

Assembly Bill No. 89—Committee on Elections,
Procedures, Ethics, and Constitutional Amendments

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to elections; authorizing county clerks and city clerks to designate additional facilities at which electors may register to vote; prescribing the manner of operation of such a facility; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law requires that certain offices, including the office of a county clerk and city clerk, serve as voter registration agencies. (NRS 293.504) Existing law further requires that the offices of a county clerk and city clerk be open certain hours during the last days before the close of registration before a primary or general city election and provides that, during a certain period preceding such an election, an elector may register to vote only by appearing in person at the office of the county clerk or city clerk. (NRS 293.560, 293C.527)

This bill authorizes county clerks and city clerks to designate a county or municipal facility at which an elector may register to vote. The designation must provide for the registration of voters at the facility in addition to the registration of voters at the office of the county clerk or city clerk. If a county clerk or city clerk designates such a facility, this bill provides that the county clerk or city clerk, as applicable, shall determine the hours of operation of the facility. During the prescribed period preceding an election, an elector may register to vote by appearing in person at a designated facility, if such a facility is open, or at the office of the county clerk or city clerk.

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

Section 1. Chapter 293 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. The county clerk may designate any building owned or leased by the county, or any portion of such a building, as a county facility at which electors may register to vote.

2. A county facility designated pursuant to subsection 1 must be operated as an auxiliary county facility at which voter registration is carried out in addition to being carried out at the office of the county clerk.

3. If the county clerk designates a county facility pursuant to subsection 1, the county clerk shall determine the hours of operation for the facility and shall, in cooperation with the Secretary of State, ensure that the facility is operated, staffed and equipped in compliance with all applicable provisions of title 24 of NRS and all other applicable provisions of state and federal law relating to the registration of electors in this State.

Sec. 2. NRS 293.504 is hereby amended to read as follows:

293.504 1. The following offices shall serve as voter registration agencies:

(a) Such offices that provide public assistance as are designated by the Secretary of State;

(b) Each office that receives money from the State of Nevada to provide services to persons in this State who are disabled;

(c) The offices of the Department of Motor Vehicles;

(d) The offices of the city and county clerks; ~~and~~

(e) *Such other county and municipal facilities as a county clerk or city clerk may designate pursuant to section 1 or 4 of this act, as applicable; and*

(f) Such other offices as the Secretary of State deems appropriate.

2. Each voter registration agency shall:

(a) Post in a conspicuous place, in at least 12-point type, instructions for registering to vote;

(b) Make applications to register to vote which may be returned by mail available to each person who applies for or receives services or assistance from the agency;

(c) Provide the same amount of assistance to an applicant in completing an application to register to vote as the agency provides to a person completing any other forms for the agency; and

(d) Accept completed applications to register to vote.

3. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection and NRS 293.524, any application to register to vote accepted by a voter registration agency must be transmitted to the county clerk not later than 10 days after the application is accepted. The applications must be forwarded daily during the 2 weeks immediately preceding the fifth Sunday preceding an election. The county clerk shall accept any application to register to vote which is obtained from a voter registration agency pursuant to this section and completed by the fifth Sunday preceding an election if he receives the application not later than 5 days after that date.

4. The Secretary of State shall cooperate with the Secretary of Defense to develop and carry out procedures to enable persons in this State to apply to register to vote at recruitment offices of the United States Armed Forces.

Sec. 3. NRS 293.560 is hereby amended to read as follows:

293.560 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 293.502, registration must close at 9 p.m. on the third Tuesday preceding any primary or general election and at 9 p.m. on the third Saturday preceding any recall or special election, except that if a recall or special election is held on the same day as a primary or general election, registration must close at 9 p.m. on the third Tuesday preceding the day of the elections.

2. The office of the county clerk must be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., including Saturdays, during the last days before the close of registration, according to the following schedule:

(a) In a county whose population is less than 100,000, the office of the county clerk must be open during the last day before registration closes.

(b) In all other counties, the office of the county clerk must be open during the last 5 days before registration closes.

3. Except for a special election held pursuant to chapter 306 or 350 of NRS:

(a) The county clerk of each county shall cause a notice signed by him to be published in a newspaper having a general circulation in the county indicating ~~the~~ :

(1) The day that registration will be closed ~~H~~; and

(2) If the county clerk has designated a county facility pursuant to section 1 of this act, the location of that facility.

↳ If no such newspaper is published in the county, the publication may be made in a newspaper of general circulation published in the nearest county in this State.

(b) The notice must be published once each week for 4 consecutive weeks next preceding the close of registration for any election.

4. The offices of the county clerk, *a county facility designated pursuant to section 1 of this act* and other ex officio registrars may remain open on the last Friday in October in each even-numbered year.

5. For the period beginning on the fifth Sunday preceding any primary or general election and ending on the third Tuesday preceding any primary or general election, an elector may register to vote only by appearing in person at the office of the county clerk ~~H~~ *or, if open, a county facility designated pursuant to section 1 of this act.*

6. *A county facility designated pursuant to section 1 of this act may be open during the periods described in this section for such hours of operation as the county clerk may determine, as set forth in subsection 3 of section 1 of this act.*

Sec. 4. Chapter 293C of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. The city clerk may designate any building owned or leased by the city, or any portion of such a building, as a municipal facility at which electors may register to vote.

2. A municipal facility designated pursuant to subsection 1 must be operated as an auxiliary municipal facility at which voter registration is carried out in addition to being carried out at the office of the city clerk.

3. If the city clerk designates a municipal facility pursuant to subsection 1, the city clerk shall determine the hours of operation for the facility and shall, in cooperation with the Secretary of State, ensure that the facility is operated, staffed and equipped in compliance with all applicable provisions of title 24 of NRS and all other applicable provisions of state and federal law relating to the registration of electors in this State.

Sec. 5. NRS 293C.527 is hereby amended to read as follows:

293C.527 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 293.502, registration must close at 9 p.m. on the third Tuesday preceding any primary city election or general city election and at 9 p.m. on the third Saturday preceding any recall or special election, except that if a recall or special election is held on the same day as a primary city election or general city election, registration must close at 9 p.m. on the third Tuesday preceding the day of the elections.

2. The office of the city clerk must be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., including Saturdays, during the last days before the close of registration before a primary city election or general city election, according to the following schedule:

(a) In a city whose population is less than 25,000, the office of the city clerk must be open during the last 3 days before registration closes.

(b) In a city whose population is 25,000 or more, the office of the city clerk must be open during the last 5 days before registration closes.

3. Except for a special election held pursuant to chapter 306 or 350 of NRS:

(a) The city clerk of each city shall cause a notice signed by him to be published in a newspaper having a general circulation in the city indicating ~~the~~:

(1) The day that registration will be closed ~~the~~; and

(2) If the city clerk has designated a municipal facility pursuant to section 4 of this act, the location of that facility.

↳ If no newspaper is of general circulation in that city, the publication may be made in a newspaper of general circulation in the nearest city in this State.

(b) The notice must be published once each week for 4 consecutive weeks next preceding the close of registration for any election.

4. For the period beginning on the fifth Sunday preceding any primary city election or general city election and ending on the third Tuesday preceding any primary city election or general city election, an elector may register to vote only by appearing in person at the office of the city clerk ~~the~~ ***or, if open, a municipal facility designated pursuant to section 4 of this act.***

5. A municipal facility designated pursuant to section 4 of this act may be open during the periods described in this section for such hours of operation as the city clerk may determine, as set forth in subsection 3 of section 4 of this act.

Sec. 6. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2005.

