rules that denote the Floor of the House of Representatives as a special place. This lesson should be included as a block of instruction in the required training provided to legislators.

A summary of the training provided as described above will be included in new editions of the Legislative Handbook.

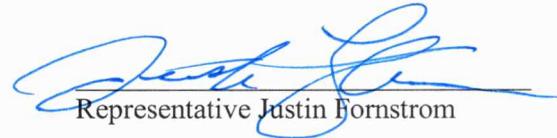
CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Committee has fulfilled its responsibilities. The facts, exhibits, and statements received by the Committee are all available for the members of the House and the people of Wyoming to review and evaluate.

Signed,

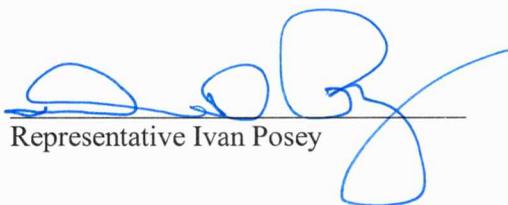

Representative Art Washut, Chairman


Representative Marilyn Connolly


Representative Justin Bornstrom


Representative Scott Heiner


Representative Martha Lawley


Representative Ivan Posey


Representative Reuben Tarver

HOUSE SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE *Memorandum*

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Representative Karlee Provenza Motion of February 11, 2026

Vote on motion: 59-0-3-0-0

Appendix 2 – Motion by Committee Chairman Representative Art Washut of February 18, 2026 to hold the work of the Special Investigative Committee in Abeyance pending the completion of the Criminal Investigation and any Criminal Proceeding.

Vote on motion: 21-37-4-0-0

Appendix 3 – Agenda for the February 26, 2026 Investigative Committee Hearing and Roll Call

Appendix 4 – Committee’s Rules

Appendix 5 – Opening Remarks by Chairman Washut

Appendix 6 – Oath and Advisement

Appendix 7 – Applicable Constitutional Standards

Appendix 8 – Exhibit Index (Link to exhibits: <https://wyoleg.gov/Committees/2026/S49>)

Appendix 9 – Written Statement from Rebecca Bextel

HM0001

1 Motion to Convene Investigative House Committee:

2

3 Mr. Speaker, there have been allegations that this week, a member
4 of the public was invited onto the floor of the Wyoming House of
5 Representatives and that person handed out checks to members of
6 the House. This incident calls into question the ethics and
7 impartiality of members. Mr. Speaker, I believe the integrity of
8 the House requires that we investigate whether such an incident
9 occurred and disclose all relevant facts about that incident to
10 all members of the House and to all of Wyoming.

11

12 I move that the House of Representatives convene a special
13 committee to investigate whether checks were provided to members
14 of the House of Representatives on the floor of the House and
15 whether that action is a violation of the Wyoming State
16 Constitution under Article 3 Section 42 or Section 43 or
17 constitutes legislative misconduct as defined in Joint Rule 22-1
18 (d). The special committee would investigate all relevant facts
19 about this matter, hold public hearings and issue a public report
20 to the House of Representatives.

21

22 I further move that the special committee be subject to the
23 following:

24

HM0001

1 (a) Seven (7) members of the House shall be appointed by the
2 speaker and must include at least one member of the minority party.
3 The Speaker shall appoint a chairman of the select committee;

4
5 (b) The special committee shall hear the complaints and
6 evidence as expeditiously as possible;

7
8 (c) All proceedings of the special committee shall be
9 conducted in public session.

10
11 (d) Persons called before the committee may be represented by
12 counsel and shall be afforded reasonable opportunity to be heard
13 and to present oral argument;

14
15 (e) The committee shall provide persons called before the
16 committee with at least forty-eight (48) hours advance notice of
17 each meeting, hearing or other proceeding of the special committee,
18 unless testimony is continued from day to day;

19
20 (f) The chairman of the special committee shall have the power
21 to administer oaths and to compel the attendance of witnesses and
22 the production of documents relevant to the contest, as authorized
23 by W.S. 28-1-107 through 28-1-112. Any testimony made at any

HM0001

1 special committee hearing or before the appropriate house which
2 purports to establish matters of fact shall be made under oath.

