



WASHOE COUNTY

"Dedicated To Excellence in Public Service"

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CM/ACM
Finance JS
DA N/A
Risk Mgt. N/A
HR N/A
Other N/A

STAFF REPORT BOARD MEETING DATE: January 27, 2015

DATE: January 12, 2015
TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Liane Lee, Government Affairs Manager
(775) 328-2010, lalee@washoecounty.us
THROUGH: Al Rogers, Management Services Director
SUBJECT: Review and approve the 2015 Washoe County Legislative Principles including an update and discussion regarding the 78th (2015) Session of the Nevada State Legislature with possible direction to staff.

SUMMARY

The Board is asked to review and possibly approve the 2015 Washoe County Legislative Principles. The legislative principles are used by staff, lobbyists and elected officials to guide their actions while representing Washoe County during the 2015 Legislative Session.

PREVIOUS ACTION

- **April 22, 2014** – No action was taken on a presentation and update on Washoe County Government Affairs and Legislative Services.
- **July 22, 2014** - No action was taken on a presentation and update on Washoe County Government Affairs and Legislative Services.
- **August 26, 2014** – Board of County Commission voted unanimously to not submit a bill draft request(s) for the 2015 Legislative Session by the deadline of September 2, 2014. No action was taken on a presentation and update on Washoe County Government Affairs and Legislative Services.
- **September 13, 2014** - No action was taken on a presentation and update on Washoe County Government Affairs and Legislative Services.

BACKGROUND

The Legislative Principles provide guidance to staff, lobbyists and elected officials during the Legislative Interim Session including legislative events. The Board is asked to review and approve the 2015 Washoe County Legislative Principles.

AGENDA ITEM # 43

DISCUSSION

The 78th Regular Session of the Nevada Legislature is scheduled to begin on February 2, 2015 and last for 120 days. Prior to the start of each session, the Board of County Commission approves the Legislative Principles that are used by staff, lobbyists and elected officials to guide their actions while representing Washoe County during the legislative session.

Washoe County Legislative Principles are defined as:

Respect for Governmental Roles

- **Partners Providing Service to Our Shared Constituents**
All Governments in Nevada (State, County, Cities, School Districts, and Special Districts) are partners in providing consistent and reliable services to our shared constituents, and therefore all levels of government must be viable in order for our citizens to enjoy an outstanding quality of life. A great State requires strong, effective, mutually-respectful government at all levels.
- **Focus on Outcomes**
Services to citizens should be provided efficiently; should be effective; and must demonstrate measurable results. All governments (State, County, Cities, School Districts, and Special Districts) should be held accountable for measurable outcomes and cost-effective performance, while at the same time be given the flexibility to let elected leaders decide how best to achieve those outcomes.
- **Local Determination**
Statewide policy decisions should be made by State leaders; local policy decisions should be made by local leaders. Local governments must have the right to control their resources, and voters should have the ability to decide whether those resources are sufficient or not. Local governments should have discretion on delivering State programs and services when funding is reduced or diverted by the State.
- **Local Decision-Making and Flexibility**
Washoe County urges the preservation of local prerogatives over matters traditionally and best governed at the local level. The legislature should encourage local officials and citizens to solve local problems. Legislation should foster local flexibility and assist local government leaders and the citizens they represent in addressing problems in ways that best serve their community.
- **Unfunded Mandates**
Washoe County believes the Nevada State Legislature should not impose mandated functions, activities, or regulations on local governments without providing financial resources or means to meet the costs of carrying out those mandates.

Recover Our Economic Strength

- **Support Economic Recovery and Development**
Promote regional collaboration on economic development and support a coordinated regional response to the economic challenges and opportunities facing Northern Nevada.
- **Long Term, Sustainable Solutions**
The economy and tax revenue base on which all governments in Nevada rely are undergoing a fundamental restructure. Simply shifting the service burden or revenues from one government service provider to another will not responsibly and sustainably meet the needs of the citizens of Nevada and Washoe County. All governments need to be working together toward long-term solutions for service provision and equitable, stable funding for those services, and not at one another's expense.
- **Fiscal Responsibility**
Washoe County supports local government fiscal responsibility and long-term financial planning; including retaining and expanding tools at the local level to better manage budget and cash flow and responsibly structure revenue sources.

Regional Solutions to Service Provision

- **Intergovernmental Collaboration**
Washoe County supports collaborative efforts of service providers within the region and the state to provide the best service possible at the lowest possible cost to the constituents of Washoe County.
- **Legislative Relations**
Washoe County recognizes that local governments in the region have numerous areas of mutual interest, and that a cooperative and integrated approach to legislative relations best serves the interests of the residents of Washoe County.

