

The Guide to the Nevada Legislature 2015–2016



WELCOME TO THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE

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The legislative process is the heart of Nevada government. It is through the Legislature that the voice of the people finds its most direct expression.

This guide has been prepared by the Legislative Counsel Bureau of the State of Nevada to assist people who are interested in learning about the Nevada Legislature.

One of the best ways to learn about the Nevada Legislature is to watch it in action. When you visit, we ask that you abide by a few rules. Please turn all electronic devices to silent or off. If you converse in the galleries, please speak softly because loud noises disrupt the legislative process. Also, please note that smoking is prohibited in the building.

Thank you for visiting and for taking an interest in the Legislature, the first branch of democratic government.

THE THREE BRANCHES OF NEVADA STATE GOVERNMENT

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Creates the law

Nevada Legislature
401 South Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701



EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Enforces the law

Nevada Capitol
101 North Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701



JUDICIAL BRANCH

Interprets the law

Supreme Court
201 South Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701



NEVADA'S LAKES AND WATERWAYS

Water is the essential element for supporting life. It is the lifeblood of agriculture. It creates jobs and opportunities, sustains the environment, and contributes to the health and safety of our citizens. All living things require this essential natural resource to grow and prosper. In the American West, and particularly in Nevada, the most arid State in the country, water is a scarce commodity and a highly valued resource.



Nevada is located within the Great Basin, an area west of the Wasatch Range in Utah and east of the Sierra Nevada, encompassing approximately 184,500 square miles. It is the largest area of contiguous, interior drainage basins in the country. Most rivers in the Great Basin flow into the basin itself, not toward the ocean as does most surface water of the continental United States. The exceptions are rivers originating in the northernmost areas of Nevada. These include the Quinn, Owyhee, and Bruneau Rivers among others, that flow north to the Salmon River in Idaho and ultimately into the Columbia River Basin.

During an average year, much of the State receives less than ten inches of precipitation. The State has been in a drought since 2000, with the exception of three normal-to-above-normal precipitation years. The United States Drought Monitor, issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, indicates severe to extreme drought conditions exist over the majority of Nevada. The extreme western portion of the State is ranked as an area of exceptional drought conditions.



Despite the arid conditions, residents and visitors alike enjoy water-based recreational opportunities. Lakes, reservoirs, rivers, and streams beckon outdoor enthusiasts.

Lake Tahoe, located on the California-Nevada border west of Carson City, is the largest alpine lake in North America. At a depth of 1,645 feet, it ranks second in depth to Crater Lake in Oregon and is the sixth largest lake by volume in the country. The lake's natural beauty and renowned clarity make it the destination of choice for many visitors. Home to summer and winter outdoor recreational activities, including boating, fishing, hiking, camping, kayaking, skiing, and other tourist attractions like gaming, Lake Tahoe provides scenic and pleasurable pastimes.



NEVADA'S LAKES AND WATERWAYS



Lake Mead, near Las Vegas, is the largest reservoir in the U.S. It is located on the Colorado River and was formed by the construction of Hoover Dam, completed in 1935. The Colorado River receives the majority of its water from snowmelt at its source in the Rocky Mountains, and it is also fed by tributaries in Arizona, Colorado, and Utah. Upstream on the Colorado River is Glen Canyon Dam, which holds back Lake Powell and moderates water flow into Lake Mead. Ultimately, the water from the Colorado River flows into the Gulf of California.

A white “bath tub ring” on the cliffs surrounding Lake Mead illustrates the high-water level of the lake. That level occurred when the lake was filled after completion of Hoover Dam. Lake Mead’s water level is currently at an all-time low, due to the extended drought conditions throughout the Colorado River system. Those seeking water recreation flock to Lake Mead to enjoy the mild climate and varied opportunities for relaxation. Due to current drought conditions and the resulting drop in lake levels, many boat launch areas are presently closed.



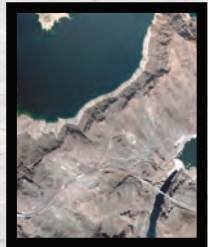
Less well known, but equally interesting, is Pyramid Lake, located north of Reno. Pyramid Lake is the geographic sink, or endpoint, of the Truckee River, which is the outflow of Lake Tahoe. The name of the lake comes from the pyramid shaped tufa formations found in and near the lake. Tufa is a type of limestone formed by chemical reactions to carbonate minerals in the water. Pyramid Lake recreational opportunities include boating, fishing, camping, bird watching, and photography. The lake is located within the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe’s reservation.

NEVADA'S LAKES AND WATERWAYS

Recreational activities abound throughout Nevada. Near the Nevada-Utah border, for example, the Ruby Mountains offer varied opportunities for outdoor activities. The Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge, located on the east side of the Ruby Mountains, is a popular site for camping, fishing, hunting, wildlife observation, and photography, as well as environmental education and interpretation. Many streams and smaller lakes lure anglers in search of adventure in the Ruby Mountains.

For further information, please visit the following websites:

- Division of Water Resources, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (<http://water.nv.gov/>).
- Division of State Parks, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (<http://parks.nv.gov/>).
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Nevada page (<http://www.usbr.gov/>).



THE LEGISLATURE – BUILDINGS/OFFICES

Legislative Building (Carson City)

Located on the Legislative Mall, which covers an area of seven former city blocks south of the Capitol, the Legislative Building contains 180,000 usable square feet and facilities for the Legislature. The Director and the Administrative and Legal Divisions of the Legislative Counsel Bureau are also housed in this building.

Sedway Office Building (Carson City)

The Sedway Office Building in Carson City, named after former State Assemblyman Marvin M. Sedway, is located southeast of the Legislative Building on the corner of Fifth and Stewart Streets. This three-story structure houses the Legislative Research Library and the offices of the Audit, Fiscal Analysis, and Research Divisions of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

State Printing Office (Carson City)

The State Printing Office is located to the east of the Legislative Building and parking garage on the corner of Fifth and Stewart Streets. The State Printing Office serves the printing needs of the three branches of government, in addition to local governments. Additionally, the two-story structure houses Legislative Counsel Bureau staff offices, computer training rooms, and warehouse operations.

Legislative Counsel Bureau (Las Vegas)

The southern office of the Legislative Counsel Bureau is located on the fourth floor of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building in Las Vegas at 555 East Washington Avenue. This office provides legislative information and staff services to legislators and residents of southern Nevada. In addition, it furnishes meeting space for individual legislators and committees and videoconferencing capability for the Legislature and other governmental bodies.

To help you find your way around the Legislative Building, diagrams of the four floors of the building are included in this guide. In addition, directories are located at various points throughout the building. Committee rooms and meeting times are posted in the lobby and elsewhere around the building. For further assistance, visitors may consult with the Legislative Police in the main lobby. Parking is available in a public lot south of the Legislative Building and in a parking garage just east of the building.



LEGISLATIVE BUILDING – FIRST FLOOR

Senate

Chamber	1216
Committee Hearing Room	1214
Leadership Offices	1219
Secretary of the Senate/Senate Staff	1206
Sergeant at Arms	1209

Assembly

Chamber	1108
Chief Clerk of the Assembly/Assembly Staff	1109
Leadership Offices	1100
Sergeant at Arms	1113

Administrative Division

Accounting Unit	1140
Director's Office	1141
EMT/First AID	1136
Legislative Police	1144
Lobbyist Room	1120
Lobbyist Registration	1199
Press Room	1200
Public Bill Room	1201

Legal Division

Publications and Gift Shop	1189
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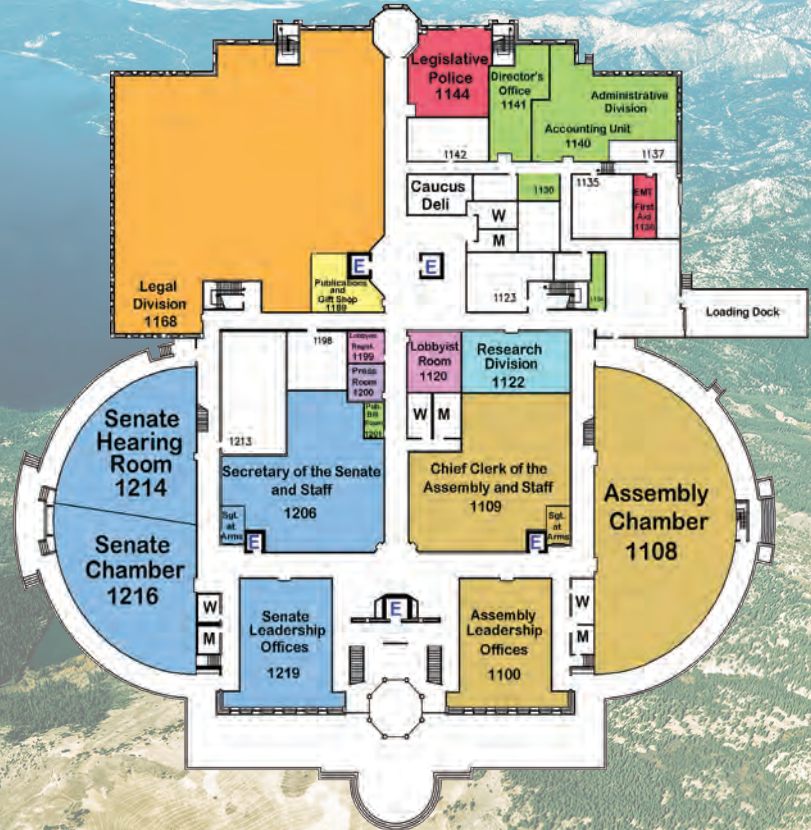
Research Division

