

# LETTERS

## Voter access critical

Wyoming is becoming one of the most restrictive states in the nation for voter access. In an election year it is more important than ever to make sure that it is easier to vote and harder to cheat.

The Jan. 25 News&Guide article “Voter regs see pushback” quotes from an email from the Teton County GOP that makes several false claims. It is important to note that there has been no fraud in Wyoming elections. According to the conservative Heritage Foundation, there have been three instances of fraud in Wyoming since 2000 and zero in the last decade. This is a testament to the current audits, safeguards and laws we already have in place for elections and, most importantly, the outstanding work of our county clerks. Wyoming elections are secure, and we should not be reacting to projected national election fraud claims.

On Friday, Jan. 26, thanks to the request of nonpartisan statewide groups dedicated to fair elections, including the Wyoming county clerks, AARP, League of Women Voters, Equality State Policy Center, members of the Legislature’s Joint Corporations, Elections and Political Subdivisions

Committee and Wyoming FREE shared their concern about the secretary of state’s proposed rules. They were advocating for all the people who have lived in Wyoming their entire lives who may lose their legal right to vote under the proposed new requirements. A recent issue brief from a new organization, Wyoming FREE — focused on making it easier to vote and harder to cheat — points out that Wyoming’s voter registration is now among the most restrictive in the nation.

We aren’t preventing voter fraud; we’re keeping qualified voters from the ballot box. This is not a conservative value, and it is definitely not a Wyoming value.

Please join me in talking with our legislators and contacting Gov. Mark Gordon asking them to push back and delay these administrative election changes being proposed by the Secretary of State’s Office.

Paul Vogelheim  
Past Teton County GOP chair  
and past Teton County commissioner  
Jackson

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