WORKING DRAFT

Election code amendments.

Sponsored by: (s) Hdraft

A BILL

for

AN ACT relating to elections; modifying provisions relating to voter registration and administration of elections generally; providing additional definitions; modifying voter oath and other forms relating to voting; modifying

duties of election officials; and providing for

6 effective date.

7

5

8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:

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*** STAFF COMMENTS ***

This draft has been arranged by topic as identified by the Secretary of State's Office.

If sponsored by the Committee it will be placed in appropriate sequence.

15

16 **Section 1.** W.S. 22-1-102(a)(xxiii), (xxvii), (xxix)

17 and by creating a new paragraph (xlvi), 22-2-113(a) and

18 (e), 22-3-103, 22-3-104(d)(ii) and (f), 22-3-105(a),

- 22-3-106, 22-3-109 through 22-3-111, 22-3-113, 22-5-212, 1
- 2 22-9-104(a)(i), 22-9-106, 22-9-108(a)(intro) and (ii),
- 3 22-9-114, 22-9-120, 22-12-107(a)(i) and (ii),
- 4 22-13-104(a)(intro), 22-15-104(a)(iii), 22-15-106,
- 5 22-23-805, 22-23-806 and 22-29-116(b)(v) are amended to
- read: 6

I. Voter Registration Issues.

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*** SOS COMMENTS ***

These changes will be helpful in administering the voter registration system and in some cases important simplifying the design of the system.

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Limit Voter Registration Oath to SUBISSUE A. Personal Information; change form.

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*** SOS COMMENTS ***

The following section removes all the district and precinct numbers from the voter registration oath, because the voter does not usually know these. The amendments list the required information and allow flexibility in its arrangement.

23 24

22-3-103. Furnishing of oath forms; contents thereof.

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25

- 27 The county clerk shall furnish voter registration (a)
- 28 oath forms to registry agents which forms shall conform in
- 29 substance to require the following voter information from
- 30 the applicant:

1	(i) His full name;
2	
3	(ii) His current residence address or if living
4	temporarily in another state or nation, his last residence
5	address in Wyoming;
6	
7	(iii) His postal address if different from his
8	residence address;
9	
10	(iv) His date of birth;
11	
12	(v) Acceptable identification as defined as
13	defined pursuant to W.S. 22-1-102(a) (xxxix);
14	
15	(vi) His Wyoming driver's license number, or if
16	he has no current, valid Wyoming driver's license, a
17	statement to that effect and the last four digits of his
18	social security number, or if he has neither, a statement
19	to that effect;
20	
21	(vii) His political party affiliation, if any;
22	<u>and</u>
.	

