

Office of the Governor

STATE OF WYOMING
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
EXECUTIVE ORDER
Order 2016-4

WYOMING WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CELEBRATION

WHEREAS, Wyoming has a distinctive history with respect to women's suffrage, to-wit:

- At the end of their session in 1869, the Wyoming Territorial Legislature granted female suffrage, the first government in the world to do so under an unconditional and general franchise, the Act then signed into law by the Governor on December 10th; and
- On September 6, 1870, the first vote was cast by a woman, Louisa Swain of Laramie, in a general election; and
- In 1890, Wyoming entered the Union as the 44th state with female suffrage intact; and

WHEREAS, in 1920, the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution gave the vote to women nationally; and

WHEREAS, Wyoming preceded the national government by over fifty years in this significant recognition of female equality; and

WHEREAS, Wyoming's contribution to women's equality in the electoral process is not widely known and should be made more widely known; and

WHEREAS, the years 2019 and 2020 mark, respectively, 150 years of the Territorial Legislature granting female suffrage and 150 years of the first woman's vote in a general election in our state and we wish to organize a celebration that appropriately commemorates those anniversaries, anticipating a major celebration of female suffrage nationwide in 2020;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of the State, I, Matthew H. Mead, Governor of the State of Wyoming, do hereby issue this Executive Order providing as follows:

1. A Governor's Council to organize the Wyoming Women's Suffrage Celebration is hereby established and recognized.
2. The Celebration of the women's vote in Wyoming shall take place between the sesquicentennial anniversaries of the significant events, December 2019 to September 2020, with these objectives: to honor Wyoming's contribution to history and foster broader recognition of it beyond our state, and to encourage research and advocacy on the right, privilege, and responsibility of the vote.
3. The Governor's Council shall consist of 13 members as follows:
 - League of Women Voters of Laramie (1 member),
 - Wyoming Humanities Council (1 member),
 - Wyoming State Parks and Cultural Resources (2 members),
 - Louisa Swain Foundation (1 member),
 - University of Wyoming (2 members),
 - Wyoming Tourism Office (1 member),
 - Secretary of State's Office (1 member),
 - Wyoming County Clerks (1 member),
 - Public at large (1 member),
 - K-12 educator (1 member), and
 - Governor's Office (1 member).
4. The Council will meet as needed for strategy, advice, and advocacy. An Executive Committee consisting of one member from each of the first six groups listed in paragraph 3 above, or his or her designee from among the other Council members, will conduct operations.
5. Interested parties across the state shall be invited to develop programs under their own management and funding.
6. Proposals for programs may be sent to the Governor's Council for review and determination regarding "official" inclusion in the Celebration.
7. The Wyoming Women's Suffrage Celebration shall foster the planning and delivery of a range of events, to include educational and academic programs of expository and critical history and commentary; exhibits and speakers; festivities and fun; and artistic works, encouraging thoughtful interpretation of our motto, "The Equality State," via such platforms.

8. No state funds are committed or promised by virtue of this Executive Order.
9. This Executive Order will take effect on the date signed and remain in effect until December 31, 2020 when it will expire unless earlier rescinded.

Given under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Wyoming this 6 day of June, 2016.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Mead", is written over a horizontal line.

Matthew H. Mead
Governor