

Wyoming Secretary of State

Chuck Gray



September 8, 2025

Via E-Mail

Michael McNamee, Chairman
Justin Burkart, Commissioner
Aaron Walsh, Commissioner
Mary Feagler, Clerk
P.O. Box 160
Torrington, WY 82240

Re: Opposition to Vote Center Proposals

Dear Chairman McNamee, Members of the Commission, and Clerk Feagler,

This letter pertains to the proposal that was presented to the Goshen County Board of Commissioners as well as the revised proposal sent to me by Goshen County Clerk Mary Feagler on August 28th to close precinct locations in Goshen County and replace them with vote centers. Wyoming State law clearly places the decision-making authority over this issue with the County and not with the state as one of the few issues that are not subject to the uniformity provisions of Title 22. But as the chief election official for the state of Wyoming, I would like to provide my thoughts, express some of the issues that are at stake, respond to your inquiries on the process laid on state law for making this decision, and express my clear opposition.

I want to make clear that I'm strongly opposed to these proposals, both the one presented at the County commission on August 19th and the one emailed to me on August 28th, for a number of reasons. I'm a believer in precinct voting rather than moving to vote centers. These proposals make it more difficult for rural voters to vote in person on the day of the election by increasing the distance that qualified electors will have to travel in order to reach the polls. There are multiple consequences to increasing this distance.

First, voters in these areas will be less likely to vote, which is unacceptable. In addition, these proposals will discourage in-person voting, which is much more secure. The security of in-person voting has been emphasized by President Trump time and time again, including in an August 18th Truth Social post. The widespread consensus on this point can be seen in the 2005 Carter-Baker Commission, which emphasized the fact that absentee voting was a particular security challenge as opposed to in-person voting.

Precinct voting is also pivotal to election integrity, because it creates a smaller area with established boundaries within a county where qualified electors vote. Since precinct voting is tied to a certain geographic area, the qualified electors within a precinct live near each other. This is a natural safeguard, since qualified electors within a precinct are more likely to know who lives

near them. That is also true for the election judges. In other words, from an election integrity perspective, in-person voting is the most secure, and these proposals unfortunately deemphasize in-person voting.

The bottom line is this: precinct polling places are in line with superior accessibility, as well as safety and security standards, compared to vote centers. We should be trying to promote precinct voting, rather than moving away from it as both of Clerk Feagler's proposals attempt to do. In this, I share the concerns brought forward by the citizens of Goshen County during the meeting on August 19th.

I will also note that I'm opposed to both proposals, including the revised proposal of August 28th. At the end of the day, precinct voting should be emphasized for the reasons outlined above and both proposals are inconsistent with that.

I also wanted to speak to the requirements around vote centers and your inquiries regarding the process in state law for evaluating Clerk Feagler's proposals. Indeed, Wyoming State law states that these proposals would require action by the County Commission for the proposals to go into effect. I will note that the county clerk stated in an email to me that she acknowledges that Wyoming State law requires action by the County Commission, because Clerk Feagler is requesting a polling place outside of a precinct.

While Wyoming State law places this decision in your hands, I encourage you to listen to the concerns brought forward by the citizens that you represent in Goshen County and reject this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck Gray". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chuck" and the last name "Gray" clearly distinguishable.

Chuck Gray
Wyoming Secretary of State