

Natrona County Democratic Party

2026 Candidate Information Sheet

NATRONA COUNTY



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Join Us:

If you are reading this, it is because the Natrona County Democratic Party would like **YOU** to get involved in making our county, state, and country a better place for *all* people.

The Natrona County Democratic Party champions the values of **opportunity, sustainability, and integrity**. We believe in fostering an **inclusive** society guided by principles of **fairness, equality, responsible stewardship of our environment, and good governance**. Our core values are centered around **freedom, security, democracy, and equity**.

Our vision for a **strong** democracy includes county, state, and national issues, with an overall strategy of **proactive planning** and legislation. Our goal as a party is to **promote good policies** and **elect Democratic candidates** in Natrona County that show we are **Here For Good**.

We want **you** to join us in this effort. At a time when our values are under attack more than ever, we need everyone to pitch in. Running for office is the **ultimate show of commitment** towards protecting what we believe in and offering our community **people-centered solutions** to the problems we face.

Remember: You don't have to be rich and powerful to run for office. You don't need years of experience. You just have to **care** and be ready to **learn**. Your experience and voice **matters** more than you know. To run for office is to **believe** in **yourself** and your **community**. Win or lose, **both will benefit**.

Take Inspiration:

"Your voice matters, your experience, your life. Look at who is running your city or state right now, and if you don't see yourself, it's you who should be in that seat."

- **Terry Vo**, *Nashville City Councilwoman*

"Freedom is not a state; it is an act. It is not some enchanted garden perched high on a distant plateau where we can finally sit down and rest. Freedom is the continuous action we all must take, and each generation must do its part to create an even more fair, more just society."

- **John Lewis**, *Civil Rights Activist and former U.S. Representative*

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed individuals can change the world. In fact, it's the only thing that ever has."

- **Margaret Mead**, *Author and Cultural Anthropologist*

"I remember saying to myself, 'Either we can complain about it, or we can do something about it.' Toward the beginning of this year, I decided to get off the sidelines and make a decision to run for office."

- **Victoria Masika**, *2023 candidate, Hillsborough, N.C. Town Commissioner*

"Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase."

- **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**, *Civil Rights Activist and Minister*

"If something needs fixing, then lace up your shoes and do some organizing. If you're disappointed by your elected officials, grab a clipboard, get some signatures, and run for office yourself. Show up. Dive in. Stay at it."

- **Barack Obama**, *former President of the United States*

Why Run As A Democrat?

The bottom line is this: registering as and/or running as a Republican does **not** help advance our **shared** values, results in our values **losing** out, makes it **more difficult** for popular solutions to be implemented, and makes it **all-around harder** to organize around our common beliefs against a **sea of red**.

Switching parties to try and change the outcome of a Republican Primary is a strategy that has been tried many times in Wyoming politics, most notably and recently in support of Liz Cheney against Harriet Hageman. **We get the logic, trust us. Unfortunately, it just doesn't work.** It has been tried for years across the state, and where has it gotten us? There are *more* elected officials who are pushing Wyoming into "Freedom" Caucus rule, *not less*.

Not only that, it actively harms the ability of those who share our values to get elected while aiding the "Freedom" Caucus takeover of the Republican Party. Plus, due to new election laws, it is **harder** to switch parties now than it was before. Voters must switch parties **3 months** before the August primaries. No longer can you switch parties at polls during the primary unless you are a voter registering for the first time. We now have to pick a party sooner – and it should be the **Democratic Party**.

The numbers have been thoroughly crunched, crossover voting **didn't** impact either Governor Mark Gordon's or Liz Cheney's races. The "Freedom" Caucus is more powerful than ever. The bottom line is this: **switching parties hurts us**, both in perception and materially.