3

4 (g) Not later than the fourth legislative day following the
5 date the special committee was convened, the committee shall report
6 its findings and final recommendation to the House. PROVENZA

SIXTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING
2026 BUDGET SESSION
HOUSE

Appendix 1

SEQUENCE : 5151

Thursday, February 12, 2026

ACTION : Motion to Create Special Investigative
Committee: Passed

12:44 PM

Allemand	Y	Lawley	Y	
Andrew	Y	Lien	Y	
Angelos	Y	Locke	Y	
Banks	Y	Lucas	Y	
Bear	Y	McCann	Y	
Brady	Y	Nicholas		E
Bratten	Y	Ottman	Y	
Brown, Gary	Y	Pendergraft	Y	
Brown, Landon	Y	Posey	Y	
Byron	Y	Provenza	Y	
Campbell, Elissa	Y	Riggins	Y	
Campbell, Kevin	Y	Rodriguez-Williams	Y	
Chestek	Y	Schmid	Y	
Clouston	Y	Sherwood	Y	
Connolly	Y	Singh	Y	
Davis	Y	Smith	Y	
Erickson	Y	Storer		E
Filer	Y	Strock	Y	
Fornstrom	Y	Styvar	Y	
Geringer	Y	Tarver	Y	
Guggenmos	Y	Thayer	Y	
Haroldson	Y	Washut	Y	
Harshman	Y	Wasserburger	Y	
Heiner	Y	Webb	Y	
Hoeft	Y	Webber	Y	
Jarvis	Y	Wharff	Y	
Johnson	Y	Williams	Y	
Kelly		Winter	Y	E
Knapp	Y	Wylie	Y	
Larsen, Lloyd	Y	Yin	Y	
Larson, JT	Y	Neiman	Y	

VOTE REQ: Majority of the Quorum

AYES : 59

NOES : 0

EXCUSED : 3

ABSENT : 0

CONFLICT : 0

A=AYE N=NO E=EXCUSED X=ABSENT C=CONFLICT

February 17, 2026

**Statement From Chairman Washut to Hold Further
Investigative Proceedings in Abeyance**

Mr. Speaker,

I would like to address the House of Representatives as Chairman of the Select Investigative Committee. Members of the Investigative Committee got together on Friday, February 13 at noon recess to outline a plan for conducting the Committee's work. Committee staff were directed to gather evidence and to develop a structure to contact potential witnesses. The Committee planned to send letters to witnesses inviting them to appear at a hearing early this week.

However, on Saturday, February 14th, the Laramie County Sheriff announced publicly that his Office was launching a criminal investigation into the exact allegations this Committee was tasked with investigating. With that announcement, the Investigative Committee has unanimously decided to pause its investigation pending the outcome of the Laramie County Sheriff's investigation.

Mr. Speaker, all notions of justice and fairness require that the House's investigation be delayed so that those persons under potential criminal investigation may be afforded all the legal protections available to them throughout that investigation. Remember, in a criminal proceeding, all are presumed innocent until proven guilty. The members of the Investigative Committee believe that it is vitally important to protect the principle that every individual is entitled to equal treatment under the law and guaranteed the right to a fair and impartial investigation.

The Joint Rule of the Senate and House of Representative 22-1(k)(vi), which controls investigations of ethical complaints against a legislator states, that if the subcommittee of management council tasked with deciding whether there is probable cause to believe legislative misconduct occurred, "determines that the complaint alleges criminal activity, the subcommittee may recommend that further proceedings under this rule be held in abeyance pending completion of any criminal investigation." While this Investigative Committee was created outside of the Joint Rule process, it is even more imperative in this circumstance when this Committee's public hearings could inadvertently affect the collection of evidence or interfere with the integrity of the criminal investigation.

February 17, 2026

**Statement From Chairman Washut to Hold Further
Investigative Proceedings in Abeyance**

If the criminal matter is not resolved until the conclusion of this legislative session, Management Council can reappoint this Investigative Committee or another committee to review the Laramie County Sheriff's findings, conduct any additional necessary investigations, determine whether any rules of the House or standards of conduct expected of members were violated, and provide recommendations based on those findings.

Mr. Speaker, absent direction to the contrary from this House, the Select Investigative Committee will hold its work in abeyance pending a final determination of any criminal investigation or criminal proceedings in this matter.

SIXTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING
 2026 BUDGET SESSION
 HOUSE

Appendix 2

SEQUENCE : 5254

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

ACTION : House Special Investigative Committee
 to hold its work in abeyance: Failed

11:08 PM

Allemand	N	Lawley	N
Andrew	N	Lien	N
Angelos	N	Locke	N
Banks	E	Lucas	N
Bear	N	McCann	N
Brady	N	Nicholas	E
Bratten	N	Ottman	N
Brown, Gary	N	Pendergraft	N
Brown, Landon	Y	Posey	Y
Byron	Y	Provenza	Y
Campbell, Elissa	E	Riggins	N
Campbell, Kevin	N	Rodriguez-Williams	N
Chestek	Y	Schmid	N
Clouston	Y	Sherwood	Y
Connolly	Y	Singh	N
Davis	N	Smith	N
Erickson	Y	Storer	Y
Filer	Y	Strock	N
Fornstrom	Y	Styvar	N
Geringer	Y	Tarver	N
Guggenmos	N	Thayer	Y
Haroldson	N	Washut	Y
Harshman	Y	Wasserburger	N
Heiner	N	Webb	N
Hoeft	N	Webber	N
Jarvis	Y	Wharff	N
Johnson	N	Williams	Y
Kelly	E	Winter	N
Knapp	N	Wylie	Y
Larsen, Lloyd	Y	Yin	N
Larson, JT	Y	Neiman	N

Notes: Motion Recommended by Chairman Washut

VOTE REQ: Majority of the Quorum

AYES : 21

NOES : 37

EXCUSED : 4

ABSENT : 0

CONFLICT : 0

A=AYE N=NO E=EXCUSED X=ABSENT C=CONFLICT



Updated: February 27, 2026

HOUSE SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE

February 26, 2026 | 3:00 PM

Historic Supreme Court Chamber, State Capitol Room E202

200 West 24th Street

Cheyenne, Wyoming

Livestream available on the Legislature's website at www.wyoleg.gov

This proposed agenda sets forth the order in which the Committee may consider each topic. The agenda is subject to revision and all times listed are tentative and may be subject to change. If a topic is concluded early, the Committee will proceed to the next topic. For multiple day meetings, topics not completed on the indicated day may be carried over to the next day. Breaks will be taken as necessary.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026

3:00 PM 1. Call to Order

- Roll Call
- Chairman Remarks
- Adoption of Rules
- Committee Remarks

3:30 PM 2. Testimony of Witnesses and Presentation of Evidence

- Representative Provenza
- Review Security Videos
- Representative Thayer
- Representative Storer
- Representative Davis
- Representative Larsen
- Representative Singh
- Representative Schmid
- Representative Webber
- Ms. Dawn Marquardt
- Representative Webb
- Representative Brady
- Representative McCann
- Representative Knapp
- Review Witness Video
- Ms. Rebecca Bextel

8:00 PM 4. Adjourn

- If necessary, the Committee will continue hearings Friday, February 27, 2026, upon noon recess.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2026

12:00 PM 4. If necessary, the Committee will resume hearings from February 26, 2026.

Attendance

House Special Investigative Committee

Meeting date: 2/26/2026

Representatives	Yes	No	Excused
Rep. Marilyn Connolly	/		
Rep. Justin Fornstrom	/		
Rep. Scott Heiner	/		
Rep. Martha Lawley	/		
Rep. Ivan Posey	/		
Rep. Reuben Tarven	/		
Rep. Art Washut Chairman	/		
Totals	7		

Rules of the 2026 House Special Investigative Committee

1 **Rule 1.** The House Special Investigative Committee
2 ("committee") shall investigate whether a member of the public was
3 invited onto the floor of the Wyoming House of Representatives and
4 that person handed out checks to members of the House and whether
5 that action is a violation of the Wyoming State Constitution under
6 Article 3 Section 42 or Section 43 or constitutes legislative
7 misconduct as defined in Joint Rule 22-1(d).
8

9 **Rule 2.** The proceedings of the committee are investigative in
10 nature and thus do not require an adversarial hearing. Nonetheless,
11 the committee shall provide two (2) working days' notice of each
12 meeting of the committee that is open to the public. Legislators,
13 witnesses and third parties may appear before the committee and
14 may be represented by counsel. Counsel for a legislator, witness
15 or third party may quietly advise their client on how to respond
16 to a question but shall not answer a question from the committee
17 directly for their client or object to a question from the
18 committee.
19

