

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
BOARD OF PLATTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, WYOMING

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, PLATTE COUNTY, WYOMING, met in a special session on the 29th day of August 2025 in the City of Cheyenne, County of Laramie. The meeting was a joint session of the Board held in conjunction with the Board of County Commissioners of Laramie County. Notice of this special session was provided by the Office of the Platte County Clerk pursuant to Wyoming Statute §16-4-404(b). Those present for the meeting were Steve Shockley, Platte County Commission Chairman; Ian Jolovich, Platte County Commissioner; John “Jeb” Baker, Platte County Commissioner; Gunnar Malm, Laramie County Commission Chairman; Troy Thompson, Laramie County Commissioner; Don Hollingshead, Laramie County Commissioner; Linda Heath, Laramie County Commissioner; Ty Zwonitzer, Laramie County Commissioner. Malcolm Ervin, Platte County Clerk, and Debra Lee, Laramie County Clerk, were also present.

Chairman Malm called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM for the purpose of appointing a qualified person to fill a vacancy in Senate District 6 pursuant to W.S. §22-18-111(a)(iii)(D). On August 11, 2025, Governor Mark Gordon notified the Wyoming Republican Party that Senator Darin Smith had resigned from Senate District 6. As such, a vacancy in the office was declared by Governor Gordon. On August 25, 2025, the Platte and Laramie County Republican parties met in Guernsey, Wyoming where they selected three nominees to fill the vacancy – Jeffery A. Barnes, Roy J. Birt and Taft C. Love. Those nominees were forwarded to the Boards of County Commissioners of Platte and Laramie County on August 26, 2025.

Chairman Malm requested that the three nominees draw lots to determine the order in which candidates were interviewed. First to be interviewed by the Board was Mr. Love, then Mr. Birt, then Mr. Barnes. Each candidate was offered the opportunity to provide an opening statement before being questioned by the Boards, and a closing statement after questions were asked.

Pursuant to W.S. §22-18-111(a)(iii)(D), “...the vacancy shall be filled by the combined vote of the boards of county commissioners for those counties. The vote of each county commissioner in attendance shall be weighted so the total vote of the commissioners from each county shall be in proportion to the population of the legislative district within that county.” Laramie County Clerk Lee provided population numbers for consideration. As of 2025, the total population of Senate District 6 was 18,023. Of that, 9,362 lived in Laramie County and 8,661 lived in Platte County. Therefore, the Laramie County Board of County Commissioners represented 51.94% of the population within the district and the Platte County Board of County Commissioners represented 48.06% of the population within the district. Given there were five Laramie County Commissioners in attendance, each of their votes represented 10.388%. Given there were three Platte County Commissioners in attendance, each of their votes represented 16.02%.

At 3:03 PM, Commissioner Thompson motioned, seconded by Commissioner Hollingshead, to call for an executive session for personnel matters pursuant to Wyoming Statute 16-4-405(a)(ii). The motion carried. At 3:30 PM, Chairman Malm exited the executive session and called the joint session of the Boards back to order. Once called to order, Laramie County Clerk Lee provided each Commissioner with a ballot. Those ballots were collected and tabulated by Laramie County Clerk Lee. Upon completion, Laramie County Clerk Lee announced that Mr. Love received 100% of the weighted vote. Laramie County Commissioner Hollingshead motioned, seconded by Laramie County Commissioner Heath, to appoint Taft Love to fill the vacancy in Senate District 6. Chairman Malm requested a voice vote be taken. Laramie County Commissioners Malm, Thompson, Hollingshead, Heath and Zwonitzer voted aye. Platte County Commissioners Shockley, Jolovich and Baker voted aye.

Mr. Love was presented a Certificate of Appointment signed by Platte County Commission Chairman Shockley and Laramie County Commission Chairman Malm. The Certificate was issued pursuant to W.S. §22-18-112.

There being no further business for board consideration, the meeting adjourned at approximately 3:38 PM. This proceeding was recorded by County Clerk Ervin pursuant to Wyoming statute §18-3-402(a)(i)(C).

APPROVED:


STEVE SHOCKLEY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD




MALCOLM ERVIN, COUNTY CLERK
& CLERK OF THE BOARD