



**NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE (NSA)**

**AGENDA**

**August 14, 2020**

**9:00 a.m.**

<https://bluejeans.com/160052296>

**CALL TO ORDER: 9:04 AM**

THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE ONLY PURSUANT TO SECTION 1 OF THE DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY DIRECTIVE 006 ("DIRECTIVE 006"), AND EXTENDED BY DIRECTIVES 016, 018 AND 021, ISSUED BY THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE STATE OF NEVADA. THERE WILL BE NO PHYSICAL LOCATION FOR THE MEETING.

PUBLIC COMMENT MAY BE SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL TO [TCASERTO@NSHE.NEVADA.EDU](mailto:TCASERTO@NSHE.NEVADA.EDU) OR VOICEMAIL: (775) 784-3442 OR (775) 784-3447. MESSAGES RECEIVED BY 4:30 P.M. ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2020 MAY BE ENTERED INTO THE RECORD DURING THE MEETING. ANY OTHER EMAILED PUBLIC COMMENT AND/OR VOICEMAILS RECEIVED PRIOR TO THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING WILL BE TRANSCRIBED AND INCLUDED IN THE PERMANENT RECORD.

**ROLL CALL:**

- Gabrielle Clark, Western Nevada College, ASWN (NSA Chair)**  
*Present*
- Will Carrasco, University of Nevada, Reno, GSA (NSA Co-Chair)**  
*Present*
- Karli McFarling-Kelly, College of Southern Nevada (NSA Secretary)**  
*Present*
- Melanie Dodson, Great Basin College, SGA**  
*Absent*
- Alyssa Fromelius, Truckee Meadows Community College, SGA**  
*Present*
- Dominique Hall, University of Nevada, Reno (ASUN)**  
*Joined at 9:13 a.m.*
- Sidath Kapukotuwa, University of Nevada. Las Vegas (GPSA)**  
*Matthew Sunil Varre as proxy for Sidath K.*  
*Present*
- Joshua Padilla, University of Nevada, Las Vegas (CSUN)**  
*Present*
- Suman Randhawa, Nevada State College (NSSA)**  
*Present*
- Office Vacant, Desert Research Institute, GRAD**

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE AGENDA AND PUBLIC MEETING**

NOTE: Below is an agenda of all items scheduled to be considered. Notification is hereby provided that items on the agenda may be taken out of the order presented, two or more agenda items may be combined for consideration, and an agenda item may be removed from the agenda or discussion relating to an item on the agenda may be delayed at any time.

The agenda and any supporting material may be accessed on the Internet by visiting the NSA page of the NSHE website: <http://www.nevada.edu/studentgov/>, or by calling Terina Caserto in the NSHE Office of Academic and Student Affairs at (775) 784-3442, or emailing her at [tcaserto@nshe.nevada.edu](mailto:tcaserto@nshe.nevada.edu).

Reasonable efforts will be made to assist and accommodate physically disabled persons attending the meeting. Please call the Academic & Student Affairs Office in advance at (775) 784-3442 or (775) 784-3447 so that arrangements may be made.

**1. ROLL CALL**

NSA Secretary Karli McFarling-Kelly will take roll call of members and ask guests to identify themselves verbally so their names may be recorded in the minutes.

*Quorum is met; 7 voting members*

*Note: Voting changes to 8 at 9:13 AM: Dominique H. joins*

*Members in attendance can proceed with scheduled meeting.*

*Guests: Chancellor Thomas Reilly, Chief of Staff Michael Flores, Senior Policy Analyst Joi Holliday Sparrow, Renee Davis, and Terina Caserto were all in attendance.*

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT****INFORMATION ONLY**

Public comment will be taken during this agenda item. No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item until the matter is included on an agenda as an item on which action may be taken. Comments will be limited to three minutes per person. Persons making comment will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and to spell their last name. The NSA Chair may elect to allow additional public comment on a specific agenda item when that agenda item is being considered.

Pursuant to Section 2 of Directive 006, and extended by Directives 016, 018 and 021, members of the public may participate in the meeting without being physically present by submitting public comment via email to [tcaserto@nshe.nevada.edu](mailto:tcaserto@nshe.nevada.edu) or voicemail: (775) 784-3442 or (775) 784-3447. Messages received by 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 13, 2020 may be entered into the record during the meeting. Any other emailed Public Comment and/or voicemails received prior to the adjournment of the meeting will be transcribed and included in the permanent record.

