

News Redistricting

Nevada State Legislature Legislative Counsel Bureau



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Introduction

This issue of the *Redistricting News* is the final newsletter for the 2000 redistricting effort in Nevada. It provides information on the redistricting activities of the 2001 Legislature, and discusses Senate Bill 14 (Chapter 23, *Statutes of Nevada 2001 Special Session*), which is the comprehensive redistricting bill enacted during the 17th Special Session of the Legislature in June 2001.

More detailed information concerning Nevada's redistricting efforts including copies of district maps, statistical tables, prior newsletters, redistricting bills, redistricting fact sheets, links to useful Web sites, and other information can be found at the Nevada Legislature's Web site at <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/>.



Nevada Legislature Completes Redistricting Tasks

Following each decennial census, the Nevada Legislature is responsible for reapportioning and redistricting the districts of the Nevada State Senate and Assembly, Nevada's districts in the United States House of Representatives, the districts of the University and Community College System of Nevada (UCCSN) Board of Regents, and districts for the State Board of Education.

This task was particularly challenging during the 2001 Legislative Session because, as a whole, Nevada experienced astounding population growth during the 1990s. In fact, the State grew by nearly 800,000 residents during the past decade—an increase of 66.27 percent! The population of Clark County alone grew by almost 635,000 people and now

represents 68.85 percent of the total State population.

The Legislature also had to consider changes affecting certain communities of interest. For example, the population of Nevada's Hispanic community more than tripled during the 1990s to nearly 20 percent of Nevada's total population. In addition, relatively faster population growth in the urban parts of the state, particularly in Clark County, resulted in fewer legislative districts in rural Nevada. In fact, the population of four rural counties actually decreased.

Certainly, these factors were among many considerations discussed as the remapping process moved forward during the 2001 Legislative Session. Ultimately, the Legislature was not able to conclude redistricting during the 120-day regular session. As a result, the Governor called a special session during the week following the close of the regular session for the purposes of finishing redistricting and addressing a handful of other specific topics.

Following lengthy debates during the regular and special sessions, the Legislature ultimately settled on a compromise that preserved the size of the body at 63 members—21 Senators and 42 Assembly members. A number of Senate and Assembly seats were subsequently shifted to Clark County to account for the tremendous population growth that occurred during the last decade in southern Nevada. In addition, legislators agreed on boundaries for three congressional districts, including a new district in Clark County that was gained as a result of Nevada's rapid population increase. Finally, the redistricting and reapportionment package was completed with a plan that increased, from 11 to 13, the size of the UCCSN Board of Regents and decreased, from 11 to 10, the size of Nevada's State Board of Education.



Senate Bill 14

Senate Bill 14 revises the districts for state legislators, Representatives in the U.S. House of Representatives, the Board of Regents of the UCCSN, and the State Board of Education.

Nevada State Senate

The measure retains a 21-member Senate and includes 19 Senate districts with an overall range of population deviation of 9.91 percent. The plan shifts one Senate seat from northern Nevada to Clark County to adjust for greater population growth in southern Nevada. The plan consists of 12 Senate districts wholly within Clark County and includes 6 districts entirely within the remaining 16 counties. The measure also establishes one Senate district that includes all of Churchill, Esmeralda, and Mineral Counties, as well as portions of Douglas, Lyon, and Nye Counties, and a portion of northern Clark County. All Senate districts in Washoe County and rural Nevada are single-member districts, while two of the districts in Clark County are two-member districts. This represents a reduction in the number of multi-member Senate districts from five to two. Each single-member district in the plan averages 95,155 residents, and each two-member district averages 190,310 people. Finally, the measure creates one open Senate district in Clark County that encompasses areas in the northeast and southeast part of the Las Vegas Valley and the eastern and southern portions of rural Clark County.

Nevada State Assembly

Senate Bill 14 retains a 42-member Assembly. Each district has just one member and the overall range of population deviation is 1.97 percent. The average population per district is 47,578. The plan shifts three Assembly seats from northern and rural Nevada to Clark County to adjust for greater population growth in southern Nevada. Senate Bill 14 also creates six open Assembly seats in Clark County where no incumbents currently reside. The plan establishes

29 Assembly districts wholly within Clark County, 6 districts entirely within Washoe County, and 7 districts that include the remaining counties in the state, some of which contain less populated parts of Washoe County.

