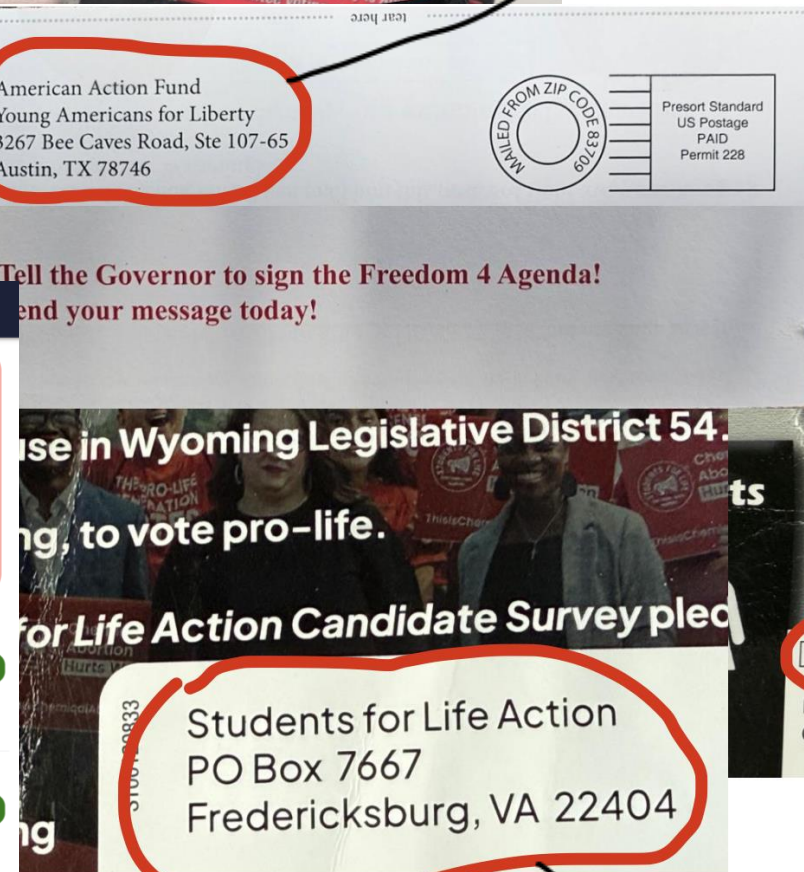
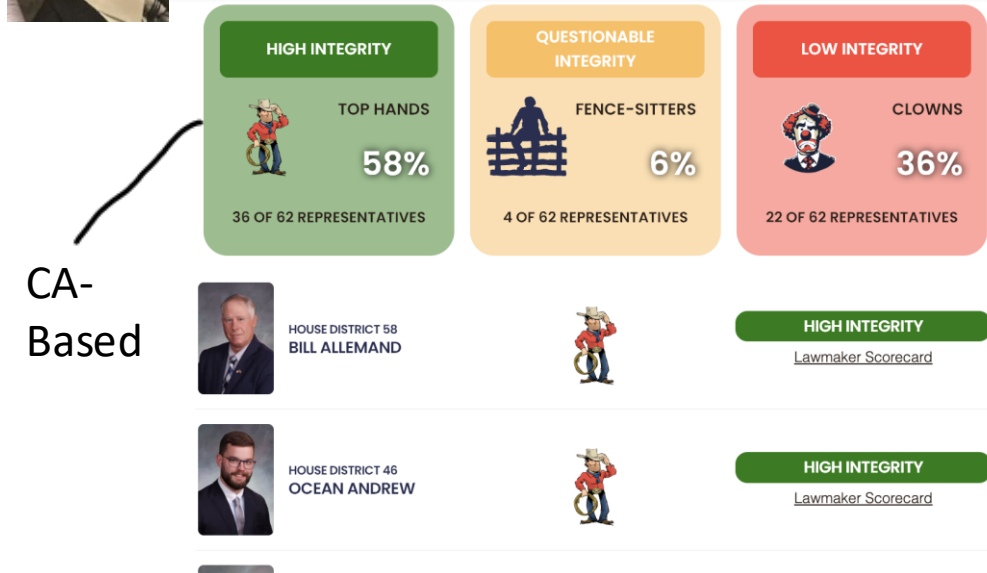


Ways for Citizens to Track and Engage in Budget Issues During the WY Legislative Session

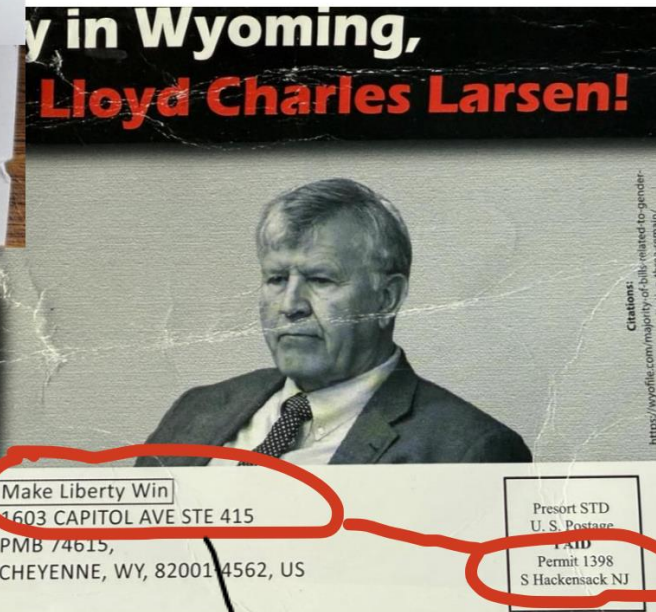




Texas



Virginia



New Jersey

How Do You Get Info/Know What's in the Budget?

