



NEVADA LEGISLATURE NEVADA YOUTH LEGISLATURE

(Nevada Revised Statutes 385.515)

SUMMARY MINUTES AND ACTION REPORT

The first meeting of the 2015–2017 term of the Nevada Youth Legislature was held on Tuesday, September 15, 2015, at 2 p.m. in Room 4401 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 2135 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. A copy of this set of “Summary Minutes and Action Report,” including the “Meeting Notice and Agenda” ([Exhibit A](#)) and other substantive exhibits, is available on the Nevada Legislature’s website at <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/interim/78th2015/committee/>. In addition, copies of the audio or video record are available through the Legislative Counsel Bureau’s Publications Office (e-mail: publications@lcb.state.nv.us; telephone: 775/684-6835) and may be available online at <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Granicus/>.

YOUTH LEGISLATORS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:

Youth Legislator Chintan Bhatt, Chair
Youth Legislator Zachary Bell-Nance, Vice Chair
Youth Legislator Megan Adamson
Youth Legislator Joshua Alexander
Youth Legislator Francesca Bergeret-Simpson
Youth Legislator Brooklyn Darmody
Youth Legislator Caroline Graham
Youth Legislator Amari Greenlee
Youth Legislator Da’Vione Lomax
Youth Legislator Hadley Mitchell
Youth Legislator Stephanny Olortegui
Youth Legislator Nadia-Christiane Ozone
Youth Legislator Tricia Pomeroy
Youth Legislator Savanna Strott
Youth Legislator Olivia Yamamoto

YOUTH LEGISLATORS PRESENT IN CARSON CITY:

Youth Legislator Emily Espinosa
Youth Legislator Katie Hardung
Youth Legislator Scott Harrison
Youth Legislator Josie Merritt
Youth Legislator Pranit Nanda

YOUTH LEGISLATOR ABSENT:

Youth Legislator Spencer Lang (Excused)

**NEVADA YOUTH LEGISLATURE FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Senator Valerie Wiener (Ret.), Chair
Assemblyman Lynn D. Stewart, Vice Chair
Victoria (“Tori”) Carreón, Secretary

OTHER LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

Senator Patricia Farley
Senator Joyce Woodhouse
Assemblyman Nelson Araujo

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:

Beverly E. Mobley, Assistant Manager of Constituent Services, Research Division
Zach Bucher, Research Analyst, Research Division
Karly O’Krent, Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division
Lisa Gardner, Senior Research Secretary, Research Division

AGENDA ITEM I—CALL TO ORDER

Senator Valerie Wiener (Ret.), Chair, Nevada Youth Legislature (NYL) Foundation Board of Directors, called the meeting to order.

AGENDA ITEM II—PUBLIC COMMENT

Senator Wiener called for public comment; however, no testimony was presented.

AGENDA ITEM III—ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR OF THE NEVADA YOUTH LEGISLATURE FOR THE 2015–2016 TERM

Senator Wiener facilitated the election of the chair and vice chair of the NYL for the 2015–2016 term. She explained the process of nominating and electing members of the NYL to fill the open seats.

The following Youth Legislators were nominated to serve as chair of the NYL: Youth Legislator Bell-Nance and Youth Legislator Bhatt.

Each nominee for chair gave a one-minute campaign speech. The speeches were followed by a roll call vote. Youth Legislator Mitchell was not present for the vote.

Senator Wiener announced that Youth Legislator Bhatt was elected to serve as chair of the NYL.

The following Youth Legislators were nominated to serve as vice chair of the NYL: Youth Legislator Alexander, Youth Legislator Bell-Nance, Youth Legislator Bergeret-Simpson, Youth Legislator Darmody, and Youth Legislator Greenlee.

Each nominee for vice chair gave a one-minute campaign speech. The speeches were followed by a roll call vote. Youth Legislator Mitchell was not present for the vote.

Senator Wiener announced that Youth Legislator Bell-Nance was elected to serve as vice chair of the NYL.

AGENDA ITEM IV—COMMENTS AND OVERVIEW REGARDING THE NEVADA YOUTH LEGISLATURE FOR THE 2015–2017 TERM

Senator Wiener shared information regarding the 2015–2017 term of the NYL. She called attention to the following matters:

- The attendance policy outlined in the NYL training binder;

- A revision to the two-year summary calendar ([Exhibit B](#)), which clarifies the election of the chair and vice chair of the NYL is for a one-year term;
- The cancellation of the January 13, 2016, NYL meeting, which will be combined with the February 11, 2016, meeting; and
- Optional and mandatory events outlined on the two-year summary calendar ([Exhibit B](#)).