In accordance with Attorney General Opinion No. 00-047 (April 27, 2001), as

restated in the Attorney General's Open Meeting Law Manual, the NSA Chair may prohibit comment if the content of that comment is a topic that is not relevant to, or within the authority of, the NSA, or if the content is willfully disruptive of the meeting by being irrelevant, repetitious, slanderous, offensive, inflammatory, irrational or amounting to personal attacks or interfering with the rights of other speakers.

*As of 4:30 PM yesterday, there was no public comment submitted.*

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

Request is made for approval of the minutes for the NSA meeting held on July 10, 2020.

*Co-chair Will Carrasco motions to approve agenda item #3.*

*Suman Randhawa seconds the motion.*

*Motion passes 7-0-0.*

### 4. DISCUSSION WITH THE CHANCELLOR

### INFORMATION ONLY

NSA members will meet with Chancellor Thom Reilly. They will discuss aspirations and concerns for each institution and the higher education system.

*NSHE Chancellor Tom Reilly suggests Nevada Student Alliance members sponsor a Town Hall meeting with Title IX coordinators, so students understand the limitations listed in the new Title IX, and know what resources are developed and what resources need to be discussed. Chancellor Reilly offers to help NSA members with this project.*

*Chief of Staff Michael Flores states that Chancellor Reilly should address AJR5 (Assembly Joint Resolution No. 5).*

*On the topic of AJR5, Chancellor Reilly says that NSA members should ask the question of "If there is a change, how does that impact student outcomes?" Will student services change? How will shared governance operate under something different? Chancellor Reilly states there are not a lot of answers to the proposed questions. He mentions if someone has concerns about Regents and their oversight or the way they are appointed/elected then it should be addressed.*

*Chancellor Reilly mentions that at the previous Legislative Session, Senator Joyce Woodhouse was trying to implement a hybrid bill addressing the reduction of the number of regions from thirteen (13) to nine (9), and to a point half and a half. Reilly goes on to explain how he publicly supported the idea of the bill because he thinks less regents, in this case, is not a bad idea and nine is a more manageable number. He then says that the hybrid bill can balance out the issue of election and appointment and preserve the right of citizens to elect in Nevada.*

*Chancellor Reilly expresses his concerns about placing higher education under the state, stating "I used to run the child welfare system for a long time in the state. And after that I*

*became county manager in Clark County. And I can tell you is that when I left state government and went to Clark County, it was dramatically different. The state is a very challenging place to run departments. The oversight is onerous. Every time you have a grant coming in, they're having to go to IFC. It's very inefficient. And I fear, if our goal is to create higher education and create it and make it a state agency, like a DMV, or DETR (Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation) I fear that system because they aren't efficient systems."*

*Chancellor Reilly gives a brief backstory of his time working at Child Welfare Services with then Majority Leader Barbara Buckley and how they reformed Child Welfare by creating the entire child welfare system: One in Clark County, one in Washoe County, and then the remainder of the state, rural areas under the state. He further explains, the primary decision of why that recommendation came, was because the state would never invest the services that it needed to in running child welfare, therefore the decision was to give it to the counties because they felt the counties had better resources to fund the system.*

*Chancellor Reilly then refers to his previous questions, "If we create a new system, how will it be better? And if it is, and there are concrete ways to make it better then I think we should embrace it. We need to talk about how we are going to improve student outcomes. How are we going to address the achievement gap? How we are going to ensure that we maintain our research universities, and does putting us under the state make that happen?"*

*Chancellor Reilly addresses the issue of transparency with the State Legislation, stating, "— all of us can be better when we deal with transparency." He follows by giving examples of how Legislation has not been transparent – during the last two Special Sessions, the first thing they did was suspend all rules and they can pass legislation without having to reach out to individuals to get their input. He reassures that students do have access and a right to give their input on proposed changes discussed during Legislative meetings.*

*NSA Chair Gabrielle Clark commends Chancellor Reilly for bringing awareness to issues within the Legislation and asks, "When we [students] speak at legislation, are we trying to make the public more aware about what NSHE is and what we do, so the public has an idea of what we are trying to accomplish as a higher education entity?" (On the basis of NSA members agreeing on our approval or disapproval of AJR5, Chair Clark would like to know how students can persuade/lobby the legislation to vote on AJR5 in our favor).*

