

In Opposition to SB 184

Esteemed Members of the Senate Government Affairs Committee,

On behalf of the residents of the City of North Las Vegas, Ward 1, I write this letter of opposition to Senate Bill 184.

SB 184 will change the City Charter, the same Charter this very Legislature established in 2021, which outlines a process to make changes, such as redistricting. However, NOT ONE of the City of North Las Vegas's duly elected officials or Staff members was ever contacted prior to SB184's introduction, and none of the CONLV residents had any say in this bill's introduction.

SB 184 disregards the charter process and is NOT transparent in that there was no public and stakeholder input prior to its introduction. SB184 then circumvents the will of the Legislature and North Las Vegas residents.

Further, SB 184 is an unfunded mandate, which create a hardship on a city which is still wisely growing back from being tied nationally for the city with the most foreclosures during the great recession.

SB184 is also unnecessary in that the City was already recently redistricted - with public input and during a series of open council meetings- using the most recent data from the 2020 Census. The city's current Mayor and Council representation accurately reflects the ethnic makeup according to this data.

SB184 requires that a new redistricting process - also unfunded - take place by 2024, which flies in the face of the commonly held legal precepts of using data that is gathered every ten years. Given the great shifts in national population migration as a result of COVID, there is no way to determine that the actual counts by 2024 will accurately reflect ethnic distribution in the City of North Las Vegas. Then SB184 may actually result in a proportional DECREASE in some groups representation.

In summary, given just these issues with SB184, it would be far better to allow the residents and elected officials of the City of North Las Vegas, using an already established Charter process, to propose, discuss, and then if necessary, use accurate data from a future Census count, to decide for themselves as to the number of wards needed for proper representation.

Isaac Barron