

# Senate Bill 84 — Increases the maximum number of voters in an election precinct.

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REMARKS BY SENATOR NICOLE J. CANNIZZARO, SENATE DISTRICT 6

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS AND ELECTIONS

TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2021

## Introduction

Thank you, Chair Ohrenschall, and Committee members. I am Nicole Cannizzaro, representing Senate District 6 in northwest Las Vegas, and I am pleased to come before you this afternoon to introduce Senate Bill 84, which proposes to increase the maximum size of election precincts.

## Background Information

During the 2019-2020 Legislative Interim, I was fortunate enough to sit on the Legislature's Committee to Conduct an Interim Study of the Requirements for Reapportionment and Redistricting in the State of Nevada. Joining me on that Committee was our colleague on this Committee, Senator Heidi Seevers Gansert. This study is held every 10 years in advance of the redistricting session to help us prepare for the redistricting exercise—essentially “setting the stage” for our redistricting efforts in 2021. As you are aware, due to delays in the delivery of necessary data from the United States Census Bureau, we will be unable to conduct reapportionment and redistricting during the regular legislative session.

EXHIBIT B Senate Committee on Legislative  
Operations & Elections  
Date: 3/23/21 Total pages 3  
Exhibit begins with 1 thru 3

As part of its discussions, the Interim Study heard from our local election administrators who shared considerations and input regarding political boundaries and precincts and the potential impacts of redistricting on election administration.

### **Increase in the Size of Precincts**

Census geography—specifically census blocks—are the basis for any redistricting plan; and Nevada’s census blocks share the same boundaries as our election precincts. Testimony from the Clark County and Washoe County registrars of voters indicated that, in some cases, certain areas of their counties could accommodate precincts with more than 3,000 active registered voters – the current statutory maximum. Moreover, under the “vote center” model used by Nevada’s counties for the past few election cycles, assigning voters to a single polling location is no longer necessary, thereby allowing for larger precincts. The registrars further noted that being able to assign more voters into one precinct would be helpful in avoiding the splitting into multiple precincts of certain high-density population areas, such as larger apartment complexes or certain neighborhoods. Finally, it was noted that since the proposed increase sets forth a maximum number of active voters per precinct, jurisdictions such as rural counties could continue to create smaller precincts as needed, or leave existing precincts unchanged.

Senate Bill 84 is very simple. As you can see, it amends *Nevada Revised Statutes* 293.207 to increase, from 3,000 to 5,000 registered voters, the maximum size of a precinct.

## **Closing Remarks**

Mr. Chair and members of the Committee, I urge your support of SB 84. Joining me today to further discuss SB 84 are Joe Gloria, Clark County Registrar of Voters, and Deanna Spikula, Washoe County Registrar of Voters.

Thank you.

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