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Clark County Election Department

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NEWSLETTER

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Insights into Voting

Clark County Election Department

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In this edition of the Clark County Election Department Newsletter, we focus on key topics to help you stay informed and prepared for the next election. This issue covers the importance of voting secrecy, the process behind mail ballots, and the history of voting rights in Nevada. Each article provides valuable insights into the systems that ensure fair, accessible, and secure elections. Whether you are an experienced voter or new to the process, these articles will give you a deeper understanding of the work behind every election. Explore how we continue to uphold the integrity of our democracy.

Voting FAQs: What You Need to Know

How do I check if my voter registration is current?

Visit www.clarkcountynv.gov/vote, click on “Registered Voter Services” and log in. Once logged in, you will see your registration details, including your address, political party, and registration status.

If your status shows inactive, it is likely because of an address verification issue. Update your address by visiting the Nevada Secretary of State’s website: <https://registertovote.nv.gov/>.

How can I request accommodations for voting if I have a disability?

- At voting sites, voters with disabilities may request priority processing. Election officials will guide you to the front of the line to check in.
- If you cannot sign your name because of a physical disability, election officials may verify your identity by asking questions from your voter registration.
- At the voting booth, several accommodations are available:
 - For vision impairments, voters may use a magnifying sheet, enlarged text, or audio voting.
 - A person of your choice may assist at the booth, as long as that person is not your employer, your employer’s agent, or an officer/agent of your labor organization. (*NRS 293.296*)
 - ADA booths are fully wheelchair-accessible.
- For mail ballots, if you need help marking or signing your ballot, another person may assist you. The person assisting should follow the instructions provided with the ballot to indicate they helped, including completing any required information on the envelope.

Why can’t you provide a listing of who I voted for?

Nevada laws protect the secrecy of the ballot, ensuring that the identity of the voter is never linked to their selections. All ballots and choices are private and anonymous. No one can see who voted for which candidate. Your vote remains confidential to maintain fairness and security in the election process. (*See our article in this newsletter about Ballot Confidentiality*). ■



REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

Lorena S. Portillo

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Administration
(702) 455-2944

Registration/Field Registrars
(702) 455-VOTE (8683)

Mail Ballots
(702) 455-6552

Map Orders
(702) 455-7319

Poll Workers
(702) 455-2368

www.ClarkCountyNV.gov/vote

ELinfo@ClarkCountyNV.gov

did you know?

With Clark County’s Registered Voter Services, you can check your elected representatives and related data; view voting history; make various requests; and more.

The Evolution of Voting in Nevada

Nevada's journey toward expanded voting rights reflects a history of progress and change, and Clark County has played a pivotal role in increasing access to the voting process.

Early Exclusions and Initial Reforms

Upon achieving statehood in 1864, Nevada's constitution initially restricted voting to white male citizens, excluding women and people of color. However, Nevada became the first state to ratify the Fifteenth Amendment in 1869, which granted African American men the right to vote. Despite this early progress, significant barriers to voting remained, particularly for women.

Women's Suffrage Movement in Nevada

The late 19th and early 20th centuries saw persistent efforts by women fighting for voting rights. In 1869, Assemblyman Curtis J. Hillyer introduced a women's suffrage resolution in the Nevada Legislature, marking the state's initial legislative step toward women's voting rights. However, it wasn't until 1911 that the Nevada Equal Franchise Society, led by figures like Anne Henrietta Martin, intensified efforts, culminating in the 1914 suffrage resolution. This resolution passed the Legislature and, after a public vote, Nevada women gained the right to vote in 1914. At the polls, 75% of Clark County voters approved this measure, showing overwhelming support for the initiative. Nevada became the seventh state to grant women the vote, six years before the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment, which granted women the right to vote nationwide.

The 1965 Federal Voting Rights Act

The passage of the Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 was a turning point in the national struggle for voting equality. Section 203 of the Act requires jurisdictions with substantial numbers of non-English-speaking citizens to provide bilingual voting



did you know?

Nevada's Anne Martin became the first woman to run for the U.S. Senate in 1918.

Anne Martin Campaign for U.S. Senate, approximately 1918-1920. Nevada Historical Society Photograph Collection. Photo Number 0033_0008. UNLV Libraries Special Collections & Archives.

materials. Based on census data, Clark County was mandated to offer election materials in Spanish starting in 2002 and in Filipino from 2011 onward.

Clark County's Efforts to Enhance Voting Access

Over the years, Clark County has implemented several initiatives to ensure that all residents have access to the polls. One major step was the introduction of Vote Centers. Previously, voters could only cast their ballots in person at their assigned polling place. The introduction of Vote Centers allows voters to cast their ballots at any location within the county, regardless of their assigned precinct. This system, introduced in 2018, dramatically increased convenience for voters and reduced wait times, ensuring more people could easily participate in elections.

