

# Laramie County Clerk Debra Lee seeks first elected term

By Austin Huguelet, Wyoming Tribune Eagle - Jun 11, 2018 Updated Jul 5, 2018

CHEYENNE – After serving two years on a commissioner's appointment, the Laramie County clerk is asking voters for her first full term.

If elected, Republican Debra Lee said she would be able to continue projects making the county more transparent and voting easier and more secure.

She applauded her late predecessor, Debbye Lathrop, for laying the groundwork for 2016's inauguration of vote centers, where qualified county voters could vote regardless of their address. And she said she wanted to build that with continued outreach, especially to those serving abroad.

"That includes to our military members and their families and other residents who are serving overseas, such as government workers, missionaries," she said. "Those people have a difficult time exercising their right to vote because, simply, many times they don't know how to do it."

She said she also wanted to finish an overhaul of the Laramie County Commission's online records that has made it easier for residents to find documents and search through meeting minutes by going back and uploading records created prior to the switch in January.

"That is going to be an invaluable service because right now, people have to call our office and request a copy of anything older than February," she said.

Lee also said she also wanted to continue with recently introduced budget practices, such as completing financial audits before the end of each calendar year and passing county budgets before the beginning of the fiscal year July 1.

Both changes make it easier for departments to get grants, she said, and the latter makes life easier on department directors.

"They won't be operating into the start of a new fiscal year without knowing for sure what their budget is," she said.

And looking to the future, Lee predicted the office would need to embrace technology and streamline its efforts as Laramie County edges up toward 100,000 residents.

"We're going to have to do more with less," she said, "because we'll have increased demand for services, but revenues will lag behind that."

She said her experience as clerk and her background overseeing elections in Wyoming and around the world in places like Sudan and Bosnia made her the best choice in November.

"I have extensive knowledge of elections having worked internationally, at the state level and at the local level," Lee said. "I have managed large budgets and projects and programs ... and as a military brat, I have learned to be resilient, adaptable and a quick study."

The Laramie County clerk is the county's election administrator and record keeper. The office also helps prepare the county budget and issues motor vehicle titles, marriage and liquor licenses, and fireworks permits.

Lee will face challenger Pam Glick, a human resources manager with the Wyoming Department of Revenue, in the Republican primary Aug 21.

The Laramie County clerk serves a four-year term and earns \$90,000 annually.