Public Restrooms

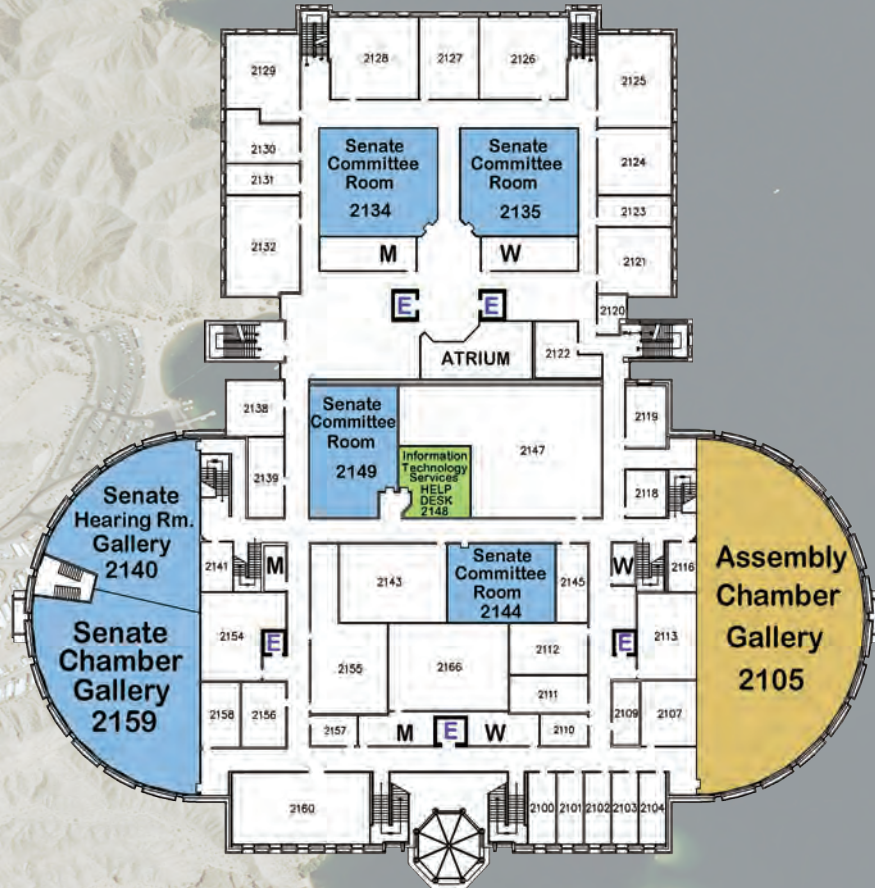
MW

Elevators

E



LEGISLATIVE BUILDING – SECOND FLOOR



Senate

Committee Hearing Rooms 2134, 2135,
2144, 2149

Senators' Offices 2100–2104, 2107,
2121, 2124–2129, 2132,
2143, 2145, 2156, 2158

President of the Senate/
Lieutenant Governor 2112

Senate Minority Leadership 2160

Audit Division 2120

Information Technology Services 2148

Public Restrooms MW

Elevators E

LEGISLATIVE BUILDING – THIRD FLOOR

Assembly

Committee Hearing Rooms 3137, 3138,
3142, 3143

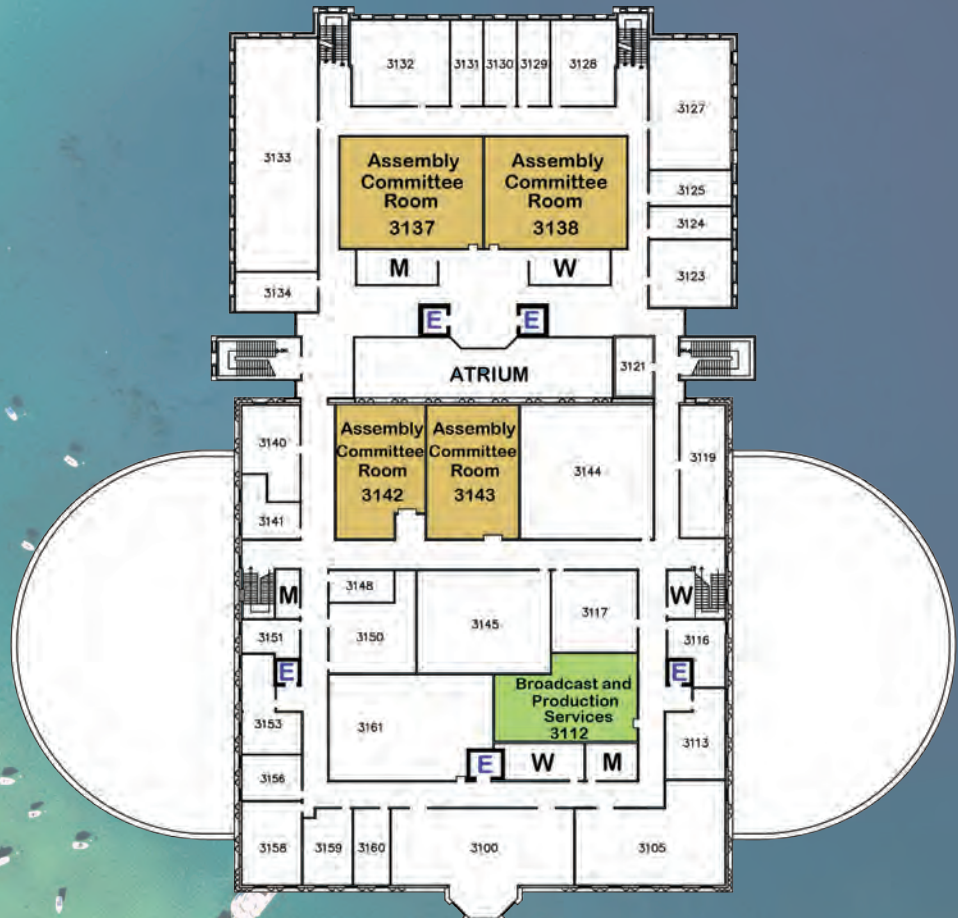
Assembly Members' Offices 3116, 3119,
3123–3125, 3127–3134,
3140, 3153, 3156, 3158–3160

Assembly Minority Floor Leadership 3105

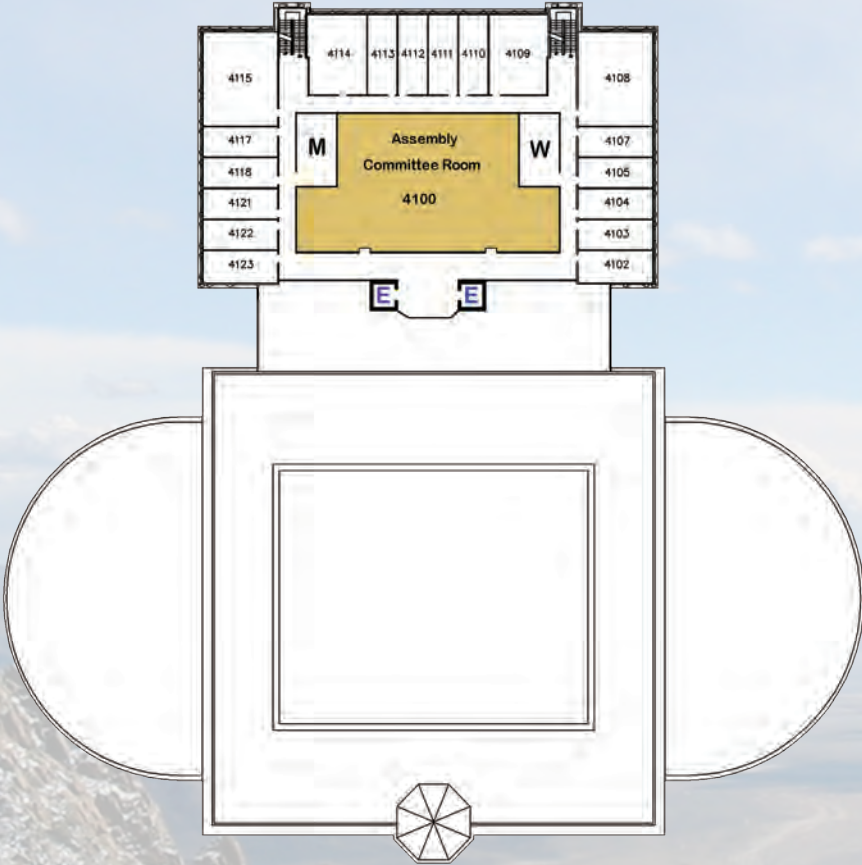
Broadcast and Production Services Unit 3112

Public Restrooms MW

Elevators E



LEGISLATIVE BUILDING – FOURTH FLOOR



Committee Hearing Room 4100

Assembly Members’ Offices4102–4105,
4107–4115, 4117–4118,
4121–4123

Public Restrooms MW

Elevators E



OVERVIEW OF THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE

Size and Apportionment

The *Nevada Constitution* sets the maximum size of the Legislature at 75 legislators. It further provides that the Senate may not be less than one-third nor more than one-half the size of the Assembly. Since 1983, the Nevada Legislature has had 63 members, 21 in the Senate and 42 in the Assembly.

