

Participate in YOUR Democracy: Testify at the Wyoming Legislature from Home!

Prepare!

You will need a zoom account (can login via gmail). A free account is fine, but remember what email you use because that will be the email associated with your registration (see below). It is best to use the zoom desktop app on a computer vs. your phone if you can. With everything zoom, think about your background (virtual or real), lighting, and dress (at least the top half of you). Some committee chairs require video to be on when you testify so make sure you have the right bandwidth for video and a good spot in your house to be a credible advocate for your cause.

Step #1: Find the committee meeting you want to testify at

You can find out what committee a bill has been referred to via the bill's main page. On that page it will show if the bill has been scheduled for committee. If you don't know when a bill will be heard, you can ask the committee chair or the bill sponsor. Committee notices for the next day are normally posted online shortly after 3 p.m. Go to <https://wyoleg.gov/Calendar/> and look for the committee.

Step #2: Sign up to testify

Once you find the committee, click on the "testify" link and that will take you to a zoom registration form. You will need to register no later than an hour before the start of the meeting. Each committee's form is a bit different but you will identify the bill you want to speak on and some committees will ask you if you support or oppose when you register.

Even if you're unsure of whether you really want to testify, registering to testify will signal your interest in the topic. The chairs get a list of everyone registered so they know how many people out there from across the state want to speak on a topic and that alone matters.

Step #3: Prepare what you want to say

If it is a controversial topic, chances are your testimony will be limited to 2-3 minutes, so it is very helpful to write out in advance what you want to say and time yourself to practice and ensure you will be within the time limit. If you know how to split your screen or if you use an extra monitor, you can have the zoom and your document with your testimony available electronically on a screen in front of you so you won't be looking down to read.

You should also be ready to adapt as the committee goes along. If others ahead of you have said what you wanted to say, do not repeat that and just say you agree with whoever said it first.

If you want to provide a handout, look for the instructions on the LSO website.

Step #4: Join the meeting

On the day of the committee meeting, join via zoom through the link sent to your email after you registered. Do not watch on YouTube. Not only does the "zoom room" start earlier than YouTube, there is a slight delay between zoom and YouTube so watching in real time via zoom is best. Sometimes chairs switch up the agenda, and it is often hard to know how long other bills before yours will take, so if you can join at the beginning of the meeting that is always best.

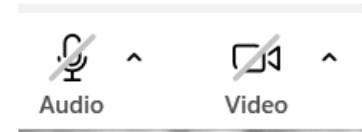


Step #5: Raise your hand

Even if you have registered to speak, the committee chair will not call on you unless you “raise your hand” by clicking the icon at the bottom of the zoom screen. You can raise your hand at the end of the presentation of the bill you want to speak on, at the beginning of testimony on the bill. Go ahead and raise your hand early, even if they are calling on people in the room first - it is better to be early than to miss your chance to speak.

Step #6: Enter the “room,” unmute, and enable your video

This part of the process is a bit awkward since initially you join the meeting in zoom webinar form, meaning your video and audio are not enabled and you are not a “participant” in the meeting. Once you raise



your hand and the chair lets the staff know to “bring you in” then the screen will switch over to regular zoom meeting format where you can unmute yourself and enable your video. This all happens quickly and the chair is expecting you to be right on it, so again checking your video and audio settings in advance and knowing how to unmute and enable your video will be important.

Step #7: Give your testimony!

Always start by saying “Thank you Mr. (or Madam) Chairman” and by identifying yourself by your name and who you are (e.g. I am a longtime resident of Sheridan or I am a teacher or whatever is important for that bill). And don’t forget to thank the committee for their time at the end of your comments.

Step #8: Stay on for questions

Sometimes committee members may have questions right after your testimony. In this case, the staff will keep you in the “room” to answer these questions. Go through the chair to answer the questions, meaning always start with saying “Mr. (or Madam) Chairman” and then saying the committee member who asked you the question (e.g. Representative Pendergraft). This follows the decorum process and ensures that there isn’t a back/forth between you and a committee member without the committee chair involved in being the facilitator for the meeting. It’s okay to not know the answer to a question, but if you say you will provide the information later, always do follow-up with that legislator.

After you are done speaking, mute yourself again and turn off your video.

Sometimes the staff will keep you in the “room” until all testimony is complete in case there are additional questions, but more often they will send you back to the webinar mode of the meeting after you speak. Stay on in the zoom webinar to listen to the rest of the meeting if you can. After that, you are done!

Resources:

<https://www.wyoleg.gov/citizenEngagement/AttendLegMeetings>

<https://wyoleg.gov/Calendar/>

<https://wyoleg.gov/Session/2025/SessionLanding>

<https://wyoleg.gov/docs/CitizenGuidebook.pdf>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=znt9J_fRB5k (ESPC Shape Wyoming 2021 on remote testimony)