

SENATE BILL NO. 162—SENATORS WOODHOUSE, COFFIN, WIENER,
HORSFORD; BREEDEN, COPENING, PARKS AND SCHNEIDER

MARCH 2, 2009

Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

SUMMARY—Revises the date of the primary election and provisions governing voter registration by mail. (BDR 24-1001)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

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

AN ACT relating to elections; revising the date of the primary election to the second Tuesday in June of each even-numbered year; revising the provisions governing the registration of voters by mail; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Section 6 of this bill changes the date of the primary election from the twelfth Tuesday before the general election of each even-numbered year to the second Tuesday in June of each even-numbered year. (NRS 293.175) To provide an example, if the provisions of this bill had been in effect in 2008, the primary election would have been held on June 10, 2008, instead of August 12, 2008.

As a result of changing the date of the primary election, **sections 1-5, 7-12 and 14-17** of this bill amend various other dates relating to elections such as the date for filing declarations of candidacy.

Section 13 of this bill provides that no primary election will be held for a particular office if: (1) only one major political party has candidates for that office; and (2) that major political party has not more than twice the number of candidates to be elected to that office. This restriction on holding a primary election for a particular office applies regardless of whether there is a minor political candidate or an independent candidate for that particular office. (NRS 293.260)

Section 16 of this bill changes the date on which a voter's registration or correction of registration information is deemed to be effective to the earlier of the date on which the application is postmarked or received by the county clerk. (NRS 293.5235)



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

Section 1. NRS 293.128 is hereby amended to read as follows:
293.128 1. To qualify as a major political party, any organization must, under a common name:

(a) On January 1 preceding any primary election, have been designated as a political party on the applications to register to vote of at least 10 percent of the total number of registered voters in this State; or

(b) File a petition with the Secretary of State not later than the last Friday in ~~April~~ **February** before any primary election signed by a number of registered voters equal to or more than 10 percent of the total number of votes cast at the last preceding general election for the offices of Representative in Congress.

2. If a petition is filed pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 1, the names of the voters need not all be on one document, but each document of the petition must be verified by the circulator thereof to the effect that the signers are registered voters of this State according to his best information and belief and that the signatures are genuine and were signed in his presence. Each document of the petition must bear the name of a county, and only registered voters of that county may sign the document. The documents which are circulated for signature must then be submitted for verification pursuant to NRS 293.1276 to 293.1279, inclusive, not later than 25 working days before the last Friday in ~~April~~ **February** preceding a primary election.

3. In addition to the requirements set forth in subsection 1, each organization which wishes to qualify as a political party must file with the Secretary of State a certificate of existence which includes the:

(a) Name of the political party;
(b) Names and addresses of its officers;
(c) Names of the members of its executive committee; and
(d) Name of the person who is authorized by the party to act as registered agent in this State.

4. A political party shall file with the Secretary of State an amended certificate of existence within 5 days after any change in the information contained in the certificate.

Sec. 2. NRS 293.165 is hereby amended to read as follows:

293.165 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 293.166, a vacancy occurring in a major or minor political party nomination for a partisan office may be filled by a candidate designated by the party central committee of the county or State, as the case may be, of the major political party or by the executive committee of the



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1 minor political party subject to the provisions of subsections 4
2 and 5.

3 2. A vacancy occurring in a nonpartisan nomination after the
4 close of filing and on or before 5 p.m. of the second Tuesday in
5 ~~June~~ April must be filled by filing a nominating petition that is
6 signed by registered voters of the State, county, district or
7 municipality who may vote for the office in question. The number
8 of registered voters who sign the petition must not be less than 1
9 percent of the number of persons who voted for the office in
10 question in the State, county, district or municipality at the last
11 preceding general election. The petition must be filed not earlier
12 than the first Tuesday in ~~May~~ March and not later than the fourth
13 Tuesday in ~~June~~ April. The petition may consist of more than one
14 document. Each document must bear the name of one county and
15 must be signed only by a person who is a registered voter of that
16 county and who may vote for the office in question. Each document
17 of the petition must be submitted for verification pursuant to NRS
18 293.1276 to 293.1279, inclusive, to the county clerk of the county
19 named on the document. A candidate nominated pursuant to the
20 provisions of this subsection:

21 (a) Must file a declaration of candidacy or acceptance of
22 candidacy and pay the statutory filing fee on or before the date the
23 petition is filed; and

24 (b) May be elected only at a general election, and his name must
25 not appear on the ballot for a primary election.

