

# News Release



## WYOMING LEGISLATIVE SERVICE OFFICE

**FOR RELEASE** May 27, 2004

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### **PRESIDENT AND SPEAKER ISSUE CALL FOR HISTORIC SESSION**

**CHEYENNE** – Senate President April Brimmer Kunz and House Speaker Fred Parady have directed staff of the Wyoming Legislative Service Office to initiate a poll of the membership of the 57<sup>th</sup> Wyoming Legislature to determine whether the Legislature should call itself into special session. **A special session will only be held if a majority of the membership elected to both houses responds in the affirmative to the written poll.** The purpose of the special session would be to address issues related to medical malpractice, malpractice insurance availability, and related potential judicial system reforms.

The Legislative Service Office will mail out ballots on Thursday, May 27, 2004 to all members. Speaker Parady and President Kunz have requested that legislators return the poll as soon as possible to determine if a special session will be held. If a majority of the membership elected to both houses responds in the affirmative to the written poll, President Kunz and Speaker Parady anticipate a special session would commence Monday, July 12, 2004 and would likely be completed by July 16 or 17, 2004. The Speaker and President will jointly announce the results of the poll after responses have been tabulated by the LSO.

Wyoming voters amended the Wyoming Constitution in November 2002 to allow the Wyoming Legislature to convene a special session. Prior to the passage of the constitutional amendment, only the Governor could call the Legislature into a special session. Since the passage of the amendment, this is the first time the presiding officers of the Legislature have invoked the authority to call for a special session through a poll of the membership.

The President and Speaker have directed the LSO to conduct this poll pursuant to Article 3 Section 7 of the Wyoming Constitution and Rule 18-1 of the Joint Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives of the 57<sup>th</sup> Wyoming Legislature. An electronic copy of the Joint Rules of the Wyoming Senate and House of Representatives can be found on the Wyoming Legislature's Web site at: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2004/rules/joint.htm>.

*Media Advisory: Speaker of the House, Fred Parady, and Senate Majority Floor Leader, Senator Grant Larson, will be available by telephone on Thursday, May 27, 2004 to respond to any questions members of the media may have about this release. President April Brimmer Kunz is not available on Thursday to answer media questions. Contact numbers are listed below.*

*Speaker Fred Parady: (307) 872-7110 or (307) 871-2565 (mobile)*  
*Senator Grant Larson: (307) 733-2025*

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