



VOTE YES ON SF XXXX ON PUBLIC DEPOSITS

Sponsors: Senator Tara Nethercott & Representative Lloyd Larsen

Why the bill is needed:

- Wyoming's Constitution currently provides that public monies collected by any municipality in the state must be deposited in a state or national bank.
- However, many rural communities do not have a state or national bank within their communities or reasonably close by. This has resulted in some municipalities needing to travel more than 10 miles to deposit public funds. In some cases, travel is over 45 miles round trip.
- This creates time and productivity concerns for minimally staffed municipalities such as the Town of Shoshone and the Town of Wright. It also comes with significant safety concerns, especially when employees are transporting large quantities of public monies. In some cases, it is the chief of police transporting these funds.

What the bill does:

- SF XXXX would address those concerns by allowing municipalities to use an alternate public depository, such as a credit union, with approval by the board of deposits.
- This provides much needed relief for those communities and ensures that taxpayer dollars are not only conveniently accessible but also staying in the community with businesses owned and operated by residents.
- 27 other states already allow other financial institutions like credit unions to accept public deposits.
- A recent survey of Wyoming residents found that 65 percent of respondents support leveling the playing field between credit unions and banks to allow credit unions to provide services to all customers in a community, including individuals, businesses, and government agencies.
- SF XXXX passes constitutional muster because there is ample precedent for amending statute to include other institutions besides banks such as when savings and loan association were added in the 1970s. This is consistent with the intent of the framers of the Wyoming Constitution. Bank was a general term used to describe a function and not a particular structure or institution.

Supporters

1. Mountain West Credit Union Association
2. Wyoming Association of Municipalities