

Joe Rubino Chief Policy Director and General Counsel Wyoming Secretary of State's Office 200 W 24th St. Cheyenne, WY 82002

December 18th, 2023

Subject: Proposed Rule Changes to Chapter 2: Identification for Voter Registration

Dear Mr. Rubino,

On behalf of the Equality State Policy Center, I am writing to express concern about the proposed rule related to proof of residency for registering to vote in Wyoming. This proposed rule exceeds the current rulemaking process and makes substantive changes to the current statute. Establishing and maintaining proper procedures for the sake of electoral integrity is of the utmost importance. However, the rule proposed by your office goes beyond the legitimate scope of setting procedures by requiring additional steps for voters to register and election officials to administer.

As you are aware, the Joint Corporations Committee recently supported an interim bill that addresses this very issue. There was robust and thoughtful debate during the interim session around the issue of defining residency - which led to a bill that was almost unanimously supported by the committee. Meanwhile, there have been very few reported complaints about potential voter fraud in Wyoming. There is no urgency on this legislation, especially if it is being done as a preventive measure from potential future threats.

I strongly urge the Secretary of State Office to carefully consider the potential ramifications of this proposed rule for some of Wyoming's most vulnerable: women in shelters, Wind River reservation residents, and the unhoused in our communities. We must strike a balance between safeguarding the integrity of our elections and guaranteeing that all eligible citizens have unimpeded access to the ballot box.

In addition, as a coalition-based organization of more than 25 members, we are formally requesting a public hearing on this proposed rule.

Sincerely,
Marissa Carpio
Policy Director, ESPC
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