

George Franklin, Jr.
October 11, 1916-April 22, 1988
1948 2 years

George Franklin, Jr. ran as a Republican and Democrat for a number of county, state, and city offices. He worked as a newspaper columnist for both the Las Vegas Sun and the Las Vegas Review-Journal and as an attorney in southern Nevada for over forty years. His long career was filled with colorful stories and scandal.



Franklin was born in 1916 in Jarbidge, Nevada located near the Idaho border. He grew up in Wadsworth and Fernley, Nevada. He attended the University of Nevada between 1934 and 1937. In 1940, Franklin moved to Boulder City and worked as a federal ranger patrolling the town and Hoover Dam. During World War II, he served as a bomber pilot. Franklin went to Los Angeles in 1946 to study law and was admitted to the Nevada Bar that same year, despite never completing college or formal law school.

In 1948, Franklin ran for his first political office: a short term on the Clark County Commission. He won the seat by easily defeating Mike E. Leavitt. In 1950, Franklin ran against the powerful Pat McCarran for US Senate. He lost in the democratic primary. He also sought the office of mayor of Las Vegas in 1950, but lost to C.D. Baker. Franklin ran for County Commission again in 1954, but lost in a close race to George Albright. He ran unsuccessfully against C.D. Baker for mayor of Las Vegas in 1955.

In 1955, Franklin sued Hank Greenspun for \$270,000 for libel after the Sun refused to retract an editorial about Franklin. Jurors awarded Franklin a significantly smaller judgment. In 1956, Franklin was implicated in a black-market baby adoption scandal, but charges were never filed. Despite Franklin's ongoing legal woes, he served as member the Chamber of Commerce and as head of the Young Democrats. He served for one term as a Nevada State Assembly member.

Franklin worked as an attorney throughout the 1950s and 1960s. He was elected to a four-year term as District Attorney as a Republican for Clark County in 1966. In 1971, he was elected to the Las Vegas City Commission for one term. Franklin was implicated in the Tocco scandal in 1974 in which a local bar owner, John Tocco, claimed Franklin solicited bribes in order to get his fellow city commissioners to vote in Tocco's favor. Franklin served as his own counsel and the charges were eventually dismissed. In 1975, Myron E. Leavitt, the son of the man Franklin won his first election against, defeated him for the City Commission. In 1976, Franklin attempted to return to the County Commission but lost to Sam Bowler. He also worked as the North Las Vegas City Attorney for a number of years in the 1970s.

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, Franklin wrote columns in the Las Vegas Sun and the Las Vegas Review-Journal. He died of cancer in 1988.