



March 2, 2023

The Honorable Albert Sommers
Speaker of the Wyoming House of Representatives
200 West 24th Street, Capitol Building, E201
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Re: 2023 House Enrolled Act No. 70/HB0103 - Political party affiliation declaration and changes

Dear Speaker Sommers,

The topic this bill is meant to address has taken an inordinate amount of time from this and previous Legislatures. I had looked forward to a clean piece of legislation that would ensure Republicans would vote in Republican Primaries and Democrats would vote in Democratic ones, as I intoned in my 2022 State of the State address. Accordingly, I have given this matter purposeful and careful deliberation.

What was delivered to my desk has ambiguity with the potential to deny participation in a major party primary election in a few limited circumstances. That said, the bill's sponsor assured me that was not his intent. Furthermore, he and those who will be responsible for implementing the statute have agreed to work on clarifying the legal ambiguity before the next primary election.

No matter what, the changes resulting from this adjustment to Wyoming law will cause some confusion in the coming primary. However, nearly 93 percent of Wyoming voters are now registered Republicans, making the presumed changes perhaps more academic than real. I urge voters to learn about these changes so that they may vote their desired major party ballot in 2024.

Because the bill adds uncertainty to the voting process, I have determined not to sign HB0103, House Enrolled Act No. 70, Political party affiliation declaration and changes. It will pass into law without my signature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Gordon".

Mark Gordon
Governor

cc: The Honorable Chuck Gray, Secretary of State
The Honorable Ogden Driskill, President of the Senate
Chief Clerk, Wyoming Senate
Chief Clerk, Wyoming House of Representatives