*Chancellor Reilly responds that we [students] should ask how we have a seat at the [Legislative] table.*

*Chief of Staff Michael Flores states the system [Legislators] has to do a better job explaining what they do. He then explains that despite the public having a lot of opinion, the office of legislation stays quiet because they are not allowed to get involved in ballot initiatives, etc. Chief of Staff Flores reiterates Chancellor Reilly's statement of the importance of being able to have conversations and have students a part of the decision-making process.*

*Chair Clark asks about the email sent from Chancellor Reilly during the previous Board of Regent's meeting in regard to the litigation, and some of the universities that have had specific*

*cases or lawsuits regarding Title IX and its policies. She also asks if Chancellor Reilly has spoken with the NSHE Attorney General, since he did not have a chance to speak on the agenda item during the last Board meeting.*

*Chancellor Reilly states the Title IX agenda item will be on the next Special Session Agenda (August 21<sup>st</sup>) and applauds the students who spoke out on the issue during the last session. He, again, restates that NSA student body presidents can conduct Town Hall meetings with Title IX coordinators to address the proposed policy changes with their respective constituents. In response to Chair Clark's question, Chancellor Reilly says he spoke with Attorney General [Aaron] Ford prior to sending out the email. Chancellor Reilly informs the NSA members there are three sets of lawsuits that were done: A group of Attorney Generals (18) that filed on behalf of states, a victim rights group, and there was the ACLU. There was not any specific higher education institution that filed a Title IX lawsuit. The State of New York filed separately than the 18 Attorney Generals. Reilly mentions that over the past weekend, the judge denied the injunction with New York, and yesterday or the day before, Washington, DC denied the 18 Attorney Generals to move forward. That is to say, they were not granting the injunction and it became law. He then states if NSHE was going to sue, the board would have to vote on it; and the Chancellor cannot sue on behalf of the Board, but give direction to how the Board should take their next move (i.e. join a lawsuit or support the Attorney General's decision).*

*Chancellor Reilly discusses the budget: there was a conversation on how to implement the \$25 million additional cuts the Board received at the Legislature; originally it was \$50 million then it was reduced to \$25 million. The Board made a proposal to take money out of their Ending Fund Balance. The general consensus to be voted on during the meeting on the (August)21st is to increase the Ending Fund Balance withdrawal from \$15 million to \$23.5 million that will mitigate a lot of the cuts that the institutions have to make. In the month of June, the Board's reserves went up \$9 million. Therefore, if the Board adopts to \$23.5 million, they will take that from their Ending Fund Balance which will keep them about 5%. [They want to keep the Ending Fund Balance at 5%]. There is an item to adopt the budget for the next biennium, but the Board has not received a lot of direction on that because there is not a lot of money. However, they may be able to give the base and deal with caseload growth. The Board has asked the Governor's Office, if they could go with three initiatives: One is if they cannot get the COLA Discussion (during the last budget session, they reduced the reimbursement at 64% versus 80%) but if the Board cannot get it at 80%, that will be their number one enhancement. The second will be the ratio of student advisors, which was passed by the Board. Third is to keep the community enhancement dollars, primarily towards the community colleges in place. On the next Board meeting agenda, there will be an item to adopt the biennial budget for the next two years (which complies with the Governor's Office). The Board and Governor's Office will then discuss what to submit in late November then in January.*

*Chancellor Reilly's last item discusses creating a budget reduction committee, which will be a subcommittee of Regents created by the Board to look closer at structural changes. The next fiscal year budget (referred as the "22 budget") is going to be a challenge starting on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Chancellor Reilly explains this FY 22 budget is going to be a challenge because the Board has tried to avoid deep cuts because they have used revenue offsets and used any type of revenue, they have to mitigate the cuts at the institutions. The first time the Board used the*

*Federal Care Dollars, half of it went to students, the other half every institution used to avoid cuts. The second area was the Rainy-Day Fund, which was the market fluctuation account. The Board took \$50 million from fund then dispersed it among the institutions. The third is the Board taking their Ending Fund Balance down to 5% because they do not have more revenue offsets. Chancellor Reilly states this committee will help the Board to examine everything from program elimination (which will be up to the institutions), closures or mergers, and real estate that could possibly be sold to offset some of the cuts since NSHE owns a lot of real estate.*