This is not to say that all registered Republicans are bad people or that there haven't been good people who have run as Republicans to defeat the "Freedom" Caucus. **It is to say**, however, that even when these people are elected, they face pressure to conform with the increasingly "Freedom" Caucus Wyoming GOP. Wouldn't it be better if we elected **Democrats** who we **know** share our values, we **know** will not have to conform, and we **know** will not face a heated primary?

**Here are 10 reasons why you should register and run as a DEMOCRAT
instead of a REPUBLICAN:**

1. *We are already outnumbered and at a disadvantage, and losing an estimated 35% of Democrats to party switching makes a devastating impact.*

2. *You can elevate issues that matter to you and force incumbent Republicans to speak to issues they have never had to before.*

Incumbent Republicans enjoy the privileged position of never having to be challenged on their record and decisions. Running as a Democrat gives you the opportunity to **be** the challenge and show people there **is** an alternative vision for our county and state.

3. *Republican candidates almost always run unopposed in Natrona County, giving voters virtually zero real choice in elections.*

To make matters worse, few people vote in the primaries, meaning the general population is forced to settle on a singular candidate selected by an ultra minority of people that are increasingly on the extremes.

Why not present a different choice for people, showing them that they **don't** have to stick with the status quo?

4. *Party Switching reduces our county and state numbers, making us (and our values) less visible to the electorate at-large.*

This creates a feedback loop, where people **assume** there are less of us than there actually are because we are not as visible, causing them to feel **alone** in their beliefs and values. This then discourages them from being open about their values or running for office. They are driven to register as and to vote in the Republican Primary because they hear "that is the true election" and "it doesn't matter anyway because there are no Democrats." But there **are** Democrats, a lot of them, registered as Republicans. We **change** that perception by having **more** numbers.

5. *If we stick together and show that Democrats are on the ballot, we will have a better chance to defeat the “Freedom” Caucus and its takeover of Wyoming.*
6. *The more registered Republicans there are, the more material support they get from the national Republican Party, and the safer they feel in their one-party control of the state.*
7. *The less registered Democrats there are, the less material support we get from the national Democratic Party, and the more unmotivated everyday people feel to get involved. This is to our detriment, not our advantage.*
8. *Running as a Democrat puts the party out there as a viable alternative.*
9. *Running as a Democrat guarantees a spot on the general election ballot if you win the primary.*

Running as a Republican in the primary runs the gambit of **not** defeating the incumbent and **not** appearing on the general election ballot at all.

10. *Running as a Republican forces us to sacrifice our values in order to align with the one-party state.*

We can be proud of our values **and** run proudly as Democrats who believe in freedom and democracy, all **without** aligning with the party that is paving the way for the “Freedom” Caucus to control our lives. When party switching to vote in the Republican Primary, voters are still going to be picking between candidates who are **submitting themselves** to the Republican Party Platform, which is becoming increasingly problematic **and** harmful to Wyoming.

Candidate Need-To-Knows and Deadlines

Note: For more detailed information or questions regarding deadlines, forms, and qualifications, please contact the Natrona County Clerk's Office or the Wyoming Secretary of State's Office.

<https://www.natronacounty-wy.gov/131/Candidate-Information>

Election Period

The 2026 General Election will take place on November 3, 2026. The 2026 Primary Election will take place on August 18, 2026.

Filing Fees and Filing Office

Different offices have different filing fees and places for filing:

- **Wyoming State Legislature**

- Filing Office: Secretary of State – Legislative Offices
 - To file online and pay your filing fee by credit card, visit <https://sos.wyo.gov> or call 307-777-5860 for assistance
- Filing Fee: \$100

- **County Offices Including District Attorneys**

- Filing Office: County Clerk
- Filing Fee: \$100

- **Municipal Offices**

- Filing Office: City or Town Clerk
- Filing Fee: \$25

- **Casper College Board of Trustees**

- Filing Office: County Clerk
- Filing Fee: None

- **Natrona County School District #1 Board of Trustees**

- Filing Office: County Clerk
- Filing Fee: None

Filing Periods, Deadlines, and Forms

Note: For further clarification and legal questions about deadlines, forms, campaign finance, and more, please contact the Natrona County Clerk's Office or the Wyoming Secretary of State's Office.