26 3. A vacancy occurring in a nonpartisan nomination after
27 5 p.m. of the second Tuesday in ~~June~~ April and on or before 5 p.m.
28 on the first Tuesday after the primary election must be filled by the
29 person who receives the next highest vote for the nomination in the
30 primary.

31 4. No change may be made on the ballot for the general
32 election after 5 p.m. on the first Tuesday after the primary election .
33 ~~{of the year in which the general election is held.}~~ If a nominee dies
34 after that time and date, his name must remain on the ballot for the
35 general election and, if elected, a vacancy exists.

36 5. All designations provided for in this section must be filed on
37 or before 5 p.m. on the first Tuesday after the primary election. In
38 each case, the statutory filing fee must be paid and an acceptance of
39 the designation must be filed on or before 5 p.m. on the date the
40 designation is filed.

41 **Sec. 3.** NRS 293.1715 is hereby amended to read as follows:

42 293.1715 1. The names of the candidates for partisan office
43 of a minor political party must not appear on the ballot for a primary
44 election.



2. The names of the candidates for partisan office of a minor political party must be placed on the ballot for the general election if the party has filed a certificate of existence and a list of its candidates for partisan office pursuant to the provisions of NRS 293.1725 with the Secretary of State and:

(a) At the last preceding general election, the minor political party polled for any of its candidates for partisan office a number of votes equal to or more than 1 percent of the total number of votes cast for the offices of Representative in Congress;

(b) On January 1 preceding a primary election, the minor political party has been designated as the political party on the applications to register to vote of at least 1 percent of the total number of registered voters in this State; or

(c) Not later than the second Friday in ~~August~~ *June* preceding the general election, files a petition with the Secretary of State which is signed by a number of registered voters equal to at least 1 percent of the total number of votes cast at the last preceding general election for the offices of Representative in Congress.

3. The name of a candidate for partisan office for a minor political party other than a candidate for the office of President or Vice President of the United States must be placed on the ballot for the general election if the party has filed:

(a) A certificate of existence;

(b) A list of candidates for partisan office containing the name of the candidate pursuant to the provisions of NRS 293.1725 with the Secretary of State; and

(c) Not earlier than the first Monday in ~~May~~ *April* preceding the general election and not later than 5 p.m. on the ~~second~~ *first* Friday after the first Monday in ~~May~~ *April*, a petition on behalf of the candidate with the Secretary of State containing not less than:

(1) Two hundred fifty signatures of registered voters if the candidate is to be nominated for a statewide office; or

(2) One hundred signatures of registered voters if the candidate is to be nominated for any office except a statewide office.

➤ A minor political party that places names of one or more candidates for partisan office on the ballot pursuant to this subsection may also place the names of one or more candidates for partisan office on the ballot pursuant to subsection 2.

4. The name of only one candidate of each minor political party for each partisan office may appear on the ballot for a general election.

5. A minor political party must file a copy of the petition required by paragraph (c) of subsection 2 or paragraph (c) of



1 subsection 3 with the Secretary of State before the petition may be
2 circulated for signatures.

3 **Sec. 4.** NRS 293.1725 is hereby amended to read as follows:

4 293.1725 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection ~~[4,]~~
5 **6**, a minor political party that wishes to place its candidates for
6 partisan office on the ballot for a general election and:

7 (a) Is entitled to do so pursuant to paragraph (a) or (b) of
8 subsection 2 of NRS 293.1715;

9 (b) Files *or will file* a petition pursuant to paragraph (c) of
10 subsection 2 of NRS 293.1715; or

11 (c) Whose candidates are entitled to appear on the ballot
12 pursuant to subsection 3 of NRS 293.1715,

13 **↳** must file with the Secretary of State a list of its candidates for
14 partisan office .

15 **2. *The list of candidates for partisan office required pursuant***
16 ***to subsection 1 must be filed with the Secretary of State:***

17 ***(a) If the minor political party is described in paragraph (a) or***
18 ***(b) of subsection 1, not earlier than the first Monday in March***
19 ***preceding the election nor later than 5 p.m. on the first Friday***
20 ***after the first Monday in March. The list may be amended not***
21 ***later than 5 p.m. on the first Friday after the first Monday in***
22 ***March.***

23 ***(b) If the minor political party is described in paragraph (c) of***
24 ***subsection 1, not earlier than the first Monday in ~~[May]~~ April***
25 ***preceding the election nor later than 5 p.m. on the ~~[second]~~ first***
26 ***Friday after the first Monday in ~~[May-]~~ April. The list may be***
27 ***amended not later than 5 p.m. on the first Friday after the first***
28 ***Monday in April.***

29 **3.** The list must be signed by the person so authorized in the
30 certificate of existence of the minor political party before a notary
31 public or other person authorized to take acknowledgments. The
32 Secretary of State shall strike from the list each candidate who is not
33 entitled to appear on the ballot pursuant to subsection 3 of NRS
34 293.1715 if the minor political party is not entitled to place
35 candidates on the ballot pursuant to subsection 2 of NRS 293.1715.
36 ~~[The list may be amended not later than 5 p.m. on the second Friday~~
37 ~~after the first Monday in May.]~~

38 ~~[2-]~~ **4.** The Secretary of State shall immediately forward a
39 certified copy of the list of candidates for partisan office of each
40 minor political party to the filing officer with whom each candidate
41 must file his declaration of candidacy.