Assembly Bill 431 - 2019: Restoring Voting Rights

In 2019, Assembly Bill 431 was signed into law,

Understanding the Confidentiality of Your Vote in Nevada

In Nevada, the secrecy of your vote is protected by law to ensure that your choices remain confidential and free from illegal influence. The secrecy of the ballot is a fundamental principle of democratic elections. Nevada statutes that enforce secrecy protections include:

- **NRS 293.2696:** Guarantees each voter’s privacy and independence when casting a ballot, ensuring the confidentiality of the vote.
- **NRS 293.3086 and NRS 293.5882:** Require that provisional ballots remain secret.
- **NRS 293.269913 and NRS 293.269935:** Mandates that mail ballots remain secret.
- **NRS 293.3606:** Ensures the secrecy of early voting ballots.
- **NRS 293.391:** States that voted ballots are not subject to public inspection, except in cases of an election contest, and only by specified individuals.
- **NRS 293.730:** Prohibits showing your completed ballot to another person in a way that reveals how you voted.

- **NRS 293.269971:** Ensures the ballot secrecy of detainees voting from jail.

Why Can’t I Take a Photo of My Ballot?

NRS 293.274(2) explicitly prohibits photographing, videotaping, and audio recording inside a voting site. This is prohibited to protect the secrecy of your vote. And while it may seem harmless to share a photo of your ballot with friends or on social media, this act compromises the confidentiality and integrity of the voting process.

Exceptions to the Rule

- **Media Coverage:** Authorized media personnel may take photos inside polling places with permission, as long as it does not interfere with the voting process or compromise voter privacy. (*NRS 293.274(3)*)
- **Assistance for Voters:** Voters who need assistance due to physical disabilities or inability to read or write English may receive help, but the process remains confidential. (*NRS 293.296*)

Conclusion

The secrecy of your vote is a fundamental right in Nevada, and the law ensures that your vote remains confidential to protect against undue influence. By following these laws, we preserve the integrity of the election process and uphold the democratic principles that govern our elections. ■

important election dates for 2026

Jan 5-16 (Mon-Fri, Closed Sat-Sun) Judicial Candidate Filing	Mar 2-13 (Mon-Fri, Closed Sat-Sun) Non-Judicial Candidate Filing	May 23- June 5 (Sat-Fri) Primary Election In-Person Early Voting	June 9 (Tues) Primary Election Day	Oct. 17-30 (Sat-Fri) General Election In-Person Early Voting	Nov. 3 (Tues) General Election Day
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Mail Ballot Division: Ensuring Accessible and Secure Voting

The Mail Ballot Division plays a crucial role in Clark County’s election operations. With Nevada’s transition to all-mail ballot elections, the Division’s responsibilities expanded to include a vastly increased volume of sending, receiving, verifying, and processing. In the 2024 General Election, the Division successfully processed 443,823 ballots, highlighting the scale and efficiency of its operations. It’s important to note that voters may opt out of receiving a mail ballot via written request up to 60 days before an election.

The Mail Ballot Processing Workflow
Mail ballot processing follows detailed, secure, and thorough procedures to ensure that every vote is counted accurately:

After sending over 1.4 million mail ballots to registered voters, the Election Department receives the returned ballots and begins processing them.

First, the signature on each ballot is checked to ensure it matches the voter’s registration records. If the signature can’t be verified automatically, bipartisan teams manually review it.

Next, the envelopes are sorted into two groups: those with verified signatures and those that require further review. Envelopes with verified signatures move on to the next stage, while envelopes

with signatures that need clarification are flagged, and voters are contacted to resolve any issues.

Once the signatures are confirmed, the envelopes are opened, ballots are checked for any issues that would inhibit them from being tabulated, and prepared for tabulation. If any ballots can’t be tabulated, bipartisan teams recreate them to ensure they can be properly processed.

Importantly, ballots are not separated from their envelopes until signature verification is complete. This ensures the voter’s identity remains confidential, protecting the secrecy of the vote as required by Nevada law (*NRS 293.730*).

Finally, the ballots are scanned, counted, and stored securely in sealed containers for 22 months, as required by law.

Tips for a Smooth Mail Voting Experience
To help your ballot go smoothly through the process:

- Carefully read all mail ballot instructions.
- Do not mark outside the ovals on your ballot.
- Ensure your signature is up-to-date in your registration to avoid processing delays.

Future Enhancements
The Mail Ballot Division is always looking for ways to improve. With advancements in technology and faster equipment, the Division is working toward even more seamless and effective operations for future elections. ■

OTHER GOVERNMENT CONTACTS

Nevada Secretary of State

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vote.nv.gov
NVElect@sos.nv.gov
(775) 687-8683

City Clerks

Boulder City	Las Vegas	North Las Vegas
(702) 293-9208	(702) 229-6311	(702) 633-1030
Henderson	Mesquite	
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