



ANNUAL MEETING

2022

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

8:00-9:00 AM

Wyoming Taxpayers Foundation Board Meeting
Big Horn Room

9:00-10:00 AM

Wyoming Taxpayers Association Board Meeting
Big Horn Room

1:00-2:00 PM

Wyoming Taxpayers Association Legislative Policy Meeting
Grand Ballroom C

Members hold voting rights.

2:15-4:00 PM

Back to the Basics: Tax Codes of Wyoming
Grand Ballroom C

Wyoming Department of Revenue and industry experts review the tax codes of Wyoming. How are we funding Wyoming?

Panel discussion featuring Brenda Henson, Wyoming Department of Revenue Director; Dan Noble, Wyoming Department of Revenue former Director; Dave Picard, Wyoming Taxpayers Association Past President

4:00-6:00 PM

Wyoming Taxpayers Association 85th Annual Meeting Opening Reception
Grand Ballroom C Anterior

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

7:30-8:00 AM

Coffee and Pastries
Grand Ballroom C

8:00-8:30 AM

Welcome and Economic Outlook: CREG Update
Grand Ballroom C

What are Wyoming's vulnerabilities of projected revenues?

Kevin Hibbard, Wyoming State Budget Director

8:30-10:00 AM

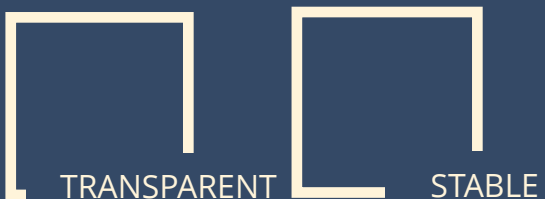
An Economic Analysis of the Cost of Services in Wyoming
Grand Ballroom C

A robust conversation with taxpayers and elected officials. What are the demands on government and who is paying for it?

Panel discussion moderated by Craig Blumenshine, featuring Katie Legerski, Associated General Contractors Executive Director; Joe Conrad, Tata Chemicals Government Affairs; Commissioner Gunnar Malm, Laramie County Board of Commissioners; Mayor Matt Hall, City of Cody and WAM President; Senator Dave Kinsley, Joint Appropriations Committee; Representative Dan Zwonitzer, Chair of Corporations, Elections, and Political Subdivisions Committee

10:00-10:15 AM

Networking Break



THE CORNERSTONES OF
TAXATION
WYOMING TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION



GOVERNOR MARK GORDON
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Mark Gordon was elected Wyoming's 33rd Governor on November 6, 2018. He was sworn into office on January 7, 2019. He grew up on the family ranch in Wyoming where he learned the values of hard work and integrity and the importance of working together. As Governor, he brings those values to the table, maintaining his commitment to a Wyoming where its citizens can pursue their dreams while the state retains its unique character. He is a strong believer that Wyoming must chart its own course, and a steadfast defender of its interests to do so.

As a conservative, Governor Gordon has worked tirelessly to set Wyoming on a sustainable fiscal path. He is committed to making government more transparent, accessible, productive, and efficient. He believes government is best when it is closest to the people, and is committed to giving local communities the tools they need to thrive. He is a staunch advocate of quality education for all children from K-12 through all forms of post-secondary education, private and public.

Governor Gordon has successfully led Wyoming through two of its most significant challenges in decades: the COVID-19 crisis and the most significant decline in mineral revenue in the state's history. He has spearheaded efforts to diversify all sectors of Wyoming's economy, including technology, finance, agriculture, energy, including carbon capture and sequestration, research, education, and tourism. He is dedicated to continuing to make the state a darn good place to raise kids.

Governor Gordon and his wife Jennie have four grown children: Anne; Aaron with wife Megan; Bea with husband Austen and son Crawford; and Spencer with wife Sarah, son Everett, and twin daughters Violet and Eloise.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

10:15-11:45 AM

Federal Funds are NOT the Answer to Balancing Our Tax Structure **Grand Ballroom C**

A deep dive into ARPA, IIJA, and federal funds with the Governor's Office, local governments, and legislators. How do federal funds impact Wyoming's structural deficit and budget?