42 ~~[3-]~~ **5.** Each candidate on the list must file his declaration of
43 candidacy with the appropriate filing officer and pay the fee
44 required by NRS 293.193 not earlier than the date on which the list
45 of candidates for partisan office of his minor political party is filed



1 with the Secretary of State nor later than 5 p.m. on the ~~[second]~~ *first*
2 Friday after the first Monday in ~~[May-]~~ :

3 *(a) If the list is filed pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 2,*
4 *March.*

5 *(b) If the list is filed pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 2,*
6 *April.*

7 ~~[4-]~~ 6. A minor political party that wishes to place candidates
8 for the offices of President and Vice President of the United States
9 on the ballot and has qualified to place the names of its candidates
10 for partisan office on the ballot for the general election pursuant to
11 subsection 2 of NRS 293.1715 must file with the Secretary of State
12 a certificate of nomination for these offices not later than the first
13 Tuesday in September.

14 **Sec. 5.** NRS 293.174 is hereby amended to read as follows:

15 293.174 1. If the qualification of a minor political party is
16 challenged, all affidavits and documents in support of the challenge
17 must be filed not later than 5 p.m. on the third Friday in ~~[August.]~~
18 *June.* Any judicial proceeding resulting from the challenge must be
19 set for hearing not more than 5 days after the third Friday in
20 ~~[August.]~~ *June.* A challenge pursuant to this subsection must be
21 filed with the First Judicial District Court if the petition was filed
22 with the Secretary of State.

23 2. If the qualification of a candidate of a minor political party
24 other than a candidate for the office of President or Vice President
25 of the United States is challenged, all affidavits and documents in
26 support of the challenge must be filed not later than 5 p.m. on the
27 fourth Monday in ~~[May-]~~ *April.* Any judicial proceeding resulting
28 from the challenge must be set for hearing not more than 5 days
29 after the fourth Monday in ~~[May-]~~ *April.* A challenge pursuant to
30 this subsection must be filed with:

31 (a) The First Judicial District Court; or

32 (b) If a candidate who filed a declaration of candidacy with a
33 county clerk is challenged, the district court for the county where
34 the declaration of candidacy was filed.

35 **Sec. 6.** NRS 293.175 is hereby amended to read as follows:

36 293.175 1. The primary election must be held on the ~~[12th~~
37 ~~Tuesday before the general election]~~ *second Tuesday in June of*
38 *each even-numbered year.*

39 2. Candidates for partisan office of a major political party and
40 candidates for nonpartisan office must be nominated at the primary
41 election.

42 3. Candidates for partisan office of a minor political party must
43 be nominated in the manner prescribed pursuant to NRS 293.171 to
44 293.174, inclusive.



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4. Independent candidates for partisan office must be nominated in the manner provided in NRS 293.200.

5. The provisions of NRS 293.175 to 293.203, inclusive, do not apply to:

(a) Special elections to fill vacancies.

(b) The nomination of the officers of incorporated cities.

(c) The nomination of district officers whose nomination is otherwise provided for by statute.

Sec. 7. NRS 293.177 is hereby amended to read as follows:

293.177 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 293.165, a name may not be printed on a ballot to be used at a primary election unless the person named has filed a declaration of candidacy or an acceptance of candidacy, and has paid the fee required by NRS 293.193 not earlier than:

(a) For a candidate for judicial office, the first Monday in January of the year in which the election is to be held nor later than 5 p.m. on the second Friday after the first Monday in January; and

(b) For all other candidates, the first Monday in ~~May~~ **March** of the year in which the election is to be held nor later than 5 p.m. on the second Friday after the first Monday in ~~May~~ **March**.

