



The Guide to the Nevada Legislature

2009-2010

WELCOME TO THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE

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. 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.

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THE THREE BRANCHES OF NEVADA STATE GOVERNMENT

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Creates the law



Nevada Legislature
401 South Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

JUDICIAL BRANCH

Interprets the law



Supreme Court
201 South Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Enforces the law



Nevada Capitol
101 North Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

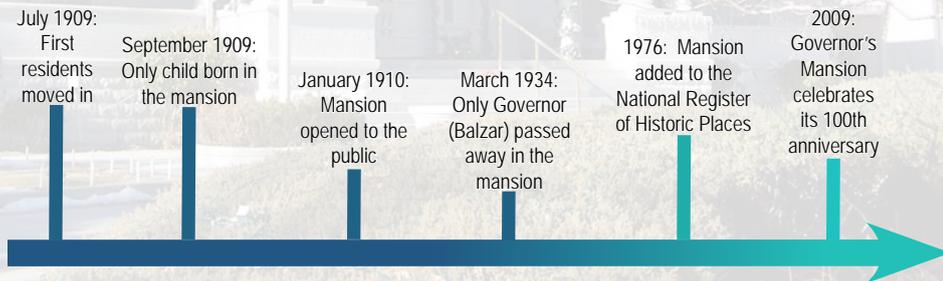
100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION

After years of trying to appropriate funds for a governor's mansion, the 1907 Session of the Nevada Legislature passed, and Governor John Sparks signed, a bill appropriating \$40,000 for constructing and furnishing the mansion. George Ferris and Co. of Reno designed the beautiful two-story Southern Colonial mansion. The Governor's Mansion in Carson City opened its doors to its first residents in July 1909. Acting Governor Denver S. Dickerson and his wife, Una, were the first residents of the mansion. In September of 1909, June Dickerson was born; she is the only child to have been born in the mansion.

One hundred years later, the Governor's Mansion has been the home for 18 governors. Over the years, the mansion

has been renovated several times. Minor renovations were made in 1959, while more considerable restoration work was done in 1967 to make sure the home met modern safety standards. The 1969 Legislature provided \$78,750 for remodeling of the mansion, but most of the upgrades to furnishing and decorating were accomplished with \$200,000 in private sector donations. The most significant reconstruction was initiated by Governor Bob Miller and First Lady Sandy Miller in 1999-2000, and that entire project was financed by private donations.

Many events are hosted at the Governor's Mansion throughout the year, including an annual trick or treat event on October 31, which is also Nevada Day.



HISTORIC PLACES IN NEVADA

Each of Nevada's 17 counties has at least one building or district listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This register lists cultural resources that have been deemed worthy of preservation. To be included on this list, various criteria are reviewed to evaluate whether districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture.

Examples of the types of buildings that are listed on the National Register in Nevada are the historic churches, courthouses, opera houses, and schoolhouses in many of Nevada's rural counties. During the mining boom years in Nevada from the mid-1800s to the early 1900s, these rural locations were at the center of the state's government and commerce. Today, many of the mining towns struggle to survive as Nevada's economy has transitioned to gaming and tourism.

Other notable locations in Nevada on the National Register of Historic Places include:

The Bank Saloon (also known as Jack's Bar shown on the left) in Carson City, added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980;
Significance: Social History, Politics/Government, Commerce/Trade;

The Orion Clemens House (also known as Mark Twain's House shown below) in Carson City, added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1979;
Significance: Person, Politics/Government;



HISTORIC PLACES IN NEVADA

Hoover Dam in Boulder City (shown on the right), added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1981;
Significance: Architecture/Engineering, Industry/Processing/Extraction;

The Las Vegas Mormon Fort in North Las Vegas, added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1972;
Significance: Architecture/Engineering, Fortification;

Tule Springs Archeological Site in Las Vegas, added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1979;
Significance: Science, Prehistoric;

Mackay School of Mines Building in Reno on the campus of the University of Nevada (shown below), added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1982;
Significance: Architecture/Engineering, Education;

Southern Pacific Railroad Repair Shops in Sparks, added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1982;
Significance: Architecture/Engineering, Transportation; and

Virginia Street Bridge in Reno, added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980;
Significance: Architecture/Engineering, Transportation.



THE LEGISLATURE – BUILDINGS/OFFICES

Legislative Building (Carson City)

Located on the Legislative Mall, the Legislative Building is situated south of the Capitol and houses the meeting rooms and offices of the Nevada Legislature. Originally constructed in 1970, the building was extensively remodeled and expanded for the 1997 Legislative Session. The Administrative and Legal Divisions of the Legislative Counsel Bureau are also housed in this building.

The Sedway Office Building (Carson City)

The Sedway Office Building in Carson City, named after former State Assemblyman Marvin M. Sedway, is located south 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.

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 the public who reside in southern Nevada. In addition, it furnishes meeting space for individual legislators and committees, as well as for 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

Senate Leadership Offices	1219
Secretary of the Senate/Senate Staff	1206
Sergeant at Arms	1208

Assembly

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

Administrative Division

Director’s Office	1141
Legislative Police	1144
Lobbyist Room	1120
Lobbyist Registration	1199
Press Room	1200
Public Bill Room	1201