Representatives in Congress

The measure also establishes three districts for Nevada's Representatives in Congress. The measure creates one new congressional district entirely contained within Clark County. Of the other two districts, one is wholly contained in Clark County, while the other encompasses the remaining 16 counties plus an additional 43,595 residents in Clark County. The plan contains an overall range of population deviation of zero percent (six people). The average population per congressional district is 666,086. The plan complies with the equal population criteria established by the United States Supreme Court. The measure also adds to Chapter 304 of the *Nevada Revised Statutes* the definitions of "block," "block group," and "census tract" for purposes of reapportioning and redistricting congressional districts.

University Board of Regents

Senate Bill 14 creates a redistricting plan for the UCCSN Board of Regents that increases the size of the Board from 11 to 13 members. The 13 districts included in the plan have an overall range of population deviation of 2.5 percent. The average population is 153,712 per district. The plan establishes nine districts entirely within Clark County; two districts wholly within Washoe County; one district encompassing Carson City, Douglas County, Lyon County, Storey County, and a portion of Washoe County; and one district that includes the remaining rural counties of the state. The measure creates two open seats in Clark County.

State Board of Education

At the request of the Board of Education, the bill reduces the size of the Board of Education from 11 to 10 members and



Chamber Floor,
Nevada State Senate



Chamber Floor,
Nevada State Assembly



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Legislative Building
Carson City, Nevada

Photo Credit: Jacque Sneddon

includes an overall range of population deviation of 5.73 percent. The average population is 199,826 per district. The plan creates seven districts wholly contained within the boundaries of Clark County; one district entirely within Washoe County; one district encompassing Carson City, Douglas County, and a portion of Washoe County; and one district that includes northern Washoe County and the other 13 counties.

reside beginning on November 6, 2002, through the expiration of their terms, and mid-term Regents and mid-term members of the Board of Education shall represent the new districts in which they reside beginning on January 7, 2003. The initial terms of office for the one open Senate seat and the two open Board of Regents seats are also set forth in the measure. Finally, for certain districts, the bill stipulates which state Senators and members of the Board of Regents

Additional Information

Senate Bill 14 specifies that new districts take effect on January 1, 2002, for the purpose of nominating and electing members of the Legislature, the State Board of Regents, and the State Board of Education. The bill also provides that the current members of these bodies shall serve the remainder of their terms. Mid-term Senators shall represent the new districts in which they

and State Board of Education may use the term “reelect” in campaign material at the election following the expiration of that incumbent’s term.

Effective Dates

The portions of the measure that revise the districts of the Nevada Legislature are effective on January 1, 2002, for the purposes of nominating and electing members of the Legislature, and on November 6, 2002, for all other purposes.

The provisions in the bill that provide new definitions of census terminology and redraw the districts for Representatives in Congress are effective on January 1, 2002, for the purpose of nominating and electing representatives in the Congress, and at 9 A.M. on January 3, 2003, for all other purposes. Furthermore, the portions of the measure that revise the districts for Board of Regents and the State Board of Education are effective on January 1, 2002, for the purposes of nominating and electing members of both boards, and on January 7, 2003, for all other purposes.



Chronology of Legislative Reapportionment and Redistricting Activities

Following is a brief chronology of the major events leading up to the enactment of Nevada’s redistricting plans:

March 13, 2001: Nevada Legislature receives 2001 redistricting data from the United States Bureau of the Census.

April 19, 2001: Public hearing hosted by the Assembly Committee on Elections, Procedures, and Ethics and the Senate Committee on Government Affairs regarding reapportionment and redistricting held in Fallon, Nevada.

April 20, 2001: Public hearing regarding reapportionment and redistricting held by the Senate Committee on Government Affairs in Las Vegas, Nevada.

April 21, 2001: Public hearing regarding reapportionment and redistricting held by the Assembly Committee on Elections, Procedures, and Ethics in Las Vegas, Nevada.

May 8, 2001: Bill Draft Request (BDR) 17-1542 (legislative and congressional districts) and BDR 34-1541 (Board of Education and Board of Regents) introduced by the Assembly Committee on Elections, Procedures, and Ethics.

Assembly Bill 665 (legislative and congressional redistricting) and A.B. 664 (Board of Education and Board of Regents) read first time and referred to the Assembly Committee on Elections, Procedures, and Ethics.

General discussion and public testimony on proposals to revise the districts of the Board of Education and the Board of Regents by the Assembly Committee on Elections, Procedures, and Ethics.

May 10, 2001: Hearing and public testimony on A.B. 665 by the Assembly Committee on Elections, Procedures, and Ethics.