20 **Rule 3.** The chairman of the committee, or his designee, shall
21 have the power to administer oaths pursuant to W.S. 28-1-108.
22

23 **Rule 4.** The chairman of the committee may compel the
24 attendance of witnesses and the production of material relevant to
25 the investigation, as authorized by W.S. 28-1-107 through 28-1-
26 112. A majority of the committee may authorize the chairman to
27 issue subpoenas as determined necessary by the chairman. Absent
28 the formal issuance of a subpoena, all testimony from witnesses
29 and production of material shall be deemed voluntary and shall not
30 be construed as compelled.
31

32 **Rule 5.**
33

34 (a) The hearings and proceedings of this committee are
35 subject to the requirements of the Wyoming Constitution, the Rules
36 of the Wyoming House of Representatives, Title 28 of the Wyoming
37 statutes, and these rules. To the extent not covered by these rules
38 and not inconsistent with these rules, Mason's Manual of
39 Legislative Procedure shall govern procedural matters for the
40 committee.
41

42 (b) Pursuant to Article 3, Section 12 of the Wyoming
43 Constitution, the Committee conducts its proceedings under the
44 rules of the Legislature and any procedures adopted by the
45 Committee. The Wyoming Rules of Evidence, the Wyoming Rules of

Rules of the 2026 House Special Investigative Committee

1 Civil Procedure, the Wyoming Rules of Criminal Procedure, or any
2 other rules specific to the judicial or executive branches do not
3 apply to hearings before the Committee. Any evidence that is
4 otherwise credible shall be accepted by the committee. No evidence
5 that is otherwise credible shall be excluded because its
6 introduction fails to comply with the technical rules of evidence.
7

8 **Rule 6.** The committee shall receive testimony under oath.
9 Documentary evidence may be received in the form of copies or
10 excerpts if the original is not readily available.
11

12 **Rule 7.** Oath and Advisement
13

14 (a) All witnesses providing testimony before the committee
15 shall take the following oath or affirmation:
16

17 "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) under the penalty of
18 perjury that the testimony I am about to give in this
19 matter is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the
20 truth."
21

22 (b) All witnesses providing testimony before the committee
23 shall be provided the following advisement in the letter requesting
24 their appearance before the committee:
25

26 "The testimony you are about to give will be included in
27 the Committee's investigation into whether a member of
28 the public was invited to the floor of the Wyoming House
29 of Representatives and that person handed out checks to
30 members of the House. The information you provide is
31 not confidential and could be used in future
32 legislative, executive or judicial branch proceedings.
33 You have the right to appear before this body with legal
34 counsel. You also have the right to assert any privilege
35 against answering a question recognized by the United
36 States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of
37 Wyoming. You are not being compelled to testify in this
38 matter. You are not being offered any immunity for your
39 testimony."
40

41 **Rule 8.** Witnesses
42

43 (a) Witnesses shall be called by the chairman of the
44 committee or by a majority vote of the committee. Witnesses may be
45 represented by legal counsel.

Rules of the 2026 House Special Investigative Committee

1
2 (b) Witnesses shall only be questioned by committee members.
3

4 (c) Witnesses subpoenaed to appear before the committee shall
5 be entitled to fees as provided by W.S. 28-1-109(d) and shall
6 receive the advisement required by Rule 7(b) at the time the
7 subpoena is served. Witnesses requested to appear before a
8 committee not using the subpoena process shall receive the
9 advisement required by Rule 7(b) with the request to testify.
10

11 (d) At the close of questioning, witnesses will be provided
12 the opportunity to provide an oral statement of up to two (2)
13 minutes consisting of facts relevant to the allegations that checks
14 were provided to members on the floor of the House of
15 Representatives.
16

17 (e) Witnesses may provide additional written statements not
18 later than Friday, February 27 at 5:00 p.m., consisting of facts
19 relevant to the allegations that checks were provided to members
20 on the floor of the House of Representatives at the conclusion of
21 their questioning. The Committee will determine whether the
22 written statement is germane to the charge of the Committee
23 contained in rule 1 of these rules.
24

