



OPPOSE HB 131. WYOMING NEEDS OUR DROP BOXES.

Our current system in Wyoming is safe, secure, and relied upon by thousands of voters every election.

Why do we have ballot drop boxes?

Absentee ballots are used by voters who will be “absent” from their polling place on the day of the election. Voters request a ballot, fill in the ballot, and return it -sealed with signature over seal- (1) by mail, (2) in-person, and (3) using ballot boxes. This all happens within a brief 28-day window (45 days prior to 2023) designated for early voting and absentee voting.

Drop boxes have been used in Wyoming Counties for **official business for 30 years** - collecting payments and documents. They have been in use **since 2016 for Wyoming elections**. This is not a national “COVID concept”!

Who benefits from ballot drop boxes? All voters benefit!

Ballot drop boxes are used by Wyomingites who work shift hours; frequently travel for work; are caretakers (young children, aging relatives); are harvesting crops, particularly with the August primary election; disabled; and rural voters who live and work in communities outside of the county seat. Allowing 24/7 accessibility to voting provides equal opportunities to vote, regardless of circumstances.

Having the option to return one’s ballot to a secure safe box outside of a county building, rather than sending it via the standard mail, offers a similar “at the polls” experience that voters find safe, as well as convenient.

AT LEAST 5,000 WYOMINGITES USED BALLOT BOXES IN 2024 GENERAL ELECTION:

ALBANY COUNTY

1000+

VOTERS USED DROP BOXES

For context, an Albany County State Representative race was won/lost with a 193 vote margin.

CARBON COUNTY

150+

VOTERS USED DROP BOXES

For context, an Encampment City Council race was won/lost with an 11 vote margin.

LARAMIE COUNTY

2,000+

VOTERS USED DROP BOXES

For context, a Laramie County School Board race was won/lost a 29 vote margin.

VOTER ACCESS MATTERS.

Both Laramie and Albany Counties measured an increase of ballot drop box usage by voters over the years, indicating trust of the voting method. According to the County Clerk’s Association of Wyoming, in 2024 **six counties used standalone drop boxes**, five used general business drop boxes, and two counties used both or accepted ballots through either measure.

County clerks are deeply committed to managing ballot drop boxes with care! They consistently strive to maintain both security and accessibility for voters. Drop boxes are maintained and picked up by bi-partisan teams, they are locked, under video surveillance, and the Clerks use logs to track ballots through this process.

Through records requests, the Equality State Policy Center was **unable to find any documented unresolved issues by the Secretary of State’s office** with ballot drop boxes in Wyoming.

Fair Elections - Transparent Government

The Equality State Policy Center is a non-partisan, coalition-based organization that works to advance fair elections and transparent government in support of all Wyoming communities.

Empowering Voters - Defending Democracy

The League of Women Voters’ of Wyoming envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate.