

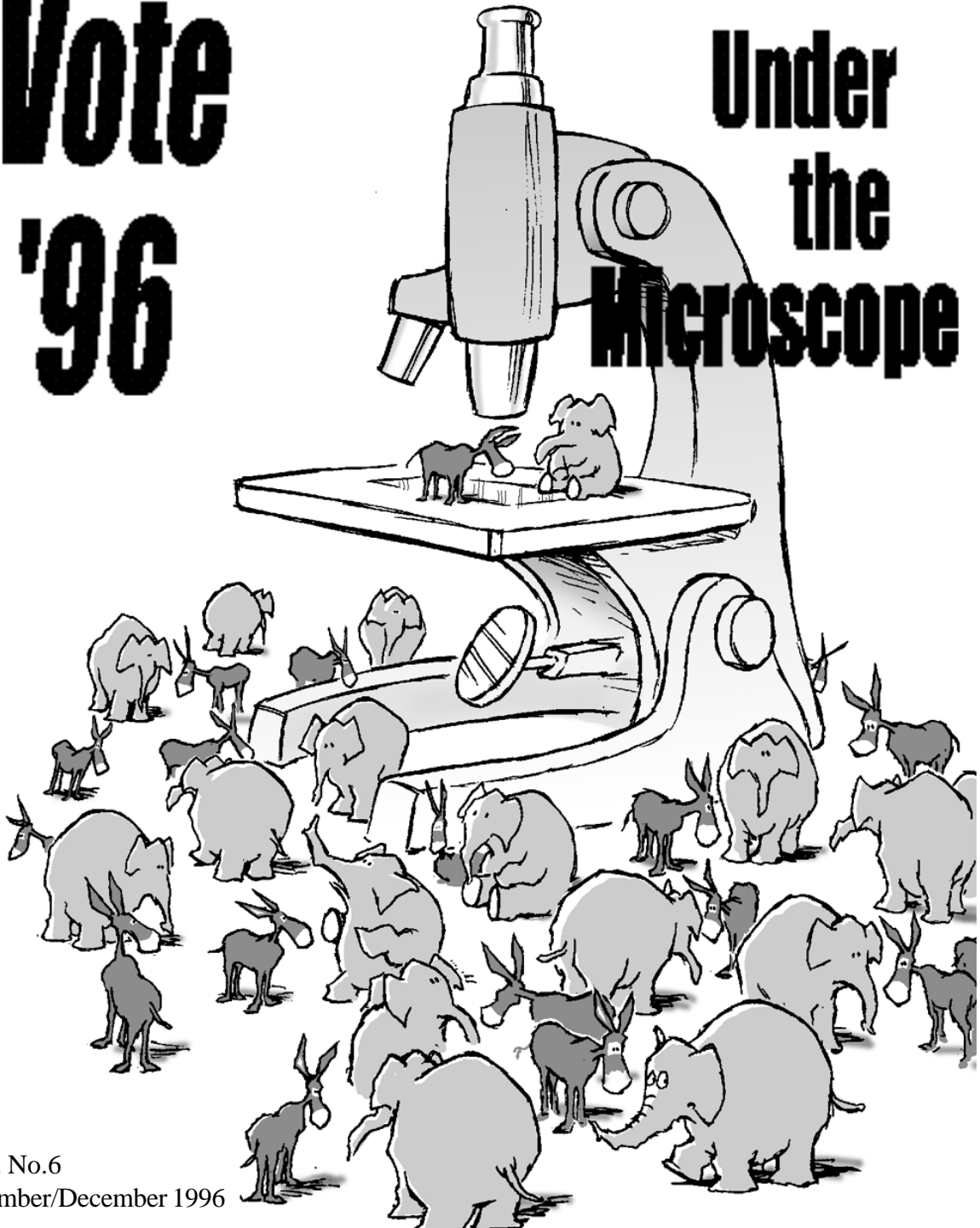
Online

NEVADA

"A JOURNAL OF IDEAS AND REFORM"

**Vote
'96**

**Under
the
Microscope**



Vol 4. No.6
November/December 1996

Published bi-monthly by The Nevada Policy Research Institute

Online NEVADA

November/December 1996 Vol.4 No.6

Cover Story

- 6 ***The Ins and Outs of the Nevada Legislature and the General Election.***
Jon Ralston, *Las Vegas Review-Journal* columnist and editor of the Ralston Report, keeps score of how the Nevada General Election is shaping up for both the Republicans and the Democrats. He gives a race-by-race analysis of each Senate and Assembly seat up for election long with the two congressional battles.

Articles

- 10 ***Meet Your Candidate***
NPRI sent out a questionnaire to every candidate running for legislative office so readers could learn for themselves where the various candidates stand on a variety of public issues including tax increases, property rights and school choice to name a few. Not all candidates responded, of course, but the responses of those who did respond are in this month's issue for all to see.
- 22 ***The 1996 State Ballot Questions***
Knowing how to vote on ballot questions is no less important than knowing which candidate to support and in the Centerfold of this issue, NPRI tells you what the Institute thinks about each of the 17 ballot questions. Some have been widely publicized, but others are relatively obscure. NPRI covers them all.

- 29 ***The Electoral College: A Crisis Avoided***
NPRI President **Judy Cresanta** gives readers both a brief history of the Electoral College and the reasoning that motivated the Founding Fathers to such an institution for determining the election of president and vice president.
- 32 ***Brother, Can You Spare a Dime ... or maybe a Couple Hundred Million Dimes?***
NPRI Senior Research Fellow **Ralph Heller** takes a look at the ocean of ballot requests in county after county for authorization of bonds, or for authorization of tax increases, and wonders just how far public spending in Nevada will be carried.

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Coming Next Issue...
Property Rights Issues are
exploding in the Silver State.



THE SCHOOL BOND'S DEMISE

BY JUDY CRESANTA, NPRI PRESIDENT

Elizabeth Squires, a political activist, retired teacher and NSEA member, lamented her inability to support the school bond issue in Washoe County "because it has no integrity," she said. I thought that was an odd way to couch her dilemma, but intrigued, I asked her what she meant. She said, "I doubt the district has much faith in it either since they are resorting to questionable means to persuade the public on the issue."

Mrs. Squires cited the "Crime Costs More Than Crayons" commercial as a form of illogical, if not emotional blackmail, but more significantly the use of school teachers, principals, school facilities and equipment to reproduce materials sent home with school children reciting the virtues of \$196 million dollars in new property taxes going for new school construction and repairs. "It's plain wrong to use your captive audience to advance your political agenda." Mrs. Squires said.

Recently, California's Fourth Court of Appeals ruled unanimously that school districts have the right to prevent employees (teachers and administrators) from conducting political campaigns in front of captive student audiences in the classroom. The case arose from the 1993 campaign against school vouchers in California. California Teachers Association members in the Folsom-Cordova district used school copiers to produce "fact sheets" about Proposition 174, which they sent home with students. San Jose teachers used a back-to-school night to hand out "I'm voting No on Prop 174" buttons. Judge Patricia Benke cited the Supreme Court's recognition of the "substantial influence and power instructors have over elementary and secondary school children within the classroom" as a reason to curb classroom campaigning. It may sound familiar because it's a practice that's been used in the Washoe County District in this and other campaigns. Steve Mulvenon, in fact, has defended the practice as within the law and it may be. But to me this demonstrates a shameless and unethical disregard toward the rights of children. They should be protected from this, not used for manipulation for the sake of politics.

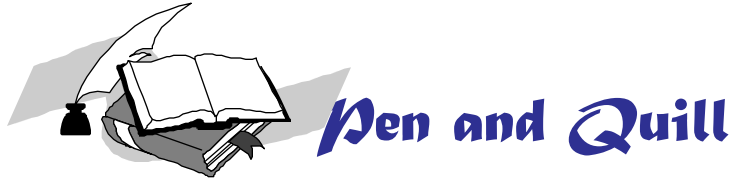
The ballot measure's failure points to a much

deeper problem than merely money for schools. The District and its representatives have eroded their own credibility for several reasons. Parents feel estranged from their neighborhood schools but in a schizophrenic way. With one breath the district says become more involved but involvement always must be on their terms or not at all. Ask the countless parents who have tried - they feel bullied, labeled as "right wing nuts" and ridiculed. They ask for change ... meaningful change, not more programs to ensure diversity and political correctness, counseling and esteem management, drug and Aids awareness programs. They are frustrated that the teachers who are productive, talented and innovative get little encouragement through means such as merit pay and other incentives while at the same time the district takes years to get rid of the bad egg teachers. But of course the unions fight tooth and nail against such reforms. Merit pay is just another dirty word. And the unions write parents off as naive since they "just don't adequately understand the nuances of modern day education or labor relations."

And speaking of labor relations, parents are tired of union hacks driving the agenda to benefit themselves rather than the kids. They are tired of their obstructionist role. And unfortunately, the parents' battle fatigue is growing into resentment and bitterness. Why do you think home schooling is on the rise? Why are think tanks like NPRI willing to subject themselves to all manner of threats and intimidation tactics from union goons? Because the issue is bigger than an NPRI. It's bigger than a teacher's union. These are children we're talking about - the innocents who are in the middle, not \$196 million dollars for buildings or benefit packages for union members!

Steve Mulvenon stated that he wanted to find out why people voted the way they did before the Washoe County School District made any more decisions. I only hope that Mr. Mulvenon will stop his defensive stance and listen. It's not "us and them," Mr. Mulvenon, ... "it's us!" It's Elizabeth Squires, and countless others who have just plain had enough.

And to all voters in those counties who have yet to vote on your school bond issues, we hope that you have gleaned some wisdom from Washoe County.



NPRI invites comment from its readers. Submit articles and letters to the editor by the 15th of each month.

Dear NPRI:

A colleague was discussing an article by Ralph Heller in a recent issue of *Online Nevada*. The article was about the many Nevada tax increases over the last decades. I would like to put in my world-famous “two cents”.

