

Chuck Gray: Research and Sources

Founding role, Freedom Caucus infrastructure, 2025-2026 priorities, and voter-registration policy.

Purpose: supply the factual foundation for a concise public record page. This packet distinguishes verified facts, attributed allegations, responses, and analysis.

RESEARCH STANDARD

- Prefer statutes, bill text, recorded votes, official government records, and court filings.
- Attribute news reporting and advocacy research by name.
- Do not convert a lawsuit allegation into a judicial finding.
- State material context that prevents a technically true claim from becoming misleading.
- Use short quotations only when the exact words are important.

Last reviewed: August 19, 2026

Prepared for page development and factual review. Links should be checked again immediately before publication.

Verified findings

1. Gray has a documented founding connection to the Wyoming Freedom Caucus.

WyoFile's September 2024 investigation quoted former caucus chairman John Bear describing Chuck Gray as "one of the very founding members." This is the clearest sourced statement supporting a founding role. The page should attribute the characterization to Bear and WyoFile rather than present it as an official membership record.

2. Gray was not the caucus chair during the 2025 or 2026 sessions.

WyoFile reported that Rachel Rodriguez-Williams became chair after the 2024 primary. Gray was serving as Wyoming secretary of state. Use 'founding member' or 'helped build the caucus,' not 'head of the caucus.'

3. The caucus developed formal ties to a national network.

WyoFile reported that founding members attended State Freedom Caucus Network training in Washington in December 2022. The program covered branding, legislation, procedural tactics, media, and political strategy. The Wyoming caucus then entered a partnership with the network.

4. WyoFile documented an operational connection involving Gray and Hageman.

The State Freedom Caucus Network pays Wyoming State Director Jessie Rubino, according to WyoFile. Rubino researches bills and provides vote recommendations. WyoFile also reported that Jessie Rubino is married to Joe Rubino, Gray's chief policy officer and Hageman's nephew. This establishes a relationship, not proof of wrongdoing.

5. Thirty-eight is a count of identified priorities, not enacted laws.

Better Wyoming's tracking repeatedly references 28 Freedom Caucus priority bills in the 2025 general session and 10 in the 2026 budget session. The safe description is '38 identified priority measures across two sessions.' Do not state that all 38 passed or became law without bill-by-bill confirmation.

6. Gray championed stricter voter-registration requirements.

WyoFile reported that legislative panels advanced measures sought by Gray. Wyoming HB 156 requires documentary proof of citizenship and residency and a 30-day residency period. A voting-rights organization challenged the law as vague and burdensome. Gray disputes the allegations and argues that the law protects election integrity.

7. Wyoming voters sharply reduced the caucus's legislative power in the 2026 primary.

WyoFile's August 19 reporting says the caucus lost 13 House incumbents, failed to win any new House seats, and lost six caucus-aligned candidates in Senate races. The caucus had maintained a consistent House majority during the latest session but is now projected to have about 10 reliable House votes, with two additional possible allies. WyoFile concluded that the caucus lost House control and backslid in the Senate. These results remain subject to final certification.

Publication language

Supported language

- WyoFile quoted a former caucus chairman identifying Gray as one of the Wyoming Freedom Caucus's founding members.
- The caucus identified 28 priority bills in 2025 and 10 in 2026, for 38 priority measures across the two sessions.
- Gray championed stricter registration rules that added documentary requirements for eligible voters.
- A federal lawsuit alleges that the new requirements burden eligible voters. Gray disputes that allegation.
- In the August 18, 2026 primary, the caucus lost most of its House seats, failed to win any new House seats, and lost ground in the Senate.
- WyoFile projects that the caucus will fall from a consistent House majority to about 10 reliable votes, with two possible allies.
- Wyoming should be able to protect election security without making lawful participation unnecessarily difficult.

Language to avoid

- Do not call Gray the 2025 or 2026 Freedom Caucus chairman.
- Do not say the caucus passed 38 laws.
- Do not say a court found that Gray suppressed votes unless a final ruling supports that statement.
- Do not claim that family or employment relationships establish illegal conduct.
- Do not state that new requirements caused lower participation without a supported causal study.
- Do not describe preliminary or projected primary results as certified final results.