Panel discussion moderated by Craig Blumenshine, featuring Rob Creager, Office of Governor Mark Gordon Senior Policy Advisor; Jerimiah Rieman, Wyoming County Commissioners Association Executive Director; Mayor Matt Hall, City of Cody and WAM President; Senator Ogden Driskill, Senate Majority Floor Leader; Representative Bob Nicholas, Joint Appropriations Committee Chairman

12:00 PM

85th Annual Meeting Luncheon and Remarks by Governor Mark Gordon **Grand Ballroom C**

1:15-2:15 PM

Demystifying K-12 Spending **Grand Ballroom C**

Elected officials, taxpayers, and educators talk about the nuances of K-12 block grant funding.

Panel discussion moderated by Craig Blumenshine, featuring Fred Von Ahrens, Genesis Alkali Vice President of Manufacturing and Governor's RIDE Member; Pete Obermueller, Petroleum Association of Wyoming President; Brian Farmer, Wyoming School Board Association Executive Director; Senator Affie Ellis, Joint Education Committee Member; Representative Steve Harshman, Joint Revenue Committee Chairman and Joint Education Committee Member

2:15-2:30 PM

Networking Break

2:30-4:00 PM

Solutions and Obstacles of Wyoming Property Tax **Grand Ballroom C**

An interactive discussion with Department of Revenue, Board of Equalization, local assessors, and legislators on the challenges and opportunities within Wyoming property tax.

Panel discussion moderated by Craig Blumenshine, featuring Brenda Henson, Wyoming Department of Revenue Director; Brian Judkins, Wyoming Department of Revenue Property Tax Administrator; Ken Guille, Laramie County Assessor; E. Jayne Mockler, Wyoming Board of Equalization Chairman; Senator Cale Case, Joint Revenue Committee Senate Chairman; Representative Steve Harshman, Joint Revenue Committee House Chairman

4:00-4:30 PM

Legislative Update **Grand Ballroom C**

Legislative guests preview the 2023 General Session.

Panel discussion featuring Senator Cale Case, Senate District 25; Senator Ogden Driskill, Senate District 1; Senator Affie Ellis, Senate District 8; Senator Dave Kinskey, Senate District 22; Representative Steve Harshman, House District 37; Representative Bob Nicholas, House District 8; Representative Dan Zwonitzer, House District 43



CRAIG BLUMENSHINE

Craig Blumenshine is the moderator for the 85th Annual Wyoming Taxpayers Association meeting panel discussions. He has spent the majority of his career telling the stories of Wyoming, most recently as the Director of Communications for the National Museum of Military Vehicles in Dubois. He previously served as the Senior Public Affairs Producer for Wyoming PBS, interviewing scores of people across Wyoming for the notable *Wyoming Chronicle*, as well as moderating debates at all levels of government. He also is an award-winning columnist and writer, where his work appeared in Fremont County's daily newspaper for over 20 years. Craig holds a Bachelor Science in Computer Science from the University of Wyoming.



CALE CASE

Cale Case is an economist, businessman, and politician from Lander in Fremont County. Case has served in the Wyoming State Senate since 1998. From 1994-1998 he was a member of the Wyoming House of Representative. Case holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Wyoming. He is currently the Chairman of the Revenue Committee, Chairman of the Select Committee on Legislative Facilities, Technology and Process, serves on the Corporations, Elections, and Political Subdivisions Committee, Select Committee on Tribal Relations, and Energy Council.



JON CONRAD

Jon Conrad currently serves as the Environmental and Governmental Affairs Manager for Tata Chemicals in Green River, Wyoming. Jon has been in Soda Ash manufacturing holding various leadership positions over 27 years. He serves on the WEDA Board of Directors, Uinta County Economic Development Commission, and as the Chairman of the Wyoming Mining Association, Regulatory Affairs Committee. He is the recipient of the 2021 Wyoming Mining Association's Peck Awards for "outstanding voluntary community service." He also serves as Commander of VFW Post 7798 (MSgt, USAFR), Steering Committee Member for the Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom, and as a Member of the Uinta County Suicide Prevention Task Force. Previous leadership positions include Vice Chairman for the State of Wyoming Board of Parole, Chairman of the Wyoming Workforce Development Council, Vice Chairman of the National Governors Association, National Association of State Workforce Board, and Vice Chairman for the Uinta County School District #4 Board of Trustees. Jon has degrees in Aircraft Avionics, Mechanical Engineering, and a Master of Business Administration.



