

City manager election

In spite of the WTE promising its full efforts toward changing to a city manager form of government when they refused to endorse either Leo Pando or Jack Spiker for mayor in the 2000 election, they relented and dropped the subject when eventual winner Spiker became their go-to boy.

Groups like the League of Women Voters have also advanced the notion of a city manager but they too did not follow the thought forward to an election.

But there has been at least one such election in Cheyenne's past.

In September of 1945 - over 65 years ago - adopting a city manager was narrowly defeated in the citywide election in favor of continuing the city commission form by which the city was then governed.

The ballot questions were whether voters favored a city manager / council form of government or the "present" commission form. Changing to a city manager lost by only 61 votes of 4,023 votes cast in the special election - the largest number of votes cast in a special election

to that date in Cheyenne's history. It is reported that a great deal of advertising was done by both sides. Of the three wards, only Ward 1 favored the city manager (by 21 votes) - Wards 2 and 3 voted against by 38 and 44 votes, respectively.

In 1945, the population of Cheyenne was approximately 27,000.

There was a second question on the 1945 ballot. In the event that the first question passed (going to a city manager / council) voters were asked their preference for how council members should be apportioned.

Three from each ward was the choice. Other options were for all nine to be elected at-large, one from each ward and six at-large and two from each ward and three at-large. Two from each ward and three at-large finished second in the voting, all at-large third and one from each ward and six at-large far behind the others and last. *That daily newspaper also whined about the results.*

In 1972 the city commission form was replaced by a mayor / city council (9) form of government.

Colorado idiots

Oftentimes, Republican legislators give we other Republicans a bad name. Like here in Wyoming, when they shout to the rooftops about getting government out of our lives - Obamacare, etc., while they are steadily and vigorously trying to intrude more and more into our lives.

They just won't buy into the political position that you can't legislate morality - or in the case of Wyoming legislators, sexual orientation or preference. You get the sense that, if they had their druthers, they would like to see a statewide referendum on segregation. Let the voters decide, they say, regardless of the unconstitutionality of their actions. Sometimes, voters can't decide.

Let the voters decide, they rejoice. Yet when the voters did decide, with 77% casting a vote in favor of term limits, legislators first revised the specifics and once the Supreme Court ruled that term limits cannot be imposed by statute, the Wyoming Legislature never again seriously discussed letting voters having a crack at a constitutional amendment that would accomplish the very thing 77% said they prefer.

To say they are inconsistent in their beliefs and actions is like saying the Titanic hit a little ice. Some will vote in favor of tougher drunk drivers penalties and the next day vote in favor of more liquor licenses. Have you ever heard a drinker lament that there just weren't enough places for them to buy booze? Me neither.

Our guys and gals might vote to make peanut brittle the state candy but what the Colorado legislators do can be even worse. Even dumber.

One woman legislator proposed requiring drivers to have it placed on their driver's licenses if they did NOT want to be an organ donor. Trying to increase the number of drivers willing to be an organ donor is laudable. Promoting the notion should be done to inform and educate drivers of the need for donated organs.

But, if you had to clearly indicate you didn't want your organs donated and that measure had become state law in Colorado, it conceivably would have extended to motorists who were not in possession of their driver's license when they died in a fatal accident. No driver's license in possession, you are an organ donor, thank you very much. How about those whose religion doesn't permit organ donation? Too bad, said the woman legislator in Colorado. She pulled the bill before a vote but her reputation is already badly tarnished.

That bit of foolishness paled in comparison to something they actually did south of the border. On a straight party line vote (guess who had no compassion for need or hungry children) free breakfasts for qualifying children with poor parents were discontinued.

According to the Denver Post story, the Colorado Department of Education asked the Legislature for \$124,229 to subsidize the breakfast for the remaining of this school year.

One yahoo who voted against the extension of funds said, *"As a family guy myself with children and grandchildren, I take a very strong responsibility to earn money to feed my own family."* Would it surprise you to learn he is from Colorado Springs? Focus on this, you jerk. He also said, *"charities could step up if some families have difficulty paying the fees."* You could only hope that he, not his children or grandchildren, will someday find himself in need and is shown the door.

He also said, *"Out here in El Paso County, for example, we have churches all over the place."*

Yes, you do, you dork. A very large one was once headed by another El Paso County fool by the name of Ted Haggard. Not all of the money from his church went to help the needy, though. Unless you consider Ted himself needy. Some of that money went to a male prostitute so Ted could better "minister to the flock."

Free breakfasts in schools is a relatively new offering. The program grows. Just as teachers would like to have their students get a good night's sleep before attending classes, most would prefer the kids get a decent breakfast before beginning classes in the morning.

The El Paso legislator, probably joined by some in Wyoming who have hearts of stone, doesn't think it's the school's place to provide that meal. Those same people would argue that it is not government's place to provide free or reduced-price lunches for school children either. Let them carry those arguments to their graves. A great country cares for its needy - its disadvantaged.

The cost for the free breakfast program in Colorado was to be \$768,210 for the current budget year, with about 56,000 eligible students taking 2.3 million breakfasts. An over-appropriation in earlier years had provided over a quarter million dollars to apply to this year's shortfall, but three Republican legislators would not allow it to be used.

The Springs jerk was not alone, of course. Two other Republicans joined him in denying the free breakfasts. Students will have to pay "only" 30¢ per breakfast the rest of the way. Colorado has the fastest growing rate of child poverty in the nation and even 30¢ a meal can pose a problem for some families. The ironic thing is that the same children who will now go without the free breakfast are eligible for a free lunch. If schools are going to sell it to those who can afford it, they should give it to those whose parent(s) cannot. (The vote may be reversed.)

QUICK DRAW OPTICAL

1619 LOGAN AVENUE ♦ 638-2298

In-Store Lab / One Hour Service

Certified Opticians - Glasses made on Premises

Locally Owned and Operated at the Same Location for Nearly 30 Years!

Visit our newly remodeled store

CHEYENNE'S ONLY FULL SERVICE OPTICAL WITH ONE HOUR SERVICE



DREAMS

We all have dreams in life. College for the children, retire comfortably, vacation homes. What are your dreams and how are you planning to get there?

Total life planning includes the financial effects of daily events that we don't pay attention to, or expect. If you could save more *would you?*

Financially, where do you want to be in 10, 20 or 30 years?

Contact Brian Lenell, CLU, ChFC

Personal Financial Solutions, Inc.

307-778-2881 – Cheyenne, WY



Securities offered through The O.N. Equity Sales Company. Member FINRA/SIPC, One Financial Way, Cincinnati, OH 45242 (513)794-6794

Investment Advisory services offered through O.N. Investment Management Company. 209-214