There are a few important deadlines and forms to keep in mind as a candidate:

- **Filing Period:** In order to appear on the ballot, candidates must submit an application for election within the allotted filing period. For some offices, candidates must pay a fee.
 - General Filing Period:
 - May 14-29, 2026
 - Filing Period for School Board, College Board, Fire District, and other Special Districts:
 - August 4-24, 2026
- **Campaign Finance Deadlines:** Candidates are required to log and submit a record of all campaign finance contributions and expenditures, whether they win the election or not. Candidates are required to file even if they neither receive nor spend money during the campaign.
 - Primary Election Contributions & Expenditures:
 - Due 7 days before the Primary: Aug. 11, 2026
 - General Election Contributions & Expenditures:
 - Due 7 days before the General: Oct. 27, 2026

Forms

<https://www.natronacounty-wy.gov/762/Candidate-Forms>

- **Filing Forms:**

- All candidates must submit a form to the appropriate office (either the County Clerk or the Secretary of State) declaring their intention to run and have their name be listed on the ballot.
- The following filing forms are available:
 - Community College Board Trustee; County Offices and District Attorney; Municipal Offices; Petition for Nomination of Independent Candidates for Partisan Office; Precinct Committeeman and Precinct Committeewoman; School Board Trustee

- **Statement of Campaign Contribution and Expenditures Forms:**

- All candidates are required to log and submit a record of all campaign finance contributions and expenditures, whether they win the election or not.
- Candidates are required to file even if they neither receive nor spend money during the campaign.
- **County and Municipal** candidates file campaign finance forms with the Natrona County Clerk's Office. **Statewide** candidates must file **online** with the Secretary of State's Office.

- **Formation of Candidate's Campaign Committee Form**

- A candidate is not required to have a campaign committee. However, **if two or more persons** join together for the purpose of raising, collecting or expending money to assist and aid the election of a specific candidate for public office, they meet the definition of a candidate's campaign committee.

- **Political Action Committees & Candidate Committees – Termination Form**

- Candidates must terminate their political action committees or candidate committees.

- **County and Municipal** candidates file with the Natrona County Clerk's Office. **Statewide** candidates must file **online** with the Secretary of State's Office.
- **Voter Data Request Form**
 - Candidates may request voter data from the County Clerk.
 - **Who May Request Voter Data?**
 - The registry list may be obtained for political purposes only and the requestor must fit a category as outlined in #6 Oath Required on the form.
 - **How Do You Obtain Voter Data?**
 - If requesting data for a county or municipal official, candidate, candidate committee, PAC, or political party, please contact the local County Clerk for their appropriate process and associated fees for data.

Common Questions and Concerns

1. Can a Democrat realistically win here?

Answer:

Natrona County does lean heavily Republican, but Democrats and unaffiliated voters make up a meaningful portion of the electorate. Local issues often matter more than party labels, especially in nonpartisan and down-ballot races.

Even in partisan races, strong candidates who connect with voters on shared concerns (jobs, schools, infrastructure, safe communities) can outperform expectations. Running a credible campaign also strengthens the local party, builds future networks, and helps define the conversation, even if victory isn't guaranteed.

2. Will I be personally attacked or socially ostracized?

Answer:

Politics here can be spirited, and there are people who will try to find a problem in even the most common sense things, but most neighbors respect someone willing to serve. Expect disagreement, but outright hostility, especially in person, is rare when candidates focus on civility and shared values.

If you encounter hostility online, try not to engage in it. If you do, do so with calm and respect. Also remember that more people likely support you than you think. A few loud voices online do not represent everyone.

3. Do I need to be a registered Democrat to run?

Answer:

For any future support in partisan races, yes, you must be registered with the party before the filing deadline. For nonpartisan local offices (school board, municipal boards, special districts), registration with any party is not required to run, but we will look to officially support registered Democrats first.

