

The term is four years with no term limits. Annual salary is \$92,000 with some benefits.

**What experience, qualifications and interests do you have that would encourage voters to select you for this office?**

**Ed Buchanan (R):** I have degrees in political science, public administration and law. I have a background in farming and ranching. I am familiar with corporate formation, election laws, and small business. I served for 10 years in the Wyoming Legislature while running my own small business. I am also aware, having represented a rural community and being a graduate of Leadership Wyoming, of the issues facing our agricultural industry and the challenges faced by our mineral industry and local governments. I also understand the importance of maintaining state lands and our fiduciary duty to maximize their value through responsible multiple use.

**James W. Byrd (D):** 10 years elected legislative experience to the house of representatives. During that time I served on the Corporations and Political Subdivisions standing committee. This legislative committee has legislative oversight in the operations of the Sec. of State office. In the past working on this committee I have be involved in redistricting, elections, corporate filings/regulations, banking, and insurance statue creation and evaluation. I also bring twenty years of real small business ownership experience along with a similar number of years working in the oil, gas, and coal energy exploration areas. This gives me the understanding on how to actually diversify our state . . .

**How would you propose enhancing Wyoming's election procedures?**

**Ed Buchanan (R):** There are few things we can do to enhance elections in Wyoming. The primary focus right now will be to ensure that we have the latest in voting equipment for 2020 and to strive for 100% voter eligibility. In today's political climate, it is important that citizens have full confidence in elections and that we can demonstrate their reliability and accuracy. Voting centers are another way to make voting more convenient, but not to the exclusion of other geographically specific polling places. Finally, continuation of youth voter initiatives that educate and encourage the younger demographic is important.

**James W. Byrd (D):** From a hardware perspective the voting machines in use work very well but, have reached the end of their support life in terms of hardware and software. Having worked as a Sr. computer network analyst (and security) for 15 years I can evaluate systems that would be the correct replacement for the aging fleet of machines. It will be extremely important to have a person who understands the technical and communication side of what will be necessary to execute an accurate and secure election.

**What would you recommend to the legislature as a solution to the issue of low fees and lack of verification for questionable businesses incorporating in Wyoming?**

**Ed Buchanan (R):** There are some that wish to raise fees to boost revenue. That's a tenuous proposition. Business filings and revenue increase every year which contributes millions to the general fund. Fees charged tremendously offset operating costs. We have a good business model. I am fearful to increase prices and damage the customer base. There are many other states in which to form a business and I have to remain competitive. As to questionable businesses, we require a registered agent to have a physical presence within Wyoming. This enables us to not only conduct audits as necessary but also to allow aggrieved parties legal service within Wyoming.

**James W. Byrd (D):** Increasing the budget and adding a staff member to take on this new responsibility. In the past the legislature and the governor has forced the secretary's office to cut staff and budgets. This office has been adversely effected by these cuts to the point some aspects of the business regulation and registrations have been re-evaluated to a low priority. The secretary of state's office generally creates seven plus times the revenue required for current operations. Agencies that generate revenue should not be "ham-strung" by broad governmental budget and personal decisions that in the long run decrease the effectiveness of the office/agency.