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MAY, 2026

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Women's Democratic Club of Clark County



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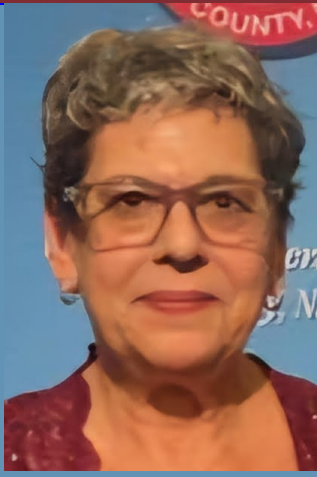
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"Our flag does not fly because the wind moves it. It flies with the last breath of each soldier who died protecting it."

Unknown





President's Message

Primary Day is June 9th! Don't forget when voting on a written ballot, drop it at a polling site, do not put it through the mail. Have you recently checked your voter registration? www.nvsos.gov

Important dates for *our* club:

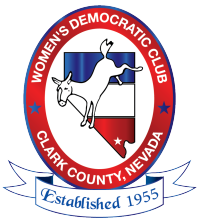
***No meeting in July.** The Annual BBQ will be held on Sunday July 19th. In the afternoon (Time to be announced). It is important to RSVP. We are limited to the number of attendees. The location will be given after you RSVP.

Women's Equality will be celebrate on Thursday, August 13th. We will be honoring woman who have given much to our Community and State (names to be announced).

- The annual **Spotlight Dinner** will be held in the evening of Saturday, September 5th at the Westgate Hotel and Convention Center. We will let you know when tickets go on sale.

Visit our web site. www.womensdemo.com .

Save these Dates!



From The First Female Mayor To Our Current Mayor, Let's Talk!

Mayor
Shelley Berkley



Former Mayor
Jan Jones Blackhurst



Date: Thursday, May 14, 2026

Place: Tuscany Suites, Tuscany Room, 2nd Floor
255 East Flamingo Road, LV, NV 89169

Use 2nd Portico (West Side), Park Free, Use Elevator
Extra Parking In Back Lot

Time: 11:30 a.m. Registration; Noon Luncheon/Program

Members = \$35 * Non-Members = \$40

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If You Plan To Pay At Door

RSVP [HERE](#)

All Registered Democrats Are Welcome To Attend



"The Judiciary: Why Informed Voting Matters"

**Guest speakers:
Judge Anna Albertson
and
Judge Dawn Throne**



Date: Thursday, June 11, 2026

**Place: Tuscany Suites, Tuscany Room, 2nd Floor
255 East Flamingo Road, LV, NV 89169**

**Use 2nd Portico (West Side), Park Free, Use Elevator
Extra Parking In Back Lot**

Time: 11:30 a.m. Registration; Noon Luncheon/Program

Members = \$35 * Non-Members = \$40

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All Registered Democrats Are Welcome To Attend

OPINION: Blundo's Slug Trail Of Sleaze Was Well-Known Before His Recent Indictment

By John L. Smith



Despite — or perhaps because of — a cloud of ugly allegations, he might just have a bright future in Nevada politics.



Photo Illustration by Justin Stabley/The Nevada Independent

The election season never fails to bring its share of awkward moments. One that occurred at the annual Nye County Republican Party Lincoln Day Dinner on Feb. 28 in Pahrump qualifies as a doozy.

Just little more than a week before former Nye County commissioner and current county Republican Party Chairman Leo Blundo was indicted for allegedly bilking the government out of \$500,000 in COVID relief funds, he had the honor of introducing Nevada Gov. Joe Lombardo to the enthusiastic crowd. The approbation for Lombardo

wafted like flea-market Paco Rabanne as Blundo reminded all present of the unbreakable bonds of friendship he shared with the state's top Republican.

In part: "It's my honor tonight to introduce not just the governor of the great state of Nevada, but a man I'm proud to call a dear friend, Joe Lombardo. Now in politics people throw around the word friend. Friend, friend, you know, you're my friend. Pretty loosely. Friendship is built on trust. It's built on loyalty. It's built on showing up when it matters, and not when it's convenient. I'll tell you one thing, Joe Lombardo shows up ... The party is 100 percent behind this man, Joe Lombardo."

Sure it is. Lombardo, the former Clark County sheriff and career lawman, managed not to blush as he accepted a hearty handshake and brief bro hug from the master of ceremonies who has left a slug trail of questionable behavior in Nye County for years.

Blundo [was indicted](#) March 11 by a federal grand jury in Las Vegas on five felony counts alleging that from March 2020 to September 2021 he fraudulently received more than \$500,000 in COVID-19 relief funds on behalf of his Pahrump restaurant, Carmelo's Bistro. It's alleged that Blundo submitted false applications that included inflating his restaurant's gross revenues, average monthly payroll and number of employees. He faces five counts of wire fraud and two counts of money laundering in a case investigated by the FBI as part of the District of Nevada Public Corruption Strike Force.

In a strongly worded statement, FBI Special Agent in Charge Christopher S. Delzotto said, "Fraud will not be tolerated in our community — regardless of the position or identity of those involved." Which is good to know.

But let's just say it took the federal cavalry a long time to ride to the rescue on this one. Blundo's outrageous behavior was known to many, reported often by *The Indy* and other press outlets, and tolerated in his community far too long.

He wasn't deterred after his harassment of county staff resulted in a March 2019 complaint that ended up before the Nevada Commission on Ethics. His conduct, the [commission found](#), qualified for a [deferral agreement](#). By September of that year, an ethics review panel concluded there was "credible evidence" he violated rules against using his posi

tion to benefit himself or his business. Blundo tried to write off the controversy as a ["wrong choice of words."](#)

By January 2020, he was back before the ethics commission in a dustup that ended with a "[confidential letter of caution](#)" placed in his growing file.

While on the Nye County Commission, Blundo's aggressive pursuit of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act funding manifested in forwarding motions and voting without disclosing his own efforts to secure funds for his business. His bullying of staff and attempts to intimidate County Manager Tim Sutton were followed by the administrator [filing a complaint in November 2020](#) with the Nye County sheriff's office and the state ethics commission.

The case appeared headed for prosecution by Nevada Attorney General Aaron Ford's office, but he declined to pursue charges after what Blundo later crowed was a thorough investigation.

So, it appears Ford won't be using the Blundo bust in any campaign ads as he challenges Lombardo's incumbency. These days [Ford is fielding](#) an ethics complaint related to his far-flung travel schedule. Lombardo also [has some experience](#) before the ethics commission.

