



NEVADA LEGISLATURE SUMMARY MINUTES OF TOWN HALL MEETINGS

The concurrent Nevada Legislature's Town Hall Meetings on State Budget were held on Saturday, March 14, 2009, at 9 a.m. in Room 4401 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada, and the Washoe County Commission Chambers, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada. A copy of this set of "Summary Minutes of Town Hall Meetings," including the "Notice of Concurrent Meetings" ([Exhibit A](#)) and other substantive exhibits are on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB), Carson City, Nevada. You may contact the Research Library online at <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/lcb/research/library/feedbackmail.cfm>; or telephone: 775/684-6827. An audio record at each location may be purchased through the Legislative Counsel Bureau's Publications Office (e-mail: publications@lcb.state.nv.us; telephone: 775/684-6835).

LEGISLATORS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:

Senator Steven A. Horsford, Co-Moderator
Assemblyman Morse Arberry Jr., Co-Moderator
Senator Joyce Woodhouse
Speaker Barbara E. Buckley
Assemblyman Moises (Mo) Denis
Assemblyman Joseph M. Hogan
Assemblyman Ruben J. Kihuen
Assemblywoman Marilyn Kirkpatrick
Assemblywoman Peggy Pierce
Assemblyman Lynn D. Stewart

LEGISLATORS PRESENT IN RENO:

Senator Bernice Mathews, Co-Moderator
Assemblywoman Sheila Leslie, Co-Moderator
Senator William J. Raggio
Assemblyman Bernie Anderson
Assemblyman David P. Bobzien
Assemblywoman Heidi S. Gansert
Assemblyman Don Gustavson
Assemblywoman Debbie Smith

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:

Las Vegas

Brian L. Davie, Legislative Services Officer
Ciria Perez, Administrative Assistant
Melisa Aguon, Secretary/ITS Support Specialist
Felicia Richardson, Receptionist
Mary Shope, Coordinator, Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum
Kay Graves, Constituent Services Assistant

Reno

Donald O. Williams, Research Director
Beverly Mobley, Assistant Manager of Constituent Services
Gayle Nadeau, Principal Research Secretary
Sally Trotter, Senior Research Secretary

**GRANT SAWYER STATE OFFICE BUILDING
LAS VEGAS**

OPENING REMARKS

Co-Moderator Arberry opened the meeting with introductions of the legislative members in attendance. He noted the importance of taking the time to hear from the public and stated that all written correspondence would be reviewed.

Speaker Barbara E. Buckley welcomed everyone present and provided details regarding the hearing process.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDED IN THE *EXECUTIVE BUDGET* (LAS VEGAS)

The following individuals provided testimony at the Las Vegas location:

- Mark Barry, M.D., testified regarding Medicaid patients and their difficulties accessing Medicaid care for their children. He noted that recent Medicaid reimbursement for pediatric providers and others had been disproportionately cut. Dr. Barry stated that any further cuts would result in doctors leaving the State.
- Anna Arnold, private citizen, testified regarding frustrations in finding appropriate care for her son due to Medicaid restrictions for specialty care.
- Guadalupe Corona, student (11 years old) testified against cuts to Medicaid therapy services.
- Elizabeth Graho, private citizen, testified regarding the difficulty in finding and retaining Medicaid providers for her son and stated she was opposed to cuts to Medicaid.
- David Stewart, M.D., addressed the impact of Medicaid cuts on his private specialty practice. He commented that many pediatric patients have to go out of State for care or go without care.
- Sandra Curry, private citizen, testified regarding caring for her grandson and her difficulty in finding physicians who accept Medicaid.
- Daniel Stewart, Jones Vargas, testified regarding his representation of group service providers for adults with disabilities. Mr. Stewart stated that reimbursement rates, minimum wage, and long shifts create problems in the group service industry.

- Nathan Boyack, President, BAI Nevada, residential contract provider with Desert Regional Center, testified regarding the challenges encountered in providing care for their clients with limited resources, which include low wages for caregivers and high employee turnover rates. He asked that the Legislature consider the impact cuts will have on the individuals his organization serves.

In response to Speaker Buckley's request regarding rate increases that would best assist individuals with disabilities to remain independent, Mr. Boyack stated that any type of reimbursement rate stability would be beneficial.