25 **Rule 9.** The chairman of the committee shall rule on all
26 objections, motions and procedural questions during any meeting
27 from members of the committee. The ruling of the chairman shall be
28 the ruling of the committee unless any member objects, in which
29 event the chairman shall then submit the question to be decided by
30 a vote of a majority of the committee.
31

32 **Rule 10.** Meetings and Work Sessions.
33

34 (a) Notice shall be provided at least two (2) working days
35 prior to a public meeting.
36

37 (b) All public proceedings of the committee, including
38 executive sessions, relating to the investigation, shall be
39 recorded. If the proceedings of a public meeting are not conducted
40 in executive session, all proceedings of the committee shall be
41 streamed on the website of the Wyoming Legislature if the facility
42 in which the committee meets is equipped for live streaming.
43

44 (c) The committee may hold work sessions that are not open
45 to the public for administrative purposes or as required for the
46 efficient administration of the duties of the committee, as

Rules of the 2026 House Special Investigative Committee

1 determined by the committee chairman or a majority vote of the
2 committee. Testimony and evidence shall only be received or
3 introduced in a public meeting, including executive sessions held
4 in conjunction with the public meeting. Working sessions of a
5 committee that are not open to the public do not require prior
6 notice.

7
8 **Rule 11.** The committee shall meet in executive session, as
9 determined by the committee chairman or a majority vote of the
10 committee, if the witnesses will provide confidential information.
11 Members and staff shall keep such information confidential unless
12 the committee determines that the confidential information gives
13 rise to conclusions that require further legislative action or may
14 constitute a criminal violation.

15
16 **Rule 12.** The committee shall issue a public report to the
17 House of Representatives. The Committee may file such findings,
18 conclusions and recommendations as it determines appropriate,
19 including a minority report, conclusions and recommendations if
20 the vote on the final findings, conclusions and recommendations is
21 not unanimous.

The 2026 Special Investigative Committee of the Wyoming House of Representatives is convened for the purpose of fulfilling its responsibilities at the behest of the members of the House.

On February 12 the Wyoming House of Representatives voted unanimously to convene a special committee to investigate whether checks were provided to members of the House of Representatives on the floor of the House and whether that action is a violation of the Wyoming State Constitution under Article 3 Section 42 or Section 43 or constitutes legislative misconduct as defined in Joint Rule 22-1 18 (d).

On Saturday, February 14, the Laramie County Sheriff publicly announced that his office was launching a criminal investigation into the same allegations this Committee has been tasked with investigating.

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concerning the conduct of elected representatives, an inquiry of this nature becomes necessary.

It is important to remember what these hearings are, and what they are not. This is not a trial. It is not a criminal proceeding, a civil proceeding, or any other adversarial proceeding. It is a legislative fact-finding inquiry. The Committee is not adjudicating guilt and is not functioning as a judicial tribunal. The procedural safeguards required in courts do not apply here.

This is also a legislative investigation of colleagues. Members serve alongside one another and inevitably bring prior impressions of the events, personal relationships, public information, and constituent concerns into this room. That reality does not prevent us from fulfilling our duty. I believe the Wyoming Constitution anticipated this very dynamic. Our duty is to come together today with open minds, to ask careful questions, and to determine the facts based on the evidence presented here.

A significant amount of information is already in the public record. In the past two weeks there has been a substantial volume of public reporting and commentary. Our responsibility is to bring order to that virtual blizzard of information, provide context, and present a clear and cohesive factual record to the House.

The matters before us are serious. This Committee has a responsibility to address them carefully and professionally, and in doing so to assist in maintaining public confidence in the integrity of the Legislature.

Our time is limited and our duties are broad. I intend to ensure this proceeding will remain focused, efficient, and steadfast. Testimony or questioning that is repetitive, outside the scope of the Committee's charge, or otherwise

immaterial will be ruled out of order. We will not deviate from our charge: (1) whether checks were provided to members on the floor of the House, and (2) whether that conduct constitutes a violation of the applicable constitutional or rule provisions. Allegations unrelated to those questions, prior disputes, or other grievances will not be permitted.

All witnesses have been notified that their testimony will be included in the Committee's investigation. The information provided will not be treated as confidential and may be used in future legislative, executive, or judicial proceedings. Each witness has the right to appear with legal counsel and to assert any privilege recognized under the United States Constitution or the Constitution of the State of Wyoming. No witness is being granted, or purported to be granted immunity for testimony given here. No person is compelled to appear, to testify, or to produce materials. Participation in this proceeding is voluntary.

