

Wyoming Secretary of State

Chuck Gray



June 10, 2024

Via E-mail

Kristina Jones, City Clerk
City of Cheyenne
2101 O'Neil Ave.
Cheyenne, WY 82001
kjones@cheyennecity.org

Re: Application for Nomination, Artificial Intelligence Candidate

Dear Clerk Jones,

With the deadline for certification of candidates approaching, I wanted to alert you to significant concerns I have regarding Victor Miller's Application for Nomination for the office of mayor filed with your office on May 31, 2024, and subsequent reports leading me to believe that Mr. Miller's application is in violation of both the letter, and spirit, of Wyoming's Election Code. Because your office certifies municipal candidates to the county clerk, I am writing this letter to provide my opinion that Mr. Miller's application for nomination should be rejected.

First, I want to be clear. Wyoming law does not permit an artificial intelligence bot to run for any office in the state, including municipal offices. W.S. 22-23-102, which outlines qualifications for municipal officers, requires that municipal officers be "qualified electors." To be a qualified elector, one must be a real person, at least eighteen years of age, and a citizen of the United States. Thus, Wyoming law is clear that an AI bot cannot run for office.

However, even if "Vic" is being used as a fake name to appear on the ballot for a qualified elector, Victor Miller, I am concerned that listing "Vic" as the name to appear on the ballot violates Wyoming law in itself. W.S. 22-6-111 requires that "a candidate may use the name on the ballot by which he is generally known." Under a plain reading of the statute, a candidate should be required to put their first and last name. Furthermore, Chapter 18 of the Secretary of State's Election Procedures, which applies to all candidates whose names appear on a ballot of an election administered by a county clerk, requires that candidates are required to use their "full name" on their application for nomination. Section 6 specifies that fictitious or pseudo names are not allowed. By submitting "Vic," as opposed to his full name, Mr. Miller's application may itself be in violation of Wyoming law.

For these reasons, I believe Mr. Miller's application for nomination should be rejected.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck Gray". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping underline.

Chuck Gray
Wyoming Secretary of State

Email Copies: Debra Lee, Laramie County Clerk
Jesse Naiman, Deputy Secretary of State
CJ Young, Elections Director