Senator Wiener noted the meeting was running ahead of schedule; therefore, she suggested some discussion of District Youth Advisory Councils (DYACs) begin under the current agenda item. She pointed out a table containing 2010 Census information on NYL district populations ([Exhibit C](#)) and a document containing a listing of schools by State Senate district ([Exhibit D](#)). Senator Wiener encouraged the Youth Legislators to review the documents and begin thinking about how they will organize their DYACs.

Senator Wiener answered numerous questions from members of the NYL regarding recruitment and other administrative matters pertaining to the DYACs. She said several questions needed to be researched by LCB staff and would therefore be answered subsequent to the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM V—PANEL DISCUSSION WITH MEMBERS OF THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE REGARDING THEIR USE OF ADVISORY GROUPS

Senator Wiener facilitated a panel discussion involving Senator Patricia Farley, Senator Joyce Woodhouse, Assemblyman Nelson Araujo, and Assemblyman Lynn D. Stewart regarding the role and organization of advisory groups in their legislative districts. The panelists offered suggestions relating to the administration of the DYACs, which included information on: (1) the purpose of advisory groups; (2) recruitment strategies; (3) screening applicants; (4) meeting logistics; (5) determining agenda topics; (6) leadership skills; and (7) building support for legislation.

A training itinerary with planned time allotments for training segments was provided to members of the NYL ([Exhibit E](#)).

AGENDA ITEM VI—DISCUSSION REGARDING SUCCESSFUL DISTRICT YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETINGS

A. Reflections From Former Nevada Youth Legislators

Rose Asaf, former Chair, NYL, currently a freshman at New York University, shared comments by teleconference regarding effective means of recruiting members to serve on a DYAC. She noted that, in her experience, it works best to reach out directly to the students rather than going through school administrators.

Daniel Waqar, former Vice Chair, NYL, currently a senior at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, suggested the Youth Legislators leverage their networks, assist one another, and find creative solutions to obstacles. He emphasized the importance of employing active listening skills at the DYAC meetings.

B. Overview and Simulation of a District Youth Advisory Council Meeting

Chair Bhatt and Vice Chair Bell-Nance facilitated the simulation of a DYAC meeting with the other members of the NYL.

Senator Wiener discussed the strategy of “issue narrowing” and the importance of selecting someone to keep a written record of the DYAC meetings.

C. Organization and Implementation of District Youth Advisory Council Meetings

Senator Wiener commented on the following administrative matters pertaining to the DYACs: (1) the membership application process; (2) the issuance of Certificates of Appointment; (3) the established deadlines; and (4) the process of selecting a bill draft request.

There was a suggestion to submit information regarding the DYACs to the Nevada Association of Student Councils for publication in the organization’s newsletter.

Several members of the NYL offered to assist other Youth Legislators with recruiting DYAC applicants through their contacts with various organizations.

Senator Wiener announced the second meeting of the NYL will be held on Thursday, October 8, 2015, at 2 p.m. She noted the training portion of that meeting will focus on media relations.

AGENDA ITEM VII—PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Bhatt called for public comment; however, no testimony was presented.

AGENDA ITEM VIII—ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Gardner
Senior Research Secretary

Zach Bucher
Research Analyst

APPROVED BY:

Chintan Bhatt, Chair

Date: _____

EXHIBITS

EXHIBIT	WITNESS/ENTITY	DESCRIPTION
Exhibit A	Zach Bucher, Research Analyst, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB)	Agenda
Exhibit B	Beverly E. Mobley, Assistant Manager of Constituent Services, Research Division, LCB	Two-year summary calendar for the NYL
Exhibit C	Beverly E. Mobley, Assistant Manager of Constituent Services, Research Division, LCB	Table of 2010 Census information
Exhibit D	Beverly E. Mobley, Assistant Manager of Constituent Services, Research Division, LCB	Listing of schools by State Senate district
Exhibit E	Beverly E. Mobley, Assistant Manager of Constituent Services, Research Division, LCB	Training itinerary

This set of “Summary Minutes and Action Report” is supplied as an informational service. Exhibits in electronic format may not be complete. Copies of the complete exhibits and other materials distributed at the meeting 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.