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(viii) The date he became a resident of the
1
2
    county.
3
 4
        (b) Following the provision of the information
5
    required in subsection (a) of this section, the form shall
    require the applicant's signature in full below the
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7
    following oath:
8
9
    RECISTRATION OATH
10
    State of Wyoming )
11
12
13
    County of ....)
14
    I, ...., do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I am a citizen
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    of the United States; that I was born on ....; that I have
16
17
    been am a bona fide resident of the state of Wyoming,
    County of .... since ....; that my current residence
18
    address is .... Street, City of .... Ward .... (if
19
20
    applicable), Election District No. .... Polling Precinct
21
    No. ...., House District No.... and Senate District No....;
    that my mailing address (if different from my residence
22
    address) is ....; that I am a member of .... political
23
24
    party and the number of my current, valid Wyoming driver's
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.... or I have no valid Wyoming driver's
1
    license and the last four digits of my social security
2
3
    number are ...., or I have no valid Wyoming driver's
 4
    license or social security number; and this county; that I
5
    will be at least eighteen (18) years of age on or before
    the next election; that I am not .... now registered in
6
7
    another county or state; that I am not currently
    adjudicated a mentally incompetent person, that I have not
8
9
    been convicted of a felony, or if I have been convicted of
    a felony, I have had my civil or voting rights restored by
10
    a competent authority; and that the voter registration
11
    information contained herein is true and accurate to my
12
13
    best knowledge and belief.
14
15
    .... (Signature in full of applicant)
16
17
    Subscribed and affirmed or sworn to before me by .... this
    .... day of ...., (year).
18
19
20
    .... (Signature and title of registry agent
21
    or person authorized to administer oaths)
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1
         22-3-104. Proof of
                                identity for registration;
 2
    verification; signing oath; time for proving eligibility;
    registration locations.
 3
 4
 5
         (d) When an applicant registers to vote in person or
    by mail he shall provide the information required by W.S.
 6
 7
    22-3-103(a) and sign the registration oath as required by
    W.S. 22-3-103 (b) .:
8
9
10
                  Provide acceptable identification;
11
12
             (ii) Sign his full legal
                                              name
13
    registration oath before a registry agent;
14
15
              (iii) Also provide the following as specified:
16
17
18
    Wyoming driver's
19
20
                  (B) If he has no current, valid Wyoming
21
             license, he shall so state
    last four (4) digits of his social security number; or
22
23
```

(C) If he has no current, valid Wyoming 1

2 driver's license nor a social security number, he shall so

state and the state shall assign him a unique identifying 3

4 number which shall be included on the appropriate form

5 developed pursuant to the Help America Vote Act.

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7 22-3-117. Absentee registration generally; use

of federal postcard. 8

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Notwithstanding any other section or provision in (a) this chapter, any citizen of the United States who is a resident of Wyoming may apply for registration by providing the information required by W.S. 22-3-103(a) and acceptable identification to and completing and subscribing, the form of voter registration oath prescribed by W.S. 22-3-103(b) before any person authorized by law to administer oaths, which person is considered a registry agent for this purpose. Each county clerk shall furnish the voter registration oath forms. The applicant shall mail or return the completed voter registration oath form to the county clerk in the county in which the applicant resides. In order to vote in the next election, the application must be received in the county clerk's office before the close of registration for that election or be accompanied by an

1	absentee	ballot	request	for	elections	where	а	voter	may
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2 register at the polls.

3

4 (d) If any person specified in subsection (b) of this

5 section desires permanent registration, that person shall

6 provide the information required by W.S. 22-3-103(a) and

7 subscribe to the voter registration oath prescribed by W.S.

8 22-3-103(b). The oath shall be self-administered under

9 penalty of perjury and notwithstanding W.S. 22-3-104 does

10 not require the signature of an oath-taking official.

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SUBISSUE B. Effective Time and Date of Registration; Voter Registration System Verification.

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*** SOS COMMENTS ***

The following amends 22-3-104(f) to apply only when registering at the polls (when voter registration [VR] is effective upon delivery of the completed and signed oath to the County Clerk or election judge). After the VR system is operational and so certified by the SOS, for regular registration at the Clerks' offices, the section provides that voter registration is effective only after the information has been entered into the VR system and verified.