- Bryan Salem, teacher, testified against the potential 6 percent cut to teachers. He stated he supports teachers receiving their step increases.
- Ron Stoller, Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum member, testified regarding the premium tax charged on annuities. He stated that only six other states tax annuities and Nevada's tax is higher than most of the other states. Mr. Stoller noted this is a problem affecting seniors who rely on annuities for income.
- Theresa Morrow, private citizen, testified in support of raising consumer confidence through consumer protection. She supports using distance education classes to minimize education costs.
- Georgeann Ray, private citizen, testified in support of funding for Kindergarten through grade 12 education. She noted that drastic budget cuts would severely affect the children.
- Sherry Wolsey, private citizen, concurred with previous comments made and stated her opposition to education cuts. She stated that many parents do not feel legislators are aware of their needs.
- Louie Overstreet, private citizen, testified in support of generating revenue by enacting a State income tax. He opposed any reduction of services.
- Loretta Harper, school counselor, testified in opposition to teacher salary cuts. She commented on the lack of books in schools.
- Diane Guinn, State employee, testified against cuts to State worker pay and commented she supports broad-based taxes.
- Tom Rosenberger, culinary teacher, testified in opposition to both cutting services and tax increases. Mr. Rosenberger remarked on the shortage of teachers in higher education and the importance of education.
- Michael Flores, student, College of Southern Nevada (CSN), testified about the importance of affordable education.

- John Connolly, retired union representative, testified against the Welfare Division's takeover of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV's), childcare and development program.

Co-Moderator Horsford commented that the Legislature was considering this proposed takeover of the childcare and development program by UNLV and noted that a public policy had not yet been established.

- Dina Neal, teacher, testified regarding her ideas for solutions to the budget crisis. She stated that a long-term solution is to diversify the economic base by adding manufacturers of consistent consumer products and a short-term solution is higher taxes for gaming.
- David Anson, private citizen, opposed any budget cuts. He opined that the best solution would be to increase taxes on the wealthy and accept all of the stimulus funds that are offered to the State.
- Peggy Anson, private citizen, commented on the costs to taxpayers for the activities held at the Governor's Mansion.

Co-Moderator Horsford commented that the Office of the Governor's budget would be heard on Monday, March 16, in the Senate Committee on Finance.

- Jack Ramjeeawon, private citizen, testified against cutting the education and health care systems.
- Candace Kant, retired, addressed the State subsidy for health care premiums for the retired. She stated that the subsidy is the only health care she is eligible to receive. Ms. Kant opposed the Public Employees Benefit Program budget cuts.
- Michael McAuliffe, community organizer for the Nevada Medical Marijuana Program, testified in support of the Program as a way to raise revenue for the State and noted his support of Bill Draft Request No. 40-1180 (transfers the Medical Marijuana Program from the Department of Agriculture to the Health Division.)
- Sally G. Johnson, University Medical Center employee, testified regarding the lack of orthopedic surgeons in Las Vegas. She stated she is not opposed to raising taxes that would benefit people in need.
- Carolyn J. Essex, community organizer, Democratic Black Caucus, discussed the effects of the downturn in the economy and noted her support for receiving the stimulus plan funds and other entitlements for the State.
- Roc Essert, student, testified in support of education.

- Jonathan Friedrich, teacher, opposed the proposed budget cuts to higher education and noted the lack of instructional materials. He also commented that students were unable to take courses due to an insufficient number of students enrolled in a class.
- Janice Alpern, volunteer for AARP, testified in opposition to cuts for the disabled. Ms. Alpern conveyed her concerns for adults with physical and mental handicaps and their ability to remain independent. She also noted support for services to seniors that allow them to remain in their homes.
- Gordon Harmes, adult education teacher, testified in support of adult education programs. He requested that education be funded at the current level.
- Cathryn Adams, private citizen, testified against increased taxes and State-mandated immunizations.
- Laura Leavitt, State employee, spoke on the negative impacts the budget cuts would have on the families she serves.

In response to the testifiers, Co-Moderator Horsford thanked all of the State of Nevada employees and recognized the services they provide to Nevada.

- Gerald Simmons, classified school employee, testified regarding his concerns with unemployment rates and stated he supported paratransit funding and increasing sales, gaming, and mining taxes. He also urged legislators' support for Assembly Bill 40, which relates to school facilities.
- Chelsie Adams, college student, testified in opposition to higher education cuts.

Co-Moderator Horsford commented that testimony had been received in both the Committees on Senate Finance and Assembly Ways and Means from countless students in higher education regarding their aspirations and goals.

- Connie Harris, child care center owner, commented that parents are losing their child care assistance and noted that fewer child care vouchers were being distributed causing more children at home alone. She requested information regarding how her center could qualify to work with Clark County.

In response, Co-Moderator Horsford noted that information would be forthcoming regarding Ms. Harris' question.

- Henrietta Peterson, Democratic Black Caucus member, stated her concerns regarding a request for \$10 million to add neon lights to the Las Vegas Strip. Ms. Peterson testified that the State should work at reducing the dropout rate.

