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PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY IN NEVADA

REPORT TO
2003 LEGISLATURE



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NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS, PROCEDURES, & ETHICS
DATE: 5/6/03 ROOM: 3138 EXHIBIT I
SUBMITTED BY: Senator Titus

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Repository for Records Pertaining to Participatory Democracy

INTRODUCTION

This report is submitted at the request of the 2001 Nevada Legislature in response to a report filed by the Department of Cultural Affairs (formerly Department of Museums, Library, and Arts), entitled *Participatory Democracy in Nevada, Report to 2001 Legislature* (Executive Summary, Appendix 1).

In ACR 38 (Appendix 2), the 2001 Nevada Legislature determined that the recommendations contained in the report deserved broader recognition and consideration by public officers and agencies, local governments, organizations, and residents of the state of Nevada. The following report documents efforts made to circulate *Participatory Democracy in Nevada* to each elected officer of the state, each city and county government, the board of trustees of each school district, State Board of Education, Board of Regents of the UCCSN, Nevada Supreme Court, and other officials, organizations, and residents of Nevada.

The Department of Cultural Affairs was directed to include in its report to the 2003 Nevada Legislature "an assessment of any progress made to address concerns noted in the *Participatory Democracy in Nevada* report to the 71st session of the Nevada Legislature and [identify] specific steps that could be taken to implement the recommendations therein."

A. Background of the ACPD, Department of Cultural Affairs

In 1997, the Nevada Legislature created a "repository for records concerning programs, activities and events related to the participation of citizens in the development of public policy and the improvement of the operation of government" (NRS 378.400(1)). The same statute authorized creation of an advisory committee (now known as the Advisory Committee on Participatory Democracy, or ACPD) to advise the Director of what is now the Department of Cultural Affairs on the following matters:

1. Coordination of public agencies concerning programs, activities or events designed to increase the extent and quality of the participation of Nevada residents in the development of public policy and improvement of government operation at all levels.
2. Obtaining assistance of public agencies in developing such activities and events.
3. Developing effective ways to provide information contained in the repository to members of the public.
4. Recommending programs that demonstrate effective methods by which residents of Nevada may participate in development of public policy and improvement of government operation at all levels (NRS 378.400(4) and (5)).