NEVADA LEGISLATURE
NEVADA YOUTH LEGISLATURE

(*Nevada Revised Statutes* [NRS] 219A.130)

MINUTES

September 11, 2025

The first meeting of the Nevada Youth Legislature (NYL) for the 2025–2026 Interim was held on Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 2 p.m. in Room 165 of the Nevada Legislature Office Building, 7230 Amigo Street, Las Vegas, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 3137, Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada.

The agenda, minutes, meeting materials, and audio or video recording of the meeting are available on the Nevada Youth Legislature's meeting page. The audio or video recording may also be found at https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Video/. Copies of the audio or video record can be obtained through the Publications Office of the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) (publications@lcb.state.nv.us or 775/684-6835).

YOUTH LEGISLATORS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:

Youth Legislator Evalyn Aguirre
Youth Legislator Nylah Barzoni
Youth Legislator Zizi Boulware
Youth Legislator Melany Carmenaty-Martinez
Youth Legislator Tania Fakharian
Youth Legislator Dmitri Grimmett
Youth Legislator Chloe Kim
Youth Legislator Zoe Kristosik
Youth Legislator Stella Lee
Youth Legislator Landers Lin
Youth Legislator Jeizmy Meza Ocampo
Youth Legislator Cason Noll
Youth Legislator Yuma Ogawa
Youth Legislator Kian Parikh
Youth Legislator Gabriel Rios
Youth Legislator Krish Sharma

YOUTH LEGISLATORS PRESENT IN CARSON CITY:

Youth Legislator Agnes Hart
Youth Legislator McKenna Kiely
Youth Legislator Melody Song
Youth Legislator Colin Sullivan
Youth Legislator Jillian Wagoner

BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BENEFIT TO ADMINISTER THE NEVADA YOUTH LEGISLATURE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Valerie Wiener (Ret.)
Zhan Okuda-Lim, Ph.D.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:

Tina Ashdown, Constituent Services Analyst/Program Facilitator, Constituent Services Unit (CSU), Research Division
Barbara S. Dimmitt, Constituent Services Principal Analyst, CSU, Research Division
Christina Harper, Manager of Research Policy Assistants, Research Division
Timothy Gibbs, Research Policy Assistant, Research Division
David Nauss, Senior Deputy Legal Counsel, Legal Division

Items taken out of sequence during the meeting have been placed in agenda order.
[Indicate a summary of comments.]
{Text written in braces indicates added language for clarity.}

AGENDA ITEM I—CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND OPENING REMARKS

Senator Wiener (Ret.):

Good afternoon. We will call this meeting of the NYL to order.

Secretary, will you please call the roll? [Roll call is reflected in Youth Legislators Present.]

We have a quorum present for this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM II—PUBLIC COMMENT

Senator Wiener (Ret.):

At this time, under Agenda Item II, we will open the meeting to public comment.

Do we have anyone in the North wanting to come forward? Seeing none.

Do we have anyone in the South? [There were none.]

Do we have anyone on the telephone or other virtual means?

Audio Visual and Hearings Unit (AVH):

The public lines are open and working, but there are no visitors to provide public comment at this time.

Senator Wiener (Ret.):

Thank you.

AGENDA ITEM III—SWEARING IN OF YOUTH LEGISLATORS

Senator Wiener (Ret.):

We will now move on to Agenda Item III. I have the privilege of swearing in our Youth Legislator who was not able to be with us during the inaugural training—Youth Legislator Fakharian. Please stand, come up here, and repeat after me:

> I—state your name—do solemnly swear that I will support, protect, and defend the *Constitution* and Government of the United States, and the *Constitution* and Government of the State of Nevada, against all enemies, whether domestic or foreign, and that I will bear true faith, allegiance, and loyalty to the same, any ordinance, resolution, or law of any state notwithstanding, and that I will well and faithfully perform all the duties of the office of Nevada Youth Legislator, on which I am about to enter; so help me God.

[Youth Legislator Fakharian repeated the swearing-in oath.]

AGENDA ITEM IV—THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITES OF NEVADA YOUTH LEGISLATURE LEADERSHIP

Senator Wiener (Ret.):

We will now move on to (Agenda Item IV), the roles and responsibilities of NYL leadership. You should have the material in your packet, but let me review it so we can humanize it, rather than read it in that sterile context.

