



Council For A Better Nevada



Council for a  
Better Nevada

**CBN**

# Shaping Nevada's Future

Impact Report

2020

“

The future is not something we enter, the future is something we create.”

Leonard Sweet

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# WELCOME

The Council has used this impact report to reflect on the progress made on issues over past years. And, while Nevada and our world continues to rapidly change from the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and its economic fallout, the need to address the issues we face in Nevada are made even greater. We are reminded why the mission of the Council – a higher quality of life for all Nevadans – is ever more critical as today we seek to preserve and secure the safety and welfare of our citizens and the communities we serve. As our way of life has become altered in so many ways, so too were the issues that commanded our attention and the way we approached them.

K-12 education student progress has been a mainstay issue for the Council. Staggering state revenue loss, coupled with remote learning for 330,000+ students, created a pressure dynamic that forced many leaders to pull together during this crisis, rather than apart. We are fortunate that many of them have put the needs of students and families ahead of the normal fractional interests we've come to expect.

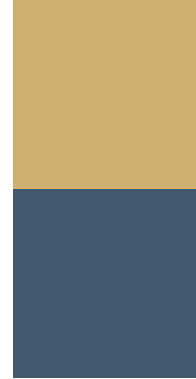
Question 1 was an attempt to advance the progress made thus far in K-12 education, and to bring more transparency and accountability to Nevada's \$1.2 billion higher education budget with the 2020 election cycle. And, while we fell short by just 0.3% (a mere 3800 votes) in accomplishing this goal in 2020, the Council and the coalition we helped build in support of Question 1 are committed to the needed reforms, and capitalizing on the many positive outcomes resulting from this effort.

Today, while dealing with an unprecedented global pandemic, we also find ourselves with social justice and racism issues at the forefront of conversations and activist movements. And, though this dynamic has led to harmful rhetorical and physical exchanges elsewhere, we applaud and support the exemplary leadership of Speaker Frierson, Sheriff Lombardo and Attorney General Ford for coming together to constructively address these issues with respect, transparency and accountability. We salute leaders like them who come together to foster effective dialogue to solve these complex challenges rather than politicize and divide. This Council is fortunate and encouraged to be able to help create this path forward.

If there is one common experience we have all experienced this past year, it is that we've seen people all over the world shifting to remote work, and prove that flexible work is, in fact, possible. The Council has been thinking about the modernization of Nevada government long before the pandemic emerged, noting other groups and commissions have offered ideas to improve a structure that largely still operates on a 1960's era platform. When government functions are inequitable, inaccessible and inefficient outside of a crisis, the opportunity for effective response during a crisis further diminishes. Although the pandemic has further exposed Nevada's antiquated weak, and in some cases broken, government structure, it has also made the Council's long-standing focus and efforts to facilitate real action on how to provide access and deliver quality public services to our citizens in any environment ever more critical.

Coronavirus is today's problem, and we can be assured there will be new challenges to solve for in the future. It's inevitable. But, Nevadans are capable of finding new ways to innovate, empower and develop stronger and sustainable structural conditions to ensure our citizens thrive in any scenario that comes our way.

Curtis Myles III  
Chairman



## THE BOARD

## Our Members

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Cashman Equipment Company

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## Executive Director



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President and CEO  
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## Our Legacy Directors

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Ms. Carol ClineOng  
Mr. Dick Haddrill  
Mr. Steve Hill  
Dr. Ikram Khan  
Mr. Bill Martin  
Ms. Heather Murren  
Mr. Phillip Peckman  
Mr. Larry Ruvo  
Mr. Michael Saltman  
Mr. Phil Satre  
Ms. Lindy Schumacher  
Mr. Jeff Shaw  
Mr. Don Snyder  
Mr. Peter Thomas  
Mr. Terry Wright  
Mr. Michael Yackira

## Mission Statment

“

The Council for a Better Nevada is an organization of concerned citizens who seek to improve the 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 private, public and non-profit sectors, our goal is to assist in developing solutions to issues which will create a sustainable, healthy and prosperous Nevada community.”

