League of Women Voters of Nevada Legislative Advocacy Guide 2019



Visit League of Women Voters of Nevada at www.lwvnv.org

Visit the League of Women Voters of Nevada Blog at: <a href="https://www.lwvnvblog.org">www.lwvnvblog.org</a>

Life Cycle of Advocacy

- We often divide democracy into elections & advocacy
- Yet advocacy is a never-ending process

This Guide will look at advocacy:

- During the election cycle
- During the legislatives session

## **Advocacy Process Overview:**

- 1. Create a working group
- 2. Clearly identify an issue to be addressed
- 3. Thoroughly research your issue using academic standards
- 4. Look for existing models in other states that address your issue
- 5. Contact a legislator who has shown interest in your issue
- 6. Meet with the legislator to discuss your issue, research, and solutions
- 7. Work to help create legislation, including a search for funding
- 8. Commit to testifying for your legislation
- 9. Organize an advocacy team
- 10. Track the implementation of your legislation & ask for assessment data



# **Starting the Advocacy Conversation: Elections**

**Speak to Representatives during Elections** 

**Candidates want votes** 

You need their help

Collaborate

#### **Attend Candidate:**

**Meeting and Greets** 

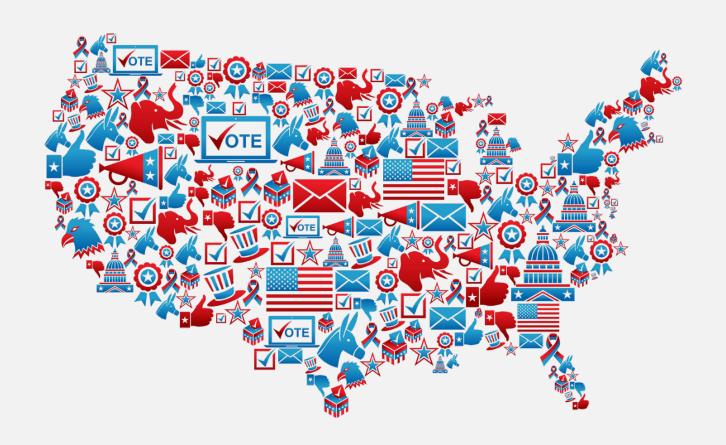
**Forums** 

**Rallies** 

**House parties** 

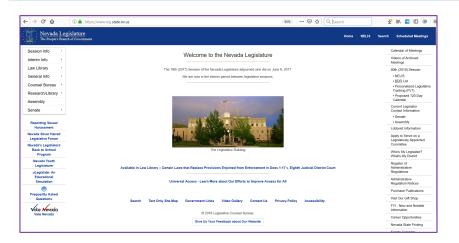
#### **Communication:**

Be respectful
Use helping words, not telling words
Listen as much as you speak
Be willing to focus on common ground



- Post-Election & Pre-Legislative Session
  - November to February
  - Assess the political landscape
  - Work on coalition building
  - Contact similar issue groups

Learn to use the Legislative Website



- Bills and CommitteesDid your candidates win?
  - Yes, congratulate & continue working on your issues
  - No, offer condolences & extend an invitation to join your working group

### **Bills**

- Keep working to help with drafting
- If bills aren't drafted yet, contact new legislators to offer help

### **Committees**

- Create a spreadsheet of Senate & Assembly Committee members
- Create a system for turning out bill supporters to testify

# Legislative Vocabulary

# BDR: Bill Draft Request

 Legislators submit bill draft requests to the Legislative Counsel Bureau to request that a bill be written for the upcoming legislative session

# LCB: Legislative Counsel Bureau

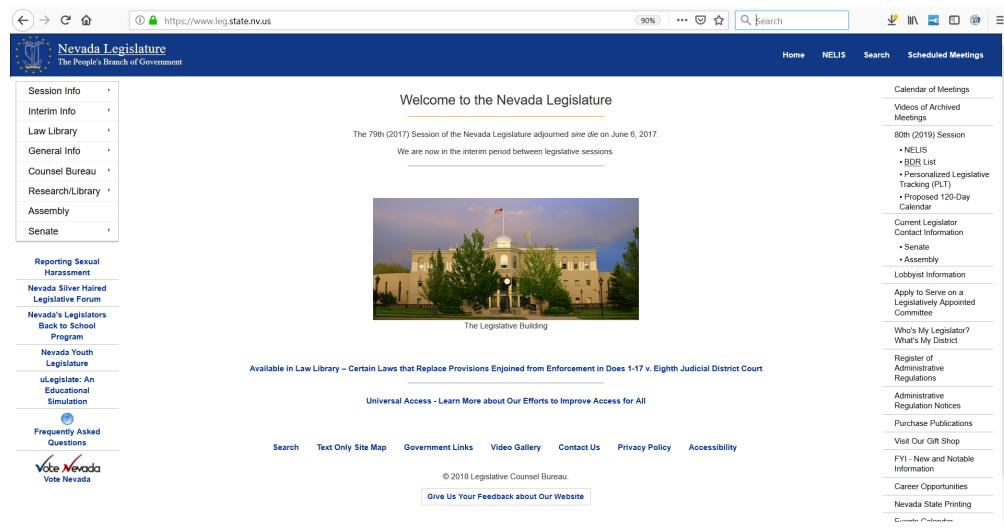
 This is the office of fulltime attorneys and analysist who help write bills and who engage in administrative, legislative, and audit analysis

## **Fiscal Note**

- This is a note added to any bill that will incur expenses during implementation
- If these expenses are not covered in the Governor's budget, the bill's legislative sponsor(s) must explain its funding source

# Navigating the Legislative Website

# https://www.leg.state.nv.us/



Home

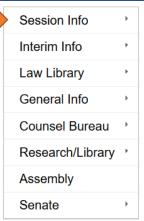
**NELIS** 

Search

**Scheduled Meetings** 

## Nevada Legislature

The People's Branch of Government



**Session Info** includes access to essential links

#### Welcome to the Nevada Legislature

The 79th (2017) Session of the Nevada Legislature adjourned sine die on June 6, 2017. We are now in the interim period between legislative sessions.



The Legislative Building

**During the session** you can track meetings, watch live-streamed hearings, review video archives of hearings, and receive notifications.