In July 2022, Blundo [was charged](#) with felony domestic battery after allegedly choking his wife after he discovered \$77,000 in cash and a handgun missing from their home. The Nye County District Attorney's Office, which is also duty-bound to represent members of the county commission, sent the case to Esmeralda County, where it was dismissed after Blundo's wife declined to testify against him.

The debris field also includes his questionable dealings with Rich Kiran Saga, a former CEO of Silver State Health Services and real estate investor who, in May 2025, [was indicted for embezzling](#) more than \$2 million in federal grant money intended to address indigent health care needs for Southern Nevadans. Blundo and his wife accepted fat campaign contributions from Saga and members of his shady circle.

Few people in Nye County administration absorbed more bullying than former Nye County Finance Director Savannah Ames, who also noted the length of time it's taken to indict the alleged fraudster.

"I was overwhelmed with a feeling of relief but also anger, because the justice came five years too late, and the damage was already done to me, my team, as well as many other Nye County employees and business owners," Ames says. "I have a massive feeling of relief and sadness. I did not get justice for the taxpayers of Nye County or the American taxpayer when he was a commissioner in Nye County making those decisions and violating all of those laws. But I am grateful he's getting some sort of justice. Hopefully, right?"
Right.

The Small Business Administration programs Blundo is alleged to have defrauded were intended to aid Americans during the pandemic, which took more than 1.2 million lives. The Paycheck Protection Program, Economic Injury Disaster Loan program and the Restaurant Revitalization Fund brought needed relief, but also were exploited by fraudsters. With a first court appearance scheduled for March 24, Blundo faces up to 120 years in prison, three years of supervised release and a \$1.75 million fine.

But let's keep these things in perspective. An indictment isn't evidence, and charges don't equate to conviction. In a party that continues to re-elect Michael McDonald as its state chairman despite his [many controversies](#), Blundo is merely a suspected fraudster.

If he can beat the rap, he might have a real future in Nevada politics.

John L. Smith is an author and longtime columnist. He was born in Henderson and his family's Nevada roots go back to 1865. His stories have appeared in New Lines, Time, Reader's Digest, Rolling Stone, The Daily Beast, Reuters and Desert Companion, among others.

Happy Birthday



MAY

Jeri Burton
Kayla Furlong
Ida Gaines
Yelé Glaster
Misty Haji-Sheikh
LaVonne Hankins
Kara Jenkins
April Legere
Danna Lovell
Emerald Lucas
Assemblyman David Orentlicher
Nicole Stephens
Hanna Stotland
Jimmy Vega
Lana Whiteford
Former Senator Joyce Woodhouse

JUNE

Kathy Blair
Edith Cardiff
Catherine Currie-Diamond
Renee Diamond
Heidi Foglia
Tonia Holmes-Sutton
Carol Hunter
Elaine Hurd
AJ Holly Huth
JacqueJones
Carole Kilburn
Judge Joanna Kishner
Roberta Lange
Maura Shapiro
Lin Soriano
Joe Thorneberry

Memos From Morgan

By Morgan St. James



I KEEP LOOKING FOR A MODICUM OF REASON If only there was one

It seems like we are trapped in a time warp of an unauthorized war while Trump boasts about his decorating and renovation projects funded with taxpayer dollars

This month's column is a little different from my usual approach. You could call it a personal rant—but I suspect it reflects what many of us are thinking and feeling right now.

We are entangled in what I see as Trump's war of choice, a conflict creating international instability while also weighing heavily here at home. To date, no clear or coherent justification has been offered—at least none that withstands even minimal scrutiny. Yet billions have already been spent, with requests for billions more. At the same time, essential services for vulnerable populations have been cut, international aid agencies dismantled, and long-standing alliances strained to the point that allies are increasingly reluctant to stand with us.

Consider the cost. During recent testimony, White House Budget Director Russell Vought—a key architect of the Heritage Foundation's Project 2025—declined to provide even a rough estimate of what this conflict has cost. "I don't have a ballpark for you," he told lawmakers. In any other setting—say, a corporate boardroom—that kind of answer would be unacceptable. Yet here we are, being asked to approve additional billions for a military effort that has not been formally authorized by Congress, as required under the Constitution, with no validation of what has been spent so far.

At times, the situation feels almost surreal—like a film so unbelievable it borders on satire. The president, who has described himself as a "stable genius," appears increasingly focused on costly architectural projects, often undertaken with little regard for precedent or approval processes. The emphasis seems to be on making it the biggest ever, lots of gold, and his name and likeness everywhere. He has removed boards of competent, experienced people from various institutions and replaced them with his inexperienced sycophants or cronies who will rubber stamp whatever he wants, appropriate or not.

Meanwhile, tensions with Iran continue to escalate. When peace talks facilitated by Pakistan in Islamabad presented an opportunity for diplomacy, Iran sent a large delegation of experienced diplomats and negotiators. In obvious contrast, the U.S. delegation raised eyebrows. Instead of experienced negotiators, the administration sent JD Vance, Howard Lutnick, and Jared Kushner—individuals whose lack of pertinent qualifications and potential conflicts of interest were no match for their counterparts during twenty-one hours of meetings. The resulting failure to reach an agreement surprised few.

Back in Washington, the House of Representatives had an opportunity to reassert its constitutional authority by advancing a War Powers resolution which would have limited Trump's ability to act unilaterally without the approval and restraint of Congress. The measure narrowly failed, 213–214. Only Thomas Massie broke ranks among Republicans to support it, and Democrat Jared Golden voted with the Republicans to defeat it.

Thankfully, there has been at least one moment of restraint. Federal Judge Richard Leon issued a temporary halt to construction of a proposed 90,000-square-foot White House ballroom, though he allowed a separate bunker project to proceed on security grounds. As the judge pointedly noted, the president is a steward of the White House—not its owner. That distinction mat

ters. Past presidents have made changes to the residence, but they did so through established processes and with appropriate oversight.

Out of curiosity I researched the square footage of the White House. It is 55,000 square feet, which would make this ostentatious ballroom nearly forty percent larger than the White House. And, Trump claims everyone including every President has wanted this for 150 years. *In his dreams*. The East wing was 12,000 square feet before he tore it down without authorization. So now what we have is the White House with a wrecked East side and a bunker to be built where a bunker was. As if it couldn't get any worse, a 4,500 seat temporary arena is being built on the South Lawn of the White House to host the controversial UFC Freedom 250 cage match on June 14, 2026. I have no idea what the UFC is supposed to have in common with the country's 250th anniversary. It will also commemorate his 80th birthday, though. Sort of like the failed military parade for his last birthday.