- Victor Joecks, Nevada Policy Research Institute, testified in support of a comprehensive performance audit for Nevada schools and on the stimulus package, which he commented would increase spending in Nevada.
- Adam Schultheis, teacher, opposed the 6 percent cuts to teachers' pay.
- Meredith McGhan, private citizen, testified regarding unchecked growth and lack of adequate taxation. She stated she supports increased taxation to large industries, more "green jobs," and a good public transportation system.
- Myron Hughes, private citizen, testified in support of producing more revenue products and stated he supports the cuts proposed by the Governor. He suggested using taxis for public transportation.
- Turessa Russell, State employee, discussed the lack of textbooks in classrooms and the lack of funds for early intervention services for children. She testified in opposition to benefit cuts and hiring freezes for State workers. (See [Exhibit B.](#))
- Laurence Rake, Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada, testified in support of higher taxes and a good health care and education system, along with renewable green energy that could draw businesses to Nevada.
- Mary Beth Heavrin, private citizen, testified in support of Initiative Petition No. 1, which would raise room taxes for education funding. She also was in support of annual legislative sessions.
- Sharon Williams, retiree, testified in opposition to the proposed health care cost increase to retirees.
- Carl Poliak, private citizen, discussed the importance of education beginning at home and spoke against retirement pay for elected officials.
- Sam Marrino, private citizen, testified in opposition to Assembly Bill 189, which governs the eviction of tenants. He noted his support for a measure that would require bonding for exchange companies and would reduce losses to investors. Mr. Marrino suggested regulations that would require banks to maintain foreclosed properties. He stated that illegal immigrants should not be eligible to receive the Millennium Scholarship and said he opposes any tax increases.

Co-Moderator Horsford responded that several bills are being heard this session on the housing issue and directed Mr. Marrino to the legislative website.

- Ty Weinert, business owner and member of the Black Democratic Caucus, testified in opposition to any cuts to health and human services or education. She stated she would support a State income tax and annual legislative sessions.

- Sam King, President of the League of Women Voters of Nevada, testified in support of budget enhancements as opposed to taxes. She noted her support for annual sessions and a State lottery. Ms. King also testified in support of a modified business tax. (See [Exhibit C](#) and [Exhibit D](#).)
- Douglas Bache, former Assemblyman, testified against the proposed pay cuts to teachers and State employees. He stated that past legislative discussions could provide solutions to the problems faced by the Legislature today.
- R. U. Kidding, private citizen, testified regarding the high price of prescriptions and the hardship it causes him. He also spoke in support of teachers, law enforcement, and firefighters.
- Ruby Waller, retired, stated support of the Legislature using stimulus package funds and asked legislators to work together to bring about positive changes for Nevada.

Co-Moderator Horsford asked Ms. Waller to contact the Legislature in response to her statement regarding possibly losing her home due to unemployment. He noted the possibility of assistance being available.

- Mike Wiatt, teacher, voiced his support for education being founded on community and family and noted the importance of paying for education.
- Angela Brommel, Chapter President, Nevada State College, discussed her high medical costs and spoke against the proposed cuts to education and health care.
- Diana Cannon, private citizen, testified against cuts to education and Medicaid.

Co-Moderator Horsford recognized Carolyn Edwards, Clark County School Board Trustee, and Jan Biggerstaff, State Board of Education, who were present at the meeting.

- Jason Golub, private citizen, testified against funding used for landscaping along the Nevada roads.
- Piange B. Jackson, teacher, testified in support of education for the youth.
- Chanda Cook, private citizen, stated support for education funding and said she is willing to pay her fair share of taxes.
- Paula Bourne, State worker, testified regarding her care of a special needs child. She voiced opposition to the proposed increased insurance costs for retirees and pay cuts for State workers and she commented that she would be willing to pay more taxes rather than taking a cut in pay.

- Mark Schaffer, UNLV employee, testified in support of education and increased spending and taxation.
- Dr. Sandra Cosgrove, CSN, testified in support of funding higher education and to diversify Nevada's economy with a robust public education system.
- Shaundell Newsome, private citizen, spoke on behalf of students in Nevada's education system and funding education and social services.
- Sherlene Simpson, State worker, testified on behalf of the families of the disabled and the elderly. She urged legislators to give the maximum amount to Medicaid providers.
- Pat Spearman, retired military, discussed the need for structured programs and supervised activities for children. She noted her support for programs that would solve academic problems by utilizing the stimulus funds.
- Vicenta Montoya, attorney, voiced her concerns with the proposed budget cuts and offered her support for a modified business tax, increased education funding, and a more efficient government.
- Tracie Wolf, business owner, testified in support of continuity of care for seniors and children. She commented on her problems meeting the requirements of prior legislation which affects her business of caring for seniors and the disabled.
- Dorothy C. Wesley, private citizen, voiced her support for more cuts to the prison system.
- Phil Hoffman, attorney, testified regarding his support for taxing the gaming and mining industries and large corporations in the State.
- Sheik Ellias, unemployed pharmacist, testified regarding the hardship he incurs due to the lack of physical therapists who will accept Medicaid in Nevada, which requires him to take his child out-of-state for treatment.
- Juanita Clark, private citizen, testified in support of a larger share of education funds going to the classrooms and the students.
- Alex Dixon, private citizen, supported increasing revenue by imposing taxes or fees on out-of-state institutional investors who purchase real estate assets in Nevada.
- Bob Yeary, retiree, testified against tax increases and illegal aliens who he felt lowered test scores and burdened the education system financially.

