

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## For Immediate Release

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### **Secretary Murray Will Address WACO During National Voter Registration Month**

**CHEYENNE, WY** – Wyoming Secretary of State Ed Murray will address the Wyoming Association of County Officers (WACO) Convention this week in Laramie, Wyoming. Murray will address WACO's general assembly and their association of county clerks. Murray's remarks will focus on the importance of promoting voter registration and will emphasize new strategies to increase voter registration across Wyoming. The annual WACO gathering begins today, National Voter Registration Day.

Today Murray commented on the role of county officers in elections: "Elections in Wyoming wouldn't happen without the hard work of county clerks. The clerks are always talking about elections and I look forward to joining that discussion. If I can help elevate that conversation, then I am going to try. This week, coinciding with National Voter Registration Day, is the perfect time to start."

Murray will highlight the link between voter registration efforts and participation in the political process. "There is more to participation in the democratic process than simply casting a vote at the ballot box. Citizen participation in state governance does not start and finish on Election Day. Voter registration efforts are all about bringing new voices into the conversation on where we are headed as a state. Wyoming has seen a 30 percent decrease in the number of registered voters overall since January, 2009. Just after the 2008 presidential election, there were 282,391 registered voters in Wyoming. Today there are far fewer. As of September 1<sup>st</sup> only 197,664 citizens of this state's some 450,000 persons of voting age are registered. This trend worries me, and it should worry everyone," said Murray.

“There are several ways in which a person can register to vote in Wyoming besides at their polling place on Election Day,” said Secretary Murray. “Qualified voters can register at their county clerk’s office, or mail their notarized registration form to the county clerk at any time. Wyoming citizens don’t have to wait until 2016 to register – some Wyoming cities are holding elections this fall and next spring.”

National Voter Registration Month is part of a national nonpartisan effort sponsored by the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS). NASS established September as National Voter Registration Month to encourage voter participation and increase awareness about state registration requirements and deadlines for voting. NASS also declared September 22<sup>nd</sup>, the fourth Tuesday in September, as National Voter Registration Day.

**Getting registered to vote:** U.S. citizens who will be 18 years of age on Election Day, are residents of Wyoming, not convicted of a felony (or have had voting rights restored), and who are not adjudicated mentally incompetent may register to vote. Registrants need to present a valid Wyoming driver license number, if they have one, and if not, provide the last four digits of their social security number.

For more information about voter registration and elections, visit the Secretary of State’s website:

<http://soswy.state.wy.us/Elections>

The voter registration form may be found at:

<http://soswy.state.wy.us/Forms/Elections/General/VoterRegistrationForm.pdf>

More information on National Voter Registration Day can be found at:

<http://nationalvoterregistrationday.org/>

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