While I have been in Nevada for only three and a half years, having relocated here from California, I found that the publicized Nevada can be considerably different from the real thing. Although it does not have a tax on income, my personal health, home and auto insurance premiums increased significantly when I moved to Nevada. Can you imagine, auto insurance increasing from California to here? Other states without an income tax, such as Washington, Texas and Al Gore’s Tennessee, have much lower cost of living indices. Even the high-tax state of Oregon levies no sales tax, and the gasoline prices here are obscene.

I can imagine an earlier and less crowded Nevada when the cost of living actually was at the level promulgated by the Chamber of Commerce, but that was before the massive influx of the cadre of uncivilized undesirables from California. Although I detest moving, I am seriously considering moving to Utah or New Mexico, although not to Arizona which has the same urban growth problems as Nevada.

The air in the Las Vegas valley is becoming unfit to inhale because of the dust raised by all of the continuing building. By the end of the year there will be 100,000 hotel rooms here! Absurd? Of course, but reality.

Lou Garner
Las Vegas

Reader Garner is scarcely alone in his complaints about high insurance premiums and gas prices in Nevada, but Nevada’s high tax structure doesn’t seem to be inhibiting people from moving to the Sil-

ver State. A large part of Mr. Garner’s high insurance costs exists because Nevada is one of only six states to tax insurance premiums – although this is a dishonest, “hidden tax,” one which shows up nowhere on insurance premium notices. Nevada’s so-called “per capita tax burden” at \$1,680 is 12th highest among the 50 states, \$20 higher than California’s “per capita tax burden,” presently calculated at \$1,660. – Ed.

Dear NPRI:

I am so tired of hearing about Republican wealth. Could you put a bug in the ear of the *Washington Times* to publish the assets of all congressmen as well as the president and vice president, comparing the net worth of each before he was elected to office to his present net worth?

Since this information is at least technically a matter of public record it would be interesting to see how the net worth has grown while each has been in office.

R.H. McClintic
Las Vegas

NPRI is looking into researching Reader McClintic’s proposal. We’ll see what we can do about trying to present such fascinating comparative information in an early 1997 issue of Online Nevada. — Ed.

Dear Readers

In the July/August issue of Online Nevada, NPRI published two articles on the flat tax, reprinted from the Madison Review, but NPRI neglected to make clear for readers that they may phone for a free, complimentary copy of the Madison Review by calling the James Madison Institute at 1-800-376-1119. We greatly appreciate the institute’s generosity. — Ed.

THE INS AND OUTS OF THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE... AND THE GENERAL ELECTION

BY JON RALSTON

Nevada Republicans should pray to the political gods that Democratic icon Tip O'Neill was right. The way the November election shapes up as of this writing, unless all politics really is local, the state GOP is headed for a disastrous Campaign '96 in federal and state contests.

Yes, the presidential contest presumably will narrow, although the top of the ticket now seems more likely to be a lead weight and not a buoyant balloon. And yes, coattails can sometimes prove illusory, so even should President Clinton swamp Bob Dole, it may not translate into results in Nevada.

But if all politics, especially in a presidential year, are national, the Republican tide that rose so high in 1994 is about to drown GOP hopes two years later. The irony

"The Republican tide that rose so high in 1994 is about to drown GOP hopes two years later."

is ripe. Since the 1994 debacle the state GOP has raised seven figures, caught up with the Democrats in state registration and done an efficient job recruiting candidates for legislative office. So can the deluge really be nigh?

The fact is that reliable polling shows that the state's two congressional seats, now in Republican hands, are not safe. Spike Wilson has a longer shot against Jim Gibbons than Bob Coffin does against John Ensign — but experts on both sides concur that both Democrats have a chance.

And while the state Senate appears reasonably safe for the GOP, which now controls the Legislature's upper house by 13-8, it is by no means foolproof should a Democratic landslide occur. The Assembly, now at a historic 21-21 tie, is tilting toward the Democrats for a variety of reasons, including the potential reversal of the 1994 GOP Wave, especially in a series of Southern Nevada

seats, traditionally Democratic but now held by the GOP. What follows is an analysis of the November general elections for Congress and the Legislature:

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 1

The preview: Coffin still doesn't have much name recognition, but this contest is anomalous — I don't think he wants to become well-known. In fact, GOP Rep. John Ensign probably must ensure that Coffin is not seen by the district's nearly 150,000 Democrats simply as one of them — a safe Democratic port to avoid another Republican storm. Or, as another weather-minded insider put it: "There is a tsunami developing on a national scale and he (Ensign) can be washed ashore."

This may be the rarest of cases when the incumbent must go negative on an unknown challenger to preserve his seat. It's one of the hoariest political axioms, but unless Ensign executes it, he may not see a second term: He must define Coffin, while he remains a cipher to many voters, before the challenger can get enough money to define himself. That, rather than some attempt to drive down Coffin's primary total, was the goal behind Ensign spending \$50,000 to bring up Coffin's money from nuclear waste dump-friendly union's during the last week.

Consider the dynamic at play: Ensign won by 1,436 votes two years ago, garnering thousands of crossover Democrats, outworking a weak incumbent and riding the GOP Wave. Many of those Democrats who voted for Ensign now are doubtless disenchanted with the GOP Congress and its icons — Speaker Newt Gingrich and the Contract With America. Thus, Ensign's vulnerability and thus, his negatives are soaring in the 30 percent range.

If the race boils down to a Newtite vs. a no-name Democrat, Ensign may be spaying dogs again soon. But if it becomes youthful reformer vs. longtime politico with baggage, Coffin may have plenty of time on his hands to read in his bookstore.

Key questions: Can Coffin, who actually raised more money than Ensign during the last reporting period, garner enough funds (\$200,000 more at least) or put in enough of his own (already \$100,000 in the red) to get out his message? Can Ensign, whose campaign has been virtually nonexistent so far, effectively exploit issues such

as Coffin's union money and his legislative record without appearing to be too negative? Can Coffin, whose IQ is high but charisma quotient is low, do well enough in news conferences and debates to radiate credibility? Who will really have the grass-roots campaign that makes the difference — Coffin and his union friends or Ensign and his GOP faithful? That is, who will turn out on Nov. 5?

The outlook: Infinitesimal lean Ensign.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2

The preview: It's not surprising that a few weeks back when House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt came to Nevada he whispered privately to some insiders that he didn't give Spike Wilson much of a chance. With about 40,000 more Republicans than Democrats in the district, a case could be made that this is Gibbons' race to lose. The Republican will have all the money he needs, as he will have GOP congressmen come to the state and help him raise funds. This does appear, after all, to be a contest between a man born to be on the campaign trail and a man born to be in a think tank.

Gibbons will do just what he did in the primary — be everywhere, shake as many hands as he can and perfect his patter — "I'm the anti-tax guy. Pension vote: Youthful indiscretion. Crime: Hate it. Seniors: Love 'em. Education: Important."

So how can Wilson get beyond that patina? First, he must raise another \$250,000 or so. He must force Gibbons to debate so he can try to portray himself as the man of substance and his opponent as the man with a mask. Wilson will try to rip away Gibbons' moderate veneer and try to paint him as too far right even for this district.

Wilson's message also seems to be: "I'm independent. I hate partisanship." The appeal is simple. He's pleading for the district's nearly 58,000 independents to gravitate toward him and he's trying to erase that mettlesome "D" after his name so some moderate Republicans will come over.

And Wilson

must do what Cafferata and Lau tried to do: Pick apart Gibbons' legislative record and depict him as a man playing a role that doesn't jibe with the reality of his own history.

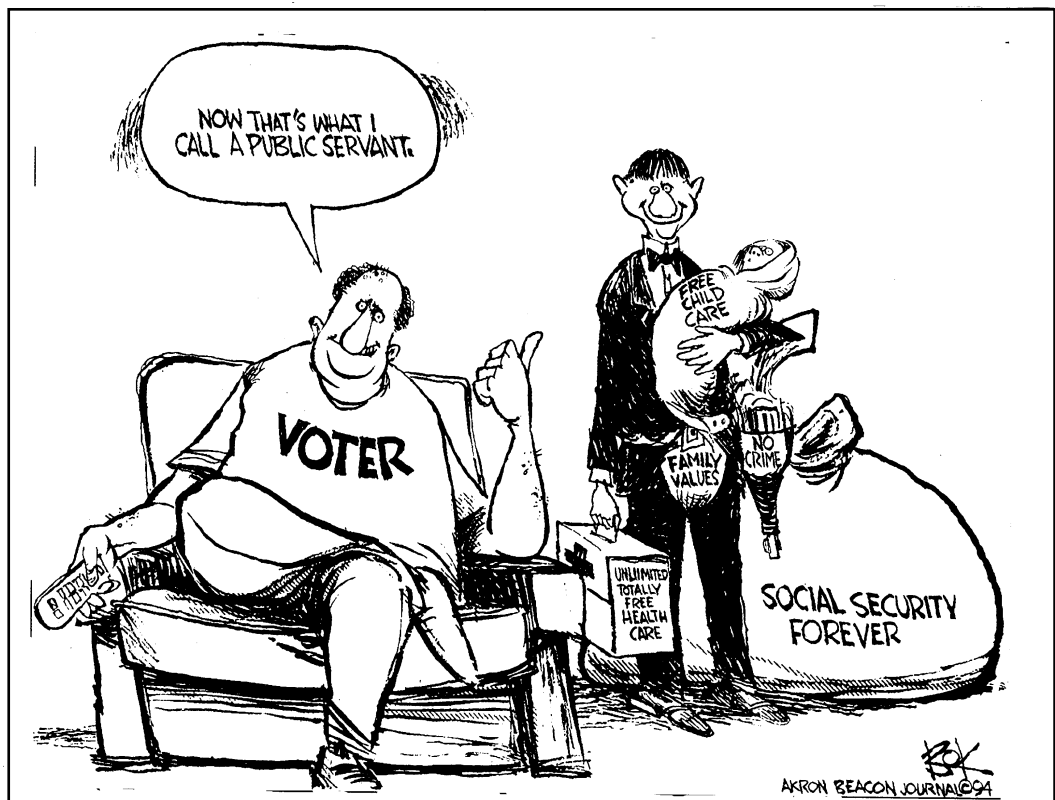
Perhaps most of all, Wilson must create an aura of energy, of enthusiasm around his campaign. He must be seen as a crusading underdog, the former Ethics Commission chairman trying to bring his reputation for probity and bi-partisanship from Nevada to Capitol Hill.