There is much more that could be said, but space is limited. For now, thank you for reading my columns. Let's hope next month brings better news. And don't forget the countdown is on—SEVEN MONTHS TO MID-TERMS. Let's make every month count.



Former interior designer MORGAN ST. JAMES, lives in Las Vegas with her rescue dog Cucumber and has been writing for over twenty years. She has 21 books in publication and over 600 published articles on diverse subjects. Morgan has appeared on radio, podcasts, television and author's panels. Her books include the Silver Sisters Mysteries series co-authored with her real life sister Phyllice Bradner, the *Revenge is Fun* series, stand-alone novels, the *Writers' Tricks of the Trade* book and short stories in six *Chicken Soup for the Soul* books. Morgan co-authored the multi award-winning memoirs: *Rob and Cheryl Cuccio's Incest, Murder and a Miracle* and *Bella Capo's No More Crying Angels*.

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Sharing Our Legacy

By Judy Klein



This has been a tumultuous few weeks—and, truthfully, a challenging year. Many Americans are feeling a growing sense of instability and concern about the direction of our country.

Across the nation, families are experiencing the strain of rising costs. Grocery bills and gas prices continue to stretch household budgets, leaving many asking a difficult question: how do we make ends meet when more is going out than coming in? For some, credit cards have become a necessary lifeline—but with high interest rates, even that relief can feel temporary and unsustainable.

Moments like this remind us of a phrase we've all heard: *elections have consequences*. Leadership matters. The decisions made at the highest levels directly affect the daily lives of the American people. When those decisions lack empathy, foresight, or a commitment to serve, the consequences ripple through every community.

But this is not where the story ends.

America has always been defined not just by its leaders, but by its people. Progress has never come from silence—it comes from engagement. From conversations. From organizing. From showing up.

If we want to restore a sense of stability, dignity, and respect in our country, the path forward is clear: we take action. One phone call. One conversation. One rally at a time.

We are a nation built on the belief that all people are created equal, and that our diversity is a strength—not a division. We are strongest when we uphold values of respect, inclusion, and opportunity for all—regardless of background, identity, or belief.

This is our moment to stand firm in those values.

Let's be the Americans who speak up. Who stay engaged. Who refuse to accept division as the norm.

We are *We the People*. And that has always been the true power of this nation.



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Letters From An American

By Heather Cox Richardson



There are signs the political game has changed in the United States since Hungarian voters rejected Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's leadership on Sunday, April 12. His party's loss of control of the government to a supermajority of its opponents undermined the belief that right-wing authoritarianism was an unstoppable force in world politics. Since MAGA Republicans had tied themselves to Orbán and his movement, his loss also weakened their own claims to inevitable victory over those trying to protect democracy.

On Sunday night, President Donald J. Trump appeared to melt down on social media. In *The Atlantic* today, Tom Nichols noted that Trump's "emotional state seems to be fraying: This weekend, he attacked Pope Leo XIV, presented himself as Jesus Christ, and then jabbed at his phone until dawn." Nichols notes that after Trump attacked the Pope and portrayed himself as Jesus, he posted an AI version of a Trump Tower on the moon. ("Sure," Nichols writes. "Why not?")

Then Trump posted a meme of how senators Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Chuck Schumer (D-NY), and former president Joe Biden all look old—unlike Trump—and then posted clips from Newsmax. The postings continued throughout the night. "This is not the behavior of a stable, healthy leader," Nichols writes. "The American people must not look away... They must pay attention to the president's deterioration, and insist that the House and Senate start acting like functioning branches of the government by asking the White House to explain what is happening, without insults or evasions, before the eyes of the country and the world."

Trump has tried to explain away the AI image he posted on social media on Sunday depicting himself as Jesus, clothed in robes, bathed in radiant light, and apparently healing a man in bed. After an extraordinary outcry over the image from his evangelical Christian followers, he took the image down, telling reporters "I thought it was me as a doctor" and claiming that "only the fake news" could suggest the image showed him as Jesus. He added: "I do make people better."

With the House back in session today, Representative Jamie Raskin (D-MD), the top-ranking Democrat on the Judiciary Committee, introduced a bill to establish an independent commission to evaluate the president's mental state. The Twenty-fifth Amendment to the Constitution establishes a process by which either a majority of the Cabinet or a majority of a body created by Congress to evaluate the president's fitness can declare that a president is "unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office." In a press release, Democrats on the House Judiciary Committee expressed concern about "Trump's escalating erratic conduct." The bill has fifty Democratic co-sponsors.

“Public trust in Donald Trump’s ability to meet the duties of his office has dropped to unprecedented lows as he threatens to destroy entire civilizations, unleashes chaos in the Middle East while violating Congressional war powers, aggressively insults the Pope of the Catholic Church and sends out artistic renderings online likening himself to Jesus Christ. We are at a dangerous precipice, and it is now a matter of national security for Congress to fulfill its responsibilities under the 25th Amendment to protect the American people from an increasingly volatile and unstable situation,” Raskin said in a statement.

Trump’s deteriorating mental state has become impossible to overlook, but Republicans are making excuses for it. Cabinet members, who owe their positions to Trump and who likely recognize they will never rise to such power again in a merit-based system, will probably not question Trump’s mental acuity. But Raskin’s measure will force Republicans in Congress either to vote for an independent commission to evaluate Trump or to own his increasingly erratic behavior themselves.

Today, when asked if he were comfortable with Trump’s threat of last week that an entire civilization would die if it did not meet his demands, Senate majority leader John Thune (R-SD) changed the subject by saying: “You’ve got to look at what the president is doing, and I think right now he’s trying to open the Strait of Hormuz, which...we are all supportive of.” The strait was, of course, open before Trump attacked Iran.

The Lincoln Project accused Republicans of “ignoring Trump’s sharp mental decline the same way they’ve ignored his crimes.”

Trump’s erratic behavior has led the U.S. into disaster by striking Iran, which in turn attacked its neighbors and closed the Strait of Hormuz. After unsuccessfully bullying other nations to force Iran to reopen the strait to all ships, not just to those of certain nations, Trump last week declared a ceasefire and a framework for an agreement, then suggested the U.S. and Iran would together manage the strait. When Iran continued to maintain control of it, Trump announced the U.S. would blockade the strait to make sure no ships at all could cross through it, with the idea that the U.S. can withstand the economic pain that closure will cause for a longer time than Iran can.