Legislators, witnesses and third parties may upon invitation, appear before the committee and may be represented by legal counsel. Counsel for a legislator, witness or third party may quietly and briefly advise their client on how to respond to a question but shall not answer a question from the committee directly for their client or object to a question from the committee or object to any other facet of this proceeding.

Spectators in the room are expected to silence their phones, remain respectfully quiet, enter and leave the room without disturbance.

Those testifying will speak into the microphone and address all responses through the chair regardless who is asking the question. Those testifying are expected to be responsive to the questions and to not debate with committee members. Again, as in any budget session, time is not on our side. I intend to

HOUSE SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE OPENING STATEMENT FEBRUARY 26, 2026

wrap up around 8:00 PM tonight. If necessary, we will reconvene at noon tomorrow to take another two hours of testimony.

With that, we will begin by adopting the Committee's rules.

Oath and Advisement of the Special Committee

Chairman Washut: "Please Stand, Raise Your Right Hand and Repeat After Me":

1. "I [State Your Name];
2. Do solemnly swear (or affirm);
3. Under the penalty of perjury;
4. That the testimony I am about to give in this matter;
5. Is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth."

Chairman Washut: "Thank You and Please be seated."

Staff: "I will now provide the Witness with the Committee's Advisement":

"The testimony you are about to give will be included in the Committee's investigation into whether a member of the public was invited to the floor of the Wyoming House of Representatives and that person handed out checks to members of the House. The information you provide is not confidential and could be used in future legislative, executive or judicial branch proceedings. You have the right to appear before this body with legal counsel. You also have the right to assert any privilege against answering a question recognized by the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Wyoming. You are not being compelled to testify in this matter. You are not being offered any immunity for your testimony."

Staff: "Do you understand that Advisement?"

Wyoming State Constitution

Article 3, Section 12: Rules, punishment and protection.

Each house shall have power to determine the rules of its proceedings, and [to] punish its members or other persons for contempt or disorderly behavior in its presence; to protect its members against violence or offers of bribes or private solicitation, and with the concurrence of two-thirds, to expel a member, and shall have all other powers necessary to the legislature of a free state. A member expelled for corruption shall not thereafter be eligible to either house of the legislature, and punishment for contempt or disorderly behavior shall not bar a criminal prosecution for the same offense.

Article 3, Section 42: Bribery of legislators and solicitation of bribery defined; expulsion of legislator for bribery or solicitation.

If any person elected to either house of the legislature shall offer or promise to give his vote or influence in favor of or against any measure or proposition, pending or to be introduced into the legislature, in consideration or upon condition that any other person elected to the same legislature will give, or promise or assent to give his vote or influence in favor of or against any other measure or proposition pending or proposed to be introduced into such legislature, the person making such offer or promise shall be deemed guilty of solicitation of bribery. If any member of the legislature shall give his vote or influence for or against any measure or proposition pending or to be introduced in such legislature, or offer, promise or assent thereto, upon condition that any other member will give or will promise or assent to give his vote or influence in favor of or against any other measure or proposition pending or to be introduced in such legislature, or in consideration that any other member has given his vote or influence for or against any other measure or proposition in such legislature, he shall be deemed guilty of bribery, and any member of the legislature, or person elected thereto, who shall be guilty of either of such offenses, shall be expelled and shall not thereafter be eligible to the legislature, and on conviction thereof in the civil courts shall be liable to such further penalty as may be prescribed by law.

Article 3, Section 43: Offers to bribe.

Any person who shall directly or indirectly offer, give or promise any money or thing of value, testimonial, privilege or personal advantage, to any executive or judicial officer or member of the legislature, to influence him in the performance of any of his official duties shall be deemed guilty of bribery, and be punished in such manner as shall be provided by law.

Article 3, Section 44: Witnesses in bribery charges.

Any person may be compelled to testify in any lawful investigation or judicial proceeding against any person who may be charged with having committed the offense of bribery or corrupt solicitation, or practices of solicitation, and shall not be permitted to withhold his testimony upon the ground that it may criminate himself, or subject him to public infamy; but such testimony shall not afterwards be used against him in any judicial proceeding, except for perjury in giving such testimony, and any person convicted of either of the offenses aforesaid shall, as part of the punishment therefor, be disqualified from holding any office or position of honor, trust or profit in this state.