This is an extensive commitment, and we have Youth Legislators who put their names forward to run for each of these positions for the first year of your two-year term. Whoever is elected as Chair and Vice Chair for the first year cannot run in the second year, nor can a person who runs for Chair today—and does not receive enough votes—run for Vice Chair. We have made that clear prior to today.

During your experience in the leadership role, shortly after being elected, I will lead a training to help give you insights and suggestions about how to maximize your experience in leadership in the NYL. You will learn: (1) the mechanics, intricacies, and protocols of running, overseeing, and chairing a hearing; and (2) how to work with your colleagues, as well as with those who are appearing before your body. We will make sure you are familiar with the procedures and protocols necessary to maintain the highest standards and practices of the NYL and honor the legislative experience in this body.

Based on experiences, it is important you are inclusionary, and whoever is chairing a meeting or overseeing parts of a training includes both the North and the South in the experience. We had times where Youth Legislators, who were eager to participate and share their thoughts and answers, tended to dominate, and it rippled into a {situation where} three or four would dominate. It is also important the Chair encourage, inspire, and invite participation by the entire body. Sometimes that is, "Are there any other questions from Youth Legislators who have not yet asked or participated? Are there any Youth Legislators in the North"—if it is a Southern Chair—"who may have something they want to offer, ask, or seek clarity on?" It is important to be inclusionary of the entire body—both the North and South. As the leader, you will be provided with scripts to help move through these, but you need to review them in advance. If you have any questions, we can help you to understand the clarity of the process.

This is for the officers, but I want to stress it again for other members of the NYL when I shared the responsibilities of a Youth Legislator—it is important you understand your relationship with this program and the responsibilities that go with it. As an officer of the body, it is important you represent the entire body with the integrity of leadership, not just your personal opinion. If you are representing yourself as a Youth Legislator, and not as an officer, you have to remember you are not representing the entire body in the context of responses you might make.

One of the biggest responsibilities of the Chair is to prepare the annual report. This will be the annual report for the first year 2025–2026. We will provide the Chair, in advance, with a copy of a parallel year—two years prior—so you can see how it was structured and what information goes in it. You can mirror that, but it needs to be written to the year you are serving as Chair. This is in statute; this is not arbitrary; and this is to be presented to the Governor. We have a committee that meets with the Governor from the NYL. They have an appointment and a conversation with the Governor during the presentation.

In recent years, we made it specific and focused. The Vice Chair will be assigned to chair at least one specific meeting. We want the Vice Chair to have the experience as well, not just step in when the Chair is not able to do so. We are already working on this. We know which meeting it will be. Will it be in the new calendar year?

Ms. Ashdown:

It will be in October.

Senator Wiener (Ret.):

It is next month. We do it early in the first year so you have the experience early enough so if you need to take over, you have the experience chairing the meeting and/or training.

AGENDA ITEM V—ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR OF THE NEVADA YOUTH LEGISLATURE FOR THE FIRST YEAR OF THE 2025–2027 TERM

Senator Wiener (Ret.):

As we move forward into the election of the Chair and Vice Chair, for those running for Chair, if you do not succeed in being elected to this position by your colleagues, you cannot then run for Vice Chair. You have selected that office in this cycle. Like any other candidate, if you are on the ballot for one office, you cannot switch because you did not make it in that election cycle. You made a conscious decision which office you wanted to run for.

As we run the election process, the first round of votes we will take by a roll call vote. If one of the four candidates receives a majority vote in the first round, then that is the determination made by the NYL body and that person is the Chair. If not, the top two vote-getters will have a one-minute opportunity to present why they feel they are the best candidate prior to the vote. After the vote, if there is not a majority vote for one candidate, then the top two have another opportunity to speak for one minute, and we will do another round of voting and see where that takes us. Once we select the Chair, we will then go forward and do a similar procedure for the Vice Chair.

Are there any questions? [There were none.]

In the order as listed in your materials, these are in alphabetical order (Agenda Item V).

Ms. Ashdown:

[Inaudible.]

Senator Weiner (Ret.):

Typically we would not do that in a real election, but I am mirroring if they were at the poll. According to our attorneys, does anyone else want to submit their name to run for Chair at this time? Does anyone else want to submit their name to run for Vice Chair at this time? I do not see any hands.

