

NEVADA YOUTH LEGISLATURE (NYL)
MEETINGS AND TRAININGS
2019–2021 Term



ABOUT MANDATORY MEETINGS AND TRAININGS

Meetings and trainings prepare Youth Legislators for: (1) connecting with constituents; (2) message accountability; (3) honing their listening, presentation, and negotiation skills; and (4) developing a bill to be considered by the Nevada Legislature during the upcoming session.

All meetings/trainings (with the exception of the full-day trainings in August) are scheduled from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, Room 4100, in Las Vegas, with videoconferencing at the Legislative Building, Room 3137, in Carson City and at rural locations, as needed.

OPEN MEETING LAW (OML):

The OML (as defined in [Chapter 241](#) of *Nevada Revised Statutes*) applies to *meetings* of the NYL, with exceptions for *training* activities and orientation programs.

- Official meetings must comply with OML. Therefore, the agenda, minutes, meeting materials, and audio or video recording of each meeting are available on the NYL’s [meetings](#) page.
- Trainings, including agendas, training materials, and video recordings, are *not* made available to the public.

MEETING AND TRAINING DATES

The NYL has twelve required meetings/trainings during the two-year term.

1. August 2019

Summer Training

Youth Legislators participate in a two-day training, which will introduce them to the legislative process, constituent outreach, and an overview of representative government. The itinerary includes focused presentations, mock committee meetings, and special guest discussions. This training will provide a foundation for Youth Legislators to confidently fulfill their duties during the course of their two-year terms.

2. [September 2019](#)

Meeting and Training — “Constituent Outreach”

The NYL elects its chair and vice chair for the first year of the 2019–2021 Term. Experienced Legislators and NYL alumni mentor-trainers share their involvement with constituent outreach and setting up advisory councils. The NYL discusses the timeline and expectations for the District Youth Advisory Councils (DYACs) and town hall meetings.

3. October 2019

Training — “Message Accountability Skills”

Senator Valerie Wiener (Ret.) offers her “Message Accountability Skills” training, which includes tools for maximizing messages and responses. Youth Legislators have the opportunity to learn how to develop techniques and strategies for handling diverse communication experiences. Legislators and NYL alumni mentor-trainers share their own experiences and perspectives.

4. November 2019

Training — “Effective Listening Skills”

Senator Wiener teaches Youth Legislators about “Effective Listening Skills.” Legislators and NYL alumni mentor-trainers share their experiences about the power and value of listening. Youth Legislators learn how to listen to their constituents and respond to their needs.

5. January 2020

Training — “Power Presentations”

Senator Wiener offers her “Power Presentations” training, which includes strategies for effective public speaking in planned and unplanned settings. Legislators and NYL alumni mentor-trainers share their experiences and insights on public speaking in various settings.

6. [February 2020](#)

Meeting and Training — “Conducting a Town Hall Meeting”

Experienced Legislators and NYL alumni mentor-trainers offer tips on how to plan and conduct effective town hall meetings. As a required outside activity, town hall meetings help Youth Legislators identify issues and needs that are important to the youth in their districts. This information helps Youth Legislators develop their bill draft requests (BDRs) in the second year of their term. The NYL selects its representative to consult with the Nevada Association of Student Councils regarding the selection of the student member of the State Board of Education.

7. [April 2020](#)

Meeting and Training — “Negotiation Skills”

Youth Legislators share their experiences of testifying before local government entities. Jeanette K. Belz, J.K. Belz and Associates, teaches Youth Legislators about “Negotiation Skills.” In addition, Youth Legislators discuss and approve content for the Nevada Youth Legislature: Annual Report, 2019–2020, to be submitted to the Governor. They also elect a chair and vice chair for the second year of their term, which starts June 1, 2020, per *Nevada Revised Statutes 219A*.

8. [August 2020](#)

Midterm Training

All Youth Legislators meet in Las Vegas for a midterm full-day training. The training involves skills development, including drafting a bill, to help Youth Legislators maximize their experiences leading up to—and including—the 2021 Legislative Session. Legislative Counsel Bureau staff, NYL alumni mentor-trainers, and others provide highly interactive learning opportunities throughout the day.

9. [September 2020](#)

Meeting — Presenting and Narrowing BDRs

Youth Legislators present their 21 BDRs and answer questions from their NYL colleagues. Through the issue-narrowing process, the NYL selects seven preferred BDRs to be discussed at the October NYL meeting.

10. [October 2020](#)

Meeting and Training — Narrowing BDRs and “Public Testimony”

The NYL hears from the sponsors of the seven semi-finalist BDRs. The NYL narrows the selection to the top two BDRs, which will be considered during hearings—with witnesses—at the November meeting. In addition, Legislators and NYL alumni mentor-trainers provide suggestions about testifying before a public body.

11. [November 2020](#)

Meeting — Selection of NYL’s 2021 BDR

The NYL holds hearings on top two selected BDRs. The NYL votes to determine which will become the NYL’s 2021 BDR for consideration by the Nevada Legislature.

12. [January 2021](#)

Meeting and Training — Finalize BDR Language and “Advocating for the NYL Bill”

The NYL finalizes the intent and details of its 2021 BDR and submits the BDR to the Legal Division. Experienced Legislators and NYL alumni mentor-trainers share their insights and perspectives on how to advocate for their bill in both houses during the 2021 Legislative Session.