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- 27 **22-3-104.** Proof of identity for registration;
- 28 verification; signing oath; time for proving eligibility;
- 29 registration locations.

30

31 (f) A person shall be registered to vote as follows:

2	(i) Registration before the secretary of state
3	has certified that the voter registration system is
4	operational is effective upon receipt by the county clerk
5	or election judge of the completed and signed registration
6	oath subscribed by the registry agent;
7	
8	(ii) Registration after the secretary of state
9	has certified that the voter registration system is
10	operational is effective:
11	
12	(A) At the polls for the purpose of voting.
13	Upon verification of the information, the voter shall
14	continue to be registered. Upon failure of verification,
15	the voter's registration shall be revoked in accordance
16	with W.S. 22-3-105;
17	
18	(B) For registration, other than at the
19	polls, after the voter registration information has been
20	entered onto the voter registration system and verified.
21	
22 23 24 25	SUBISSUE C. Definitions of Voter Registration System and Voter Lists *** SOS COMMENTS *** The following amendments define the voter registration
25 26	system in HAVA terms and clarify the differences among

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1
    computerized voter registration lists
                                             (22-2-113), the
    official registry list (22-3-108), registry list (22-3-109)
2
    thru 113, and 116), official list of registered electors
3
    (22-4-405), and poll list (22-1-102 and 22-3-113).
4
    amendments include what each may be used for and what
5
    information each may contain.
                                   See also 22-12-107(a)(i)
 6
    which uses a list of registered voters residing in the
7
    precinct.
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10
        22-1-102. Definitions.
11
         (a) The definitions contained in this chapter apply
12
13
    to words and phrases used in this Election Code and govern
14
    the construction of those words and phrases unless they are
15
    specifically modified by the context in which they appear.
16
    As used in this Election Code:
17
18
             (xxiii) "Poll list" is the list of names of
19
    electors who vote or offer to vote at a precinct at an
20
    election registered voters as compiled by the precinct
21
    judge or clerk in the pollbook; for use by election judges
22
    at the polls. The poll list shall:
23
24
                  (A) Include the names and residence
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addresses of electors registered in the precinct;

1	(B) Indicate the precinct and various
2	districts in which each elector resides;
3	
4	(C) Indicate political party affiliation
5	of the electors, if any;
6	
7	(D) Indicate which electors have
8	registered by mail and must show identification;
9	
10	(E) Indicate which electors have
11	submitted absentee ballots in the election prior to the
12	printing of the poll list;
13	
14	(F) Provide for the notation of:
15	
16	(I) A sequential number for each
17	elector voting at the polls;
18	

1	(II) Electors who cast provisional
2	ballots;
3	
4	(III) Electors who cast absentee
5	ballots if the absentee ballots are processed and
6	<pre>counted at the polls;</pre>
7	
8	(IV) Electors who change political
9	party affiliation at the polls.
10	
11	(G) Provide for the recording of the
12	same information for electors who register at the
13	<pre>polls;</pre>
14	
15	(H) Provide other space as required for
16	election management purposes.
17	
18	(xxvii) "Registration" is the entry <u>and</u>
19	verification of the name and voter information of a

qualified elector on the official registry list, as 1

2 provided in W.S. 22-3-104(f) and 22-3-108;

3

(xxix) "Registry list" is the list by precinct 4

5 of the names, addresses, party affiliations and precinct

and district numbers of the registered electors in the 6

7 county prepared by the secretary of state or county clerks

for distribution as provided in W.S. 22-2-113; 8

9

10 (xlvi) "Voter registration system" means the

single, uniform, official, interactive, computerized, 11

12 statewide voter registration system containing the

registration information of every legally registered 13

14 elector in the state.

15

16 22-2-113. Availability and form of registry

17 lists; use of copies; election record; purging.

18

(a) The secretary of state shall furnish at a 19

20 reasonable price computerized voter registration registry

21 lists to any candidate for a political office in the state,

candidate's campaign committee, political party central 22

committees and officials thereof, elected officials, 23

1 political action committees, individuals promoting or

2 opposing a ballot issue or candidate and to organizations

3 which promote voter participation. The county clerks may

4 elect to furnish the lists and, if they do so, shall make

5 them available to all on an equal basis. All lists are for

6 political purposes only and are not available for

7 commercial use. The lists shall be in the form of

8 printouts, mailing labels, tapes or other electronic format

