



PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS BOARD

1920 Thomes Avenue, Suite 100
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Wyoming State Constitution Study Guide

Section 21-7-304, Wyoming Statutes, 1969--"All persons hereafter applying for certificates authorizing them to become administrators or teachers in the public schools of this state shall, in addition to existing requirements and before receiving such certificate, be required to pass a satisfactory examination upon the provisions and principles of the constitutions of the United States and of the State of Wyoming, or present evidence of having successfully completed a course equivalent to that required in **W.S. 21-9-102.**"

1. In regard to political equality, Wyoming was a pioneer in what respect?

The Wyoming State Constitution was the first in the nation to grant suffrage to women.

2. According to the preamble, what was the fundamental purpose of the convention resulting in the Constitution of Wyoming?

The Constitution is designed to secure and perpetuate civil, political and religious liberty for the people of Wyoming.

3. What are the constitutional provisions regarding religion?

(a) No religious test shall ever be applied to voting or holding office;

(b) The exercise of any religious faith shall not be interfered with;

(c) No public money shall be appropriated for any society or institution under religious control.

4. What is meant by treason against the state?

Treason is defined as levying war against it, or aiding, comforting and adhering to its enemy.

5. Can private property be taken for public use without the owner's consent?

Yes, under the state's power of eminent domain, if the owner is given due compensation.

6. To whom do the unoccupied and non-appropriated lands within Wyoming belong?

These lands belong to the United States Government.

7. How is the Constitution of Wyoming amended?

An amendment must be passed by a two-thirds vote in each house of the legislature and be approved by a majority of those voting in the next general election.

8. What are the qualifications of a voter?

He/she must be 18 years of age, a citizen of the United States, and must have complied with all applicable registration laws.

9. What is the requirement regarding registering to vote?

A citizen must be registered according to law before he/she can vote in any general or special election.



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10. When are general elections held?

On the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of all even numbered years.

11. If voters are absent from home or unable to get to their voting places, how may they cast their ballots?

These voters can exercise their right by requesting an absentee ballot from the county clerk.

12. What are two of the provisions in the Constitution regarding ballots?

The names of all candidates for the same office are to appear on the same ballot, and ballots are to be cast in private.

13. What are the three departments of the state government and the duty of each?

Legislative - to make laws.

Executive - to enforce laws.

Judicial - to interpret laws.

14. What is the constitutional limitation on terms of office of the five (5) state elected officials?

Elected state officials can serve only two (2) terms.

15. What officers are subject to impeachment?

The Governor and other state officers excluding justices of the peace may be impeached.

16. What makes up the Legislative branch?

The legislature of the State of Wyoming is composed of a Senate and House of Representatives.

17. When are members of the legislature elected? When do they take office?

They are elected on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of even numbered years and take office the first Monday in January.

18. What is the term of office of the members of each house?

The Senate serves a four year term. The House of Representatives serve two years.

19. Give the qualifications for a state senator.

He/she must be 25 years old, a citizen of the United States and of Wyoming, and must have resided at least 12 months preceding his/her election in the county or district from which he/she is chosen.

20. Give the qualifications for a state representative.

He/ she must be 21 years old, a citizen of the United States and of Wyoming, and must have resided at least 12 months preceding his/her election in the county or district from which he/she is chosen.



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21. What limitations are placed on members of the legislature as to salary and the holding of other offices?

They may not hold any office except that of notary public or office in the militia, and their salary cannot be increased during their term of office.

22. When does the legislature meet?

The legislature meets at 12:00 o'clock noon, on the second Tuesday of January succeeding the general election. They may also meet on the second Tuesday in January of even numbered years for a budget session, or whenever an extra session is called by the Governor.

23. Where does the legislature meet?

The legislature meets at the State Capitol Building in Cheyenne.

24. What is the limitation on the length of sessions of the Legislature?

Legislative sessions are not to exceed forty days in odd numbered years or twenty days in even numbered years.

25. Who are the presiding officers of each house?

A President leads the Senate and a Speaker presides over the House, each being elected by the respective houses.

26. How does a bill pass the legislature?

A bill must be passed in identical form by a majority vote of both houses.

27. What is meant by a quorum, and how is it reached in the legislature?

A quorum is the number necessary to transact business. A majority of each house constitutes a quorum.

28. What are two constitutional provisions regulating the procedure for passing bills?

Each bill may contain only one subject, and no bill may become law except by a majority vote of all members elected to each house.

29. What type of law is the legislature prohibited from passing?

The legislature is prohibited from passing any local or special laws or any other case where a general law can be made applicable.

30. Where must revenue bills originate?

Revenue bills originate in the House of Representatives.

31. What is the provision regarding the amendment of laws?

In order to amend any law, the law must be rewritten. Amendment cannot be made by referring to the title only.



