

VOTER REGISTRATION BY NON-REGISTRY AGENTS

AUGUST 28, 2017

At the May 18, 2017, Joint Corporations, Election, and Political Subdivisions meeting, voter registration by non-registry agents was discussed. Aimee Van Cleave, the Executive Director for the Wyoming Democrats, reported that not all Wyoming County Clerks are allowing voter registration, where an individual completes the form obtained from one of our websites, appears before a notary and mails the application with copies of ID to the County Clerk. Van Cleave proposed that the statutes should be changed to allow non-registry agents to conduct voter registration or possibly registration drives, and that the County Clerks could provide voter registration training to anyone who wants to register voters.

The County Clerks were approached in 2015 concerning voter registration drives and the attached letter from President Renea Vitto, was formulated by the County Clerks' Association for a uniform response to this inquiry by citizens groups in Wyoming. This is the procedure that we use for these registrations.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Committee requested information from the County Clerks concerning this allegation. I surveyed Wyoming's 23 Counties and the results follow.

1. Have you been contacted, locally, by anyone about accepting these registrations, in the past year?

Answer: 11 counties were contacted, with only 5 counties receiving applications.

2. If so, who was the contact?

Answer: Ella WY, Sanders Campaign, Democratic Party, Republican Party, NORML, Sheridan Veterans, Sheridan College

3. If you received any of these applications:

- a. Were they complete?

Answer: Mostly, but if they were not, the County Clerk contacted the voter and requested the missing information to complete the application.

- b. Describe any issues.

Answer: Batches of applications were delivered to the County Clerk.

Applications were not received timely, or after cutoffs.

Incomplete applications were received, which required additional work, and possible confusion for the voter.

4. Any other concerns:

- a. Applications were notarized by candidates.

- b. Applications were completed in conjunction with petitions.

Thank you for this opportunity to study this issue, in our continuing effort to serve the voters of Wyoming.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mary L. Lankford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mary" and last name "Lankford" clearly legible.

Mary L. Lankford

Sublette County Clerk

Attachment: Vitto, CCAW Letter, Dated May 8, 2015.



May 8, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

The County Clerk's Association of Wyoming discussed voter registration drives in Wyoming and why they are not allowed by citizen's groups. Wyoming is not a "Motor Voter" State, meaning that each elector has the opportunity to get registered by doing so at their County Clerk's Offices, Municipal Clerk Offices, and at the Tribal Offices in Fremont County, not to mention that they can get registered at the Primary or General Election at their polling place. In addition, those who cannot appear in person MAY go onto the state or county's websites and obtain the application and instructions to register by mail. This requires a little more on the part of the voter such as finding a notary and sending a copy of their driver's license with the application to the Clerk's Office in the County where they reside. In addition, that voter MUST show photo identification when voting in their first Federal Election. For those reasons, the rule (listed below) promulgated through the Secretary of State's Office and supported by the County Clerks was put in place.

Section 5. Voter Registration Drives.

*(a) County Clerks may not accept batches of voter registration applications.
An individual must submit his voter registration application in person or by mail, and
said application must comply with the requirements of W.S. 22-3-103.*

We appreciate your organization's desire to help with voter registration, but ask that you work with your local County Clerk on outreach opportunities where the Clerk and staff MAY be able to perform additional voter registration drives other than the registration opportunities listed above. Many times, it is important for us to set up a drive where we know many people are interested in getting registered. This will have to be a county by county process as we all have different limitations on our resources (staff and funds) for these extra activities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Renea Vitto".

Renea Vitto, President
County Clerk's Association of Wyoming