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80th (2019) Session

- NELIS
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- · Personalized Legislative Tracking (PLT)
- · Proposed 120-Day Calendar

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Career Opportunities

Reporting Sexual Harassment

**Nevada Silver Haired** Legislative Forum

**Nevada's Legislators Back to School** Program

> **Nevada Youth** Legislature

uLegislate: An Educational Simulation





Available in Law Library - Certain Laws that Replace Provisions Enjoined from Enforcement in Does 1-17 v. Eighth Judicial District Court

Universal Access - Learn More about Our Efforts to Improve Access for All

Text Only Site Map

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Accessibility

18 Legislative Counsel Bureau.

If you need help with any website feature, you can go to the FAQ page

#### 80th (2019) Session

The 80th (2019) Session of the Nevada Legislature will begin on February 4, 2019 .

NELIS	Nevada Electronic Legislative Information System home
Personalized Legislative Tracking	Personalized Legislative Tracking (PLT) provides BDR, Bill and Budget tracking throughout the Session
BDR List	A list of Bill Draft Requests
BDR Forms	Bill Draft Request Forms for Assembly, Constitutional Officer, Executive Branch, Judicial Branch, Local Government, and Senate
BDR Fact Sheet	Information about the number of legislative measures that can be requested for drafting, by entity
Bill Information (NELIS)	Browse bills, resolutions, and reports with NELIS
Bill Information (classic)	Browse bills, resolutions, and reports through the legacy pages
Q Bill Text Search	Full-text search of all bills of the 80th (2019) Session
Legislator Information: Senate   Assembly	Legislators of the 80th (2019) Session
New Legislator Orientation and Training	New Legislator Orientation and Training Schedule
Committee Information	Committee Information, Agendas, Minutes, and Exhibits
Proposed 120-Day Calendar	120-Day Legislative Calendar including deadlines
Histories	A cumulative list of actions on all measures in the houses
Reports Submitted to the Nevada Legislature: 2017-2019 Biennium	Reports submitted to the Legislature: 2017-2019 Biennium (list with links to reports)
Share Your Opinion on Legislative Bills	Share Your Opinion on Legislative Bills
View Opinions on Legislative Bills	View Opinions on Legislative Bills
Press Accreditation and General Information	Information for the Media
Events Calendar	View events scheduled in the Legislative Building and request an event
Lobbyist Information	Lobbyist Information, Registration and Reports
Q Search	Search 80th (2019) Session Information and Documents

# You can quickly access important information on the Session Info page







#### Frequently Asked Questions about the Nevada Legislature's Website

Click on a question to see the answer.

#### **Major Topics**

- Committee Information
- Legislative History
- Legislators
- Personalized Legislative Tracking
- Session Information
- Wireless Access

#### Committee Information

How do I find information about a committee?

#### **Viewing Committee Meetings**

Why isn't the meeting I want to watch available for viewing?

Why isn't the meeting I want to watch displaying?

What program should I have installed to watch a meeting?

Can I watch a meeting after it has occurred?

#### Legislative History

How do I find information about researching legislative history?

#### Legislators

How do I find out who is my legislator? How do I contact my legislators? Which Legislator Represents My ...?

#### Personalized Legislative Tracking (PLT)

Where is my confirmation e-mail? How do I create an account? I forgot my username/password, what do I do? How do I use PLT? I can't log in to PLT, what do I do? Can I use my username and password from last session?

#### Session Information

What is NELIS? What is a BDR? Can I see the text of a BDR? When will the BDR list be available? How can I find a bill? How can I view an amendment? How can I view the vote on a bill? Why can't I view a bill? How do I find information about reapportionment and redistricting? This is the best place to find answers to important questions.

On the day of a hearing, you'll see View under the time. Click on View to watch online.

# Calendar of Meetings

Legislative committees and committees affiliated with the Legislature display in blue font.

**View Streaming Media Minimum Requirements** 

Meetings (0) for Thursday, January 19, 2017

There are no meetings today.

#### **Upcoming Meetings (8)**

#### Monday, January 23, 2017

8:30 AM

#### **Legislative Commission's Budget Subcommittee**

Room 4100 of the Legislative Building, 401 S. Carson St., Carson City, NV.

Videoconferenced to Room 4401 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 E. Washington Ave., Las Vegas, NV.

This is the first meeting in calendar year 2017. Please see agenda for details.

#### Tuesday, January 24, 2017

8:30 AM

#### Legislative Commission's Budget Subcommittee

Videoconferenced to Room 4401 of the Grant Sa

This is the second meeting in calendar year 2017. Plea

 Room 4100 of the Legislative Building, 401 S. Car If you would like to testify in-person, you'll see the room to go to at the legislature and the Grant Sawyer Building in Las Vegas.

#### Wednesday, January 25, 2017

8:30 AM

#### Legislative Commission's Budget Subcommittee

Room 4100 of the Legislative Building, 401 S. Carson St., Carson City, NV.

enda

Agenda

Agenda

#### Welcome to the Nevada Legislature

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We are now in the interim period between legislative sessions.



# You can track legislation through the NELIS System



The Legislative Building

rtain Laws that Replace Provisions Enjoined from Enforcement in Does 1-17 v. Eighth Judicial District Court

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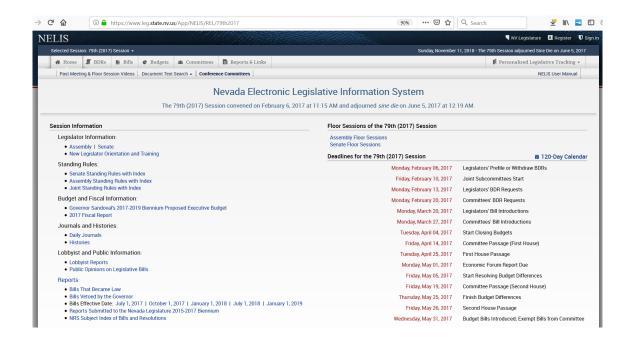
FYI - New and Notable Information