ROB CREAGER

Rob Creager was hired by Governor Gordon in January 2019 to serve as Business and Economic Development Policy Advisor. In September 2020 he was promoted to Senior Policy Advisor after overseeing the implementation of five separate business relief programs during the pandemic that amounted to over \$470 million granted directly to Wyoming small businesses, as well as the creation of the Connect Wyoming program that brought broadband access to over 12,000 residents and over 500 businesses in the most rural parts of Wyoming with an additional \$56 million. During his tenure in the Governor's Office, Creager has served as the state's liaison to the White House in both the Trump and Biden Administrations. Creager has also served as lead to the National Governors Association, Western Governors' Association, and Republican Governors Association. He was appointed by Governor Gordon in January 2022 as the Implementation Coordinator for the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Creager is a Casper native with a finance degree from the University of Wyoming.



OGDEN DRISKILL

Ogden Driskill is a Wyoming native whose family has proudly been ranching in northeastern Wyoming for over 100 years. After graduating from Hulett High School in 1977, Ogden attended Casper College, earning his Associate's Degree in Agricultural Business. In 1981, Ogden married his wife, Zannie. Together they have three children: Andrea (Matt) Wood, Katerie, and Lincoln (Ashley). He is a proud grandfather to three sweet, young Wyomingites. A sixth generation rancher, Ogden works with Lincoln and Ashley to manage his family's historic Campstool Ranch at the foot of Devils Tower. Ogden is also a small business owner; he and his wife own and manage the Devils Tower KOA which includes a busy campground, gift shop, cafe, and mini-golf course. Recently, Ogden invested in TriState Communications with his daughter Andrea and son-in-law Matt, operating "Dirt Road Radio" on KYDT and KBFS. Ogden is currently the Senate Majority Floor Leader. He is the Senate Chairman of the Corporations, Elections, and Political Subdivisions Committee, serves as a member of the Management Council, Senate Rules and Procedures Committee, Select Committee on Capital Financing and Investments, Select Water Committee, Energy Council, State Building Commission Liaison, Wyoming Gaming Commission, and Wyoming Wildlife Taskforce.



AFFIE ELLIS

Affie Ellis (Navajo) is a State Senator representing Wyoming's 8th District in Cheyenne. She serves as the Vice-Chairman of the Senate Education Committee and Chairman of both the Senate Travel, Recreation, Wildlife, and Cultural Resources Committee and the Select Committee on Tribal Relations. She and her husband, Dennis, have three children who attend public schools in Cheyenne, ranging from high school, middle school, and elementary school. Professionally, Ellis is a shareholder with the law firm, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck LLP, and practices in the areas of natural resources, energy, environment, and federal Indian law.



BRIAN FARMER

Brian Farmer is the executive director of the Wyoming School Boards Association, a position he has held since 2014. As a former school board member, Mr. Farmer is a strong advocate for public education and high-quality educational opportunities for all students. Mr. Farmer also serves as the past chair of the Organization of State Association Executive Directors, a member of the Consortium of State School Boards Associations Transition Steering Committee, and is a past member of the board of directors for the National School Boards Association. Mr. Farmer has worked for the State of Wyoming, the Wyoming Legislature, and the University of Wyoming. Mr. Farmer has taught courses for several colleges and departments at UW. He is recognized as an expert on education policy and law. He holds four degrees from the University of Wyoming and has completed additional graduate studies at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Mr. Farmer has served on numerous boards, committees, clubs, and organizations to support education and his community.



KEN GUILLE

Kenneth Guille is a Cheyenne native. He graduated from Cheyenne Central High School, attended Northwest College, and the University of Northern Colorado. He began working in the Assessor's office in 1998, was appointed Assessor in July 2013, and elected in the 2014 election. Mr. Guille is a certified Wyoming Property Tax Appraiser and a member of the International Association of Assessing Officers.



