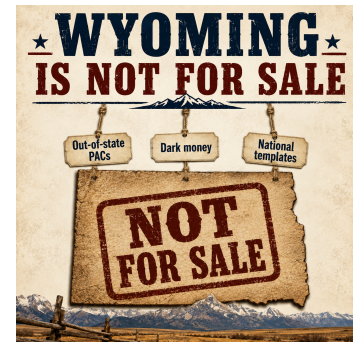


Wyoming Is Not for Sale

Reclaiming our voice from outside political money

A receipts-first expose for Wyoming citizens. This is about self-government, not political labels.



Wyoming politics should belong to Wyoming citizens. That sounds obvious because self-government is supposed to be obvious. But our local races and legislative fights are being crowded by national organizations, out-of-state PACs, and opaque funding networks with agendas built far from our towns, ranches, schools, mines, and main streets.

When outside money buys the megaphone, Wyoming citizens deserve to know who is speaking, who is paying, and who benefits.

The Problem

Wyoming is small enough for outside money to hit like a spring blizzard. A few hundred thousand dollars in mailers, texts, phone calls, candidate endorsements, and issue campaigns can distort a local race before most citizens even know who paid for the message.

That is how national politics gets imported into Wyoming. First comes the money. Then come the slogans. Then come the pressure campaigns. By the time neighbors start asking honest questions, the narrative has already been purchased, packaged, and delivered to the mailbox.

The Receipts

- **AFP-Wyoming** announced in 2024 that its legislative endorsements would be the *single largest investment in Wyoming state-level politics in history*. [1]
- **AFP-Wyoming** also weighed in directly on **House Bill 178**, criticizing Governor Gordon's veto. HB 178 dealt with public-sector union dues and payroll deductions. [2][6]
- **Wyoming Public Media** reported that out-of-state PAC spending reached Wyoming races, including Virginia-based **Make Liberty Win**, which spent just over **\$370,000** on texts, phone calls, and mailers. [3]
- **WyoFile** also reported that Make Liberty Win spent roughly **\$370,000** in Wyoming primaries and that some mailers spread misinformation, including wrong early-voting dates. [4]
- **WyoFile** reported that HB 178 had AFP backing and quoted Governor Gordon's veto letter warning of *out-of-state interests foisting out-of-state solutions on Wyoming*. [5]

Those are not rumors. Those are receipts. Wyoming citizens can argue about policy all day long, but the public deserves to see the machinery behind the message.

The Strategy of Confusion

The modern outside-money machine does not always arrive with a single check and a return address. It can move through 501(c)(4) nonprofits, super PACs, donor networks, national advocacy groups, federal PACs, allied organizations, and issue campaigns. Some spending is disclosed. Some donor origins are harder to trace.

The complexity is not a footnote. It is the system. If a citizen cannot tell who paid, where the money started, what policy result is being pushed, and who benefits after the vote, accountability has already been weakened.

A 501(c)(4) organization may lobby and may engage in some political activity so long as political activity is not its primary activity. AFP's own giving page states that it is a 501(c)(4) and may advocate for or against legislation. FactCheck.org reports AFP is not required to disclose donors and does not disclose donors. [7][8][9]

Legal is not the same as clean. Legal is not the same as accountable. Legal is not the same as Wyoming-grown.

The HB 178 Lesson

House Bill 178 was sold as a paycheck protection bill. The real lesson is sharper: Wyoming is being offered national templates and asked to call the template local reform.

The question is larger than one bill. Who asked for it? Who promoted it? Who wrote the script? Who paid for the megaphone? Who benefits after the vote?

When a national group shows up with polished slogans, pressure campaigns, and a promise to come back again next session, Wyoming citizens have every right to ask whether Cheyenne is debating Wyoming's needs or importing someone else's agenda.

A Wyoming Solution

Wyoming should study reforms that strengthen transparency, protect local control, and close dark-money loopholes. This is not about silencing speech. This is about forcing political power to show its face.

- Clear disclosure on political mailers, texts, digital ads, and issue campaigns.
- Real-time reporting for large outside expenditures close to an election.
- Plain-language public records showing who paid, how much was spent, and what race or bill was targeted.
- Disclaimers that identify the organization behind the message and the source category of the money behind the organization.
- A review of how 501(c)(4) nonprofits, super PACs, federal PACs, and allied groups interact in state races.
- A public study of whether Wyoming should follow states such as Hawaii and citizen efforts in Montana in reasserting state authority over corporate political power. [11][12]

The Corporate Power Reset

Hawaii has enacted a state-law approach aimed at limiting corporate election spending, scheduled to take effect July 1, 2027. AP reports that Montana advocates are pursuing a similar idea through a citizen effort. [11][12]

Wyoming should study that approach with clear eyes. Court fights will come. Powerful interests will howl. Good. That is what happens when citizens question a system built to make money louder than people.

Corporations are creatures of law. Political power should answer to citizens. Wyoming does not have to accept a future where the largest check gets the loudest voice.

The Principle

Wyoming is not a testing ground. Wyoming is not a billionaire sandbox. Wyoming is not a sample size in a consultant's spreadsheet.

