



## Nevada Legislative Training Academy

**Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada**  
**November 20–22, 2024**

### **Wednesday, November 20**

9:30 a.m. Room 3137	Registration and Meet and Greet Fellow Legislators Enjoy a continental breakfast networking with newly elected members of both Chambers.
10:00 a.m.–10:45 a.m. Room 4100	Welcome and Introductions of Newly Elected Legislators <i>Senator Marilyn Dondero Loop</i> <i>Senate Minority Leader Robin L. Titus</i> <i>Assemblymember Elaine Marzola</i> <i>Assembly Minority Leader Philip PK O'Neill</i> <i>Diane C. Thornton, Acting Director, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB)</i> Putting the Nevada Legislature in Context <i>Jered McDonald, Deputy Research Director, Research Division, LCB</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Three branches of State government</li><li>• How Nevada's Legislature compares to other states</li></ul>
10:45 a.m.–11:00 a.m. Room 4100	Welcome by the Secretary of the Senate and Chief Clerk of the Assembly <i>Brendan Bucy, Secretary of the Senate</i> <i>Bonnie Borda Hoffecker, Chief Clerk of the Assembly</i>
11:00 a.m.–11:15 a.m. Room 4100	Overview of the Nevada Legislature's Nonpartisan Staff and LCB <i>Diane C. Thornton, Acting Director, LCB</i>
11:15 a.m.–11:30 a.m.	Break
11:30 a.m.–Noon Room 4100	Legislator Compensation, Benefits, and Travel <i>Jolanta Astronomo, Chief Accountant, Accounting, Administrative Division, LCB</i> <i>Dalia Angel, Senior Accountant, Accounting, Administrative Division, LCB</i> <i>LuAnn Lehr, Payroll Accountant, Accounting, Administrative Division, LCB</i>
Noon–1:15 p.m. Room 3137	Working Lunch—"What I Know Now That I Wish I Had Known Then" <i>Senator Marilyn Dondero Loop</i> <i>Senator Julie Pazina</i> <i>Assemblymember Shea Backus</i> <i>Assemblymember Rich DeLong</i>  <i>Moderator: Haley Proehl, Principal Policy Analyst/GIS Specialist, Research Division, LCB</i>



- Returning members will offer reflections and advice for the new legislators on subjects such as building relationships, managing constituent requests, personal time management, and working with legislative staff.

1:15 p.m.–1:30 p.m. Break

1:30 p.m.–3:15 p.m.  
Room 4100

Staff Services Provided by the LCB  
*Moderator: Diane C. Thornton, Acting Director, LCB*

An explanation of the services provided by the nonpartisan LCB, including audits, fiscal analysis, information technology, legal analysis and bill drafting, and policy analysis and research.

- Administrative Services  
*Roger Wilkerson, Deputy Director, LCB*
- Audit Services  
*Daniel L. Crossman, Legislative Auditor, Audit Division, LCB*  
*Todd Peterson, Chief Deputy Legislative Auditor, Audit Division, LCB*

Break

- Legal Services  
*Asher Killian, Legislative Counsel, Legal Division, LCB*
- Fiscal Analysis Services  
*Wayne Thorley, Senate Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, LCB*  
*Sarah Coffman, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, LCB*
- Policy Analysis and Research Services  
*Jennifer Ruedy, Research Director, Research Division, LCB*

3:30 p.m. Individual Legislator Activities (as scheduled with the Accounting Unit, Laptop Distribution, and Photo Identification Key Card)

5:45 p.m. Transportation Leaves From Legislative Building for Group Dinner  
(Gather outside east entrance of Legislative Building for transportation)

6:15 p.m. Group Dinner

- J.T. Basque Bar & Dining Room, Gardnerville



## **Thursday, November 21**

7:45 a.m.—8:45 a.m.  
Assembly Breakroom  
Room 3117

Breakfast Buffet with Legislative Staff

8:45 a.m.—9:00 a.m.

Break

9:00 a.m.—9:45 a.m.  
Room 4100

Developing Ideas for Bills—The Beginning

*Asher Killian, Legislative Counsel, Legal Division, LCB*

*Jennifer Ruedy, Research Director, Research Division, LCB*

- I have an idea! What should I do about it?

9:45 a.m.—10:30 a.m.  
Room 4100

Roundtable Discussion—Working With Lobbyists

*Moderator: Becky Peratt, Senior Policy Analyst, Research Division, LCB*

*Jessica Ferrato, Owner and President, The Ferrato Company*  
*William Horne, Former Assemblymember and Cofounder and President,*  
*Western Public Affairs*

- Focus on the role of the lobbyists, expectations lobbyists have of legislators, and the responsibilities of both lobbyists and legislators in their working relationship.

