



Legislative Priorities 2019



*****Major Concerns*** ! ***Major Concerns*** ! ***Major Concerns*** ! ***Major Concerns*** ! *****

Fiscal Responsibility

WyFB generally opposes further increases in taxes, fees and charges. WyFB supports an annual legislative review of all state spending, and favors biennial budgets with no supplemental budget requests or appropriations during the general session. WyFB opposes a state wide mill levy for community colleges. WyFB supports budgetary cuts in local, county and state departments and entities. WyFB supports inviolate integrity of the PMTF and the use of the interest generated to provide a renewable tax base. WyFB supports the use of severance taxes for development of Wyoming surface and underground water. WyFB opposes systems which would increase the costs of establishing and operating special taxing districts. WyFB opposes an income tax and oppose amendment of the income tax provisions in the Wyoming constitution. WyFB is in favor of amending taxing authority statutes to require a majority vote of all registered voters in a district for passage and also require that each issue be brought back before the registered voters every four (4) years. WyFB favors sales taxes be based county-wide rather than allowing municipalities only to vote on a sales tax.

Private Property Rights

WyFB requests the Legislature protect private property rights. WyFB supports a policy of “No Net Gains” of state lands measured and implemented on a county by county basis. WyFB supports legislation requiring analysis of implications of proposed legislation and regulation so that impacts on property are considered up front. WyFB urges continual gubernatorial and legislative involvement in issues involving natural resource management and States rights. WyFB believes risks associated with industrial projects on ranchers’ property should be reduced.

Eminent Domain

WyFB supports amendments to Wyoming’s eminent domain statutes to provide greater protection for agricultural use owners during condemnation cases. WyFB believes rights-of-way obtained by condemnation should be for right of easement only, not for right of ownership. WyFB supports policy where two-thirds of landowners along a proposed easement must be signed to agreements before eminent domain use is possible.

Education

WyFB favors local control of schools. WyFB believes local boards should keep vocational education programs in all schools (Grades, 7-12). WyFB will work to ensure that only necessary school buildings be updated or replaced. WyFB supports changing the Wyoming constitution to require the legislature to carefully consider the means of the State for both education costs and school capital construction costs. WyFB favors revision of teacher tenure so that every third year a panel of teachers, parents, and board members evaluate teachers so that quality teachers are recognized and rewarded based on performance. WyFB supports the use of school vouchers to provide students with the best available education. WyFB believes public school districts should follow the USDA’s 2012 guidelines at myplate.gov and the school lunch program should be controlled by the local school board. WyFB supports equal access for students to all educational opportunities that districts provide.

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Water

WyFB opposes the gift, sale or lease of water outside the state or for instream flow. WyFB believes the State of Wyoming should develop a comprehensive underground water management plans and development policy through local input and county meetings. WyFB supports notification of water right holders and local hearings on possible damaging applications. WyFB favors including historic time of use as a criteria for change of use situations. WyFB urges continual gubernatorial and legislative involvement on issues of States rights. WyFB opposes permitting private instream flow, changes in “temporary” use of water laws and the concept of “Salvage” water. WyFB believes the federal government should not be able to obtain water rights. WyFB opposes the delegation of authority for pursuing instream flow applications from the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. WyFB believes underground water availability assessments need to be done before developments are granted; to maintain historical water use for agricultural beneficial uses.

Wildlife Concerns

WyFB supports management of the wolf and grizzly bear by Wyoming. Because of the damage to wildlife, crops and livestock, WyFB demands Game and Fish support at a much higher level of funding, the predatory animal control program. WyFB supports classifying the mountain lion as a predator or an increase in quotas. WyFB believes Wyoming Game and Fish needs to manage wildlife based on how much forage is available for wildlife. WyFB does not support the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission being able to set license fees. WyFB supports keeping Wyoming Game and Fish Commission members appointed. WyFB supports increasing damage payments for standing and stored forage.

General

WyFB believes that all state agencies publishing permits must publish these permits in the statewide and local newspapers of affected citizens and landowners. WyFB Believes that all State agencies should perform a consistency review to comply with county land use plans when proposing new rules. WyFB supports holding special district elections in conjunction with general elections. Wyoming Farm Bureau supports an election process that is honest and uses cost effective balloting methods. WyFB supports maintaining physical polling places and current types of elections (polling places and absentee ballots). WyFB does not support mail-only elections. WyFB believes switching parties at the polling place should not be allowed.

Livestock

WyFB supports efforts to retain our Brucellosis class free status outside the current Designated Surveillance Area (DSA).
WyFB supports funding for voluntary Brucellosis testing out of the DSA.
WyFB opposes mandatory animal identification beyond existing requirements.
WyFB does not support any increase in the beef check-off program. WyFB does not support a state beef check-off program.
WyFB requests Wyoming Livestock Board increase its diligence in brand renewal notification.
WyFB supports Country of Origin Labeling (COOL).