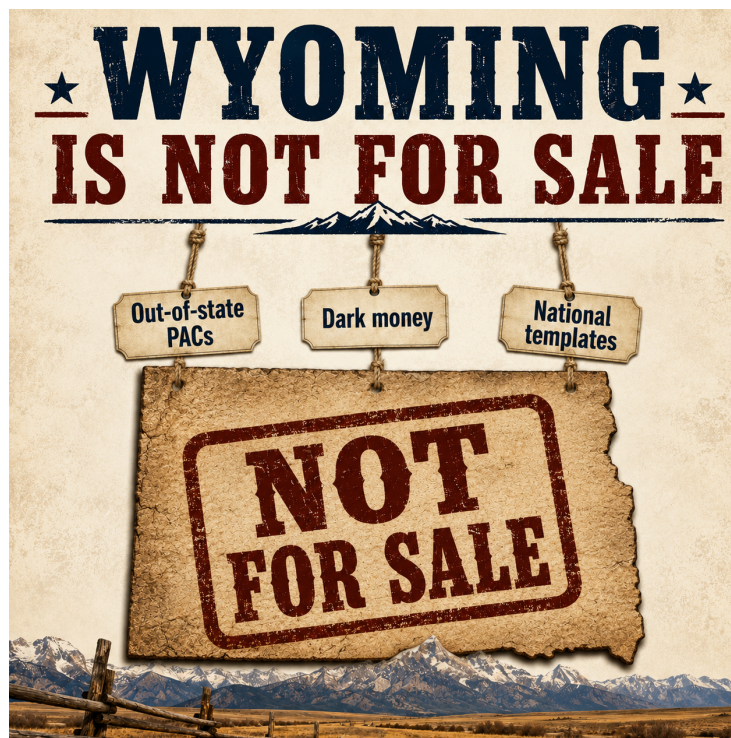
Wyoming belongs to the people who live here, work here, raise families here, pay taxes here, serve here, and live with the consequences after the outside money moves on.

Our future should be decided by us.

What Wyoming Citizens Can Ask

- Who paid for this mailer, text, ad, call, or issue campaign?
- Is the money Wyoming-grown or imported?
- Is this a local solution or a national template?
- Who benefits if this bill passes?
- Will every candidate support stronger disclosure before the next election?

Follow the money. Ask who benefits. Then vote like Wyoming belongs to our children, not the highest bidder.



Sources and Supporting Information

These sources back the factual claims in this expose. Click each source label in the PDF, and use the Markdown copy for raw URLs.

[1] Americans for Prosperity-Wyoming endorsement release AFP-WY announced its 2024 state legislative endorsements and said the combined effort would be the single largest investment in Wyoming state-level politics in history. Open source	[2] Americans for Prosperity-Wyoming HB 178 veto release AFP-WY criticized Governor Gordon's veto of HB 178 and described the bill as preventing government collection of public-sector union dues and other private interests. Open source
[3] Wyoming Public Media - out-of-state PAC spending Wyoming Public Media reported that Virginia-based Make Liberty Win spent just over \$370,000 in Wyoming races, using texts, phone calls, and mailers. Open source	[4] WyoFile - Make Liberty Win and \$370K WyoFile reported that Make Liberty Win spent roughly \$370,000 in Wyoming primaries and that some mailers spread misinformation, including wrong early-voting dates. Open source
[5] WyoFile - HB 178 veto and national-policy template concern WyoFile reported that HB 178 was backed by AFP and quoted Governor Gordon's veto letter warning about out-of-state interests bringing out-of-state solutions to Wyoming. Open source	[6] Wyoming Legislature - HB 178 Official Wyoming Legislature bill page for HB 178, Public unions - transparency and dues withdrawal limitations. Open source
[7] IRS - 501(c)(4) social welfare organizations IRS guidance explains that 501(c)(4) organizations may lobby as a primary activity and may engage in some political activity, so long as political activity is not primary. Open source	[8] Americans for Prosperity - 501(c)(4) status AFP's own giving page states that Americans for Prosperity is a 501(c)(4) social welfare organization and may advocate for or against legislation at the state and federal levels. Open source
[9] FactCheck.org - AFP donor disclosure FactCheck.org reports that AFP is a 501(c)(4), is not required to disclose donors, and does not disclose donors. Open source	[10] Brennan Center - dark money record The Brennan Center reported that dark-money groups, nonprofits, and shell companies that do not reveal donors put more than \$1.9 billion into the 2024 federal election cycle. Open source
[11] Associated Press - Hawaii corporate political-spending law AP reported that Hawaii enacted a law taking effect July 1, 2027 that uses a state-corporate-law approach to limit corporate election spending, and that Montana advocates are pursuing a similar idea. Open source	[12] Montana Secretary of State - proposed 2026 ballot issues Montana's official Secretary of State page explains the proposed ballot issue process and shows the current status of 2026 ballot issues. Open source

Bottom line: the point is not that every outside-dollar expenditure is illegal. The point is that Wyoming citizens deserve to know who is trying to shape Wyoming law before the vote is over and the money has moved on.

Prepared for public review. Verify every claim. Follow every receipt.