We will have one minute presentations or mini speeches by each candidate, in alphabetical order, as to why you feel you would be the most effective person to serve as the Chair of the NYL for 2025–2026, or the first year of your term.

Youth Legislator Fakharian:

My name is Tania Fakharian, and I am running for Chair. If elected, I promise to give every Youth Legislator a voice—no matter background, region, or experience. Leadership is not about individuality—it is about mutual respect, active listening, and uplifting other team members. As someone with personal experience on how awkward public speaking can be, I will do my best to foster an environment where everyone feels comfortable speaking and voicing their opinion. Teamwork and communication are the most important parts of helping other people because everyone deserves to be heard and understood. Distance should not pose as a problem for holding meetings. I will do my best to lead with unity and communication. I believe the NYL should give everyone a voice because we represent thousands of young people in Nevada every day, and I will do my best as Chair to ensure to pass legislation that can positively impact Nevada's youth. I would be honored to have your vote.

Youth Legislator Grimmett:

My name is Youth Legislator Dmitri Grimmett. I am from Las Vegas. I think I will be the best person for this position, mainly because I have the experience for this job through speech and debate and congressional debate. We model the U.S. Congress and the way they debate. We have a Chair, and we act as representatives or Legislators who serve to pass bills, it is similar to what we do here. We use the same parliamentary procedure to what we have here. We have a Chair, right now, who is choosing people to speak.

I have experience with this job, and through that experience, I hope to make everybody's lives easier and make meetings run smoother. I have been in rooms where meetings or debates have not gone well—they run choppy, and they are not fun to be around and not fun to be in. I hope to, through my experience, make your lives easier and make meetings run smoother because that is my job as the Chair.

Youth Legislator Sharma:

I am running for Chair because I know how to turn voices into action. As Nevada's Co-Chair for the Armed with IQ (AIQ) Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to foster youth in Nevada, I have not just run meetings like this, I have listened to stories most people would otherwise never hear. In one meeting, a foster youth bravely shared her struggle to find housing after aging out of the foster care system—that moment could have ended right there as just another sad story, but I refused to let it. I turned her voice into an action, and launched an initiative to connect foster youth to real housing resources. This is the exact kind of leadership I bring to NYL. I listen to voices and turn them into results. I see NYL as a platform where 21 unique and powerful voices come together to create a real impact. The only way we can truly succeed is if every single voice is heard whether in the North or in the South. As Chair, I will work tirelessly to ensure inclusivity and encourage people to speak. I am not just promising leadership. I have already delivered, and now I am ready to do the same for the NYL. Thank you, and I would be honored to earn your vote.

Youth Legislator Song:

I am Melody Song, and I am honored to be before you running for Chair. Everyone here has one thing in common—we care about the Nevada youth. Coming from Reno, I have learned that small-city issues reflect big-city problems. Thus, as we enter our terms, I want to create an environment that fosters productivity and engagement. From my experiences leading the student body, I have learned the importance of fair and efficient teamwork. However, I believe true leaders are not defined by their past credentials, but rather how

they support their team. As Chair, I would work diligently to ensure that each voice is heard, each idea is considered, and each perspective is understood. I am proud to be here with you, and I look forward to serving the youth of Nevada together.

Senator Wiener (Ret.):

Thank you to the four candidates for Chair. Now, we will take a roll call vote.

Secretary, will you call the roll? We would like each Youth Legislator to state the name of your preference for Chair, and we will see how the first round goes.

Mr. Gibbs:

Youth Legislator Aguirre—Youth Legislator Song
Youth Legislator Barzoni—Youth Legislator Song
Youth Legislator Boulware—Youth Legislator Sharma
Youth Legislator Carmenaty-Martinez—Youth Legislator Sharma
Youth Legislator Fakharian—Youth Legislator Song
Youth Legislator Grimmett—Youth Legislator Grimmett
Youth Legislator Hart—Youth Legislator Song
Youth Legislator Kiely—Youth Legislator Song
Youth Legislator Kim—Youth Legislator Sharma
Youth Legislator Kristosik—Youth Legislator Song
Youth Legislator Lee—Youth Legislator Sharma
Youth Legislator Lin—Youth Legislator Sharma
Youth Legislator Meza Ocampo—Youth Legislator Song
Youth Legislator Noll—Youth Legislator Song
Youth Legislator Ogawa—Youth Legislator Sharma
Youth Legislator Parikh—Youth Legislator Sharma
Youth Legislator Rios—Youth Legislator Song
Youth Legislator Sharma—Youth Legislator Sharma
Youth Legislator Song—Youth Legislator Song
Youth Legislator Sullivan—Youth Legislator Song
Youth Legislator Wagoner—Youth Legislator Song

Youth Legislator Song has been elected Chair of the NYL for 2025–2026. Congratulations. Now, we will move on to the Vice Chair.

