

MEDIA RELEASE

Secretary of State's Office • State Capitol • Cheyenne, WY 82002 • 307-777-7378 • Fax: 307-777-6217

For Immediate Release

Date: April 3, 2015

Contact: Peggy Nighswonger, State Election Director

Phone: 307-777-5860

Wyoming scores top marks for candidate information

Wyoming ranks among the top states in the nation for the quality and timeliness of election information given to candidates for public office, according to a recently released study of state election offices.

The Election Division of the Secretary of State's Office scored high marks for answering candidates' questions in a timely manner and providing them with accurate and complete information, according to Ballotpedia, a nonpartisan organization that provides information to the public on politics and elections.

"We are pleased that this study affirms one of our core values which is to provide quality customer service," said Secretary of State Ed Murray. "The conduct of elections is one of the most important functions of the Secretary of State's Office and ensuring that candidates have timely and accurate information is one of the keys to a successful election."

- M O R E -

“We are especially proud that Wyoming, while having one of the smallest election staffs in the country, has earned high marks for efficiently and effectively meeting the needs of its constituents,” Murray added.

The Secretary of State’s Office has four election employees. Peggy Nighswonger has served as state election director since 1996.

According to the Ballotpedia study, “Candidates with highly accessible election agencies can find a number of resources to help them through this process, while candidates whose states are on the other end of the spectrum may need to stumble through the process on their own.”

To conduct the study, Ballotpedia sent emails to state election offices posing as candidates. Wyoming received the top score for providing a detailed response within 24 hours. Ballotpedia also examined the websites of state election offices, evaluating the content and ease of access of information to candidates. The Secretary of State’s website received high scores for making key information, such as the election calendar, campaign finance guide, and filing forms readily accessible to candidates and the public.

###