Career Opportunities

Nevada State Printing

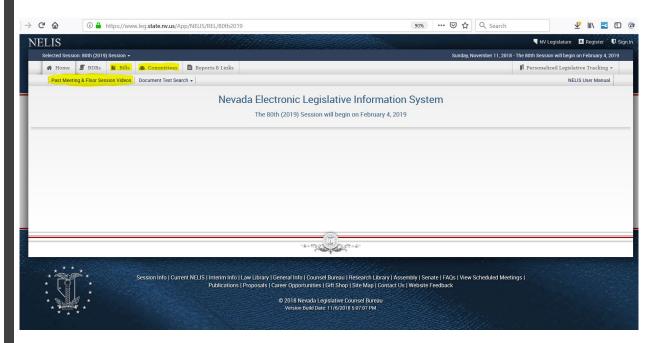
**Events Calendar** 

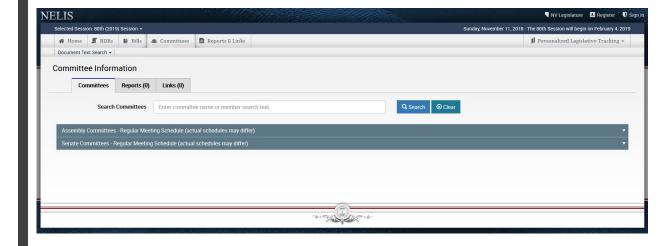


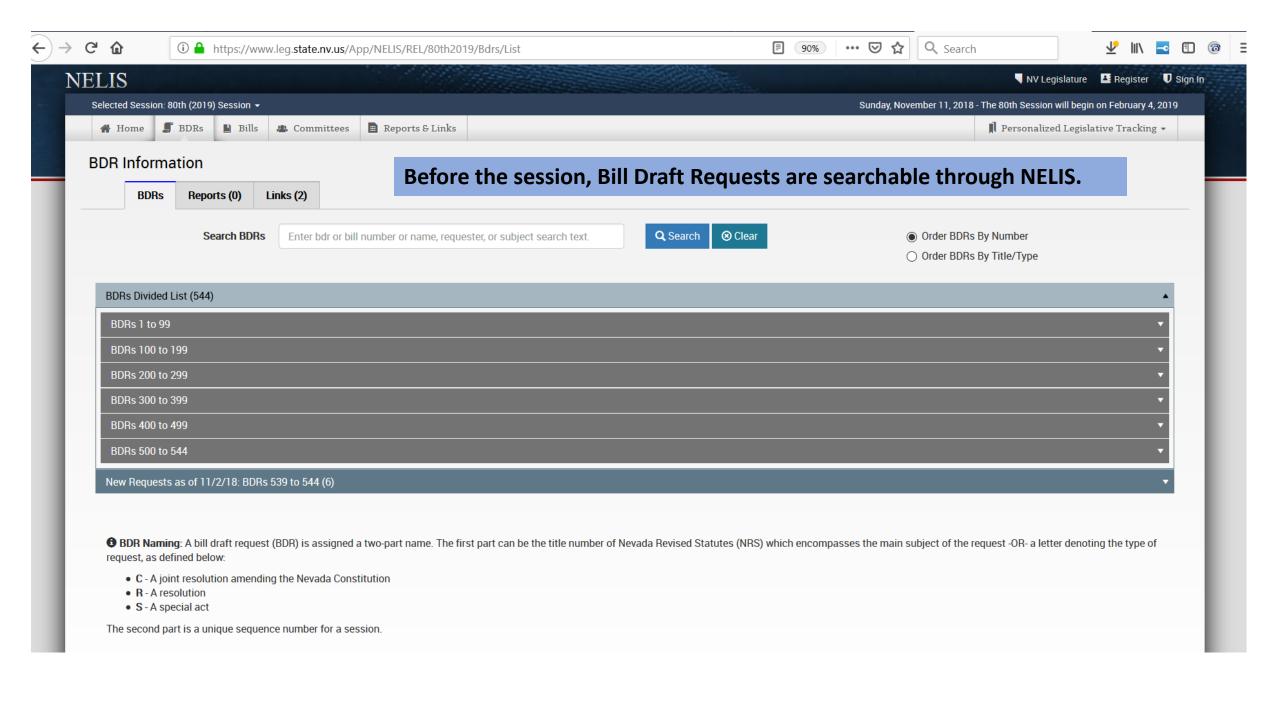


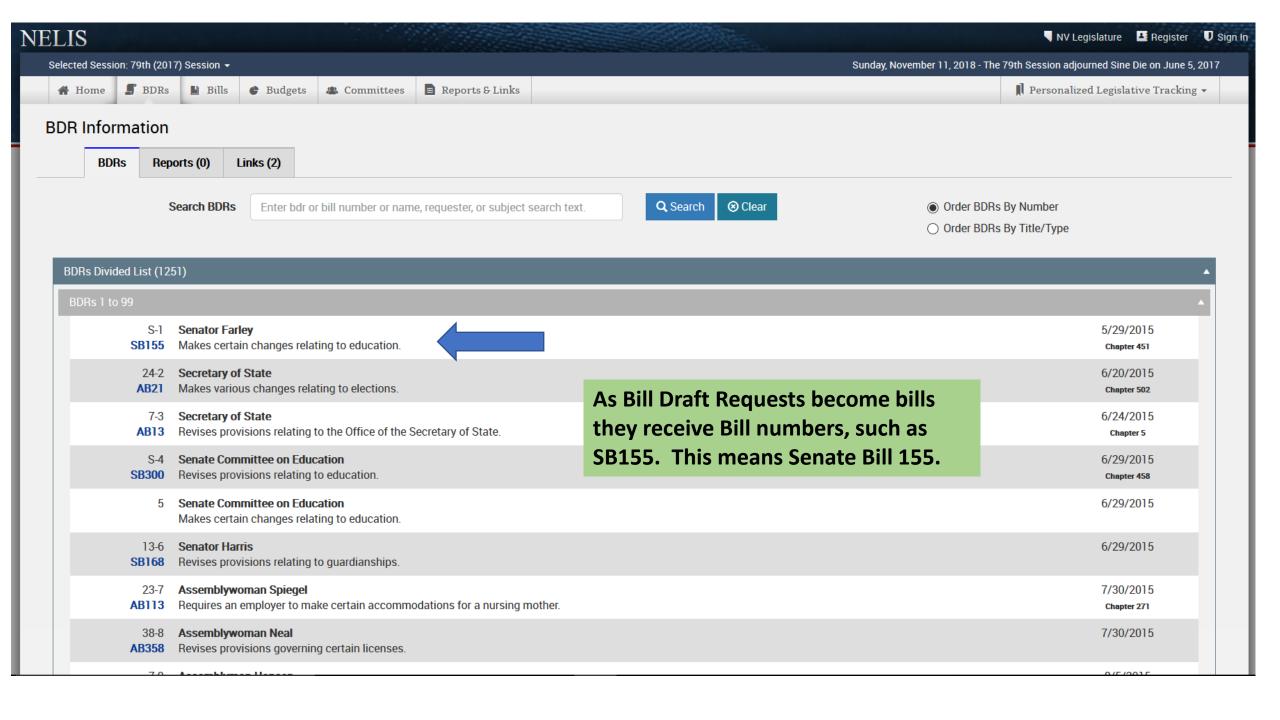
Above is the 2017 Nevada Electronic Information System (NELIS) end-of-session page where you can see all the bills and reports.