To receive official support from the Natrona County Democratic Party down the road, we highly recommend registering as a Democrat. This is both to avoid any

possible by-laws issues regarding providing support, but also to show that Democrats have a strong front. However, in nonpartisan races, Democrats will likely run without emphasizing party at all, focusing instead on competence, transparency, and local problem-solving.

4. Will I get financial or logistical help?

Answer:

The Natrona County Democratic Party will not endorse candidates or provide substantial or monetary campaign support until **after** the 2026 primary elections (**or** unless there is only one Democrat running in a race), so as to avoid the appearance of favoritism. We strongly believe in neutrality before the primaries.

We **will** be able to provide resources such as access to certain information, candidate trainings, and other relevant, general support that will be offered to **all** registered Democrats who run and have informed the party of their intentions. It is also our goal to have volunteers ready to support the official Democratic candidates after the primary. State and national support is typically limited in heavily Republican areas like ours, but small-dollar fundraising, local networks, and issue-based outreach can still build viable campaigns.

5. What if I don't agree with the national Democratic Party on everything?

Answer:

That is ok. As a matter of fact, we would actually encourage you to steer clear of bringing national politics into any local campaign unless it can be directly tied to something happening locally. If national politics enters a local campaign, it should be because it is actually relevant and local officials have the power to do something about it. The loudest voices will try to lure you into making your campaign about something we cannot control on a local level. We want to avoid this trap.

Local candidates should tailor their platform to community priorities. Our neighbors will appreciate authenticity more than strict party orthodoxy. You can emphasize where you align with local concerns (fiscal prudence, infrastructure,

quality schools, personal freedoms, public safety, responsible energy policy) while still advancing Democratic values like fairness, opportunity, and good governance.

6. How much time and money will this take?

Answer:

It depends on the race. School board or city council will require fewer resources than a legislative campaign. If you are in it to win, expect to invest:

- **Time:** Regular voter outreach, public meetings, and door-knocking (especially in the final months of the election season)
- **Funds:** Anything from a few hundred dollars for a small board race to several thousand for a legislative seat. Further down the road, we can help you develop a realistic budget and timeline for your specific race. For legislative races, candidates often rely on donors for help paying for their campaign.

7. How do I handle criticism from friends, family, or coworkers?

Answer:

Stay respectful and focus on why you're running. Focus on local issues such as better schools, safe neighborhoods, and economic opportunity. Share personal stories, not just politics. Many people appreciate someone willing to serve, even if they disagree on party affiliation. You can convince someone to support your campaign without ever mentioning party or national politics.

8. Can I make a difference even if I lose?

Answer:

Absolutely. Running educates voters, builds name recognition for future races, shapes local debate over issues, and encourages others to step up. It also strengthens the Natrona County Democratic Party and the local Democratic network in the county, paving the way for more competitive races in the future.

9. Will I be safe knocking on doors?

Answer:

Door-to-door outreach is generally safe if approached respectfully, however it is reasonable to be worried about how people might respond to a Democrat knocking on their door. Keep in mind, though, that incidents are rare, and most voters are polite even if they don't want to support you. Additionally, some localities have rules regarding soliciting that must be adhered to, so we encourage you to check and make sure door-knocking is allowed where you wish to run.

We recommend:

- Campaigning during daylight hours and focusing on local issues
- Avoid announcing your party at the outset, but be honest if someone asks
- Bringing a friend or volunteer to knock doors with you
- Sticking to neighborhoods you're comfortable in and being targeted on which houses/streets you visit

10. What issues should I focus on?**Answer:**

There are many issues driving local politics. Join community groups online and take note of what people talk about. Scan the news and see what is being reported. Talk to your neighbors and learn the issues they care about. Position yourself as a pragmatic problem-solver, not just a partisan voice.

