AN ACT relating to elections; extending the period during which an elector can register to vote in person or by computer; requiring county and city clerks to distribute sample ballots by electronic mail under certain circumstances; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:
Under existing law, registration for any primary, primary city, general or general city election closes on the third Tuesday before the election. Unless otherwise specified, registration for a recall or special election closes on the third Saturday before the election. After the fifth Sunday before a primary, primary city, general or general city election, a person may register to vote only by appearing in person at the office of the county or city clerk, as applicable, or other designated site for registering to vote. (NRS 293.560, 293C.527) Sections 5 and 12 of this bill extend the period in which a person may register to vote for primary, primary city, general and general city elections until the last day of early voting for those elections, which is the Friday before the election. Sections 5 and 12 also allow a person to register to vote by computer after the fifth Sunday before the election. Additionally, sections 5 and 12 extend the period in which a person may register to vote for all elections except otherwise specified recall and special elections until the fourth day before the election. Sections 3, 4, 7 and 11 of this bill make conforming changes.

Under existing law, each county and city clerk is required to mail a sample ballot to each registered voter in the applicable county or city. (NRS 293.565, 293C.530) Sections 6.5 and 12.1 of this bill require each county and city clerk to distribute sample ballots by electronic mail to each registered voter who elects to receive sample ballots in that manner. Sections 2.5, 7.5 and 12.2-12.6 of this bill make conforming changes.

The changes in this bill take effect on January 1, 2014.

EXPLANATION – Matter in bolded italics is new; matter between brackets [omitted material] is material to be omitted.
Sec. 3. NRS 293.356 is hereby amended to read as follows:

293.356 If a request is made in person to vote early by a registered voter [in person], including, without limitation, a registered voter who registered to vote after the beginning of the period for early voting by personal appearance, the election board shall issue a ballot for early voting to the voter. Such a ballot must be voted on the premises of a polling place for early voting established pursuant to NRS 293.3564 or 293.3572.

Sec. 4. NRS 293.557 is hereby amended to read as follows:

293.557 1. The county clerk may cause to be published once in each of the newspapers circulated in different parts of the county or cause to be published once in a newspaper circulated in the county:

(a) An alphabetical listing of all registered voters, including the precinct of each voter:
   (1) Within the circulation area of each newspaper if the listing is published in each newspaper circulated in different parts of the county; or
   (2) Within the entire county if the listing is published in only one newspaper in the county; or

(b) A statement notifying the public that the county clerk will provide an alphabetical listing of the names of all registered voters in the entire county and the precinct of each voter free of charge to any person upon request.

2. If the county clerk publishes the list of registered voters, the county clerk must do so:
   (a) Not less than 2 weeks before the close of registration for any primary election.
   (b) After each primary election and not less than 2 weeks before the close of registration for the ensuing general election.

3. The county may not pay more than 10 cents per name for six-point or seven-point type or 15 cents per name for eight-point type or larger to each newspaper publishing the list.

4. The list of registered voters, if published, must not be printed in type smaller than six-point.

Sec. 5. NRS 293.560 is hereby amended to read as follows:

293.560 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 293.502, 293D.230 and 293D.300, registration must close at 5 p.m. on the third Tuesday preceding any primary or general election and, except as otherwise provided by specific law, at 5 p.m. on the third Saturday preceding any recall or special election.
a primary or general election, registration must close on the third Tuesday preceding the day of the elections.

2. For a primary or special election, the office of the county clerk must be open until 7 p.m. [during] on the next to last [2 days] day on which registration is open [and] 5 p.m. on the last day on which registration is open. In a county whose population is less than 100,000, the office of the county clerk may close at 5 p.m. [during] on the next to last [2 days] day before registration closes if approved by the board of county commissioners.

3. For a general election:
   (a) In a county whose population is less than 100,000, the office of the county clerk must be open until 7 p.m. [during] on the next to last [2 days] day on which registration is open [and] 5 p.m. on the last day on which registration is open. The office of the county clerk may close at 5 p.m. on the next to last day on which registration is open if approved by the board of county commissioners.