MATT HALL

Matt Hall grew up in Cody, Wyoming, where his family moved in 1978 to start Caleco Foundry, a bronze art manufacturing business. Matt graduated from Cody High School in 1993 and the University of Wyoming with a degree in Economics in 1998. He moved back to Cody in 2001 where he started working in the investment and insurance industries. In 2007 he met his wife-to-be Jenny DeSarro; they live in the heart of Cody with their chocolate Labrador, Ike. In 2016 Matt was elected Mayor and reelected in 2020. Along with being the Mayor of Cody, he currently works as a realtor for Western Real Estate, and is studying to earn a Master of Public Administration from UW. Matt has always strived to be very active in the community; along with his mayoral duties, he is currently serving on the Forward Cody (economic development group), the Cody County Chamber of Commerce, the Cody Medical Foundation, Wyoming Workforce Development Council, Governor Mark Gordon's Strike Team, and is the President of the Wyoming Association of Municipalities. He enjoys hunting, fishing, climbing, and backpacking, and is also a three-time Wyoming State Champion racquetball player and former Arizona teaching golf professional.



STEVE HARSHMAN

Steve Harshman is a teacher and coach for Natrona County High School in Casper, Wyoming. Harshman earned his B.S. in education from Black Hills State University and went on to receive his M.S. in education from Oregon State. Harshman is a member of the Wyoming House of Representatives, representing District 37 and assumed his office in 2003. Harshman served as speaker of the House from 2017 to 2021, and served as chair of the Appropriations Committee from 2013 to 2016. Harshman is currently the Chairman of the House Revenue Committee and serves on the House Education Committee, Select Committee on Capital Financing and Investments, Select Committee of School Facilities, and Subcommittee on Manual of Legislative Procedures Update.



BRENDA HENSON

Brenda Henson was appointed Director of the Wyoming Department of Revenue by Governor Mark Gordon in August of 2021. Henson (previously Brenda Arnold) was appointed to serve as Administrator of the Property Tax Division for the Department of Revenue in July 2013. Previously she served as Laramie County Assessor. She began her career in the Assessor's Office in 1988 and was elected Assessor in 1995, subsequently being re-elected for additional terms of office. In her capacity as Assessor, she was President of the Wyoming County Assessors Association as well as the Legislative Chair. In addition, she served as President of the Wyoming Association of County Officers. Henson was also chosen to represent Wyoming on the Board of Directors of the National Association of County Officers.



KEVIN HIBBARD

Kevin Hibbard is wrapping up his 29th year serving the State of Wyoming. He currently serves as the Director of the Wyoming State Budget Department and is a Co-Chairman of the Consensus Revenue Estimating Group (CREG). Prior service includes six years as the Deputy Director of A&I Budget and Economic Analysis, and twenty years as the Budget Officer for the Wyoming Department of Transportation. In these roles, Kevin has facilitated the management of over a hundred billion dollars for the state of Wyoming. He holds a B.S. in Management from the University of Wyoming. Kevin has lived in Wyoming his entire life, enjoys hunting and golf, and when time permits he builds heirloom furniture for his family and friends. Kevin is married to Debra; they are foster parents, and have four children: Aubrey, Kayla, Taylor, and Robbie.



BRIAN JUDKINS

Brian Judkins was appointed the Department of Revenue Property Tax Division Administrator in May 2020. Brian started his appraisal career in 2001 as a fee appraiser and then becoming a certified Property Tax Appraiser in 2008 while working in Fremont County. In 2014 he moved to Cheyenne and took an appraisal position at the Property Tax Division. Previously Mr. Judkins spent 15 years as a small business owner and operator in Montana. He has also served with volunteer organizations throughout his life.



DAVE KINSKEY

Dave Kinskey presently represents Johnson County and the eastern half of Sheridan County in the Wyoming Senate. Previously he served as Mayor of the City Sheridan from 2004 to 2014, promoting economic development and local job creation. He was raised in Sheridan, where he and his nine siblings grew up working in the family dairy processing plant, making milk, ice cream, and cheese. Dave has a B.A. in Economics from Harvard College, and a J.D. from the University of Wyoming Law School. Nearly his entire career has been in family-owned, independent business, including 13 years as the owner of a home medical company. He believes in listening, bringing people together, and building jobs for Wyoming's future while preserving our quality of life. A family man, Kinskey is happily married to his high school sweetheart, Donna. They are the proud parents of three grown children—two daughters and a son. They have four grandchildren and look forward to more.