- Debra Pope, Agassi Group, testified regarding her concerns with education and Medicaid funding cuts. She was of the opinion that better education systems would cut down on prison inmate growth.
- Richard Miller, Vice President, American Federation of Teachers to the Nevada Association for Retired Americans, testified regarding the need to diversify the State's tax base by bringing in new industries to Nevada and offering quality education for their children. He stated his group is not opposed to more taxes as long as they are accountable and wisely spent.

Co-Moderator Horsford provided closing remarks and thanked everyone who testified, as well as the legislators in attendance.

WASHOE COUNTY COMMISSION CHAMBERS RENO

OPENING REMARKS

Co-Moderator Sheila Leslie gave a detailed introduction of the hearing process and the reason for the town hall meeting. She thanked staff for their assistance and introduced Co-Moderator Bernice Mathews.

Co-Moderator Bernice Mathews provided introductory remarks. Other legislators in attendance introduced themselves.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDED IN THE *EXECUTIVE BUDGET (RENO)*

The following individuals provided testimony at the Reno location:

- Darlyce Albee, High Sierra Industries (HSI), testified regarding the limited services available to the developmentally disabled and the burden of care that would be placed on the State if there were no private residential providers for services to the disabled. She asked that the stimulus funds be used in the way they are intended—to help those most in need.
- Joanne Fahenestock, parent of a recipient of residential services from HSI, testified in support of increased residential provider rates. She commented that \$7.2 million of federal matched money would be available to the State from the stimulus package.
- Martha Gould, private citizen, suggested reviewing Nevada's tax structure. She stated her support of a State income tax as a source of revenue. Ms. Gould urged legislators

to carefully review where cuts are made and stressed the importance of funding education, libraries, and parks.

- Mary L. Rutherford, senior citizen, testified against unions and the federal government usurping Nevada's state rights.
- Jerry Purdy, retired engineer, stated his support for taxing major corporations, mining companies, and large businesses. (See [Exhibit AA.](#))
- Beverly Lassiter, testified in support of funding prevention programs for children. She commented that there is a 58 percent academic performance improvement in children who are enrolled in the Big Brothers, Big Sisters programs.
- Yvonne J. Flynn, testified as a parent of disabled children and asked that services not be cut for providers of services to the developmentally disabled.
- Traci Lofton, teacher, voiced her opposition to any cuts to teachers' salaries and education budget cuts.
- Bobee Kay Clark, teacher, testified regarding the value of highly qualified teachers, classroom resources, and class-size reduction. She also noted concern for senior citizens.
- Judy Vaughan, retired children's librarian, spoke against proposed cuts to parks and libraries. She suggested volunteer recruitment and volunteer training programs as an avenue to reduce spending and budget cuts to parks and libraries.

In response to Ms. Vaughan's comments, Senator Raggio discussed the importance of volunteers.

- John Mueller, teacher, noted that any cuts to teachers' salaries, the transportation system, and services to the developmentally disabled would hurt his family. He testified in support of the room tax initiative.
- Debby Frenzi, State employee, testified regarding concerns with the economy, lack of benefits, and cost of programs. She asked that the Legislature use the stimulus money the way it is intended.
- Phillip Kaiser, teacher, discussed the importance of recruitment and retention of quality teachers. He stated he opposes cuts in pay and opined the cuts will not recruit and retain high quality teachers. Mr. Kaiser voiced support for tobacco and alcohol tax increases.
- Angie Pratt, Director, Alzheimer's Association of Northern Nevada, testified regarding the number of families and caregivers dealing with Alzheimer's patients. She stated the

proposed cuts to the tobacco funds would cause a reduction in caregivers. Ms. Pratt urged members not to cut human services budgets.

In response to Ms. Pratt's comments, Co-Moderator Leslie stated that the bill to securitize the tobacco funds had been withdrawn.

