

Albert Sommers Campaign Press Release
August 1, 2022

A mailer is circulating from my opponent, Mike Schmid, that attempts to distort my voting record. The position of Majority Floor Leader holds the power to make decisions about which bills get debated on the floor. However, with this power comes great responsibility. The Majority Floor Leader must act with integrity, enforcing the rules and calendar – not breaking them.

Acting on bills as the Schmid Campaign recommends would have gone against the rules and established calendar. Changing the rules in the middle does not ensure fairness, it does the opposite. The Schmid campaign is elevating specific issues above the integrity of the Legislative process. Compromising the institution of the Legislature to advance bills is not something I practice or ever will practice.

Here's the truth about these bills:

SJ002: This bill failed to get out of committee on the timelines established in the session calendar, so it was not heard. I support property tax relief and am working on legislation for residential property tax relief.

SF51: This bill failed to meet the crossover deadline from the Senate to House. There was a motion to suspend the calendar to hear the bill. As part of leadership, I support the rules – I do not support motions to violate the calendar or the rules. This bill has merit. I support fair competition in K12 girls' sports, and I do not believe that transgender students should be allowed to violate fair competition. Ongoing federal lawsuits on transgender athletes will likely inform where Wyoming can go on this issue.

SF97: The Speaker sent this bill to the most senior committee in the Legislature, the Appropriations Committee. Appropriations voted the bill out with a Do Not Pass recommendation, effectively killing the bill.

According to Rule 6-2 Order of General File: Bills on the general file shall be considered in the following order: first, "Do Pass" bills; second, "Without Recommendation" bills; and third, "Do Not Pass" bills. SF97 by rule could not be heard until every other bill had been heard. We never get through every bill; there is simply not enough time to get through the hundreds of bills that are filed every session. The only way SF97 could have been heard was to suspend the rules, and nobody made that motion.

In 2020, I supported HB209, which would have limited when you could change your party affiliation. The bill passed the House, then died in the Senate. I have a voting record on this issue.

HB154: This was one of the last bills numbered, and it came very late. The Speaker of the House did not introduce the bill, nor did he introduce three of my bills. Again, time is short. Perhaps

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the Schmid campaign doesn't understand the legislative process, because as Majority Floor Leader, I do not introduce bills – this is the job of the Speaker of the House.

HB97: I voted no on this bill to ban Critical Race Theory. I have issued a [press release](#) about why I did not support this bill. I do not support the teaching of critical race theory, but the bill violates the Wyoming Constitution and would have made teachers civilly liable for blaming the Holocaust on the Nazis and Germany. It was a terrible bill.

SF62: This bill would have created an incredible amount of work for teachers and school districts, when curricular resources are already published on our school district websites. The State already requires too much paperwork from our local districts. I support local control of education. I prefer that locally elected school boards run education in Sublette County, rather than mandates from Cheyenne.

HB99: There is never enough time to hear all the bills. Two of my own bills died in my desk in 2021, as did HB99. Our attorneys felt that HB99 capping property taxes was clearly unconstitutional, so it was easy to hold. That is why I am developing a constitutional amendment to give the legislature the authority to pass a HB99.

I have been endorsed by a broad array of business groups and former Sublette County commissioners, because I am an effective legislator with integrity who works on solving Wyoming problems with Wyoming solutions.

My endorsements include the Wyoming Mining Association, the Petroleum Association of Wyoming, the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, the Wyoming Realtors, the Associated General Contractors of Wyoming, the Wyoming Hospitality and Travel Coalition, the Wyoming Rural Electric Association, the Wyoming Medical Society and the Wyoming Dental Association.

If you have a question about a bill, about any of my votes, or my position on an issue, call me. 307-360-7060. I'll tell you the truth.