————— The Council for a Better Nevada

GROWTH  
LEARN  
HOPE  
FUTURE  
REBUILD  
POSSIBILITIES  
HEART  
GUIDANCE  
CLARITY  
REPEAL  
RENEW  
LEADERSHIP  
ACTION  
PLANNED  
MODERNIZE  
REVIEW  
SECURITY

Higher Education

# ADVOCATES FOR TRANSPARENCY

Working to hold our Higher Education Leaders Accountable

QUESTION 1 AND THE THREE NEVADAS					
LOCATION	YES	NO	MARGIN	ROLLOFF	SHARE
Clark	485,822 56.4%	375,660 43.6%	110,162 12.8	11.6	68.5%
Washoe	87,088 38.4%	139,639 61.6%	-52,551 (-23.2)	10.1	18.1%
Rurals	53,236 31.5%	115,624 68.5%	-62,388 (-37)	6.7	13.4%
Statewide	626,146 49.85%	630,023 50.15%	-3,877 (-0.3)	10.8	-

QUESTION 9 IN 2006	
LOCATION	MARGIN
Clark	-.04
Washoe	(-8.2)
Rurals	(-12.6)
Statewide	(-12.6)

Regional variation in support and rolloff  
20 point regional and 10 point partisan effects

# BALLOT QUESTION 1

## VOTING RESULTS

The measure passed in Clark County by nearly 13% but fell short statewide by 0.3%, or 3800 votes.

Nevada funds its higher education system at a level that currently ranks 16th nationally yet falls to 45th for college attainment in student outcomes. Question 1 was a 2020 election cycle ballot question the Council and a statewide coalition supported that sought to remove the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) Board of Regents from the protections of the Nevada Constitution and place them in the Nevada Legislature for future governance. Passed twice by the Legislature due to concerns regarding proper oversight, transparency and accountability towards NSHE's \$1.2 Billion budget, the measure passed in Clark County by nearly 13% but fell short statewide by 0.3%, or 3800 votes.



Support decreased from urban to suburbs to exurbs.

