



THAT'S WHAT WE'RE HERE FOR...

Wyoming Chapter American
Civil Liberties Union

January 2007

Legislature begins Jan. 9,

The Wyoming Legislature offers a variety of services to help Wyoming residents actively participate in legislative sessions.

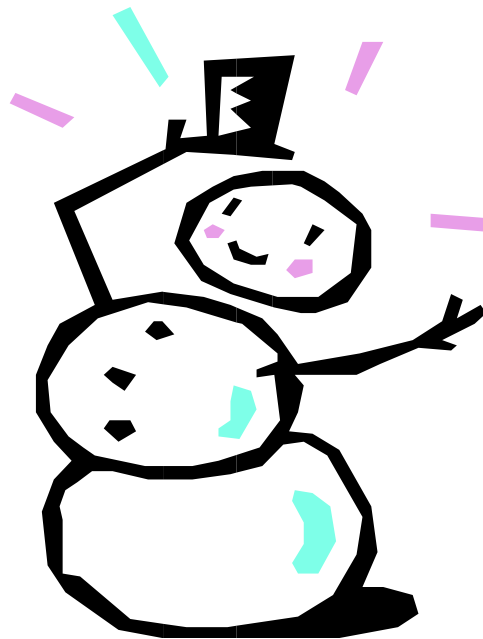
GENERAL TELEPHONE MESSAGES & CORRESPONDENCE FOR LEGISLATORS—

Individuals who wish to contact a legislator directly during the session, or who want to convey a detailed message to a legislator, should call the Senate Receptionist at 307-777-7711 or the House Receptionist at 307-111-7582. Written mail may be directed to a designated legislator in care of the Wyoming House or Senate, State Capitol, Cheyenne, WY, 82002. Fax messages may be sent to a designated legislator at 307-777-5466.

VOTER HOTLINE

During the legislative session, individuals can recommend a vote for or against a particular piece of legislation by calling the Voter Hotline. Other than recommending that a legislator vote for or against an identified bill, callers cannot leave a general message for legislators through this service. While it is not possible to speak directly with a legislator on the Voter Hotline, the recommendations are quickly delivered to legislators. The Voter Hotline is a toll-free call within Wyoming at 1-866-996-8683. Local callers within the Cheyenne area should call 777-VOTE (777-8683). The hotline is operational on days the Legislature is in session from 7:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. or until the Legislature adjourns for the day, whichever is later.

BILL STATUS HOTLINE—Members of the public can call the Bill Status Information service toll-free within Wyoming at 1-800-342-9570 to obtain the current status of any bill in the legislative process. This is a very limited service that provides the caller with information about where the bill is in the process, but does not provide information about the details of the legislation. Information will not be provided about the contents or purpose of a bill. In addition, callers cannot leave messages for legislators at this telephone number. This service is available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on days the Legislature is in session.



Hats off to the Wyoming State 59th Legislatures

INFORMATION ON THE LEGISLATURE'S WEB SITE

A great deal of legislative information is available electronically through the Wyoming Legislature's web site (<http://legisweb.state.wy.us>). This site can also be accessed through the State of Wyoming's web page. During legislative sessions, the web site will be updated daily with important legislative information, including the text of all introduced, engrossed, and enrolled bills; all roll call votes; Senate and House daily calendars, and standing committee meeting schedules.

TRACKING BILL STATUS ELECTRONICALLY

In addition to the Bill Status Hotline service, the Legislature's web site provides information regarding the current status of each bill under consideration, as well as previous action on the bill, including all roll call votes, and the text of all amendments offered regarding the bill.

Special points of interest:

- *Legislature January 9th through March 1, 2007*
- *Legislative Session Tentative Schedule*
- *Equality State Policy Center updates*
- *Standing Committee Schedules*
- *What lobbying is ahead for the Wyoming Chapter*

That A Boy Honors—

A very generous anonymous donation was given to the Wyoming Chapter Foundation in honor of Wyoming ACLU Board member—Laurie Brooke Seidenberg. Ms. Seidenberg has practice law in Wyoming for over 20 years. She is a Graduate of Cornell University in New York and University of WY College of Law. She has held many honorable positions— instructor of Constitutional Law, Judicial Policies and Criminal Procedure in Criminal Justice Program at UW. One of her many Awards is Delegate to Women's Conference in Houston. She authored "The Legal Status of Homemakers in Wyoming." Member of the Wyoming Bar Assoc. since 1975; been the Board president, Vice President, and Secretary of the Wyoming Chapter of the ACLU... **Ms. Laurie Brooke Seidenberg deserves our praise !!!**