   (b) In a county whose population is 100,000 or more, the office of the county clerk must be open during the last 4 days on which registration is open, according to the following schedule:
      (1) On [weekdays] a day other than the last day on which registration is open, until 9 p.m.; [and]
      (2) A minimum of 8 hours on Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays [and]
      (3) On the last day on which registration is open, until 5 p.m.

4. Except for a special election held pursuant to chapter 306 or 350 of NRS:
   (a) The county clerk of each county shall cause a notice signed by him or her to be published in a newspaper having a general circulation in the county indicating:
      (1) The day and time that registration will be closed; and
      (2) If the county clerk has designated a county facility pursuant to NRS 293.5035, the location of that facility.

   If no such newspaper is published in the county, the publication may be made in a newspaper of general circulation published in the nearest county in this State.

   (b) The notice must be published once each week for 4 consecutive weeks next preceding the close of registration for any election.

5. The offices of the county clerk, a county facility designated pursuant to NRS 293.5035 and other ex officio registrars may
remain open on the last Friday in October in each even-numbered year.

6. For the period beginning on the fifth Sunday preceding any primary or general election and ending on the [third Tuesday] Friday preceding any primary or general election, an elector may register to vote only by [appearing];
   (a) Appearing in person at the office of the county clerk [or, if]
   (b) If open, appearing in person at a county facility designated pursuant to NRS 293.5035 [ ]; or
   (c) If the county clerk has established a system to allow electors to register to vote by computer pursuant to NRS 293.506, registering by computer.

7. A county facility designated pursuant to NRS 293.5035 may be open during the periods described in this section for such hours of operation as the county clerk may determine, as set forth in subsection 3 of NRS 293.5035.

Sec. 6. (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 6.5. NRS 293.565 is hereby amended to read as follows:

293.565 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, sample ballots must include:
   (a) If applicable, the statement required by NRS 293.267;
   (b) The fiscal note or description of anticipated financial effect, as provided pursuant to NRS 218D.810, 293.250, 293.481, 293.482, 295.015 or 295.095 for each proposed constitutional amendment, statewide measure, measure to be voted upon only by a special district or political subdivision and advisory question;
   (c) An explanation, as provided pursuant to NRS 218D.810, 293.250, 293.481, 293.482 or 295.121, of each proposed constitutional amendment, statewide measure, measure to be voted upon only by a special district or political subdivision and advisory question;
   (d) Arguments for and against each proposed constitutional amendment, statewide measure, measure to be voted upon only by a special district or political subdivision and advisory question, and rebuttals to each argument, as provided pursuant to NRS 218D.810, 293.250, 293.252, 293.481, 293.482 or 295.121; and
   (e) The full text of each proposed constitutional amendment.

2. If, pursuant to the provisions of NRS 293.2565, the word “Incumbent” must appear on the ballot next to the name of the candidate who is the incumbent, the word “Incumbent” must appear on the sample ballot next to the name of the candidate who is the incumbent.
3. Sample ballots that are mailed to registered voters may be printed without the full text of each proposed constitutional amendment if:
   (a) The cost of printing the sample ballots would be significantly reduced if the full text of each proposed constitutional amendment were not included;
   (b) The county clerk ensures that a sample ballot that includes the full text of each proposed constitutional amendment is provided at no charge to each registered voter who requests such a sample ballot; and
   (c) The sample ballots provided to each polling place include the full text of each proposed constitutional amendment.

4. A registered voter may elect to receive a sample ballot by electronic mail. If a registered voter elects to receive a sample ballot by electronic mail, the county clerk shall distribute the sample ballot to the registered voter by electronic mail pursuant to the procedures and requirements set forth by regulations adopted by the Secretary of State. If a registered voter does not elect to receive a sample ballot by electronic mail, the county clerk shall distribute the sample ballot to the registered voter by mail.