Data released today show that wholesale inflation has risen to 4%, the highest annual rate in three years. Today Marta Pacheco of *EuroNews* reported that the last of the vessels that left the Strait of Hormuz before the U.S. and Israel struck Iran have reached Europe. Analysts expect a new surge in energy prices. In *Talking Points Memo* today, David Kurtz points out that the economic mess in which the U.S., and the world, finds itself is entirely Trump’s fault. The trade wars, unjustified war in the Middle East, and attacks on U.S. science, universities, and immigration that are throttling economic growth are all a product of Trump’s personal choices.

As the war enters its seventh week, Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said today that Senate Democrats will repeatedly force votes on war powers resolutions designed to force Trump to get congressional authorization before any further military action in Iran. “Forty-five days into this war, Congress has been sidelined because our Republican colleagues refuse to take a strong stand against this war and duck it completely because they’re afraid of Trump,” Schumer said today.

Thune and other Republicans countered with the belief that the war won't go on much longer, and they support Trump's actions.

Today former attorney general Pam Bondi was scheduled to testify under oath before the House Oversight and Reform Committee about the Department of Justice's handling of the release of the Epstein files. The DOJ has released only about half of those files despite a law requiring it to produce them all no later than December 19 of last year. Many of the records it did release are heavily redacted, despite the very few and very specific conditions under which Congress allowed such redactions.

Bondi did not show up.

The Department of Justice is taking the position that since she was subpoenaed as attorney general and no longer holds that position, the subpoena was no longer in force.

Democrats on the committee disagree.

Representative Jasmine Crockett (D-TX), who was a prosecutor before she entered the House, posted: "Pam Bondi refused to show up for today's Oversight deposition—defying our lawful subpoena. We couldn't care less that she was fired from her job as Attorney General. She is responsible for leading the White House cover-up of the Epstein files. Since she didn't show up, Oversight Democrats will move to hold her in contempt of Congress. The survivors deserve justice—and we will get answers. Enough is enough."

Representative Robert Garcia (D-CA), the top Democrat on the Oversight Committee, told the *Weeknight*: "People have to be held accountable for the laws that we pass in the Congress and the subpoenas that we put in place."

Clark County Democratic Convention

Top Photo (right)
Carolyn Murray, Marta Schmitt,
and Michelle Abney
Bottom Photo (right)
Deecie Zimmerman, Denise Wright,
and Michelle Abney



Congresswoman Dina Titus
and
Commissioner Tick Segerblom



Could Spiking Gas Prices Help Democrats Flip Nevada's Governor Seat?

By Kate Reynolds



The blame game around Nevada's high gas prices is nothing new, but experts say the stakes are higher than ever for incumbent Republican Gov. Joe Lombardo and his likely opponent in this year's gubernatorial race, Democratic Attorney General Aaron Ford.

The two agree that the rising cost of gas — \$5 per gallon on average [as of April 14 and nearing record highs set in 2022](#) — is bad for Nevadans. But their explanation for the high prices couldn't be more different.

Experts in politics and energy told *The Indy* that regardless of the cause or actual power a governor has to influence gas prices, the higher costs to fill up could be a liability for Lombardo and a source of momentum for Ford.

"Lombardo is saddled with a bad economy and a very unpopular president," said David Damore, a political science professor at UNLV. "And the Democrats are going to try to make that relationship appear as close as possible for voters."

Darrell West, a senior fellow with the Brookings Institution who focuses on technology policy, told *The Indy* that he didn't expect gas prices to decline to pre-war levels before November's election.

"Energy costs always go up faster than they come down," West said.

At a campaign event held at a Las Vegas gas station last week that was crashed by Lombardo's supporters, Ford singled out the governor's [veto](#) of a 2025 bill brought by his office ([AB44](#)) that would have banned manipulative price fixing on essential goods such as gas.

"Lombardo will never take real action to bring energy costs or any costs down for working families, because he is a doormat for President [Donald] Trump and the businesses and the interests that make things so expensive right here in Nevada," Ford said at last week's event.

Lombardo has [countered](#) by arguing high gas prices are due to the state's reliance on heavily regulated California refineries — the source of nearly [90 percent](#) of Nevada's gasoline and diesel.

The governor's argument has been echoed by the Energy & Convenience Association of Nevada, which represents gas stations statewide. The group has also laid the blame for rising costs on "well documented supply constraints originating outside Nevada."

"There is very little Nevada can do when we are at the end of the pipeline," association spokesperson Miranda Hoover said in a March press release.

Lombardo has repeatedly [urged](#) Newsom not to adopt more rules aimed at reducing the carbon emissions of California refineries. He's previously [called](#) for a suspension of Nevada's gas tax, and he [formed](#) a fuel resiliency committee earlier this year.

Asked if Ford would make similar overtures to California leaders if elected governor, Ford campaign spokesperson Perna Jagadeesh wrote in a statement that "as Governor, Attorney General Aaron Ford won't hesitate to work across state lines and use every available tool to bring down gas prices."

Drew Galang, a spokesperson for the governor's office, wrote in a statement to *The Indy*, "As we're seeing in Iran, geopolitical conflicts can certainly have an effect on oil prices, but that doesn't change the fact that prices were already high in Nevada because of policy choices made in California."

Regardless of cause, incumbents are typically held accountable for rising costs, say experts who added that they were skeptical about Lombardo's strategy of blaming California for gas prices. In part, that's because of how visible the current increases in price are to voters.

"You see the spikes when you go to fill up," Damore said. "And everybody realizes that the more you're spending on gas, it's going to squeeze out anything else you want to do."

A significant [body of research](#) hints at a negative [correlation](#) between high gas prices and presidential approval ratings. A [2016 study](#) by researchers at Stanford found that for every 10-cent increase in gas prices, presidential favorability fell 0.6 points.

Advocates say the prices are a constant reminder to voters that they're facing a multi-front affordability crisis, one that's contributed to [trust in government](#) and [consumer sentiment](#) reaching all-time lows.

"Whether it be gas that you're putting in your car, or the energy that you need to use electricity in your home, or the cost of housing — it's all top of mind for people," said Kristee Watson, the executive director for the environmental nonprofit the Nevada Conservation League. "Those are really difficult decisions to make."