KATIE LEGERSKI

Katie Legerski grew up in Lander, Wyoming and attended the University of Wyoming where she obtained a B.S. in Applied Mathematics. She is a Leadership Cheyenne and Leadership Wyoming graduate. She has over 30 years of experience managing local, state, and federal issues and has worked for Congresswoman Barbara Cubin and Senators John Barrasso, Craig Thomas, and Malcolm Wallop. Since 1932, the Associated General Contractors of Wyoming has been the most widely respected construction trade association in Wyoming and as Executive Director, Legerski has grown that reputation by helping expand the association's presence and strengthen its voice. Executive Director Legerski has been particularly active in workforce development by promoting state career training education initiatives as well as being a member of the Wyoming Workforce Development Council.



GUNNAR MALM

Gunnar Malm is a sixth-generation lifelong Laramie County resident and real estate agent/owner with Coldwell Banker The Property Exchange. He attended the University of Wyoming where he studied Political Science and sharpened his debate and leadership skills while lobbying for the Wyoming Medical Society. After leaving UW in 2008, he began his career in Cheyenne as a residential and commercial realtor. Malm has worked diligently to protect private property rights and responsible land use; to this end, he has served on many civic and professional boards in key decision-making roles, all with the goal of improving and protecting the interests of Laramie County residents. Most notably, he served as the Public Policy Chair for the Wyoming Association of Realtors, the President of the Cheyenne Board of Realtors, Past President-Elect for WAR and currently serves as Vice Chair of the Cheyenne Planning Commission. He has also volunteered with several Laramie County nonprofits serving as a mentor with Special Friends of Cheyenne, and currently serves on the boards of both Recover Wyoming and Wyoming Housing Opportunities Association. He was recently reelected to a second term on the Laramie County Board of Commissioners. Gunnar and his wife, Jessica Binning, reside in Cheyenne with their dogs Zio and Ani.



E JAYNE MOCKLER



BOB NICHOLAS



DAN NOBLE



PETE OBERMUELLER

E Jayne Mockler was born in Jackson and lived for the early formative years on her family's ranch near Dubois. She graduated from Wellesley College in 1980, where she majored in Political Science, with an emphasis in East Asian Studies—and just for fun, a minor in Geology. From 1980 to 1988 she worked as a paralegal on the Wyoming Big Horn Water Adjudication and later as the Administrator of the Denver office of the legal firm Morrison Foerster. In 1992 she was elected to the Wyoming House of Representatives, and in 1996 she was elected to the Wyoming Senate, where she served through 2008. In 2013 she was appointed to the State Board of Equalization where she currently serves as its Chairman.

Bob Nicholas is a member of the Wyoming House of Representatives, representing District 8. He assumed office in 2011. He ran for re-election to the Wyoming House of Representatives in 2022 was elected to represent District 7. Nicholas studied political science and law at the University of Wyoming, earning his J.D. in 1985. Before his election, Nicholas worked as a businessman and attorney. His legislative experience includes serving as the House Appropriations Committee Chair, Capital Finance Committee Chair, and an Investment Funds Committee designee among other roles. He is a dedicated community volunteer as well, having served on the board of Magic City Enterprises, as a Special Olympics coach, a Cheyenne LEADS member, and a member of Kiwanis Club. He is father to three adult children—Connor, Kali, and Quentin.

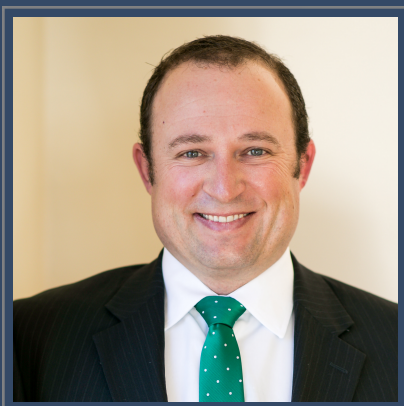
Dan Noble left the Department of Revenue in September of 2021 with 23 years of service and is now retired. His career began in 1974 with seven years of military service. In 1988 he graduated with a B.S. in Accounting from the University of Wyoming. Dan worked in the private sector for ten years, in public accounting, and then as CFO of an ambulance service. He joined the Department of Revenue in 1998 as the Administrator of the Administrative Services Division and was asked to assume the duties of the Excise Administrator in 1999. During his tenure as the Excise Administrator, he worked with a group of 24 states to form the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement. In 2013, Dan was appointed by Governor Mead as the Director of the Department of Revenue. In 2018, he served as the President of the Streamlines Sales Tax Governing Board. In 2019, Dan became the Chairman of the Board of the NABCA, an organization which provides its seventeen member states with educational and networking opportunities related to the control state model, both nationally and internationally. Dan is married to his wife of 37 years, Shelly, and has two adult children and recently welcomed a grandson.

