

IMPACT
REPORT

COUNCIL FOR A BETTER NEVADA



Council for a Better Nevada

is an organization of concerned citizens who seek to improve quality of life in Nevada. Our intention is to identify and engage in community issues whose outcomes will greatly affect the lives of Nevadans. By bringing together talent, resources and leadership from the private, public and non-profit sectors, our goal is to assist those entities in providing solutions to those issues that will create a sustainable, healthy and prosperous Nevada community.

A scenic landscape photograph of a lake with large rocks and evergreen trees, framed by a white diamond shape. The image is set against a blue background with a dark blue vertical bar on the right side. The text "LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN" is centered within the diamond frame.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Thank you for the opportunity to present the 2018 Council for a Better Nevada (Council) Annual Report. Since 2005, the founding year of the Council, our work has been driven by impacting a higher quality of life for all Nevadans. Each year has brought new opportunities and challenges to fulfill our mission, whether Nevada was managing a robust economy or navigating a devastating recession.

Over the past year, K-12 has continued to be a cornerstone issue of the group as a new CCSD Superintendent was hired. The Council applauds the Board of Trustees for the selection of Dr. Jesus Jara. The Council is also working to promote expanded professional school board governance training in partnership with the Guinn Center to aid all Nevada school boards through an innovative Texas Department of Education program that has seen promising outcomes.

Question 1, a successful 2016 ballot issue that closed background check loop holes on gun sales via the internet and gun shows continues to be an important issue of advocacy for the Council. With new legislation pending it appears likely that this loop hole will be permanently shut this year.

An emerging area of the utmost importance for the Council is a deeper understanding of the governance structure of the Nevada System of Higher Education and its return on investment to the State. The current system has served the state well since its founding in 1864, but it is now time for a comprehensive revision to meet the needs of today's students, administration and greater community it is meant to serve.

As we reflect back on 2018, we unequivocally believe a clear vision, understanding and commitment to Nevada's purpose, to improve the lives of all its citizens, is more important than ever to ensuring a strong and sustainable Nevada.

Looking out across the Country today, we observe venerable private institutions, public businesses and governments who have become fragile, lack purpose, and have lost confidence.

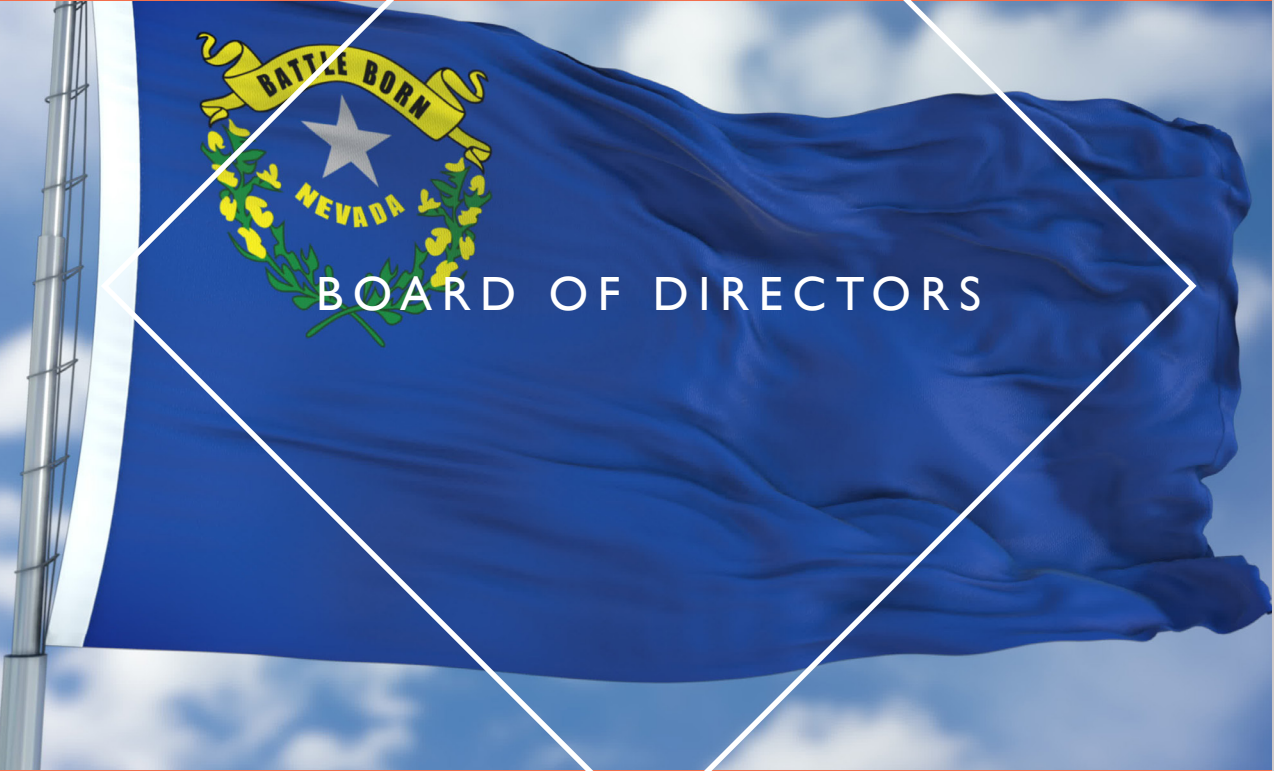
In Nevada, however, we have always found a path to work across party lines that engages the public, private and philanthropic sectors to create better ideas, thoughtful conversations and intelligent public policy the result of which yield a stronger, more sustainable and more inclusive community.

