Life Cycle of Advocacy

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

This Guide will look at advocacy:

- During the election cycle
- During the legislatives session
Advocacy Process Overview:

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

Speak to Representatives during Elections
Candidates want votes
You need their help
Collaborate

Attend Candidate:
Meeting and Greets
Forums
Rallies
House parties

Communication:
Be respectful
Use helping words, not telling words
Listen as much as you speak
Be willing to focus on common ground
• Post-Election & Pre-Legislative Session
  • November to February
  • Assess the political landscape
  • Work on coalition building
  • Contact similar issue groups

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

• Bills
  • Keep working to help with drafting
  • If bills aren’t drafted yet, contact new legislators to offer help

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

• Learn to use the Legislative Website
### Legislative Vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BDR: Bill Draft Request</th>
<th>LCB: Legislative Counsel Bureau</th>
<th>Fiscal Note</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Legislators submit bill draft requests to the Legislative Counsel Bureau to request that a bill be written for the upcoming legislative session</strong></td>
<td><strong>This is the office of full-time attorneys and analyst who help write bills and who engage in administrative, legislative, and audit analysis</strong></td>
<td><strong>This is a note added to any bill that will incur expenses during implementation</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>If these expenses are not covered in the Governor’s budget, the bill’s legislative sponsor(s) must explain its funding source</strong></td>
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</table>
Navigating the Legislative Website

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

Welcome to the Nevada Legislature

The 76th (2017) Session of the Nevada Legislature adjourned sine die on June 6, 2017. We are now in the interim period between legislative sessions.

The Legislative Building

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

Universal Access - Learn More about Our Efforts to Improve Access for All
Session Info includes access to essential links

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

If you need help with any website feature, you can go to the FAQ page.
You can quickly access important information on the Session Info page.
This is the best place to find answers to important questions.
On the day of a hearing, you’ll see View under the time. Click on View to watch online.

If you would like to testify in-person, you’ll see the room to go to at the legislature and the Grant Sawyer Building in Las Vegas.
You can track legislation through the NELIS System
Above is the 2017 Nevada Electronic Information System (NELIS) end-of-session page where you can see all the bills and reports.

On the right is the 2019 NELIS page, which will be populated as the session nears. You can search BDR’s, Bills, and Committees from this page.
Before the session, Bill Draft Requests are searchable through NELIS.
As Bill Draft Requests become bills they receive Bill numbers, such as SB155. This means Senate Bill 155.
If you go to a committee page, you can view each committee’s membership, meeting videos, and bills.
Nevadans can sign-up for a personalized tracking account to receive notifications for up to 10 bills for free. Through PLT, you will receive emails when your bills are scheduled for hearings.
Once you create a Personalized Legislative Tracking Account and subscribe to a bill, it will appear on the first page of your account when a hearing is scheduled.
To track a bill you’ll need to subscribe first.
To subscribe to a bill, check the box and then click on the Subscribe to selected items. That bill will then grey-out.

To manage your subscribed bills go to Manage Subscriptions.
You can add tags and notes to bills.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Details</th>
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</table>
|          | BDR 24-452 | **Description:** Revises provisions relating to elections.  
**Requester:** Senator Farley  
**Tags:** LegOps Add/Remove Tags  
**Note:** Add Note |
|          | AB1   | **Description:** Requires the payment of certain undergraduate fees and expenses of the dependent child of a public employee who is killed in the performance of his or her duties. (BDR 34-69)  
**Sponsor:** Carlton  
**Tags:** Add Tags  
**Note:** Add Note |
|          | AB18  | **Description:** Ratifies the Nurse Licensure Compact. (BDR 54-182)  
**Sponsor:** Committee on Commerce and Labor  
**Tags:** HHS Add/Remove Tags  
**Note:** Add Note |
|          | AB20  | **Description:** Revises provisions relating to services to assist persons with disabilities in obtaining employment. (BDR 38-225)  
**Sponsor:** Committee on Health and Human Services  
**Tags:** HHS Add/Remove Tags  
**Note:** Add Note |
You can create tags, add tags to bills, and add notes to bills. Click close when done.

A zombie bill is one created when someone has amended a dead bill into the language of a live bill.
You can watch recordings of committee hearings
Videos of archived meetings are made available as a courtesy of the Nevada Legislature. The videos are part of an ongoing effort to keep the public informed and involved in the legislative process. They are intended for personal use and are not intended for use in commercial ventures or political campaigns.

Archived videos are arranged by date, with the most recent at the top of the list. After expanding the blue accordions, below, click Video to watch the meeting with document, or Agenda to see just the document.

**About Videos of Archived Meetings**

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

**SEARCH TIPS**

Search Archives

Enter Keywords here  Search

Archived Videos

- 79th (2017) Session
  - Floor Sessions
  - Assembly Standing Committees
  - Senate Standing Committees
  - Other
Find the committee hearing and click on video.
You can fast-forward by clicking on parts of the agenda below the video image.

You can see the whole agenda on the side.
Welcome to the Nevada Legislature


The Legislative Building

NOW AVAILABLE – 2015 NEVADA REVISED STATUTES
During the legislative session you can share your opinion about bills on this page.
You can find your legislators by typing in your address.
Welcome to the Nevada Legislature


The Legislative Building

NOW AVAILABLE – 2015 NEVADA REVISED STATUTES
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legislator</th>
<th>Party</th>
<th>District</th>
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<tr>
<td>Atkinson, Kelvin</td>
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**Communication**

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<th>Directly with a Legislator</th>
<th>Through Social Media</th>
<th>Testifying</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Please be polite &amp; civil</td>
<td>• Tagging: Please be polite</td>
<td>• Stay under two minutes</td>
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<td>• Form letters are not effective</td>
<td>• Hashtag: Use #nvleg as the legislative hashtag</td>
<td>• Use helpful words, not yelling or telling words (no one likes to be yelled at or told what to do)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Email or call &amp; identify as a constituent</td>
<td>• Images: Share pictures that convey important information</td>
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Providing Public Comments

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

• 1. AB bills begin in the Assembly, while SB bills start in the Senate
  • Find your bill’s committee assignment
  • This is the first opportunity to testify
  • Contact committee members by email

• 2. If the bill has committee support, it will be scheduled for a “Work Session”
  • The committee will discuss the bill and possible amendments
  • If a majority of the committee approves, the bill moves to a floor vote
  • Public testimony is not allowed during a Work Session

• 3. The bill moves to the floor of the originating legislative house
  • This is the step where having a Personalized Legislative Tracking account helps
  • This is the time to contact all house members by email

• 4. If the bill passes the first house, it will move to the second house
  • The same process repeats in the second house
  • Advocacy must be sustained through the second house

• 5. The Governor Must Sign
  • Politely contact the Governor's office to advocate for signing.
Implementation

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

Assessment

• Track outcomes
• Start planning for follow-up legislation
• Big issues require lots of fixes
If you found this Advocacy Guide useful, please consider:

- Donating to LWVNV through our PayPal Account on this page:
  - [http://lwvsn.org/membership.html](http://lwvsn.org/membership.html)

Or

- Joining the League of Women Voters of Southern Nevada:
  - [http://lwvsn.org/membership.html](http://lwvsn.org/membership.html)

- OR
  - Joining the League of Women Voters of Northern Nevada
  - [http://lwvnn.org/joinorpayannualdues.html](http://lwvnn.org/joinorpayannualdues.html)