



NEVADA LEGISLATURE
NEVADA YOUTH LEGISLATURE
(Nevada Revised Statutes 385.515)

SUMMARY MINUTES AND ACTION REPORT

The second meeting of the 2015–2017 term of the Nevada Youth Legislature was held on Thursday, October 8, 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 Nadia-Christiane Ozone
Youth Legislator Tricia Pomeroy
Youth Legislator Olivia Yamamoto

YOUTH LEGISLATORS PRESENT IN CARSON CITY:

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

YOUTH LEGISLATORS ABSENT:

Youth Legislator Stephanny Olortegui
Youth Legislator Savanna Strott (Excused)

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

Senator Valerie Wiener (Ret.), Chair

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:

Beverly E. Mobley, Assistant Manager, Constituent Services Unit (CSU), Research Division
Zach Bucher, Research Analyst, CSU, Research Division
Karly O’Krent, Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division
Natalie J. Pieretti, Senior Research Secretary, Research Division

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

Chair Bhatt called the meeting of the Nevada Youth Legislature (NYL) to order.

AGENDA ITEM II—PUBLIC COMMENT

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

AGENDA ITEM III—APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2015, IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

MOTION: Youth Legislator Lang moved to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2015, meeting held in Las Vegas, Nevada. The motion was seconded by Youth Legislator Alexander and passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM IV—REVIEW OF RECENT NEVADA YOUTH LEGISLATOR ACTIVITIES

Chair Bhatt provided a brief update on the election of the chair and vice chair and the appointment of members to the District Youth Advisory Council (DYAC).

AGENDA ITEM V—REPORT REGARDING RESPONSIBILITIES RELATING TO DISTRICT YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCILS AND OTHER DISCUSSION RELATING TO RESPONSIBILITIES OF YOUTH LEGISLATORS

Senator Valerie Wiener (Ret.), Chair, NYL Foundation Board of Directors, began discussion by reiterating DYAC deadlines in the master calendar and offering suggestions on recruiting potential DYAC candidates. She confirmed each Youth Legislator must complete the following at least once during the school year: (1) hold a DYAC meeting; (2) hold a town hall meeting; and (3) provide testimony before a public body.

Senator Wiener addressed questions raised by members relevant to DYAC applications, membership, and meetings, including a question concerning the Open Meeting Law (OML). She confirmed the OML does not apply to DYAC meetings.

AGENDA ITEM VI—PRESENTATION REGARDING WORKING WITH THE MEDIA

Jonathan Oglesby and Tierra Patmavanu, former members, NYL, shared their media experiences with the members. Ms. Patmavanu elaborated on the importance of preparation, confidence, and courtesy when dealing with the media. Mr. Oglesby focused on the believability and preparation of talking points to be discussed in an interview.

After being presented with numerous topical questions by Senator Wiener, Mr. Oglesby and Ms. Patmavanu conveyed the following suggestions to the members:

- A Youth Legislator may politely decline an interview if he or she is not the most qualified or appropriate person to answer the question;
- Be truthful;
- Be prepared for an unexpected interview by giving an overview of the role and responsibilities of a Youth Legislator;
- Prepare two to five minute responses that accurately cover subjects he or she should know;
- Be prepared to answer tough questions;
- Speak with constituents on issues;
- Be credible; and
- Understand the true meaning of the media's role.

AGENDA ITEM VII—TRAINING REGARDING MASTERING MEDIA RELATIONS

Senator Wiener, previously identified, discussed accountability skills. A dialogue followed between the Youth Legislators and Senator Wiener on proactive and reactive ways of building media relations. Among those items discussed were media releases, building contacts in respective schools, working with other school representatives, and social media. Senator Wiener stressed that trust is the most important relationship builder. She also noted that verbal and nonverbal communication skills are critical in building a successful relationship with the media.

Senator Wiener turned her training to the subject of techniques for potential trick questions posed by the media. She reiterated that Youth Legislators should be accountable and thoughtful in messages shared.

Mock interviews with three Youth Legislators were conducted and evaluated.

AGENDA ITEM VIII—PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Senator Wiener, previously identified, reminded the members of the next training session scheduled for November 9, 2015 ([Exhibit B](#)).

AGENDA ITEM IX—ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie J. Pieretti
Senior Research Secretary

Zach Bucher
Research Analyst

APPROVED BY:

Chintan Bhatt, Chair

Date: _____

EXHIBITS

EXHIBIT	WITNESS/ENTITY	DESCRIPTION
Exhibit A	Zach Bucher, Research Analyst, Constituent Services Unit (CSU), Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB)	Agenda
Exhibit B	Zach Bucher, Research Analyst, CSU, Research Division, LCB	Nevada Youth Legislature: 2015-2017 Summary Calendar

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.