House Special Investigative Committee Exhibit Index

Available at wyoleg.gov/Committees/2026/S49

Exhibit:	Exhibit Description:
Exhibit-A	Ms. Bextel 2024 Campaign Contributions
Exhibit-B	Mr. Grasso 2024 Campaign Contributions
Exhibit-C	2025 Senate File 40 Records
Exhibit-D	2026 House Bill 141 Digest
Exhibit-E	News Articles as of Feb. 24
Exhibit-F	Other Publications as of Feb. 21
Exhibit-G	Social Media Posts as of Feb. 24
Exhibit-H	Southwest Security Video
Exhibit-H.1	Southwest Video Still One
Exhibit-H.2	Southwest Video Still Two
Exhibit-H.3	Southwest Video Still Three
Exhibit-H.4	Southwest Video Still Four
Exhibit-H.5	Southwest Video Still Five
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Exhibit-H.7	Southwest Video Still Seven
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Exhibit-H.9	Southwest Video Still Nine
Exhibit-H.10	Southwest Video Still Ten
Exhibit-I1	East Security Video Part One
Exhibit-I1.1	East Video Still One
Exhibit-I1.2	East Video Still Two
Exhibit-I1.3	East Video Still Three

Appendix 8

Exhibit:	Exhibit Description:
Exhibit-I2	East Security Video Part Two
Exhibit-I2.1	East Video Still One
Exhibit-I2.2	East Video Still Two
Exhibit-J	Northwest Security Video
Exhibit-J.1	Northwest Video Still One
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Exhibit-J.3	Northwest Video Still Three
Exhibit-K	Open Range Record Feb. 12
Exhibit K.1	Feb. 12 Open Range Record Transcript
Grasso Exhibit-001	Correspondence from Attorney
Provenza Exhibit-001	Photo One
Provenza Exhibit-002	Photo Two
Provenza Exhibit-003	Photo Three
Provenza Exhibit-004	Photo Four
Provenza Exhibit-005	"Live" Photo
Storer Exhibit-001	Eyes on Wyoming Transcript
Storer Exhibit-002	Eyes on Wyoming Part One
Storer Exhibit-003	Eyes on Wyoming Part Two
Webber Exhibit-001	Eyes on Wyoming Email Invite
Webb Exhibit-001	2022 Write in Campaign Contributions
Webb Exhibit-002	Write in Campaign Expenses
Webb Exhibit-003	2024 Campaign Contributions
Webb Exhibit-004	2024 Campaign Expenses

Appendix 8

Exhibit:	Exhibit Description:
Webb Exhibit-005	Texts with Ms. Bextel Jan. 22-23
Webb Exhibit-006	Emails from Ms. Bextel to WyoLeg Account
Webb Exhibit-007	Eyes on Wyoming Email Invite
Webb Exhibit-008	WyoLeg Outbox to Ms. Bextel
Webb Exhibit-009	Emails from "Chimpmail" to WyoLeg Account
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Webb Exhibit-012	Feb. 12 Email from "Chimpmail"
Webb Exhibit-013	Call Log with Ms. Bextel
Webb Exhibit-014	Emails from Ms. Bextel to Gmail Account
Webb Exhibit-015	Gmail Outbox to Ms. Bextel
Webb Exhibit-016	Emails from Ms. Bextel to Campaign Email
Webb Exhibit-017	Campaign Email Outbox to Ms. Bextel
Webb Exhibit-018	Check from Mr. Grasso-Front
Webb Exhibit-019	Check from Mr. Grasso-Back
Webb Exhibit-020	Texts with Ms. Bextel Jan. 6
Webb Exhibit-021	Facebook Messages with Ms. Bextel
Webb Exhibit-022	Example Call Log
Brady Exhibit-001	Texts with Ms. Bextel
Brady Exhibit-002	Check from Mr. Grasso
McCann Exhibit-001	Texts with Ms. Bextel
McCann Exhibit-002	Check from Mr. Grasso

