

What is a citizen?

What do citizens do?

What is a community?

# Citizenship

What does it mean to be a good citizen?

What are some rights that citizens have?

How can you be a good citizen in your community?

Every citizen of the United States has rights that are protected by local, state, and federal laws. Write and illustrate some of the rights that citizens have in the following squares. Some rights have been included for you!

Freedom of speech

The right to vote

The right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness"

# Rights

Every citizen of the United States has rights that are protected by local, state, and federal laws. Write and illustrate some of the rights that citizens have in the following squares.

# Rights

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Every citizen of the United States has responsibilities as members of their community, state, and nation. Write and illustrate some of the responsibilities that citizens have for different occasions in the following squares.

Responsibilities at **home**

Responsibilities at **school**

Responsibilities in your **community**

# Responsibilities

Responsibilities in your **state**

Responsibilities in your **country**

Draw a picture of one way you will be a responsible citizen!



Every citizen of the United States has responsibilities as members of their community, state, and nation. Write and illustrate some of the responsibilities that citizens have for different occasions in the following squares.

# Responsibilities



# The Nevada State Legislature

(One-pager information and instructions)

Nevada has a bicameral Legislature, which means that it is made up of two houses, the Senate and the Assembly. The *Nevada Constitution* sets a maximum limit of legislators to a combined total of 75 for both houses. The number of Senators cannot be less than one-third or more than one-half the number of members of the Assembly. Since 1983, the Nevada Legislature has had a 21-member Senate and a 42-member Assembly.

To be eligible to serve as a member of the Assembly or as a Senator, you need to be at least 21 years of age, a citizen resident of Nevada for at least one year prior to the election, and a qualified elector in your respective county and district. However, the *Nevada Constitution* states that each house of the Legislature can “judge of the qualifications, elections and returns of its own members.”

Members of the Assembly are elected every two years, and Senators serve a term of four years. Senators’ terms are staggered in a way that one-half of the number of Senators are elected every two years. Legislators are limited to a term of twelve years in each house. This means that a legislator can serve in the one house for twelve years and then serve in the other for another twelve years.

The next page is divided into two sections, one for the Assembly and one for the Senate. In each section, include as much information about each house as you can. You can use the information above to include in your one-pager and you can include research from other sources. The site for the Nevada Legislature is a good source for research on both houses (<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/>).

Assembly

# The Nevada State Legislature

Senate

A bill always starts with an idea. This idea can come from state and local governments, elected officials, businesses, and citizens (this means you!). Then bill draft requests can be made by legislators and other officials named in statute or legislation.

The bill is then introduced in either the Senate or Assembly by an individual legislator or committee chair. It is given a number, read for the first time (called the first reading), and then assigned, printed, and delivered to a committee.

The committee can make a variety of recommendations to the entire legislative body. It can recommend that the bill pass as it was written or with amendments. It can also send the bill to another committee or take no action at all, which means that the bill will not go any further. If a bill moves forward, it is placed on the second reading for the next legislative day.

A bill given a "Do Pass" recommendation is read a second time and placed on General File for debate and a final vote. A bill given an "Amend and Do Pass" recommendation is read a second time, and the proposed amendment is presented to the body. If the amendment is adopted, the bill is reprinted before being placed on General File for action.

# How a Bill Becomes a Law

The bill is then read a third time and debated. Then there is a vote. If the bill requires a constitutional majority to pass, 11 votes are needed in the Senate and 22 are needed in the Assembly. Bills with tax or fee increases require a two-thirds majority to pass (14 votes in the Senate and 28 in the Assembly). After passing in one house (Senate or Assembly), the bill goes to the other house and follows the same procedure.

If amendments are made in the second house reading the bill, the other house must concur with the amendments. If the amendments are not accepted by the house of origin, the bill is returned to the second house to decide on whether to withdraw the proposed amendment or not. If they do not withdraw the changes, both houses appoint a committee to meet and resolve the differences between the houses. If both houses agree, the bill is passed. If they do not, the bill fails.

When the bill is accepted in both houses, it is then sent to the Governor. The Governor must then act on the bill within five days if the Legislature is still in session. However, if there are fewer than five days left in the legislative session, or if it is delivered after *sine die*, the Governor has ten days after adjournment to act.

The Governor will either sign the bill into law, allow it become law without a signature, or veto the bill. A vetoed bill is then returned to the house of origin to decide whether to override the veto. An override of a veto requires a two-thirds vote by each legislative House. If a bill is passed, it becomes effective on October 1 following the end of the legislative session, unless otherwise specified in the bill.



In the following spaces, illustrate the steps for how a bill becomes a law in the state of Nevada.

# How a Bill Becomes a Law