If he can sew a quilt of Clark County voters, seniors, independents and Washoe Country crossovers, Wilson could defy the demographic disadvantage. But if Gibbons can remain above the fray, paint Wilson as a sniping Democratic interloper in a GOP district and hold his own in any debates, Wilson's second political life will last only until Nov. 5.

Key questions: Can Wilson campaign against Gibbons, outlining his legislative baggage, without seeming too negative? Will the national Democratic ticket remain strong enough so Democrats turn out in higher numbers than Republicans in November? Can Gibbons succeed in a partisan approach by marginalizing Wilson as the right man in the wrong district? Does Gibbons have enough of a base and enough of a grass-roots foundation, or is he really the proverbial mile-wide and inch-deep candidate?

The outlook: Solid lean Gibbons.

Continued on page 8



Courtesy of the Kato Institute

ASSEMBLY

Despite the boasts, especially from the Democrats, the September numbers don't necessarily tell us much about November. But there are a couple of trends to note, neither of which bodes well for the GOP.

First, the turnout in several of the important districts favored the Democrats. Examples: In Assembly District 14 (Max Bennett), 1,753 Democrats vs. 1,079 Republicans; In Assembly District 1 (Jan Monaghan), 2,649 Democrats vs. 2,378 Republicans. As one Democratic partisan said, "The Democrats had better turnout than the Republicans, which is amazing considering they had the sexy races." Because a number of those GOP contests were close, too, potential internal splits also favor the Democrats.

Second, the Democrats proved to be more skillful anointers than the Republicans. Ellen Koivisto (District 14) was the most impressive Democratic winner, taking more votes than her two opponents combined. But consider the Republican carnage: Anne de Martini (District 1) and Mary Owensby (District 2) lost. And others, from Iris Bletsch to Kathy Von Tobel, had close calls. That could presage general election softness. Assemblywoman Jeannine Stroth's loss won't hurt, but Pat Tripple's defeat, especially to unknown Don Gustavson, makes the GOP job tougher. But as you will see from the analysis below, the tug of war to break the 21-21 deadlock still remains close, with the Democrats enjoying a slight edge.

There is also a wild card, and the deck seems

slanted against the GOP. That is the proposed special election in Clark County's First District, where Anne de Martini, who lost by six votes to Jeff Knight, has asked for a new vote. Her request came after another problem-plagued southern election, one in which Registrar Kathryn Ferguson acknowledged that human errors in handling new voting machines may have affected the outcome of the election. Whatever the outcome, which may be decided by the time this is published, the fact that Knight and Martini have to spend two weeks campaigning to discover who will confront Tom Collins gives the Democrat a substantial advantage.

Below is a thumbnail sketch of the 42 races, and a telescopic prediction of what the Assembly will look like come 1997:

The Democratic locks (9)

Wendell Williams, Barbara Buckley, David Goldwater, Doug Bache, Bob Price, Mark Manendo, Richard Perkins, Vonne Chowning, Joe Dini

The Republican locks (12)

Deanna Braunlin, Barbara Cegavske, Dennis Nolan, Jack Hose, Brian Sandoval, Joan Lambert, John Marvel, John Carpenter, Pete Ernaut, Lynn Hettrick, Mark Amodei, David Humke

Likely Democratic seats (7)

Morse Arberry: Poor primary showing (46 percent) reasons for concern, Chester Richardson is no push-over. But district is Democratic, friends will help Ways and Means chair.

Chris Giunchigliani: Her races always close, but GOP insiders don't have faith in Lily Lagan.

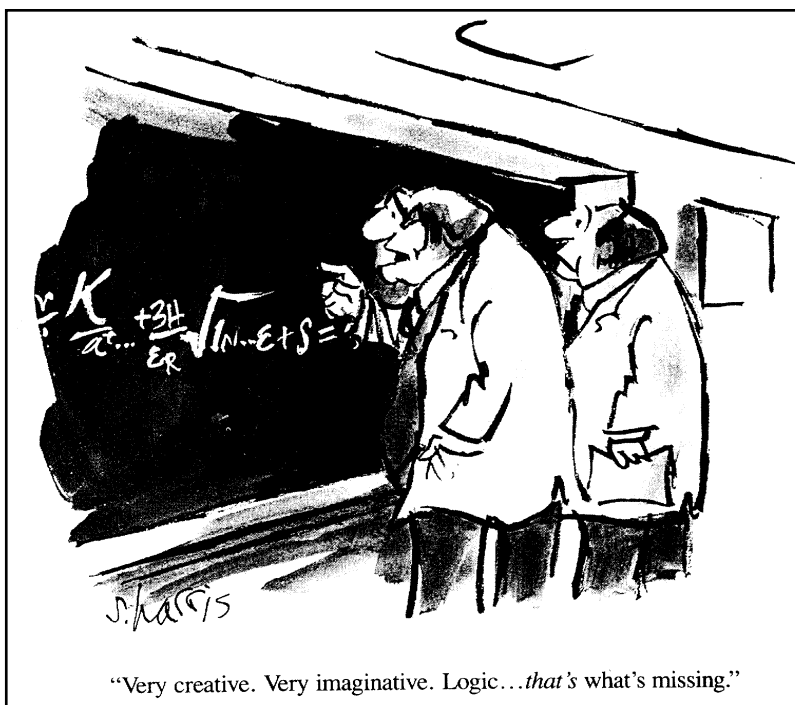
Genie Ohrensall: Republicans don't believe ex-Assemblyman Art Rader can do it.

Dianne Steel: Democratic golden boy Dario Herrera may face stiffer than previously thought challenge from incumbent's husband, Stefan Ivanov-Steel, who ran well (68 percent) in primary.

Roy Neighbors: Del Haas may be true Republican sleeper, but incumbent has friendly district.

Gene Segerblom: Incumbent is well-liked and is favored, but ex-Boulder City Mayor Iris Bletsch (55 percent) held off stiff primary challenge, could pull off upset.

Sandi Krenzer: Once thought to be lock (and may still be), incumbent



Courtesy of the Kato Institute

could hear Jon Hauger's footsteps.

Likely Republican seats (3)

William Harrington: Merle Berman wasn't anointed, but she should be fine against John Ponticello, not heavily backed by caucus.

Dennis Allard: Kathy Von Tobel's close call in primary doesn't help, but she's still heavy favorite against Randy Bridges.

Sandra Tiffany: She survived late primary onslaught, but 56 percent showing will give Democrats hope (perhaps falsely so) with Fred Kirschner.

The races that will determine control (11)

Jan Monaghan: Tom Collins ran well in primary, Jeff Knight squeaked by and now must run again. Registration is close.

Maureen Brewer: Incumbent has been working for months, but it's a Democratic district and hard-working Lee will be difficult, must confront party-switch attack.

Max Bennett: Most vulnerable GOP incumbent did fine (70 percent) in primary, but labor-backed Ellen Koivisto could topple him.

Vivian Freeman: Longtime Democratic incumbent favored, but Buzz Harris has a shot.

Thomas Batten: Republican Pat Hickey seems stronger than Democrat Bonnie Schultz.

Jan Evans: Democratic veteran is still formidable, but Keith Primus has promise.

Bernie Anderson: See above, add Dwight Millard's name for Primus.

Pat Tripple: A Democrat (Bob Sader) once held this seat, neither Democrat (Gail Scalzi) nor GOP upset winner (Don Gustavson) are considered overwhelming.

Marcia deBraga: A rematch of 1994 with Shirley Walker, perhaps the one pure tossup.

Larry Spitler: David Parks thought to be shoe-in for Democrats, but Tony Dane has hope.

Mike Schneider: Republican Chris Denning once thought to be sure thing, but domestic violence allegations could give Democrats hope with Harry Mortenson.

The telescopic view

Reserving the right to change as the internal dynamics of the races become more clear, here's how I see it: The Democrats have 16 and need six from the 11 closely watched contests. I give them the edge in Monaghan, Bennett, Freeman, Evans, Anderson and Spitler. And deBraga may just hold on. 23-19 Democrats.

SENATE

The only upper house primary previously per-

ceived as interesting was for the right to face GOP incumbent Sue Lowden. So Valerie Wiener's smashing victory over Lou Toomin should raise Democratic spirits and enthuse the Culinary troops. But since the post-filing TRR evaluations, it seems the Democrats may have to protect their flank in at least one area (Ray Shaffer) once thought to be insulated from damage and don't seem to have much chance against Mike McGinness.

Of the 10 contests this year, half of them will determine whether Bill Raggio retains control in what could be his final session. (Chuck Muth, despite his energy and intellect, must still be seen as a long shot against Minority Leader Dina Titus). All signs are that he will, but the Democrats may make it interesting.

Here are the five questions whose answers will decide whether Titus will become the state's first female Senate majority leader:

Question 1: Can small businessman Terry Holtz turn Democrat Shaffer into a poster boy for term limits and overcome devastating demographics?

Question 2: Can the Culinary union overcome the substantial personal and crossover appeal of Lowden and elect Wiener?

Question 3: Can Steve Sisolak exploit publicity over a bankruptcy and waived penalties, as well as a campaign finance reform issue, to oust GOP icon Ann O'Connell?

Question 4: Can newcomer Daryl Nakamura tap into his senior connections and fund-raising sources to defeat cerebral incumbent Ray Rawson?

Question 5: Can impressive neophyte Dennis Cobb get the money to overcome Mike Schneider's establishment backing and sway the district's Democrats?

The telescopic view

Counting all those not running and the locks for each side, it's 10-6 Republicans. So they need only one more to retain control, which is virtually certain. 13-8, Republicans.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE BALLOTING

Realignments, whether they be at the national or state level, can be ephemeral. Whether or not the Democrats repair their political house in 1996 after it was demolished by the GOP wrecking crew two years ago, the policy and political changes will be enormous.

