

Resolution In Favor Of Maintaining the Right to Change Political Party Affiliation on
Primary Election Day

Whereas the right to vote is fundamental to citizenship in these United States of America;

Whereas the Constitution of the United States has been amended five times to expand suffrage to more Americans (all male citizens; no considering race, color, or previous condition of servitude; sex; no tax payment required; and age lowered to 18-year-olds); and

Whereas the LWV believes that every citizen should be protected in the right to vote; and

Whereas the Statues of the State of Wyoming currently allow U.S. citizens 18 and older who are residents of the state, not adjudicated mentally incompetent, not convicted or a felony or have had their rights restored, to register or change their affiliation to vote on Election Day ; and

Whereas citizens of the State of Wyoming have many obligations and pressures on their time and attention and they are not as focused on Primary Elections, falling as they do in August, as they are on General Election Days;

Whereas less than 65% of the voting age population in Wyoming has been registered to vote since the 2000 election; and

Whereas of that less than 65%, fewer than 60% (59% in 2002 and as few of 46% (2006 and 2014)) of these registered voters have voted and as few as 25% of the total voting age population voted (2012), any changing the current law to deny voters the right to change their affiliation on Election Day denies these citizens a voice in selecting the government that will affect their lives; and

Whereas some voters are unaware that they will be able to vote only for nonpartisan and candidates of a single party on Primary Election Day; and

Whereas voters must be able to decide which partisan candidate to support on Primary Election Day and not be forced into a commitment before that day; and

Whereas frequently some smaller parties in Wyoming do have not have candidates for all local offices; and

Whereas Wyoming has a proud tradition of voting “for the person,” and creating an artificial barrier to making a voting decision on Primary Day violates that tradition. Now therefore be it

Resolved, that the League of Women Voters of Wyoming (LWVWY)

1. Affirms its commitment to voter education before Primary and General Elections;

2. Endorses and praises the Legislature of the State of Wyoming for its current law enabling same day voter registration in the state; and
3. Encourages the Legislature of the State of Wyoming to keep the election process in the Great State of Wyoming as open as it currently is so that voters may select the party ballot of their choice on Primary Election Day.

Notes: The format is the one approved by the American Library Association, an organization with many resolutions at its conventions. The voter registration figures come from the Secretary of State's web site (<http://soswy.state.wy.us/Elections/Docs/VoterProfile.pdf>, downloaded March 19, 2017).

Approved by the League of Women Voters in Convention May 7, 2017.