Communication

- **Representation**
Washoe County is committed to working with the 2015 Legislature, community stakeholders and business partners to provide effective representation of Washoe County's legislative goals. The Washoe County Legislative Team is readily available during the 2015 Legislative Session to assist legislative committees, individuals legislators and legislative staff to provide timely and accurate response to requests for information that will assist in the deliberation and formulation of legislation.

Legislative Communication Policy

- **Legislative Updates**
When the Nevada Legislature is convened, Washoe County staff (including, as appropriate, the County's contract lobbyists) shall communicate at each regular Commission meeting, pursuant to a standing agenda item, to provide information and obtain direction on various legislative issues. It is understood that staff will communicate the majority position and/or direction of the Commission when talking with legislators and when making presentations at the Legislature.
- **Board Direction**
Direction will be sought from the Commission regarding the objectives and intent of proposed legislation as opposed to specific bill language. This is necessary because of the fluidity of the legislative process. It also allows meaningful input by County lobbyists in drafting proposed bill language.
- **Adopting Board Legislative Position**
When a legislative issue comes before the Commission for direction or action, the majority vote will be the official position of the Commission. The Commissioners and staff agree not to communicate minority positions or opinions to legislators or the Legislature. Lobby staff (including the County's contract lobbyists) may indicate, when asked, the identity of Commission dissenter(s). Lobby staff (including contract lobbyists) shall not present any opinion or position of a single Commissioner on any issue if there is any question as to whether the Commission as a whole shares the opinion or position.
- **Lobbyist Authority**
Lobby staff (including the County's contract lobbyist) shall have authority to make decisions on matters known to be in the best interest of the policy making/management position of the County. Direction on issues shall be sought from and/or approved by the County Manager or, in her discretion, an Assistant County Manager, or department head or division manager. If there is a question regarding the impact of an issue, the County Manager shall, if there is time to do so, direct that the issue be brought to the next Commission meeting for direction from the Commission. However, when the above procedure is unavailable due to the need for immediate decision-making, it is understood that lobby staff (including the County's contract lobbyists) shall confer and collectively decide the appropriate position on behalf of the County.
- **Commission Participation**
Commissioners may be called upon to appear before Legislative committees and/or meet with individual legislators, as necessary, when major issues are developing. Commissioners are requested to notify the County Manager (or Assistant County Manager in her absence) of all contacts with legislators on behalf of County issues, in order to provide a cohesive and well-organized lobbying effort. It is important that Commissioners not be seen on a regular basis at the legislature so as to preserve the impact of their presence to issues of major

importance to the County. More frequent involvement will dilute the impact/importance of Commissioner's presence.

- **Appointed Boards: Authorization to Represent Washoe County**
Members of a board, commission or task force appointed by the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners may appear before the Nevada State Legislature, Committees of the Legislature, and/or meet with individual Legislators, as representing the interests of Washoe County only if specifically authorized to do so by the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners or the Washoe County Manager.
- **Special Meetings**
When the Nevada Legislature is in session, the Board of County Commissioners may hold special meetings scheduled on the off weeks between regular meetings to allow for legislative updates and to provide direction to staff.

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact at this time.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners review and approve the 2015 Washoe County Legislative Principles.

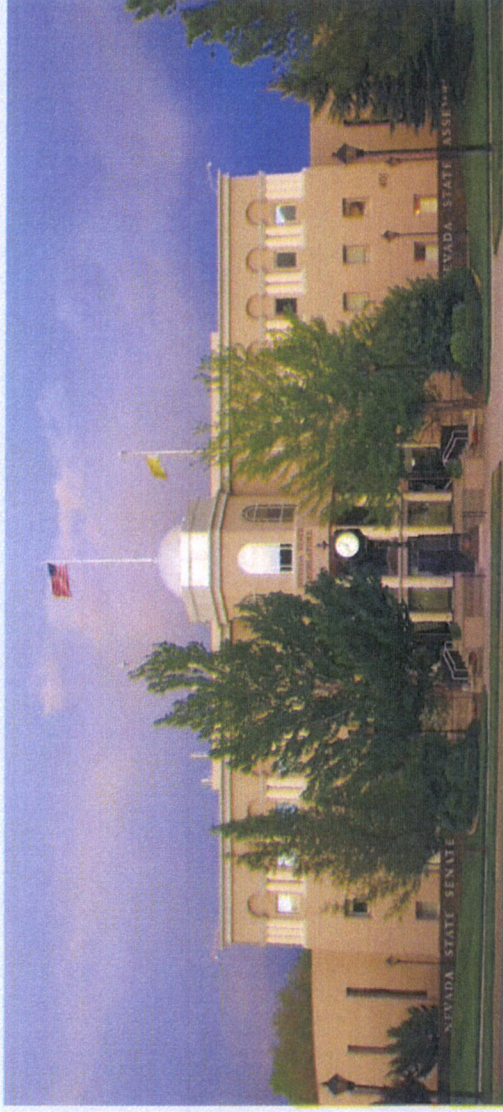
POSSIBLE MOTION

Following the Board's discussion on this agenda item, a possible motion would be "Move to approve the 2015 Washoe County Legislative Principles,"