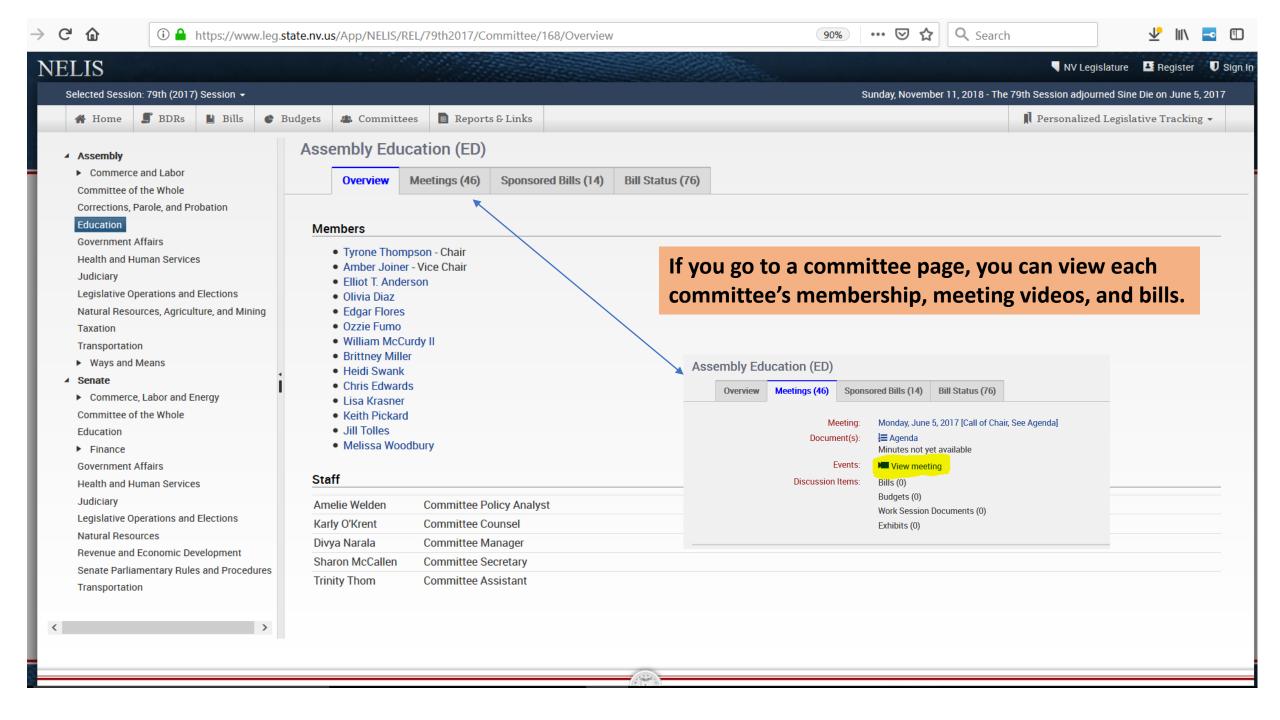
On the right is the 2019 NELIS page, which will be populated as the session nears. You can search BDR's, Bills, and Committees from this page.













Option 1 – \$275

Track a maximum of 100 BDRs, bills, and budgets.

Option 2 – \$650

Track an unlimited number of BDRs, bills, and budgets.

Option 3 – \$55

Track a maximum of 25 BDRs, bills, and budgets.

Option 4 – Free

Track a maximum of 10 BDRs, bills, and budgets.