Demonstrating purpose above profit, in the end, creates profit for everyone.

I am confident in Nevada's future. We have exceptional leadership throughout our State and when we come together on behalf of Nevada's best interests, our purpose and resolve are evident.

On behalf of the Council's Board of Directors and myself, thank you for your partnership in our mission and for your leadership stewarding Nevada's purpose-driven future.

Tom Kaplan
Chairman



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A young woman with dark hair in braids, wearing a purple long-sleeved shirt and a green backpack, is looking down at her smartphone. She is standing in a desert landscape with low-lying vegetation and mountains in the background. The sun is setting, creating a warm, golden glow. The entire scene is framed by a white diamond shape on a dark purple background.

EDUCATION
K-12

K-12 reflected another year of transition and progress. On the state level, the Council was exposed to the lack of and type of formal board training school board Trustees are required by law to annually receive as they serve in these critical positions within the 17 counties in Nevada. The Council worked with State Superintendent of Education Steve Canavero to explore the Lone Star Governance Program launched by the Texas Department of Education. The intention of Lone Star Governance is to provide a continuous improvement framework for governing teams (Boards in collaboration with their Superintendents) that choose and commit to intensively focus on one primary objective: Improving student outcomes. Nevada will now pilot a similar 'Silver State Governance Program' in partnership with the Guinn Center with select Nevada school boards hoping to replicate those same improved academic outcomes.

The CCSD Board of Trustees showed leadership in 2018 in the hiring of Superintendent leader, Dr. Jesus Jara. The Council is pleased to support his agenda of transparency, pragmatism and accountability in his quest for the CCSD to be the fastest improving U.S. district over the next 5 years.

In one of Superintendent Jara's first important moves, he conducted a business operations audit of the CCSD to better understand the strengths and weaknesses of the organization he now led.

"The Review of the Business Operations of the Clark County School District" December, 2018 conducted by the Council of the Great City Schools, provided sobering information regarding multiple operational deficiencies within the state of the CCSD.

A woman with dark hair, wearing a purple long-sleeved shirt, a white tank top, and olive green shorts, is hiking on a rocky trail. She has a green backpack with a water bottle on it. The background shows a desert landscape with mountains and a sunset sky. The text "HIGHER EDUCATION" is overlaid in white, centered within a white diamond shape.