# GEOGRAPHY OF YES

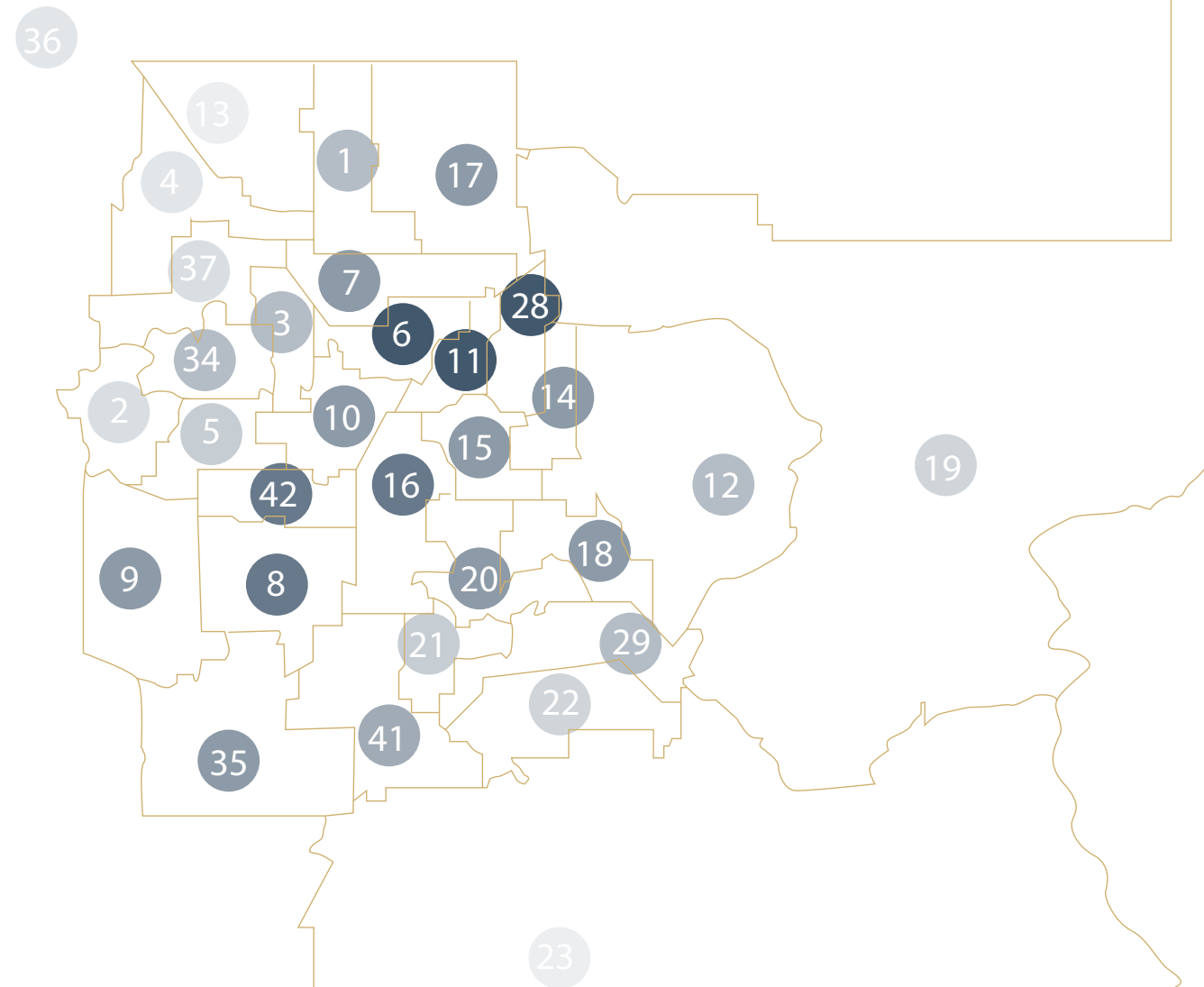
# CLARK ASSEMBLY

## Clark Assembly

Yes in every district but three (13, 23, and 36).

Support varied from 47.3% (23) to 64.5% (6 and 11).

Rolloff varied from 9.7 (13) to (16).



