

LWV Wyoming Voter Guide July 2018
United States Senate

Salary for US Senators is \$174,000 per year plus some benefits. Members who are congressional leaders receive more salary. An annual allowance is provided all senators to defray office expenses including staff. Cost-of-living increases may be voted on to take effect before those elected in 2018 take office. Term of office is six years with no term limits. No response was received from Republican Roque “Rocky” De La Fuente.

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

John Barrasso (R): Nothing has prepared me more for serving Wyoming than the years I spent as a medical doctor, a state legislator and volunteer in our state. These experiences and jobs prepared me to contribute conservative ideas to the broad set of issues and challenges we face. They taught me the important lessons of hard work and community that lead to solutions closest to the people. Most importantly, I learned why it is so critical that we guide our own future and not leave decisions about our lives, our resources, our freedoms to Washington.

Dave Dodson (R): Things are not getting done, and something must change. I am the only candidate for U.S. Senate from the private sector, where I helped create thousands of middle-class jobs in twenty-two states. I am the only candidate that operated in highly-regulated industries, and have worked side-by-side with labor unions. I have degrees in economics and business. I am not a career politician, but instead a taxpayer who lived under the inaction and failure of congress, and like Donald Trump had before running for office, I want change.

Charlie Hardy (R): I have dedicated my life to listening to others and accompanying them in their struggles. I was born in Cheyenne and have traveled over 1,000,000 miles of Wyoming highways, visited all fifty states and over thirty foreign countries. I earned an M.A. in educational administration from UW, and was superintendent of the Catholic schools of Wyoming. My core values are equality of opportunity, individual rights and liberty, and social justice. Being an active Wyoming Catholic priest for 29 years brought me in constant contact with suffering people, including eight years living in a cardboard shack in South America.

John Holtz (R): I am an Eagle Scout and a member of the Christian Legal Society since law school. I obtained the first double-digit firm fixed-price contract in the history of the Hughes Aircraft Company; and I was the head of the committee to redesign the fire control system; consisting of the laser range finder, ballistic computer and thermal imaging system of the Army's main battle tank, the M60A3. I was in the Electro Optical and Space Division of the Hughes Aircraft Company. The Tomahawk missiles that recently hit Syria were once made by the Hughes Aircraft Company....

Gary Trauner (D): I have deep experience in the private sector: co-founder of a Wyoming-based Internet Service Provider, co-founder of a Wyoming-based financial services Trust Company, and COO of St. John’s Medical Center. I have served my community: former elected Chair of the School Board, current elected Chair of a Water & Sewer District, founding Board member, ED and coach for one of the largest youth sports programs in Teton County. However, the most important attributes I possess for US Senate are common threads throughout all of my endeavors: leadership ability and integrity, both of which are in short supply in Washington.

Anthony L. Van Risseghem (R): Far as experience goes, I have none. Qualifications well I meet the US Constitutional requirements. I've had some manager experience in the private sector along with understanding budgets and budgeting. Main reason why I'm running is to give Wyoming a voice while protecting our rights.

How would you work through the contentiousness in the US House and Senate?

John Barrasso (R): I regularly work with Senators on both sides of the aisle. There are some important issues we don't agree on, and we should do that without being disagreeable. This year we passed pro-growth, pro-American economic policies to create and maintain good paying jobs for Wyoming people. I successfully fought to cut taxes, so Wyoming people keep more of what they earn, and unleash America's private sector economy. We eliminated excessive rules and regulations that targeted Wyoming jobs, and opened new opportunities overseas for Wyoming's natural gas and coal. That's good for our economy, Wyoming jobs, and our national security.

Dave Dodson (R): As a businessperson, my career has been about working with others in order to get things done—whether they were labor unions or banks. We need fewer career politicians who yell at the other side as a form of victory. Our system requires working within both parties, the House, and the president, to get anything done. Senator Barrasso's partisan tactics get him on Fox News, but are also why we have no progress on immigration, healthcare, or infrastructure; Social Security is bankrupt, we are leaving our children with a bone-crushing level of debt. Something needs to change.

Charlie Hardy (R): In high-school debating, I learned that there are two ways (or more) of looking at any problem and learned to respect opposing viewpoints. My best friend from first grade (and my debate partner) was from a Republican family. My parents were Democrats. We won every debate our senior year because we worked together. I think that is still possible in Washington. It is my priority for the good of our state and our nation.

John Holtz (R): Negotiate and improve efficiency.

Gary Trauner (D): The only way to succeed in any venture is to listen, learn, lead and develop relationships with others – colleagues, peers, co-workers. There is no magic bullet. The first action I would take on my first day in office would be to visit Senators across the aisle to begin building relationships. I would work every day to understand the legitimate concerns of others and the reasons behind those concerns. I also believe the way you campaign is the way you govern, so this process starts even before being elected to office as a public servant.

Anthony L. Van Risseghem (R): I'm usually very good at networking, making friends and fostering good relations. I understand compromising while holding firm at the same time. We have to remind each other that we are working for the people while needing to have the best interest for US citizens at heart. Sadly that is something that has been lost in D.C.

Within the last year, US clean air and clean water regulations have been relaxed. How would you balance the need for environmental protection with the need for less governmental regulation?

John Barrasso (R): Our goal should always be clean air, water, and to protect public lands for future generations to hunt, fish and recreate. Local communities, our farmers, ranchers, sportsmen, and state officials are the best stewards of our resources. Unfortunately, we've seen the federal bureaucracy grow too encompassing. We've seen Washington not listening. Too

often the government issues a one-size-fits all approach. We see this approach fail and our individual rights put at risk. I believe smaller government creates more jobs and interferes less with personal freedoms. I believe when we downsize the federal government, we are safer, more prosperous and free.

Dave Dodson (R): It's not so hard, if you've operated businesses in highly-regulated environments as I have. I know the balance between protecting business interests and our children's environment. Business cannot be left un-checked; at the same time, government overreach raises prices and creates uneven playing field. Unlike Senator Barrasso who has never run a business, I operated as a CEO under regulations written by politicians and their lobbyists. I recognize environmental stewardship and regulatory overreach, and since I won't be accepting contributions while in office, I will be guided by my business sense, and my love for our open space.

Charlie Hardy (R): I believe the scientific conclusion that there is global warming and that we must do everything possible to mitigate that for our children and our children's children. We have benefited from the fossil-fuel industry, but we have been a colony of the industry and it is time for a declaration of independence. We must move forward toward more renewable energy. I will work for common sense regulations which will support research and development in this area. I will also work to protect the quality of our clean water supply. Our priority must always be the health of our people.

John Holtz (R): Improve efficiency with less regulation.

Gary Trauner (D): There is always tension between private enterprise and appropriately protecting the public good. In addition, the "free market" is only as free as the rules and framework put in place to make the market work. It is important to facilitate the marketplace while ensuring that the responsible party actually bears the responsibility for all costs of a company's products and services - external and internal. In addition, there are times where government should step in to ensure public health and safety, even if it impinges on private profits. This is a fundamental role of government and will guide my views.

Anthony L. Van Risseghem (R): There is a balance between protecting the environment and deregulating. Right now there are too many stupid illogical regulations that can be cut without any negative impacts in the environments. Also it falls on everyone one to do their fair share without government interventions. Recycle, don't go driving when you can walk, pick up after yourself. In a free market economy the consumer drives the markets more than the government. So if you're focusing on products that are environmentally friendly than more companies will naturally follow that trend. More regulations mean more government bureaucracy leading to higher cost of the goods/services . . .