2. A declaration of candidacy or an acceptance of candidacy required to be filed by this section must be in substantially the following form:

(a) For partisan office:

DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY OF FOR THE
OFFICE OF

State of Nevada

County of

For the purpose of having my name placed on the official ballot as a candidate for the Party nomination for the office of, I, the undersigned, do swear or affirm under penalty of perjury that I actually, as opposed to constructively, reside at, in the City or Town of, County of, State of Nevada; that my actual, as opposed to constructive, residence in the State, district, county, township, city or other area prescribed by law to which the office pertains began on a date at least 30 days immediately preceding the date of the close of filing of declarations of candidacy for this office; that my telephone number is, and the address at which I receive mail, if different than my residence, is; that I am registered as a member of the Party; that I am a qualified elector pursuant to Section 1



1 of Article 2 of the Constitution of the State of Nevada; that if I have
2 ever been convicted of treason or a felony, my civil rights have been
3 restored by a court of competent jurisdiction; that I have not, in
4 violation of the provisions of NRS 293.176, changed the designation
5 of my political party or political party affiliation on an official
6 application to register to vote in any state since September 1 before
7 the closing filing date for this election; that I generally believe in
8 and intend to support the concepts found in the principles and
9 policies of that political party in the coming election; that if
10 nominated as a candidate of the Party at the ensuing
11 election, I will accept that nomination and not withdraw; that I will
12 not knowingly violate any election law or any law defining and
13 prohibiting corrupt and fraudulent practices in campaigns and
14 elections in this State; that I will qualify for the office if elected
15 thereto, including, but not limited to, complying with any limitation
16 prescribed by the Constitution and laws of this State concerning the
17 number of years or terms for which a person may hold the office;
18 and that I understand that my name will appear on all ballots as
19 designated in this declaration.

20
21
22 (Designation of name)
23

24
25 (Signature of candidate for office)
26

27 Subscribed and sworn to before me
28 this day of the month of of the year
29

30
31 Notary Public or other person
32 authorized to administer an oath
33

34 (b) For nonpartisan office:
35

36 DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY OF FOR THE
37 OFFICE OF
38

39 State of Nevada
40

41 County of
42

43 For the purpose of having my name placed on the official ballot as a
44 candidate for the office of, I, the undersigned,
45 do swear or affirm under penalty of perjury that I actually, as



opposed to constructively, reside at, in the City or Town of
....., County of, State of Nevada; that my actual, as
opposed to constructive, residence in the State, district, county,
township, city or other area prescribed by law to which the office
pertains began on a date at least 30 days immediately preceding the
date of the close of filing of declarations of candidacy for this
office; that my telephone number is, and the address at
which I receive mail, if different than my residence, is; that I
am a qualified elector pursuant to Section 1 of Article 2 of the
Constitution of the State of Nevada; that if I have ever been
convicted of treason or a felony, my civil rights have been restored
by a court of competent jurisdiction; that if nominated as a
nonpartisan candidate at the ensuing election, I will accept the
nomination and not withdraw; that I will not knowingly violate any
election law or any law defining and prohibiting corrupt and
fraudulent practices in campaigns and elections in this State; that I
will qualify for the office if elected thereto, including, but not
limited to, complying with any limitation prescribed by the
Constitution and laws of this State concerning the number of years
or terms for which a person may hold the office; and my name will
appear on all ballots as designated in this declaration.

.....
(Designation of name)

.....
(Signature of candidate for office)

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this day of the month of of the year

.....
Notary Public or other person
authorized to administer an oath

3. The address of a candidate which must be included in the
declaration of candidacy or acceptance of candidacy pursuant to
subsection 2 must be the street address of the residence where he
actually, as opposed to constructively, resides in accordance with
NRS 281.050, if one has been assigned. The declaration or
acceptance of candidacy must not be accepted for filing if:

(a) The candidate's address is listed as a post office box unless a
street address has not been assigned to his residence; or

(b) The candidate does not present to the filing officer:



1 (1) A valid driver's license or identification card issued by a
2 governmental agency that contains a photograph of the candidate
3 and the candidate's residential address; or

4 (2) A current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, or
5 document issued by a governmental entity, including a check which
6 indicates the candidate's name and residential address, but not
7 including a voter registration card issued pursuant to NRS 293.517.

8 4. The filing officer shall retain a copy of the proof of identity
9 and residency provided by the candidate pursuant to paragraph (b)
10 of subsection 3. Such a copy:

11 (a) May not be withheld from the public; and

12 (b) Must not contain the social security number or driver's
13 license or identification card number of the candidate.