Pete Obermueller is President of the Petroleum Association of Wyoming, a post he has held since January of 2019. As President, Pete represents Wyoming's oil and gas industry at the local, state, and federal level. A graduate of Natrona County High School in Casper, Obermueller holds a Master of Public Policy from the University of Minnesota. Following several years of serving Wyoming in Washington, D.C. as an aide to former United States Representatives Barbara Cubin and Cynthia Lummis, Pete moved back to Wyoming in 2013 to head up the Wyoming County Commissioners Association before taking the helm at the Petroleum Association. Pete enjoys a good cup of coffee, a nice bourbon, running, backpacking, and spending time with his wife and three daughters.



DAVE PICARD

Dave Picard has been involved with the Wyoming Taxpayers Association for nearly twenty years. In 1997, Dave formed The Wyoming Group, LLC, a government and public affairs firm serving the Rocky Mountain region with special emphasis in Wyoming. The firm specializes in representing Fortune 100 companies in the lobbying and public affairs arena. Since its inception, he and his colleagues have served clients in the areas of lobbying, strategic planning, coalition building and mobilization, issue management and public relations in the government policy-making arena. Dave is 4th generation pioneer ranching family in Wyoming; he resides in Cheyenne with his wife Annemarie and children Jacy and Vincent.



JERIMIAH RIEMAN

Jerimiah Rieman serves as Wyoming County Commissioners Association's Executive Director, representing the state's county commissioners before the Wyoming State Legislature, working collaboratively with the Wyoming governor's office and other state agencies on local government issues, and providing outreach and guidance to county leaders across the state. Jerimiah most recently finished an eight-year stint in the office of former Governor Matt Mead, holding the positions of Director of Economic Diversification, Natural Resource Policy Director, Natural Resource Policy Advisor, and State Planning Coordinator. Before that, Rieman was Administrator and Policy and Legislative Advisor in the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services. A fifth generation Wyoming native, Jerimiah grew up in Fremont County and holds a bachelor of science from the Warner College of Natural Resources at Colorado State University and a Master of Legal Studies from the James E. Rogers College of Law at the University of Arizona. He is also the author of *Wyoming Singletrack: A Mountain Bike Trail Guide* (2020). Jerimiah and his wife are the proud parents of identical twin boys. His family enjoys Wyoming's great outdoors, including mountain biking, camping, fishing and skiing.



FRED VON AHRENS

Fred von Ahrens is the Genesis Alkali Vice President of Manufacturing in Green River, WY. During his more than 40-year tenure with FMC and now Genesis Energy, Fred has held engineering, maintenance, operations, plant management, and general management roles around the country and at corporate headquarters in various businesses. Throughout his career, Fred has focused his energy and manufacturing resources on safety, manufacturing excellence, and continuous improvement. Fred is actively involved within the community creating the Pulse of Southwest Wyoming with a mission to inform regional Legislators of Business, Health and Education initiatives, and legislation that are important to the community. He formed the Southwest Wyoming Manufacturing Partnership, a business education partnership across the five counties. He serves as a member of the University of Wyoming Art Museum National Advisory Board. Past memberships include Chair of the Wyoming Business Alliance, board member of the Sweetwater Memorial Hospital Foundation, and board member of the Wyoming Mining Association. Fred is a Leadership Wyoming Alumni, class of 2012.



DAN ZWONITZER

Dan Zwonitzer is a native and fifth-generation resident of Cheyenne representing District 43 in the Wyoming House of Representatives. He graduated from Cheyenne East High School and attended Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., receiving degrees in Government and Classical History. He returned to Cheyenne after college and has worked for the Wyoming Department of Agriculture and as a natural resources policy analyst in the office of Democratic Governor Dave Freudenthal. He is a third generation auctioneer in Cheyenne and works full-time for Cheyenne Regional Medical Center. He is currently the Chairman for House Corporations, Elections, and Political Subdivisions Committee, Chairman for Select Committee on Legislative Facilities, Technology and Process, and serves on the House Judiciary Committee and House Rules and Procedure Committee.