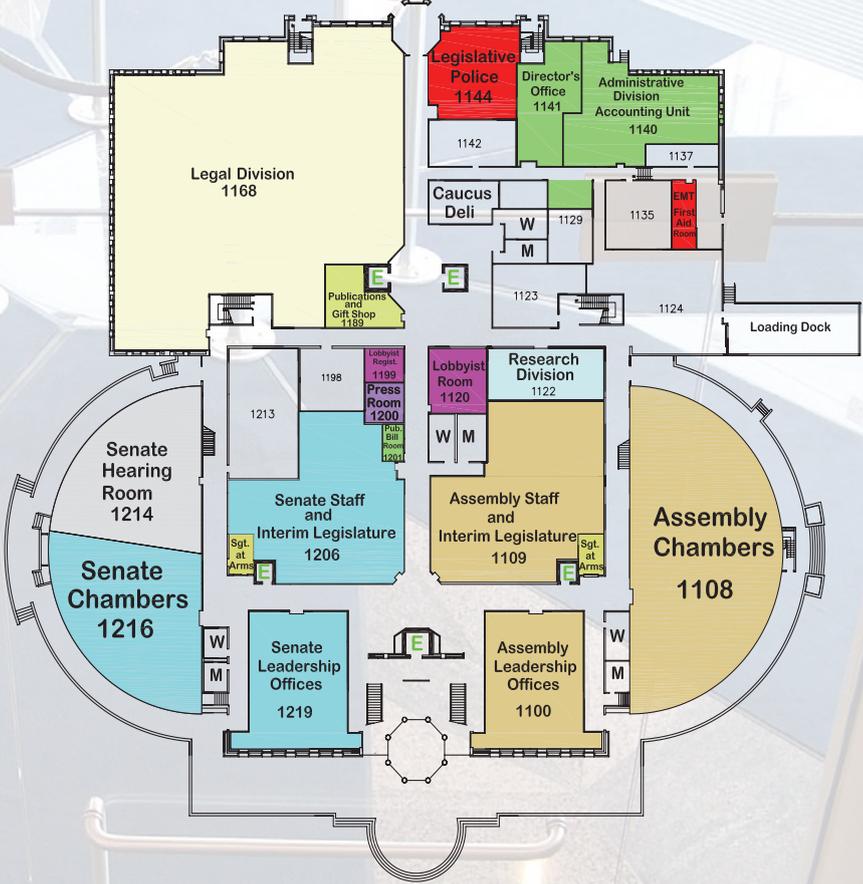
Legal Division

Publications and Gift Shop	1189
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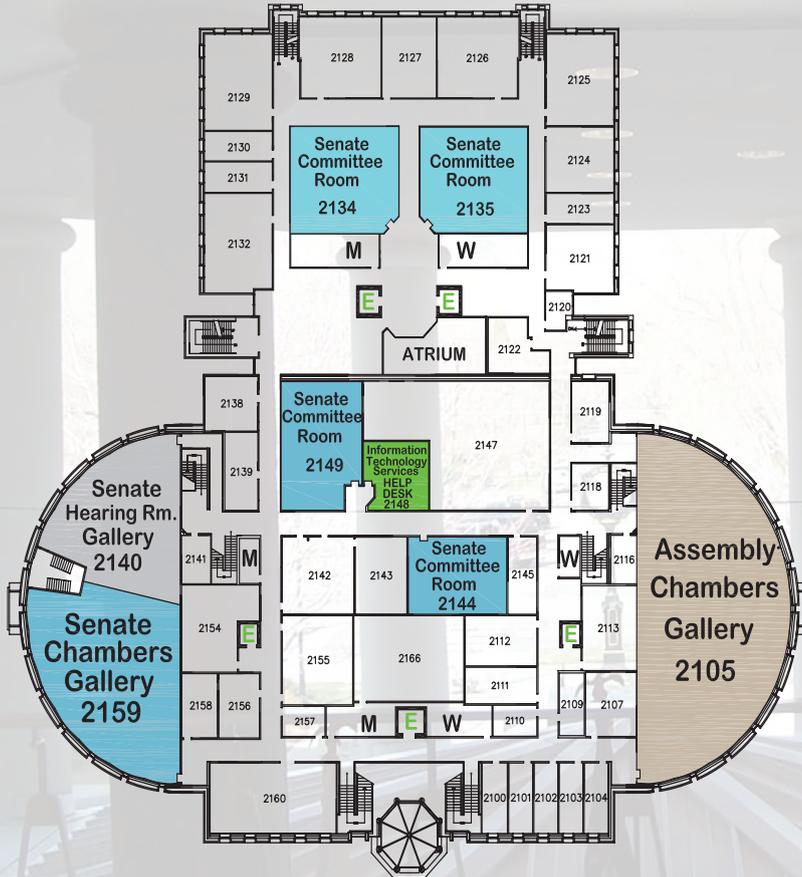
Research Division

Public Restrooms	MW
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Elevators



LEGISLATIVE BUILDING – SECOND FLOOR



Senate

Committee Hearing Rooms2134, 2135,
2144, 2149

Senators' Offices2100-2104, 2107, 2112,
2121, 2123-2131, 2156, 2158

President of the Senate/
Lieutenant Governor 2112

Senate Minority Floor Leader 2160

Audit Division 2120
E

Public Restrooms MW

LEGISLATIVE BUILDING – THIRD FLOOR

Assembly

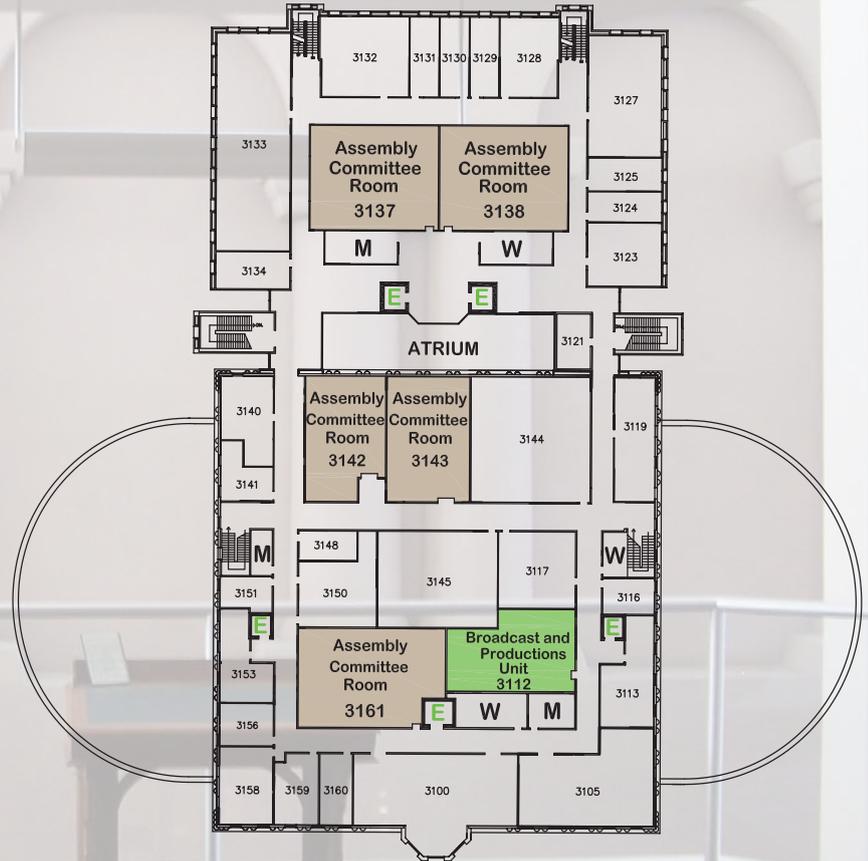
Committee Hearing Rooms3137, 3138, 3142,
3143, 3161