HIGHER EDUCATION

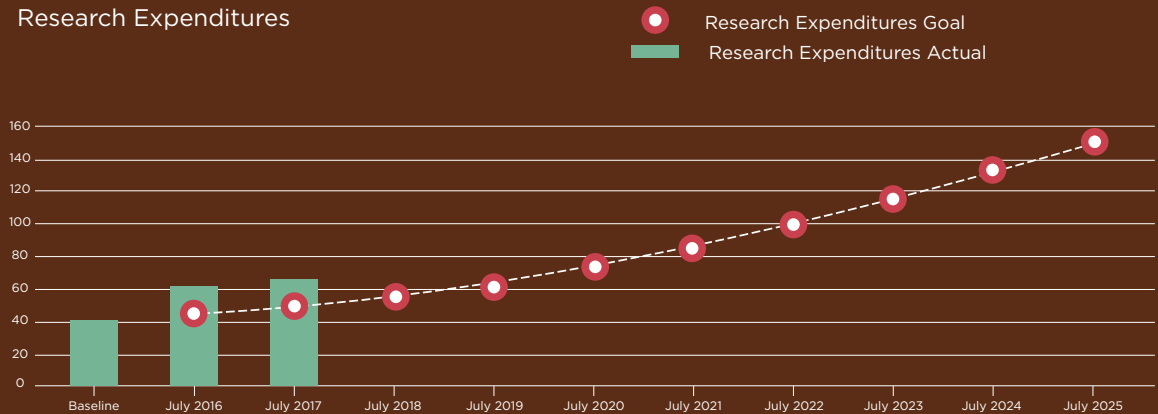
Responding to the successful passage of AJR5 during the 2017 legislature and a challenged Chancellor search the same year, the Council, in partnership with the UNLV Lincy Institute hosted a panel of higher education thought leaders May 8, 2018 for the community to discuss the current state of the higher education governance structure in Nevada.

Recalling the significance of AJR 5, it proposes to amend the Nevada Constitution to remove the constitutional provisions governing the election and duties of the Board of Regents of the State University and to authorize the Legislature to provide by statute for the governance, control and management of the State University. This bill passed both chambers and must be reconsidered in the 80th Session of the Legislature before going before voters in 2020 for final approval.

There has been a long history of attempted legislative revisions to improve higher education framework for the state. Our partners at the UNLV Lincy Institute have chronicled the many bill drafts and studies over the decades.

The purpose of higher education can often be described as an opportunity to create a better life, a better community and a better society. Nevada's system is ripe for an honest and purpose-driven review to enable those who choose to attend or work within it to be able to participate at their highest level of passion and talent.

