

Harvey McDonald
November 18, 1910—April 25, 1954
Elected 1950

Harvey McDonald was born in Tonopah, Nevada but moved to Las Vegas as a one-year old. During his time at Las Vegas High School, McDonald played football as part of the winning Wildcats team, graduating in 1930. He then went on to attend Georgetown University.

In 1942, McDonald was drafted into military service. He served in the Air Force as a B-17 gunner. His plane was shot down over Germany and McDonald spent one year in a prisoner of war camp. Following his release, McDonald returned to Las Vegas.

McDonald ran for Las Vegas City Clerk in 1941 and lost that election. In 1947, he was elected Justice of the Peace for Las Vegas. As Justice of the Peace, McDonald performed 18,569 marriages in addition to collecting fines and bails, and hearing criminal and civil cases. McDonald did not seek re-election to Justice of the Peace in 1949 and, instead, sought a municipal judgeship. He lost the race to Walter Richards. In 1950, McDonald ran for the Clark County Commission seat left vacant by Clem Malone's ouster. He easily won the seat, though did not take his place on the Commission until May due to Malone's appeal of the decision to oust him from the Commission.

McDonald did not seek re-election to the County Commission once his term was over. He devoted his time to managing his property and selling real estate. He was active in several civic groups including the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Elks Lodge, and the American Legion. McDonald died in 1954 after he was injured when a cooler fell on him.