Assembly Members' Offices.....3116-3134, 3140,
3153-3160

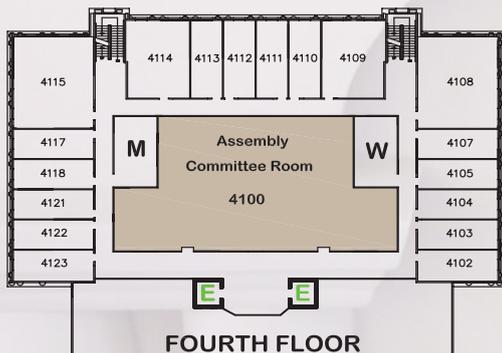
Assembly Minority Floor Leader3105

Public Restrooms MW

Elevators E



LEGISLATIVE BUILDING – FOURTH FLOOR

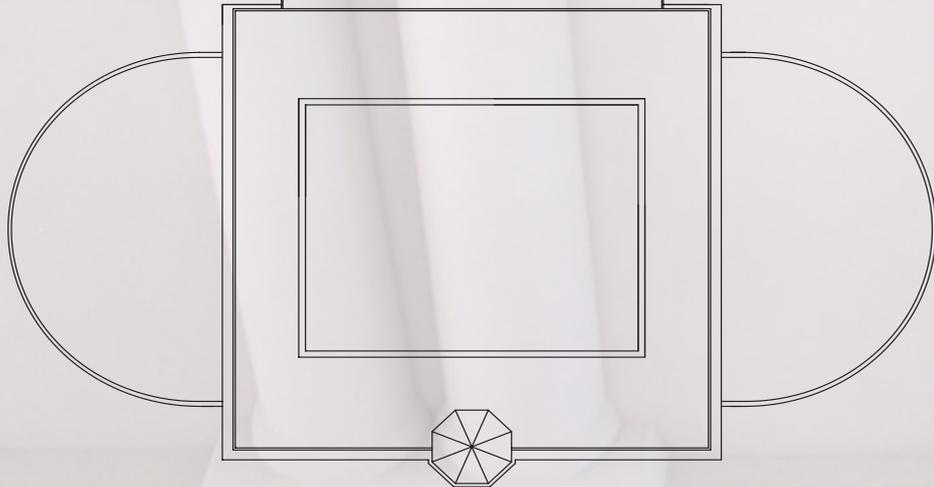


Assembly Hearing Room 4100

Assembly Members' Offices 4102-4123

Public Restrooms MW

Elevators E



OVERVIEW OF THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE

Size and Apportionment

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.”

The *Nevada Constitution* sets the maximum size of the Legislature at 75 members. It further provides that the Senate may not be less than one-third nor more than one-half the size of the Assembly. The Nevada Legislature, which has the responsibility to establish the number of its members by law, presently has 63 members, 42 in the Assembly and 21 in the Senate.

The *Constitution* requires the Legislature to adjust the boundaries of the legislative districts following each decennial census. The 2001 Legislature retained 42 Assembly districts, with an average population of 47,578 people (based on the 2000 United States Census). It also retained districts for 21 State Senators. Seventeen of these are single-member districts, which represent an average of 95,155 citizens per district. The remaining four Senators are in two-member districts in Clark County, which contain about 190,310 residents per district. The 2011 Legislature will readjust the boundaries of legislative districts based on the results of the 2010 U.S. Census. The State’s population was about 1.2 million in 1990, and reached an estimated 2.7 million in 2007.

Currently, 14 Senators and 29 Assembly Members represent legislative districts in Clark County, while 4 Senators and 7 Assembly Members serve primarily Washoe County. Three Senators and 6 Assembly Members represent the remainder of the State. (One Assembly district that includes Washoe County also covers portions of rural Nevada, and one Senate district covers central Nevada and a portion of Clark County.)



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 for 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 for 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 file or run for office during or after the 1998 election cycle. Assembly Members are limited to 12 years or 6 terms in office and Senators are limited to 12 years or 3 terms in office.

The 2008 election was the last eligible election year for Assembly Members who were elected in and served continually since 1998. Those members are: Bernie Anderson, Morse Arberry Jr., Barbara E. Buckley, John C. Carpenter, Jerry D. Claborn, Ellen M. Koivisto, Sheila Leslie, Mark A. Manendo, Kathryn A. McClain, and Harry Mortenson.

Those Senators who were elected in and served continually since 1998 ran for office a final time in 2006. Members serving in their final regular legislative session in the Senate in 2009 are: Mark E. Amodei, Terry Care, Maggie Carlton, Bob Coffin, Bernice Mathews, Randolph Townsend, and Maurice E. Washington. Similarly, the 2008 election cycle was the last election for Senators who were elected in and served continually since 2000. Those members are: Mike McGinness, William J. Raggio, Dean A. Rhoads, Michael A. Schneider, and Valerie Wiener.

Compensation

Legislators are paid a salary for the first 60 days of a regular session and for up to 20 days of a special session. The daily salary for legislators elected or reelected in November 2008 is \$146.29. The daily salary for Senators who are serving in the middle of their terms as of November 2008 is \$137.90. In addition, a per diem allowance for meals and lodging (consistent with the federal rate set for the Carson City area) is authorized by statute. Legislators receive additional allowances for stationery, postage, travel, and telephone use.

Staff Support

The Legislative Counsel Bureau provides central, nonpartisan staff support for the Nevada Legislature. This agency includes 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

Clark County Senatorial District 1 (Lee)

Clark County Senatorial District 2 (Carlton)

Clark County Senatorial District 3 (Wiener)

Clark County Senatorial District 4 (Horsford)

Clark County Senatorial District 5 (Breedon and Woodhouse)

Clark County Senatorial District 6 (Copening)

Clark County Senatorial District 7 (Care and Parks)

Clark County Senatorial District 8 (Cegavske)

Clark County Senatorial District 9 (Nolan)

Clark County Senatorial District 10 (Coffin)

Clark County Senatorial District 11 (Schneider)

Clark County Senatorial District 12 (Hardy)

Rural Nevada Senatorial District (Rhoads)

Elko, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Lincoln, Pershing, and White Pine Counties, and portions of Nye County

Central Nevada Senatorial District (McGinness)

Churchill, Esmeralda, and Mineral Counties, and portions of Clark, Douglas, Lyon, and Nye Counties

Capital Senatorial District (Amodei)

Portions of Carson City and Douglas, Lyon, and Storey Counties

Washoe County Senatorial District 1 (Mathews)

Washoe County Senatorial District 2 (Washington)

Portions of Lyon and Storey Counties

Washoe County Senatorial District 3 (Raggio)

Washoe County Senatorial District 4 (Townsend)

Portions of Carson City



ASSEMBLY

Districts 1-23, 28, 29, 34, 37, 41, and 42 Clark County

(See individual member listings on page 17)

Districts 24-27, 30, and 31 Washoe County

(See individual member listings on page 17)

District 32 (Gustavson)

Portions of Humboldt, Lander, and Washoe Counties

District 33 (Carpenter)

Elko County and portions of Humboldt County

District 35 (Goicoechea)

Eureka, Pershing, and White Pine Counties, and portions of Churchill, Humboldt, Lander, Lyon, and Washoe Counties

District 36 (Goedhart)

Esmeralda, Lincoln, Mineral, and Nye Counties, and portions of Churchill County

District 38 (Grady)

Storey County, most of Lyon County, and portions of Carson City and Churchill County

District 39 (Settelmeyer)

Douglas County, and portions of Carson City and Washoe County

District 40 (Parnell)

Portions of Carson City and Washoe County

Residents of Clark and Washoe Counties: Please call your registrar of voters to identify your representatives, or visit the Legislature's website.