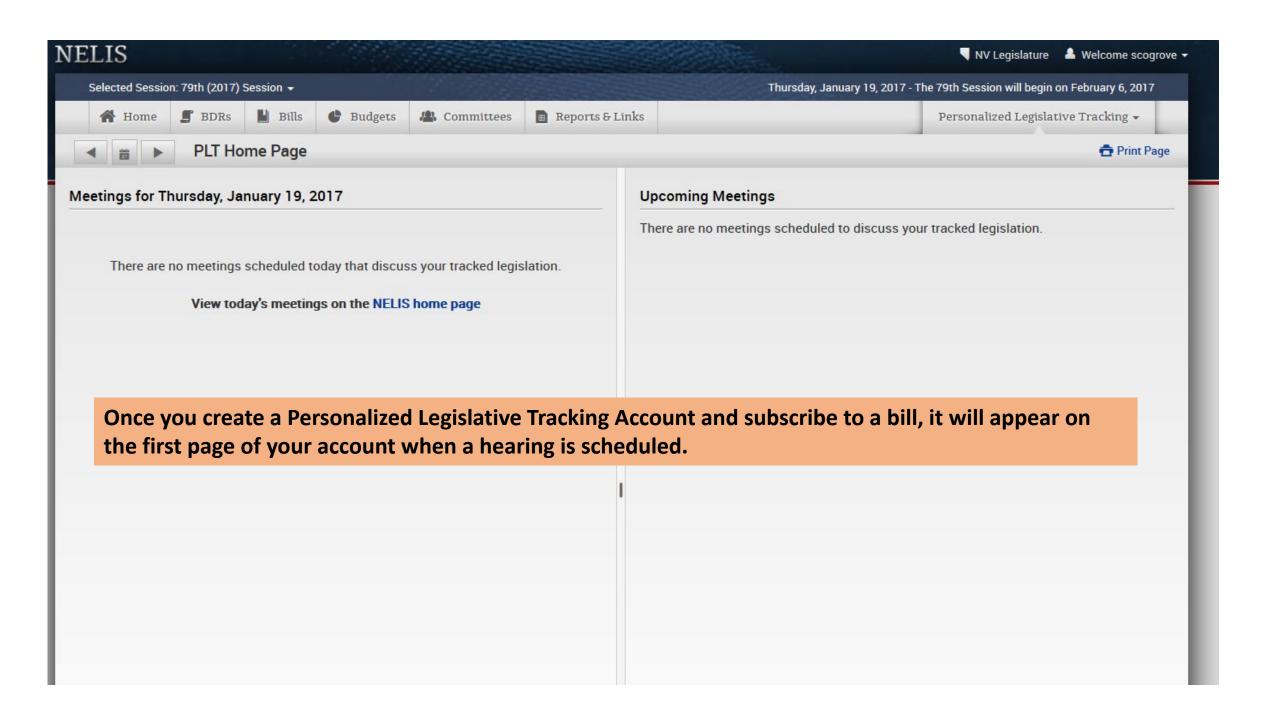
Option 5 – Legislator Constituent

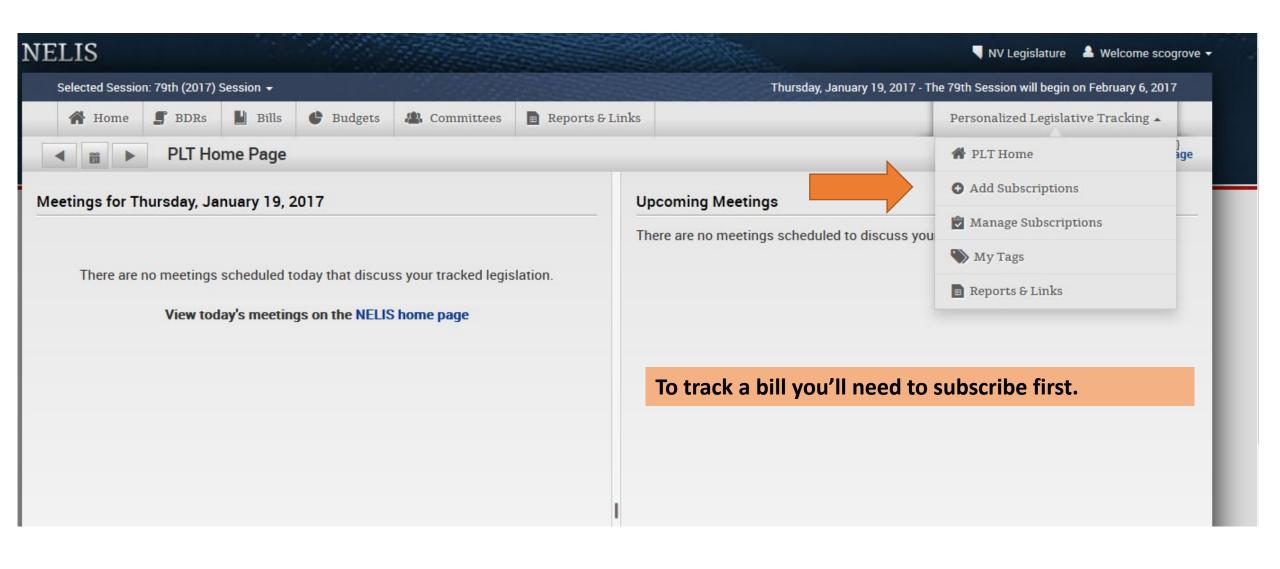
Legislator Constituent Account

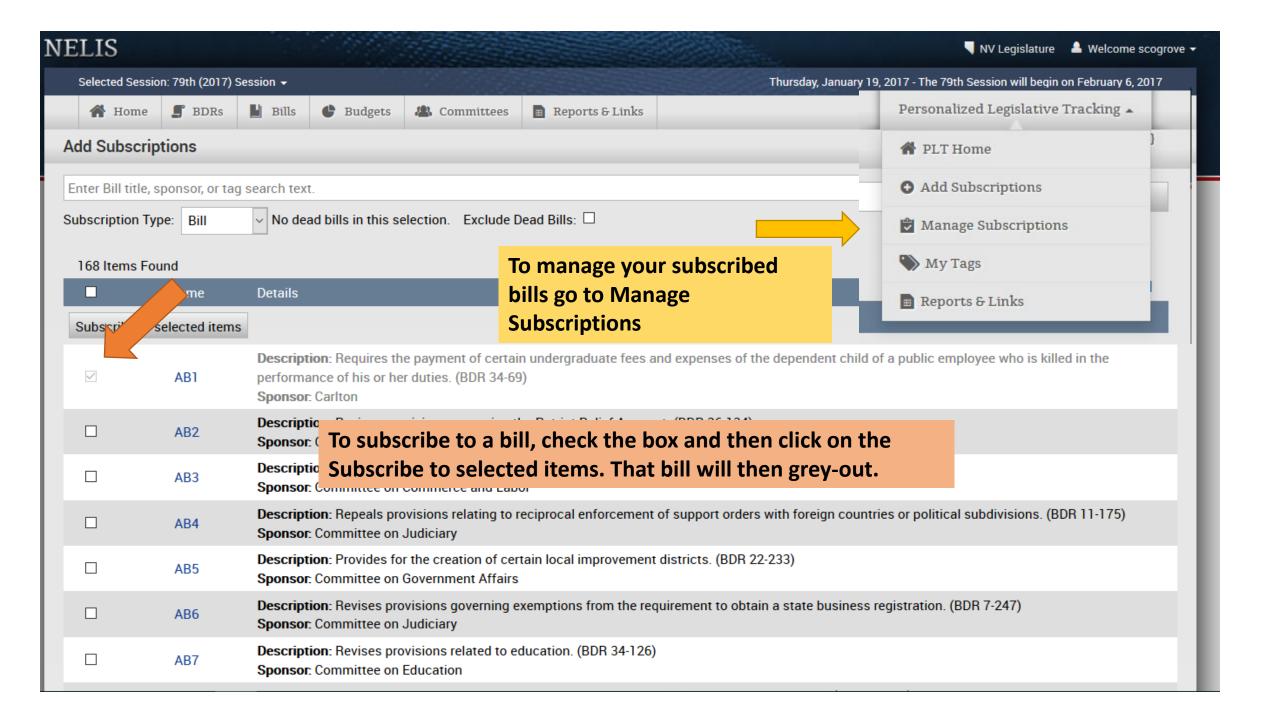
Free Unlimited

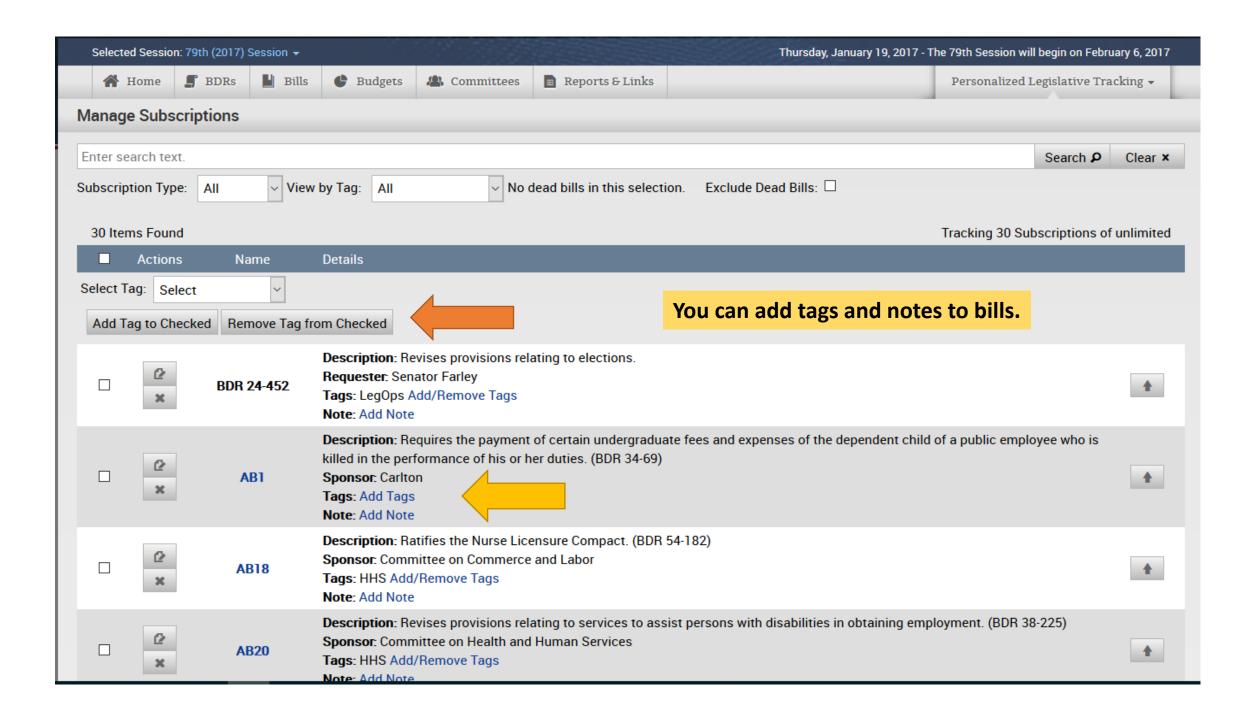
Nevada State Agencies and Local Government Entities

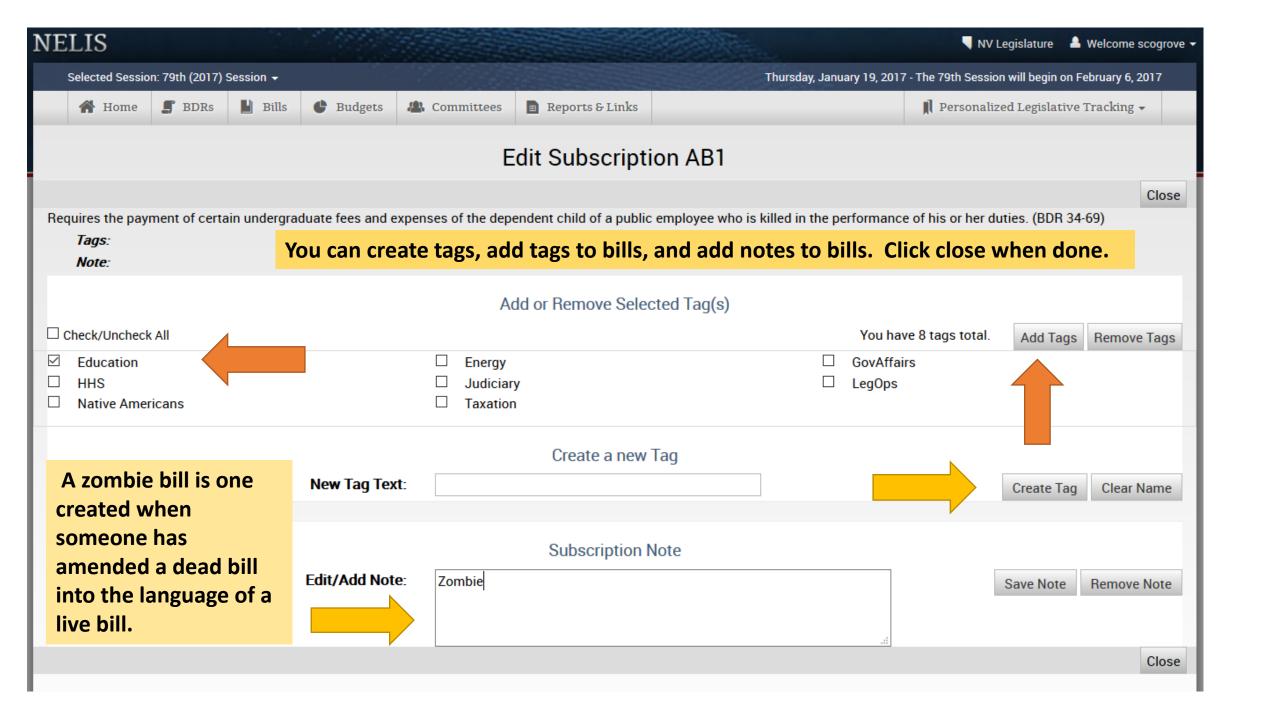
Nevadans can sign-up for a personalized tracking account to receive notifications for up to 10 bill for free. Through PLT, you will receive emails when your bills are scheduled for hearings.













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Nevada's Legislators Back to School Program

> Nevada Youth Legislature



Frequently Asked Questions



#### Welcome to the Nevada Legislature

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recordings of committee hearings

You can watch

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## **Videos of Archived Meetings**

Videos of archived meetings are made available as a courtesy of the Nevada Legislature.

The videos are part of an ongoing effort to keep the public informed of and involved in the legislative process.

They are intended for personal use and are not intended for use in commercial ventures or political campaigns.

Archived videos are arranged by date, with the most recent at the top of the list.

