

As Mayors who represent the cities within the state of Nevada, we collectively endorse and ask the committee to consider this letter in opposition to Senate Bill 184.

We respect and appreciate the communication and working relationship with the State Legislature. The processes and procedures in place in Nevada law ensure a “check and balance” relationship to benefit the residents of our cities and the state. One of the processes put in place by the State Legislature was the adoption of charter committees at a local level, to create and review suggestions on proposed changes to city charters. Charter committees are made up of members appointed by the local government officials and state legislators and are tasked with reviewing the city charters, including deliberating and making recommendations for changes to the charters. The recommendations by charter committees are generally made to their respective city councils to determine whether the changes will be proposed through a city bill draft request for the next legislative session. Charter committees are subject to the state open meeting laws and are conducted in the public forum. Public comment is accepted at the meetings so that the public may weigh in on proposed changes and discussions of the committees. The charter committees are integral to proper governance in the cities and ensuring that city charters are updated appropriately as needed.

Senate Bill 184, which amends the North Las Vegas City Charter, was submitted to the State Legislature independent of the North Las Vegas Charter Committee or North Las Vegas City Council. Changes to a city’s charter, a living document, can have long-term consequences that unfortunately, can be unintended. For this reason, any proposed charter changes should follow the charter committee process established by the state through the city charters to allow such changes to be fully vetted and deliberated upon by the charter committee and the residents of the city prior to being recommended to a city council or the state for consideration.

Because the charter changes in Senate Bill 184 did not go through the charter committee process and were not vetted by the charter committee or the public, we are not comfortable with the proposed changes and oppose Senate Bill 184.

Thank you for your consideration.

- Lori Bagwell, Mayor, Carson City
- Gary Pollock, Mayor, City of Wells
- Nathan Robertson, Mayor, City of Ely
- Joe Hardy, Mayor, Boulder City
- Allan Litman, Mayor, City of Mesquite
- Pamela Goynes-Brown, Mayor, City of North Las Vegas
- Neal McIntyre, Mayor, City of Fernley
- Reece Keener, Mayor, City of Elko
- Michelle Romero, Mayor, City of Henderson
- Dana Holbrook, Mayor, City of Carlin
- Ken Tedford, Mayor, City of Fallon

- John Garry, Mayor, City of Yerington
- Carolyn Goodman, Mayor, City of Las Vegas
- Ed Lawson, Mayor, City of Sparks
- Jasie Holm, Mayor, City of West Wendover
- Mike Giles, Mayor, City of Lovelock
- Rich Stone, Mayor, City of Winnemucca
- Steve Rowe, Mayor, City of Caliente