Take the federal level first.

If John Ensign survives the Coffin/AFL-CIO onslaught, I believe it will be his last race in the district. Given the choice between running in a district with 30,000 more Democrats than Republicans, or a state with 6,000 more Republicans than Democrats, Ensign's choice will be clear: Hello, Harry Reid in 1998. A contest between

Continued on page 36

MEET YOUR CANDIDATES

Before the primary and general elections, Nevada Policy Research Institute sent out a questionnaire to all candidates who filed for federal and state legislative offices. Candidates who chose not to answer are listed with their telephone numbers, in case some of their constituents do not find their response satisfactory. Some candidates responded to the survey but chose not to answer the questions. In these cases, the key will show an “***.” If a candidate chose to comment on the question, the key will show an “E.” If comments were made, they are listed in the space provided for each candidate. NPRI has given equal space to all candidates and attempted to publish all comments, space permitting. We apologize if some comments were left out.

To find the candidate in your district call the library or the county elections office.

KEY: Y-Yes; N-No; U-Undecided; **-No response; E-Explanation

CANDIDATE SURVEY 1996

- 1.) The 10th Amendment to the US Constitution states, “The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.”
Do you think the 10th Amendment is outdated?
- 2.) Would you consider a property tax increase in the 1997 Legislative Session?
- 3.) Do you support Term Limits for elected officials?
- 4.) Would you vote against laws that give funding to State/local government bodies only on the condition that State or local bodies comply with federal regulations?
- 5.) Do you support school choice via a voucher system?
- 6.) Do you support the adoption of the English language as the official language of the State of Nevada?
- 7.) Do you support privatizing Social Security?
- 8.) Do you support the Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) power to restrict the use of private property in order to protect endangered species and wetlands areas?
- 9.) Do you support law-abiding citizens’ right to carry concealed weapons for self defense (“Right to Carry”)?
- 10.) Do you support the proposed Republican version of the Federal Welfare Reform Bill which makes recipients of aid programs more “responsible” for their benefits?

U.S. House of Representatives, District 1

John Ensign



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge Y

COMMENTS:

Bob Coffin (384-9501)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

COMMENTS:

Ted Gunderson

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
N	N	N	Y	E	Y	Y	N	Y	Y

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge Y

COMMENTS: 5.) I need more information to make a solid choice. Side Notes: 1.) Repeal the 17th amendment, U.S. Senators elected by state legislators instead of popular vote, thus they would be responsible to the state instead of selfish interest groups. 2.) Eliminate the IRS. Do away with federal reserve. 4.) Get out of the United Nations.

U.S. House of Representatives, District 2

Jim Gibbons



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge Y

COMMENTS: 2.) Not a federal issue.

Spike Wilson (324-5577)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

COMMENTS:

Louis Tumbarello (Libertarian)

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	E	N

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge Y

COMMENTS: 8.) Land is for people, not an agency. 9.) We already have the right.

Dan Hansen (Independent American)

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	E

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

COMMENTS: 10.) I don't support the Federal Welfare Program.

Lois Avery

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge Y

State Senate, Clark District 2

Terry Holtz (646-9671)

Ray Shaffer (647-8683)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

COMMENTS:

COMMENTS:

State Senate, Clark District 3

Sue Lowden (658-4330)

Valerie Wiener



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge | E

COMMENTS:

Brooks Holcomb

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

COMMENTS: Given the complex and closed-ended nature of the questions put forward, I am unable to provide you with the information that you have requested.
Taxpayer Pledge: I believe it is irresponsible to make a pledge such as this without considering the possibility of an unforeseen emergency.

State Senate, Clark District 4

David Wallace (647-6256)

Joe Neal (399-2114)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

COMMENTS:

COMMENTS:

State Senate, Clark District 5

Ann O'Connell (451-3444)

Steve Sisolak (871-6497)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

COMMENTS:

Tim Hage

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

State Senate, Clark District 6

Ray Rawson

Daryl Nakamura (631-1000)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

COMMENTS:

COMMENTS:

State Senate, Clark District 7

Charles Muth

Dina Titus (798-8348)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

COMMENTS:

COMMENTS:

State Senate, Clark District 8

Dennis Cobb

Mike Schneider (876-5121)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
N	E	Y	E	E	Y	E	E	Y	Y

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

COMMENTS: 2.) I will consider what arises, I will oppose a property tax increase. 4.) In most cases, yes. but I can't answer in the abstract questions not yet asked. 5.) Possibly, but would like to investigate charter schools more. 7.) Probably, need to see details. 8.) In reasonable cases, I feel this is correct. but I firmly believe the state should have some say.

Jerry Sims

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

COMMENTS: 1.) How can anything designed to protect people's rights be outdated? 2.) I would not consider any tax increase for 1997. 7.) I support wiping out Social Security. 8.) No single person has the right to decide what to do with another's property. 9.) Keywords: "Law-abiding" citizen.

State Senate, Washoe District 3

William Raggio



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
N	N	N	Y	Y	U	U	N	Y	Y

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge N

COMMENTS: 2.) I do not see the need for a property tax at the present time. 3.) I can make an argument on either side, but I do not think the proposed Term Limits law is good. 5.) Yes, for public or non-religious schools. 6.) I definitely feel efforts to learn English must be encouraged.

State Senate, Central Senatorial District

Mike McGinness (423-5889)

Rick Lawton (423-7981)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

COMMENTS:

COMMENTS:

State Senate, Northern Senatorial District

Ed Presley



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge	Y
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Dean Rhoads



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge	E
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COMMENTS:

COMMENTS: As a past Chairman of the Senate Taxation Committee, my experience in the legislation has proven that it is not possible to place blanket refusal to raise taxes until we see the whole picture.

State Assembly, District 1

Jeff Knight (656-0066)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge	
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COMMENTS:

Tom Collins (645-2617)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge	
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COMMENTS:

State Assembly, District 2

Merle Berman



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
N	N	Y	N	**	Y	Y	N	Y	Y

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge	Y
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COMMENTS:

John Ponticello (363-2456)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge	
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COMMENTS:

State Assembly, District 3

Maureen Brower (870-1253)

John Lee (258-5447)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

Lewis Roesberry

COMMENTS:

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y

COMMENTS:

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

State Assembly, District 4

Deanna Braunlin (256-1935)

Leroy Jenkins (N/A)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

COMMENTS:

COMMENTS:

State Assembly, District 5

Barbara Cegavske (873-0711)

Patrick O'Neill



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge Y

COMMENTS:

COMMENTS:

State Assembly, District 6

Arlene Southard (382-9786)

Wendell Williams (646-1018)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

State Assembly, District 7

Chester Richardson (631-9413)

Morse Arberry, Jr. (646-4211)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

COMMENTS:

COMMENTS:

State Assembly, District 8

Devrin Gubler

Barbara Buckley (222-9901)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
N	N	N	Y	E	N	Y	N	Y	Y

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

COMMENTS: I favor letting parents choose where to send their kids.

COMMENTS:

State Assembly, District 9

Lily Lagen (870-5691)

Chris Giunchigliani (366-1663)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

COMMENTS:

COMMENTS:

State Assembly, District 10

Bill Lance



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge Y

David Goldwater



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
N	E	N	U	N	N	E	Y	Y	E

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge Y

COMMENTS:

COMMENTS: 2.) I have an open mind on all issues.
7.) Not applicable to the state government. 10.) I support portions of the Welfare Reform Bill.

State Assembly, District 11

Bryan Henchik (641-5819)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

Doug Bache (642-9722)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

COMMENTS:

Earle Severance

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge Y

State Assembly, District 12

Art Rader



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge Y

Genie Ohrenschall (384-5992)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

COMMENTS: 1.) Unenforced, yes. Outdated, no! My 1985 session bill challenging feds on federal speed limit became law and was taken to the U.S. Supreme Court where it lost on a 5-4 vote.

COMMENTS:

State Assembly, District 13

Dennis Nolan (876-1561)

John Lowes (656-2254)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

COMMENTS:

COMMENTS:

State Assembly, District 14

Max Bennett (459-3633)

Ellen Koivisto



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

COMMENTS:

COMMENTS: For the most part I find your questionnaire too complex to answer with yes or no. I would be happy to discuss your issues with you, however.

State Assembly, District 15

Jack Close

Arno Seegers (796-7097)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge E



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

COMMENTS: Taxpayer Pledge: During my last election, I signed onto this document. However I feel that my constituents would like to see not only a "cap" on the taxes, but a new broadbase tax system which would be more fair for the residents of this state.

COMMENTS:

State Assembly, District 16

Stefan Ivanov-Steel

Daric Herrera (454-1673)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

COMMENTS:

COMMENTS:

State Assembly, District 17

Leon Dubose II (644-4914)

Bob Price (642-5669)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

COMMENTS:

COMMENTS:

State Assembly, District 18

Robert Groenert (435-4923)

Mark Manendo (451-8654)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

COMMENTS:

COMMENTS:

State Assembly, District 19

Jon Hauger (438-9745)

Sandi Krenzer (437-9209)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

COMMENTS:

COMMENTS:

State Assembly, District 20

Kathy Von Tobel (260-4881)

Randy Bridges (645-8291)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

COMMENTS:

COMMENTS:

State Assembly, District 21

Sandra Tiffany



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge	
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COMMENTS:

Fred Kirschner



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
N	E	Y	E	N	Y	E	N	Y	Y

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge	
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COMMENTS: 2.) Property tax only if necessary to cover infrastructure needs. 4.) I favor more local control over implementation of funds. 5.) Vouchers within public school context is OK, but not to offset private school costs. 7.) The annuitized savings concept is interesting, but I need more info. I favor experimented privatization. 8.) I think the BLM should get out of the real estate business. Let BLM monitor animal/plant welfare on Fed land.

