



Wyoming Secretary of State

Karl Allred
Secretary of State

Karen L. Wheeler
Deputy Secretary of State

October 7, 2022

Dear County Clerks,

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you as the recently appointed Secretary of State. Though my time in this office is short, I want to capitalize on this opportunity to continue the great work of this office and to oversee another successful general election. As the chief election officer of the state, I know how critical the relationship with the county clerks is to the success of a well-run election. Thank you for your commitment to the constituents in your respective counties and to the State of Wyoming as a collective association.

As the chief election officer for the state, I'm charged with maintaining the uniformity of the applications and operations of election law. To that end I have a request that I hope you will take seriously and that you will consider, if not for this election, for 2024 and all future elections. There is concern over the use of absentee ballot drop boxes. I know this concern is not new to you and I've been apprised that only seven counties are currently using them in this general election. I'm mindful of the fact that there have been no issues reported with the use of drop boxes in Wyoming, but that does not alleviate the potential for abuse or destruction of ballots through use of fire or other means.

The previous administration under Secretary Buchanan interpreted Wyo. Stat. § 22-9-113 to mean that "delivered to the clerk" encompassed the use of a drop box that was at or near your office or the county courthouse. Though I have a different understanding of what "delivered to the clerk" means, I respect this prior understanding and direction. Further, I know that absentee voting is already underway and that drop boxes are already being used by voters in those seven counties. I do not wish to interrupt or cause confusion to the voting process that is already in-progress, but I will ask that you make an honest assessment as to whether or not discontinuing the use of your drop box would cause any disruption for your voters. If, after your assessment, you ascertain that discontinuing the use of your drop box would not disrupt the ability for your voters to participate in the absentee process, my request is that you would voluntarily discontinue use in this election after proper notification to your voters of this change and in any future elections.

If you choose to keep utilizing your drop boxes for this general election, I request that they be under 24hr surveillance and the ballots are retrieved at the end of each day by a bipartisan team of staff or election judges whenever possible, and the date, time, and number of ballots recorded appropriately in your chain of custody logs.

I will be taking time over the next couple of weeks to reach out to each one of you to personally introduce myself. I look forward to those conversations as well as any future interactions we will have through this general election cycle.

Again, thank you for thoughtfully considering my request in this email. Please feel free to call me anytime, and my door is always open to each of you.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karl Allred". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karl" and last name "Allred" clearly distinguishable.

Karl Allred
Secretary of State