

Wyoming Secretary of State

Chuck Gray



August 14, 2026

Via E-mail

Patrick Collins, Mayor
Cheyenne City Council
2101 O'Neil Ave.
Cheyenne, WY 82001

Dear Mayor Collins and Members of the Cheyenne City Council:

This letter pertains to Cheyenne residents' submittal of a referendum petition on August 7th to initiate the referendum process regarding the Cheyenne City Council's annexation of 3,460 acres associated with Microsoft's proposed data center expansion. This letter specifically addresses the Council's August 10th decision to seek a declaratory judgment concerning whether W.S. 15-1-409 supersedes the referendum process clearly laid out in W.S. 22-23-1005. As Wyoming's Chief Election Official tasked with oversight and administration of Wyoming's Election Code, Title 22, I write to caution you against undermining the clear, statutory process laid out in W.S. 22-23-1005, and to let the referendum process proceed. I am deeply disturbed by the actions of the mayor and council.

At the outset, Title 22 is clear: city residents have the right to subject ordinances to a referendum vote if the signature requirements are met. Ordinance No. 4687, like any other ordinance, is subject to this process. Nothing in Title 15 either explicitly or implicitly preempts this process or takes away the right of the people to engage in this process. **Any other reading of Wyoming state law is absolutely absurd.** Annexation is a legislative process undertaken by the City Council, and the referendum process outlined in Title 22 is expressly designed to address decisions such as these.

The People of Wyoming remain concerned about data centers. Please don't abuse legal processes and procedures to bog down Cheyenne residents' constitutional rights under the initiative process. I urge you to revisit this issue, let the statutorily authorized process for verifying petition signatures proceed, and let the people of Cheyenne have a voice in this process.

Sincerely,

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

Chuck Gray
Wyoming Secretary of State