

INADEQUACY OF CLARK COUNTY'S GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT

The 62 page Clark County Election Department's 2018 "Official Sample Ballot" seemed all inclusive and very detailed when I first perused it.

After the cover, the first two pages were the sample ballot itself. There were 12 pages detailing early voting locations (including the unnumbered removable multi-page county map of those locations). The remaining 46 pages pertained to ballot questions.

Then, I read through each of the six questions and the applicable paragraphs. I was appalled! Sixty two pages and voters were not presented with the actual wording of the constitutional changes approved by the 2017 legislature?

So, I printed out the actual "Full Text" of each of the six pending measures. I wanted to read the wording that, if approved, would change Nevada's 1864 constitution.

Comparing the wording of the actual constitutional changes with the overly synoptic "condensation" of the questions on the sample ballot was my next challenge.

One would think that the work products of those elected would be of interest and thus presented to the electorate? Unknown authors wrote the "CONDENSATION" paragraph seemingly presenting the ballot question. It, unlike others, achieves brevity, which may have been the intent. In addition to being unnecessarily short, when compared with the "full text" versions, there are occurrences of probable misleading verbiage and even missing main precepts.

Adding perhaps just two more pages to display the full text of each measure would have assisted voters "discover" the actual wording of the measures they are voting for or against?

And, while buried in the "Explanation" paragraph in the brochure, many voters are still unaware that a change to the constitution must be approved by two consecutive general elections before taking effect. So, one can vote for a measure and two years later vote against it.

Given my charge of sample ballot inadequacy, I do applaud the Clark County Election Department for implementing several substantive changes which have enhanced voting in the County. Expanded early voting and county wide "anywhere" voting are two.

Finally; Nevada's Legislative Counsel Bureau was established in 1945 and expanded in 1963 to add a Fiscal Analysis Division to perform research and provide information to Nevada's legislature. It prepared the "Fiscal Note" paragraph for each ballot question. Several are quite unsatisfactory. Statements like "cannot" be determined or even estimated calls into question whether the Division can perform its research and information providing function. I posit that there are many voters, like me, who make voting decisions relying heavily on fiscal data.

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