Research Expenditures

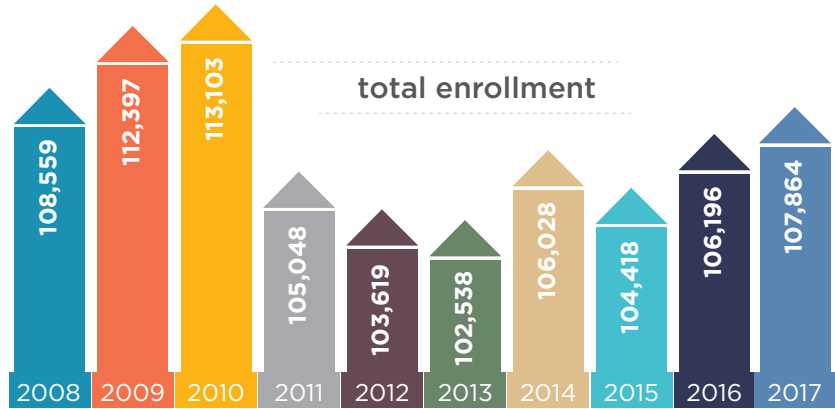


This is key performance metrics for UNLV for their Top Tier Carnegie Status

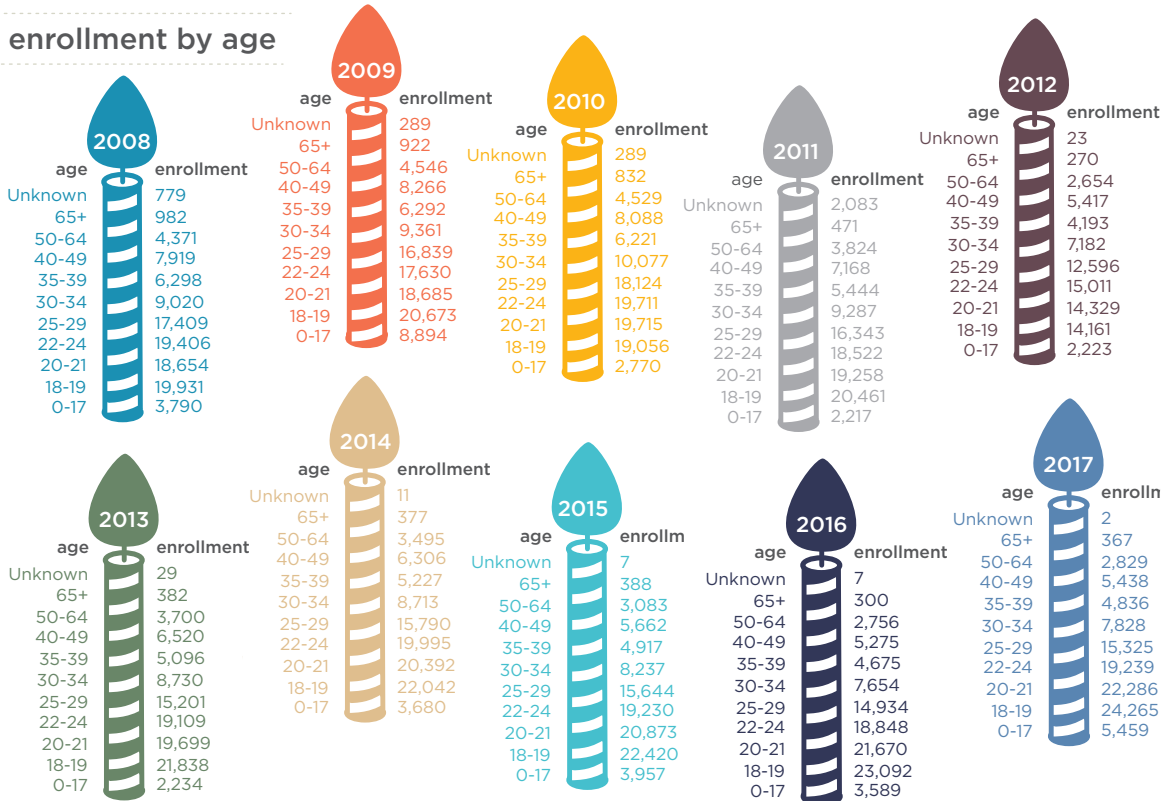
The UNLV Top Tier Initiative is an extension of the School's vision of being recognized as one of the Top American research universities as designated by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education as a Very High Research Activity University.