The *Constitution* requires the Legislature to adjust the boundaries of the legislative districts following each decennial census. Due to an impasse that arose when Governor Brian Sandoval vetoed the redistricting measures approved by the Nevada Legislature, the Legislature was unable to complete the legislative and congressional redistricting process during the 120-day regular session in 2011. Following a number of hearings, judicial briefs, motions, and pleas, District Court Judge James T. Russell, in First Judicial District Case *Guy et al. v. Miller*, appointed three Special Masters to accomplish redistricting. The court-approved maps include four congressional districts (an increase of one), while the size of the Nevada Legislature was retained at 63 members, 21 in the Senate and 42 in the Assembly.

For the first time in Nevada's redistricting history, all districts in both houses are single-member, and two Assembly districts are perfectly nested within each Senate district. The average population of the Assembly districts is 64,299 (based on the 2010 U.S. Census). The Senate districts have an average population of 128,598. The State's population was just over 2.7 million in 2010.

There are now 15 Senate districts wholly within Clark County; 4 districts in the Washoe County/Carson City area, 1 of which includes five counties in western Nevada; and 2 rural districts. One rural district consists of Churchill, Douglas, Lyon, and Storey Counties. The other one consists of Elko, Eureka, Lincoln, White Pine, and parts of Nye and northern Clark Counties. The 42 Assembly districts include 30 districts wholly within Clark County, 8 districts in the Washoe County/Carson City/ western Nevada area, and 4 Assembly districts within the 2 rural Senate districts.

Nevada has a bicameral (two-house) Legislature consisting of the Senate and the Assembly. The two houses are jointly designated in the Nevada Constitution as "The Legislature of the State of Nevada."



OVERVIEW OF THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE

Legislator Qualifications

To be elected to either house of the Legislature, a person must be at least 21 years of age at the time of the election, a resident of the State for at least one year, and a qualified elector and resident in the district to be represented.

Terms of Office

Members of the Senate are elected to four-year terms, with 10 being elected in one General Election and the other 11 in the next. All 42 members of the Assembly are elected to two-year terms at the General Election held in November of even-numbered years.

Term Limits

In Nevada, an initiative proposal establishing term limits for State and local elected officers was approved by voters at the 1994 and 1996 General Elections. These limits apply to Senators and Assembly Members (incumbent or not) who filed or ran for office during or after the 1998 election cycle. Assembly Members are limited to 12 years or six terms in office, and Senators are limited to 12 years or three terms in office.

In 2014, four legislators were prohibited from running for reelection due to term limits. Some of these legislators chose to run for other elected offices. Additionally, the 2014 election was the last eligible election year for Assembly Members Marilyn Kirkpatrick and Harvey J. Munford, who were elected in 2004 and have served continuously since.

Staff Support

The Legislative Counsel Bureau provides central, nonpartisan staff support for the Nevada Legislature. This agency includes a Director and the Administrative, Audit, Fiscal Analysis, Legal, and Research Divisions.

The Legislative Counsel Bureau is supervised by the Legislative Commission, a body of 12 legislators, 6 from each house. The Commission meets periodically to take action on behalf of the Legislative Branch of government and provides guidance to the staff of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.



OVERVIEW OF THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE

SENATE

Senate District Nos. 1–12, 18, 20, and 21:

Clark County (part)

Senate District Nos. 13 and 15:

Washoe County (part)

(See individual member listings on page 16)

Senate District No. 14 (Gustavson)

Esmeralda, Humboldt, Lander, Mineral, Nye (part), Pershing, and Washoe (part) Counties

Senate District No. 16 (Kieckhefer)

Carson City and Washoe County (part)

Senate District No. 17 (Settelmeyer)

Churchill, Douglas, Lyon, and Storey Counties

Senate District No. 19 (Goicoechea)

Clark (part), Elko, Eureka, Lincoln, Nye (part), and White Pine Counties



ASSEMBLY

Assembly District Nos. 1–23, 28, 29, 34, 35, 37, 41, and 42:

Clark County (part)

Assembly District Nos. 24–27, 30, and 31:

Washoe County (part)

(See individual member listings on page 17)

Assembly District No. 32 (Hansen)

Esmeralda, Humboldt, Lander, Mineral, Nye (part), Pershing, and Washoe (part) Counties

Assembly District No. 33 (Ellison)

Elko, Eureka, Lincoln (part), and White Pine Counties

Assembly District No. 36 (Oscarson)

Clark (part), Lincoln (part), and Nye (part) Counties

Assembly District No. 38 (Titus)

Churchill and Lyon (part) Counties

Assembly District No. 39 (Wheeler)

Douglas, Lyon (part), and Storey Counties

Assembly District No. 40 (O'Neill)

Carson City and Washoe County (part)



Residents of Clark and Washoe Counties: Please call your registrar of voters to identify your representatives, or visit the Legislature's "Who's My Legislator? What's My District?" webpage (<http://mapserve1.leg.state.nv.us/whoRU/>).

MEMBERS OF THE SENATE



Kelvin D. Atkinson
Co-Minority Whip
Senate District No. 4
Assembly 2002–2012
Senate 2012–current
Office 2158

D



Greg Brower
Senate District No. 15
Assembly 1998–2002
Senate 2011–current
Office 2129

R



Moises (Mo) Denis
Senate District No. 2
Assembly 2004–2010
Senate 2010–current
Office 2104

D



Patricia Farley
Senate District No. 8
Senate 2014–current
Office 2121

R



Scott T. Hammond
Co-Majority Whip
Senate District No. 18
Assembly 2010–2012
Senate 2012–current
Office 2124

R



**Joseph (Joe) P. Hardy,
M.D.**
President Pro Tempore
Senate District No. 12
Assembly 2002–2010
Senate 2010–current
Office 2132

R



Becky Harris
Senate District No. 9
Senate 2014–current
Office 2143

R



Ben Kieckhefer
Assistant Majority Leader
Senate District No. 16
Senate 2010–current
Office 1224

R



David R. Parks
Senate District No. 7
Assembly 1996–2008
Senate 2008–current
Office 2100

D



Michael Roberson
Majority Leader
Senate District No. 20
Senate 2010–current
Office 1222

R



Tick Segerblom
Senate District No. 3
Assembly 2006–2012
Senate 2012–current
Office 2145

D



James A. Settelmeyer
Co-Majority Whip
Senate District No. 17
Assembly 2006–2010
Senate 2010–current
Office 2125

R

MEMBERS OF THE SENATE



Aaron D. Ford
Minority Leader
Senate District No. 11
Senate 2012–current
Office 2160

D



Pete Goicoechea
Senate District No. 19
Assembly 2002–2012
Senate 2012–current
Office 2128

R



Donald G. Gustavson
Senate District No. 14
Assembly 1996–2004
and 2008–2010
Senate 2010–current
Office 2126

R

President of the Senate

Mark A. Hutchison
Lieutenant Governor
2014–current
Office 2112

R



Ruben J. Kihuen
Co-Minority Whip
Senate District No. 10
Assembly 2006–2010
Senate 2010–current
Office 2107

D



Mark A. Lipparelli*
Senate District No. 6
Senate 2014–current
Office 2127

R

*Appointed to fill vacancy
December 2014.