Appendix 8

Exhibit:	Exhibit Description:
Knapp Exhibit-001	Check from Mr. Grasso
Bextel Exhibit-001	Texts with Ms. Schneider
Bextel Exhibit-002	Email with Ms. Schneider
Bextel Exhibit-003	Texts with Rep. Bear
Bextel Exhibit-004	Texts with Rep. Brady
Bextel Exhibit-005	Texts with Rep. Gary Brown
Bextel Exhibit-006	Texts with Rep. Knapp
Bextel Exhibit-007	Texts with Rep. Locke
Bextel Exhibit-008	Texts with Rep. McCann
Bextel Exhibit-009	Texts with Rep. Webb
Bextel Exhibit-010	FedEx Package



My statement for the public record

From Rebecca Bextel <rebeccabextel@gmail.com>

Date Fri 2/27/2026 10:52 AM

To LSO - Matt Obrecht <Matt.Obrecht@wyoleg.gov>; Representative - Connolly, Marilyn <Marilyn.Connolly@WYOLEG.GOV>; Representative - Fornstrom, Justin <Justin.Fornstrom@WYOLEG.GOV>; Representative - Heiner, Scott <Scott.Heiner@WYOLEG.GOV>; Representative - Lawley, Martha <Martha.Lawley@WYOLEG.GOV>; Representative - Posey, Ivan <Ivan.Posey@WYOLEG.GOV>; Representative - Tarver, Reuben <Reuben.Tarver@WYOLEG.GOV>; Representative - Washut, Art <Art.Washut@wyoleg.gov>; LSO - Tamara Rivale <tamara.rivale@wyoleg.gov>; LSO - Ashley Phillips <Ashley.Phillips@wyoleg.gov>

 1 attachment (15 KB)

LSO Hearing Statement.docx;

Wyoming, we deserve better.

If the Democrats had followed the rules, this would have been over in a matter of hours.

But some in our legislature have tried to derail your budget session, and I believe the LSO Director, Matt Obrecht, is among them. When did he see the check?

Democrats are not the threat, because we know their intentions. They plan to change the very fabric of Wyoming, if we let them.

The real scandal that affects Wyoming is this: we have Democrats masquerading as Republicans in our Wyoming legislature. Counterfeit Republicans were elected on the 23 planks of the Republican platform, yet they do the bidding of the Democrats once they get into office.

These people need to be run out of office, and I plan to help.

I passed off \$1,500 checks from a donor in full transparency. There is not a single legislature in this Capitol that can be bought off for \$1,500, but apparently, I think more of you than some of your colleges do.

I have uncovered millions of dollars in housing scams all over Wyoming. They are in every county in Wyoming.

I have uncovered a HUGE property tax exemption scam, which forces all of us to pay more!

Imagine if this committee asked me and the legislators for all our texts regarding the \$1,500 donations?

And this DID NOT HAPPEN, but...

Image what you would think if we all said we deleted our texts messages to “free up space” on our phones?

Would it seem like we are hiding something the public needs to be made aware of?

That is EXACTLY what happened when I public record requested the texts between the Teton County Housing Director, April Norton, and private developers, BlueLine Development

Mr Norton and the Developer deleted their texts.

The Open Range Record is the only news outlet that has covered it.

There has been no investigative committee.

I have uncovered three million dollars that BlueLine has been paid in taxpayer funds just in Teton County. However, they’ve had projects all over the state, given to them by the WCDA.

MILLIONS of dollars in taxpayer funds, public land, juicy contracts, the Teton County Fairgrounds.

The Wyoming Community Development Authority refuses to hand over the amount consultants and developers get paid for projects across Wyoming. These projects are FULLY taxpayer funded.

Governor Gordon announced he was giving a private company \$100 million dollars. You’ll notice there is no hearing on that.

But they are investigating me over \$1,500 checks because they say it’s bad optics?

I am a proud conservative Republican in Teton County. I put a Trump sign in my yard in East Jackson.

I’m more concerned with doing the right thing, than optics.

I have had rocks thrown through the windows at my home TWICE, I have had the cops called on me for nonsense while investigating the “low-income” housing SCAM.

I promise to keep working hard to get conservatives elected. No donors are scared off, I will double the money I raised last year.

Wyoming, I am sorry this happened to all of us.

But I URGE you to stay strong, because I am. These Democrats and counterfeit Republicans should have picked a weaker target.