Be up-to-date on Wyoming news – skim/read on-line/local sources WyoFile & Cowboy State Daily; make sure you review opinion pieces to assess “hot” topics.



The image shows a screenshot of the Cowboy State Daily website. A red circle highlights the hamburger menu icon in the top left corner. A red arrow points from this icon to a list of topics on the right side of the page. Another red arrow points from the 'Opinion' link in this list to the 'Opinion' section on the left side of the page.

Topics listed on the right side of the page:

- Government & Politics
- Crime & Courts
- Energy
- Business & Tourism
- Outdoors
- Wyoming Life
- Sponsored
- Opinion**
- Daily Features

Text on the left side of the page:

Opinion

Columnist ^

- CSD Columnists
- Guest Columnists
- Letters to the Editor

Opinion

This column will be on left side of page

Tracking fast-paced and wonky budget votes and amendments is hard even for lobbyists who are there in person! Get an Insider!

Sign Up for Email/Text Alerts from an Organization that covers the issues you're interested in

Education: WY Education Association

Elections/Voting: ESPC

Public lands & wildlife: WY Wildlife Federation

Health Care: Healthy Wyoming

Variety of Issues

WY Woman's Foundation - education, health, child care, etc.

Better Wyoming – schools, health & more

Tax issues: WY Taxpayers Association - weekly updates on website

Tips for Engaging w/ Legislators

Engage now – before the session!

- Invite your rep to coffee, pull together with other friends
- Send an email – gets their attention more vs busy session/hundreds of emails

During Session – many ways!

- Emails, Texts, Calls
- Testify remotely on-line
- Visit Cheyenne: testify in person, visit with legislators in lobby, or at receptions

Attend Cheyenne orientation/group opportunity:

- Camo at the Capitol (WWF & others): Feb. 12
- League of Woman Voters Action Day: Feb. 9 - 10



Tips for Messaging to Legislators

- Be respectful, dress decent, never lie, thank them (being emotional doesn't help)
- Be timely & specific – list bill number, name of bill, your request (support/no)
- Be concise – they are crazy busy, limited time
- When visiting in person/more time: ask for their thoughts, listen

My 3-Sentence Rule for Effective Emails

ALWAYS SEND FROM YR OWN EMAIL, NOT THROUGH AN ONLINE SERVICE OR FORM EMAILS!!!!!!

- 1) ID who you are in connection to that person/Wyoming resident/on the topic (committee).
- 2) State your position/request.
- 3) Add in personal connection/story/your values to support your position.

Other: Thank them! Put concise message in subject line.

Example Email

To: Sen. Cale Case, Rep. Lloyd Larsen

Subject: pls support maternal health funding

- 1) I'm writing as your constituent living in Fremont County outside of Lander.*
- 2) Please vote for an increase in funding for maternity and OB services in the Department of Health's budget.*
- 3) We need to maintain our labor-and-delivery units in our local hospitals so that young families will stay in and thrive in Wyoming.*

Thanks for your service.

Steff Kessler



HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW



BUDGET SESSION VERSION

INTRODUCTION VOTE

Requires 2/3rds
Majority

START

First Chamber
(Senate or House)

**FIRST
READING**
Bill is
introduced.

**STANDING
COMMITTEE**
A committee
reviews the bill.

**GENERAL
FILE**
Bill awaits
debate.

**SECOND
READING**
The bill can be
amended, moved,
and voted on.

**THIRD
READING**
If a majority
of the elected
vote "aye", the
bill passes to
the second
chamber!

NEXT
Second Chamb
(House or
Senate)

**COMMITTEE
OF THE
WHOLE**
The chamber
debates the bill

**GENERAL
FILE**
Bill awaits
debate.

**FIRST
READING**
Bill is
introduced.

**STANDING
COMMITTEE**
A committee
reviews the bill.

**COMMITTEE
OF THE
WHOLE**
The chamber
debates the bill

**SECOND
READING**

**THIRD
READING**
If a majority
of the elected
vote "aye", the
bill moves on!

**POSSIBLE
CONFERENCE
COMMITTEE**

NEXT
If passed through
all stages, the
bill is sent
to the
governor!

Key Timelines/Events for 2026 Budget Session aka “Fast & Furious” or “Kill Bill”

Monday Feb. 9	Tuesday Feb 10	Wednesday Feb 11	Thursday Feb 12	Friday Feb 13
10 am start: State of State & speeches; 2 pm intro votes start	More intro votes on non-budget bills	More intro votes on non-budget bills	Budget introduced & explained to body of House: COW	Continued explanation of budget bill
	Committee mtgs (on-going)	By end of day: all bills filed/public		Death Day: bill get 2/3rds vote or dead
Monday Feb. 16	Tuesday Feb 17	Wednesday Feb 18	Thursday Feb 19	Friday Feb 20
Session work & prep budget amendments	Budget Bill – 2 nd Reading 🍕 nite	Session work, more amendments	3 rd (final) Reading on Budget 🍕🍕 nite	
Third Week: bills worked, budget sent other house, conference committee appointed Gov. vetos, etc. votes				
Fourth Week: bills finished, conference reports & votes; Gov. vetos, override votes				Friday March 6
				Last day bill to Gov

Day 21: Wednesday March 11: Potential Veto Overrides; Adjourn by Midnight

**One of the Best State
Legislative Resources:
wyoleg.gov**