Mark A. Manendo
Senate District No. 21
Assembly 1994–2010
Senate 2010–current
Office 2103

D



Debbie Smith
Assistant Minority
Leader
Senate District No. 13
Assembly 2000–2002
and 2004–2012
Senate 2012–current
Office 2160

D



**Patricia (Pat)
Spearman**
Senate District No. 1
Senate 2012–current
Office 2102

D



Joyce Woodhouse
Senate District No. 5
Senate 2006–2010
and 2012–current
Office 2101

D

MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY



D. Paul Anderson (R)
Majority Floor Leader
Assembly District No. 13
Assembly 2012–current
Office 1102



Elliot T. Anderson (D)
Assembly District No. 15
Assembly 2010–current
Office 4110



Nelson Araujo (D)
Assembly District No. 3
Assembly 2014–current
Office 3129



Derek W. Armstrong (R)
Assembly District No. 21
Assembly 2014–current
Office 4109



Teresa Benitez-Thompson (D)
Co-Asst. Minority Floor Leader
Assembly District No. 27
Assembly 2010–current
Office 3105



Irene Bustamante Adams (D)
Assembly District No. 42
Assembly 2010–current
Office 3156



Maggie Carlton (D)
Co-Asst. Minority Floor Leader
Assembly District No. 14
Senate 1998–2010
Assembly 2010–current
Office 3105



Edgar R. Flores (D)
Assembly District No. 28
Assembly 2014–current
Office 3124



David M. Gardner (R)
Assembly District No. 9
Assembly 2014–current
Office 4121



John Hambrick (R)
Speaker
Assembly District No. 2
Assembly 2008–current
Office 1100



Ira Hansen (R)
Asst. Majority Floor Leader
Assembly District No. 32
Assembly 2010–current
Office 3127



Pat Hickey (R)
Assembly District No. 25
Assembly 1996–1998
and 2010–current
Office 3133



Amber Joiner (D)*
Assembly District No. 24
Assembly 2014–current
Office 3131
*Appointed to fill vacancy
December 2014.



Brent A. Jones (R)
Assembly District No. 35
Assembly 2014–current
Office 4107



James Ohrenschall (D)
Assembly District No. 12
Assembly 2006–current
Office 4103



James Oscarson (R)
Assembly District No. 36
Assembly 2012–current
Office 3132



Victoria Seaman (R)
Asst. Majority Whip-South
Assembly District No. 34
Assembly 2014–current
Office 3123



Shelly M. Shelton (R)
Assembly District No. 10
Assembly 2014–current
Office 4118



Stephen H. Silberkraus (R)
Assembly District No. 29
Assembly 2014–current
Office 3153



Ellen B. Spiegel (D)
Assembly District No. 20
Assembly 2008–2010
and 2012–current
Office 3134



Michael C. Sprinkle (D)
Assembly District No. 30
Assembly 2012–current
Office 3125

MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY



Richard Carrillo (D)
Assembly District No. 18
Assembly 2010–current
Office 3130



Olivia Diaz (D)
Assembly District No. 11
Assembly 2010–current
Office 4122



Jill Dickman (R)
Asst. Majority Whip–North
Assembly District No. 31
Assembly 2014–current
Office 4123



Victoria A. Dooling (R)
Assembly District No. 41
Assembly 2014–current
Office 3160



Chris Edwards (R)
Assembly District No. 19
Assembly 2014–current
Office 4111



John C. Ellison (R)
Speaker Pro Tempore
Assembly District No. 33
Assembly 2010–current
Office 4115



Michele Fiore (R)
Assembly District No. 4
Assembly 2012–current
Office 4112



Marilyn Kirkpatrick (D)
Minority Floor Leader
Assembly District No. 1
Assembly 2004–current
Office 3105



Randy Kirner (R)
Assembly District No. 26
Assembly 2010–current
Office 4108



John Moore (R)
Assembly District No. 8
Assembly 2014–current
Office 4113



Harvey J. Munford (D)
Assembly District No. 6
Assembly 2004–current
Office 3140



Dina Neal (D)
Assembly District No. 7
Assembly 2010–current
Office 4102



Erven T. Nelson (R)
Assembly District No. 5
Assembly 2014–current
Office 4117



Philip (P. K.) O'Neill (R)
Assembly District No. 40
Assembly 2014–current
Office 3116



Lynn D. Stewart (R)
Assembly District No. 22
Assembly 2006–current
Office 3128



Heidi Swank (D)
Assembly District No. 16
Assembly 2012–current
Office 4105



Tyrone Thompson (D)
Assembly District No. 17
Assembly 2013–current
Office 3159



Robin L. Titus, M.D. (R)
Assembly District No. 38
Assembly 2014–current
Office 3158



Glenn E. Trowbridge (R)*
Assembly District No. 37
Assembly 2014–current
Office 4104
*Appointed to fill vacancy
December 2014.



Jim Wheeler (R)
Majority Whip
Assembly District No. 39
Assembly 2012–current
Office 3119



Melissa Woodbury (R)
Assembly District No. 23
Assembly 2008–current
Office 4114

SENATE DIRECTORY

Atkinson, Kelvin D. (D)†

Senate District No. 4
4120 Birchmont Street
Las Vegas, NV 89130
(702) 457-9995 (H/F)

Brower, Greg (R)†

Senate District No. 15
4790 Caughlin Parkway, No. 170
Reno, NV 89519
(775) 785-5410 (O)

Denis, Moises (Mo) (D)

Senate District No. 2
3204 Osage Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89101
(702) 657-6857 (H)
(702) 743-3571 (C)

Farley, Patricia (R)

Senate District No. 8
1930 Village Center Circle, No. 3-619
Las Vegas, NV 89134
(702) 335-4794 (O)

Ford, Aaron D. (D)†

Senate District No. 11
P.O. Box 96003
Las Vegas, NV 89193
(702) 772-5544 (O/C)

Goicoechea, Pete (R)†

Senate District No. 19
P.O. Box 97
Eureka, NV 89316
(775) 237-5300 (H)
(775) 237-7383 (O)
(775) 778-1620 (C)
(775) 237-5102 (F)

Gustavson, Donald G. (R)

Senate District No. 14
P.O. Box 51601
Sparks, NV 89435
(775) 722-1278 (C)

Hammond, Scott T. (R)†

Senate District No. 18
8408 Gracious Pine Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89143
(702) 523-9055 (H)

Hardy, Joseph (Joe) P., M.D. (R)

Senate District No. 12
P.O. Box 60306
Boulder City, NV 89006
(702) 293-7506 (H)
(702) 581-3066 (C)
(702) 293-2172 (F)

Harris, Becky (R)

Senate District No. 9
P.O. Box 401146
Las Vegas, NV 89140
(702) 324-0404 (O)

Kieckhefer, Ben (R)

Senate District No. 16
10045 Goler Wash Court
Reno, NV 89521
(775) 853-8320 (H)
(775) 223-9618 (C)

Kihuen, Ruben J. (D)

Senate District No. 10
P.O. Box 427
Las Vegas, NV 89125
(702) 274-1707 (C)

Lipparelli, Mark A. (R)*†

Senate District No. 6
401 South Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701
(702) 528-3330 (C)

Manendo, Mark A. (D)

Senate District No. 21
4030 Beisner Street
Las Vegas, NV 89122
(702) 451-8654 (H)
(702) 451-9060 (F)

Parks, David R. (D)†

Senate District No. 7
P.O. Box 71887
Las Vegas, NV 89170
(702) 736-6929 (H)

Roberson, Michael (R)

Senate District No. 20
P.O. Box 530940
Henderson, NV 89053
(702) 612-6929 (H)

Segerblom, Tick (D)†

Senate District No. 3
700 South Third Street
Las Vegas, NV 89101
(702) 388-9600 (O)
(702) 385-2909 (F)

Settmeyer, James A. (R)

Senate District No. 17
2388 Highway 395
Minden, NV 89423
(775) 450-6114 (C)

Smith, Debbie (D)

Senate District No. 13
1285 Baring Boulevard, No. 402
Sparks, NV 89434
(775) 391-8031 (O)
(775) 331-9064 (F)

Spearman, Patricia (Pat) (D)†

Senate District No. 1
5575 Simmons Street, Suite 1-174
North Las Vegas, NV 89031
(702) 706-5785 (H)
(702) 701-0612 (O)

Woodhouse, Joyce (D)†

Senate District No. 5
246 Garfield Drive
Henderson, NV 89074
(702) 896-1453 (H)
(702) 407-9258 (F)



Claire J. Clift
Secretary of the Senate

*Appointed on December 2, 2014, to replace
Senator Mark A. Hutchison.

