



# Wyoming Secretary of State

**Edward A. Buchanan**  
Secretary of State

**Karen L. Wheeler**  
Deputy Secretary of State

To: Honorable County Clerk  
From: Kai Schon, State Election Director  
Date: May 3, 2018

Re: Memo 2018-07 Election Security and the Media

Good Evening,

This memorandum is to inform you of an article the Wyoming Tribune Eagle (WTE) ran this past Friday, April 27, 2018. The article had quotes containing misinformation regarding voting systems and rural misconceptions. Secretary Buchanan, Will Dinneen and myself had a pleasant visit yesterday afternoon with the reporter, Joel Funk. He was apologetic for running the article without consulting our office or any county clerk. The goal of our meeting with Mr. Funk was to communicate the security of our voting tabulation systems, the security measures we already have in place, and the free resources being offered by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) since the designation of elections as critical infrastructure.

In our meeting we first addressed the misinformation concerning voting systems being connected to the internet. We discussed how our voting tabulation systems are "air gapped" and therefore are never connected to the internet, nor are they connected to one another. We made a clear distinction between "voting tabulation systems" and "election systems." We were abundantly clear that voting systems which record votes are not connected to the internet. We also discussed the federal mandate of the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to develop and administer the voting system certification process. As you know, the EAC in accordance with the various VVSG iterations, does not certify voting systems that are connected to the internet.

Secretary Buchanan discussed the advantages of being rural and how the vote is arguably more secure due to the poll workers knowing the names and faces of the voters in their communities. Additionally, if a poll worker has reason to doubt the eligibility of a voter, they have the authority to challenge the voter pursuant to W.S. 22-15-105. We also addressed cybersecurity concerns and how we are working together with Federal and State DHS agents to best prepare for the upcoming elections.

If you ever need to utilize our office for recommendations or help on how to approach the media, or if you would like to simply refer local press questions regarding statewide election issues to our office, please don't hesitate to reach out to Will Dinneen, our PIO at 307-777-5365 or [will.dinneen@wyo.gov](mailto:will.dinneen@wyo.gov).

Thanks as always for the great work each of you do to instill voter confidence within your counties. Again, there will be a follow up article in the WTE with correct information this weekend on a day of higher circulation. Please let me know if you have any questions in regards to this memo. I look forward to seeing you all in Cody, travel safe!

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kai Schon".

**Kai Schon**

State Election Director  
Wyoming Secretary of State's Office

ph. 307-777-3416  
fax 307-777-7640  
[kai.schon@wyo.gov](mailto:kai.schon@wyo.gov)  
<https://www.facebook.com/wyosos>