MEMBERS OF THE SENATE



Mark E. Amodei
(Capital Senatorial District)
Assembly 1997
Senate 1999-2009
Office 2101

R



Shirley A. Breedon
(Clark, No. 5)
Senate 2008-2009
Office 2131

D



Terry Care
Assistant Majority
Floor Leader
(Clark, No. 7)
Senate 1999-2009
Office 1224

D



Maggie Carlton
(Clark, No. 2)
Senate 1999-2009
Office 2125

D



Warren B. Hardy II
(Clark, No. 12)
Assembly 1991
Senate 2003-2009
Office 2103

R



Steven A. Horsford
Majority Floor Leader
(Clark, No. 4)
Senate 2004-2009
Office 1222

D



John J. Lee
Assistant Majority
Whip
(Clark, No. 1)
Assembly 1997-2001
Senate 2004-2009
Office 2126

D



Bernice Mathews
(Washoe, No. 1)
Senate 1995-2009
Office 2129

D



William J. Raggio
Minority Floor Leader
(Washoe, No. 3)
Senate 1973-2009
Office 2160

R



Dean A. Rhoads
(Rural Nevada Senatorial District)
Assembly 1977-1981
Senate 1985-2009
Office 2156

R



Michael A. Schneider
President pro Tempore
(Clark, No. 11)
Assembly 1993-1995
Senate 1997-2009
Office 2124

D



Randolph Townsend
(Washoe, No. 4)
Senate 1983-2009
Office 2107

R

MEMBERS OF THE SENATE



Barbara K. Cegavske
Minority Whip
(Clark, No. 8)
Assembly 1997-2001
Senate 2003-2009
Office 2104

R



Bob Coffin
(Clark, No. 10)
Assembly 1983-1985
Senate 1987-2009
Office 2128

D



Allison Copenig
(Clark, No. 6)
Senate 2008-2009
Office 2123

D

President of the Senate

Brian K. Krolicki
Lieutenant Governor
2007-2009
Office 2112



R



Mike McGinness
(Central Nevada
Senatorial District)
Assembly 1989-1991
Senate 1993-2009
Office 2100

R



Dennis Nolan
Assistant Minority
Floor Leader
(Clark, No. 9)
Assembly 1995-2001
Senate 2003-2009
Office 2158

R



David R. Parks
(Clark, No. 7)
Assembly 1997-2007
Senate 2008-2009
Office 2121

D



Maurice E. Washington
(Washoe, No. 2)
Senate 1995-2009
Office 2102

R



Valerie Wiener
Majority Whip
(Clark, No. 3)
Senate 1997-2009
Office 2132

D



Joyce Woodhouse
(Clark, No. 5)
Senate 2007-2009
Office 2127

D

MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY



Paul Aizley
(Clark, No. 41)
Assembly 2008-2009
Office 4118

D



Bernie Anderson
Speaker pro Tempore
(Washoe, No. 31)
Assembly 1991-2009
Office 3127

D



Morse Arberry Jr.
(Clark, No. 7)
Assembly 1985-2009
Office 3133

D



Kelvin Atkinson
(Clark, No. 17)
Assembly 2003-2009
Office 3119

D



David Bobzien
(Washoe, No. 24)
Assembly 2007-2009
Office 4121

D



Barbara E. Buckley
Speaker
(Clark, No. 8)
Assembly 1995-2009
Office 1104

D



John C. Carpenter
(District No. 33)
Assembly 1987-2009
Office 4122

R



Ed Goedhart
(District No. 36)
Assembly 2007-2009
Office 3125

R



Pete Goicoechea
Minority Whip
(District No. 35)
Assembly 2003-2009
Office 4104

R



Tom Grady
(District No. 38)
Assembly 2003-2009
Office 4107

R



Don Gustavson
(District No. 32)
Assembly 1997-2003
and 2008-2009
Office 3124

R



John Hambrick
(Clark, No. 2)
Assembly 2008-2009
Office 3129

R



Joe Hardy
(Clark, No. 20)
Assembly 2003-2009
Office 4102

R



Joseph M. Hogan
(Clark, No. 10)
Assembly 2004-2009
Office 3131

D



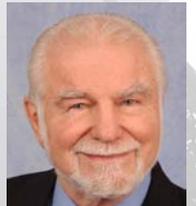
Richard McArthur
(Clark, No. 4)
Assembly 2008-2009
Office 4123

R



Kathryn A. McClain
(Clark, No. 15)
Assembly 1999-2009
Office 3123

D



Harry Mortenson
(Clark, No. 42)
Assembly 1997-2009
Office 3158

D



Harvey J. Munford
(Clark, No. 6)
Assembly 2004-2009
Office 3134

D



John Ocegüera
Majority Floor Leader
(Clark, No. 16)
Assembly 2001-2009
Office 1102

D



James Ohrenschall
(Clark, No. 12)
Assembly 2007-2009
Office 4117

D



Bonnie Parnell
(District No. 40)
Assembly 1999-2001
and 2004-2009
Office 4114

D

MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY



Chad Christensen
 Minority Whip
 (Clark, No. 13)
 Assembly 2003-2009
 Office 3105 **R**



Jerry D. Claborn
 (Clark, No. 19)
 Assembly 1999-2009
 Office 3140 **D**



Ty Cobb
 (Washoe, No. 26)
 Assembly 2007-2009
 Office 3116 **R**



Marcus Conklin
 Assistant Majority Floor Leader
 (Clark, No. 37)
 Assembly 2003-2009
 Office 4108 **D**



Moises (Mo) Denis
 (Clark, No. 28)
 Assembly 2004-2009
 Office 4105 **D**



Marilyn Dondero Loop
 (Clark, No. 5)
 Assembly 2008-2009
 Office 4110 **D**



Heidi S. Gansert
 Minority Floor Leader
 (Washoe, No. 25)
 Assembly 2004-2009
 Office 3105 **R**



William Horne
 Assistant Majority Whip
 (Clark, No. 34)
 Assembly 2003-2009
 Office 3128 **D**



Ruben Kihuen
 (Clark, No. 11)
 Assembly 2007-2009
 Office 3159 **D**



Marilyn Kirkpatrick
 (Clark, No. 1)
 Assembly 2004-2009
 Office 4115 **D**



Ellen M. Koivisto
 (Clark, No. 14)
 Assembly 1997-2009
 Office 4109 **D**



Sheila Leslie
 Majority Whip
 (Washoe, No. 27)
 Assembly 1999-2009
 Office 3132 **D**



Mark A. Manendo
 (Clark, No. 18)
 Assembly 1995-2009
 Office 3160 **D**



April Mastroluca
 (Clark, No. 29)
 Assembly 2008-2009
 Office 4113 **D**



Peggy Pierce
 (Clark, No. 3)
 Assembly 2003-2009
 Office 3156 **D**



Tick Segerblom
 (Clark, No. 9)
 Assembly 2007-2009
 Office 4111 **D**



James Settelmeyer
 (District No. 39)
 Assembly 2007-2009
 Office 4112 **R**



Debbie Smith
 Assistant Majority Whip
 (Washoe, No. 30)
 Assembly 2001
 and 2004-2009
 Office 3153 **D**



Ellen B. Spiegel
 (Clark, No. 21)
 Assembly 2008-2009
 Office 3130 **D**



Lynn Stewart
 Assistant Minority Floor Leader
 (Clark, No. 22)
 Assembly 2007-2009
 Office 3105 **R**