Generally, local issues usually revolve around:

- Economic diversification and good jobs
- Affordable housing and cost of living
- Protecting the youth and keeping them in the state

- Local taxes
- Quality public schools and education
- Integrity, honesty, transparency, and accountability
- Safe neighborhoods
- Funding of crucial programs people rely on
- Infrastructure and local business growth

What You Need To Do

Running for office is more manageable when you break it into clear steps. Here's what you will need to focus on if you decide to take this step:

1. Clarify Why You're Running

- Identify the local issues you care about most (schools, housing, jobs, infrastructure).
- Write a short "Why I'm Running" statement you can share with voters.

2. Choose the Right Race

- Decide whether a **partisan** (legislature, county) or **nonpartisan** (school board, city, special district) seat fits your goals, time, and comfort level.
- We can help you understand district boundaries, term lengths, and filing deadlines.

3. Check Filing Requirements and Deadlines

- Make sure your **voter registration** matches the race and that you are a registered Democrat if you want to receive official party support later down the road.
- Mark the filing window on your calendar—missing it means waiting another cycle.

4. **Build a Basic Campaign Plan**

- **Message:** Come up with a few core issues and values that will drive your campaign. You can use our party platform as a place to start: natrona.wyodems.net/about-us/platform-bylaws/
- **Budget:** Build a realistic estimate of printing for signs, flyers, and outreach. There are local vendors that do printing, such as AMBI, as well as other vendors you can find online or in town (VistaPrint, Staples, FedEx, etc.). Consider if you want to do paid ads on social media, which requires a lengthy identification confirmation process.
- **Timeline:** Develop a timeline of key milestones that will keep you on track to meet your goals (launch, voter contact, forums).

5. **Organize Support Early**

- Recruit a few trusted people as your “kitchen-table campaign team.” They will help you run your campaign and form your campaign committee. If you want, however, you can run it totally solo.
- Tap friends, neighbors, and party members for small donations and volunteer help.

6. **Learn the Rules**

- Wyoming has straightforward but important campaign finance and reporting laws. Visit the Natrona County Clerk’s office to answer questions and ensure you are in compliance. Visit theirs and the Wyoming Secretary of State’s website. Also, look into the roles and responsibilities of the office you are seeking.

- We'll connect you with clear guidance and direct you to the proper authority so you stay compliant.

7. Engage the Community

- Attend local meetings of community interest, attend meetings of the office you seek, listen first, and speak on shared concerns with respect.
- Consider creating a website that will be a one-stop-shop for voters to learn more about you. Include information describing who you are and why you are running, your positions, how to contact you, how and where to donate, and how to get involved with your campaign. Also consider creating social media pages including the same information.
- Respond to outreach from local news (Ex. Oil City News Candidate Q&A).
- Knock doors, call voters, and show up at community events. Personal contact matters.

8. Use Party and National Resources

- The Natrona County Democratic Party will offer training, sign templates, website help, and messaging help. You can also request voter data from the Natrona County Clerk.
- You are not alone! Lean on us for advice and connections and we will do our best to provide fair support.
- There are also national training and support resources around the country, including
 - [Run For Something](#)
 - [Train Dems](#)
 - [Working Families Party](#)

- [Vote Mama](#)
- [Good Party](#)
- [Wellstone Action](#)
- [Arena Action](#)
- [RePower – Gain Power Win Number Generator](#)

9. **Prepare for Public Attention**

- Expect questions from neighbors, social media chatter, and an occasional critic. This is part of the process. Be as prepared as you can, be honest about what you don't know, and be ready to learn more!
- Stay respectful, focus on solutions, and remember why you stepped up.

10. **Commit the Time**

- Plan for evenings, weekends, and final-stretch intensity. Speak with your family and reach out to people in your inner-circle to let them know you will need to commit some time to running. Make arrangements as needed!
- Protect some personal time too. Balance keeps you effective and grounded. Never apologize for putting your life *first*.