- James Smith, State employee, voiced concerns regarding cuts to education and the closure of the senior center in Sparks. He commented on the disparity in salaries of city employees. Mr. Smith voiced his disapproval of the State hiring retired State employees as consultants and the practice of providing cars and cell phones to nonemergency State employees.
- Paula Berkley, private citizen, testified in support of the information technology proposal for the Welfare Division, a personal services tax, and asked that the Legislature use the stimulus funds for human services within the legislative intent.
- Cherie Jamason, Food Bank of Northern Nevada, testified that Nevada is listed as one of the top five states devastated by the economy. She noted a lack of long-term resources and programs and ineffective administration of programs. Ms. Jamason requested that State agencies ensure that every federal nutrition program is utilized to its maximum. Her testimony included the following requests: (1) that every child eligible have access to school nutrition programs; (2) that outreach programs be utilized to connect eligible people with food stamp programs; (3) that the Legislature pass the technology initiative for the Department of Health and Human Services; and (4) that all seniors have access to meals through senior nutrition programs.
- Leonard Bonilla, retired, former representative of classified school employees in California, voiced support of tax increases, and presented the following solutions: reduce expenditures of government employees without cutting base salaries by imposing temporary freezes on step increases and longevity increases; decrease levels of management; require employees to pay into retirement; and find new sources of revenue such as imposing a tax on sweetened beverages or tolls on roads. (See [Exhibit BB.](#))
- Cathy Oviatt, teacher, testified in support of increasing taxes and adding a State lottery.
- David A. Johnson, M.D., Nevada Academy of Family Physicians testified regarding education challenges to resident physicians, especially primary care physicians in Nevada. He commented that physicians are solicited to move out-of-state every day. Dr. Johnson noted that private physicians in Washoe County do not accept Medicaid; only the resident doctors care for that population.
- Anne Peer, teacher, testified against any cuts to education.

- Jacque Ewing-Taylor, Public Employees Benefits Program board member, testified that the Board recommended a \$55 million cut and the Governor proposed \$90 million in cuts that would primarily be borne by retirees through a 400 percent increase in rates. She stated she supports tax increases.
- Connie McMullen, Senior Spectrum, testified in support of senior waiver programs and against any cuts to those programs.
- Richard G. Petersen, private citizen, advocated for the disabled and the services currently provided to them. He noted opposition to any cuts in funding for the disabled.
- Elisa Maser, Nevada Advocates for Planned Parenthood Affiliates, testified in support of Bill Draft Request No. 1266, which she stated would expand eligibility for family planning services within the Medicaid program using funds from the federal match participation for family planning. She stated support for an increase in taxes and a real estate point of sale tax. (See [Exhibit CC.](#))
- Diane Ross, member of the Nevada State Council on Personal Care Attendants, Chair of the Nevada Caregiver Coalition, and owner of The Continuum, testified about her concerns with respite cuts and the disabled and low-income seniors. She asked for consideration of health care reform, specifically regarding insurance issues.
- Natha Anderson, teacher, testified against the proposed 6 percent pay cut for teachers.
- Bob Redding, Comfort Keepers, testified as a private owner of a business that provides care to the disabled allowing them to remain in their own home. He stated he is opposed to any Medicaid cuts. Mr. Redding reported that some of his clients have had to move out of their homes and into institutions, which he stated is more costly.
- Grady Tarbutton, Director, Washoe County Senior Services, testified on behalf of the providers to the disabled and stated that providers cannot survive on the rates provided.
- Reverend Onie Cooper addressed the need for education and health care and suggested cutting costs by releasing nonviolent offenders from prison.
- Misty Allen, private citizen, testified in support of raising taxes and providing access to education and health care.
- Robbin Palmer, private citizen, voiced support of funding the 2-1-1 referral telephone program.
- Robert Townsend, private citizen and member of the Public Policy Group of the Washoe County Democratic Party, acknowledged the challenges of the budget and testified in support of increasing taxes.

- Tina Nappe, testified in opposition of penalizing local governments to support the State government. She stated she hoped to see more flexibility in the “Home Rule” provisions and commented that local government should be given the ability to raise money. Ms. Nappe opined that the cap on property taxes, as well as early retirement, should be reviewed. She provided her support for a 1-cent increase on fuel tax for city buses.
- Allan Ward, Home Instead Senior Care, testified against the proposed reduction in the pay rate for home care services providers.
- Richard Daley, private citizen, testified in support of proportioned tax increases across the board for services and for fair, equitable cuts. (See [Exhibit DD](#).)
- Wanda Cox, private citizen, testified in opposition to Bill Draft Request No. 1204, which proposes to reorganize the Department of Information Technology.
- Jaime Cox’s sister, Wanda Cox, spoke on his behalf in support of services for the disabled.
- Mary Goo, registered nurse, testified in opposition to wage cuts and support for increased taxes and stable sources of revenue for the State.
- Marcia O’Malley, private citizen and a parent of a disabled child, testified in support of an increase in revenues, more taxes, and a State income tax.
- Jan Gilbert, private citizen, testified in support of increasing business profit taxes. She suggested a business profit tax that would protect small businesses, tax businesses which have annual profits over \$50,000, and implement a tiered-modified business tax.
- Julianna Ormsby, Nevada Women’s Lobby and the League of Women Voters of Nevada, testified regarding inadequate tax structures and a need for more short-term relief and long-term stability.
- Stephen Metzker, member, People First of Nevada, testified in support of raising taxes.
- Chuck Fulkerson, private citizen, spoke on veterans’ issues and the specific needs of veterans for assistance upon return from military service. He commented that increased specialty care, rehabilitation, and other veterans’ programs are underfunded.
- Bob Fulkerson, private citizen, testified in support of increasing taxes. He noted his support for raising more revenue and eliminating some of the deductions on the net proceeds on mining tax.

