NSEA OPPOSES SJR7

Date: April 29, 2021
To: Assembly Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections
Re: NSEA Opposes SJR7 – Removing Constitutional Provisions Governing the Board of Regents

The Nevada State Education Association has been the voice of Nevada educators for over 120 years.

**NSEA opposes SJR7 to remove constitutional provisions governing the election and duties of the Board of Regents.**

Nevadans made their voices heard when they voted down Question 1. Voters support electing members of Nevada’s Board of Regents. While NSEA did not actively engage in the Question 1 campaign, we have a longstanding position in support of electing governing boards in education.

Elected boards are in place to ensure schools and colleges reflect the values of the people, providing direct lines of accountability to the community. This is the main reason elected boards are preferable to appointed or hybrid models. Appointed officials are shielded by an appointing authority who typically has significant other responsibilities in addition to board appointments. It is extremely rare to see an elected official voted out of office over the actions or conduct of another official they have appointed. This is truer still when the appointment is made by another deliberative body.

Democracy can be messy. Money can have a substantial influence on elections, and sometimes campaigns are negative and turn off voters. Oftentimes, our preferred candidates do not win. While these challenges are real, they are certainly not enough to abandon our system of democratic governance. Instead, we should continue our efforts to make elections more democratic. NSEA supports the direction of expanding democracy, and we will continue our commitment to engage in increasing electoral participation and education.