Melissa Woodbury
 (Clark, No. 23)
 Assembly 2008-2009
 Office 4103 **R**

SENATE DIRECTORY

Amodei, Mark E. (R)
Capital Senatorial District
805 West Sunset Way
Carson City, NV 89703-3751
(775) 882-6500 (O)

Breeden, Shirley A. (D)
Clark, No. 5
291 Kershner Court
Henderson, NV 89074-4178
(702) 456-6192 (H)
(702) 376-1397 (C)
(702) 463-1008 (F)

Care, Terry (D)
Clark, No. 7
4371 Woodcrest Road
Las Vegas, NV 89121-4946
(702) 436-9298 (F)

Carlton, Maggie (D)
Clark, No. 2
5540 East Cartwright Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89110-3802
(702) 452-3619 (M)

Cegavske, Barbara K. (R)
Clark, No. 8
6465 Laredo Street
Las Vegas, NV 89146-5272
(702) 873-0711 (H/O)
(702) 222-9909 (F)

Coffin, Bob (D)
Clark, No. 10
1139 Fifth Place
Las Vegas, NV 89104-1413
(702) 384-9501 (O)

Copening, Allison (D)
Clark, No. 6
1821 Montvale Court
Las Vegas, NV 89134-6683
(702) 869-9543 (H)

Hardy, Warren B., II (R)
Clark, No. 12
5070 Arville Street, Suite 4
Las Vegas, NV 89118-4904
(702) 528-7312 (O)
(702) 453-1155 (F)

Horsford, Steven A. (D)
Clark, No. 4
1306 West Craig Road, E-310
North Las Vegas, NV 89032-0215
(702) 985-7535 (O)
(702) 924-1605 (F)

Lee, John J. (D)
Clark, No. 1
3216 Villa Pisani Court
North Las Vegas, NV 89031-7267
(702) 258-5447 (H)
(702) 647-3550 (O)
(702) 647-0951 (F)

Mathews, Bernice (D)
Washoe, No. 1
P.O. Box 7176
Reno, NV 89510-7176
(775) 673-2086 (H)

McGinness, Mike (R)
Central Nevada Senatorial District
770 Wildes Road
Fallon, NV 89406-7843
(775) 423-5889 (H)

Nolan, Dennis (R)
Clark, No. 9
P.O. Box 82249
Las Vegas, NV 89180-2249
(702) 838-3838 (M/F)

Parks, David R. (D)
Clark, No. 7
P.O. Box 71887
Las Vegas, NV 89170-1887
(702) 736-6929 (H)

Raggio, William J. (R)
Washoe, No. 3
P.O. Box 281
Reno, NV 89504-0281
(775) 786-5000 (O)
(775) 786-1177 (F)

Rhoads, Dean A. (R)
Rural Nevada Senatorial District
Box 8
Tuscarora, NV 89834-0008
(775) 756-6582 (H)
(775) 756-5544 (F)

Schneider, Michael A. (D)
Clark, No. 11
6381 Sandpiper Way
Las Vegas, NV 89103-2110
(702) 876-5121 (H)
(702) 610-5240 (C)

Townsend, Randolph (R)
Washoe, No. 4
P.O. Box 20923
Reno, NV 89515-0923
(775) 825-5111 (H)
(775) 771-1555 (C)
(775) 954-2020, Ext. 204 (O)
(775) 954-2023 (F)

Washington, Maurice E. (R)
Washoe, No. 2
P.O. Box 1166
Sparks, NV 89432-1166
(775) 331-3826 (O)
(775) 331-7647 (F)

Wiener, Valerie (D)
Clark, No. 3
3540 West Sahara Avenue, No. 352
Las Vegas, NV 89102-5816
(702) 871-6536 (O)
(702) 221-9239 (F)

Woodhouse, Joyce (D)
Clark, No. 5
246 Garfield Drive
Henderson, NV 89074-1027
(702) 896-1453 (H)
(702) 407-9253 (F)



Claire Jesse Clift
Secretary of the Senate

ASSEMBLY DIRECTORY

Aizley, Paul (D)

Clark, No. 41
237 East Eldorado Lane
Las Vegas, NV 89123-1159
(702) 361-8262 (H)
(702) 361-7472 (F)

Anderson, Bernie (D)

Washoe, No. 31
747 Glen Meadow Drive
Sparks, NV 89434-1536
(775) 358-8113 (H)
(775) 358-5825 (F)

Arberry, Morse Jr. (D)

Clark, No. 7
1330 Virginia City Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89106-2052
(702) 562-2323 (O)
(702) 562-1805 (F)

Atkinson, Kelvin (D)

Clark, No. 17
5631 Indian Springs Street
North Las Vegas, NV 89031-5078
(702) 457-9995 (H/F)

Bobzien, David (D)

Washoe, No. 24
1605 Wesley Drive
Reno, NV 89503-2332
(775) 787-1351 (H)

Buckley, Barbara E. (D)

Clark, No. 8
5442 Holbrook Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89103-2439
(775) 684-8537 (Capital Office)
(702) 222-9901 (H)
(702) 222-0145 (F)

Carpenter, John C. (R)

District No. 33
P.O. Box 190
Elko, NV 89803-0190
(775) 738-9861 (H/O)
(775) 738-4953 (F)

Christensen, Chad (R)

Clark, No. 13
9101 West Sahara Avenue,
Suite 105
Las Vegas, NV 89117-5799
(702) 597-5358 (O)
(702) 548-1308 (F)

Claborn, Jerry D. (D)

Clark, No. 19
6617 Network Circle
Las Vegas, NV 89156-7015
(702) 437-9948 (H)
(702) 452-4573 (F)

Cobb, Ty (R)

Washoe, No. 26
P.O. Box 34375
Reno, NV 89533-4375
(775) 746-9890 (H)

Conklin, Marcus (D)

Clark, No. 37
1600 Palmae Way
Las Vegas, NV 89128-3244
(702) 363-3885 (O/F)

Denis, Moises (Mo) (D)

Clark, No. 28
3204 Osage Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89101-1838
(702) 657-6857 (H)
(702) 743-3571 (C)

Dondero Loop, Marilyn (D)

Clark, No. 5
3724 Emerald Bay Circle
Las Vegas, NV 89147-6816
(702) 556-0224 (C)
(702) 240-7995 (F)

Gansert, Heidi S. (R)

Washoe, No. 25
316 California Avenue, No. 302
Reno, NV 89509-1650
(775) 787-5814 (H/O)
(775) 787-7442 (F)

Goedhart, Ed (R)

District No. 36
P.O. Box 70
Amargosa Valley, NV 89020-0070
(702) 682-3339 (C)

Goicochea, Pete (R)

District No. 35
P.O. Box 97
Eureka, NV 89316-0097
(775) 237-5300 (H)
(775) 778-1620 (C)
(775) 237-7383 (Ranch)
(775) 237-5102 (F)

Grady, Tom (R)