- Jon Sasser, private citizen, testified that the federal stimulus money is good for Nevada, noting it would add an additional seven weeks of benefits to the unemployed, which would go back into the economy. He urged the Legislature to use the stimulus funds appropriately.
- Lisa Stiller, private citizen, stated she is willing to pay higher taxes. She commented regarding too many gaps in services, the need for programs to provide community health clinics, and establishing a commission on health care. She also supported raising casino taxes.
- Richard Siegel, President, American Civil Liberties Union of Nevada, testified that Nevada is rich with natural resources and opined that natural resources taxes are a source of revenue. He stated he is concerned with low graduation rates.
- Holli Davidson, teacher, voiced support of a State income tax and commented she is against pay cuts, step-rate freezes, and health insurance cost increases.
- Tracy L. Palmer, private citizen, testified against income cuts and stated she supports a level playing field with equal budget cuts to agencies.
- Juanita Cox, Citizens In Action, testified in support of giving more to churches and charities, recruiting volunteers using a website similar to Craig's List, and releasing nonviolent prisoners to home release.
- Dr. Philip M. Ringle, Truckee Meadows Community College, addressed the importance of higher education for the community and spoke against the proposed cuts to higher education.
- Pam Becker, Children's Cabinet, testified in support of using the Department of Motor Vehicles' procedures and technology for individuals applying for Medicaid.
- Brent Busboom, teacher, testified in support of class-size reduction and against salary cuts to teachers.
- William Puchert, private citizen, voiced support for police and firefighters and asked for consideration of the people in need.
- Erik Holland, private citizen, testified against closing libraries. He opined that the Governor's proposed cuts are extreme. Mr. Holland stated he supports efforts to create a broad-based tax structure that would be progressive.
- Charles Benjamin, private citizen and director of a nonprofit resource advocates office, testified in support of sending renewable energy to California as a source of revenue.

Co-Moderator Leslie thanked the Washoe County and legislative staff for their assistance. She also thanked the testifiers and commented on the value of the testimony received.

The following is a list of persons who submitted written testimony either at the meeting or after the meeting regarding their concerns with the State budget. All written testimony provided is included in the public record as an exhibit.

Las Vegas Meeting:

- Georgeann Ray, private citizen ([Exhibit E](#))
- Clarissa Silva, private citizen ([Exhibit F](#))
- Kathleen Harney, Education Chair, After School All Stars ([Exhibit G](#))
- Rebecca Raftery, private citizen ([Exhibit H](#))
- Nick Fiore, Pediatric Surgery Associates ([Exhibit I](#))
- Peter Ahammer, student, CSN ([Exhibit J](#))
- Members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCM), Local 4041 ([Exhibit K](#))
- Students at Valley High School ([Exhibit L](#))
- Judith Lattersen, private citizen ([Exhibit M](#))
- Karen Ewing, private citizen ([Exhibit N](#))
- Suzanne Ravendo, private citizen ([Exhibit O](#))
- Sheri Olsen, private citizen ([Exhibit P](#))
- Judy Himel, foster parent ([Exhibit Q](#))
- Erich Drakeley, private citizen ([Exhibit R](#))
- Bryan Salem, teacher ([Exhibit S](#))
- Diana Brola, AFSCME, Local 4041 ([Exhibit T](#))
- Kathleen Kirby, R.N. ([Exhibit U](#))
- Marci Hladik, R.N. ([Exhibit V](#))
- Sara Garay, private citizen ([Exhibit W](#))
- Ngozi Ajiri, L.P.N. ([Exhibit X](#))
- Alvin E. Diamond, private citizen ([Exhibit Y](#))
- Kimberly Hill, private citizen ([Exhibit Z](#))
- Cheryl Williams, private citizen ([Exhibit A-1](#))
- Dennis Harrigan, private citizen ([Exhibit B-1](#))
- Dorothy Horne, private citizen ([Exhibit C-1](#))