2007 Legislative Session—Tentative Schedule

- Day 1—Tuesday Jan. 9 Session convenes
- Day 12—Wednesday, Jan. 24 Last day for Senate Files to be submitted to LSO for introduction
- Day 15—Monday, Jan. 29 Last day for House Bills to be submitted to LSO for introduction
- Day 19—Friday, Feb. 2 Last day for bills to be reported out of Committee in house of origin
- Day 20—Monday, Feb. 5 Last day for Committee of the Whole in house of origin
- Day 21—Tuesday, Feb. 6 Last day for Second reading in house of origin
- Day 22—Wednesday, Feb. 7 Last day for Third reading on Bills in house of origin
- Day 32—Thursday, Feb. 22 Last day for bills to be reported out of Committee in second house
- Day 34—Monday, Feb. 26 Last day for Second reading on bills in the second house
- Day 35—Tuesday, Feb 27 Last day for Third Reading on bills in the second house
- Day 36—Wednesday, Feb. 28 Concurrence on amendments/Joint Conference Committee Reports
- Day 37—Thursday, March 1 Joint Conference Committee Reports; All JCC Reports due to Front Desk. ADJOURNMENT



We will be skating right along...

Standing Committee Schedules

SENATE:

- Judiciary: Mon—Wed—Fri 8:00 am
- Appropriation: Mon-Wed-Fri 1:00 pm, Tue & Thu 8:00 am
- Revenue: Tue & Thu Noon
- Education: Mon-Wed-Fri 8:00 am
- Agriculture: Tue & Thu upon afternoon adjournment
- Travel: Tue & Thu 8:00 am
- Corporations: Tue & Thu 8:00 am
- Transportation: Mon-Wed-Fri upon afternoon adjournment
- Minerals: Mon-Wed-Fri Noon
- Labor: Mon-Wed-Fri 8:00 am

HOUSE:

- Judiciary: upon call of the chairman
- Appropriations: upon call of the chairman
- Revenue: Mon-Wed-Fri morning
- Education: Mon-& Wed upon afternoon adjournment, Fri noon
- Agriculture: Tue & Thu morning
- Travel: Mon-Wed-Fri morning
- Corporations: Mon-Tue-Thu noon
- Transportation: Tue & Thu upon afternoon adjournment
- Minerals: Mon-Wed-Fri morning
- Labor: Mon & Wed upon afternoon adjournment, Fri noon



DID YOU KNOW... *Poinsettias are native to Mexico. The Aztecs called the poinsettia Cuetlaxochitl. They made a reddish purple dye from the bracts (the red leaves).*

Equality State Policy Center

ESPC (Equality State Policy Center) is a good source for the State's recent news and updates. It also has a "Wyoming Legislature" link for the latest information on the Wyoming Legislature. Their web site is <http://www.equalitystate.org>. The legislature link is located in the upper right hand corner of their web site.

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS INFORMATIONAL VIDEOS To better understand the legislative process, the Wyoming Legislature and Wyoming Public Television have produced two informational videos that explain legislative process and budgeting issues. The Wyoming Legislature has provided every public library, community college library, and K-12 library in Wyoming with copies of these informative videos. *Wyoming's Citizen Legislature: A Guide to Wyoming's Legislative Process* explains how a bill becomes a law, while *Wyoming's Citizen Legislature: The Budget Process*, provides information about the State's budgeting process.



Wyoming Chapter ACLU Lobbying

HB 0019 Incest—Increase in Penalties

Increases both fine and maximum penalty for incest. The ACLU has no disagreement with this Bill. We are just watching Sex Offenses bills with concerns for mandatory sentences.

HB 0025 Domestic Violence Counseling Period

Amends time period for participating in counseling or treatment. We again have no disagreement with this bill.

HB 0068 Methamphetamine—Endangering Children Before Birth

Includes newborns exposed to Meth prenatally in child endangerment statutes. We oppose this bill as it is not in the best interests of women or children. The prison sentences and fines proposed will keep women from prenatal care, treatment and hospital births.

HB 0077 Funeral Protesting

Provides for a prohibition against picketing and other forms of protesting at funerals.

“Even speech that most people find distasteful is protected by the Constitution.” (Federal case Kent. Prohibits enforcement.) We oppose this bill as being unconstitutional on grounds of Free Speech and Religious Expression. The First Amendment applies to everyone.

SF 0004 Lethal Injection Modifying the method of legal injection. While we disagree with the death penalty in general we do not oppose this bill.

SF 0012 Sex offenses By Corrections Personnel Establishes a crime for sex offenses by corrections staff against inmates. We support this bill. Wyoming currently has no law against sex offenses by corrections staff.

