

SENATE BILL NO. 274—SENATORS NEAL AND COFFIN

MARCH 1, 1999

JOINT SPONSOR: ASSEMBLYWOMAN GIUNCHIGLIANI

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Amends charter of City of Las Vegas to create six wards under certain circumstances. (BDR S-1064)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State or on Industrial Insurance: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in ***bolded italics*** is new; matter between brackets ~~for omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to the charter of the City of Las Vegas; amending the charter to create six wards in the City of Las Vegas upon the approval of the registered voters of the city; requiring the city council to increase the number of additional wards as it determines is necessary; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE
AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 1.130 of the charter of the City of Las Vegas, being chapter 517, Statutes of Nevada 1983, as amended by chapter 526, Statutes of Nevada 1997, at page 2514, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1.130 Wards: Creation; boundaries.

1. The city ~~may~~ ***must*** be divided into ~~as many wards as the city council determines are necessary. The wards~~ ***six wards upon the approval of the voters. Thereafter, the city council shall increase the number of wards as the city council determines is necessary. The wards*** must be as nearly equal in population as can conveniently be provided, and the territory which compromises each ward must be contiguous.

2. The boundaries of the wards must be established and changed by ordinance. The boundaries of the wards must be changed whenever the population, as determined by the last

1 preceding national census of the Bureau of the Census of the United
2 States Department of Commerce, in any ward exceeds the
3 population in any other ward by more than 5 percent. The
4 boundaries of the wards may be changed to include territory which
5 has been annexed and whenever the population in any ward exceeds
6 the population in any other ward by more than 5 percent by any
7 measure which is found reliable by the city council.

8 **Sec. 2.** Section 2.010 of the charter of the City of Las Vegas, being
9 chapter 517, Statutes of Nevada 1983, at page 1394, is hereby amended to
10 read as follows:

11 Sec. 2.010 General provisions.

12 1. The municipal government and the legislative power of the
13 city is vested in a city council which consists of a mayor and ~~four~~
14 ~~councilmen.~~ **one councilman from each ward.**

15 2. Members of the city council may vote on any lease, contract
16 or other agreement which extends beyond their respective terms of
17 office.

18 **Sec. 3.** Section 5.010 of the charter of the City of Las Vegas, being
19 chapter 517, Statutes of Nevada 1983, as last amended by chapter 570,
20 Statutes of Nevada 1997, at page 2790, is hereby amended to read as
21 follows:

22 Sec. 5.010 Primary municipal elections.

23 1. On the Tuesday after the ~~1st~~ **first** Monday in May ~~[1985,]~~
24 **2001**, and at each successive interval of 4 years, a primary
25 municipal election must be held in the city at which time candidates
26 for ~~two~~ **half of the** offices of councilman and for municipal judge,
27 department 2, must be nominated.

28 2. On the Tuesday after the ~~1st~~ **first** Monday in May ~~[1987,]~~
29 **2003**, and at each successive interval of 4 years, a primary
30 municipal election must be held in the city at which time candidates
31 for mayor, for ~~two~~ **the other half of the** offices of councilman and
32 for municipal judge, department 1, must be nominated.

33 3. The candidates for councilman who are to be nominated as
34 provided in subsections 1 and 2 must be nominated and voted for
35 separately according to the respective wards. The candidates from
36 ~~wards 2 and 4~~ **each even-numbered ward** must be nominated as
37 provided in subsection 1, and the candidates from ~~wards 1 and 3~~
38 **each odd-numbered ward** must be nominated as provided in
39 subsection 2.

40 4. If the city council has established an additional department
41 or departments of the municipal court pursuant to section 4.010 of
42 this charter, and, as a result, more than one office of municipal

1 judge is to be filled at any election, the candidates for those offices
2 must be nominated and voted upon separately according to the
3 respective departments.

4 5. Each candidate for the municipal offices which are provided
5 for in subsections 1, 2 and 4 must file a declaration of candidacy
6 with the city clerk. The city clerk shall collect from each candidate,
7 at the time of filing that candidate's declaration of candidacy, the
8 filing fee which is prescribed by ordinance for that office. All of the
9 filing fees which are collected by the city clerk must be paid into the
10 city treasury.

11 6. If, at 5 p.m. on the last day for filing a declaration of
12 candidacy, there is only one candidate for nomination for any
13 office, that candidate must be declared elected for the term which
14 commences on the day of the first regular meeting of the city
15 council next succeeding the meeting at which the canvass of the
16 returns is made, and no primary or general election need be held for
17 that office.

18 7. If, in the primary election, regardless of the number of
19 candidates for an office, one candidate receives a majority of votes
20 which are cast in that election for the office for which he is a
21 candidate, he must be declared elected for the term which
22 commences on the day of the first regular meeting of the city
23 council next succeeding the meeting at which the canvass of the
24 returns is made, and no general election need be held for that office.
25 If, in the primary election, no candidate receives a majority of votes
26 which are cast in that election for the office for which he is a
27 candidate, the names of the two candidates who receive the highest
28 number of votes must be placed on the ballot for the general
29 election.

30 **Sec. 4.** The city council of the City of Las Vegas shall submit the
31 question of whether the number of wards of the city should be increased to
32 six wards to the registered voters of the city at the first general municipal
33 election after the effective date of this act.

34 **Sec. 5.** If the registered voters of the City of Las Vegas approve the
35 increase in the number of wards of the city to six wards, the city council
36 shall, on or before January 1, 2000:

37 1. Establish the boundaries of the wards added pursuant to the
38 amendatory provisions of section 1 of this act and designate these wards as
39 wards 5 and 6.

40 2. Appoint one person to each office of councilman added pursuant to
41 the amendatory provisions of section 1 of this act. The successor to the
42 office of councilman from ward 6 who is elected at the municipal election
43 in 2001 serves for a term of 4 years. Notwithstanding the provisions of

1 subsection 2 of section 1.140 of the charter of the City of Las Vegas, the
2 successor to the office of councilman from ward 5 who is elected at the
3 municipal election in 2001 serves for a term of 2 years. His successor who
4 is elected at the municipal election in 2003 and each subsequent successor
5 to that office serves for a term of 4 years.

6 **Sec. 6.** This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.

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