What We Can Do To Help

The Natrona County Democratic Party will not officially endorse candidates or provide substantial or monetary campaign support until **after** the 2026 primary elections, so as to avoid the appearance of favoritism. We strongly believe in neutrality before the primaries.

We **will** be able to provide resources such as access to certain information, candidate trainings, and other relevant, general support that will be offered to **all** registered Democrats who run and have informed the party of their intentions. It is also our goal to have volunteers ready to support the official Democratic candidates after the primary. State and national support is typically limited in heavily Republican areas like ours, but small-dollar fundraising, local networks, and issue-based outreach can still build viable campaigns.

We can help with:

- Basic campaign training (filing requirements, compliance, messaging)
- Volunteer recruitment and creating connections between candidates
- Sign template resources
- Fundraising guidance and introductions
- Covering filing fees
- Interpersonal support and allies
- Endorsement after the primaries, which opens up more concrete official ground and monetary support

Brief Offices and Races Overview

In 2026, there are 45 races in Natrona County, including 21 partisan races and 24 non-partisan races.

A **partisan race** is defined by the candidate's **party affiliation** appearing **next to their name** on the ballot.

Example:

UNITED STATES SENATOR
SIX (6) YEAR TERM
VOTE FOR ONE (1)

☐ REPUBLICAN
JOHN BARRASSO

☐ DEMOCRATIC
SCOTT D. MORROW

☐

WRITE-IN

A **non-partisan race** is defined by the candidate's name appearing on the ballot **without any party affiliation** visible.

Example:

CASPER CITY COUNCIL
WARD III
FOUR (4) YEAR TERM
VOTE FOR ONE (1)

☐ MICHAEL H. MCINTOSH

☐ MARCIA NEUMILLER

☐

WRITE-IN

List of Offices Up For Election in 2026:

Partisan Races	Non-Partisan Races
State SENATE District 27 4 years	Casper City Council Ward 1 4 years
State SENATE District 29 4 years	Casper City Council Ward 2 4 years
State HOUSE District 35 2 years	Casper City Council Ward 3 4 years
State HOUSE District 36 2 years	Casper City Council Ward 3 4 years
State HOUSE District 37 2 years	Evansville Town Council At-Large 4 years
State HOUSE District 38 2 years	Bar Nunn Town Mayor Town of Bar Nunn 4 years
State HOUSE District 56 2 years	Bar Nunn Town Council At-Large 4 years
State HOUSE District 57 2 years	Bar Nunn Town Council At-Large 4 years
State HOUSE District 58 2 years	Mills Town Mayor Town of Mills 4 years

State HOUSE District 59 2 years	Mills Town Council At-Large 4 years
State HOUSE District 62 2 years	Mills Town Council At-Large 4 years
District Attorney 7th Judicial District 4 years	Midwest Town Mayor Town of Midwest 4 years
Natrona County Commission County-wide 4 years	Midwest Town Council At-Large 4 years
Natrona County Commission County-wide 4 years	Midwest Town Council At-Large 4 years
Natrona County Commission County-wide 4 years	Edgerton Town Mayor Town of Edgerton 4 years
Natrona County Coroner County-wide 4 years	Edgerton Town Council At-Large 4 years
Natrona County Sheriff County-wide 4 years	Edgerton Town Council At-Large 4 years
Natrona County Clerk County-wide 4 years	Natrona County School District #1 Board of Trustees At-Large 4 years
Natrona County Treasurer County-wide 4 years	Natrona County School District #1 Board of Trustees At-Large 4 years

Natrona County Assessor County-wide 4 years	Natrona County School District #1 Board of Trustees At-Large 4 years
Natrona County Clerk of District Court County-wide 4 years	Natrona County School District #1 Board of Trustees At-Large 4 years
	Casper College Board of Trustees At-Large 4 years
	Casper College Board of Trustees At-Large 4 years
	Casper College Board of Trustees At-Large 4 years