District No. 38
43 Fairway Drive
Yerington, NV 89447-2170
(775) 463-2612 (H)
(775) 771-5199 (C)

Gustavson, Don (R)

District No. 32
P.O. Box 51601
Sparks, NV 89435-1601
(775) 722-1278 (C)

Hambrick, John (R)

Clark, No. 2
1930 Village Center Circle,
Suite 3-419
Las Vegas, NV 89134-6245
(702) 242-8580 (H)
(702) 499-6169 (C)
(702) 242-3406 (F)

Hardy, Joe (R)

Clark, No. 20
P.O. Box 60306
Boulder City, NV 89006-0306
(702) 293-7506 (H)
(702) 643-4563 (O)
(702) 293-2172 (F)

Hogan, Joseph M. (D)

Clark, No. 10
2208 Plaza de la Candela
Las Vegas, NV 89102-4043
(702) 365-0505 (H)

Horne, William (D)

Clark, No. 34
2251 North Rampart Boulevard,
No. 357
Las Vegas, NV 89128-7640
(702) 457-6963 (H)

Kihuen, Ruben (D)

Clark, No. 11
P.O. Box 427
Las Vegas, NV 89125-0427
(702) 274-1707 (C)

Kirkpatrick, Marilyn (D)

Clark, No. 1
4747 Showdown Drive
North Las Vegas, NV 89031-2133
(702) 655-0332 (H)
(702) 767-1315 (C)

Koivisto, Ellen M. (D)

Clark, No. 14
1147 Timber Ridge Court
Las Vegas, NV 89110-2545
(702) 438-5723 (H)
(702) 438-6783 (F)

Leslie, Sheila (D)

Washoe, No. 27
825 Humboldt Street
Reno, NV 89509-2009
(775) 333-6564 (H)

Maneng, Mark A. (D)

Clark, No. 18
4629 Butterfly Circle
Las Vegas, NV 89122-6149
(702) 451-8654 (H)
(702) 451-9060 (F)

Mastroluca, April (D)

Clark, No. 29
265 Copper Glow Court
Henderson, NV 89074-8744
(702) 286-8568 (C)

McArthur, Richard (R)

Clark, No. 4
4640 Panoramic Court
Las Vegas, NV 89129-1617
(702) 396-1065 (H)

McClain, Kathryn A. (D)

Clark, No. 15
2457 Swan Lane
Las Vegas, NV 89121-5242
(702) 898-5579 (H/O)

Mortenson, Harry (D)

Clark, No. 42
3930 El Camino Road
Las Vegas, NV 89103-2221
(702) 876-6944 (H)

Munford, Harvey J. (D)

Clark, No. 6
809 Sunny Place
Las Vegas, NV 89106-3637
(702) 646-4265 (H)
(702) 375-0601 (C)

Ocegueva, John (D)

Clark, No. 16
7655 Chaumont Street
Las Vegas, NV 89123-1491
(702) 452-4800 (H)

Ohrenschild, James (D)

Clark, No. 12
P.O. Box 97741
Las Vegas, NV 89193-7741
(702) 432-6999 (H)
(702) 523-4766 (C)

Parnell, Bonnie (D)

District No. 40
804 Saratoga Way
Carson City, NV 89703-3656
(775) 883-4234 (H)

Pierce, Peggy (D)

Clark, No. 3
5304 Gypsy Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89107-3847
(702) 631-8036 (H)

Seegerblom, Tick (D)

Clark, No. 9
704 South Ninth Street
Las Vegas, NV 89101-7015
(702) 386-9945 (H)
(702) 388-9600 (O)
(702) 385-2909 (F)

Settelmeyer, James (R)

District No. 39
770 U.S. Highway 395 North
Gardnerville, NV 89410-7813
(775) 265-7739 (H)
(775) 450-6114 (C)

Smith, Debbie (D)

Washoe, No. 30
3270 Wilma Drive
Sparks, NV 89431-1173
(775) 331-0897 (H)
(775) 233-2905 (C)

Spiegel, Ellen B. (D)

Clark, No. 21
1953 Kachina Mountain Drive
Henderson, NV 89052-2219
(702) 577-2167 (H)

Stewart, Lynn (R)

Clark, No. 22
2720 Cool Lilac Avenue
Henderson, NV 89052-3836
(702) 370-2185 (C)

Woodbury, Melissa (R)

Clark, No. 23
2654 West Horizon Ridge
Parkway, Suite B5-280
Henderson, NV 89052-2858
(702) 742-6495 (C)
(702) 240-2553 (F)



Susan Furlong Reil
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 six 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 some lasted as long as 169 days. The Legislature convened its 75th Regular Session on February 2, 2009. It must adjourn “sine die” (without a day being set for reconvening) no later than June 1, 2009.

The 2007 Regular Session

During the course of the 2007 Regular Session, the Legislature considered 1,208 bills—629 from the Assembly and 579 from the Senate. Of this total, 554 bills were approved. The Governor signed 540 bills, allowed 7 bills to become law without his signature, and vetoed 7 bills.



THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE IN ACTION

23rd Special Session

The Governor called a short special session on June 5, 2007. This allowed Legislators to finish their work on a few remaining bills that were not passed before the deadline for the regular session. During the 23rd Special Session, 11 bills were introduced, all of which were enacted into State law.



24th Special Session

The Governor called the Legislature into its 24th Special Session on June 27, 2008, to address a shortfall in General Fund revenue that was projected to total approximately \$1.2 billion over the biennium. During this Session, 10 bills were introduced, and 7 were enacted into State law.

25th Special Session

The Governor called a brief special session on December 8, 2008, to address an additional shortfall in General Fund revenue of approximately \$340 million. During the 25th Special Session, 4 bills were introduced, and all of them were enacted into State law.