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May 15, 2001: Presentation of an Assembly Republican redistricting plan (no bill number) before the Assembly Committee on Elections, Procedures, and Ethics.

Approval of A.B. 665 by the Assembly Committee on Elections, Procedures, and Ethics.

May 18, 2001: Assembly Bill 665 approved by the Nevada Assembly. (25 Yea, 17 Nay)

May 21, 2001: Introduction of BDR 17-1558 (Senate Bill 575) regarding the reapportionment and redistricting of the Nevada Legislature and Representatives in Congress.

May 22, 2001: Senate Bill 575 referred to Senate Committee on Government Affairs.

Assembly Bill 665 referred to Senate Committee on Government Affairs.

May 23, 2001: Hearing and public testimony on S.B. 575 held by the Senate Committee on Government Affairs.

May 24, 2001: Hearing and public testimony on A.B. 664 held by the Assembly Committee on Elections, Procedures, and Ethics.

May 25, 2001: Assembly Bill 664 amended and passed by the Assembly Committee on Elections, Procedures, and Ethics.

May 28, 2001: Assembly Bill 664 approved by the Nevada Assembly. (41 Yea, 0 Nay, 1 Excused)

Assembly Bill 664 referred to Senate Committee on Government Affairs.

May 30, 2001: Hearing and public testimony on A.B. 664 and A.B. 665 in the Senate Committee on Government Affairs.

Discussion in the Senate Committee on Government Affairs regarding S.B. 575 and preliminary amendment adopted to change the descriptions of certain legislative districts.

June 2, 2001: Hearing and additional public testimony on A.B. 664 in the Senate Committee on Government Affairs.

Assembly Bill 664 amended and passed in Senate Committee on Government Affairs. Amendment increases, from 11 to 13, the number of members on the Board of Regents.

June 3, 2001: Discussion and testimony on S.B. 575 in the Senate Committee on Government Affairs.

Presentation to the Senate Committee on Government Affairs by Lynn C. Hettrick, Assembly Minority Leader, regarding the Assembly Republican reapportionment/redistricting plan (46-member) for the Nevada State Assembly.

Motion made in the Senate Committee on Government Affairs to amend into S.B. 575 the reapportionment/redistricting plan as presented by Assemblyman Hettrick. Motion failed.

Assembly Bill 664 approved as amended by the Nevada Senate. (16 Yea, 5 Nay)

Amendment to A.B. 664 (Senate Amendment No. 1221) not concurred in by the Nevada Assembly.

Senate Bill 575 amended by the Senate Committee on Government Affairs to include the 46-member plan for the Nevada State Assembly as presented by Assemblyman Hettrick. Motion passed. (4 Yea, 3 Nay)

June 4, 2001: Senate Amendment No. 1221 to A.B. 664 not receded from by the Senate. Conference Committee appointed by the Senate.

Conference Committee for A.B. 664 appointed by the Assembly.

Senate Bill 575 declared an emergency measure and approved by the Senate. (12 Yea, 9 Nay)

Bill Draft Request 17-1584 (A.B. 674) introduced during meeting of the Assembly Committee on Elections, Procedures, and Ethics.

Assembly Bill 674 declared an emergency measure, read for a third time, and approved by the Assembly. (24 Yea, 18 Nay)

June 5, 2001: Nevada Legislature adjourns *sine die*.

June 14, 2001: The 17th Special Session of the Nevada Legislature convenes.

Bill Draft Request 17-38 (from the Joint Rules Committee) introduced as S.B. 14 of the 17th Special Session. Senate Bill 14 is a comprehensive redistricting measure that revises the districts for state legislators, Representatives in Congress, the Board of Education and the Board of Regents.

Senate Bill 14 declared an emergency measure in the Senate and approved. (12 Yea, 9 Nay)

Senate Bill 14 declared an emergency measure in the Assembly and approved. (24 Yea, 17 Nay, 1 Excused)

June 15, 2001: Senate Bill 14 enrolled and delivered to the Governor. Senate Bill 14 approved by the Governor.

Legislative Counsel Bureau

Lorne J. Malkiewich, Director

Research Division

Robert E. Erickson, Research Director

Vance A. Hughey, Principal Research Analyst

Telephone: (775) 684-6825

Fax: (775) 684-6400

E-mail: research@lcb.state.nv.us



Mailing address:
401 South Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701-4747

Physical address:
First Floor, Sedway Office Building
333 East Fifth Street
Carson City, NV 89701