NSHE INSTITUTIONS

Institution Research
ir.nevada.edu

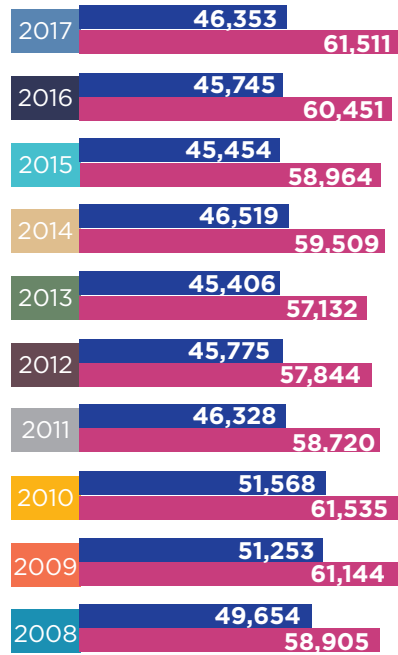
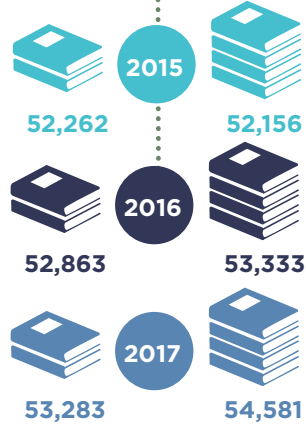
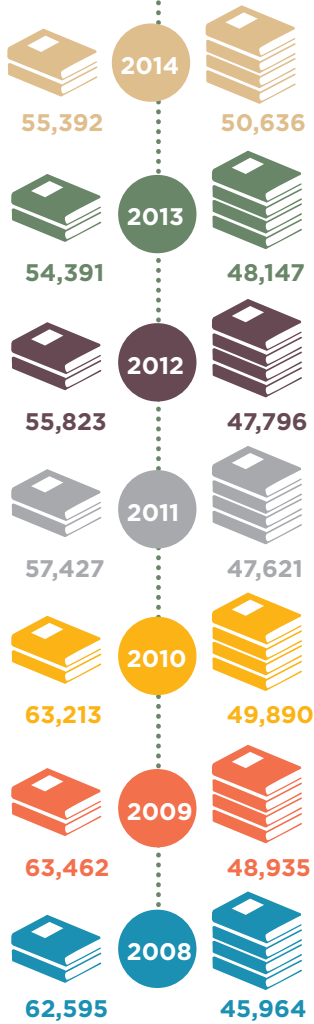


enrollment by age



enrollment by
part time

full time



enrollment by
gender

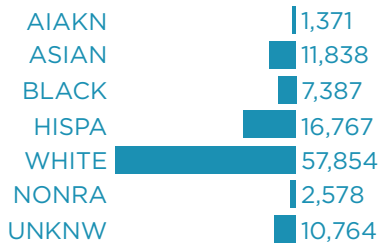
enrollment by ethnicity

AIAKN American Indian/Alaskan Native
HISPA Hispanic

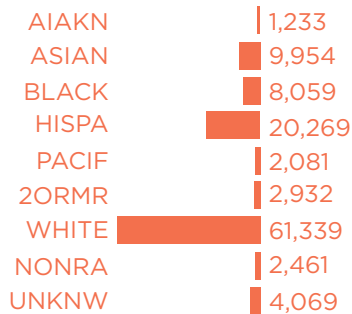
PACIF Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
2ORMR Two Ethnicities or More