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Legislative Update
January 27, 2015

Liane Lee, Government Affairs Manager



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Washoe County Legislative Team

- John Slaughter – *County Manager*
- Kevin Schiller – *Assistant County Manager*
- Joey Orduna Hastings – *Assistant County Manager*
- Al Rogers – *Management Services Director*
- Liane Lee – *Government Affairs Manager*
- Washoe County Departments
- Lewis Roca Rothgerber
- LG Strategies



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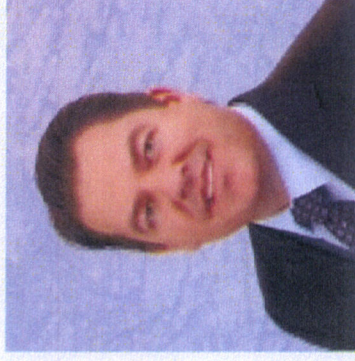
Nevada State Senate

State Senate (11 Rs/10 Ds)

- 15 represent Clark County
- 4 represent Washoe County
- 2 outside Clark County

Newly Elected/Appointed State Senators

- 3 New Members



Senate
Majority Leader
Michael Roberson
(R)



Senate
Minority Leader
Aaron Ford
(D)



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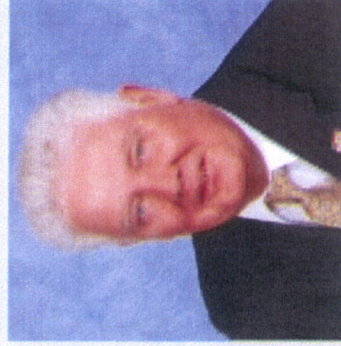
Nevada State Assembly

State Assembly (25 Rs/17Ds)

- 30 represent Clark County
- 8 represent Washoe County
- 4 represent outside districts

Newly Elected/Appointed Members

- 17 New Members
- 2 members in Washoe County



Speaker of the
Assembly
Designee
John Hambrick
(R)



Assembly
Minority Leader
Marilyn Kirkpatrick
(D)



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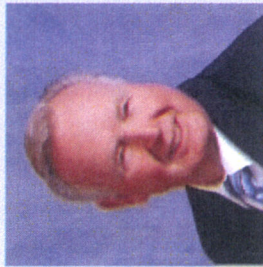
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Washoe County Delegation- Senate Members



Debbie
Smith
(D)
(All Districts)



Don
Gustavson
(R)
(All Districts)
Chair
of
Natural
Resources



Greg
Brower
(R)
(All Districts)
Chair
of
Judiciary



Ben
Kieckhefer
(R)
(All Districts)
Chair
of
Finance



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Washoe County Delegation- Assembly Members



Amber Joiner (D) (All Districts)	Pat Hickey (R) (All Districts)	Randy Kirner (R) (All Districts) Chair of Commerce & Labor	Teresa Benetiz Thompson (D) (All Districts)	Jill Dickman (R) (Districts 1,3,4,5)	Ira Hansen (R) (Districts 2,3,4,5) Chair of Judiciary	Mike Sprinkle (D) (All Districts)	PK O'Neill (R) (Districts 1,2,4,5)
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Senate

- *Commerce, Labor and Energy- James Settlemeyer*
- *Finance- Ben Kieckhefer*
- *Government Affairs- Pete Goicoechea*
- *Judiciary- Greg Brower*
- *Natural Resources- Donald Gustavson*
- Education- Becky Harris
- Health & Human Services- Joe Hardy
- Legislative Operations & Elections- Patricia Farley
- Revenue & Economic Development- Michael Roberson
- Transportation- Scott Hammond

Assembly

- *Commerce, Labor and Energy- Randy Kirner*
- *Government Affairs- John Ellison*
- *Judiciary- Ira Hansen*
- *Transportation- Jim Wheeler*
- *Natural Resources- Robin Titus*
- Education- Melissa Woodbury
- Health & Human Services- James Oscarson
- Legislative Operations & Elections- Lynn Stewart
- Taxation- Derek Armstrong
- Ways and Means- Paul Anderson



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Quick Numbers

78 th Regular Session Days	120
Number of Legislative Committees	20
Total Number of Legislators	63
Newly Elected/Appointed Freshman Legislators	20
Number of Freshman Legislators on Government Affairs	7/14 and 1/5
Number of Freshman Chairs	4
Number of Washoe County Departments	25