SF 0013 Same Sex Marriages Provides that all marriages between persons of the same sex are void. We oppose this bill. This bill codifies discrimination and is an

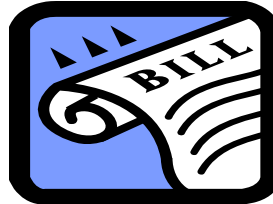
unconstitutional burden on equal protection.

SF0036 Sex Offender Harboring/

Registration Establishes crime of harboring a sex offender and increasing penalties for failure to register. Harboring offense is already established in statutes. This section is duplicative and unnecessary. (W.S. 6-1-201, W.S. 6-5-202; W.S. 6-5-201)

Sex Offender Bills Not yet filed will be a bill requiring mandatory sentences for sex of-

fenses. Another bill will require all level of sex offenders to register. There will be no due process safeguards or assessment of re-offense probability. These bills are very concerning. They are prosecutors bills; they take away judicial power, and stigmatize and treat adolescents as predators. There is **NO** evidence that Wyoming judges provide light sentences in sex offense cases.



Will they or won't they pass... that's the questions we ask

ACLU-WY Board of Directors

Wyoming Chapter's November Board meeting brought in new officers. They are: John Faunce of Casper as Chairman; Sharon Wisroth of Cheyenne as Vice Chairman; Rudy Munoz of Cody as Secretary. Our remaining board members Sissy Goodwin of Douglas, William Young of Medicine Bow, Lorna Johnson of Laramie, Thomas Rudolph of



The Wyoming Chapter Board Members are here to help...

Cheyenne, Shirley Kingston of Laramie, Jeffrey Harryman of Rock Springs, and Laurie Brooke Seidenberg of Laramie, will be part of the Legal Committee and/or the Award Committee. Our Executive Director, Linda Burt, and Vice Chair Sharon Wisroth will be lobbying during this 59th Legislative session. All ACLU members are asked to voice their opinions to your local

representatives. All representatives contact information is listed on the Wyoming Legislative website: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us> or call the Wyoming ACLU office (307-637-4565) and we will relay your concerns. The next board meeting will be held in March after the legislative session has adjourned. If you would like something addressed at that meeting, please contact one of these dedicated board members or the ACLU office.

Participation in The Legislative Process is Possible

HEARING IMPAIRED SERVICES Individuals with hearing impairments may call the toll-free Wyoming Relay service for information on any bill. That telephone number is 1-800-877-9965 for TDD or Text Telephones. The caller should ask the Wyoming Relay Service operator to dial 1-307-777-6185 to obtain status on bills. This service is available to all Wyoming residents with hearing impairments.

REAL AUDIO OF LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS Live audio proceedings of the Wyoming Senate and the Wyoming House of Representatives are available on the Wyoming Legislature's web site. Listeners will need to download a copy of the Real Audio Player to listen to the proceedings (a link to download the

Player is available on the Legislature's web site). The Real Audio link will be prominently displayed on the web site when the session begins and will provide the option of listening to live proceedings, if the House and Senate are convened, or an archive of the last five days of legislative proceedings throughout the session.

Check out the Wyoming ACLU web site (www.aclu-wy.org) for updates from our Executive Director on the lobbying efforts



**Wyoming Chapter American
Civil Liberties Union**

P. O. Box 20706
Cheyenne, WY 82003-0706



That's what we're here for ...

The American Civil Liberties Union—
Defending Traditional American Values

The ACLU is a nonprofit organization devoted to maintaining traditional American values, as embodied in our Constitution and Bill of Rights

The ACLU acts on behalf of individuals or groups, not because we agree with their views or politics, but because of our duty to defend constitutional rights.

Our litigation and legislative efforts are supported entirely by contributions and the dues of our members. In order to remain independent, we do not accept or seek government funding. Our mailing list is limited to our roster of members and donors.

It is only through your generous contributions that the ACLU is able to defend your rights from the school house to the state house. Although we are working hard to create a stronger, more vital ACLU in Wyoming, we cannot do this without people like you. We need you to join us in this important campaign—as member, volunteers, citizen-lobbyists, and patriotic Americans who want to insure that the rights we enjoy will never be denied to our children, or their children.

Yes, I want to help the ACLU defend my rights!

Please make checks payable to "ACLU" and return them with the membership application to:

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
P. O. Box 20706
Cheyenne, WY 82003

Contributions to the ACLU are not tax-deductible



Phone: 1.307.637.4565
Fax: 1.307.637.4565
Email: wyoaclu@aol.com

**PRST STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
Cheyenne, WY
Permit 4**

This is my ACLU membership!!
I understand this contribution will make me a member of the national ACLU as well as a member of Wyoming ACLU.

- Individual (\$20)
- Joint (\$30)
- Limited Income (\$5)
- \$35 \$50 \$75
- \$125 Other _____

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Home/Work Phone

Email Address