



Wyoming State Legislature
Management Council
200 W 24th St.
Cheyenne, WY 82002

December 19th, 2023

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

Dear Chairmen Driskill and Sommers, and members of the Council,

On behalf of the Equality State Policy Center, I am writing to express deep concern about the proposed rule submitted by the Secretary of State that goes beyond what is permitted under the scope of rulemaking. The proposed rule makes substantive changes to the current Wyoming Statute under Title 22 and has the potential to create serious consequences for voters and election administrators.

Establishing and maintaining proper procedures for the sake of election integrity is of the utmost importance; however, ESPC believes the proposed rule change goes beyond the legitimate scope of setting procedures and, instead, subverts the legislative process.

The proposed rule change would amend Title 22 to require those attempting to register to vote to provide proof of residency. Current law requires that those registering to vote provide proof of identity; the proposed changes would add an additional burden on voters to prove their residency. The Joint Corporations Committee took up this issue during the interim and sponsored a bill that will be presented in the upcoming Budget Session.

Unfortunately, this sort of policy has an undue burden on many marginalized and underrepresented members of the Wyoming community. While the ESPC will argue that this is not a policy change that ensures accessibility and security, the more important issue at stake is what is permitted under a rule change and what must be addressed through legislation.

I strongly urge the Management Council to carefully consider the potential ramifications of this proposed rule on Wyoming voters and election administrators. 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.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I trust that the Management Council will consider these concerns thoughtfully as it evaluates the proposed rule.

Sincerely,
Jenn Lowe
Executive Director
Equality State Policy Center