ASSEMBLY DIRECTORY

Anderson, D. Paul (R)
Assembly District No. 13
10000 West Charleston Boulevard
Suite 100
Las Vegas, NV 89135
(702) 410-6645 (O)
(702) 735-7372 (F)

Anderson, Elliot T. (D)
Assembly District No. 15
3135 South Mojave Road, Unit 227
Las Vegas, NV 89121
(702) 733-4073 (H)

Araujo, Nelson (D)
Assembly District No. 3
P.O. Box 295
Las Vegas, NV 89125
(702) 900-2189 (C)

Armstrong, Derek W. (R)
Assembly District No. 21
2480 West Horizon Ridge Parkway
Suite 140
Henderson, NV 89052
(702) 216-1010 (O)
(702) 769-2836 (C)
(888) 540-7613 (F)

Benitez-Thompson, Teresa (D)
Assembly District No. 27
P.O. Box 20637
Reno, NV 89515
(775) 247-7665 (C)

Bustamante Adams, Irene (D)
Assembly District No. 42
3800 Reflection Way
Las Vegas, NV 89147
(702) 542-3900 (H)

Carlton, Maggie (D)
Assembly District No. 14
5540 East Cartwright Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89110
(702) 236-5401 (O)

Carrillo, Richard (D)
Assembly District No. 18
4819 Diza Court
Las Vegas, NV 89122
(702) 273-8786 (H)

Diaz, Olivia (D)
Assembly District No. 11
P.O. Box 365072
North Las Vegas, NV 89036
(702) 501-8994 (H)

Dickman, Jill (R)
Assembly District No. 31
1344 Disc Drive, No. 201
Sparks, NV 89436
(775) 771-9579 (C)
(775) 355-7667 (F)

Dooling, Victoria A. (R)
Assembly District No. 41
2505 Anthem Village Drive
Suite 492
Henderson, NV 89052
(702) 808-2017 (C)

Edwards, Chris (R)
Assembly District No. 19
6088 Riflecrest Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89156
(702) 715-4308 (C)

Ellison, John C. (R)
Assembly District No. 33
P.O. Box 683
Elko, NV 89803
(775) 738-6284 (H/O)
(775) 934-6611 (C)

Fiore, Michele (R)
Assembly District No. 4
9085 West Rosada Way
Las Vegas, NV 89149
(702) 302-5163 (H)
(702) 210-8460 (O)

Flores, Edgar R. (D)
Assembly District No. 28
P.O. Box 42302
Las Vegas, NV 89116
(702) 308-0483 (C)

Gardner, David M. (R)
Assembly District No. 9
9661 Waukegan Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89148
(702) 813-0271 (C)

Hambrick, John (R)
Assembly District No. 2
1930 Village Center Circle
Suite 3-419
Las Vegas, NV 89134
(702) 242-8580 (H)
(702) 499-6169 (C)
(702) 242-3406 (F)

Hansen, Ira (R)
Assembly District No. 32
68 Amigo Court
Sparks, NV 89441
(775) 221-2502 (C)
(775) 322-8889 (F)

Hickey, Pat (R)
Assembly District No. 25
1180 Forest Street
Reno, NV 89509
(775) 762-8006 (C)
(775) 329-7802 (F)

Joiner, Amber (D)**
Assembly District No. 24
P.O. Box 9810
Reno, NV 89507
(775) 338-6733 (C)

Jones, Brent A. (R)
Assembly District No. 35
4497 Via Bianca Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89141
(702) 521-0632 (C)

Kirkpatrick, Marilyn (D)
Assembly District No. 1
4747 Showdown Drive
North Las Vegas, NV 89031
(702) 655-0332 (H)
(702) 767-1315 (C)

Kirner, Randy (R)
Assembly District No. 26
18124 Wedge Parkway, Suite 519
Reno, NV 89511
(775) 852-3857 (H)

Moore, John (R)
Assembly District No. 8
5155 West Tropicana Avenue
No. 2020
Las Vegas, NV 89103
(702) 482-7676 (C)

Munford, Harvey J. (D)
Assembly District No. 6
809 Sunny Place
Las Vegas, NV 89106
(702) 646-4265 (H)
(702) 375-0601 (C)

Neal, Dina (D)
Assembly District No. 7
3217 Brautigan Court
North Las Vegas, NV 89032
(702) 738-5870 (H)
(702) 399-2114 (F)

Nelson, Erven T. (R)
Assembly District No. 5
10785 West Twain Avenue
Suite 200
Las Vegas, NV 89135
(702) 870-6060 (O)
(702) 498-9111 (C)
(702) 870-6090 (F)

O'Neill, Philip (P. K.) (R)
Assembly District No. 40
1216 Sonoma Street
Carson City, NV 89701
(775) 741-8309 (C)
(775) 664-0551 (F)

Ohrenschall, James (D)
Assembly District No. 12
P.O. Box 97741
Las Vegas, NV 89193
(702) 432-6999 (H)
(702) 523-4766 (C)

Oscarson, James (R)
Assembly District No. 36
P.O. Box 1600
Pahrump, NV 89048
(775) 513-7468 (C)

Seaman, Victoria (R)
Assembly District No. 34
8808 Rozetta Court
Las Vegas, NV 89134
(702) 466-0407 (C)

Shelton, Shelly M. (R)
Assembly District No. 10
845 South Kenny Way
Las Vegas, NV 89107
(702) 343-4546 (C)

Silberkraus, Stephen H. (R)
Assembly District No. 29
P.O. Box 530364
Henderson, NV 89053
(702) 900-0998 (O)

Spiegel, Ellen B. (D)
Assembly District No. 20
2764 North Green Valley
Parkway, No. 327
Henderson, NV 89014
(702) 577-2167 (O)

Sprinkle, Michael C. (D)
Assembly District No. 30
P.O. Box 51202
Sparks, NV 89435
(775) 742-5935 (H)

Stewart, Lynn D. (R)
Assembly District No. 22
2720 Cool Lilac Avenue
Henderson, NV 89052
(702) 614-0631 (H)
(702) 370-2185 (C)

Swank, Heidi (D)
Assembly District No. 16
546 Barbara Way
Las Vegas, NV 89104
(702) 371-6217 (H)

Thompson, Tyrone (D)
Assembly District No. 17
117 Fox Crossing Avenue
North Las Vegas, NV 89084
(702) 561-7976 (C)

Titus, Robin L., M.D. (R)
Assembly District No. 38
P.O. Box 377
Wellington, NV 89444
(775) 465-2587 (H)
(775) 465-2676 (F)

Trowbridge, Glenn E. (R)***
Assembly District No. 37
1965 Verbania Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89134
(702) 363-2183 (O)

Wheeler, Jim (R)
Assembly District No. 39
P.O. Box 2135
Minden, NV 89423
(775) 546-3471 (C)

Woodbury, Melissa (R)
Assembly District No. 23
P.O. Box 401508
Las Vegas, NV 89140
(702) 580-6119 (O)
(702) 240-2332 (F)



Susan Furlong
Chief Clerk of the Assembly



THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE IN ACTION

Legislative Sessions

A legislative session is the period during which the Legislature meets. Regular sessions of the Legislature are held in odd-numbered years and begin on the first Monday in February. Nevada is one of only four states that conducts true biennial sessions. Following voter approval of a constitutional amendment in 1998, regular sessions now are limited to 120 calendar days. Before this amendment passed, the length of legislative sessions was not limited and one lasted as long as 169 days. The Legislature convened its 78th Regular Session on February 2, 2015. It must adjourn “sine die” (without a day being set for reconvening) no later than June 1, 2015.

The 2013 Regular Session

The 2013 Regular Session of the Nevada Legislature considered 1,035 new legislative measures—512 from the Assembly, 522 from the Senate, and 1 initiative petition. Additionally, 18 vetoed bills, 10 from the Assembly and 8 from the Senate, were returned from the previous session for the 2013 Regular Session to consider. Of the 1,035 new measures that were considered, 570 bills were approved. The Governor vetoed 17 bills, none of which were overridden by the 2013 Legislature. Fourteen of these bills were vetoed after the 2013 Session ended; and were returned to the houses in which they originated for possible reconsideration when the 2015 Legislature convenes. The Governor signed all of the remaining bills; therefore, 553 bills became law.

The 27th Special Session

The Governor called the Legislature into its 27th Special Session on June 4, 2013, to address several issues that remained unresolved when the regular session ended. During the 27th Special Session, five bills were introduced, all of which were enacted into State law.

The 28th Special Session

The Governor called the Legislature into its 28th Special Session on September 10, 2014, to expand incentives for certain businesses to locate to Nevada in alignment with Nevada’s economic development policy; revise provisions concerning the Economic Development Electric Rate Rider Program; limit the availability of certain insurance premium tax credits; and provide for the direct sale of electric vehicles by manufacturers in certain instances. During the 28th Special Session, four bills were introduced, all of which were enacted into State law.



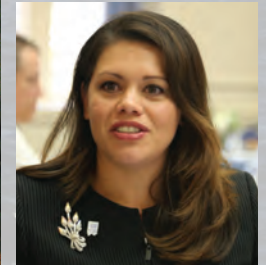
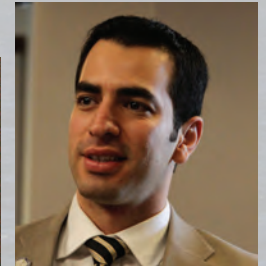
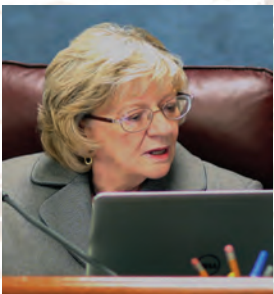
THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE IN ACTION

The Legislature Between Sessions

The 12-member Legislative Commission acts on behalf of the Legislative Branch of government when the full Legislature is not in session. This body meets every few months between sessions to provide guidance to staff of the Legislative Counsel Bureau and to address other interim matters.

The Interim Finance Committee, composed of the members of the Senate Committee on Finance and the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means, makes fiscal decisions for the Legislature during the period between regular sessions. The Interim Finance Committee considers requests for allocations from its Contingency Account to meet unforeseen financial emergencies.