9 as available. The lists may be reproduced for political

10 purposes.

11

12 (e) The county clerks shall purge—and update and

13 submit voter registration lists information on the voter

14 registration system not later than the fifteenth day of

15 February each year. to the secretary of state.

16

17 **22-3-105.** Investigation of voter qualifications;

18 striking names from registry; criteria; notice; appeal.

19

20 (a) The county clerk may investigate the

21 qualifications of any voter registration, when he has

22 reasonable cause to believe that the voter may be

23 unqualified. The county clerk shall, after a thorough

24 investigation, strike from the registry voter registration

- 1 lists the name of any person who is not qualified to be
- 2 registered.

- 4 22-3-109. Certification and transmittal of poll
- 5 lists; posting of lists.

6

- 7 (a) Not less than ten (10) days before any election,
- 8 the county clerk shall certify and transmit to the officer
- 9 in charge of each election at his request the necessary
- 10 registry poll lists for the precincts or areas involved in
- 11 the election. Not less than ten (10) days prior to the
- 12 primary and general elections the county clerks shall mail
- 13 deliver three (3) copies of the registry poll lists for
- 14 each precinct in the county to the county chairman of each
- 15 political party in the respective counties.

16

- 17 (b) The county clerk shall publicly post in a
- 18 prominent place at the county courthouse one (1) copy of
- 19 the registry list for each precinct.

20

21 **22-3-110**. Expense of preparing poll lists.

- 23 The expense of preparing registry poll lists required
- 24 by law to be provided by the county clerk in combined

1 statewide political subdivision elections, shall be shared

2 equitable basis by the governmental entities

3 participating in the election. The expense of preparing

4 other registry poll lists shall be paid by the entity

5 holding the election.

precinct numbers.

6

7 22-3-111. Preparation and contents of pollbooks.

8

9 The county clerk shall prepare the necessary (a) 10 pollbooks for each precinct for statewide and political 11 subdivision elections held on the same date. The precinct pollbooks shall contain the registry poll lists, the oaths 12 13 of judges of election, certificate of ballots, and a tally sheet if ballots are hand counted. On the cover of the 14 pollbook shall be printed the words "Pollbook", the 15 election and date of the election, the voting district and 16

18

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(b) Pollbooks shall be prepared for special district elections by the officials in charge of such elections. The county clerk shall furnish registry poll lists as required and requested by such officials.

23

22-3-113. Disposition of pollbooks after polls close. 24

2 After the polls are closed and the pollbooks are made 3 to agree, the judges of election in each precinct shall 4 return one (1) pollbook containing one (1) copy of each of 5 the poll lists and one (1) copy of the registry list, which may be one and the same, to the county clerk, together with 6 7 the election returns, and retain one (1) such pollbook copy of each poll list in their possession. Judges of election 8 9 may discard pollbooks poll lists in their possession two 10 (2) years after the election to which the pollbooks poll 11 lists pertain or in the event of litigation, at the 12 conclusion of the litigation, whichever date is later.

13

14 22-5-212. When declaration of party affiliation 15 required.

16

17 An elector requesting a major party ballot must declare his party affiliation, or sign an application for 18 change of affiliation before he may receive a party ballot. 19 20 An elector may vote only the nonpartisan ballot and if so, 21 not required to declare his party affiliation. 22 Requesting a partisan primary election ballot constitutes a declaration of party affiliation. A change in declaration 23 24 of party affiliation shall be entered on the poll list and 1 the registry list, which may be one and the same, by the

2 county clerk election judge.

3

4 22-15-106. Where name not on registry.

5

A person challenged on the ground that his name does 6 not appear on the registry poll list may vote if a judge of 7 election obtains verification from the county clerk that 8 9 the person is entitled to vote in that election within that

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12

10

county.

22-23-805. Registry lists.

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Precinct registry poll lists for the special election shall be obtained by the municipal clerk from the county clerk and shall be paid for by the municipality. The municipal clerk shall furnish copies of the precinct registry poll lists to the judges of election. A copy of the precinct registry list shall be posted at each precinct polling place during the special election.

21

22 22-23-806. Entries in and delivery of pollbook;

elector not on lists. 23

1 The judges of election shall make the same entries in

2 the pollbook as are required for statewide elections.

3 Following the election the pollbook shall be delivered to

4 the municipal clerk. If the name of a person offering to

5 vote at a special municipal election is not on the registry

poll lists, he may qualify to vote by signing an affidavit 6

and if a judge of election obtains verification from the 7

county clerk as provided in W.S. 22-15-105 and 22-15-106. 8

