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## For Immediate Release:

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## Secretary of State Announces 2016 Youth Voter Summit

**CHEYENNE, WY** – Secretary of State Ed Murray is excited to announce the upcoming 2016 Youth Voter Summit. The Summit will be held on Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm in Laramie, Wyoming at the University of Wyoming Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center. The Summit is free for all attendees and lunch will be provided. The Youth Voter Summit is the first of its kind in Wyoming.

“Only 10.6% percent of youth aged 18-24 chose to vote in the 2014 General Election. This is unacceptable. This year, the first ever Youth Voter Summit is meant to inspire our youth across Wyoming to get out, get informed, and cast a ballot. By casting a vote, our youth have the opportunity to determine their future as well as the future of Wyoming and our Nation. I’ve heard it said that ‘our youth are the future.’ I believe that’s true, but, I also believe that Wyoming’s youth are the ‘now’,” said Secretary Murray.

The 2016 Youth Voter Summit will include perspectives on the importance of voting from Wyoming’s youth, remarks by Governor Matt Mead and Secretary of State Ed Murray, and a keynote address by Wyoming born and bred Olympic gold medalist Rulon Gardner. The President of the Bill of Right’s Institute in Washington D.C., Dr. David Bobb, will also attend and address the gathering.

Pre-registration for the Summit is encouraged for a head count, but not required. In addition to a series of guest speakers, panels of experts will address two notable topics: the relationship between civic education, civic participation, and youth participation in the political process; and how the changing media landscape impacts youth perceptions of politics.

Wyoming’s own Chancey Williams and the Younger Brothers Band will perform at the Gateway Center that evening at the conclusion of the Summit. Voter registration will be provided by Albany County Clerk Jackie Gonzales’ office from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm at the Summit. The events of the day will be livestreamed and broadcast at Casper College and Laramie County Community College.

“We are thrilled to be holding this Summit for youth from across Wyoming thanks to our sponsors. This event is funded by our generous partners, who agree that low youth voter participation is a serious issue,” said State Election Director Kai Schon.

For more information visit: [2016yvs.visitlaramie.org](http://2016yvs.visitlaramie.org)

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