Mr. Nauss:

Senator Wiener (Ret.), can we get the vote tally for the record?

Senator Wiener (Ret.):

Yes. Ms. Ashdown kept, she is counting now.

Ms. Ashdown:

I have Youth Legislator Song with 12 votes, Youth Legislator Sharma with 8 votes, and Youth Legislator Grimmett with 1 vote. Is that correct?

[Mr. Gibbs confirmed Ms. Ashdown’s vote tally.]

Senator Wiener (Ret.):

We will move on to the election of the Vice Chair of the NYL for 2025–2026. The two candidates are Youth Legislator Hart and Youth Legislator Parikh. You will say your preference as we do the roll call vote as to which candidate. After you hear a one-minute statement from each candidate, we will take the roll call. We will start with Youth Legislator Hart.

Youth Legislator Hart:

My name is Agnes Hart, and I am running for Vice Chair. I believe that being a leader is not about leading, but about perspective. Throughout my life, I have lived on both sides of the coin—whether it be through attending schools in the inner city versus affluent areas, living in a nuclear household versus a single parent one, or belonging to religion and without. I have seen multiple perspectives. I also grew up with four siblings, and as such, I have learned how to mediate. Whether it be determining what to eat for Sunday dinner or deciding on a playlist for the family road trip, I am prepared to compromise. All of this has shaped how I lead—with understanding, reflection, and fairness. What this means is I am prepared to abandon my own inclinations and act how is best for those I lead. In conclusion, I uphold being a voice and a leader of people above all else. Let us make sure your voices are heard, and your needs determine our future together.

Youth Legislator Parikh:

Before I begin, I want to congratulate everyone for being here today. It is a tremendous opportunity that we, as the NYL, are able to have a seat at the table to represent the voices of our generation. However, regarding my qualifications to be your next Vice Chair, I can say one thing for certain—if elected, I can ensure every voice will be included and every voice will be heard. During a meeting, for example, rather than 6 or 7 people being involved in discussions, I can ensure all 21 Nevada Youth Legislators will be involved in the discussions and decision-making process by fostering an environment where people not only are encouraged to talk, but an environment where people want to talk. From my experience as the Co-Chair of the AIQ Foundation, a nonprofit serving foster youth in Clark County, I learned that communication is key when leading a team. When leading a team, I ensure transparency so no one is left behind and no one is left in the unknown. I plan to bring the same leadership qualities to the NYL as its Vice Chair. With that, I hope I have earned your vote to become your next Vice Chair. Thank you.

Senator Wiener (Ret.):

Thank you to our two candidates. Secretary, if you will take a roll call. When your name is called, please state your preference for Vice Chair.

Mr. Gibbs:

Youth Legislator Aguirre—Youth Legislator Hart
Youth Legislator Barzoni—Youth Legislator Parikh
Youth Legislator Boulware—Youth Legislator Parikh
Youth Legislator Carmenaty-Martinez—Youth Legislator Hart
Youth Legislator Fakharian—Youth Legislator Hart
Youth Legislator Grimmett—Youth Legislator Parikh
Youth Legislator Hart—Youth Legislator Hart
Youth Legislator Kiely—Youth Legislator Hart
Youth Legislator Kim—Youth Legislator Parikh

Youth Legislator Kristosik—Youth Legislator Hart
Youth Legislator Lee—Youth Legislator Parikh
Youth Legislator Lin—Youth Legislator Parikh
Youth Legislator Meza Ocampo—Youth Legislator Hart
Youth Legislator Noll—Youth Legislator Parikh
Youth Legislator Ogawa—Youth Legislator Parikh
Youth Legislator Parikh—Youth Legislator Parikh
Youth Legislator Rios—Youth Legislator Hart
Youth Legislator Sharma—Youth Legislator Parikh
Youth Legislator Song—Youth Legislator Hart
Youth Legislator Sullivan—Youth Legislator Hart
Youth Legislator Wagoner—Youth Legislator Hart

Ms. Ashdown:

I did not hear the first vote.