5. Before the period for early voting for any election begins, the county clerk shall cause to be mailed to each registered voter in the county a sample ballot for his or her precinct, with a notice informing the voter of the location of his or her polling place. If the location of the polling place has changed since the last election:
   (a) The county clerk shall mail a notice of the change to each registered voter in the county not sooner than 10 days before distributing the sample ballots; or
   (b) The sample ballot must also include a notice in bold type immediately above the location which states:

      NOTICE: THE LOCATION OF YOUR POLLING PLACE HAS CHANGED SINCE THE LAST ELECTION

6. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6, a sample ballot required to be mailed must:
   (a) Be printed prepared in at least 12-point type; and
   (b) Include on the front page, in a separate box created by bold lines, a notice printed prepared in at least 20-point bold type that states:
NOTICE: TO RECEIVE A SAMPLE BALLOT IN LARGE TYPE, CALL (Insert appropriate telephone number)

[6.] 7. A portion of a sample ballot that contains a facsimile of the display area of a voting device may include material in less than 12-point type to the extent necessary to make the facsimile fit on the pages of the sample ballot.

[7.] 8. The sample ballot [mailed] distributed to a person who requests a sample ballot in large type by exercising the option provided pursuant to NRS 293.508, or in any other manner, must be [printed] prepared in at least 14-point type, or larger when practicable.

[8.] 9. If a person requests a sample ballot in large type, the county clerk shall ensure that all future sample ballots [mailed] distributed to that person from the county are in large type.

[9.] 10. The county clerk shall include in each sample ballot a statement indicating that the county clerk will, upon request of a voter who is elderly or disabled, make reasonable accommodations to allow the voter to vote at his or her polling place and provide reasonable assistance to the voter in casting his or her vote, including, without limitation, providing appropriate materials to assist the voter. In addition, if the county clerk has provided pursuant to subsection 4 of NRS 293.2955 for the placement at centralized voting locations of specially equipped voting devices for use by voters who are elderly or disabled, the county clerk shall include in the sample ballot a statement indicating:

(a) The addresses of such centralized voting locations;
(b) The types of specially equipped voting devices available at such centralized voting locations; and
(c) That a voter who is elderly or disabled may cast his or her ballot at such a centralized voting location rather than at his or her regularly designated polling place.

[10.] 11. The cost of [mailing] distributing sample ballots for any election other than a primary or general election must be borne by the political subdivision holding the election.

Sec. 7. NRS 293.567 is hereby amended to read as follows:

293.567 After the close of registration for each primary election but not later than the Friday preceding the opening of the polls for the primary election and after the close of registration for each general election but not later than the Friday preceding the opening of the polls for the general election, the county clerk shall ascertain by precinct and district the number of registered voters in
the county and their political affiliation, if any, and shall transmit that information to the Secretary of State.

Sec. 7.5. NRS 293.780 is hereby amended to read as follows:

293.780 1. A person who is entitled to vote shall not vote or attempt to vote more than once at the same election. Any person who votes or attempts to vote twice at the same election is guilty of a category D felony and shall be punished as provided in NRS 193.130.

2. Notice of the provisions of subsection 1 must be given by the county or city clerk as follows:
   (a) [printed] Stated on all sample ballots [mailed] distributed by mail or electronic mail;
   (b) Posted in boldface type at each polling place; and
   (c) Posted in boldface type at the office of the county or city clerk.

Secs. 8, 9 and 10. (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 11. NRS 293C.356 is hereby amended to read as follows:

293C.356 1. If a request is made in person to vote early by a registered voter [in person], including, without limitation, a registered voter who registered to vote after the beginning of the period for early voting by personal appearance, the city clerk shall issue a ballot for early voting to the voter. Such a ballot must be voted on the premises of the clerk’s office and returned to the clerk.

2. On the dates for early voting prescribed in NRS 293C.3568, each city clerk shall provide a voting booth, with suitable equipment for voting, on the premises of the city clerk’s office for use by registered voters who are issued ballots for early voting in accordance with this section.

Sec. 12. NRS 293C.527 is hereby amended to read as follows:

293C.527 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 293.502, 293D.230 and 293D.300, registration must close at 5 p.m. on the [third Tuesday] Friday preceding any primary city election or general city election and, except as otherwise provided by specific law, at 5 p.m. on the [third Saturday] fourth day preceding any recall or special election, except that if a recall or special election is held on the same day as a primary city election or general city election, registration must close on the third Tuesday preceding the day of the elections.