NONRA Non-Resident Alien
UNKNW Unknown

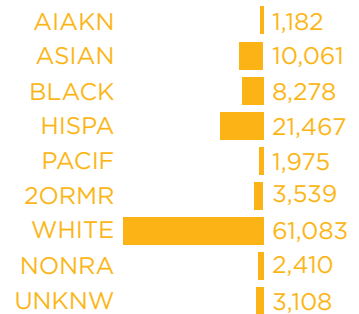
2008



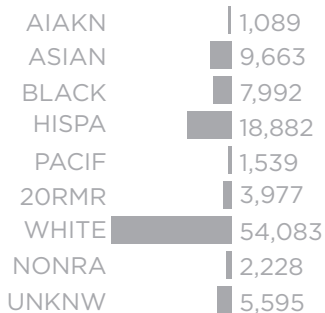
2009



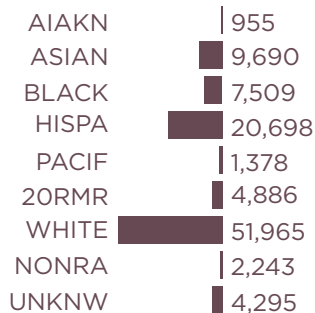
2010



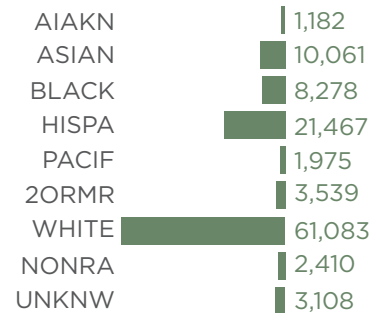
2011



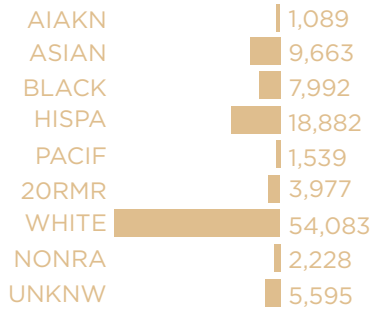
2012



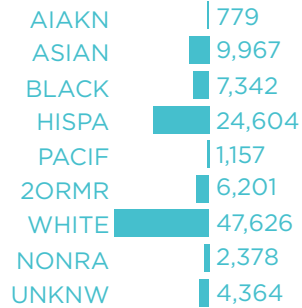
2013



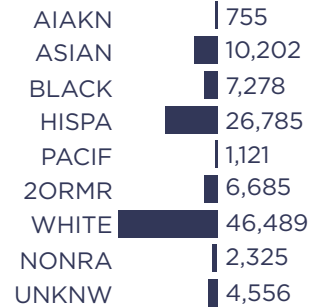
2014



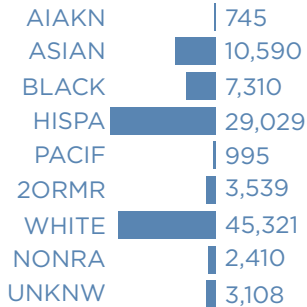
2015



2016



2017



PUBLIC SAFETY

#VEGASSTRONGER

5 GILES ST
5000



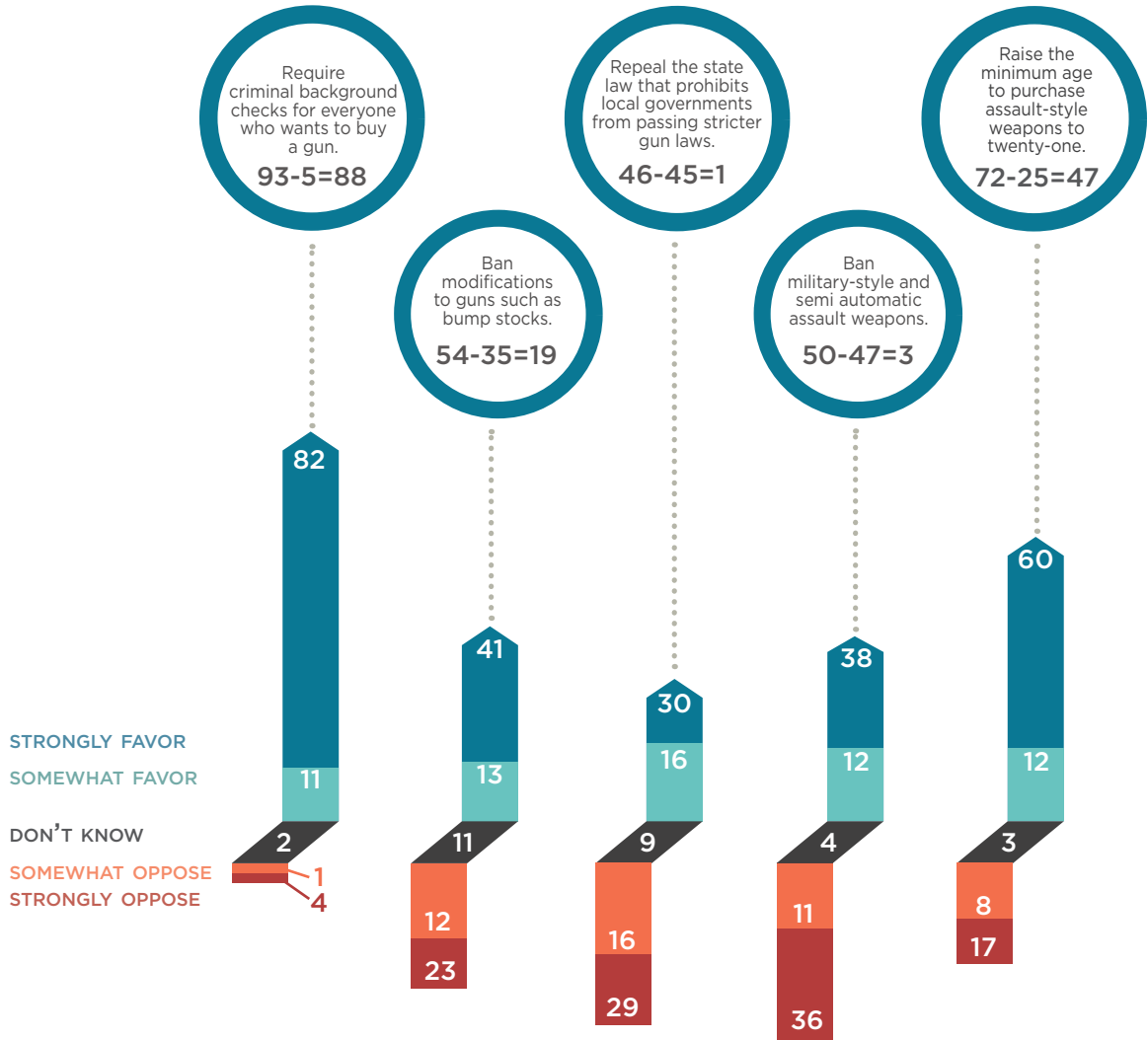
Since the passage of the ballot question 1 in 2016 by voters requiring background checks for gun sales via the internet and gun shows for Nevada residents, various obstacles have prevented the legislation from going into effect.