# GEOGRAPHY OF YES

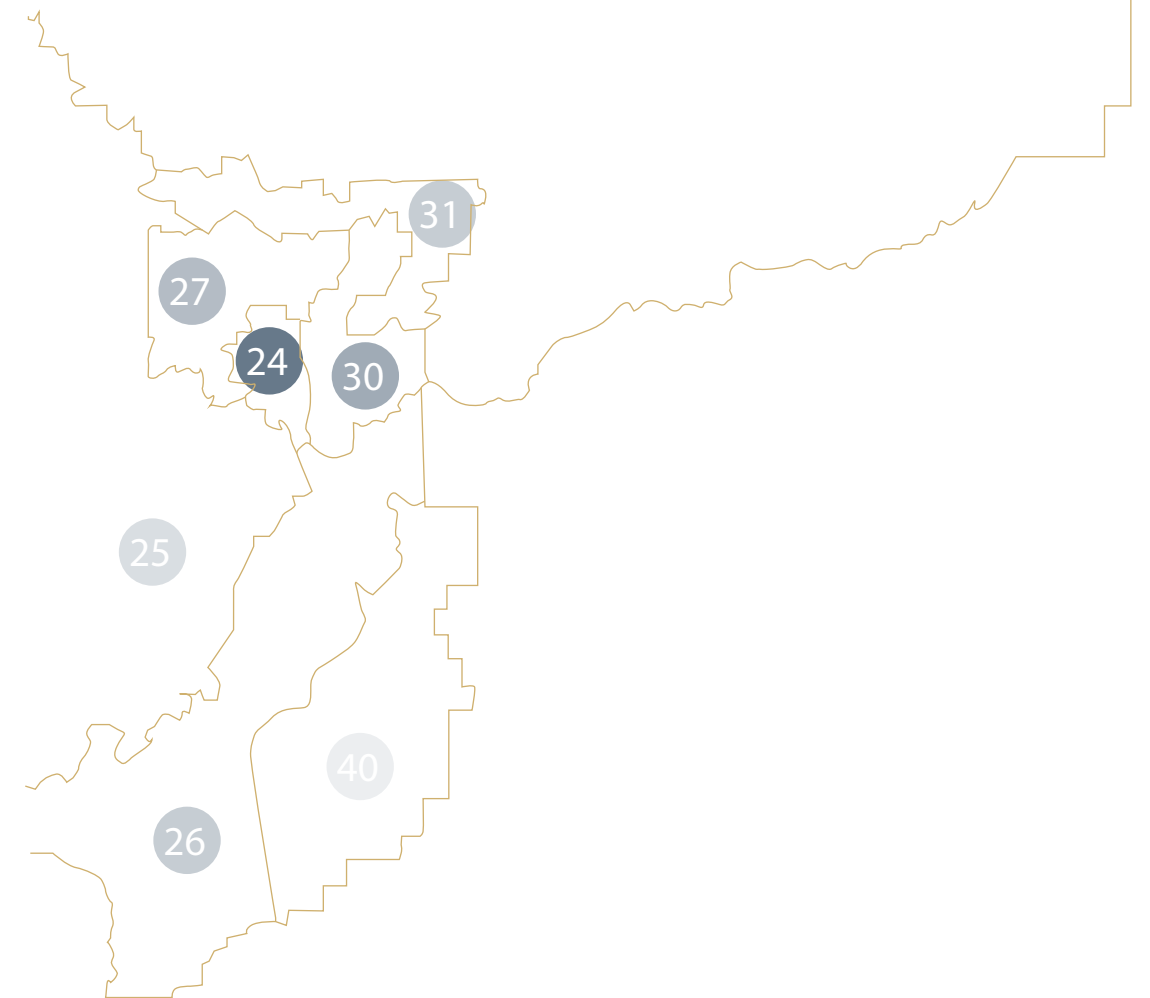
# WASHOE ASSEMBLY

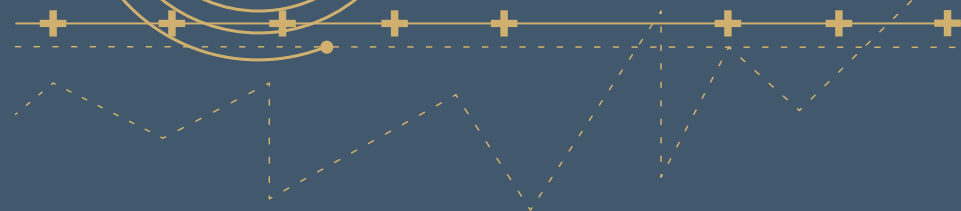
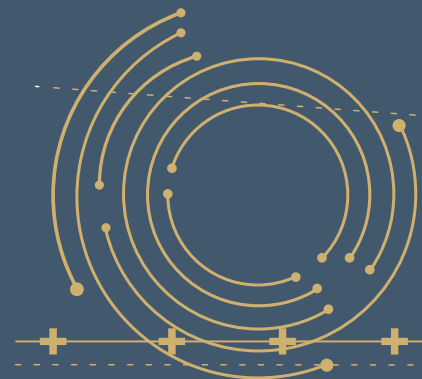
## Washoe Assembly

Yes fell short in every district

Support varied from 29.7% to 49.5% (32 and 24)

Rolloff varied from 8 (40, partial) to 12.4 (24)





# Government Modernization

# OPTIMIZING OUR OPERATIONS

## NEVADA STATE

### Government Modernization

In 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic created an unprecedented health and economic crisis in the State of Nevada. This dual crisis, following soon after Nevada's remarkable economic recovery from the Great Recession, strained the operations of an antiquated state government infrastructure and revealed numerous shortfalls in the ability of state government officials and employees to serve the needs of our approximately three million residents.

As Nevada moves to implement a public health and economic recovery plan in the coming weeks and months, now is the time to develop and begin implementing a long overdue strategy to modernize state government through a comprehensive analysis of the current structure, staffing, and costs across the executive branch. Concurrent with this analysis, a review of best practices in place at states across the nation can provide the framework for a series of recommendations and initiatives to create a more efficient, responsible, transparent, and functional state government that serves all residents of the Silver State.

## Government Modernization

### Recommendation

**01** Establish a COVID-19 Health and Economic Recovery Commission

### Recommendation

**02** Propose administrative and structural changes to Nevada State Government

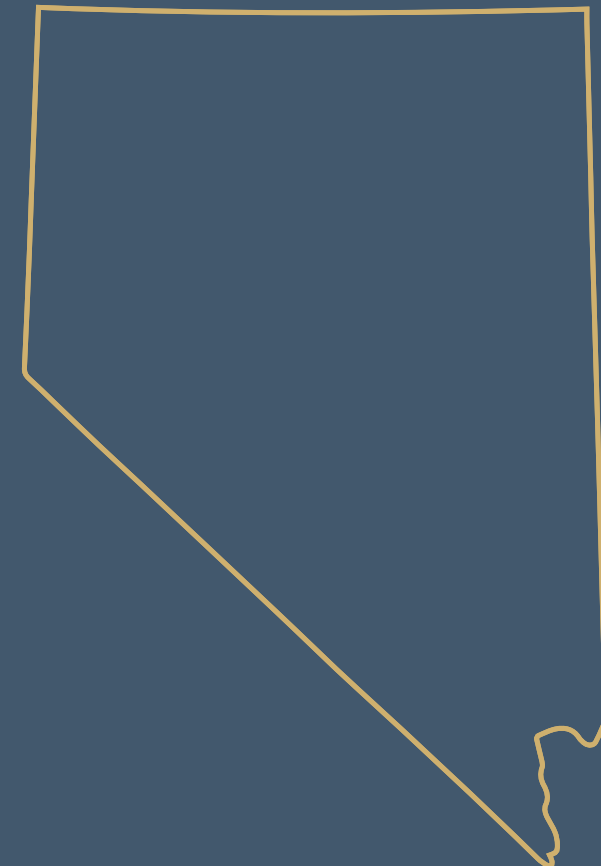
### Recommendation

**03** Information Technology and Digital Services

### Recommendation

**04** Modernize federal grant procurement and management to ensure the State - and ultimately Nevadans - receive the full benefits of grants they are entitled to