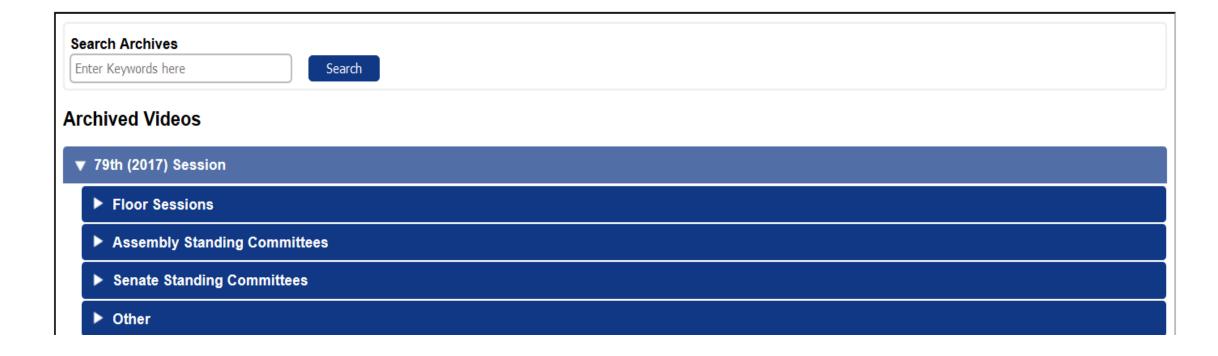
After expanding the blue accordions, below, click Video to watch the meeting with document, or Agenda to see just the document.

You can watch recordings of hearings for current and past legislative sessions.

#### **About Videos of Archived Meetings**

\*\* Initial video indexes are unedited but will be corrected and finalized within 24 hours of the close of the meeting. \*\*

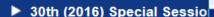
#### **SEARCH TIPS**



#### **Archived Videos**

- ▶ 79th (2017) Session
- > 30th (2016) Special Session
- ▶ 29th (2015) Special Session
- ▼ 2015 2016 Interim
  - ▶ Interim Committees
  - ▶ Legislative Commission Subcommittee
  - **▶** Statutory Committees
  - ▶ Interim Studies
  - ► Non-Legislative Committees
  - **▼** Other

Name		Date	Duration	
Democratic Response to Governor Sandoval's State of the State Address			00h 09m	Video
01/17/2017 Governor's State of the State Ad	dress (17211) - Room Assembly	Jan 17, 2017	01h 31m	Video
09/23/2015 Governor's Drought Summit (52	20) - Room Assembly	Sep 23, 2015	06h 09m	Video
09/22/2015 Governor's Drought S	19) - Room Assembly	Sep 22, 2015	06h 12m	
00/24/2015 Covernor's Drought Cui	10\ Doom Accombly	Con 24 201E	OEb Oem	

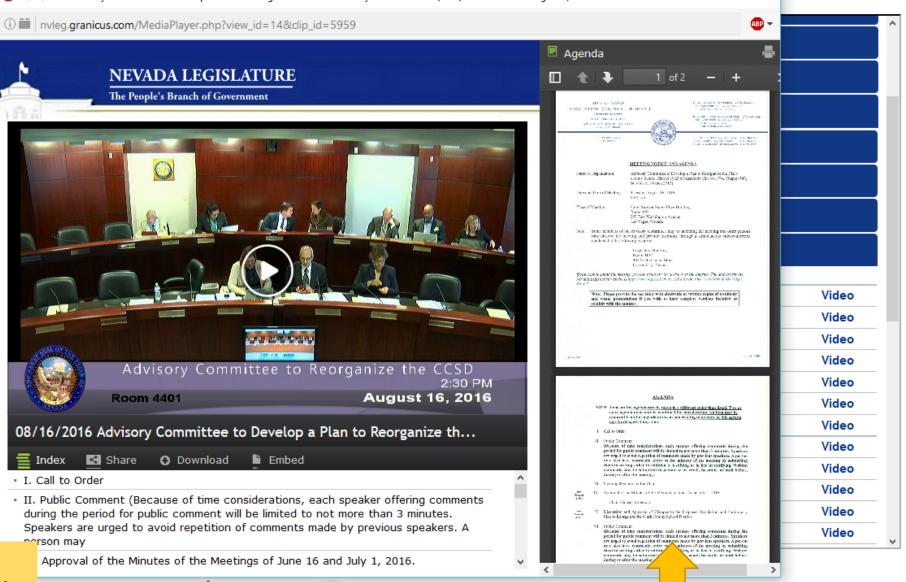


- 29th (2015) Special Sessio
- ▼ 2015 2016 Interim
  - ▶ Interim Committees
  - Legislative Commission
  - Statutory Committees
  - **▼** Interim Studies

#### Name

01/11/2017 Community Impleme
12/14/2016 Community Impleme
Community Implementation Cou
Advisory Committee to Develop
08/16/2016 Advisory Committee
07/06/2016 Subcommittee to Co
07/01/2016 Technical Advisory C
07/01/2016 Technical Advisory C
06/16/2016 Advisory Committee
05/10/2016 Technical Advisory C
04/13/2016 Technical Advisory C

You can fast-forward by clicking on parts of the agenda below the video image.



You can see the whole agenda on the side.



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**Frequently Asked** Questions









A ICAM SIG

# 79TH (2017) SESSION OF THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE

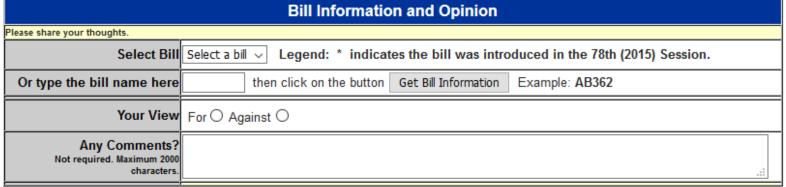
SHARE YOUR OPINION WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS

#### Reports | View Comments | Submit Another Opinion

The Opinion Poll portion of this site contains constituent opinions for the 79th (2017) Session of the Nevada Legislature. Feel free to view constituent opinions by clicking on the links above.

Throughout a legislative session, legislators review these opinions to gain perspective on how constituents in their districts feel about legislation. Constituent names, addresses and other personal information are NOT made public, but are available to legislators so that they will know who is submitting the comment and are able to contact the constituent if they so desire. Only opinion totals and comments are made publicly available on this site.

Thank you for participating in your government.