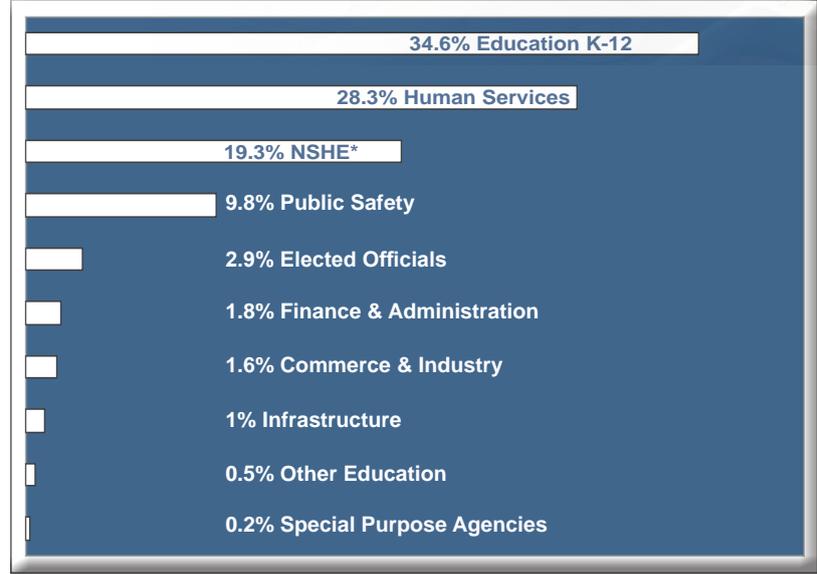
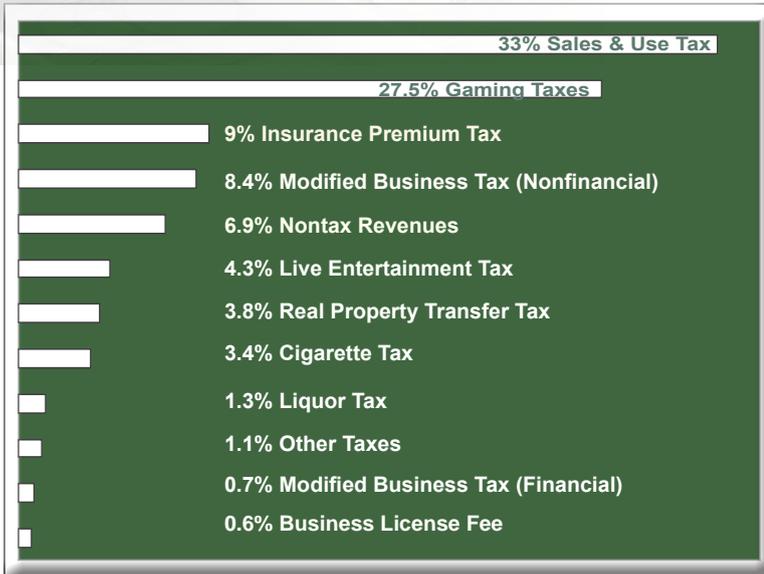


GENERAL FUND BUDGET

The 2007 Legislature approved State General Fund appropriations for the 2007-2009 Biennium of approximately \$6.8 billion. Because of a decline in tax revenue, the Governor called the Legislature into two special sessions to address the shortfall. During the 24th Special Session in June of 2008, the Legislature reduced the State General Fund appropriations for the biennium by approximately \$1.2 billion. The State General Fund appropriations were reduced by another \$340 million during the 25th Special Session in December of 2008.

The **Sources of State General Fund Revenues** for the 2007-2009 Biennium were projected to come from the following sources (below):

The **Uses of State General Fund Appropriations** for the 2007-2009 Biennium were approved for expenditure as follows (below):



*Nevada System of Higher Education

ASSEMBLY

Notables

Barbara E. Buckley (D) First Woman Assembly Speaker in Nevada History
Steven A. Horsford (D) Youngest Senate Majority Leader in Nevada History
William J. Raggio (R) Longest Senate Service in Nevada History: 1973-2009

Speaker

Barbara E. Buckley

Speaker pro Tempore

Bernie Anderson

Majority Floor Leader

John Ocegüera

Assistant Majority Floor Leader

Marcus Conklin

Majority Whip

Sheila Leslie

Assistant Majority Whips

William Horne
Debbie Smith

Minority Floor Leader

Heidi S. Gansert

Assistant Minority Floor Leader

Lynn Stewart

Minority Whips

Chad Christensen
Pete Goicoechea



LEADERSHIP OF THE 75TH SESSION

The two houses of the Legislature are authorized by the *Nevada Constitution* to choose their own officers (except for the President of the Senate who is the Lieutenant Governor).

President pro Tempore

Michael A. Schneider

Majority Floor Leader

Steven A. Horsford

Assistant Majority Floor Leader

Terry Care

Majority Whip

Valerie Wiener

Assistant Majority Whip

John J. Lee

Minority Floor Leader

William J. Raggio

Assistant Minority Floor Leader

Dennis Nolan

Minority Whip

Barbara K. Cegavske

SENATE

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 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 elected officials, businesses, lobbyists, and citizens.

Drafting

Legislators, legislative committees, the Governor, State agencies, and local governments may request bill drafts. Staff attorneys in the Legislative Counsel Bureau prepare the formal drafts of bills.

2. Action in the House of Origin

Introduction and First Reading

A bill is submitted by an individual legislator or committee, numbered and read for the first time, assigned to committee, and printed. A bill or resolution may be introduced in either the Senate or the Assembly, and cosponsors in the other house may be listed on the front of the measure.

Committee

A committee holds a hearing to take testimony and gather information about the bill. A committee may recommend that the house pass a bill as it is written, pass it with amendments, or not pass it. If a committee thinks that a bill requires further committee consideration, it may recommend that the house amend the bill and refer it again to the same committee or 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 the general file for debate and vote. A bill that is given an “Amend and Do Pass” recommendation is read a second time, amended, and reprinted before being placed on the 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 14 votes in the Senate and 28 votes in the Assembly. A measure that does not receive at least this number of votes is defeated. Any member voting on the prevailing side may serve notice of reconsideration to request a second vote. If passed, or passed with amendments, the measure is sent to the second house.

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 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.

4. Resolution of Differences

Consideration of Amendments

The house of origin decides whether to accept the second house's amendments. If it accepts the amendments, the bill goes to the Governor. If the amendments are rejected, the bill is returned to the second house for a decision 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 reconcile the differences and presents its recommendation in the form of a conference report. If both houses accept the report, the bill goes to the Governor. If either house rejects the report, a second (and final) conference committee is appointed. The bill dies if the members of the second conference committee fail to agree or if a second conference report is not accepted by both houses.

5. Role of the Governor

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



Governor Jim Gibbons

STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE 75TH 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 2009 Session, the Senate has 9 standing committees while the Assembly has 11. The listings that follow show the specific committee assignments for the 2009 Legislature. For each committee, the Chair is named first, followed by the Vice Chair and other members in alphabetical order.



Senate Standing Committees

Commerce and Labor—

Carlton, Schneider, Amodei, Copening, W. Hardy, Parks, Rhoads

Energy, Infrastructure, and Transportation—

Schneider, Carlton, Breeden, Cegavske, Lee, Nolan, Townsend

Finance—

Mathews (Co-Chair), Horsford (Co-Chair), Coffin, W. Hardy, Raggio, Rhoads, Woodhouse

Government Affairs—

Lee, Care, Breeden, Horsford, McGinness, Raggio, Townsend

Health and Education—

Wiener, Woodhouse, Breeden, Cegavske, Horsford, Nolan, Washington

Judiciary—

Care, Wiener, Amodei, Copening, McGinness, Parks, Washington

Legislative Operations and Elections—

Woodhouse, Mathews, Cegavske, W. Hardy, Lee, Raggio, Wiener

Natural Resources—

Parks, Copening, Amodei, Coffin, Mathews, Nolan, Rhoads

Taxation—

Coffin, Care, Carlton, McGinness, Schneider, Townsend, Washington

Assembly Standing Committees

Commerce and Labor—Conklin, Atkinson, Anderson, Arberry, Buckley, Christensen, Gansert, Goedhart, Horne, Kirkpatrick, Manendo, McClain, Ocegüera, Settlemeyer