YOU CAN ACCESS THE FULL REPORT AT [CBNonline.org](http://CBNonline.org)





Social Justice Issues

# BALANCE THE SCALES

## ONE REFORM AT A TIME.

Since the inception of the Council, it has engaged many policy initiatives regarded as social justice issues. Social justice issues emerge within society when inequality results from the existence of unjust prejudices or policies. Inequality that manifests from prejudices arise from the treatment of groups around race, gender, age, sexual orientation, religion, nationality, education, and mental or physical ability. Inequality of policy and/or government regulation expresses itself in areas of voting, policing, environmental, health, education, and labor laws. The Council's ongoing engagement in education and healthcare policy progress represents this investment.

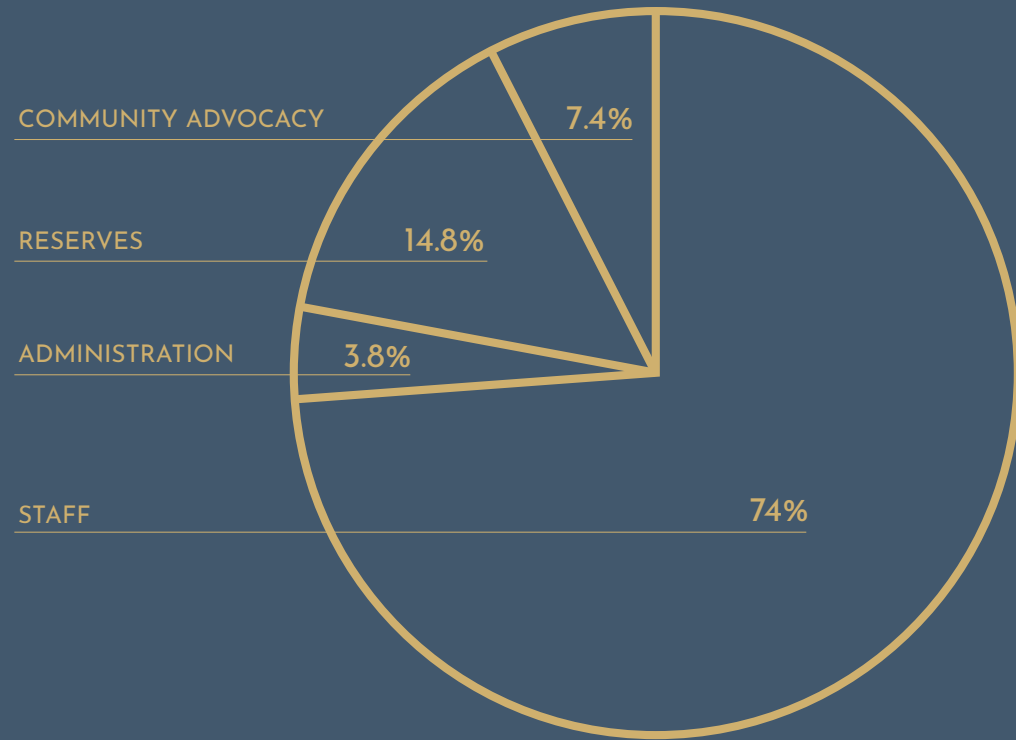
Recently, national conversations have brought needed attention to policing policies, and Nevada has accompanied this discussion in a review of where our own policies warrant review and improvement. The Council has learned over our work through the years that change is hard, even when you know you need it. The collaborative work of legislative and law enforcement leadership, among others to amend, overhaul, and sometimes repeal unhelpful policing legislation sends an important message that in Nevada community safety and security for all our citizens is the number one priority.

Martin Luther King Jr.

We may have all come on different ships,  
but we're in the same boat now.



## Use of Funds and Administration



[CBNonline.org](http://CBNonline.org)

## Thanks to Pro Bono Partners

WARREN HARDY STRATEGIES  
Mr. Warren Hardy

BDO LAS VEGAS  
Mr. Troy Crowther

## 2020 CBN Meeting Contributors

Mr. Elliot Anderson (Former Assemblyman)  
Michael Brown, Director, Governor's Office of Economic Development  
Attorney General Aaron Ford  
Assemblyman Jason Frierson, Speaker, Nevada Assembly  
Nevada State Senator Joyce Woodhouse

## 2021 CBN Priorities

GOVERNMENT MODERNIZATION  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
K-12  
REVENUE POLICY  
SOCIAL JUSTICE