*Chair Clark asks if the procedure for how the additional cuts will be dispersed across the NSHE institutions (all eight institutions or only the top universities) will be discussed at the next Board meeting.*

*Chancellor Reilly responds that there will not be support for taking money away from one institution to give it to another. That is why the \$23.5 million will help mitigate the cuts issue. He says the main concern was Western Nevada College and Great Basin College because they were going to do layoffs under the 23.5 distribution, because the distribution is based upon what they put in. Therefore, the Board will pull all the investments to make better returns then will disperse them based upon the percentage, so University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) gets 52-53% because they put 52-53% in.*

## **5. OVERVIEW OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS INFORMATION ONLY AND DISCUSSION OF THE 81<sup>ST</sup> SESSION**

Michael Flores, Chief of Staff to the Chancellor, will present an overview of the Nevada legislative process. Flores will open a discussion of ways the Nevada Student Alliance may engage in with the legislature. Flores will also respond to members' questions about the legislature and topics of interest to the of the upcoming 81<sup>st</sup> Legislative Session.

*\*Please refer to Michael Flores' PowerPoint presentation for supplemental information discussed during this agenda item.*

*Chief of Staff Michael Flores gives an introduction on how the Legislature works, how lobbying works, and discusses the next session.*

*Chief of Staff Flores briefly introduces Joi Holliday, Senior Policy Analyst at NSHE. He suggests that NSA members contact Joi with any policy questions or concerns.*

*Chief of Staff Flores explains the Assembly primarily focuses on the Education Committee and Ways and Means Committee, which addresses money. Education Committees are where all the policies come through, for example, the Promise Scholarship. It started in the Education Committee because the Board wanted to figure out a way to increase opportunities for students to go to college. The scholarship then went to the Ways and Means Committee, where the Board had to find funding for it.*

*The Senate's primary focus are the Finance and Education Committees.*



*Chair Clarks asks if policies are made in the Senate.*

*Chief of Staff Flores explains that a bill/policy can start in either the Assembly or Senate, depending on how fast one would want their bill to be passed or if they believe they will have difficulty getting their bill to pass in either House.*

*Chief of Staff Flores talks about the occurrence of Nevada Legislation (meets every two years-odd numbered years). Other State Legislatures meet all year long, and if Nevada held year-long Special Sessions, we would not have to conduct emergency special sessions.*

*Chief of Staff Flores explains the steps/phases of how a bill is passed: Initial Steps, Action in the House of Origin, Action in the Second House, and Resolution of Differences. For example, one can propose more street-signs are installed in a certain local area. From there, they can reach out to their legislature and they will complete a Bill Draft Request. The bill will be discussed/modified during a committee meeting of the Assembly or Senate (whichever is the origin). Once passed in the House of origin, it goes to the next House where it is again discussed then assigned to a committee. If it passes, it goes through another reading/discussion then goes to a floor debate. Once the bill is passed by the Assembly and Senate, it goes to the Governor's Office to be signed or vetoed.*

*Dominique Hall asks if there is a bill that needs to be Nevada law why must it go through Nevada Legislature and not through Senator Catherine Cortez Masto and Senator Jacky Rosen?*

*Chief of Staff Flores responds because it is a lot easier to complete and pass items at the state level compared to the federal level. In addition, there are jurisdictions at the state level that the federal level could not oversee, such as the Promise Scholarship or Millennium Scholarship.*

*Joi Holliday further explains the separation of powers, however there are specific federal regulations the Board goes to their delegation for, but for strategy it is sometimes easier and faster to move items through the state.*

*Chair Clark asks if the Legislation has overseers that make sure there is equity within certain policies, such as if a bill is proposed addressing start times/curfews of schools. For example, who decides high school will start at a different time than elementary school? Are there discussions on whether those policies help or hinder specific ethnic groups?*

*Chief of Staff Flores answers there are not delegated overseers in the Legislature who have the sole job of noticing and addressing such policies, but rather it is the job of all local citizens.*

*Matthew Sunil Varre asks if the process of meeting legislators and lobbying has*

