

## SPECIAL SESSIONS OF THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE

Per the *Nevada Constitution*, regular sessions of the Nevada Legislature must be held during each odd-numbered year, beginning on the first Monday of February ([Article 4, Section 2](#)). At other times, the governor may call the Legislature into special session for a specific purpose ([Article 5, Section 9](#)), or the Legislature may—upon a petition signed by two-thirds of the members of each house—convene a special session for a specific purpose without action by the governor ([Article 4, Section 2A](#)).<sup>1</sup> To date, all of Nevada’s special sessions have been called by the governor.

In most cases, special sessions are limited in length to 20 consecutive calendar days.<sup>2</sup> Exceptions to this limit include special sessions called to consider impeachment or removal from office of certain state and judicial officers or expulsion from office of a legislative member ([Article 4, Section 2A](#) and [Article 5, Section 9](#)).

The Nevada Legislature has convened in special session 33 times—the first in 1867, and the most recent in 2021. Lengths of these sessions range from 1 day (nine special sessions) to a record 27 days (20<sup>th</sup> Special Session, 2003). More information about recent special sessions is available on the Legislature’s [website](#).

#	YEAR	DATES	LENGTH	PURPOSE OF THE CALL FOR SPECIAL SESSION
1 <sup>st</sup>	1867	Mar. 15 – Apr. 3	20 days	To amend revenue laws to assure payment of interest on the state debt and to defray the necessary expenses of operating state government before the next regular session.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	1908	Jan. 14 – Feb. 1	19 days	To take legislative action concerning contentions between labor unions and mine operators in the Goldfield mining district.
3 <sup>rd</sup>	1912	Feb. 23 – Feb. 29	7 days	To authorize a state loan to enable the state to transact its business on a cash basis and to provide for a state tax levy.

<sup>1</sup> In 2009 and 2011, the Nevada Legislature passed, in identical form, [Assembly Joint Resolution 5 of the 2009 Session](#), which amended the *Nevada Constitution* to provide that the Legislature may, on extraordinary occasions, convene a special legislative session upon a petition signed by two-thirds of the legislators of each house. Nevada voters approved this constitutional amendment at the 2012 General Election. Prior to the passage of this amendment, only the governor could call the Legislature into a special session.

<sup>2</sup> This 20-day limit was added to the *Nevada Constitution* upon voter approval of [AJR 5 of the 2009 Session](#) at the 2012 General Election.

#	YEAR	DATES	LENGTH	PURPOSE OF THE CALL FOR SPECIAL SESSION
4 <sup>th</sup>	1920	Feb. 7	1 day	To ratify the amendment to the <i>United States Constitution</i> which extended the right to vote to the women citizens of the nation.
5 <sup>th</sup>	1926	Dec. 4 – Dec. 5	2 days	To address a need for Clark County to reconvey certain land deeds for the purpose of securing certain hotel enterprises.
6 <sup>th</sup>	1928	Jan. 16 – Feb. 4	20 days	To amend and modernize laws concerning the conduct and operation of the State Treasury; to authorize the investment of surplus funds in the state school fund at a lesser rate of interest than 5 percent; and to authorize and provide additional funds for the support of the Colorado River Commission and enact additional legislation to safeguard the interests of the state in the Colorado River.
7 <sup>th</sup>	1954	Jan. 5 – Jan. 9	5 days	To consider various legislative matters related to school revenue and “fiscal acts.”
8 <sup>th</sup>	1956	Feb. 6 – Feb. 25	20 days	To consider various legislative matters related to schools, the University of Nevada, the state hospital, salary adjustments for state employees, and the reduction of traffic fatalities.
9 <sup>th</sup>	1958	June 30 – July 1	2 days	To authorize the state to enter into an agreement with the U.S. secretary of labor for the payment of temporary unemployment compensation and an associated appropriation from the General Fund.
10 <sup>th</sup>	1964	Jan. 20 – Feb. 5	17 days	To consider various legislative matters, including: additional appropriation for the relief of school districts; protection of Lake Tahoe; development of the Southern Nevada Water Project; drivers’ license fees; counsel for indigent criminal defendants; expanded dormitories at the University of Nevada; and technical corrections to the law.
11 <sup>th</sup>	1965	Oct. 25 – Nov. 13	20 days	To approve a reapportionment and redistricting plan for the Legislature in accordance with a judicial mandate.

