Nevada Government
Three Branches of Government

❖ The Executive Branch
❖ The Judiciary
❖ The Legislature

Checks & Balances --

One branch of government serves to keep the other two branches “in check.”
Nevada Government
-- Executive Branch --

- All levels of government – federal, state, and local – have an Executive Branch.
- The Executive Branch at the state level, primarily directed by the Governor, is responsible for carrying out the laws enacted by the Legislature.
- Nevada’s 17 counties, along with over two dozen cities and towns, provide additional services and governances at the local level.
- Other forms of local government:
  - School Districts
  - General Improvement Districts
  - Various Special and Local Improvement Districts
Nevada Government
-- Constitutional Officers --

Constitutional officers are elected for four-year terms and their duties are set forth in the *Nevada Constitution* and statute.

- **Governor** — Chief executive of the State.

- **Lieutenant Governor** — Presides over the Nevada Senate and casts a vote in the case of a tie, fills any vacancy during the term of the Governor, and chairs the Commissions on Tourism and Economic Development.

- **Secretary of State** — Responsible for overseeing elections, commercial recordings, securities, and notaries.
State Treasurer – Oversees State Treasury, sets investment policies for state funds, and administers the Unclaimed Property Division and the Millennium Scholarship Program, along with other college savings programs.

State Controller – Responsible for paying the State’s debts, including state employees’ salaries, maintains the official accounting records, and prepares the annual statement of the State’s financial status and public debt.

Attorney General – Acts as the chief law enforcement officer, provides legal services to the State and State agencies, and defends or prosecutes litigation involving the State or State agencies.
Executive Branch Departments

The Governor oversees a number of statutorily created departments to carry out the laws.

- Administration
- Agriculture
- Business & Industry
- Conservation & Natural Resources
- Corrections
- Cultural Affairs
- Employment, Training, & Rehabilitation
- Health & Human Services
- Information Technology
- Motor Vehicles
- Office of the Military
- Personnel
- Public Safety
- Taxation
- Transportation
- Office of Veterans’ Services
- Wildlife
Two State entities have separate elected boards:
- State Board of Education (Dept. of Education)
- Nevada System of Higher Education’s Board of Regents

The Governor also has appointing authority.

The Governor also plays a critical role in the legislative process:
- Prepares & presents the two-year budget
- *Nevada Constitution* gives the Governor veto power
- The Governor may also call the Legislature into special session and set the agenda for the special session.
Nevada State Government on the Internet
State of Nevada “Home Page”

www.nv.gov
Local Government -- County

The *Nevada Constitution* provides for the existence and creation of counties by the Nevada Legislature. County names, boundaries, and county powers are set by statute.

For lawmaking purposes, counties are often grouped according to population (based on last Census).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POPULATION RANGE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>POPULATION (2000)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Over 400,000</td>
<td>Clark</td>
<td>1,375,765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 400,000 – Over 100,000</td>
<td>Washoe</td>
<td>339,486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 100,000 – Over 40,000</td>
<td>Carson City</td>
<td>52,457</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Douglas</td>
<td>41,259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elko</td>
<td>45,291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 40,000 – Over 10,000</td>
<td>Churchill</td>
<td>23,982</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Humboldt</td>
<td>16,106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lyon</td>
<td>34,501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nye</td>
<td>32,485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 10,000</td>
<td>Esmeralda</td>
<td>971</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Eureka</td>
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<td>Lander</td>
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<td>Lincoln</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Storey</td>
<td>3,399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>White Pine</td>
<td>9,181</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Nevada’s Counties on the Internet

The Nevada Association of Counties
Internet Web Site:

www.nvnaco.org
Local Government – Cities

Nevada law provides for the creation of cities and towns.

Cities can be incorporated by a special act – “charter cities” – or incorporated by “general law” through a petition process (Chapter 266 of the NRS)

19 incorporated cities in Nevada
12 “charter cities” and 7 “general law” cities.
The Legislature sets the structure and powers of city councils and grants various powers to cities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories of Cities (NRS 266.055)</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>50,000 or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>5,000 up to 49,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>4,999 or less</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Local Government -- Towns

Nevada law provides for the formation of two types unincorporated towns:

- Town board form of government (currently only Round Mountain in Nye County)
- Towns formed under the Unincorporated Town Government Law (towns in Clark and Washoe Counties must be formed this way). Under these provisions, the Town Board is governed by the County Commission and serves as a liaison between the commissioners and the residents of the town.
Nevada’s Cities & Towns on the Internet

Nevada League of Cities & Municipalities

www.nvleague.org
Other Forms of Local Government

Nevada law authorizes the creation of:

🌟 General Improvement Districts (GIDs)

- Created by a resolution of the county commission or by a petition presented to the commission by a property owner.
- Governed by an elected board of trustees.
- Services provided include: utilities, water, sewer, sanitation, cemeteries, recreation facilities, television and radio, sidewalks, storm drainage, fire protection, and emergency/medical.
- Funding comes from special assessments, usage fees, and property taxes. GIDs also have borrowing powers and may issue revenue bonds.
Other Forms of Local Government (cont.)

**Special Improvement Districts**
- Created by a resolution of the county commission or by a petition presented to the commission by a property owner.
- Can include GIDs as well as water and sanitation districts, swimming pool districts, municipal power districts, or any other quasi-municipal districts.

**Local Improvement Districts**
- Proposed by a majority of land owners to be benefited by the construction of power plants and the distribution of electrical energy, sewer systems, or the acquisition or construction of water systems.
Tourism Improvement Districts
- Recently authorized by the Legislature to provide incentives for tourism-related activities.
- The governing body of a municipality may create, by ordinance, a tourism improvement district in order to acquire, improve, equip, operate, and maintain an economic development project within the district boundaries.
- Under certain circumstances, the pledge of certain sales and use tax proceeds and state funding may be used for certain projects for the promotion of economic development and tourism.

School Districts
- School districts are considered local governments.
- Boundaries are the same as county boundaries.
- Size and election procedures are set by state law.
For More Information

Visit the Nevada Legislature’s Web site:

www.leg.state.nv.us
Questions?