*changed since COVID-19 and given the budget cuts, do legislators have any advice on how institutions can receive additional funds and speak with them with CDC guidelines.*

*Chief of Staff Flores tables his response to Matthew Sunil Varre's question to finish the overview of the remaining PowerPoint slides.*

*Chief of Staff explains the Interim Committees. (There is a committee meeting in September, that will focus on homeless youth).*

*Chief of Staff describes the lobbying process and different methods of lobbying (e.g. writing letters, social media, etc.) He states that during the Legislation, it is always best to get students to the legislature (in Carson City, Nevada) at the end of session as legislatures are discussing policies/bills and not only in the beginning of session.*

*Chief of Staff Flores mentions some of the challenges for the 2021 Legislative Session (e.g. the budget shortfall, change in leadership, etc.) In every committee mentioned earlier, there are chairs, and in the Senate Finance Committee and Assembly Education Committee, there are going to be leadership changes.*

*Chief of Staff Flores mentions key opportunities for the 2021 Legislative Session (e.g. add backs and stronger advocacy). Add backs will allow the state to get money back that was cut during the Special Sessions.*

*Chief of Staff answers Matthew Sunil Varre's question by offering his services to help students plan virtual meetings with Legislators. He also suggests calling state legislatures as they are more accessible now than before.*

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

### **INFORMATION ONLY**

Items for consideration at future meetings may be suggested. Any discussion of an item under "New Business" is limited to description and clarification of the subject matter of the item, which may include the reasons for the request.

*Dominique Hall suggests having a discussion on the ballot questions and figuring out if the members of NSA agree on the ballot questions.*

*Chair Clark suggests informing the NSHE Board that NSA wants to have a seat at the table for the budget crisis committee.*

*Chair Clark wants to ask NSHE how the \$9 million offset is going to help students.*

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

### **INFORMATION ONLY**



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PURSUANT TO SECTION 3 OF DIRECTIVE 006, AND EXTENDED BY DIRECTIVES 016, 018 AND 021, THE REQUIREMENTS CONTAINED IN NRS 241.020(4)(a) THAT PUBLIC NOTICE AGENDAS BE POSTED AT PHYSICAL LOCATIONS WITHIN THE STATE OF NEVADA HAS BEEN SUSPENDED. PURSUANT TO SECTION 4 OF DIRECTIVE 006, AND EXTENDED BY DIRECTIVES 016, 018 AND 021, THIS AGENDA HAS BEEN ELECTRONICALLY POSTED ON THE NSA PAGE OF THE NSHE WEBSITE: <http://www.nevada.edu/studentgov/> AND ON THE NEVADA PUBLIC NOTICE WEBSITE (<http://notice.nv.gov/>) IN ACCORDANCE WITH NRS 232.2175.

*Chair Clark commends Dominique Hall and Suman Randhawa for their public comment during the previous Board of Regents Special Session on the Title IX agenda item.*

*There is no other public comment.*

**Meeting ADJOURNED: 10:33 AM**



# Legislative Advocacy

## 101

***Nevada Student Alliance***

*Friday August 14, 2020*

# Nevada Legislature





# Who can run for office?

- 21 years old
- Have lived in the state for at least one year
- Must be U.S. citizen

# Assembly

- 42 members
- 2 year terms
- 12 year term limit

## Committees

- Commerce & Labor
- Education
- Government Affairs
- Health & Human Services
- Judiciary
- Legislative Operations
- Natural Resources, Agriculture, and mining
- Taxation
- Transportation
- Ways & Means

# Senate

- 21 members
- 4 year terms
- 12 year term limit

## Committees

- Commerce, Labor & Energy
- Education
- Finance
- Government Affairs
- Health & Human Services
- Judiciary
- Legislative Operations & Elections
- Natural Resources
- Revenue & Economic Development
- Transportation



# Session

- Lasts 120 days (February-June)
- Meet every two years in odd numbered years



# Legislative Process Cont.

## PHASE 1: INITIAL STEPS BY THE AUTHOR

- Idea
- Drafting
- Introduction and First Reading

## PHASE 2: ACTION IN THE HOUSE OF ORIGIN

- Committee
- Second Reading
- Floor Debate and Vote by the Full House

## PHASE 3: ACTION IN THE SECOND HOUSE

- First Reading
- Committee
- Second Reading Before the Full House
- Floor Debate and Vote by the Full House

## PHASE 4: RESOLUTION OF DIFFERENCES AS NECESSARY

- Consideration of Amendments
- Conference

## PHASE 5: ROLE OF THE GOVERNOR



# Interim Committees

## Finance

Makes fiscal decisions for the Legislature during the interim and also maintain an adequate fund balance to meet unforeseen financial emergencies.