This article was updated at 8:00a.m. on 4/15/2026 to correctly reflect the response of the Ford campaign and at 10:00a.m. on 4/15/2026 to include new comment from a Ford campaign spokesperson.

OPINION: Trump Fiddles While The Middle East Burns— And America Is Less Safe

By John L. Smith



If you think the president's foreign military misadventures can't touch us, remember that the United States is a country of soft targets.



Sunrise breaks over Virginia Peak and bathes the Carson Range and the Truckee Meadows in first light's fiery symphony. Easter and Passover have come and gone, but I always feel the spirit of life in such moments. Not that conjuring a hopeful heart is a simple matter these days. Bumptious President Donald Trump, scheduled to escape the heat of Washington, D.C., this week to make a [trip to Las Vegas](#), has marched the nation into a war with Iran and made the world a more dangerous place. With so much at stake, he can't resist laying on the bluster and brinksmanship like a crude mob boss masquerading as God's chosen warrior.

We won't soon forget [these gems](#) from the nation's puerile poet laureate: "A whole civilization will die tonight, never to be brought back again," and "Tuesday will be Power Plant Day, and Bridge Day, all wrapped up in one, in Iran. There will be nothing like it!!! Open the Fuckin' Strait, you crazy bastards, or you'll be living in Hell — JUST WATCH! Praise to Allah. President Donald J. Trump."

His staunchest supporters might still find such cheap talk charming, but his approval rating is [lower than ever](#). He's even [lost some of his biggest media boosters](#). Heavy criticism of his unilateral decision to go to war has come from Tucker Carlson, Alex Jones, Megyn Kelly and Joe Rogan. Much of their criticism has centered on Trump's inability to discern American foreign policy from Israeli foreign policy.

In a predictable response to the escapees from his cult of personality, Trump now describes them as "[losers](#)." Hey, didn't see that coming.

Trump finds unyielding fealty from Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, whose rhetoric increasingly strays from hyperbolic overstatement about the country's attack on Iran into [holy war territory](#), the most dangerous talk of all. Hegseth continues to reduce the collective I.Q. of our military by forcing out top generals and staffers who reject the unrepentant frat boy's bluster. But as it turns out, the "Department of War" marketing effort really does accurately describe an administration that has [committed military actions](#) in eight foreign countries, not to mention on American soil, in its first year.

As political analysts and military experts focus on the fine details and bigger picture, the reasons behind Trump's actions fade in importance. For me, it doesn't matter whether he did this to fulfill a campaign promise, please Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the leaders of countries where the Trump family does business, distract from his presence in sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein's sordid inner sanctum or simply because he's an unhinged king of chaos. Some students of history believe Trump is mimicking his political hero Richard Nixon by playing the "madman" in order to strike fear in the heart of his opponent. Given the destruction of Nixon's bombing strategy, that's hardly a reassuring thought.

It's also important to acknowledge that Netanyahu is not Israel, whose main opposition party leader Yair Lapid made clear [when he posted on X](#), "It will take us years to repair the political and strategic damage that Netanyahu caused

due to arrogance, negligence, and lack of strategic planning." It's something to remember if Trump's fealty to Netanyahu and Israeli billionaires such as Miriam Adelson, who once suggested a ["Book of Trump" be added to the Bible](#), ends up fomenting a spike in antisemitism in a country already prone to it.

In his endless effort to play the strongman, he's alienated our allies and continues to coddle dictators. Worse yet, he's chosen to make our own country less safe.

Try to keep that in mind when he takes a victory lap for the ["No Tax on Tips Act"](#) that has even his Democratic Party critics nodding their heads and wishing they'd thought of it first. Set aside for a moment high gasoline and food prices, Nevada's [high unemployment rate](#), [flattening visitation](#) at Harry Reid International Airport, reduced health care access and the folly of a struggling gaming industry [pricing itself out of the middle-class market](#).

Remember that in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on America, a mass murder committed by radicalized Saudis — not Iranians — the FBI considered Las Vegas a [prime potential target](#) for a terrorist attack. Although the biggest targets were located in the major coastal cities, one source briefed by the FBI reminds me Las Vegas was considered a "Tier 2" site. Its casino megaresorts and international reputation as a hedonistic playground seemed made-to-order to play a role in some violent radical fantasy. Add to that Hoover Dam and the Creech and Nellis Air Force bases, and you have what some would consider a target-rich environment.

The simple truth is, America is a land of soft targets. That's a reason we have relied on wise and mature leaders to make good decisions based on experienced minds and the best available facts — not ones who cheapen Christian values and endanger the planet, the God of the Bible's greatest gift.

Whether the tenuous ceasefire with Iran holds or falters, the war is closer to home than we think. Trump has made it so.

John L. Smith is an author and longtime columnist. He was born in Henderson and his family's Nevada roots go back to 1881. His stories have appeared in New Lines, Time, Reader's Digest, Rolling Stone, The Daily Beast, Reuters and Desert Companion, among others.

2025



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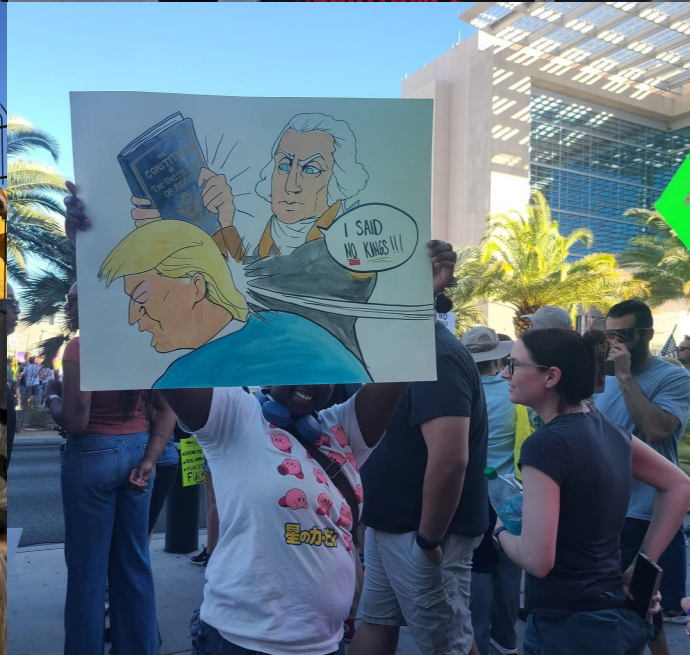
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Some States Already Preparing For Potential Supreme Court Ban On Late Ballots

By
By Nick Corasanti



The court’s conservatives appear skeptical of laws allowing mail ballots to arrive after Election Day. A decision could come as late as June, potentially scrambling midterm elections.

