

## 2026 CANDIDATE SURVEY

### Arthur (Art) Washut

State Representative | District 36 | Republican

**INCUMBENT**

Yes

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Candidate-submitted response. The answers below were received through the 2026 candidate survey form and are reproduced as submitted, with only formatting changes. Publicly researched positions were not used. Publication does not constitute an endorsement by Wyoming Family Alliance Action.

1

**1. Abortion is the intentional act of ending the life of another human being, while in the womb. Lawmakers should work to promote and protect the value of human life from conception to natural death, rather than further expansions of abortion access. (HB126-2026; HB42-2025; HB 148-2024)**

**RESPONSE** Strongly Agree

I have always been pro-life. While I appreciate the complexity of this issue in some cases, I believe the child in the womb is protected under the Wyoming Constitution that clearly enshrines a right to life to all members of the human race. To what other race would a child belong? That said, I expect there will be a push to pass a Constitutional Amendment on this issue. I believe we need to be mindful that such an amendment will contain specific language that will determine what can be prohibited and with what exceptions. That language will be critically important.

2

**2. The danger of chemical abortion has been heavily researched (see EPPC study). Lawmakers should work to ensure that women are fully informed and receive a medical examination prior to receiving such drugs. (HB64-2025; HB117-2026)**

**RESPONSE** Strongly Agree

I have supported legislation concerning chemical abortions. Like all bills, the details matter.

3

**3. Individuals and faith-based entities should have the right of conscience to freely live out their sincerely held convictions without fear of government infringement or retaliation. (HB 207-2025; SF 77-2025)**

**RESPONSE Strongly Agree**

I sponsored the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. The Preamble to the Wyoming Constitution sets forth why we have our constitution: "We, the people of the State of Wyoming, grateful to God for our civil, political and religious liberties, and desiring to secure them to ourselves and perpetuate them to our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution"

4

**4. Medical personnel should not be required to participate in any medical procedure or service that conflicts with the individual's sincerely held moral, ethical, or religious beliefs. (SF111-2023; HB143-2026)**

**RESPONSE Agree**

This is what the Free Exercise Clause is all about. When the government is involved in compelling action contrary to one's religious beliefs, that is a violation in my view.

5

**5. Lawmakers should protect minors by ensuring that government-funded spaces, including libraries and public schools, restrict access to sexually explicit content, while recognizing the right of parents to make decisions regarding their minor children's access to such materials. (HB10-2026)**

**RESPONSE Agree**

I supported HB10 and even though it did not pass, some positive effects were seen as the topic prompted more folks to inquire and to pay attention to their library board and school board policies. I am not eager to take up this topic again right away, rather I would like to wait and see how libraries respond. Getting a bill that works statewide when our libraries vary tremendously is not easy. Many of our libraries are already handling this issue well without legislation. HB10 ended up being quite narrow and it did not address many issues of concern. Even so, we still could not get it passed.

6

**6. Wyoming should recognize biological differences between men and women and protect girls' sports, locker rooms, and sex-designated spaces. (SF 44-2025; SF 62-2025; HB 72-2025; HB 32-2025; SF133-2023)**

**RESPONSE Strongly Agree**

I think the recent court ruling should answer most concerns and further legislation probably is not needed.

7

**7. Lawmakers should support legislation that helps parents stand up to government entities that attempt to circumvent their rights in raising their children. (Sf 09-2024; HB 200-2025)**

**RESPONSE Agree**

Certainly there are times when we have seen government overreach in this area. Even so, due to my law enforcement background, I also know that sometimes parents fail their own children in horrible ways and the government must act to protect the kids from abuse, neglect, trafficking and the like. The details in the legislation will matter greatly.

8

**8. Lawmakers should allow education funding to follow the child and protect parents' freedom to choose public, public charter, private, or homeschool options. (HB 166-2024; SF 61-2024; HB 199-2025; HB 94-2025; HB 46-2025; HB 23-2026)**

**RESPONSE** Agree

Generally yes, I have supported school choice legislation. We also need to make sure that our public schools are properly funded. There will be limits as to how much funding the state can make available to all forms of primary and secondary education. We have legislation being litigated presently. The Supreme Court opinions will guide what, if any, future legislation might be workable.

9

**9. Lawmakers should support open enrollment policies that allow students to attend schools regardless of their geographic address. (SF 109-2025)**

**RESPONSE** Agree

We have such a policy in Natrona School District #1 and it seems to work reasonably well. It has been quite sometime since anyone raised the issue as a concern. I am not sure legislature should mandate such a policy statewide. I would want to hear more details about how such a policy might work in a more rural district.

10

**10. Lawmakers should ensure that public schools and post-secondary educational institutions do not seek to enforce DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) mandates, which promote discrimination by dividing individuals into classes of "oppressed" and "oppressor." (SF 103-2025; HB 147-2025)**

**RESPONSE** Agree

I would want to hear more about what is actually happening in our state. The legislature will always have more bills than time. Deciding whether a particular DEI bill rates as a higher concern than other matters is always a judgment call.

Candidate responses are shown verbatim except for typographic normalization needed for document rendering.