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32. What is the constitutional provision regarding the offer or promise of trading votes between legislative members?
Any agreement between members to vote for a certain bill in exchange for a vote for another bill is considered solicitation of bribery and is punishable as such.
33. Who has general power to fix salaries within the state?
The legislature has the power to adjust salaries, but cannot fix their own compensation.
34. In which elected official is executive power vested?
The Governor has executive power.
35. Give the qualifications for the Governor?
Must be a citizen of the United States, qualified elector of the state, 30 years old, and must have resided the five years preceding his/her election within the state.
36. What are the principal powers of the Governor?
To execute faithfully all laws, to sign bills and resolutions, to grant pardons, reprieves and commutations, to call special sessions of the Legislature, to make appointments to fill vacancies, and to exercise veto power over objectionable legislation or appropriations put before the office.
37. What is the "Governor's Message"?
At the beginning of each session of the Legislature, the Governor presents a message before the legislators advising as to the condition of affairs in the state and recommending legislation.
38. What is the veto provision in the Wyoming Constitution?
The Governor is given the right to veto with documented objections, which after consideration can be overridden by a two-thirds vote in both houses.
39. What is the special provision regarding the veto of appropriation bills?
Any item or items of an appropriation bill may be vetoed, without the entire bill being vetoed.
40. Who is the commander-in-chief of the militia?
It is the duty of the Governor to serve as commander-in-chief of the militia.
41. What are the elective executive offices other than that of Governor?
Secretary of State; State Treasurer; State Auditor; State Superintendent of Public Instruction.
42. Who succeeds the Governor in the event that he/she is unable to fulfill the duties of the office?
The Secretary of State would act as Governor until the vacancy is filled or the original Governor is again able to fulfill the duties.



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43. Give the names of the current five elective state officers.

*GOVERNOR – Mark Gordon
SECRETARY OF STATE – Edward Buchanan
TREASURER – Curt Meier
AUDITOR – Kristi Racines
SUPT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION – Jillian Balow*

44. What is the term of office for each of the elective officers?

The term of office is four years.

45. When do elective county and state officers take over their offices?

These elected officials take their office on the first Monday in January following their election.

46. What is the oath of office, and who is required to take it?

All county and state officers must take an oath to perform the duties of the office to the best of their ability and to support the Constitutions of both the State and the United States.

47. What are the general duties, term of office and method of selection of the State Engineer?

The State Engineer is appointed for a term of six years by the Governor with the consent of the Senate. He has general supervision of the waters of the state.

48. What office has general supervision of the schools of the state?

The Superintendent of Public Instruction is entrusted with this authority.

49. What happens to the income from the permanent land income fund?

These monies are distributed to the public school districts in the state.

50. What are the duties of the Board of Land Commissioners?

This board has charge of the sale and leasing of lands belonging to the state.

51. What is the State Board of Control?

The State Board of Control has general control of the waters of the state and is made up of the State Engineer and superintendents of four water divisions.

52. What is a franchise?

A franchise is a privilege granted to an individual or corporation to carry on some line of public service usually within a municipality.

53. Who has the power to grant franchises to public service corporations to operate within the towns and cities?

The properly constituted authority within the town or city grants franchises in the municipality.

54. What is the constitutional provision regarding monopolies?

Monopolies are forbidden.



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55. What corporations are declared by the Constitution to be common carriers?
All corporations engaged in the transportation of persons, property, mineral oils and mineral products, news or intelligence, including railroad, telegraph, express, pipe line and telephone companies are declared to be common carriers.
56. What is the constitutional provision regarding freight and passenger rates on railroads?
Generally, they cannot discriminate between different users.
57. Of whom does the State Militia consist?
Of all able bodied male citizens of the state between the ages of eighteen and forty-five except those lawfully exempted.
58. In what manner is the permanent location of Wyoming state institutions determined?
These locations are determined by a vote of the people.
59. Name and locate the principal state institutions which are set up in the Constitution.
*a. Capitol - Cheyenne
b. University of Wyoming - Laramie
c. Wyoming State Hospital - Evanston
d. Penitentiary - Rawlins*
60. Who has charge of the general administration of the University of Wyoming?
The University Board of Trustees is charged with management of the university.
61. What three persons or entity are considered ex-officio members of the University Board of Trustees?
The State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the President of the University, and the the Senate.
62. For whom must free public school be provided?
Public school is provided to children of the state between the ages of six and twenty-one.
63. What is the permanent school fund, and from what source is it derived?
The permanent school fund is derived from the sale and lease of school lands and from other sources, such as grants or gifts.
64. What disposition is made of the permanent school fund?
The permanent school fund is to be invested in school district, county, state and United States bonds, and farm loans. The income from the permanent fund is distributed to the school districts.
65. What disposition is to be made of fines collected in the state?
They are to be distributed for the support of public schools in the counties they are collected in.



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66. What is the constitutional provision regarding religious instruction in the schools?
No sectarian instruction shall be tolerated in schools of any grade or character controlled by the state, nor shall attendance be required at any religious service nor shall any sectarian tenet or doctrine be taught or favored in public schools.
67. What constitutes the judicial branch?
The Supreme Court, district courts, county courts, justices of the peace, and other courts having been established by the Legislature.
68. What is the number and term of office of justices of the Supreme Court?
There are five Justices of the Supreme Court. Their term is for eight years.
69. Name the Justices of the Supreme Court. Who is Chief Justice?
*CHIEF JUSTICE – Michael K. Davis
JUSTICE – Kate M. Fox
JUSTICE – Keith G. Kautz
JUSTICE – Lynne Boomgaarden
JUSTICE – Kari Gray*
70. What is done when a judge of the Supreme Court is personally involved or interested in a case?
One of the district judges is invited to sit in his/her place.
71. What is the term of office of the district judges?
District judges are elected for six years.
72. Give an example of a case in which a district court would have appellate jurisdiction.
Any case appealed from inferior courts as provided by law is an example.
73. What is the jury system?
The Constitution guarantees a trial by jury in all criminal cases.
74. What is the constitutional provision regarding bail?
Bail shall not be excessive and shall be granted in all except capital cases.
75. Who has the power to pass on the naturalization of foreigners in Wyoming?
The district court holds the powers of naturalization and to issue the appropriate papers.