## Legislative Commission

Takes action on behalf of the legislative branch.  
Provides guidance to the Legislative Counsel Bureau on how to deal with interim matters.



# Lobbying 101



# LOBBYIST



What society thinks I do



What my mom thinks I do



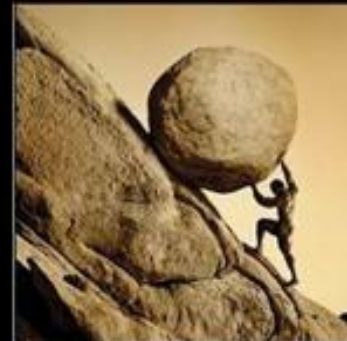
What politicians think I do



What clients think I do



What I think I do



What I really do

# Lobbying



- Influencing public officials to
  - take a specific position on a piece of legislation
  - take a specific action



# Different Types of Lobbying

- Email
- Letter writing
- One on one meetings
- Testifying in committee
- Social Media

# Emails & Letter Writing

- Keep them short
- Be respectful
- Provide direct “ask”
- Identify yourself
- Know your issue
- Contact the legislator directly



# One on One Meetings

- Set up meeting through attaché
- Bring materials just in case
- Provide data supporting your ask
- Know that legislators committees assignments
- Create connection with legislator
- Know your bill
- Always follow up with at least a “thank you”



# Testifying

- Typically only paid lobbyists testify
- Huge impact when general public testifies
- Be short but passionate
- Submit written testimony
- Know your chairperson
- Can only testify when bill is being introduced in it's respective house

# Social Media

- Follow them on twitter
- Use their handle
- #NVLEG
- Be respectful
- They love pictures





# Timing is Everything

## Beginning of session

- Bills being introduced
- Legislators still gathering support and information for bills

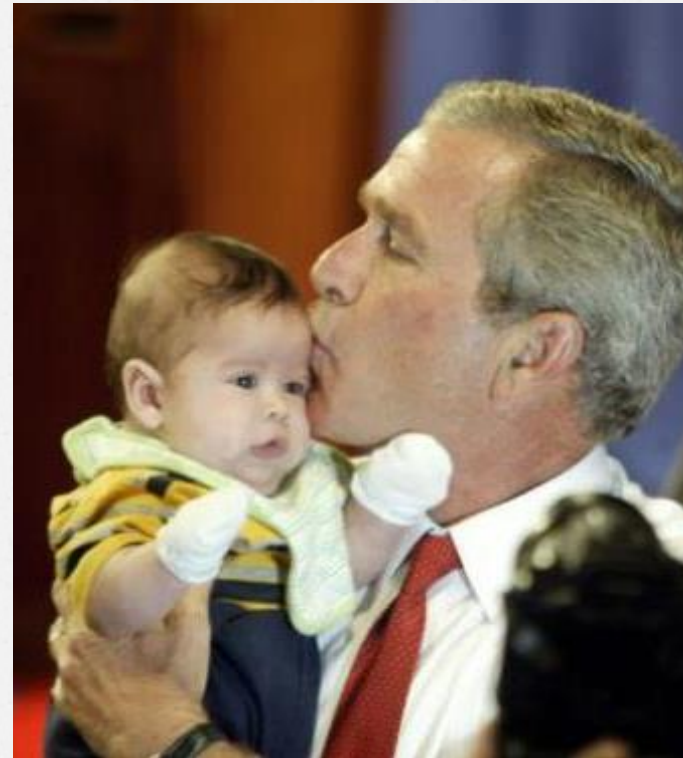
## End of session

- Budgets are closing
- Bills being killed or passing



# Extras

- Southern Nevada Forum
- Special Events
- Meet and Greets
- Campaigns



# 2021 Legislative Session

- Challenges
  - Budget shortfall
  - Potential cuts
  - Surprise bills
  - Change in leadership
- Opportunities
  - Add backs
  - Stronger advocacy