Francisco Aguilar, the secretary of state in Nevada, stepped out of the Supreme Court in Washington on Monday, where justices had just heard arguments about the legality of counting [mail votes that arrive after Election Day](#). He immediately called his top deputy.

The court’s conservative majority had appeared deeply skeptical of the arguments for continuing the practice. So Mr. Aguilar’s message was urgent, he later said in an interview. He began listing things “we need to start working on and answering.” And in the middle of the midterm election season, they couldn’t wait for a decision to land — perhaps as late as June. “We have to provide a road map for the county clerks,” he said into the phone.

Mr. Aguilar, a Democrat, is one of 18 top election officials in states and territories across the country bracing for the possibility that the Supreme Court will require major changes to election law just months before the midterm election in November. Part of the urgency: getting the message out to voters that late-arriving ballots may no longer be counted. Such a decision could affect hundreds of thousands of voters.

The case centers on a Mississippi law that allows the state to accept ballots mailed and postmarked by Election Day that arrive up to five days later. Similar laws are on the books in 17 other states and territories, though the length of the grace period varies. In the 2024 election, [at least 725,000 ballots](#) arrived in the legally permitted post-Election Day time period across 14 states that provided data to The New York Times.

The court has not issued a ruling yet. The justices could reverse course from their apparent tone on Monday and allow the Mississippi law to stand. They could also rule against it but include an exception for the coming elections.

But, as Justice Brett Kavanaugh indicated during the arguments, a decision could come as late as June, putting election officials on a tight timeline.

Given the complexity of election laws and the difficult task of educating voters in an election year, some election administrators are not waiting for the court to rule to begin planning for a world where all ballots must arrive by Election Day.

William Francis Galvin, the top election official in Massachusetts, was so alarmed by the arguments that he has already taken steps to prepare for November. He is planning to ask the state legislature to give him the authority to extend polling hours, and, if the court also requires military and overseas ballots to be received by Election Day, to expand electronic voting for those groups.

He has also reached out to his state's congressional delegation, asking it to conduct a hearing on the ability of the U.S. Postal Service to handle tighter deadlines.

"The concern I have is great," Mr. Galvin, a Democrat, said in an interview, noting that 34 percent of his state voted by mail in 2024. "The obvious strategic, partisan nature of this case is made clear by the fact that no one's suggesting that these people aren't citizens" or ineligible to vote.

"They just have a problem because they're voting by mail," he said.

Since the 2020 election, Democrats have voted by mail in far greater numbers than Republicans. But assessing the overall partisan impact of a court decision blocking late-arriving ballots is an imperfect science. In Virginia, 73 percent of late-arriving ballots cast in 2024 were for former Vice President Kamala Harris. At the same time, voters most likely to be affected by postal delays live in rural areas, which are typically more Republican.

Democrats, who have accused Republicans of bringing the case for partisan advantage, have already been working through potential outcomes. Among their concerns is whether an ambiguous ruling could offer a political weapon for President Trump to challenge election results.

"House Democrats are working with our state and local partners to defend the unfettered right to vote," Representative Hakeem Jeffries, the Democratic minority leader, said in a statement. He framed the case as part of a larger effort by Mr. Trump to shape the midterms to his favor that also includes a redistricting effort and federal voting legislation that would impose strict identification requirements.

Despite his claims that mail voting invites fraud, Mr. Trump [cast a mail ballot](#) in this week's special election in Florida.

"We will continue to push back forcefully against any and all diabolical Republican schemes," Mr. Jeffries said.

In Oregon, the secretary of state's office had already started reaching out to voters after Postal Service changes that could slow the arrival of mail ballots in the November election. Among other steps, it is encouraging voters to put their ballots in the mail at least seven days before Election Day. Now, in the wake of the Supreme Court's arguments, the office will amplify that advice.

Postal changes in Oregon have resulted in a single, central sorting center in Portland serving most of the state. Officials say the curtailed service has contributed to both mail delays and postmarking delays for far-flung areas.

"It's a message we are distributing on every channel we have, and we're working with community partners to get the word out," Tess Seger, a top aide in the office, said in an email. The office is also adding more communications staff, she said.

In most states, more expansive measures would require state lawmakers to intervene — and are unlikely given the cascading impact such changes could have on the election calendar.

"If, for example, local elections officials wanted to mail out ballots sooner, it would likely require legislative action and updating other deadlines, like the candidate filing deadline," Ms. Seger said.

In Maryland, the state board of elections added an item to its agenda for a meeting this Thursday to discuss mail-voting challenges. Among the possible topics: whether officials could still count late-arriving ballots in state and local elections if justices were to ban the practice in federal races — and how complex a task that might be.

"Is this just going to affect the general election?" asked Jared DeMarinis, an administrator for the Maryland Board of Elections. "Is this affecting state and county offices? Is it the entire ballot?"

Political parties and campaigns are also planning ahead. Even the Republican National Committee, which brought the case in Mississippi and is arguing for the change in mail-ballot laws, will make voter education core to its midterm plans — an acknowledgment of the potential impact of its suit.

"The R.N.C.'s argument in this case is simple: Ballots must be received by Election Day to prevent delays, reduce confusion and ensure confidence in election outcomes," Ally Triolo, a spokeswoman for the R.N.C., said.

No state faces as many challenges to voting as Alaska. More than 80 percent of Alaskan communities live off the road system, meaning they rely on boats or planes to deliver their mail, including election mail, according to [a brief the state filed](#) in the case.

The state, which is heavily Republican, has not begun planning, said Kelly Howell, the chief of staff to Lt. Gov. Nancy Dahlstrom, whose duties include election oversight.

“We have had some initial internal discussions, but those conversations are preliminary and exploratory,” Ms. Howell said. “Nothing has moved into a formal planning or implementation phase at this time.”

Other states, including Illinois, West Virginia and Washington, have indicated that a broad information campaign would be central to their efforts to help voters avoid ballot rejection.

But education campaigns are a difficult endeavor, especially if rules change when an election is imminent. The court’s decision is expected to apply only to the federal general election, not primaries.

“Voters are humans, and we know that one tap, one message doesn’t get through,” said Kathy Boockvar, the former top election official in Pennsylvania. “And it might take seven or 10 or 15 times with a voter hearing something to fully understand the changes.”