During the interim, legislators are assigned to various study committees to investigate a wide range of issues. These committees hold public hearings, direct research, and deliberate on proposed legislation for the next session of the Legislature.



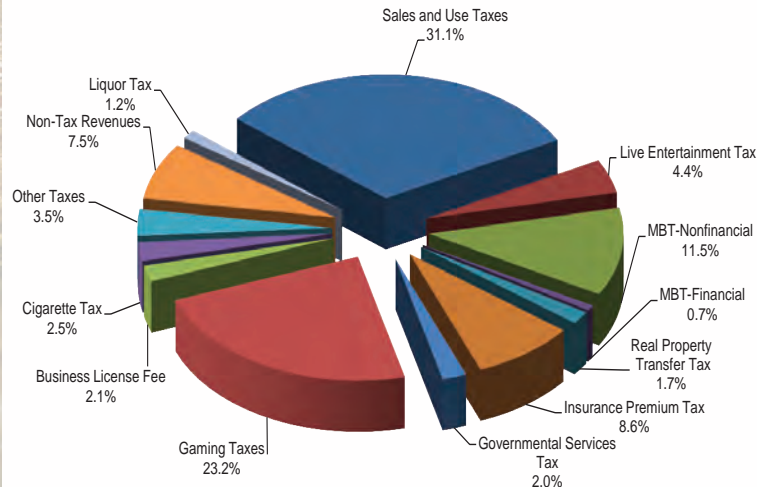
GENERAL FUND BUDGET

The 2013 Legislature approved State General Fund appropriations for the 2013-2015 Biennium of approximately \$6.5 billion. The approved budget for the ongoing operation of State government totals approximately \$20.2 billion.

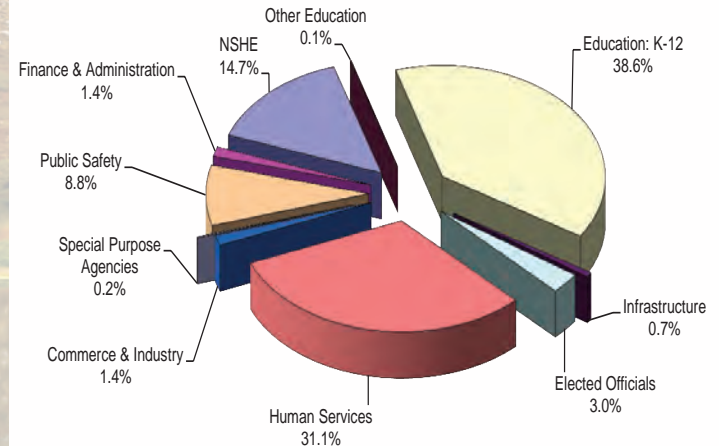
The State General Fund Revenues for the 2013-2015 Biennium were projected in May 2013 to come from the sources as indicated below:

The uses of State General Fund Appropriations for the 2013-2015 Biennium were approved by the 2013 Legislature for expenditure as indicated below:

NEVADA GENERAL FUND REVENUE
ADJUSTED ECONOMIC FORUM FORECAST, 2013-2015 BIENNIUM



NEVADA GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS
LEGISLATURE APPROVED – 2013-2015 BIENNIUM



MBT refers to the Modified Business Tax, and NSHE refers to the Nevada System of Higher Education.



SENATE



*Assistant Majority Leader
Ben Kieckhefer*



*Co-Majority Whip
Scott T. Hammond*



*Co-Majority Whip
James A. Settlemeyer*



*Assistant Minority Leader
Debbie Smith*



*Co-Minority Whip
Kelvin D. Atkinson*



*Co-Minority Whip
Ruben J. Kihuen*



*Majority Leader
Michael Roberson*



*President Pro Tempore
Joseph (Joe) P. Hardy, M.D.*



*Minority Leader
Aaron D. Ford*

LEADERSHIP OF THE 78TH SESSION ASSEMBLY



*Speaker
John Hambrick*



*Speaker Pro Tempore
John C. Ellison*



*Minority Floor Leader
Marilyn Kirkpatrick*



*Majority Floor Leader
D. Paul Anderson*



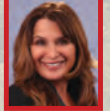
*Assistant Majority Floor Leader
Ira Hansen*



*Majority Whip
Jim Wheeler*



*Assistant Majority Whip-North
Jill Dickman*



*Assistant Majority Whip-South
Victoria Seaman*



*Co-Assistant Minority Floor Leader
Teresa Benitez-Thompson*



*Co-Assistant Minority Floor Leader
Maggie Carlton*

HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW

The following is a general description of the five steps in the legislative process, if a bill is to be enacted into law. As a general rule, a bill must be approved by both houses of the Legislature and signed by the Governor to become a law.

1. Initial Steps by the Author

Idea

Ideas for legislation come from State and local governments, elected officials, businesses, organizations, and citizens.

Drafting

Requests for drafting may be made by legislators, legislative committees, the Governor, State agencies, and local governments. A staff attorney for the Legislature prepares a formal draft of a bill.

2. Action in the House of Origin

Introduction and First Reading

A bill is submitted for introduction by an individual legislator or committee chair. It is then numbered, read for the first time, referred to committee, printed, and delivered to the committee.

Committee Action and Report

A committee holds a hearing to take testimony and gather information about the bill. A committee may make a variety of recommendations to the entire legislative body. It may recommend that the house pass a bill as it is written or pass it with amendments. If a committee decides that a bill requires further committee consideration, it may recommend that the house amend the bill and rerefer it to another committee. Finally, a committee may vote to indefinitely postpone consideration of a bill, effectively killing it, or may take no action at all.

Second Reading Before the Full House

A bill given a “Do Pass” recommendation is read a second time and placed on General File for debate and final vote. A bill that is given an “Amend and Do Pass” recommendation is read a second time, and if the amendment is adopted, it is reprinted before being placed on General File for action.

Floor Debate and Vote by the Full House

A bill is read a third time and debated. A roll call vote follows. Passage of most bills and joint resolutions requires 11 votes in the Senate and 22 in the Assembly. The passage of a bill that imposes or increases a tax or fee requires a two-thirds majority (14 votes in the Senate and 28 votes in the Assembly). A measure that does not receive at least the required number of votes is defeated. Any member voting on the prevailing side may serve notice of reconsideration to request a second vote. All bills that are passed by the first legislative house are forwarded to the second house for consideration.

HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW

3. Action in the Second House

The method of processing a bill in the second house is identical to that in the first house. If the second house to consider a bill passes it without amendment, it is enrolled and sent to the Governor. Resolutions are sent to the Secretary of State. If the second house amends a measure, it is returned to the house of origin for consideration of the amendments.



Governor Brian Sandoval

4. Resolution of Differences, If Necessary

Consideration of Amendments

The house of origin decides whether to accept the second house's amendments. If it accepts the amendments, the bill is enrolled and sent to the Governor. If the amendments are rejected, the bill is returned to the second house for a decision of whether or not to withdraw the proposed changes.

Conference Committee

If the second house does not withdraw its proposed changes, the bill is referred to a conference committee that includes members of both houses. The conference committee attempts to resolve the differences and presents its recommendation in the form of a conference report. If both houses accept the report, the bill is enrolled and sent to the Governor. The bill dies if the members of the conference committee fail to agree or if a conference report is not adopted by both houses.



5. Role of the Governor

The Governor must act on a bill within five days after receiving it if the Legislature is still in session, or ten days if the session has ended (Sundays excepted). The Governor may sign the bill into law, allow it to become law without a signature, or veto it. A vetoed bill is returned to the house of origin for possible consideration to override or sustain the veto. An override requires a two-thirds majority of both houses. If the Governor vetoes a bill after session ends, the bill returns to the next regular legislative session. Measures become effective on October 1 following the end of the legislative session, unless otherwise specified in the bill.

STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE 78TH SESSION

Committees are the workshops of the Legislature. At committee hearings, interested individuals and groups express their positions. Committees thoroughly analyze and consider the general intent and the details of proposed legislation.

In the 2015 Session, the Senate and the Assembly each have ten standing committees. The listings that follow show the specific committee assignments for the 2015 Legislature. For each committee, the Chair is named first, the Vice Chair second, followed by majority party members in alphabetical order, and then minority party members in alphabetical order.



Senate Standing Committees

•**Commerce, Labor and Energy**—Settlemeyer, Farley, Hardy, Harris, Atkinson, Manendo, Spearman.

•**Education**—Harris, Hammond, Gustavson, Lipparelli, Denis, Segerblom, Woodhouse.

•**Finance**—Kieckhefer, Roberson, Ford (part), Goicoechea, Lipparelli, Parks, Smith (part), Woodhouse.

•**Government Affairs**—Goicoechea, Hardy, Lipparelli, Atkinson, Parks.

•**Health and Human Services**—Hardy, Kieckhefer, Lipparelli, Smith (part), Spearman (part), Woodhouse.

•**Judiciary**—Brower, Harris, Hammond, Roberson, Ford, Kihuen, Segerblom.

•**Legislative Operations and Elections**—Farley, Settlemeyer, Brower, Atkinson, Segerblom.