2. For a primary city election or special city election, the office of the city clerk must be open until 7 p.m. during the next to last [2 days] day on which registration is open [and 5 p.m. on the last day on which registration is open]. In a city whose population is less than 25,000, the office of the city clerk may close at 5 p.m. on
the next to last day before registration closes if approved by the governing body of the city.

3. For a general city election:
   (a) In a city whose population is less than 25,000, the office of the city clerk must be open until 7 p.m. during the next to last 2 days on which registration is open and 5 p.m. on the last day on which registration is open. The office of the city clerk may close at 5 p.m. on the next to last day on which registration is open if approved by the governing body of the city.
   (b) In a city whose population is 25,000 or more, the office of the city clerk must be open during the last 4 days on which registration is open, according to the following schedule:
      (1) On weekdays a day other than the last day on which registration is open, until 9 p.m.; and
      (2) A minimum of 8 hours on Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays; and
      (3) On the last day on which registration is open, until 5 p.m.

4. Except for a special election held pursuant to chapter 306 or 350 of NRS:
   (a) The city clerk of each city shall cause a notice signed by him or her to be published in a newspaper having a general circulation in the city indicating:
      (1) The day and time that registration will be closed; and
      (2) If the city clerk has designated a municipal facility pursuant to NRS 293C.520, the location of that facility.
   - If no newspaper is of general circulation in that city, the publication may be made in a newspaper of general circulation in the nearest city in this State.
   (b) The notice must be published once each week for 4 consecutive weeks next preceding the close of registration for any election.

5. For the period beginning on the fifth Sunday preceding any primary city election or general city election and ending on the third Tuesday preceding any primary city election or general city election, an elector may register to vote only by appearing:
   (a) Appearing in person at the office of the city clerk; or
   (b) If open, appearing in person at a municipal facility designated pursuant to NRS 293C.520; or
   (c) If the county clerk of the county in which the city is located has established a system to allow electors to register to
vote by computer pursuant to NRS 293.506, registering by computer.

6. A municipal facility designated pursuant to NRS 293C.520 may be open during the periods described in this section for such hours of operation as the city clerk may determine, as set forth in subsection 3 of NRS 293C.520.

Sec. 12.1. NRS 293C.530 is hereby amended to read as follows:

293C.530  1. A registered voter may elect to receive a sample ballot by electronic mail. If a registered voter elects to receive a sample ballot by electronic mail, the city clerk shall distribute the sample ballot to the registered voter by electronic mail pursuant to the procedures and requirements set forth by regulations adopted by the Secretary of State. If a registered voter does not elect to receive a sample ballot by electronic mail, the city clerk shall distribute the sample ballot to the registered voter by mail.

2. Before the period for early voting for any election begins, the city clerk shall cause to be distributed by mail or electronic mail, as applicable, to each registered voter in the city the sample ballot for his or her precinct, with a notice informing the voter of the location of his or her polling place. If the location of the polling place has changed since the last election:

(a) The city clerk shall mail a notice of the change to each registered voter in the city not sooner than 10 days before distributing the sample ballots; or

(b) The sample ballot must also include a notice in bold type immediately above the location which states:

NOTICE: THE LOCATION OF YOUR POLLING PLACE HAS CHANGED SINCE THE LAST ELECTION

3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4 or 5, a sample ballot required to be mailed distributed pursuant to this section must:

(a) Be prepared in at least 12-point type;

(b) Include the description of the anticipated financial effect and explanation of each citywide measure and advisory question, including arguments for and against the measure or question, as required pursuant to NRS 293.481, 293.482, 295.205 or 295.217; and

(c) Include on the front page, in a separate box created by bold lines, a notice printed in at least 20-point bold type that states:
NOTICE: TO RECEIVE A SAMPLE BALLOT IN LARGE TYPE, CALL (Insert appropriate telephone number)

4. The word “Incumbent” must appear on the sample ballot next to the name of the candidate who is the incumbent, if required pursuant to NRS 293.2565.

5. A portion of a sample ballot that contains a facsimile of the display area of a voting device may include material in less than 12-point type to the extent necessary to make the facsimile fit on the pages of the sample ballot.