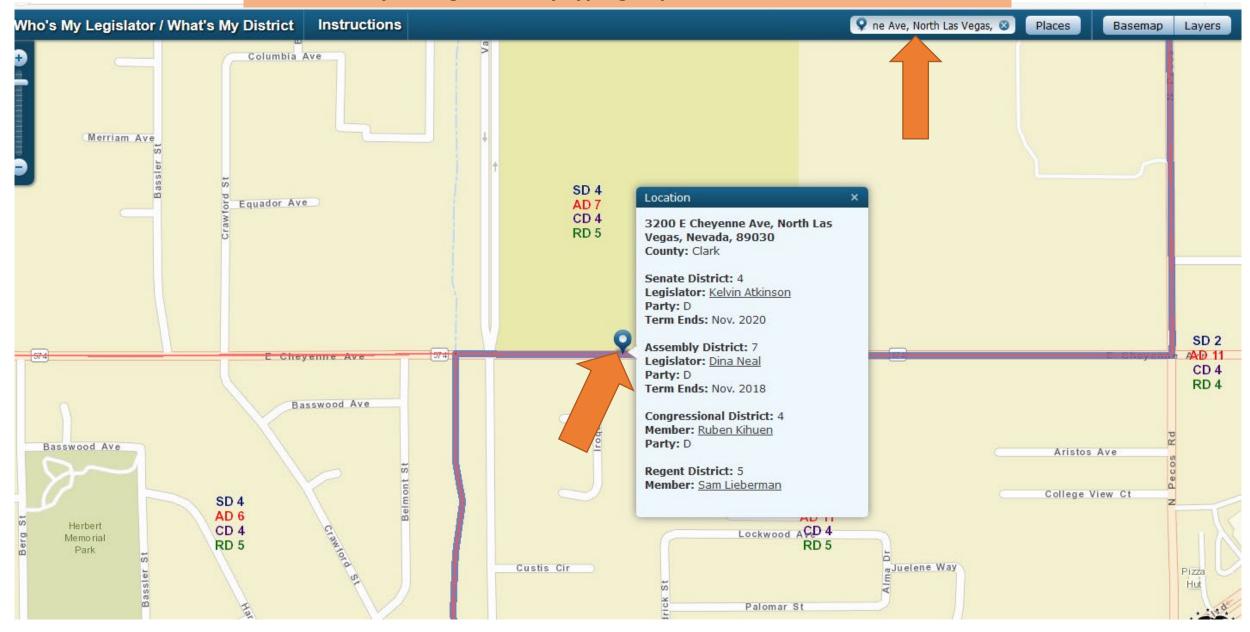


In order to accurately determine the legislative district in which you reside, we ask that you please provide your physical address; however, your phone number and email address are NOT required.

Constituent Information								
Confidential information will not be made public.								
Name	Title: Other/None V First:				Last:			
Physical Address								
City, State, Zip			Nevada		✓ Zip:			
Phone								
Email								
Remember Me	Submit You must select a b	ill from t	the dropdown li	st or click on th	e <b>Get</b> bu	utton before you can sul	omit your	r opinion.

During the legislative session you can share your opinion about bills on this page.

# You can find your legislators by typing in your address.











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Administrative

# To send mail to legislators at the capital during session, the address is: c/o Nevada Senate 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701-4747

Search:
---------

#### Print

	Legislator	Party	District	County	
	Atkinson, Kelvin Assistant Majority Leader	Democratic	No. 4	Clark (Part)	
4165 Fuselie North Las Ve	r Drive gas, NV 89032	(Wk) (Leg. Bldg.) 775-684-1429 (Leg. Bldg. Room) 1224	(Home) 702-4 (Fax) 702-45 (Cell)		(Term ends) Nov. 2020 (Email) Kelvin.Atkinson@sen.state.nv.us
	Cancela, Yvanna D.	Democratic	No. 10	Clark (Part)	
2807 Geary F Las Vegas, N		(Wk) (Leg. Bldg.) 775-684-1427 (Leg. Bldg. Room) 2127	(Home) (Fax) (Cell)		(Term ends) Nov. 2018 (Email) Yvanna.Cancela@sen.state.nv.us
	Cannizzaro, Nicole J.	Democratic	No. 6	Clark (Part)	
7901 Cocoa I Las Vegas, N		(Wk) (Leg. Bldg.) 775-684-1475 (Leg. Bldg. Room) 2143	(Home) (Fax) (Cell)		(Term ends) Nov. 2020 (Email) Nicole.Cannizzaro@sen.state.nv.us
9	Denis, Moises (Mo) President pro Tempore	Democratic	No. 2	Clark (Part)	

# Communication

# Directly with a Legislator

- Please be polite & civil
- Form letters are not effective
- Email or call & identify as a constituent
- Provide a personal story (how does this effect me)
- Put Yes or No in the subject line

# Through Social Media

- Tagging: Please be polite
- Hashtag: Use #nvleg as the legislative hashtag
- Images: Share pictures that convey important information
- Curate a good feed with diverse & expert sources
- Follow legislative reporters

# Testifying

- Stay under two minutes
- Use helpful words, not yelling or telling words (no one likes to be yelled at or told what to do)

# Providing Public Comments

- Watch archived hearings to see what others do
- Send exhibits & testimony the day before through NELIS
- Be concise & don't ramble
- Be clear if you are for or against and why
- If there are a lot of you, don't repeat each other
- Possibly have a couple speak and have others stand up
- Fill the room with your team for impact





# How a bill becomes a law in Nevada

- 1. AB bills begin in the Assembly, while SB bills start in the Senate
  - Find your bill's committee assignment
  - This is the first opportunity to testify
  - Contact committee members by email
- 2. If the bill has committee support, it will be scheduled for a "Work Session"
  - The committee will discuss the bill and possible amendments
  - If a majority of the committee approves, the bill moves to a floor vote
  - Public testimony is not allowed during a Work Session

- 3. The bill moves to the floor of the originating legislative house
  - This is the step where having a Personalized Legislative Tracking account helps
  - This is the time to contact all house members by email
- 4. If the bill passes the first house, it will move to the second house
  - The same process repeats in the second house
  - Advocacy must be sustained through the second house
- 5. The Governor Must Sign
  - Politely contact the Governor's office to advocate for signing.

# **Implementation**

- Know which agencies will manage your bill
- Ask your legislative partner to request status reports
- Ensure that data is reported

# **Assessment**

- Track outcomes
- Start planning for follow-up legislation
- Big issues require lots of fixes





- If you found this Advocacy Guide useful, please consider:
  - Donating to LWVNV through our PayPal Account on this page:
    - http://lwvsn.org/membership.html

## Or

- Joining the League of Women Voters of Southern Nevada:
  - http://lwvsn.org/membership.html
- OR
- Joining the League of Women Voters of Northern Nevada
  - http://lwvnn.org/joinorpayannualdues.html