9

22-29-116. Procedures for mail ballot elections.

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10

12 (a) Official ballots shall be prepared and all other 13 preelection procedures followed as otherwise provided by law or rules promulgated by the secretary of state, except 14

that mail ballot packets shall be prepared in accordance 15

16 with the following:

17

(v) No sooner than twenty-five (25) days and no 18 later than 4:00 p.m. on election day, mail ballots shall be 19 20 made available at the election official's office for voters 21 entitled to vote in the election but who are not otherwise 22 listed on the county voter registration records or the

registration list if otherwise authorized to vote;

24

1 II. Amendments needed for Election Administration. 2 3 SUBISSUE Α. Registration withdrawal - allow 4 electronic notification. *** SOS COMMENTS *** 5 Soon electronic notification will be the rule not the 6 7 exception for informing other jurisdictions of voter registration withdrawal. 9 10 22-3-106. Request for voter registration withdrawal; 11 form. 12 13 If a voter registration applicant affirms that he is registered in another county or state, the registry agent 14 shall require that the applicant complete and sign a 15 "Request for Voter Registration Withdrawal" form. 16 The 17 registry agent shall mail the form cause notice to be sent to the registry agent of the jurisdiction in which the 18 applicant was last registered. The withdrawal form shall 19 20 conform in substance to the following: 21 22 REQUEST 23 FOR 24 VOTER REGISTRATION WITHDRAWAL 25 I,, whose date of birth is and social security 26 27 number is (optional) having now registered to vote in 28 the County of, State of Wyoming, hereby request that

1	my registration to vote in the County of, State of
2	be withdrawn.
3	My previous address was:
4	Street
5	City
6	
7	Signature of requester
8	Subscribed and sworn to before me by this day of
9	, (year).
10	
11	Name of person receiving request
12	
13	Title
14	
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	SUBISSUE B. Application for Absentee Ballots. *** SOS COMMENTS *** The following, regarding application for absentee ballots, requires a current valid Wyoming address or last Wyoming residence address before leaving the state to reside temporarily in another state or nation.
22	22-9-104. How to apply; information required.
23	
24	(a) A qualified elector may apply for an absentee
25	ballot either in person, in writing, or by telephone, by
26	furnishing the following information:
27	

1	(i) Name in full, social security number
2	(optional), date of birth, and current Wyoming residence
3	address by street, city, and county, and zip code or last
4	Wyoming residence address and month and year of leaving
5	Wyoming to live temporarily in another state or nation, if
6	applicable;
7	
8	22-9-111. Affidavit to be printed on inner envelope;
9	attestation.
10	
11	(b) For all voters, as specified in W.S. 22-9-105, an
12	oath meeting the following requirements shall be printed on
13	the reverse side of the inner ballot envelope: in red ink:
14	
15	
16	a resident of Election District No, Precinct No.
17	, (and if a resident of a city, add: Residing at No.
18	, Street, in the city of) County of, and
19	the State of Wyoming, and am or will be entitled to vote in
20	the precinct at the next election and that I have not voted
21	and will not vote again in this election
22	
23	(i) The elector shall print his full name;
24	

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1
             (ii) The elector shall provide his current
 2
    residence address or if living temporarily in another state
 3
    or nation, his last residence address in Wyoming;
 4
 5
             (iii) The elector shall provide his district and
    precinct numbers;
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 7
8
             (iv) Under the above information shall be the
 9
    following:
10
11
                  (A) "I hereby swear or affirm, under
12
    penalty of perjury, that I am entitled to vote in the
13
    precinct at the next election and that I have not voted and
14
    will not vote again in this election, and that the above
    information is true and correct.
15
16
         .... (Date)
17
         .... (Signature of elector) "
18
19
         SUBISSUE C.
                       Provide More Accurate Terminology.
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                          SOS COMMENTS ***
             The following amendments to 22-9-108 conform the
21
    laws to current practice by referring to an absentee ballot
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23
    "log" or "report" or "record" rather than an absentee
    ballot "book" and requiring the recording of the date but
24
25
    not the time
                     of the receipt of
                                             absentee ballot
26
    applications.
27
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1	22-9-106. Qualified absentee voter; written
2	notification if rejected.
3	
4	The clerk shall mark each completed absentee ballot
5	application with the date and time of receipt. The clerk
6	shall then determine if the applicant is properly qualified
7	to vote. If the applicant is not entitled to vote, the
8	clerk shall not issue a ballot to him and shall mark the
9	application "rejected" and file it in a file separate from
10	applications which are accepted. If an application is