State Assembly, District 22

Iris Bletsch



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
N	E	Y	E	Y	Y	E	N	Y	Y

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge	N
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COMMENTS: 2.) It would depend what it was to be used for, and it should probably have a sunset clause. It would have to be needed. 4.) More than likely. The federal government needs to back out of our lives, we know the need of the people, they do not. 7.) I believe in privatization. There are many things the government is not good at, so the more that can be privatized the better. 10.) I would also have supported Sen. Washington's Welfare Bill had I been in the Assembly last session.

Gene Segerblom (293-2626)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge	
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COMMENTS:

State Assembly, District 23

Jim Born



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge	
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COMMENTS:

Richard Perkins (566-6542)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10








Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge	
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COMMENTS:

THE 1996 STATE BALLOT QUESTIONS

Ballot Questions

What NPRI Thinks

<p>Number 1: Shall the Nevada Constitution be amended to place additional restriction on the use of money paid to fund and administer the public employees' retirement system and to establish and prescribe the duties of the governing board for that system?</p>	<p>Clinton got into trouble with public employee pensions in Arkansas over this issue. The pension funds need protection however not necessarily by a Constitutional Amendment. NPRI is not in favor of increasing the bureaucracy by means of the proposed Board. However, if pension funds are invested, the state should reap the rewards of profitable investing if they also have to compensate for losses.</p>	
<p>Number 2: Shall the Nevada Constitution be amended to provide specifically for the rights of victims of crime?</p>	<p>Prevents ability of victim to bring a lawsuit for damages based on a violation of these rights. Victims are already protected by NRS Chpt. 213, 217 An</p>	
<p>Number 3: Shall the Nevada Constitution be amended to revise the method of determining the number of signatures required on a petition for the recall of a public officer and to provide additional time to hold a special election on a recall petition?</p>	<p>attempt to increase the number of required signatures in a recall election! Present law requires the use of the number of voters who voted in the preceding general election as basis for determining the number of signatures required - this is adequate. This initiative would also increase the deadline from 20 days to 30 days.</p>	
<p>Number 4: Shall the Territorial Ordinance of the Nevada Constitution be amended to remove the disclaimer of the state's interest in the unappropriated public lands?</p>	<p>Nevada effectively relinquished 87% of its own sovereignty when it became a state. Nevada should be on <i>equal footing</i> with every other state in the U.S. As a state we are deprived of tax revenue, land use decisions and congressional representation when our citizens cannot make decisions concerning the land within its territorial boundaries.</p>	
<p>Number 5: Shall the Nevada Constitution be amended to authorize the legislative review of regulation of state agencies?</p>	<p>At present Nevada's Administrative Code carries the weight of law without consideration of legislative intent. Laws are made in the legislative branch and sent to the bureaucratic agencies to formulate regulations by which the law is to be executed. Often the original intent of the law passed is overrode by an un-elected public employee. If this passes, the legislators would have to sign off on the regulations assuring that original intent remain intact. It's good to hold them accountable.</p>	
<p>Number 6: Shall the Nevada Constitution be amended to clarify that an exemption from the state's debt limitation also applied to money borrowed to retrofit state buildings to make more efficient use of energy in those buildings?</p>	<p>Raising the state's debt limit for any reason is a bad idea. Didn't we learn from Congress' lack of political will to practice restraint?</p>	
<p>Number 7: Shall the Nevada Constitution be amended to allow the prudent investment of state money in a company, association or corporation to</p>	<p>Allows state treasurer to buy AAA rated corporate bonds. This could take some pressure off of taxes.</p>	

stimulate economic development or the creation of new jobs?	<i>U.S. Term Limits, Inc. v. Thornton and Nevada AG Opinion No. 95-17.</i>
Number 8: Was removed following the U.S. Supreme Court Decision,	The concept of career politicians is destructive to the democratic process. Elected officials tend to naturally become beholden to special interests and lobbyists rather than the constituents who elected them. Emphasis would be placed on issues rather than reelection.
Number 9: a) Shall the Nevada Constitution be amended to establish term limits for state and local public officers in the executive and legislative branches of government? b) Shall the Nevada Constitution be amended to establish term limits for Nevada justices and judges?	Placing limits on campaign contributions in both the general and primary elections eliminates the hidden nature of "soft money," contributions practiced by the unions. PAC contributions should be tracked by the Secretary of State's Office. Complete ethics reports should be filed.
Number 10: Shall the Nevada Constitution be amended to be amended to add a new section which establishes, limits and defines campaign contributions?	Known as the Gibbons Tax Restraint Initiative. This measure would force two-thirds vote in the legislature to increase taxes for any reason.
Number 11: Shall the Nevada Constitution be amended to establish a requirement that at least a two-thirds vote of both houses of the legislature be necessary to pass a measure which generates or increases a tax, fee, assessment, rate or any other form of public revenue?	Nevada has been criticized by California for not carrying its weight in the environmental protection of Lake Tahoe. Perhaps it's time we lived up to our responsibilities.
Number 12: Shall the State of Nevada issue general obligation bonds in an amount of not more than \$20,000,000 to carry projects for the control of erosion and restoration of natural watercourses in the Lake Tahoe Basin?	This one is common sense!
Number 13: Shall an exemption from the sales and use taxes be provided for orthotic appliances, ambulatory casts, other supports, splints, bandages, pads, compresses and dressings if prescribed, applied, furnished or sold under certain circumstances?	Non-profit exemptions are sound since these groups exist to better our quality of life and exist on contributions from the private sector as opposed to government largess.
Number 14: Shall an exemption from the sales and use taxes be provided for items sold by nonprofit organizations created for religious, charitable or educational purposes based on standards adopted by the legislature?	Anytime we can cut taxes is good.
Number 15: Shall the existing exemption from the sales and use taxes for aircraft purchased or used by commercial air carriers based in Nevada and major components of those aircrafts be expanded: 1) To apply to purchases or uses by commercial air carriers based in other states; and 2) To include machinery, tools and equipment used to repair, remodel or maintain certain aircraft, engines or component part of aircraft or aircraft engines?	This measure is the alternative to question Number 11. Rather than have a two thirds vote this measure's backers want a simple majority in the legislature to raise taxes.
Number 16: Shall a bill that imposes or increases a tax or assessment be considered and approved twice for final passage by each house of the Nevada Legislature before such a bill may be enacted?	History points to constitutional conventions being threatened, but it has never happened. A constitutional convention is a way to force Congress to move. Article V of the Constitution was put there to place pressure on Congress when it lacks political will.
Number 17: Shall the Nevada Constitution be amended to instruct Nevada's Congressional delegation and members of the State Legislature to provide for term limits for members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate through action of the Congress or a Constitutional Convention, and shall the Nevada Constitution be further amended to inform voters how their elected representatives have acted in regard to this issue?	

State Assembly, District 24

William "Buzz" Harris

Vivian Freeman (747-3448)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
N	E	E	E	E	**	E	**	Y	E

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

COMMENTS: 2.) I would like to see the legislation. 3.) I don't support term limits for all officials. 5.) I need the specifics to answer this question. 7.) I need specifics. 10.) I would like to see the completed version of the Welfare Reform Bill.

COMMENTS:

State Assembly, District 25

Brian Sandoval



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
N	N	N	U	U	U	Y	U	Y	Y

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge E

COMMENTS: Taxpayer Pledge - I firmly support the philosophy of the pledge and am committed to fighting tax increases. However because I will not know the specific tax issues until 1997, it would be irresponsible for me to sign the pledge at this time.

State Assembly, District 26

David Humke (825-7740)

Chuck McCuskey (857-2483)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

COMMENTS:

Daniel Nightingale

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge Y

State Assembly, District 27

Pat Hickey

Bonnie Schultz (348-7349)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
N	U	U	Y	Y	Y	U	N	Y	Y

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

COMMENTS: 5.) For public schools only.

COMMENTS:

State Assembly, District 28

Vonne Chowning (642-8683)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

COMMENTS:

State Assembly, District 29

Joan Lambert (345-0516)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

COMMENTS:

State Assembly, District 30

Keith Primus

Jan Evans (356-7122)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

COMMENTS:



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

COMMENTS:

State Assembly, District 31

Dwight Millard (688-4679)

Bernie Anderson (358-8113)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

COMMENTS:

COMMENTS:

State Assembly, District 32

Don Gustavson

Gail Scalzi (359-4268)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

COMMENTS:

COMMENTS:

State Assembly, District 33

John Carpenter (N/A)

Michael Smith



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
N	U	N	N	N	Y	N	**	Y	Y

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

COMMENTS:

COMMENTS:

State Assembly, District 34

John Marvel (882-2054)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

COMMENTS:

State Assembly, District 35

Shirley Walker (423-2286)

Marcia de Braga (423-4674)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
N	U	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

COMMENTS: 4.) Probably

COMMENTS:

State Assembly, District 36

Del Haas

P.M. "Roy" Neighbors



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
N	N	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge Y



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
N	N	E	E	N	Y	E	N	Y	E

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge Y

COMMENTS: 3.) I think most people state-wide want it. In my district, I have not heard a majority one way or the other. I can see advantages and disadvantages on both sides.7.) Yes, as one solution to keep social security in tact for the recipient. 9.) However, I am not knowledgeable on this issue.

COMMENTS: 2.)We have a surplus, why do we need a property tax? 3.) We have a term limits, whatever the voters decide on Nov. 4.) I would need to see the bill. 7.) This is a federal issue. 8.) I don't want our wetlands to get messed up, however this would appear to be a takings question. 10.) The Welfare Bill is 500 pages, haven't read it yet.

State Assembly, District 37

Pete Ernaut

Brooke Houghton



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

COMMENTS:

COMMENTS:

State Assembly, District 38

Joe Dini (463-2669)

Merrit "Ike" Yochum, Ind. American,



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge

State Assembly, District 39

Lynn Hettrick



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
N	E	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge	E
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COMMENTS: 2.) Our job is to consider legislation. Taxpayer Pledge - As a Republican, I favor smaller government and lowering taxes. I was the primary sponsor for AB 548, which slashed by 90 % a tax which forced 1 % of Nevada's population to pay one half of an entire state agency's budget. A tax cut of about \$200,000 per year. At the same time, I voted for fees paid by the user of services rather than forcing all taxpayers to pay for services they did not use. I am already pledged to the people who elect me, to listen to the facts, then decide.

