



For Immediate Release:

Date: 10/26/2018
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Secretary of State's Office Promotes Youth Voting Before Midterm Election

CHEYENNE, WY – The Wyoming Secretary of State's Office is promoting youth participation in Wyoming elections. In the weeks leading up to the General Election, the Secretary of State's Office and the Youth Voter Initiative Steering Committee - a group of Wyoming youth advising the office on the challenges of getting youth civically engaged - launched an ongoing [digital ad campaign](#) encouraging 18-24 year olds in Wyoming to get informed and vote. The office and steering committee also recently completed a series of educational civics workshops for high school students in association with the Bill of Rights Institute. The Bill of Rights Institute first participated in the 2016 Wyoming Youth Voter Summit.

"With the disappointing youth turnout of 14% during the 2014 Midterm Election, our office is dedicated to improving youth voter turnout through civics education and by encouraging our youth active online and on social media to become informed and decide to exercise their right to vote. By promoting civic engagement in our youth, we can stem the tide of bright minds leaving our state, and by asking them to be engaged and informed we help to preserve our constitutional form of government," said Secretary of State Edward Buchanan.

The 2018 Youth Voter Initiative sponsored workshops, led by facilitators from the Bill of Rights Institute, were held during the week of October 15th in Cheyenne, Casper, and Rock Springs. High school classes in attendance were from Cheyenne East High School, Casper Kelly Walsh High School, Glenrock High School, Cody High School, Black Butte High School, and Mountain View High School. The 185 participating students identified important issues in their communities and discussed how their generation can respond to these pressing issues through civic engagement.

"The mission of the Youth Voter Initiative is research-based and dedicated to encouraging Wyoming's youth to become more civically engaged, become informed, and to vote in Wyoming elections. We are fortunate to be partnering with the John P. Ellbogen Foundation and the Taco John's International Foundation - two committed sponsors of the Wyoming Youth Voter Initiative who have continued over the last several years to support our outreach to the demographic least likely to participate at the polls - Wyoming's youth," said State Election Director Kai Schon.

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