•**Natural Resources**—Gustavson, Goicoechea, Settlemeyer, Manendo, Parks (part), Smith (part).

•**Revenue and Economic Development**—Roberson, Brower, Hardy, Kieckhefer, Ford, Kihuen, Spearman.

•**Transportation**—Hammond, Gustavson, Farley, Denis, Manendo.

Assembly Standing Committees

•**Commerce and Labor**—Kirner, Seaman, P. Anderson, Ellison, Fiore, Hansen, Nelson, O'Neill, Silberkraus, Bustamante Adams, Carlton, Diaz, Kirkpatrick, Neal, Ohrenschall.

•**Education**—Woodbury, Stewart, Armstrong, Dooling, Edwards, Gardner, Hickey, Shelton, E. Anderson, Diaz, Flores, Joiner, Munford, Swank.

•**Government Affairs**—Ellison, Moore, Dooling, Shelton, Silberkraus, Stewart, Trowbridge (part), Wheeler (part), Woodbury, Carrillo, Flores, Joiner, Munford, Neal, Spiegel.

•**Health and Human Services**—Oscarson, Titus, Dickman, Gardner, Hambrick, Jones, Moore, Trowbridge, Araujo, Benitez-Thompson, Joiner, Spiegel, Sprinkle, Thompson.

•**Judiciary**—Hansen, Nelson, Fiore, Gardner, Jones, O'Neill, Seaman, Trowbridge (part), Wheeler (part), E. Anderson, Araujo, Diaz, Ohrenschall, Thompson.

•**Legislative Operations and Elections**—Stewart, Shelton, Fiore, Moore, Seaman, Trowbridge, E. Anderson, Munford, Ohrenschall, Thompson.

•**Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Mining**—Titus, Wheeler, Dooling, Edwards, Ellison, Gardner, Hansen, Oscarson, Araujo, Carlton, Carrillo, Swank.

•**Taxation**—Armstrong, Kirner, Dickman, Hambrick, Hickey, Nelson, Trowbridge, Benitez-Thompson, Bustamante Adams, Diaz, Kirkpatrick, Neal.

•**Transportation**—Wheeler, Dickman, Dooling, Fiore, Jones, O'Neill, Silberkraus, Woodbury, Araujo, Carrillo, Flores, Kirkpatrick, Spiegel, Sprinkle.

•**Ways and Means**—P. Anderson, Hambrick, Armstrong, Dickman, Edwards, Hickey, Kirner, Oscarson, Titus, Benitez-Thompson, Bustamante Adams, Carlton, Kirkpatrick, Sprinkle, Swank.

(Revised May 2015)

CONTACTING THE LEGISLATURE

WHEN THE LEGISLATURE IS IN SESSION

During the legislative session, the status of bills and other information on the legislative process may be obtained by:

Visiting the Nevada Legislature website at www.leg.state.nv.us.

Not only can you learn about the status of bills on this site, but you can access the biographies and photos of all the legislators; general information about the legislative process, including definitions of common legislative terms; a list of upcoming committee meetings; and much more.

Telephoning the Legislative Message Center During Session (to contact a legislator or voice an opinion):

684-6789 (from the Reno/Carson City area)
486-2626 (from the Las Vegas area)
(800) 995-9080 or (800) 978-2878 or (800) 992-0973 (from other Nevada areas)

Faxing a Document

To Senators at (775) 684-6522
To Assembly Members at (775) 684-8533
To the Legislative Building at (775) 684-6811
Toll-free to the Legislative Building at (866) 543-9941

Mailing a Letter

Address correspondence to your legislator's attention at the following address:

Nevada Legislature
Legislative Building
401 South Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

WHEN THE LEGISLATURE IS NOT IN SESSION

When the Legislature is not in session, you may obtain information about the interim committees and their meeting schedules by visiting the Nevada Legislature website at www.leg.state.nv.us.

You may also contact your legislator at the address and telephone number listed on pages 16 and 17 of this Guide, through the Nevada Legislature website by following the links to e-mail your legislator, or by calling the following telephone numbers:

684-6800 (from the Reno/Carson City area)
486-2626 (from the Las Vegas area)
(800) 995-9080 or (800) 978-2878 or (800) 992-0973 (from other Nevada areas)

Any Time of the Year

Constituent Services Unit
Telephone: (775) 684-6740
Toll-free from Las Vegas area: 486-3883
Toll-free from other Nevada areas: (800) 992-0973



THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

In mid-1864, Nevada's Constitutional Convention adopted a description of the features to be placed on Nevada's Great Seal. The Territorial Legislature had approved the description of the seal for the Territory of Nevada on November 29, 1861. The Territorial Seal included the motto "Volens et Potens," which means "Willing and Able," expressing the ideas of loyalty to the Union and the mineral wealth to sustain it.

On February 24, 1866, the Legislature changed the motto on the seal to "All for Our Country." In 1969, *Nevada Revised Statutes* 235.010 was amended by Assembly Bill 157 to make the legal description conform to the actual features of the seal.

The design of The Great Seal of the State of Nevada is described as follows:

In the foreground, there are two large mountains, at the base of which, on the right, is located a quartz mill, and on the left, a tunnel, penetrating the silver leads of the mountain, with a miner running out a carload of ore, and a team loaded with ore for the mill. Immediately in the foreground, there are emblems indicative of the agricultural resources of the State including a plow, a sheaf, and a sickle. In the middle ground, there is a railroad train passing a mountain gorge and a telegraph line extending along the line of the railroad. In the extreme background, there is a range of snow-clad mountains, with the rising sun in the east. Thirty-six stars (to signify Nevada as the 36th state to join the Union) and the motto, "All for Our Country," encircle the entire illustration. In an outer circle, the words "The Great Seal of the State of Nevada" are engraved, with "Nevada" at the base of the seal and separated from the other words by two groups of three stars each.



In 1999, the Nevada Legislature formally defined in the *Nevada Revised Statutes* the colors of the seal, including the yellow band highlighting the words "All for Our Country."

Two large etched-metal versions of the seal may be found on both the north and south exterior faces of the Legislative Building, a gift from the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to the Nevada Legislature. The Republic of China (Taiwan) was designated as Nevada's sister state in 1985.

THE NEVADA STATE FLAG

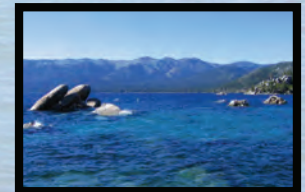
Nevada has had four flags in its history. The Legislature did not adopt the design of the first flag until 1905, more than 40 years after Nevada entered the Union. Governor John Sparks and Colonel Henry Day of Carson City, a member of the Governor's staff, designed this flag. It had a blue background with the words "Nevada" in the center, "silver" at the top, and "gold" at the bottom. Thirty-six silver and gold stars represented that Nevada was the 36th state admitted to the Union.

In 1915, the State Legislature repealed the 1905 Flag Act and created a new official flag, which was much different from the original. Clara Crisler of Carson City designed the new flag. It had a blue background with the State seal in the center. The design featured 18 gold stars arranged around the word "Nevada," and 18 silver stars below the words "All for Our Country." Again, the 36 stars indicated that Nevada was the 36th state admitted to the Union. When Miss Crisler added an extra star for a total of 37, the meaning of the stars was lost. This flag now hangs in the Nevada State Museum located in Carson City.



The Legislature adopted the design of Don Louis Shellback III for the third flag in 1929. The background color of the flag remained blue, but the flag's design changed dramatically. Two sprays of sagebrush crossed to form a wreath in the upper left portion of the flag. A five-pointed star appeared at the center of the wreath with "Nevada" spelled out between the points of the star. A scroll with the motto "Battle Born" signified that Nevada entered the Union during the Civil War.

The 1991 Legislature approved a bill, sponsored by Senator William J. Raggio, to alter the way that "Nevada" is depicted on the State flag. Since October 1, 1991, the name "Nevada" has been positioned underneath instead of interspersed between the points of the star. Verne R. Horton created the current design of the flag.



FACTS ABOUT NEVADA

The presence of Nevada's earliest inhabitants, beginning about 12,400 years ago, is marked by many petroglyphs and archaeological sites. Baskets, decoys, and ingenious traps are evidence of the resourcefulness of these early people in a harsh and arid environment.

European explorers traveled through Nevada in the early 19th century, but it was not until 1851 that the first settlements were established. An Act of Congress created the Territory of Nevada on March 2, 1861. James W. Nye of New York was appointed Nevada's first Territorial Governor by President Abraham Lincoln later that year. On October 31, 1864, President Lincoln proclaimed Nevada's admission to the Union as the 36th state. The State's first elected Governor, Henry Blasdel, took office on December 5, 1864.

Today, Nevada is the nation's seventh largest state in land area. Several hundred mountain ranges cross its landscape, many with elevations over 10,000 feet. In contrast, the State's lowest point (along the Colorado River) is only 470 feet above sea level. From majestic mountains to desert valleys, nature has endowed Nevada with diverse and unique ecosystems.

