



Dear Friends,

It has been a privilege to serve you over the past two years. When I first ran, I made a commitment to represent you with professionalism, integrity, and statesmanship. I have worked every day to uphold that standard while delivering results grounded in our shared conservative values.

Delivering Results Through Leadership and Collaboration

With the increasing polarization in today's political environment, this past session at times became contentious. Despite that, I was able to navigate those challenges and work collaboratively with a wide range of legislators to advance meaningful legislation. That ability to build coalitions—without compromising core principles—is how real work gets done in Cheyenne.

Much of the most important work in the Legislature happens outside of the spotlight. One example is the \$15 million appropriation for Sheridan College's science building renovation, a shovel-ready project critical to our community. After my amendment to fund this project narrowly failed by a single vote during the first round of budget amendments, we built a coalition by incorporating additional priorities, successfully passed the amendment, and ensured that the funding remained intact through conference committee. This is the approach I bring to the Legislature: persistence, coalition-building, and results.

Committee Leadership and Impact

Because of my professional background and 16 years of experience in public policy, I was assigned to two very important committees: Judiciary and Education. Notable legislative accomplishments include:

Judiciary Committee:

- Passed legislation on the stalking and grooming of minors, crimes that can lead to human trafficking
- Passed legislation to address Wyoming Chamber of Commerce concerns regarding retail theft

Education Committee:

- I successfully introduced two late interim bills strengthening protections for parental rights and homeschooled students that were signed into law by Governor Gordon
- Increased funding for Hathaway Scholarships, Career and Technical Education

School Funding Recalibration

- Recalibration was completed and fully implemented for the first time in 20 years
- I worked to incorporate amendments specifically requested by our local school districts
- Funding model salaries for teachers will increase by 20.7%, a statewide average increase of \$13,133

Property Tax Relief

After years of inaction, we were able to provide some relief from the excessive increases we've experienced in property taxes. Now the focus is turning to property tax reform for the long term.

The Budget

The budget process began in 2025, when state agencies submitted their budget requests to the governor. Each agency request includes three primary components:

1. The prior biennial budget
2. The funding needed to maintain current service levels (the "standard budget")
3. Any requested increases or decreases ("exception requests")

The governor reviews agency requests and submits recommendations to the Joint Appropriations Committee (JAC), which then conducts its own detailed review before producing the final budget bill. That bill is introduced simultaneously in the House and the Senate. At that point, legislators begin debating the bill, offering amendments, and working toward passage in their respective chambers.

Ultimately, the House and the Senate passed their versions of the budget bill, coming within \$170 million of each other (out of \$11 billion). The final budget was resolved by the Joint Conference Committee in a matter of hours. After the last two budgets increased state spending by 24%, the final budget for FY27-28 limited the spending increase to 0.8%.

Local Funding

We stabilized the funding of Direct Distributions from the state with a formula to provide predictable funding levels that counties and municipalities can depend on in the future. The result for the FY27-28 budget is that local governments will receive an increase in funding from the state.

A Consistent Conservative Framework

My work is guided by a clear and consistent set of principles. I approach every issue with several key perspectives: the state and federal constitutions, the Wyoming Republican Party Platform, and input from constituents. Those foundations guide every vote I take. I evaluate every issue on its merits and remain committed to thoughtful, disciplined decision-making rather than political rhetoric. I am always happy to visit with anyone to talk about issues, share my extensive research, and discuss the decision-making process behind my votes. I will also be posting issue information on my website addressing questions I frequently receive. Please feel free to reach out to me to have a conversation.

Priorities Moving Forward Include:

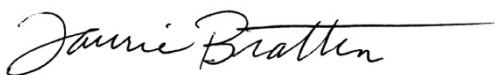
- Pursue long-term structural property tax reform
- Ensure sufficient, stable, sustainable funding for essential services
- Strengthen economic development by helping local communities with infrastructure
- Build on progress we've made on funding for education
- Continue advancing legislation to provide fiscal accountability and transparency
- Protect our public lands
- Continue defending our Second Amendment rights
- Support a culture of life

Constituent Services

I am honored to represent you, and I work for you. One of the most rewarding aspects of this position has been the opportunity to help constituents with all sorts of issues, whether it's helping you open a case at the federal level, connecting you with the right people or organizations locally, or helping resolve an issue at the state level. My experience and involvement within the community has given me the chance to work with so many people, not just in HD51, but in all of Sheridan County and throughout the state.

Together, we can continue building on the progress we have made while staying true to the principles that make Wyoming strong.

Sincerely,



Representative Laurie Bratten
House District 51