State Assembly, District 40

Mark Amodei



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	E	N	Y	Y

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge	
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Stephen Thompson (882-6579)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge	
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COMMENTS: 7. I'm not familiar with the privatization issue.

State Assembly, District 41

Tony Dane (891-8724)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge	
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David Parks (736-6929)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge	
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COMMENTS:

COMMENTS:

State Assembly, District 42

Chris Denning



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	E	Y	Y

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge	Y
-----------------------------------	---

Harry Morenson



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
N	N	Y	U	E	Y	U	Y	Y	Y

Signed Taxpayer Protection Pledge	
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COMMENTS: 8.) It depends on what the BLM is doing.

COMMENTS: 5.) Need details and proof that the voucher system will improve the school system. 8.) Some yes, but BLM restricts too much land now.

THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE: CRISIS AVOIDED

BY JUDY CRESANTA, NPRI PRESIDENT

Presidential photo finishes have occasionally occurred, elections so close that were it not for the Electoral College, the nation would have found itself in a crisis. Yet because it seems redundant to the popular vote, citizens find it difficult to understand and often question the necessity for the Electoral College. After all, it only exaggerates the margin of victory in the popular vote. After all, does the electoral vote do much more than exaggerate the popular vote? But the history of this uniquely American institution might shed some light on the rationale behind it.

The original Constitutional Convention considered several possible methods of selecting a president. One idea which was quickly rejected was relegating to Congress the duty of appointing the president. But the Founding Fathers recognized the potential for paralyzing party divisiveness, the potential for interference by foreign governments, unseemly corruption and the possible upset in the delicate balance of power between the legislative and executive branches of government.

A second idea was to have the state legislatures select the president. This idea, too, was rejected out of fear that a president beholden to the state legislatures might permit them to erode federal authority and thus undermine the whole idea of the federation.

A third idea was to have the president elected by a direct popular vote. Direct election was rejected not because the framers of the Constitution doubted that the public would be up to the task but because presidents would always be selected by the most populous states with little regard for political sentiment in the smaller states.

Finally, a "Committee of Eleven" in the Constitutional Convention proposed an indirect election of the president through a college of electors. The Founding Fathers were well schooled in ancient history and its lessons and drew upon the Roman Centurial Assembly system of the Roman Republic. Under that system, the adult male citizens of Rome were divided into groups of 100-called Centuries. Each Century was entitled to cast one vote for or against proposals laid before them by the Roman Senate. In the Electoral College system, the states serve as the centurial representative and the number of votes are determined by the number of representatives

in each state's congressional delegation. In Nevada there are four electors reflecting our two congressional districts and two senators.

Winner Takes All

Although the millions of citizens who vote in next November's election rightly think that they are deciding who shall be president, only 538 persons are entitled to vote directly for president and vice president under Article II and Amendment XXIII of the Constitution.

The individual selection of electors is controlled by state not federal law. In Nevada the electors are

"The Electoral College ensures that the president's popular support is sufficiently distributed throughout the country to enable him to govern effectively."

chosen by the two major political parties with the knowledge that popular victory for the Democratic or Republican candidate will determine which party's electors cast their votes in December of this year. Although it's a safe bet that the political parties will choose those who they trust to carry their preference to the College, this does not predetermine how each elector will vote. Nevada's electors are similarly not legally bound by party dictums (although no elector has ever deviated from his or her party's wishes). Thus, the Electoral College could well produce a winner in December that was not apparent on election day in November.

The electors meet in their states in early December. Each elector casts two ballots, one for president and one for vice president. The votes are then recorded on certificates, which will be sealed and sent to the president of the Senate and to the archivist of the United States in Washington, DC. On January 6 the certificates will be opened and counted in front of a joint

Continued on page 30

Distribution of Electoral Votes 1991-2000

State	Electors Since 1981	Loss or Gain	State	Electors Since 1981	Loss or Gain
Alabama	9	0	Montana	3	-1
Alaska	3	0	Nebraska	5	0
Arizona	8	+1	Nevada	4	0
Arkansas	6	0	New Hampshire	4	0
California	54	+7	New Jersey	15	-1
Colorado	8	0	New Mexico	5	0
Connecticut	8	0	New York	33	-3
Delaware	3	0	North Carolina	14	+1
District of Columbia	3	0	North Dakota	3	0
Florida	25	+4	Ohio	21	-2
Georgia	13	+1	Oklahoma	8	0
Hawaii	4	0	Oregon	7	0
Idaho	4	0	Pennsylvania	23	-2
Illinois	22	-2	Rhode Island	4	4
Indiana	2	0	South Carolina	8	0
Iowa	7	-1	South Dakota	3	0
Kansas	6	-1	Tennessee	11	0
Kentucky	8	-1	Texas	32	+3
Louisiana	9	-1	Utah	5	0
Maine	4	0	Vermont	3	0
Maryland	10	0	Virginia	13	+1
Massachusetts	12	-1	Washington	11	+1
Michigan	18	-2	West Virginia	5	-1
Minnesota	10	0	Wisconsin	11	0
Mississippi	7	0	Wyoming	3	0
Missouri	11	0	Total:	538	

session of Congress.

Electoral Tie Votes Are Possible

What happens if the electoral vote is tied 270 to 270? The answer lies in the Twelfth Amendment:

"From the persons having the highest numbers not exceeding three on the list of those voted for as President, the House of Representatives shall choose immediately, by ballot, the President. But in choosing the President, the votes shall be taken by state, the representation from each state having one vote; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two-thirds of the states,

and a majority of all the states shall be necessary to choose."

But has this ever happened? Yes. In 1800 the Democratic-Republican electors gave Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr equal numbers of electoral votes. The tie was settled in Jefferson's favor by the House of Representatives in accordance with the original design of the Electoral College system and, in fact, was the reason for the adoption of the 12th Amendment which effectively prevented this sort of thing from ever happening again.

Electoral College Contrary to Popular Vote? Sometimes!

In the 1872 election Democratic candidate Horace Greeley of “Go West, young man” journalistic fame thoughtlessly died during the period between the popular vote and the meeting of the Electoral College. Greeley-pledged electors, clearly unprepared for such an eventuality, split their electoral votes among several other Democratic candidates and this enabled Ulysses S. Grant to receive an absolute majority of electoral votes.

Benjamin Harrison’s election in 1889 is really the only clear-cut instance in which the Electoral College vote went contrary to the popular vote. It happened because the incumbent, Democrat Grover Cleveland, ran up huge popular majorities in several of the 18 states which supported him while the Republican Challenger, Benjamin Harrison, won only slender majorities in some of the larger of the 20 states which supported him, most notably in Cleveland’s home state of New York. Even so, the difference between them was only 110,476 votes out of 11 million cast - less than 1 percent of the total. Interestingly in this case, there were few critical issues other than tariffs separating the candidates so that the election seems to have been fought and won more on the basis of superior party organization in getting out the vote than on the issues of the day.

Pros and Cons Of the Electoral College System

In its 200-year history, the Electoral College has had its share of critics and proposed reforms. But it also has staunch defenders (although perhaps less vocal than its critics). Those who object to the Electoral College and favor direct election of the president generally do so on four grounds:

- The possibility of electing a minority president;
- The risk of so-called “faithless” electors;
- The possible role of the Electoral College in depressing voter turnout; and
- The possible fail-

ure to accurately reflect the national popular will.

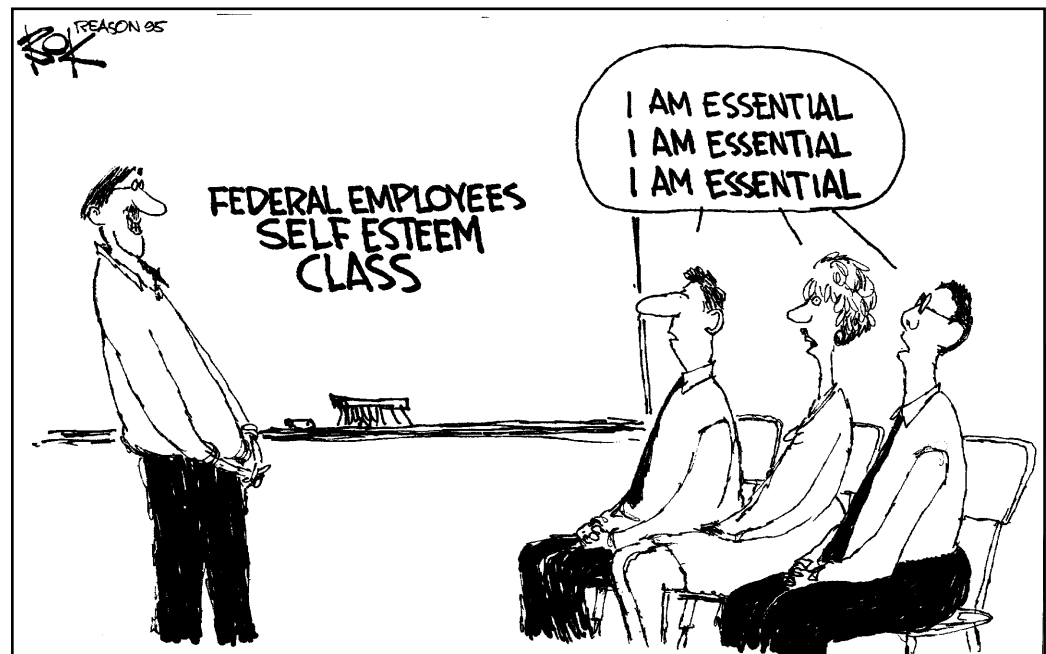
In response to these arguments proponents of the Electoral College point out that it was never intended to reflect the national popular will. In addition they defend the College’s role on philosophical grounds:

- It contributes to the cohesiveness of the country by requiring a distribution of popular support to elected president;
- It enhances the status of minority interests;
- It contributes to the political stability of the nation by encouraging a two-party system; and
- It maintains a federal system of government and representation.