- Yvonne Smeltzer, private citizen ([Exhibit D-1](#))
- “A Helping Hand Home Health Care” ([Exhibit E-1](#))
- “Dignified Care Incorporated” ([Exhibit F-1](#))
- Michael D. Thomas, M.D. ([Exhibit G-1](#))
- R. U. Kidding, private citizen ([Exhibit H-1](#))
- Louie Overstreet, private citizen ([Exhibit I-1](#))

Reno Meeting:

- Danny Taylor, professor, University of Nevada, Reno ([Exhibit EE](#))
- Don Loston, private citizen ([Exhibit FF](#))
- Sharon Berry, private citizen ([Exhibit GG](#))
- Tim Healion, Executive Director, Tour de Nez Outreach ([Exhibit HH](#))
- Dawn Sarantakis, teacher, Washoe High School Adult Education Program ([Exhibit II](#))
- Kathryn Murders, private citizen ([Exhibit JJ](#))
- William Puchert, private citizen ([Exhibit KK](#))
- Name withheld ([Exhibit LL](#))
- The Children’s Cabinet ([Exhibit MM](#))
- Pam Becker, private citizen ([Exhibit NN](#))
- Betty Rock, R.N. ([Exhibit OO](#))
- Ernest Colton, private citizen ([Exhibit PP](#))
- Leonard Bonilla, private citizen ([Exhibit QQ](#))
- Joseph Peto, private citizen ([Exhibit RR](#))
- Theodore Manning, private citizen ([Exhibit SS](#))
- Deidre Hammon, Center for Self Determination ([Exhibit TT](#))
- “Moms from Hell” ([Exhibit UU](#))
- Joye Sword, teacher ([Exhibit VV](#))
- Gloria Barrere, private citizen ([Exhibit WW](#))
- Marilyn Naylor, teacher ([Exhibit XX](#))
- Toni Gardia, Vietnam veteran ([Exhibit YY](#))
- Georgia Schroth, private citizen ([Exhibit ZZ](#))
- Dennis Ghiglieri, private citizen ([Exhibit AA-1](#))

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Town Hall Meetings, the meetings were adjourned at 12:56 p.m. in Las Vegas and at 12:25 p.m. in Reno.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Trotter
Senior Research Secretary

Donald O. Williams
Research Director

APPROVED BY:

Senator Steven A. Horsford, Majority
Floor Leader and Co-Chair of the
Senate Committee on Finance

Date: _____

Senator Bernice Mathews, Co-Chair of the
Senate Committee on Finance

Date: _____

Assemblyman Morse Arberry Jr., Chair,
Assembly Committee on Ways and
Means

Date: _____

Assemblywoman Sheila Leslie, Majority
Whip and Vice-Chair of the Assembly
Committee on Ways and Means

Date: _____

LIST OF EXHIBITS

[Exhibit A](#) is the Notice of Concurrent Meetings “Town Hall Meeting on State Budget.”

Las Vegas Meeting:

[Exhibit B](#) is the written comments received from Turessa Russell, private citizen.

[Exhibit C](#) is the written comments submitted by Sam King, President of the League of Women Voters of Nevada.

[Exhibit D](#) is a pamphlet titled “Our Goals for the 2009 Nevada Legislature,” provided by Sam King on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Nevada.

[Exhibit E](#) is the written comments provided by Georgeann Ray, private citizen.

[Exhibit F](#) is the written testimony of Clarissa Silva, private citizen.

[Exhibit G](#) is the written testimony of Kathleen Harney, Education Chair, After School All Stars.

[Exhibit H](#) is the written testimony of Rebecca Raftery, private citizen.

[Exhibit I](#) are copies of testimony received via electronic mail submitted by Nick Fiore, Pediatric Surgery Associates.

[Exhibit J](#) is the written testimony of Peter Ahammer, student, College of Southern Nevada.

[Exhibit K](#) is written testimony submitted by members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Local 4041.

[Exhibit L](#) is written testimony submitted by the Clark County Education Association from students and teachers at Valley High School and community members.

[Exhibit M](#) is the written testimony of Judith Lattersen, private citizen.

[Exhibit N](#) is the written testimony of Karen Ewing, private citizen.

[Exhibit O](#) is the written testimony of Suzanne Ravendo, private citizen.

[Exhibit P](#) is the written testimony of Sheri Olsen, private citizen.

[Exhibit Q](#) is the written testimony of Judy Himel, private citizen.

[Exhibit R](#) is the written testimony of Erich Drakeley, private citizen.

[Exhibit S](#) is the written testimony of Bryan Salem, teacher, Clark County School District.

[Exhibit T](#) is the written testimony of Diana Brola, AFSCME, Local 4041.

