

CLARK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Among county governments nationwide, Clark County has one of the most complex and unique configurations. In Nevada, Clark County ranks second only to the State government in level of activity and sphere of responsibility.

Clark County's uniqueness and divergence lies in its tri-part responsibility: simultaneously, it is a regional, urban, and town government. Spanning 8,060 square miles (an area larger than the entire state of New Jersey), the County provides numerous *regional services* to approximately 2,062,253 residents, regardless of whether they live in an incorporated city, an urban or rural town, or other unincorporated areas of the County. These regional functions include the services of the County Clerk, Recorder, Assessor, Treasurer, District Attorney, Election Department, Social Service and Public Administrator, as well as such services as airports, youth services, comprehensive planning, air quality control, human resources, hospitals, and courts.

As an urban government, Clark County provides *municipal services* to more than 1,997,272 residents residing in the unincorporated area of the Las Vegas valley. Most residents residing south of Sahara Avenue and in much of the outskirts of the urban valley are not located within a city boundary and thus receive their traditional urban services from Clark County, rather than from any of the County's municipalities. The entire "Las Vegas Strip" falls in the unincorporated area of Clark County. The County services provided to this vast area include all those functions normally associated with a city, such as public works, building inspections, fire protection, street sweeping, and parks and recreation.

In its capacity as a *town government*, Clark County is responsible for the well-being of the citizens in the 14 unincorporated towns (this includes Summerlin South which has not yet reached the criteria for the formation of a town advisory board). In Nevada, County Commissioners are the legally-constituted town boards for all unincorporated towns. While all official governmental decisions are made by the Board of County Commissioners, each unincorporated town has a town advisory board which assists the Board of County Commissioners by providing input on matters of importance to its community. These issues range from community parks and neighborhood improvements to zoning, traffic and street maintenance. In addition, six citizens advisory councils serve in a similar capacity for communities located outside the boundaries of unincorporated towns. Clark County's towns span a geographic area from the Arizona/California border community of Laughlin, (95 miles south of Las Vegas), to the ranching and farming communities of the Virgin and Muddy River Valleys, (90 miles to the northeast), to the northwest mountain region, the southwest border communities, and the bustling urban core in the metropolitan area. *A map outlining town boundaries is included under Maps in the Resources section.*

The responsibility for this multifaceted service delivery is borne by the seven-member *Board of County Commissioners*, elected from geographic districts on a partisan basis for staggered four-year terms. Commissioners biennially elect a chairperson who serves as the commission's presiding officer. The commissioners are Susan Brager (January 2007), Steve Sisolak (January 2009), Lawrence L. Brown III (January 2009), Tom Collins (January 2005), Chris Giunchigliani (January 2007), Mary Beth Scow (January 2011), and Lawrence Weekly (March 2007). *A map outlining commission districts is included under Maps in the Resources section.* The Commission, in turn,

hires a County Manager, who is responsible for the administrative operations of County government. In addition, Clark County Commissioners serve "ex officio" as the governing body of the Las Vegas Valley Water District, the Clark County Water Reclamation District, and the University Medical Center of Southern Nevada. In 2014 the Commission created a Governing Board to assist with the decision making process and management of University Medical Center to better serve the health care needs of Southern Nevada.

One of the most distinguishing aspects of Clark County government is its role in the *regulation of gaming*. Nevada has a dual level of gaming regulation and control. Licenses are required from both the County Liquor and Gaming Board (or city board, where appropriate) and the State. The seven County Commissioners meet monthly in their capacity as the Clark County Liquor and Gaming Licensing Board. This capacity places regulatory control over the largest gaming and resort industry in the nation directly under the Clark County Commission.