Nick Corasaniti is a Times reporter covering national politics, with a focus on voting and elections.

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Prepared by the Henderson Trusted Leadership PAC



Stephen Miller's Strait Of Hormuz

By Robert Reich



His crackdown on immigrants is assumed to be good for America as long as it causes immigrants more pain than it does us. Same "logic" as Trump is using in Iran.



Trump's chief bigot, Stephen Miller, said on Fox News that immigrants to the United States bring problems that extend through generations.

"Not only is the first generation unsuccessful," Miller claimed. "You see persistent issues in every subsequent generation. So you see consistent high rates of welfare use, consistent high rates of criminal activity, consistent failures to assimilate."

Bullshit. The children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren of most immigrants are models of upward mobility in America.

In a [recent paper](#), researchers found that immigrants today are no slower to move into the middle class than immigrants were a century ago. In fact, no matter when their parents came to the U.S. or what country they came from, children of immigrants have *higher* rates of upward mobility than their U.S.-born peers.

Stephen Miller's great-great-grandfather was born in a dirt-floor shack in the village of Antopol, a shtetl in what is now Belarus. He came to America in 1903 with \$8 in his pocket and spoke no English. Three generations later, little Stephen was born in 1985 to American parents but somehow developed a visceral hatred for immigrants.

Miller and Trump have been dealing with immigrants the same way Pete Hegseth and Trump have been dealing with Iran and the Strait of Hormuz — inflicting pain on both them *and* the United States, in the hope *their* pain will be worse than the pain *we* endure.

Today's Tax Day was supposed to be a big PR boon for Trump, in which he touts his "no taxes on tips" and other ersatz tax "cuts" for average working Americans (while hiding that his Big Ugly bill actually gave most of its benefits to the wealthy and big corporations, and paid for them by taking money from Medicaid and food stamps and other programs the working class and poor rely on).

But the war in Iran has made everything — even Stephen Miller's war on immigrants — feel like the Strait of Hormuz.

Consider that before Miller ordered the Internal Revenue Service to give ICE officials the addresses of people subject to deportation, undocumented immigrants had been paying roughly \$60 billion annually in federal taxes, much of it going into Social Security and Medicare — programs from which they don't benefit.

Now, tax experts fear many immigrants won't file returns, and those who formerly had their taxes withheld in every paycheck will shift into under-the-table jobs. The Yale Budget Lab, a nonpartisan research center, projected lost tax revenue of about \$300 billion over a decade.

Meanwhile, Miller's vast, sadistic crackdown on undocumented workers is causing significant pain for the U.S. economy. There aren't enough workers in construction, hospitality, and agriculture to keep these sectors going. Another Strait of Hormuz situation.

Let's be clear. Apart from Native Americans, we are *all* immigrants — *all* descended from "foreigners." Some of our ancestors came here eagerly; some came because they were no longer safe in their homelands; some came enslaved.

As Ronald Reagan put it in a [1988 speech](#),

You can go to Japan to live, but you cannot become Japanese. You can go to France to live and not become a Frenchman. You can go to live in Germany or Turkey, and you won't become a German or a Turk. But ... anybody from any corner of the world can come to America to live and become an American. A person becomes an American by adopting America's principles, especially those principles summarized in the "self-evident truths" of the Declaration of Independence, such as "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Reagan understood that America is a set of aspirations and ideals more than it is a nationality.

Miller and Trump, on the other hand, want to fuel bigotry. Their entire project depends on hate. Like dictators before him, Trump's road to tyranny is paved with stones hurled at "them" — whether "they" are immigrants, Iranians, or anyone else who doesn't fit the white Christian nationalist mold.

America is better than Trump and his chief bigot.

President Vs. Pope

By Sam Sifton

Good morning. The two most powerful Americans in the world — the pope and the president — are clashing.



Pope Leo's visit to Algeria today was meant to be stirring. The first member of the Order of Augustine to ascend to the papacy is visiting the place where Augustine was bishop starting in A.D. 395.

Instead, President Trump is hammering him.

Leo doesn't like to see war in the Middle East. Trump doesn't like other leaders criticizing him, even implicitly. After he called the pope "weak on crime" and posted an A.I. image of himself as a Jesus-like figure, he said, "I'm just responding to Pope Leo."

A curious tableau



This image Trump posted, then deleted, was especially strange, and not only because the patient in it bears a resemblance to Jon Stewart, as the late night hosts pointed out.

I asked Jason Farago, our art critic, about it:

The image — do not call it a painting — is like other works of propaganda during this second term: the ideology of Leni Riefenstahl expressed in the style of Lisa Frank. The incumbent appears as Christ the Healer. Supplicants, or their disembodied heads, ring the messiah-president like the saints and donors in an early Renaissance altarpiece; note the grizzled veteran at left, whose cap has nonsense A.I. lettering more Cyrillic than Roman.

When he took down the image, Trump said he hadn't meant to compare himself to Jesus. "I thought it was me as a doctor," he said.

Popes and politics

Lots of popes have waded into the political muck, as my colleague Elisabetta Povoledo reports from Rome.

- Pope Francis, who died last year, hated poverty and climate change. He was also more compassionate about migration and homosexuality than his predecessors.
- In 1979, John Paul II, the first Polish pope, told students in Krakow: Don't be afraid to reject totalitarian oppression. It took 10 more years for communism there to fall.
- Pius XII is remembered for what he *didn't* say: As the pope during World War II, he avoided explicitly condemning the Nazis.

A question of stability

Where is all this rancor from the president coming from? Peter Baker, who has covered six presidencies, wrote about that yesterday:

Trump's erratic behavior and extreme comments in recent days and weeks have turbocharged the crazy-like-a-fox-or-just-plain-crazy debate that has followed him on the national political stage for a decade.

It's a debate you can see in the polls. A Reuters/Ipsos poll in February found that 61 percent of Americans think Trump has become more erratic with age. Just 45 percent say he is "mentally sharp and able to deal with challenges." That's down from 54 percent in 2023.