The Council has continued to work closely with community advocates of this measure to ensure it is a high priority through pressure on elected officials to stay engaged, legal action within the court system and commissioned polling showing significant public support for responsible gun safety laws in Nevada.

In a poll taken November 15-18, 2018 by GBA Strategies, it is interesting to see how Nevadans feel about different gun laws being discussed today.

GBA STRATEGIES

November 15-18, 2018



Create a government buyback program of assault weapons, semi-automatic weapons, and their ammunitions
54-39=15

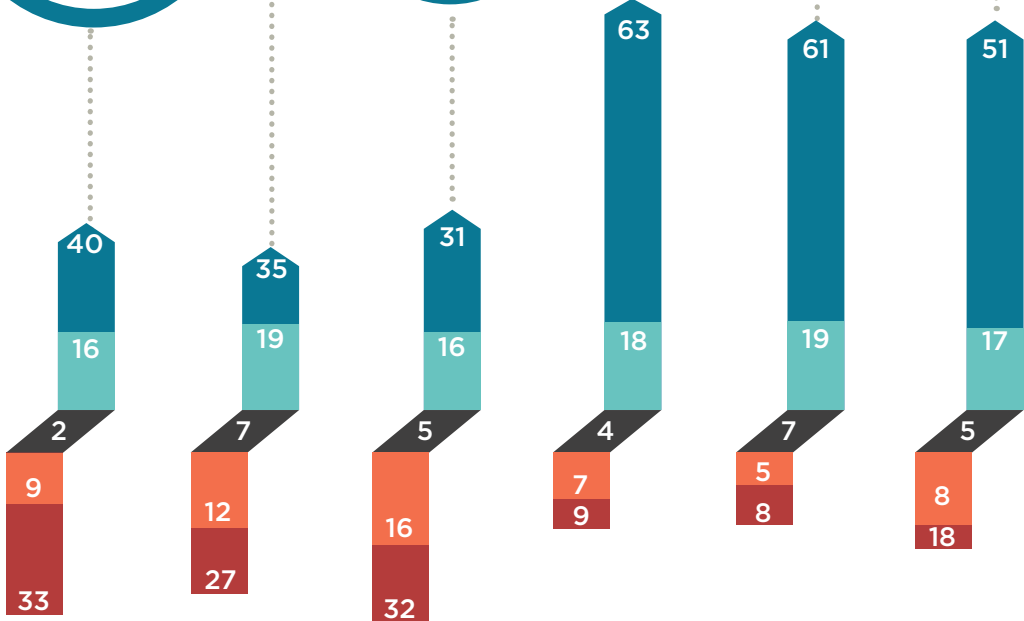
Prohibit anyone with a history of domestic violence or subject to a court restraining order from buying a gun
80-16=65