#	YEAR	DATES	LENGTH	PURPOSE OF THE CALL FOR SPECIAL SESSION
12 <sup>th</sup>	1966	May 9 – May 26	18 days	To consider various legislative matters related to education, conservation efforts at Lake Tahoe, the state prison, the Department of Health and Welfare, and several miscellaneous topics. These other topics include: county motor fuel tax; liquor credit law; motor vehicle fuel tax refunds; mobile home tax penalty; removal of the moratorium on the sale of state lands as it applied to agricultural associations; technical errors in special charters; Vietnam veterans; Ruby Valley Fish Hatchery; basic science examination for medical doctors; Local Government Bond Validating Act; and Legislative Fund appropriation.
13 <sup>th</sup>	1968	Feb. 5 – Feb. 24	20 days	To consider various legislative matters, including: Title XIX Medicaid Program; additional appropriation for welfare; federal Wholesome Meat Act; Elko Community College; Lake Tahoe Regional Compact; creation of a school district emergency relief fund; state hospital; clarification of ad valorem tax rate; repeal of law restricting the location of hospitals near public schools to allow expansion of Elko General Hospital; irrigation district liability limit; cost of extradition proceedings; number of Nevada highway patrolmen; Department of Motor Vehicles budget adjustment; University of Nevada revenue bonds; University of Nevada Land Foundation; authorization of shop and warehouse building at Southern Nevada University; North Las Vegas annexation; state park system engineer; and issues involving McCarran Airport.
14 <sup>th</sup>	1980	Sept. 13	1 day	To amend the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact.
15 <sup>th</sup>	1984	Mar. 29 – Mar. 30	2 days	To amend state laws relating to banks, banking, and the extension of credit.
16 <sup>th</sup>	1989	Nov. 21	1 day	To repeal the provisions of <a href="#">Assembly Bill 820 of the 1989 Session</a> relating to the Legislators' Retirement Law.
17 <sup>th</sup>	2001	June 14	1 day <sup>3</sup>	To approve the state redistricting plans required by law and to reconsider the matters within the legislation approved during the 2001 Session between 12 a.m. and 1 a.m. on June 5, 2001.

<sup>3</sup> The 17<sup>th</sup> Special Session adjourned at 12:26 a.m. on June 15.

#	YEAR	DATES	LENGTH	PURPOSE OF THE CALL FOR SPECIAL SESSION
18 <sup>th</sup>	2002	July 29 – Aug. 1	4 days	To consider matters related to medical malpractice, including a cap on the amount a person can receive for damages.
19 <sup>th</sup>	2003	June 3 – June 12	10 days <sup>4</sup>	To address a tax plan to fund education that was not achieved during the 2003 Session and to consider various other bills related to education and business.
20 <sup>th</sup>	2003	June 25 – July 21	27 days <sup>5</sup>	To consider a tax plan to fund education, a technical corrections bill, and several other bills.
21 <sup>st</sup>	2004	Nov. 10 – Dec. 4	25 days <sup>6</sup>	To consider matters related to the impeachment proceedings concerning State Controller Kathy Augustine.
22 <sup>nd</sup>	2005	June 7	1 day	To consider various legislative matters, including purchasing prescription drugs from Canadian pharmacies, the Millennium Scholarship, energy issues, and full-day kindergarten.
23 <sup>rd</sup>	2007	June 5	1 day	Primarily to address funding for various education programs; secondarily to address several minor issues that remained unresolved when the 2007 Regular Session ended, including special license plates, interim studies, and funding for certain restoration projects.
24 <sup>th</sup>	2008	June 27	1 day	To address a shortfall in General Fund revenue projected to total approximately \$1.2 billion over the 2007–2009 Biennium.
25 <sup>th</sup>	2008	Dec. 8	1 day	To address an additional \$340 million shortfall in General Fund revenue for the 2007–2009 Biennium.
26 <sup>th</sup>	2010	Feb. 23 – Feb. 28	6 days <sup>7</sup>	To address a shortfall in General Fund revenue of approximately \$890 million.