Recommended concise thesis

Chuck Gray helped build the Wyoming Freedom Caucus, but Wyoming voters sharply reduced its legislative power in the 2026 primary. The result shows that public participation can still redirect government when citizens organize, question the record, and vote.

Primary and supporting sources

1. The takeover: How Wyoming's 'tireless minority' took control

WyoFile | September 23, 2024 | Independent reporting

<https://wyofile.com/the-takeover-how-wyomings-tireless-minority-took-control/>

Supports: Bear's founding-member statement; national training; partnership; Rubino relationships; campaign tactics.

2. HB 0156 - Proof of voter residency-registration qualifications

Wyoming Legislature | 2025 General Session | Primary source

<https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2025/HB0156>

Supports: Official bill history and statutory requirements, including the 30-day residency rule.

3. Stricter voter registration rules speed through Freedom Caucus-packed panels

WyoFile | January 15, 2025 | Independent reporting

<https://wyofile.com/stricter-voter-registration-rules-speed-through-freedom-caucus-packed-panels/>

Supports: Gray's support for stricter registration proposals and the legislative process.

4. Gray asks court to toss case challenging Wyoming's new voter registration law

WyoFile | July 1, 2026 | Independent reporting

<https://wyofile.com/gray-asks-court-to-toss-case-challenging-wyomings-new-voter-registration-law/>

Supports: Plaintiff's burden allegations and Gray's legal response.

5. Trump's DOJ sides with Gray in voter registration lawsuit

WyoFile | July 2, 2026 | Independent reporting

<https://wyofile.com/trumps-doj-sides-with-gray-in-voter-registration-lawsuit/>

Supports: The ongoing dispute, asserted voter impacts, Gray's position, and Wyoming polling on confidence in election results.

6. Who is the Freedom Caucus

Better Wyoming Action + Research | Reviewed August 19, 2026 | Advocacy research

<https://bwar.vote/freedom-caucus/>

Supports: Repeated references to 28 priorities in 2025 and 10 priorities in 2026.

7. Our Plan

Wyoming Freedom Caucus | 2026 | Advocacy primary source

<https://wyfreedomcaucus.com/our-plan/>

Supports: The caucus's own description of its 2026 agenda and outcomes.

8. Governor talks election bill flood, eroding civility and tyranny

WyoFile | October 24, 2025 | Independent reporting

<https://wyofile.com/governor-talks-election-bill-flood-eroding-civility-and-tyranny-at-lander-town-hall/>

Supports: Context concerning election legislation, civility, and few documented Wyoming fraud cases.

9. County clerks have 'significant concerns' with proposed voter registration rule change

WyoFile | January 9, 2024 | Independent reporting

<https://wyofile.com/county-clerks-have-significant-concerns-with-proposed-voter-registration-rule-change/>

Supports: Administrative concerns about proof-of-residency rules and Election Day delays.

10. In stunning upset, Wyoming Freedom Caucus loses most of its House seats, backslides in Senate

WyoFile | August 19, 2026 | Independent reporting

<https://wyofile.com/in-stunning-upset-wyoming-freedom-caucus-loses-most-of-its-house-seats-backslides-in-senate/>

Supports: Loss of House control; 13 defeated House incumbents; six losses in Senate races; no new House seats; projected reduction to about 10 reliable House votes.

11. Wyoming Freedom Caucus loses at least 14 incumbent lawmakers

WyoFile | August 19, 2026 | Breaking-news reporting

<https://wyofile.com/wyoming-freedom-caucus-faces-loss-of-at-least-9-incumbent-lawmakers/>

Supports: Early Associated Press and county-level results identifying defeated caucus members and aligned lawmakers.

Final verification checklist

- Confirm the current legal status of the HB 156 challenge immediately before publication.
- Confirm every bill count used on the page and retain the description 'priority measures.'
- Keep Bear's founding-member statement attributed to Bear and WyoFile.
- Give Gray's stated election-integrity rationale alongside the challenge to the law.
- Check certified primary results before converting WyoFile's projections into final seat totals.
- Link each major claim directly to a source listed in this packet.