[Exhibit U](#) is the written testimony of Kathleen Kirby, R.N.

[Exhibit V](#) is the written testimony of Marci Hladik, R.N.

[Exhibit W](#) is the written testimony of Sara Garay, private citizen.

[Exhibit X](#) is the written testimony of Ngozi Ajiri, L.P.N.

[Exhibit Y](#) is the written testimony of Alvin E. Diamond, private citizen.

[Exhibit Z](#) is the written testimony of Kimberly Hill, private citizen.

[Exhibit A-1](#) is the written testimony of Cheryl Williams, private citizen.

[Exhibit B-1](#) is the written testimony of Dennis Harrigan, private citizen.

[Exhibit C-1](#) is the written testimony of Dorothy Horne, private citizen.

[Exhibit D-1](#) is the written testimony of Yvonne Smeltzer, private citizen.

[Exhibit E-1](#) is the written testimony of “A Helping Hand Home Health Care.”

[Exhibit F-1](#) is the written testimony of “Dignified Care Incorporated.”

[Exhibit G-1](#) is the written testimony of Michael D. Thomas, M.D.

[Exhibit H-1](#) is the written testimony of R. U. Kidding, private citizen.

[Exhibit I-1](#) is the written testimony of Louie Overstreet, private citizen.

Reno Meeting:

[Exhibit AA](#) is a packet of information provided by Jerry Purdy, retired Nevada Federal Highway Administration, which includes:

- The written testimony of Jerry Purdy;
- A document from the website of the Nevada Economic Development Advisory Board titled “Why Nevada, The Advantages of Operating a Public Company in Nevada.”
<http://nevada-edab.com/whynevada.html>;
- An article from the *Reno Gazette-Journal*, titled “Nevada Imports Increase,” dated February 14, 2009;

- A document titled “Nevada Fact Sheet January 2009” from the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada; and
- A document titled “Nevada Soaks the Poor.”

[Exhibit BB](#) is a document titled “Employer News, Winter 2008-2009, Economic Impact of Nevada PERS,” submitted by Leonard Bonilla.

[Exhibit CC](#) is a document from the Nevada Advocates for Planned Parenthood Affiliates titled “Investing in Family Planning: A Win-Win for Nevada (BDR 1266)” provided by Elisa Maser.

[Exhibit DD](#) is additional remarks submitted by Richard Daly.

[Exhibit EE](#) is written testimony provided by Danny Taylor, professor, University of Nevada, Reno.

[Exhibit FF](#) is written testimony provided by Don Loston, private citizen.

[Exhibit GG](#) is written testimony provided by Sharon Berry, private citizen.

[Exhibit HH](#) is written testimony provided by Tim Healion, Executive Director, Tour de Nez Outreach.

[Exhibit II](#) is written testimony provided by Dawn Sarantakis, teacher, Washoe High School Adult Education Program.

[Exhibit JJ](#) is written testimony provided by Kathryn Murders, private citizen.

[Exhibit KK](#) is written testimony by provided William Puchert, private citizen.

[Exhibit LL](#) is written testimony submitted by (name withheld).

[Exhibit MM](#) is written testimony provided by The Children’s Cabinet.

[Exhibit NN](#) is written testimony provided by Pam Becker, private citizen.

[Exhibit OO](#) is written testimony provided by Betty Rock, R.N.

[Exhibit PP](#) is written testimony provided by Ernest Colton, private citizen.

[Exhibit QQ](#) is a letter dated March 16, 2009, from Leonard Bonilla, private citizen.

[Exhibit RR](#) is a statement provided by Joseph Peto, private citizen.

[Exhibit SS](#) is a letter dated March 18, 2009, from Theodore Manning, private citizen.

[Exhibit TT](#) is written testimony provided by Deidre Hammon, Center for Self Determination.

[Exhibit UU](#) is written testimony provided by “Moms from Hell.”

[Exhibit VV](#) is written testimony provided by Joye Sword, teacher.

[Exhibit WW](#) is written testimony provided by Gloria Barrere, private citizen.

[Exhibit XX](#) is written testimony provided by Marilyn Naylor, teacher.

[Exhibit YY](#) is written testimony provided by Toni Gardia, Vietnam veteran.

[Exhibit ZZ](#) is written testimony provided by Georgia Schroth, private citizen.

[Exhibit AA-1](#) is written testimony provided by Dennis Ghiglieri, private citizen.

This set of “Summary Minutes of Town Hall Meetings” is supplied as an informational service. Exhibits in electronic format may not be complete. Copies of the complete exhibits, other materials distributed at the meeting, and the audio record are on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau, Carson City, Nevada. You may contact the Library online at www.leg.state.nv.us/lcb/research/library/feedbackmail.cfm or telephone: 775/684-6827.