

**Lorraine Hunt**  
**March 11, 1939—**  
**Elected 1994**

For over thirty years, Lorraine Hunt has been influential in politics and entertainment in the state of Nevada. She served on the Clark County Commission and for two terms as Lieutenant Governor.

Lorraine Perry Hunt was born in Niagara Falls, New York in 1939. Her family moved to Las Vegas in 1943. Her parents worked in restaurants and then opened the Venetian Pizzeria in 1955 on Fremont Street. The restaurant later moved to West Sahara.

Hunt graduated from Las Vegas High School in 1957. She then attended the Westlake College of Music for one year. She found work as a singer and entertainer and worked in Las Vegas, Reno, and Lake Tahoe under the stage name Lauri Perri. In 1968, she married fellow performer Blackie Hunt.

Hunt used money she earned from a singing engagement at the Riviera to purchase land on Tropicana and Eastern at the age of nineteen. She opened the Bootlegger Restaurant, in partnership with her parents, on the property in 1972. Her mother was the Executive Chef. She also built a shopping center, Village East Plaza, on the property. The restaurant became a popular establishment with Strip performers.

Hunt became active in civic affairs as an active member of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, the Chamber of Commerce, the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Commission, and the Nevada Restaurant Association. Hunt was the first woman to chair the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority.

In 1994, Hunt, running as a Republican, defeated Karen Hayes to win a seat on the Clark County Commission. She served one term on the board. In 1998, voters elected Hunt as lieutenant governor. In 2002, she was re-elected to the post. Hunt ran for governor in 2006, but lost in the primary.

Hunt closed the original Bootlegger restaurant and opened a new location in 2001. The restaurant is a popular after-hours nightspot for Strip performers. Her son, Ron Mancuso, is the CEO.

Hunt's husband Blackie died in 2003. She remarried, to radio personality and singer Dennis Bono, in 2006. Hunt remains active in politics in Nevada and oversees the restaurant.