Conclusion

The Electoral College has performed its function for over 200 years and in over 50 presidential elections by ensuring that the president has both sufficient popular support to govern and that his popular support is sufficiently distributed throughout the country to enable him to govern effectively.

Although there were a few anomalies in its early history none have occurred in the past century. Proposals to abolish the Electoral College, although frequently put forward, have failed largely because alternatives appear more problematical than the College in its present form. The fact that the Electoral College was originally designed to solve one set of problems is a tribute to the genius of the Founding Fathers.



BROTHER, CAN YOU SPARE A DIME... OR MAYBE A COUPLE HUNDRED MILLION DIMES?

BY RALPH HELLER, NPRI SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW

The unexpected thumping defeat of a \$196 million Washoe County school bond measure in September left education officials and newspaper editorial writers scratching their heads, trying to figure out what had really happened. With more than a dozen funding issues on ballots in one corner or another of Nevada in November, to say nothing of 16 statewide ballot questions, an analysis of September's election fiasco in Washoe County is worth a few moments' scrutiny and reflection.

First off, school authorities outsmarted themselves in their attempt to circumvent a truly broad representation of public sentiment. Fearing a huge "No" vote in November as an unusually large number of voters head to the polls to cast their votes for president, school authorities scheduled the bond for the September primary ballot, a move that backfired as Washoe County residents made clear their disapproval of officialdom's attempt to manipulate the vote.

But beyond this there remains increasing challenges for school districts and others about to ask the public for more money. A dozen or more such measures are on ballots this year in Churchill, Clark, Eureka, Mineral, Nye, Storey and Washoe counties, and in Carson City. But before taking a look at some of these measures, let's examine more closely a few of the factors that led to such a resounding rejection of the school bond measure in Washoe County.

"MOTOR VOTER REGISTRATION" AND OTHER NONSENSE

One of the biggest surprises emerging from the Washoe County vote was the incredibly low voter turnout despite a presumed high level of public interest in the ballot question, and one of the culprits contributing increasingly to low voter turnouts is government's determination to make registering to vote so easy and con-

venient it becomes almost meaningless.

The reason dozens of states have resisted such ideas as "Motor Voter Registration" is because it enhances voter registration among those least motivated to vote, resulting in unusually low voter turnouts. Having

"The Nevada State government now gets 67.2 percent of all tax and fee revenue collected in the state, the 16th highest such percentage among the 50 states."

done everything but deliver ballots to each house pre-marked "Yes" on the school bond measure, Washoe County's dominant newspaper, the *Reno Gazette-Journal*, was shocked at a voter turnout of only 38 percent.

Yet it was the *Gazette-Journal* that had rammed such things as "Motor Voter Registration" down the throats of a skeptical public in the first place, utterly unconcerned over the fact that by making voter registration so easy it would be signing up to vote thousands of people across Nevada who would never actually get to the polls on election day.

No less worrisome for Nevada officials should be the fact that "Motor Voter" registrants and others for whom voter registration has been made too easy are generally less well informed on public issues than the rest of the electorate. They are less likely to read a daily paper, far less likely to involve themselves in debate over public issues, and therefore obviously predisposed to vote "No" on virtually all ballot questions involving more money for government or higher taxes.

GOVERNMENT SABOTAGING ITSELF

Even as government and the press continue to undermine the democratic process by reaching out for the votes of the least concerned citizens, they continue also to deprive the public of the information and detailed accountability to which all voters and taxpayers are entitled.

For example, several legislative sessions ago Carson City began its hard push for smaller classes in the lower grades in school systems throughout the state, but has anyone seen even a shred of evidence to indicate that smaller classes result in improved academic performance? Too often voters deprived of the detailed, specific information to which voters believe they are entitled, increasingly vote "No," a completely understandable response to unresponsive government.

Too often frustrated at the absence of straight answers to understandable questions, frustrated voters use the only weapon at their disposal to register their unhappiness and frustration - the ballot.

A rundown of revenue measures on various county ballots this year can't help but raise questions about where Nevada tax revenue has gone. Why should it be necessary for people who already bear the 12th highest "per capita tax burden" among the 50 states to cough up yet more money?

THIS YEAR'S "HIT PARADE" OF THOSE WHO WANT MORE MONEY

An alphabetical roster of those who want more cash this year begins with Carson City where a resolution on the ballot asks for the permission of voters to request the Nevada Legislature to authorize a sales tax increase of one quarter of one percent to fund the "acquisition, development and maintenance of parks, open space, trails and recreation facilities." Conspicuously missing from information provided the public is the fact that Nevada is one of only 23 states to permit the levying of county sales taxes on top of state sales taxes in the first place.

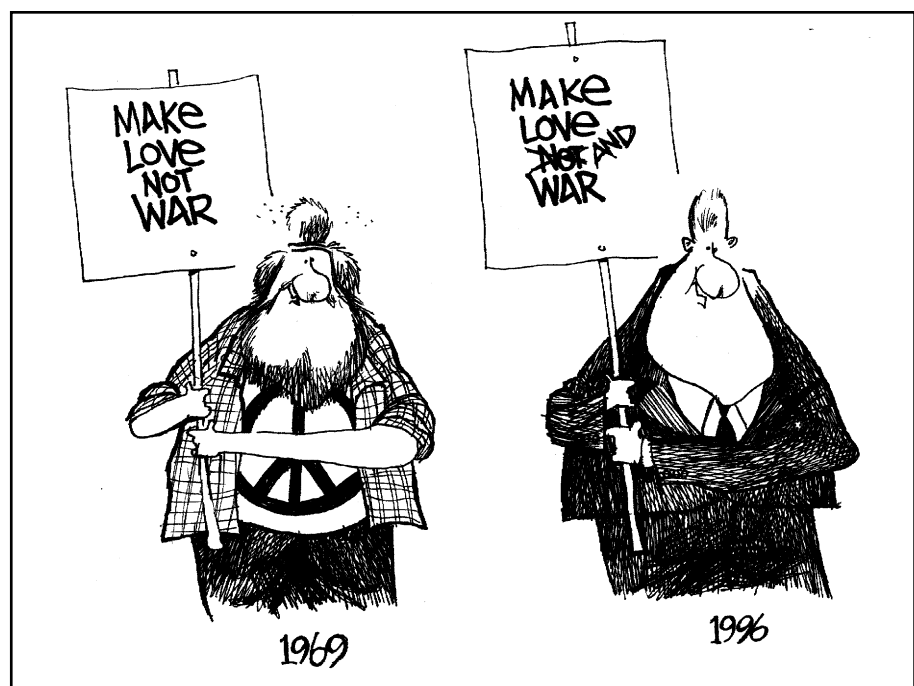
Also on the general election ballot in Carson City is a \$48.5 million school bond issue to build and equip a new high school and new middle school, to "enhance technology at all schools" and to acquire and improve "school sites and buildings."

There are two such questions in Churchill County this year, too. One question asks voters to authorize the levying of an "ad valorem" tax to continue funding "necessary programs, services and equipment for the Churchill Community Hospital," and the second ballot request asks voters to approve a tax of two cents per \$100 of assessed valuation for four years beginning in 1997 to continue funding "necessary facilities and services" for the Churchill County Senior Center.

On the ballot in giant Clark County is the huge school bond question everyone has been reading about, more than four times the size of the school bond issue that failed in Washoe County, plus two questions seeking authorization to levy an additional "ad valorem" tax to finance the hiring of additional police officers for the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. One of the questions will be on the ballots of voters living in the unincorporated parts of Clark County, and a second, identical question will be on the ballots of Las Vegas voters.

In Eureka County the Board of County

Continued on page 34



Courtesy of Reason Magazine

County Ballot Questions

Commissioners on behalf of the county School District is seeking permission to levy an “ad valorem” property tax for capital projects for 10 years beginning July 1, 1997, at a rate to be determined each year by the School District Board of Trustees but not to exceed 15 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation. Proceeds of the higher tax would be deposited in the School District’s capital projects fund.

The trustees of the Mineral County School District are asking county voters to approve the issuance of up to \$6 million in general obligation bonds for “purposes but not limited to” acquiring sites and building new schools, repairing roofs, upgrading electrical systems, removing asbestos, remodeling classrooms and updating the high school science laboratory, in other words, \$6 million to be used as Mineral County school trustees see fit.

Also in Mineral County county commissioners are seeking authorization to levy a tax of six cents per \$100 of assessed valuation for eight fiscal years to assist in the funding of the Mineral County “Care and Share” programs in Hawthorne and Mina. Mineral County has been collecting a four-cent tax to help fi-

nance these programs and voter approval of this ballot question would reinstate the four-cent tax and increase it by two cents.