Notify authorities when someone buys more than one assault weapon in a short period of time.
69-27=42

Allow teachers and other school employees to carry concealed guns in schools if they are licensed to carry a gun and received firearms training
56-42=13

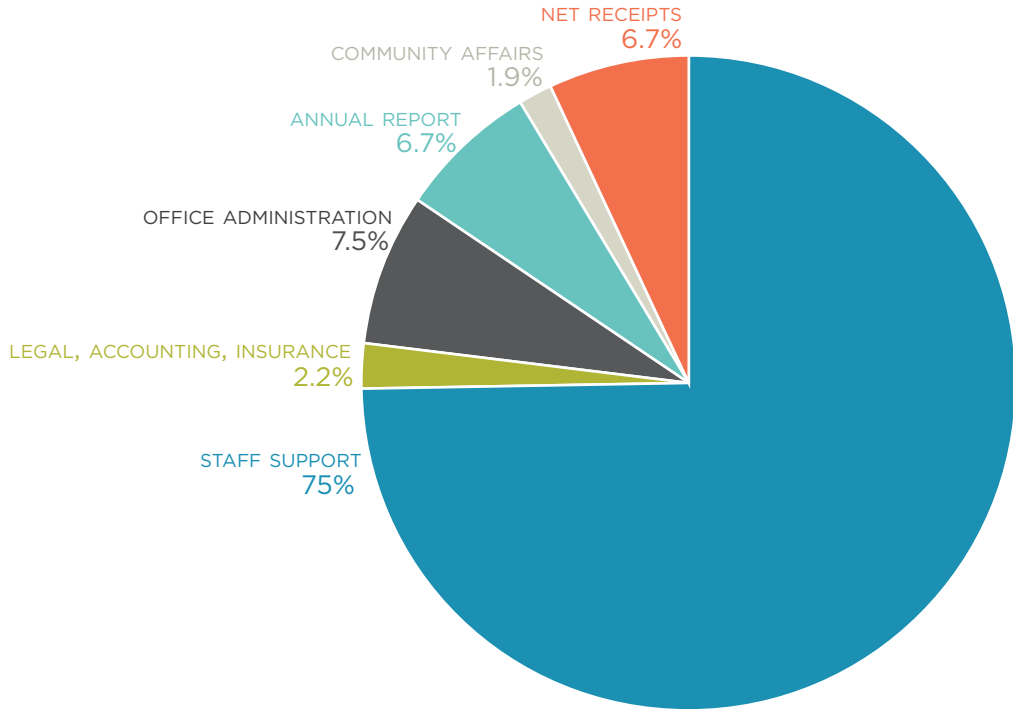
Ban the carrying of loaded guns on the Las Vegas Strip.
47-48=-1

Strengthen the definition of mentally unfit in the background checks required to buy a gun.
80-13=66



FINANCIALS

Receipts are incurred through Individual Member Dues
2018 Disbursements



The Council would like to extend a special Thank You to Mr. Troy G. Crowther for his and Percy Bowler Taylor Kerns many and continued years of exceptional pro bono tax support to the Council's mission.



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