The Nevada Legislature has honored the State's natural resources and cultural heritage with a variety of State designations described on this and the following pages.

State Artifact (NRS 235.085) Tule Duck Decoy

This decoy was created almost 2,000 years ago. Discovered by archeologists in 1924 during an excavation at Lovelock Cave, the decoys are formed of bundles of bulrush (tule) stems, bound together and shaped to resemble canvasback ducks.

State Bird (NRS 235.060) Mountain Bluebird

The Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*) lives in the Nevada high country and destroys many harmful insects. It is a member of the thrush family, and its song is a clear, short warble like the caroling of a robin. The male is azure blue with a white belly, while the female is brown with a bluish rump, tail, and wings.

State Colors (NRS 235.025) Silver and Blue



State Animal (NRS 235.070) Desert Bighorn Sheep

The Desert Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*) is smaller than its Rocky Mountain cousin but has a wider spread of horns. The bighorn is well-suited for Nevada's mountainous desert country because it can survive for long periods without water. The large rams stand about 4.5 feet tall and can weigh as much as 175 pounds.

FACTS ABOUT NEVADA

State Fish (NRS 235.075) Lahontan Cutthroat Trout

The Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (*Salmo clarki henshawi*), a native trout found in 14 of the State's 17 counties, is adapted to habitats ranging from high mountain creeks and alpine lakes to warm, intermittent lowland streams and alkaline lakes where no other trout can live.



State Flower (NRS 235.050) Sagebrush

The Sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* or *trifida*) grows abundantly in the deserts of the western U.S. A member of the wormwood family, sagebrush is a branching bush (1 to 12 feet high) and grows in regions where other kinds of vegetation cannot subsist. Known for its pleasant aroma, gray-green twigs, and pale yellow flowers, sagebrush is an important winter food for sheep and cattle.

State Fossil (NRS 235.080) The Ichthyosaur

This fossil (*genus Shonisaurus*) was found in Berlin, east of Gabbs. Nevada is the only state to possess a complete skeleton (approximately 55 feet long) of this extinct marine reptile. Ichthyosaurs (a name meaning “fish lizards”) were predatory reptiles that filled the same ecological niche as—and quite resembled in body form—the dolphins of today, only many of them were much larger.



FACTS ABOUT NEVADA

State Gemstones

Precious Gemstone (NRS 235.100) Virgin Valley Black Fire Opal. Among the many gemstones found in Nevada, the Virgin Valley Black Fire Opal is one of the most beautiful. The Virgin Valley in northern Nevada is the only place in North America where the Black Fire Opal is found in any significant quantity.

Semiprecious Gemstone (NRS 235.110) Nevada Turquoise. Sometimes called the “Jewel of the Desert,” Nevada Turquoise is found in many parts of the State.

State Grass (NRS 235.055) Indian Ricegrass

Indian Ricegrass (*Oryzopsis hymenoides*), once a staple food source for Nevada Indians, now provides valuable feed for wildlife and range livestock. This tough native grass, which is found throughout the State, is known for its ability to reseed and establish itself on sites damaged by fire or overgrazing.

State Insect (NRS 235.062) Vivid Dancer Damselfly

The Vivid Dancer Damselfly (*Argia vivida*) is abundant in springs and ponds in all four regions of Nevada. The adult male is a rich blue with clear wings that appear silver when rapidly beating in sunlight, while most females are either tan or tan and gray.



State Locomotives (NRS 235.135) Engine No. 40

The steam locomotive known as Engine No. 40 was built in 1910. Engine No. 40 is currently located in East Ely, Nevada.

State March (NRS 235.035) “Silver State Fanfare”

The March was composed by Gerald Willis and codified by the Nevada Legislature in 2001.

State Metal (NRS 235.090) Silver (Ag)

In 2013, over 8.5 million ounces of silver were produced in Nevada.

State Reptile (NRS 235.065) Desert Tortoise

The Desert Tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) lives in the extreme southern parts of Nevada. This reptile spends much of its life in underground burrows to escape the harsh summer heat and winter cold. It can live to be more than 70 years old.



FACTS ABOUT NEVADA

State Rock (NRS 235.120) Sandstone

In its more traditionally recognized form as quartzite, sandstone is found throughout the State. In areas such as the Valley of Fire State Park and Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area (both near Las Vegas), it provides some of Nevada's most spectacular scenery. The State Capitol and the former U.S. Mint are built of sandstone.

State Soil (NRS 235.115) Orovada Soil Series

Orovada soils are extensive in northern Nevada, where they have an area of more than 360,000 acres. They are common soils on semiarid rangeland with sagebrush-grass plant communities. Orovada soils are arable when irrigated and are considered prime farmland. Alfalfa for hay and seed, winter wheat and barley, and grass for hay and pasture are the principal crops grown on these soils.

State Song (NRS 235.030) "Home Means Nevada"

In 1933, the Legislature adopted "Home Means Nevada" as the official state song. Mrs. Bertha Raffetto of Reno wrote the song to honor the State. The refrain of the song is as follows:

"Home" means Nevada, "Home" means the hills,

"Home" means the sage and the pines.

Out by the Truckee's silvery rills,

Out where the sun always shines,

There is a land that I love the best,

Fairer than all I can see.

Right in the heart of the golden west

"Home" means Nevada to me.



State Tartan (NRS 235.130)

Some colors of the tartan represent the following features that make Nevada a unique and bountiful state:

- Blue represents one of the state colors of Nevada, the pristine waters of Lake Tahoe, and the Mountain Bluebird, the official state bird;
- Silver represents the other state color, the official state mineral, the granite composition of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range, and the silver country of northern Nevada;
- Red represents the Virgin Valley Black Fire Opal, the official state precious gemstone, and the red rock formations of southern Nevada;
- Yellow represents Sagebrush, the official state flower, and symbolizes the Great Basin Region of central Nevada; and
- White represents the name of this state, meaning snow-covered, which is the translation of the Spanish word "nevada."

State Trees (NRS 235.040)

The Single-Leaf Pinon (*Pinus monophylla*) is an aromatic pine tree with short, stiff needles and gnarled branches. The tree grows in coarse, rocky soils and rock crevices. Though its normal height is about 15 feet, the Single-Leaf Pinon can grow as high as 50 feet under ideal conditions.

The Bristlecone Pine (*Pinus longaeva*) is the oldest living thing on Earth, with some specimens in Nevada more than 4,000 years old. The tree can be found at high elevations. Normal height for older trees is about 15 to 30 feet, although some have attained a height of 60 feet. Diameter growth continues throughout the long life of the tree, resulting in massive trunks with a few contorted limbs.

FACTS ABOUT NEVADA

Nevada Nicknames

Sagebrush State

Silver State

Battle-Born State

The origin of the State's name is Spanish, meaning "snow-covered."

Population Statistics (2010 Census)

State of Nevada—2,700,551

Capital—Carson City—55,274

Most populous city—Las Vegas—583,756

Most populous county—Clark—1,951,269

Geographical Data

Area of the State—109,781 square miles
(approximately 85 percent of Nevada's
land area is federally managed)

Highest elevation—Boundary Peak
in Esmeralda County—13,140 feet

Lowest elevation—on the Colorado River
in Clark County—470 feet

Did You Know?

The first federal water reclamation project in the United States was the Newlands Reclamation Project, which was authorized by the U.S. Congress in 1902 with the aim of moving water from the Truckee and Carson Rivers to a dry spot in the desert in order to create an oasis.

An estimated 800,000 acre-feet of water evaporates from Lake Mead every year.

In the movie *The Greatest Story Ever Told*, Pyramid Lake made an appearance as the Sea of Galilee.

The name "Tahoe" was derived from a mispronunciation of "*da ow a ga*," the Washoe Native American name for Lake Tahoe, which means "edge of the lake."

The Humboldt River was originally called Unknown River. It was given its current name in 1848 by John C. Fremont, who had been working on a detailed map of the region at the time.

Lake Tahoe contains roughly 39 trillion gallons of water, which is enough water to cover the entire state of California to a depth of 14.5 inches.

Twenty-seven miles long and nine miles wide, Pyramid Lake is the largest natural lake that is located entirely within Nevada.

The Colorado River provides approximately 90 percent of the water used in southern Nevada, which in 2013, was 212 gallons per capita per day.

In his book *Roughing It*, Mark Twain described Lake Tahoe as "the fairest picture the whole earth affords."

CREDITS

The 2015–2016 *Guide to the Nevada Legislature* was prepared by the Publications Unit of the Research Division of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

Cover Art and Photography

“Truckee River at Painted Rock,” by Mike Sevon

Information Sources

<http://www.leg.state.nv.us>

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Legislator Portrait Credits

Cook's Photography

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Other Photographs

Aerial shots by Nevada's Department of Transportation

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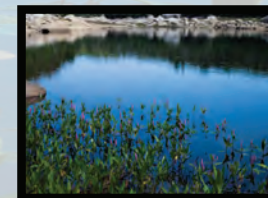
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