11	rejected, the clerk shall immediately notify the applicant
12	in writing of the reason for rejection.
13	
14	22-9-108. Absentee ballot record; information to be
15	entered.
16	
17	(a) For each election, the clerk shall keep an
18	"Absentee Ballot Book Record" in which he shall enter the
19	following information:
20	
21	(ii) The date and time of receipt of each
22	application;
23	
24	22-9-114. Receipt by clerk; generally.

2 The clerk shall mark on each completed inner 3 envelope the date and time of receipt and enter this 4 information in the absentee ballot book record. From information contained in the affidavit or from other 5 reliable sources, the clerk shall determine the district 6 7 and precinct where the ballot shall be voted and shall write the number of the district and precinct on the inner 8 9 envelope.

10

22-9-120. Receipt of absentee ballots and lists 11

12 by judges.

13

When the absentee ballots are delivered to the 14 polls and the polls are open, the judges of election shall 15 open the precinct envelope and determine whether the 16 17 ballots therein correspond to the names on the enclosed duplicate list. If they do, the judges shall retain one (1) 18 list permanently, sign the other and return it in receipt 19 20 to the clerk. The clerk shall retain his list in the 21 absentee ballot book record.

22

23 SUBISSUE D. Materials for Registration at the 24 Polls.

*** SOS COMMENTS *** 25

2 3 4 5	judges, refer to all the elections at which prospective voters may register, not just the primary and general elections.
6	22-12-107. Materials for judges.
7	
8	(a) Before election day the county clerk shall
9	cause to be delivered to one (1) of the judges of election
LO	in each precinct the following materials:
L1	
L2	(i) Pollbooks <u>: and a list of registered electors</u>
L3	residing in the precinct;
L 4	
L 5	(ii) At general and primary elections <u>any</u>
L 6	election specified in W.S. 22-2-101(a)(i) through (viii),
L 7	registration applications;
L8	
L9 20 21 22	SUBISSUE E. Update Procedures Before Elector May Vote.
23 24 25 26	*** SOS COMMENTS *** The following section is unnecessarily detailed and much of it is obsolete.
27	22-13-104. Procedure before elector permitted to
28	vote.

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1 (a) Before a qualified elector is permitted to vote a judge of an election may enter the following 2 notations judge shall record the applicable information as 3 4 listed in W.S. 22-1-202(a) (xxiii) by his name on the poll 5 list... 6

(i) In the space provided for the purpose in the left-hand margin of the list and adjacent to the elector's name, his number in regular succession of the persons receiving a paper ballot, or, in a voting machine precinct, the number on the voter slip given to the person before he is permitted to enter the machine to vote. When an elector is permitted to register at the polls, or a judge of election obtains verification from the county clerk that the person's name is on the registry list, his name shall first be entered on the poll list in the space provided following the list of registered electors. In a special district election, the judges of election shall prepare a poll list by entering the full name and residence address of each person voting or offering to vote, his number in regular succession of the persons receiving a paper ballot or, if a voting machine is used, the number or letter of the voting machine on which the elector casts his ballot;

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2 (ii) In the space wherein the party designation is indicated on the list for a primary election, a judge of 3 4 election shall circle the letter "D" printed on the 5 registry list if the Democratic Party ballot is cast, the letter "R" if the Republican Party ballot is cast, and such 6 7 other letter designated by the secretary of state for other qualified parties, and the letters "NP" if only a 8 9 nonpartisan ballot is east. If an elector easts a partisan 10 ballot for a party other than the party in which he is registered, a judge of election shall draw an "X" through 11 the letter on the registry list indicating the elector's 12 registration and shall enter next to it the letter 13 indicating the new declaration of party affiliation; 14

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(iii) After his name, place the letter "A" if an elector votes by absentee ballot;

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(iv) If a person offering to vote is given a provisional ballot the letter "P" shall be placed after the person's name;

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(v) If an elector changes his name or his residence address within the precinct, the new name or

1	address shall be written by the name or address printed on
2	the registry list.
3	
4	(b) A person offering to vote at an election
5	whose name does not appear on the precinct list may vote as
6	a challenged elector in accordance with chapter 15 of the
7	Election Code.
8	
9	22-15-104. Grounds for challenge.
10	
11	(a) A person offering to vote may be challenged for
12	the following reasons:
13	
14	(iii) Name does not appear on registry of
15	electors poll list and the person cannot meet the
16	requirements to register at the polls;
17	
18	Section 2. W.S. 22-3-104(d)(i) through (iii), 22-
19	13-104(a)(i) through (v) and (b) are repealed.
20	
21	Section 3. This act is effective July 1, 2005.
22	
23	(END)
24	