6. The sample ballot mailed to a person who requests a sample ballot in large type by exercising the option provided pursuant to NRS 293.508, or in any other manner, must be printed in at least 14-point type, or larger when practicable.

7. If a person requests a sample ballot in large type, the city clerk shall ensure that all future sample ballots mailed to that person from the city are in large type.

8. The city clerk shall include in each sample ballot a statement indicating that the city clerk will, upon request of a voter who is elderly or disabled, make reasonable accommodations to allow the voter to vote at his or her polling place and provide reasonable assistance to the voter in casting his or her vote, including, without limitation, providing appropriate materials to assist the voter. In addition, if the city clerk has provided pursuant to subsection 4 of NRS 293C.281 for the placement at centralized voting locations of specially equipped voting devices for use by voters who are elderly or disabled, the city clerk shall include in the sample ballot a statement indicating:
   (a) The addresses of such centralized voting locations;
   (b) The types of specially equipped voting devices available at such centralized voting locations; and
   (c) That a voter who is elderly or disabled may cast his or her ballot at such a centralized voting location rather than at the voter’s regularly designated polling place.

9. The cost of mailing distributing sample ballots for a city election must be borne by the city holding the election.

Sec. 12.2. NRS 244A.785 is hereby amended to read as follows:

244A.785 1. The board of county commissioners of a county whose population is 700,000 or more may, by ordinance, create one or more districts within the unincorporated area of the county for the support of public parks. Such a district may include territory within
the boundary of an incorporated city if so provided by interlocal agreement between the county and the city.

2. The ordinance creating a district must specify its boundaries. The area included within the district may be contiguous or noncontiguous. The boundaries set by the ordinance are not affected by later annexations to or incorporation of a city.

3. The alteration of the boundaries of such a district may be initiated by:
   (a) A petition proposed unanimously by the owners of the property which is located in the proposed area which was not previously included in the district; or
   (b) A resolution adopted by the board of county commissioners on its own motion.

If the board of county commissioners proposes on its own motion to alter the boundaries of a district for the support of public parks, it shall, at the next primary or general election, submit to the registered voters who reside in the proposed area which was not previously included in the district, the question of whether the boundaries of the district shall be altered. If a majority of the voters approve the question, the board shall, by ordinance, alter the boundaries of the district as approved by the voters.

4. The sample ballot required to be distributed pursuant to NRS 293.565 must include for the question described in subsection 3, a disclosure of any future increase or decrease in costs which may be reasonably anticipated in relation to the purposes of the district for the support of public parks and its probable effect on the district’s tax rate.

Sec. 12.3. NRS 266.0325 is hereby amended to read as follows:

266.0325 1. At least 10 days before an election held pursuant to NRS 266.029, the county clerk or registrar of voters shall cause to be distributed a sample ballot by mail or electronic mail, as applicable, a sample ballot for the elector’s precinct with a notice informing the elector of the location of the polling place for that precinct.

2. The sample ballot must:
   (a) Be in the form required by NRS 266.032.
   (b) Include the information required by NRS 266.032.
   (c) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, be prepared in at least 12-point type.
   (d) Describe the area proposed to be incorporated by assessor’s parcel maps, existing boundaries of subdivision or parcel maps, identifying visible ground features, extensions of the visible ground
features, or by any boundary that coincides with the official boundary of the State, a county, a city, a township, a section or any combination thereof.

(e) Contain a copy of the map or plat that was submitted with the petition pursuant to NRS 266.019 and depicts the existing dedicated streets, sewer interceptors and outfalls and their proposed extensions.

(f) Include on the front page, in a separate box created by bold lines, a notice prepared in at least 20-point bold type that states:

NOTICE: TO RECEIVE A SAMPLE BALLOT IN LARGE TYPE, CALL (Insert appropriate telephone number)

3. A portion of a sample ballot that contains a facsimile of the display area of a voting device may include material in less than 12-point type to the extent necessary to make the facsimile fit on the pages of the sample ballot.

4. The sample ballot distributed to a person who requests a sample ballot in large type by exercising the option provided pursuant to NRS 293.508, or in any other manner, must be prepared in at least 14-point type, or larger when practicable.