<sup>4</sup> An impasse on budget and taxation matters resulted in the governor dissolving the special session—a first in Nevada history.

<sup>5</sup> The longest special session in Nevada history adjourned at 1:32 a.m. on July 22. During the 27-day period, each house adjourned for approximately two weeks, per [Article 4, Section 15](#), of the *Nevada Constitution*.

<sup>6</sup> This was the first time the Nevada Legislature considered impeachment proceedings, and the Legislature met for only eight legislative days.

<sup>7</sup> The 26<sup>th</sup> Special Session adjourned at 2:15 a.m. on March 1.

#	YEAR	DATES	LENGTH	PURPOSE OF THE CALL FOR SPECIAL SESSION
27 <sup>th</sup>	2013	June 4	1 day	To address several issues that remained unresolved when the 2013 Regular Session ended, including legislative approval for an increase in the Clark County Sales and Use Tax, economic development, class-size reduction, charter schools, and an appropriation for the Millennium Scholarship.
28 <sup>th</sup>	2014	Sept. 10 – Sept. 11	2 days	To expand incentives for certain businesses to locate in Nevada in alignment with Nevada’s economic development policy; to revise provisions concerning the Economic Development Electric Rate Rider Program; to limit the availability of certain insurance premium tax credits; and to provide for the direct sale of electric vehicles by manufacturers in certain instances.
29 <sup>th</sup>	2015	Dec. 16 – Dec. 19	4 days	To provide incentives for certain businesses to locate in Nevada in alignment with the state’s economic development plan; to revise provisions concerning workforce development programs; and to address associated water rights applications and water service. <sup>8</sup>
30 <sup>th</sup>	2016	Oct. 10 – Oct. 14	5 days <sup>9</sup>	To finance the expansion and renovation of the Las Vegas Convention Center; to provide a method to finance the construction and operation of a National Football League stadium project or a college football stadium project in Clark County; and to authorize the Clark County Board of Commissioners to increase the sales and use tax in order to employ and equip additional law enforcement officers.
31 <sup>st</sup>	2020	July 8 – July 19	12 days	To address a shortfall in General Fund revenue related to the COVID-19 pandemic and to consider certain other matters related to the deleterious effects of the pandemic.

<sup>8</sup> In addition to the issues identified in the governor’s proclamation, the Legislature also adopted a resolution clarifying legislative intent as to education savings accounts ([Senate Bill 302 from the 2015 Session](#)).

<sup>9</sup> The Legislature met for only four legislative days.

#	YEAR	DATES	LENGTH	PURPOSE OF THE CALL FOR SPECIAL SESSION
32 <sup>nd</sup>	2020	July 31 – Aug. 5	6 days <sup>10</sup>	To consider certain matters related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including elections, evictions, liability protections, unemployment insurance, worker safety, and remote participation in certain legislative proceedings; to address social justice reform; to consider certain provisions related to restructuring the Legislative Counsel Bureau and publishing proposed constitutional amendments passed during a special session; and to correct technical errors in certain legislation passed during the 2019 Regular Session. <sup>11</sup>
33 <sup>rd</sup>	2021	Nov. 12 – Nov. 16	5 days	To reapportion and redistrict the state’s election districts for the U.S. House of Representatives, the Nevada State Senate, the Nevada State Assembly, and the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada; and to consider a temporary adjustment to the 2022 candidate filing period for judicial candidates to coincide with the candidate filing period for nonjudicial candidates.

<sup>10</sup> The 32<sup>nd</sup> Special Session adjourned at 12:21 a.m. on August 6.

<sup>11</sup> In addition to the issues identified in the governor’s proclamation, the Legislature also considered several resolutions related to mining taxes.

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