Corrections, Parole, and Probation—Horne, Segerblom, Anderson, Carpenter, Cobb, Dondero Loop, Gustavson, Hambrick, Kihuen, Manendo, McArthur, Mortenson, Ohrenschall, Parnell

Education—Parnell, Denis, Bobzien, Dondero Loop, J. Hardy, Kihuen, Mastroluca, McArthur, Munford, Stewart, Woodbury

Elections, Procedures, Ethics (EPE), and Constitutional Amendments (CA)—Koivisto (Chair EPE), Mortenson (Chair CA), Cobb, Conklin, Gansert, Hambrick, Horne, Kihuen, Munford, Ohrenschall, Segerblom, Settlemeyer, Smith

Government Affairs—Kirkpatrick, Bobzien, Aizley, Atkinson, Christensen, Claborn, Goedhart, Mastroluca, Munford, Pierce, Settlemeyer, Spiegel, Stewart, Woodbury

Health and Human Services—Smith, Pierce, Cobb, Denis, Hambrick, J. Hardy, Leslie, Mastroluca, Parnell, Spiegel, Stewart

Judiciary—Anderson, Segerblom, Carpenter, Cobb, Dondero Loop, Gustavson, Hambrick, Horne, Kihuen, Manendo, McArthur, Mortenson, Ohrenschall, Parnell

Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Mining—Claborn, Hogan, Aizley, Bobzien, Carpenter, Goicoechea, Grady, Gustavson, Munford, Ohrenschall, Segerblom

Taxation—McClain, Kirkpatrick, Aizley, Anderson, Arberry, Goedhart, Grady, Gustavson, Koivisto, Leslie, McArthur, Mortenson, Pierce

Transportation—Atkinson, Manendo, Carpenter, Christensen, Claborn, Dondero Loop, Goicoechea, Hogan, Kihuen, Spiegel, Woodbury

Ways and Means—Arberry, Leslie, Buckley, Conklin, Denis, Gansert, Goicoechea, Grady, J. Hardy, Hogan, Koivisto, McClain, Ocegüera, Smith

CONTACTING THE NEVADA 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 State Library and Archives Legislative Service During Session (to obtain bill information):

684-3360 (from the Reno/Carson City area)
486-2626 (from the Las Vegas area) and ask for this service
(800) 995-9080 or (800) 978-2878 or (800) 992-0973 (from anywhere in Nevada) and ask for this service

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 anywhere in Nevada)

Faxing a Document:

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

Mailing a Letter:

Address to your legislator's attention at the following address:
Nevada Legislature
Legislative Building, Capitol Complex
401 South Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701-4747

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, through the Internet 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 anywhere in Nevada)

The screenshot shows the Nevada Legislature website homepage. At the top, it says "Welcome to the Nevada Legislature" and "The 75th Regular Session of the Nevada Legislature will begin on February 2, 2009." Below this, it states "We are now in the interim period between legislative sessions." The main image is a photograph of the Legislative Building in Carson City, Nevada. To the left of the main content is a navigation menu with links for Session Info, Interim Info, Law Library, General Info, Counsel Bureau, Research Library, Assembly, and Senate. Below the menu are links for Nevada's Legislators Back to School Program, Nevada Youth Legislative Issues Forum, and Vote Nevada '08 Election Info. To the right of the main content is a sidebar with links for Calendar of Meetings, Live Meetings Listen or View, Who's My Legislator?, What's My District?, Purchase Publications, Visit Our Giftshop, F.Y.I. - New and Notable Information, Personalized Bill Tracking, Career Opportunities, 75th Session (2009) Prefiled Bills, 75th Session (2009) Bill Draft Request List, 75th Session (2009) Events (Social) Calendar, and Register as a Lobbyist. At the bottom of the main content area, there are links for "MEET YOUR NEW LEGISLATORS! CLICK HERE to find out who your new State representatives are." and "Public Suggestions concerning Budget Reductions". At the very bottom, there are links for "Video Gallery | Photo Gallery".

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 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 Taiwan to the Nevada Legislature. Taiwan was designated as Nevada's sister state in 1985.

THE NEVADA STATE FLAG

Nevada has had 4 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 Animal – 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 4½ feet tall and can weigh as much as 175 pounds.



State Artifact – 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 – 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.



FACTS ABOUT NEVADA



State Colors
Silver and blue.



State Fish – 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 – 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 – 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.



State Gemstones

Precious Gemstone – 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 – Nevada Turquoise. Sometimes called the “Jewel of the Desert,” Nevada Turquoise is found in many parts of the State.



State Grass – 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.

FACTS ABOUT NEVADA

State March – Silver State Fanfare

When the Proctor R. Hug High School Marching Band and Dance Team, Reno, were asked to participate in the 1997 Inaugural Parade for the President of the U.S., the band’s Director, Gerald Willis, composed an original march for the occasion that was uniquely Nevada’s. Thus, the “Silver State Fanfare” March was born. The 2001 Legislature approved legislation making the “Silver State Fanfare” Nevada’s official State March.



State Metal – Silver (Ag)

State Reptile – 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.



State Rock – Sandstone

In its more traditionally recognized form or 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 – Orovada Soil

Orovada soils are extensive in northern Nevada, where they have an extent 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.

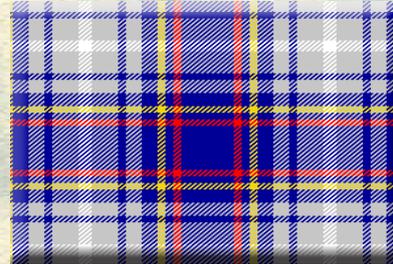


FACTS ABOUT NEVADA

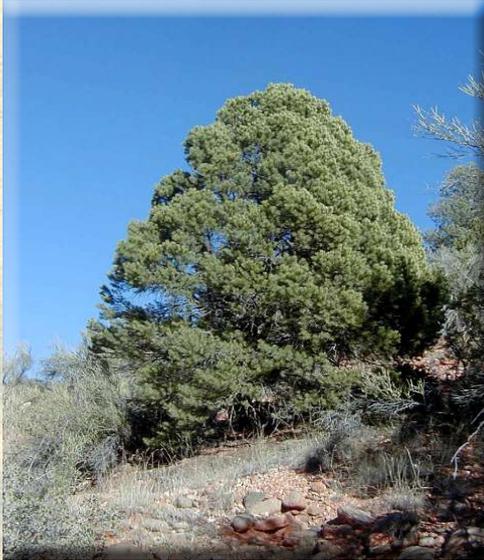
State Song

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*



————— 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-capped."

Population estimates (as of 2007)

State of Nevada—2,718,337
Capital—Carson City—57,723
Most populous city—Las Vegas—590,321
Most populous county—Clark—1,954,319

Geographical Data

Area of the state—110,540 square miles
(87 percent federally controlled)

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

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



CREDITS

The 2009 Guide to the Nevada Legislature was prepared by the Research Division Publications Unit of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

Information Sources

State of Nevada – The Historical Governor’s Mansion
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National Register of Historic Places

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