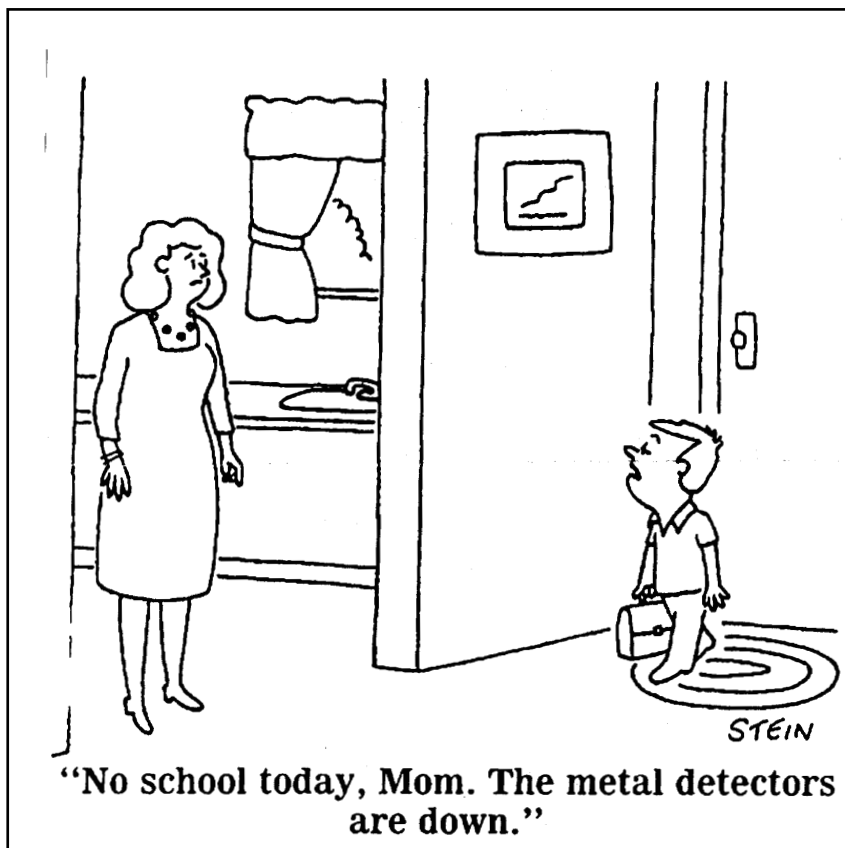
In spacious Nye County not only will county voters be deciding an additional tax of two cents per \$100 of assessed valuation to maintain the county’s historical museums, but voters are also being asked to approve a question previously approved by the voters of Pahrump that would permit the Pahrump Community Hospital District to raise additional tax revenue from all county voters for the construction of a permanent county health care facility. The tax would be an additional twenty cents per \$100 of assessed valuation.

Meanwhile and also in Nye County, the Town Board of the Unincorporated Town of Tonopah is asking voter approval to levy an additional “ad valorem” tax exceeding the limit imposed by NRS 354.59811 for the purpose of maintaining the town’s parks and recreation programs for the next 12 years, the Board of Trustees of the Pahrump Community Library District are seeking authorization to issue bonds in an amount not to exceed \$1.5 million to finance the construction of a 15,000 square ft. library building in Pahrump, and the Beatty

Library District Board of Trustees is seeking voter authorization of a tax increase for the purpose of “paying for the salaries, personnel benefits, materials, equipment and supplies, and capital improvements necessary to maintain the District’s library facility and services.”

Also in Nye County, the Town Board of Round Mountain went to the voters this year for authorization for a tax increase to help finance the Round Mountain town budget.

Colorful and historic Storey County, scarcely willing to be left out, also wants more money. The Storey County School Board trustees are seeking voter authorization to issue up to \$8 million in general obligation bonds for purposes “including but not limited to” acquiring sites and constructing new school facilities and improving older school facilities.



County Ballot Questions

And finally, Washoe County, not content with the unambiguous, thumping defeat of its \$196 million school bond question in September, is asking November voters to approve \$19 million in bonds to finance expansion of the Washoe County Jail and updating of the communications equipment presently used by the Washoe County Sheriff's Department and the Reno Police Department.

HOW WILL VOTERS RESPOND?

Note that the specific wording for the official explanation of these bond requests includes phrases like "including but not limited to," references voters often interpret as asking for permission to write a blank check.

It is also well to remember that in addition to all these county and local ballot questions involving money, there are no fewer than 16 additional statewide ballot questions, one of which is likely to maximize voter turnout among those who have had their fill of tax increases. That so-called "Gibbons Tax Initiative," which would henceforth require a two-thirds vote of the Nevada Legislature to raise any tax or fee, is likely to be supported by over three-quarters of all state voters, just as it was the first time it appeared on the ballot.

Doubtless some of the measures on ballots this year have merit while others do not, but lost in the flurry of paperwork is the central fact that the citizens of Nevada already suffer under the 12th highest "per capita tax burden" among the 50 states, now adding up to \$1,680 per year for every man, woman and infant in the state. That is \$20 more "per capita" than the \$1,660 "per capita tax burden" in California, believe it or not.

Some of Nevada's cities, counties and school districts are doubtless somewhat under-funded, but this isn't because Nevada taxpayers aren't generous enough. State government in Nevada now gets 67.2 percent of all tax and fee revenue collected in the state, the 16th highest such percentage among the 50 states.

Nevada's long term answer to its city and county financial challenges shouldn't be to raise already high taxes even higher, but to restructure its tax structure so that the tax spoils are shared more equitably among our various state, county and local governments.

Really, shouldn't the 12th highest "per capita tax burden" in the United States be high enough?



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Cover Story

Continued from page 9

the Democratic senator and the GOP congressman would become inevitable should Ensign win. And considering a strong southern Republican would be Reid's nightmare come true, it could be the last great race in Nevada before the millennium. Even if he loses, Ensign could still be viable against Reid, although others — state Sen. Mark James, for example — might move to the front of the line. Of course Gibbons, should he win, also might look to be in the Senate contest against Reid — who wouldn't want to run every six years rather than every two? He, too, could be formidable against Reid if he has a successful freshman term. Because most national pundits believe the GOP will hold onto the House, if Coffin and or Wilson should win, both could be back-benchers in a minority party, which would be a blow to Nevada's already minimal federal clout.

The results of the state balloting will have a great impact on the 1997 legislative agenda, especially *vis a vis* the speech given by Gov. Bob Miller to begin his final legislative session. His legacy session. Miller, if the legislative matrix is right, may attempt a series of bold changes in education funding, tax collection and social programs. What is the right matrix? A Democratic Assembly and a closer state Senate might be enough. If it's a GOP House and Bill Raggio still has a hammer lock on the upper house, Miller will have to present a scaled-back slate of programs. Finally, the reverberations of Campaign '96 could be felt in Campaign '98. Although the state's power elite already has anointed Las Vegas businessman Kenny Guinn as Miller's successor, the election results could embolden Democrats and Republicans mulling a bid. Might an ambitious legislator or two think about taking a shot? Might the legislative results prove beneficial to Secretary of State Dean Heller's agenda, which seems a precursor to a gubernatorial run? Might a GOP sweep dissuade hopefuls such as Las Vegas Mayor Jan Jones and Attorney General Frankie Sue Del Papa from considering a bid?

Giving Guinn a free ride does seem somehow offensive. But in Nevada, where anointments are *de rigueur*, it may prove a local version of all politics being local.

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MONOGRAPHS

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From Moynihan to "My Goodness." This study asks, "What are the dimensions and consequences of contemporary family change in the US?"

Nevada Medicaid: Constructive Reform of the State System. Constructive Reform of the State System. This study offers additions to the Governor's State Medicaid Reforms/Equals Large Savings.

Nevada Education: Laying the Groundwork. This study outlines three major problem areas — the economics, politics and accountability of education in Nevada. The author recommends reforms that would improve the level of education in Nevada.

Term Limits Outlook. Rethinking Article V: Term Limits and the Seventeenth and Nineteenth Amendments. This study places term limits in a historical perspective by tracing the campaigns that brought about the adoption of the Seventeenth and Nineteenth Amendments.

The Instruction Gap. A 10 year economic study of how education dollars have been spent. The study shows a major priority shift from instruction to administration, teacher's benefits and loan interest payments creating an education gap of over \$80,000,000 since 1982.

Who Pays? The Burden of Environmental Cleanup and Pollution Control. This Study unveils the exact source of funding for environmental cleanup. It uncovers the inequities in both the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the Superfund.

Health Care: History , Hype and Help. This study includes the findings that NPRI obtained during its Statewide Health Care Summit held in May of 1994. Several conclusions were reached, chief among them the incorporation of Medical Savings Accounts (MSA's) in both state and federal reform.

Newlands Reclamation Project Water Rights, a Private Property Issue. This study examines Nevada's current water wars from the perspective of private property rights.

Hardrock Mining. John Dobra, Ph.D., Director of the Natural Resource Industry Institute and Senior Research Fellow for NPRI, delivered testimony to the U.S. Congress on the proposed 8% royalty on mining. Dobra testified on the effects of mining royalties on jobs, profitability and their impact on resources.

Congressional Testimony on U.S. Mining act of 1872. John Dobra, Ph.D., delivered this testimony before the House Committee on Natural Resources regarding President Clinton's proposed 12.5% royalty on hardrock mining.

Public Education and the First Amendment: A Policy Analysis. Explains why New Age practices are religious, illustrates various instruction methods currently employed and sites examples of New Age teaching in Nevada.

Mapping the Maze of SIIS. Analyzes the seven government agencies which contribute to inefficient claims management and benefit delivery, diffuse and overlapping control, waste, and operational inefficiency.

Nevada's Fiscal Crisis: Where Did all the Money Go? This study looks at Nevada's current budgetary crisis, with its revenue shortfall. It has heightened interest in the state's finances and turned up the intensity of the usual criticisms of taxing and spending in Nevada.

Nevada's Health. This study outlines the evolution of health care in America and proposes several suggestions for restructuring Nevada's present health care situation.

Designing A Public School Choice Program that Can Pay For Itself. This study is a proposal for an educational choice program that would allow parents to choose among public and private schools with the aid of a state scholarship.

What's New in Nevada Schools A Case Study: Jacobson Elementary School. This study looks at a Nevada school that sought solutions to the problems of "at risk" students, decisions and their ultimate impact on mainstream society.

BOOKS

What Everyone Should Know About Economics and Prosperity. Analyzes the major sources of economic progress - private property rights, free trade, and low taxes - stressing that government must remain limited and allow markets to work.

Hidden Politics: "Progressive" Non Profits Target The States. Examines the latest political strategy of special interest activist groups. Claiming to represent the concerns of nonprofit charities, advocacy groups have developed a detailed plan to organize and fund special interests at taxpayer expense.

Gridlock in Government: How to End the Stagnation of America. Term limits would reduce the incumbent politicians' career interest in aggrandizing government and themselves. An in depth study of government waste and political perks fostered by lifelong political careers.

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Published by
Nevada Policy Research Institute

800 West Second Street
P.O. Box 20312
Reno, NV 89515-0312
Tel.: (702) 786-9600
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