10:30 a.m.—10:45 a.m.

Break

10:45 a.m.—11:30 a.m.  
Room 4100

Roundtable Discussion—Working With the Media

*Moderator: Patrick Ashton, Senior Principal Policy Analyst, Research Division, LCB*

*Mitch Fox, President and Chief Executive Officer, Nevada Broadcasters Association*

*Bob Conrad, Ph.D., Publisher, Editor, and Cofounder, This Is Reno,*  
*Representing the Nevada Press Association*

*Michelle Rindels, Comanaging Editor, The Nevada Independent,*  
*Representing the Nevada Press Association*

- Focus on how the print and broadcast media cover the legislature, and how legislators can effectively communicate with the media and maintain a good working relationship.

11:45 a.m.—Noon

Freshman Class Photograph (Second Floor Atrium—west side)

Noon—1:15 p.m.  
Room 3137

Working Lunch—Coordinating With Local Governments

*Moderator: Jen Sturm-Gahner, Senior Principal Policy Analyst, Research Division, LCB*



*Stacey Giomi, President, Nevada Association of Counties (NACO), and  
Commissioner, Carson City*

*Vinson Guthreau, Executive Director, NACO*

*Marilyn Kirkpatrick, At-Large Member, Board of Directors, NACO, and  
Commissioner, Clark County*

*Cameron Gresh, Government Affairs Liaison and Public Information  
Officer, Carson City*

- Focus on the structure, authority, financial administration, and services provided by local governments.

1:15 p.m.–1:30 p.m.

Break

1:30 p.m.–2:15 p.m.

Room 4100

Roundtable Discussion—Coordinating With the Executive Branch

*Moderator: Jann Stinnesbeck, Senior Principal Policy Analyst, Research  
Division, LCB*

*Ryan Cherry, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor*

*Michawn Nastro, Policy Director, Office of the Governor*

- Focus on the structure and operations of the Governor's Office during the legislative session and working with state departments and agencies relating to legislation.

2:15 p.m. –2:30 p.m.

Break

2:30 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Room 4100

Laptop Computers, Electronic Communications, and Public Records

*Tyler Saylor, Chief Information Officer, Information Technology Services,  
Administrative Division, LCB*

*Jaime Black, Chief Employment Counsel, Legal Division, LCB*

*Tara Zimmerman, Senior Principal Deputy Employment Counsel,  
Legal Division, LCB*

- Learn "hands-on" how to log on to the legislative network, use email, and other functions and safe computing (adware, spam, spyware, viruses, worms, et cetera).
- Overview of technology and electronic communication—public records.

3:15 p.m.–4:00p.m.

Room 4100

Introduction to the Official Nevada Law Library, Legislature's Website, Electronic Legislative Tools, and Publications

*Heidi Chlarson, Chief Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division, LCB*

*Stephanie Heyroth Wilcox, Legislative Librarian, Research Division, LCB*

4:00 p.m.

Individual Legislator Activities (as scheduled)

Adjourn for the Day



## **Friday, November 22**

8:00 a.m.—8:45 a.m. Assembly Breakroom Room 3117	Breakfast Buffet with Legislative Staff
8:45 a.m.—9:00 a.m.	Break
9:00 a.m.—9:45 a.m. Room 4100	Safety and Security Procedures <i>John Drew, Legislative Police Chief, Legislative Police, Administrative Division, LCB</i>
9:45 a.m.—10:15 a.m. Room 4100	Working With Constituents and the Nevada Youth Legislature <i>Craig Hoffecker, Manager of Constituent Services Unit, Research Division, LCB</i> <i>Tina Ashdown, Constituent Services Analyst/Program Facilitator, Constituent Services Unit, Research Division, LCB</i>
10:15 a.m.—10:30 a.m. Room 4100	Preview of December Policy Briefings and January Academy <i>Diane C. Thornton, Acting Director, LCB</i>
10:30 a.m.—10:45 a.m.	Break
10:45 a.m.—11:45 a.m. Room 4100	Overview of the Assembly and Adjournment (Assembly) <i>Bonnie Borda Hoffecker, Chief Clerk of the Assembly</i>
Senate Chamber	Overview of the Senate and Adjournment (Senate) <i>Brendan Bucy, Secretary of the Senate</i>
Noon	Lunch and Adjournment