5. If a person requests a sample ballot in large type, the county clerk shall ensure that all future sample ballots distributed to that person from the county are in large type.

Sec. 12.4. NRS 349.015 is hereby amended to read as follows:

349.015 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, the sample ballot required to be distributed pursuant to NRS 293.565 or 293C.530, and the notice of election must contain:

(a) The time and places of holding the election.

(b) The hours during the day in which the polls will be open, which must be the same as provided for general elections.

(c) The purposes for which the bonds are to be issued.

(d) A disclosure of any:

(1) Future increase or decrease in costs which can reasonably be anticipated in relation to the purposes for which the obligations are to be issued and its probable effect on the tax rate; and

(2) Requirement relating to the bond question which is imposed pursuant to a court order or state or federal statute and the probable consequences which will result if the bond question is not approved by the voters.
(e) An estimate of the annual cost to operate, maintain and repair any buildings, structures or other facilities or improvements to be constructed or acquired with the proceeds of the bonds.

(f) The maximum amount of the bonds.

(g) The maximum rate of interest.

(h) The maximum number of years which the bonds are to run.

2. Any election called pursuant to NRS 349.010 to 349.070, inclusive, may be consolidated with a primary or general election.

3. If the election is consolidated with a general election, the notice of election need not set forth the places of holding the election, but may instead state that the places of holding the election will be the same as those provided for the general election.

Sec. 12.5. NRS 350.024 is hereby amended to read as follows:

350.024 1. The ballot question for a proposal submitted to the electors of a municipality pursuant to subsection 1 of NRS 350.020 must contain the principal amount of the general obligations to be issued or incurred, the purpose of the issuance or incurrence of the general obligations and an estimate established by the governing body of:

(a) The duration of the levy of property tax that will be used to pay the general obligations; and

(b) The average annual increase, if any, in the amount of property taxes that an owner of a new home with a fair market value of $100,000 will pay for debt service on the general obligations to be issued or incurred.

2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, the sample ballot required to be distributed pursuant to NRS 293.565 or 293C.530 and the notice of election must contain:

(a) The time and places of holding the election.

(b) The hours during the day in which the polls will be open, which must be the same as provided for general elections.

(c) The ballot question.

(d) The maximum amount of the obligations, including the anticipated interest, separately stating the total principal, the total anticipated interest and the anticipated interest rate.

(e) An estimate of the range of property tax rates stated in dollars and cents per $100 of assessed value necessary to provide for debt service upon the obligations for the dates when they are to be redeemed. The municipality shall, for each such date, furnish an estimate of the assessed value of the property against which the obligations are to be issued or incurred, and the governing body shall estimate the tax rate based upon the assessed value of the property as given in the assessor’s estimates.
3. If an operating or maintenance rate is proposed in conjunction with the question to issue obligations, the questions may be combined, but the sample ballot and notice of election must each state the tax rate required for the obligations separately from the rate proposed for operation and maintenance.

4. Any election called pursuant to NRS 350.020 to 350.070, inclusive, may be consolidated with a primary or general municipal election or a primary or general state election. The notice of election need not set forth the places of holding the election, but may instead state that the places of holding the election will be the same as those provided for the election with which it is consolidated.

5. If the election is a special election, the clerk shall cause notice of the close of registration to be published in a newspaper printed in and having a general circulation in the municipality once in each calendar week for 2 successive calendar weeks next preceding the close of registration for the election.

Sec. 12.6. NRS 350.027 is hereby amended to read as follows:

350.027  1. In addition to any requirements imposed pursuant to NRS 350.024, any sample ballot required to be distributed pursuant to NRS 293.565 or 293C.530 and any notice of election, for an election that includes a proposal for the issuance by any municipality of any bonds or other securities, including an election that is not called pursuant to NRS 350.020 to 350.070, inclusive, must contain an estimate of the annual cost to operate, maintain and repair any buildings, structures or other facilities or improvements to be constructed or acquired with the proceeds of the bonds or other securities.

   2. For the purposes of this section, “municipality” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 350.538.

Sec. 13. (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 14. This act becomes effective upon passage and approval for purposes of adopting regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act and on January 1, 2014, for all other purposes.