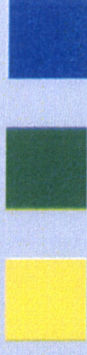




Washoe County Internal Efforts

- Meetings with County Managers
- Meetings with Department Directors
- Discussions About Internal Bill Tracking Efforts
- Develop Legislative Principles, Goals and Platform Issues
- Respond to 100 percent of Fiscal Notes
- Track Bill Draft Requests and Legislative Bills for impact
- Citizen Communication





2015 Legislative Principles

- **Respect for Governmental Roles:**

Mutually respectful government at all levels; holding all governments accountable for outcomes; and support for local decision making and local determination.

- **Recover Our Economic Strength:**

Promoting regional collaboration on economic development, and support for coordinated regional response to the economic challenges and opportunities facing our region and state.

- **Regional Solutions to Service Provision:**

Supporting collaborative efforts of all services providers within our region and the state to provide the best service possible at the lowest possible cost to the constituents of Washoe County and Nevada.

- **Commitment:**

Washoe County is committed to working with the 2015 Legislature, community stakeholders and business partners to provide effective representation of Washoe County's legislative goals.





2015 Legislative Principles Respect for Governmental Roles

- Partners Providing Service to Our Shared Constituents

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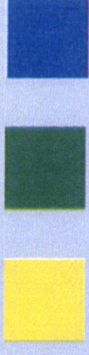
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2015 Legislative Principles Respect for Governmental Roles (Continued)

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2015 Legislative Principles Recover Our Economic Strength

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2015 Legislative Principles Regional Solutions to Service Provisions

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2015 Legislative Principles Commitment

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2015 Legislative Principles Legislative Communication Policy

- Legislative Updates
- Board Direction
- Adopting Board Legislative Position
- Lobbyist Authority
- Commission Participation
- Appointed Boards: Authorization to Represent Washoe County
- Special Meetings



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In Conclusion

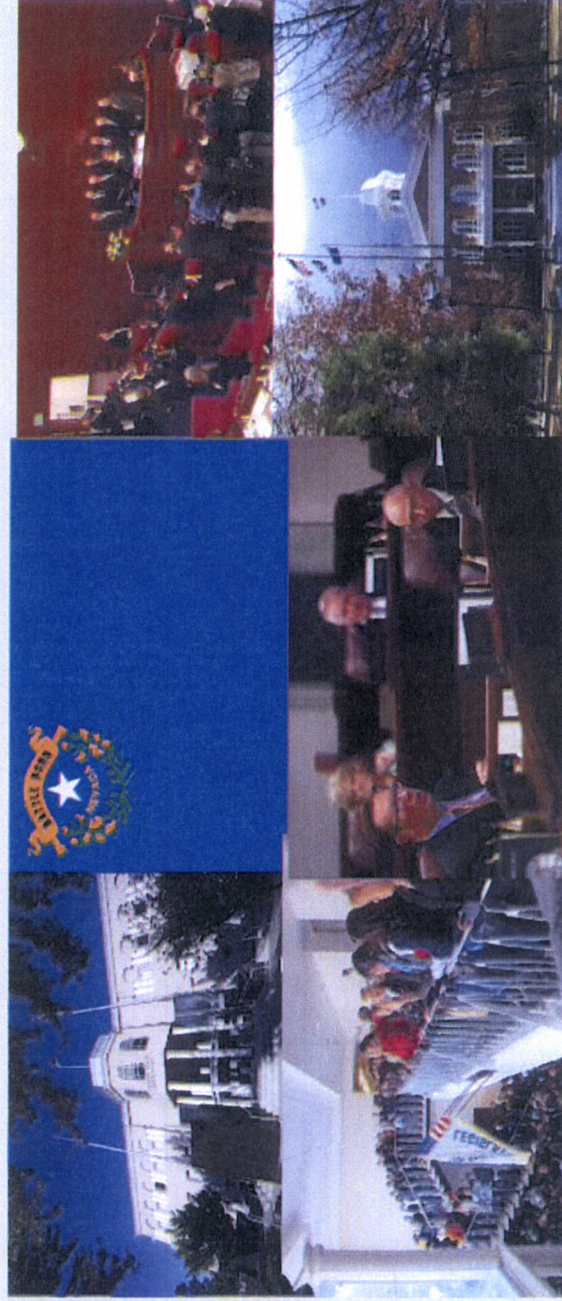
- Governor's State of the State Address- January 15, 2015
- 78th Session of the Nevada Legislature- February 2, 2015
- Legislative Updates to the Washoe County Board of Commissioners



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Liane Lee
Government Affairs Manager
Washoe County

