

WyoFile

ELECTION GUIDE 2026

Wyoming's candidates for federal, statewide and legislative offices.

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TINA JOHNSON



WYOMING **REPUBLICAN** CANDIDATE / WY SENATE DISTRICT 15

Tina Johnson

CANDIDATE STATUS: ➡ ACTIVE

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ACTIVE CANDIDATES FOR WY SENATE DISTRICT 15

REPUBLICANS



Jen Hegeman



Tina Johns...

VIEWING



Chris Katzl



Wendy Davis Schuler

ON THE ISSUES

The answers below were solicited from candidates via a written questionnaire created by WyoFile reporters and editors in June 2026. Responses are presented exactly as submitted, without fact-checking, wordsmithing or editing for grammar, punctuation or spelling errors.

Legislative candidates were invited to respond to the questionnaire several times by email and by phone. Out of fairness to the candidates who met the deadline, WyoFile will not add responses after the guide's publication.

Where do you live currently? How long have you lived there? How long have you lived in Wyoming? Where were you born?

I live in the North Cheyenne area, in my current house for 26 years. My parents brought me here at the tender age of 4- 69 years living in Wyoming almost makes me a native. Boise City, OK

What age will you be on Election Day, Nov. 3, 2026?

74, with age comes wisdom.

Please tell the voters about yourself including your background and qualifications.

I am a retired general contractor who helped build southeast Wyoming, with

projects in Laramie, Pine Bluffs, Wheatland, and Cheyenne. After attending Colorado State University for one year in 1973, I left deeply disappointed by what I saw as socialist teaching and became even more committed to free-market principles.

My years as a general contractor taught me how to stretch a dollar, meet a payroll, and survive the boom-and-bust cycles Wyoming has endured. Those lessons shaped my approach to public service. As a legislator, I understand that government should spend wisely and responsibly. I do not see taxpayer dollars as someone else's money - I see them as hard-earned dollars entrusted to us by the people of Wyoming.

I am proud to stand with the Wyoming Freedom Caucus. I am a Christian, committed to the Constitution, happily married to Christine, 5 children, and 9 grandchildren. and firmly believe in the right to life. My values are simple: God, Country, and Family.

What are the biggest challenges and opportunities facing Wyoming today? As a legislator, how would you address them?

Responsible growth, an excellent education for all of our children, and the protection of our Constitutional Rights.

We asked WyoFile readers to rank issues that are important to them, and healthcare costs and access topped the list. What can the Legislature do to make healthcare more affordable and accessible to Wyomingites?

I believe that one's own health is one's own responsibility, and many of the decisions we make in life are not healthy and not necessarily the best for us. We need to change the structure of the health insurance industry. Health insurance should offer catastrophic insurance coverage, and a runny nose should be paid for by the patient. I have yet to find a doctor who will not accept immediate payment with a substantial discount.

Do you support efforts to sell or transfer public land in Wyoming? How do you plan to ensure that state and federal land is managed in the best interest of the people of Wyoming?

I am adamantly against the sale or transfer of state lands. The legislature does not have much control over land sales; all land sales are supposed to be conducted through the auction process according to the state Constitution. I am concerned about land sales that do not benefit the citizens of Wyoming.

No two Wyoming counties are the same when it comes to how they generate revenue. As a legislator, how would you approach the public's desire for property tax relief with local revenue needs?

Local needs need to be locally controlled. The legislature has added a grant office to help local governments take advantage of available grants. There are other ways that local governments should be able to examine and manage local needs. This question is complex in that the balance of local control and revenue is generally upset with legislative interference.

For example, Niobrara County most recent financial statements (Comparative Statement of Activities 2025) show that overall revenue decreased \$512 thousand dollars. However, the decrease was from reductions in grant funding. Property tax revenue actually increased because of increased mineral production.

Many counties found that lowered property taxes actually stimulated other economic activity. Some counties are thriving in the current environment. Some have been feeling a pinch. In each case, the decisions at the local level are key.

What role, if any, should the Wyoming Legislature play in economic development?

It is not the legislature's role to pick winners and losers. Economic development

that would affect the entire state is beyond the Wyoming Business Council's capability. It is within the Governor's office and the legislature. For instance, universal choice in education would attract new citizens and new industry to Wyoming. Education quality will also bring new economic opportunities. This is especially true in higher education. The new president of UW should develop areas of excellence to attract economic development and work closely with the governor in these efforts. My parents moved to Wyoming so that I could attend better schools. The quality of education is far more important than simply spending more dollars. In both of the last two sessions, I have voted for higher teacher pay. We need that to translate to better opportunities for students.

Explain your values when it comes to campaign donations. Does Wyoming's system for monitoring campaign donations and expenditures need reform?

I have voted for transparency at every opportunity. The systems in place for reporting campaign finance in the Secretary of State's office are adequate. There needs to be better reporting and controls for lobbying. There is also a greater need for candidate disclosures in Wyoming. I have seen instances where conflicts of interest are disregarded. The voters would be better served with greater transparency.

WYOFILe COVERAGE OF JOHNSON



JUN 9, 2026

Will the Wyoming Freedom Caucus win control of the Senate? Here are the races to watch.

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ABOUT THIS PROJECT

WyoFile produced this guide with coding and web development by Thomas Musselman, editing by Tennessee Watson and production assistance by Calla Shosh. Contact Tennessee Watson with questions, corrections or suggestions at tennessee@wyofile.com.

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