Youth Legislator Aguirre:

I said Youth Legislator Hart.

Ms. Ashdown:

I have Youth Legislator Hart with 11 votes and Youth Legislator Parikh with 10 votes. Is that correct?

[Mr. Gibbs confirmed Ms. Ashdown's vote tally.]

Senator Wiener (Ret.):

Congratulations to our new team—Chair Youth Legislator Song and Vice Chair Youth Legislator Hart. You will be contacted soon for leadership training, and I look forward to that experience with you to grow together as we move forward in this first year of our term.

We have a request from one of our Youth Legislators to do a second vote because of an inconsistency with the tally. At that request, run the vote again. Secretary, will you please call the roll? Youth Legislators, clearly state your preference for Vice Chair.

Mr. Gibbs:

Youth Legislator Aguirre—Youth Legislator Hart

Ms. Ashdown:

For the first vote, I asked her to repeat it because we are having trouble with feedback here, and I wanted to make sure it was clearly Youth Legislator Hart. She said it twice, and Youth Legislator Barzoni had not voted at that point.

Mr. Gibbs:

Youth Legislator Barzoni—Youth Legislator Hart
Youth Legislator Boulware—Youth Legislator Parikh
Youth Legislator Carmenaty-Martinez—Youth Legislator Hart

Youth Legislator Fakharian—Youth Legislator Hart
Youth Legislator Grimmett—Youth Legislator Parikh
Youth Legislator Hart—Youth Legislator Hart
Youth Legislator Kiely—Youth Legislator Hart
Youth Legislator Kim—Youth Legislator Parikh
Youth Legislator Kristosik—Youth Legislator Hart
Youth Legislator Lee—Youth Legislator Parikh
Youth Legislator Lin—Youth Legislator Parikh
Youth Legislator Meza Ocampo—Youth Legislator Hart
Youth Legislator Noll—Youth Legislator Parikh
Youth Legislator Ogawa—Youth Legislator Parikh
Youth Legislator Parikh—Youth Legislator Parikh
Youth Legislator Rios—Youth Legislator Hart
Youth Legislator Sharma—Youth Legislator Parikh
Youth Legislator Song—Youth Legislator Hart
Youth Legislator Sullivan—Youth Legislator Hart
Youth Legislator Wagoner—Youth Legislator Hart

Senator Wiener (Ret.):

Let us make sure Ms. Ashdown and the Secretary's reports are in sync with the count.

[Mr. Gibbs indicated there were 12 votes for Youth Legislator Hart and 9 votes for Youth Legislator Parikh. Ms. Ashdown confirmed the number of votes.]

Thank you for the clarity, confidence, persistence, and patience. For the record, welcome Youth Legislator Song as Chair and Youth Legislator Hart as Vice Chair of the 2025–2026 year of the NYL. Congratulations to each of you, and that concludes the election of Chair and Vice Chair.

AGENDA ITEM VI—PUBLIC COMMENT

Senator Wiener (Ret.):

We will now move on to Agenda Item VI, which is public comment.

Are there any comments from the North? Seeing none.

It does not look like anyone is jumping to the witness table in the South.

Is there anyone on telephone or through other virtual means?

AVH:

The public line is open and working, but we have no callers at this time.

Senator Wiener (Ret.):

Thank you.

AGENDA ITEM VII—ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Nevada Youth Legislature, the meeting was adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

_____

Timothy Gibbs
Research Policy Assistant

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Tina Ashdown
Constituent Services Analyst/Program Facilitator

APPROVED BY:

_____

Youth Legislator Melody Song, Chair

Date: _____

MEETING MATERIALS

AGENDA ITEM	PRESENTER/ENTITY	DESCRIPTION
Agenda Item IV	Senator Valerie Wiener (Ret.), Board of Directors, Corporation for Public Benefit for the Nevada Youth Legislature (NYL Board)	Handout
Agenda Item V	Senator Valerie Wiener (Ret.), Board of Directors, NYL Board	Handout

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