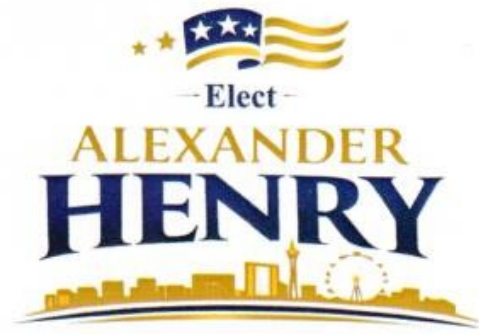
Trump's language fuels the fire. "He uses more profanity, speaks longer and regularly makes comments rooted in fantasy rather than fact," Peter writes:

He wanders off into odd tangents — an eight-minute ramble at a Christmas reception about poisonous snakes in Peru, a long digression during a cabinet meeting about Sharpie pens, an interruption of an Iran war update to praise the White House drapes. He has confused Greenland with Iceland and more than once boasted of ending a fictional war between Cambodia and Azerbaijan, two countries separated by nearly 4,000 miles. (He evidently means Armenia and Azerbaijan).

Still, part of Trump's base loves it. A Princeton historian put this question to Peter: "What can be more anti-establishment than someone who is willing to be out of control?"

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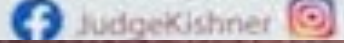
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TYA MATHIS-COLEMAN

FOR NEVADA STATE TREASURER




PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT TYA MATHIS-COLEMAN



I'll serve our community first,
protect your property rights,
and lead the Recorder's office
with integrity.”

Tanya




Tanya Flanagan
for COUNTY RECORDER

Democrat

Scan Here to Help Tanya Win!
VoteTanyaFlanagan.com
@Tanya_Flanagan

EARLY VOTE: MAY 23 - JUNE 5 • Look for your mail-in ballot starting May 11



DEMOCRAT Tanya Flanagan

Experienced Leadership for a Stronger Clark County

Tanya Flanagan is a current Assemblywoman and has over 23 years of service in Clark County government. She'll be able to step into office day one and ensure the Recorder's office is working smoothly for our families and businesses. **You can count on Tanya to:**

- ★ Protect families from fraud
- ★ Protect personal and commercial property rights
- ★ Maintain the highest standards of public service
- ★ Improve client services and help local businesses grow
- ★ Invest in new technology to keep sensitive information secure

On June 9, Vote Democrat

Tanya Flanagan
for COUNTY RECORDER

PAID FOR AND AUTHORIZED BY COMMITTEE TO ELECT TANYA FLANAGAN | TFL2601

A STRONGER FUTURE FOR ALL NEVADANS



(702) 714-0679
info@votetyafornevada.com
@VoteTyaForNevada

Learn more at VoteTyaForNevada.com

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT TYA MATHIS-COLEMAN



Zach CONINE
for NEVADA ATTORNEY GENERAL

P.O. Box 370128, Las Vegas, NV 89137
Zach@ZachConine.com
702-900-1615

www.ZachConine.com
TWITTER: @ZConine
FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/ZachConineForNevada/
INSTAGRAM: @ZachforNV

PAID FOR & AUTHORIZED BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT ZACH CONINE





Mike KUNG
for Assembly District 2

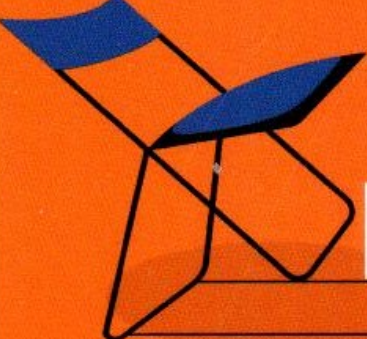
● mikekung@mkungfornevada.com
 ● @mikekungforNV
 ● www.facebook.com/MikeKungforNV
 ● www.mkungfornevada.com
 ● 702-850-0351

Building a Stronger Community through:

- Public Safety
- Education
- Support for Small Businesses
- Affordable Healthcare
- Fiscal Responsibility with Grace

Learn more at:
www.mkungfornevada.com

Please support Mike's efforts to build a stronger community via the QR code below!

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 1
MILLAN MACK GLEDHILL
Saving YOU a seat at the table.

Millan "Mack" Gledhill
Candidate for Assembly District 1

☎ 702-630-7055
 ✉ Mack4NV@gmail.com
 🌐 www.mackforNV.com
 @ Mack4NV

Every family deserves a safety net.

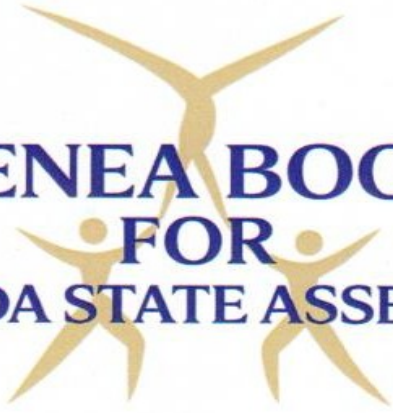
SheneaForNevada.com
702-728-1464

SHENEA BOOTH
Nevada State Assembly | District 22

Paid for by Shenea Booth for Nevada State Assembly



SHENEA BOOTH FOR NEVADA STATE ASSEMBLY



SKYE BERRY BURRESS
for CLARK COUNTY RECORDER

"Honesty and integrity... for a change"

2026
www.skye4recorder.com




SKYE BERRY BURRESS
for CLARK COUNTY RECORDER

(702) 996-Skye (7593)

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www.skye4recorder.com



"Honesty and integrity... for a change"



WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF CLARK COUNTY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - 2026

Please Print

Date	Tax ID
1/1/2026	45-2705571

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Fax _____ Email _____

Facebook _____ X/Bluesky _____

I affirm that I am registered to vote with the Democratic Party in the State of Nevada: Yes []
(Only a registered Democrat can be a member)

General Membership: \$35 Annual Dues Paid By: Check [] Money Order [] Cash []

Past WDC Presidents and Current Students: \$15 Annual Dues Paid By: Check [] Money Order [] Cash []

Renee Diamond Scholarship Fund Donation: Paid By: Check [] Money Order [] Cash [] Online [LINK](#) []
Carol Chesnut Law School Fund Donation [LINK](#)

I am interested in participating on the following Committees:
(you will be notified if there are vacancies available)

- [] By-Laws [] Donkey Tracks [] Fundraising [] Historian [] [] Holiday Party [] Legislative Advisor [] Mentorship
[] Political Action [] Political Education [] Pot 'O Gold
[] Program [] Renee Diamond Scholarship Fund [] Social Media/Publicity [] Sunshine
[] Telephone [] Voter Registration

Thank You For Joining
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF CLARK COUNTY
3509 Kilbarry Court
Las Vegas, NV 89129
womensdemo.com
FB - Women's Democratic Club of Clark County
Email - womensdemoclarkcounty@gmail.com
X - @womensdemocc