14 5. By filing the declaration or acceptance of candidacy, the
15 candidate shall be deemed to have appointed the filing officer for
16 the office as his agent for service of process for the purposes of a
17 proceeding pursuant to NRS 293.182. Service of such process must
18 first be attempted at the appropriate address as specified by the
19 candidate in the declaration or acceptance of candidacy. If the
20 candidate cannot be served at that address, service must be made by
21 personally delivering to and leaving with the filing officer duplicate
22 copies of the process. The filing officer shall immediately send, by
23 registered or certified mail, one of the copies to the candidate at his
24 specified address, unless the candidate has designated in writing to
25 the filing officer a different address for that purpose, in which case
26 the filing officer shall mail the copy to the last address so
27 designated.

28 6. If the filing officer receives credible evidence indicating that
29 a candidate has been convicted of a felony and has not had his civil
30 rights restored by a court of competent jurisdiction, the filing
31 officer:

32 (a) May conduct an investigation to determine whether the
33 candidate has been convicted of a felony and, if so, whether he has
34 had his civil rights restored by a court of competent jurisdiction; and

35 (b) Shall transmit the credible evidence and the findings from
36 such investigation to the Attorney General, if the filing officer is the
37 Secretary of State, or to the district attorney, if the filing officer is a
38 person other than the Secretary of State.

39 7. The receipt of information by the Attorney General or
40 district attorney pursuant to subsection 6 must be treated as a
41 challenge of a candidate pursuant to subsections 4 and 5 of NRS
42 293.182. If the ballots are printed before a court of competent
43 jurisdiction makes a determination that a candidate has been
44 convicted of a felony and has not had his civil rights restored by a
45 court of competent jurisdiction, the filing officer must post a notice



1 at each polling place where the candidate's name will appear on the
2 ballot informing the voters that the candidate is disqualified from
3 entering upon the duties of the office for which the candidate filed
4 the declaration of candidacy or acceptance of candidacy.

5 **Sec. 8.** NRS 293.180 is hereby amended to read as follows:

6 293.180 1. Ten or more registered voters may file a
7 certificate of candidacy designating any registered voter as a
8 candidate for:

9 (a) Their major political party's nomination for any partisan
10 elective office, or as a candidate for nomination for any nonpartisan
11 office other than a judicial office, not earlier than the first Monday
12 in ~~[April]~~ **February** of the year in which the election is to be held
13 nor later than 5 p.m. on the first Friday in ~~[May-]~~ **March;** or

14 (b) Nomination for a judicial office, not earlier than the first
15 Monday in December of the year immediately preceding the year in
16 which the election is to be held nor later than 5 p.m. on the first
17 Friday in January of the year in which the election is to be held.

18 2. When the certificate has been filed, the officer in whose
19 office it is filed shall notify the person named in the certificate. If
20 the person named in the certificate files an acceptance of candidacy
21 and pays the required fee, as provided by law, he is a candidate in
22 the primary election in like manner as if he had filed a declaration of
23 candidacy.

24 3. If a certificate of candidacy relates to a partisan office, all of
25 the signers must be of the same major political party as the
26 candidate designated.

27 **Sec. 9.** NRS 293.200 is hereby amended to read as follows:

28 293.200 1. An independent candidate for partisan office must
29 file with the appropriate filing officer:

30 (a) A copy of the petition of candidacy that he intends to
31 subsequently circulate for signatures. The copy must be filed not
32 earlier than the January 2 preceding the date of the election and not
33 later than 25 working days before the last day to file the petition
34 pursuant to subsection 4.

35 (b) Either of the following:

36 (1) A petition of candidacy signed by a number of registered
37 voters equal to at least 1 percent of the total number of ballots cast
38 in:

39 (I) This State for that office at the last preceding general
40 election in which a person was elected to that office, if the office is a
41 statewide office;

42 (II) The county for that office at the last preceding general
43 election in which a person was elected to that office, if the office is a
44 county office; or



(III) The district for that office at the last preceding general election in which a person was elected to that office, if the office is a district office.

(2) A petition of candidacy signed by 250 registered voters if the candidate is a candidate for statewide office, or signed by 100 registered voters if the candidate is a candidate for any office other than a statewide office.

2. The petition may consist of more than one document. Each document must bear the name of the county in which it was circulated, and only registered voters of that county may sign the document. If the office is not a statewide office, only the registered voters of the county, district or municipality in question may sign the document. The documents that are circulated for signature in a county must be submitted to that county clerk for verification in the manner prescribed in NRS 293.1276 to 293.1279, inclusive, not later than 25 working days before the last day to file the petition pursuant to subsection 4. Each person who signs the petition shall add to his signature the address of the place at which he actually resides, the date that he signs the petition and the name of the county where he is registered to vote. The person who circulates each document of the petition shall sign an affidavit attesting that the signatures on the document are genuine to the best of his knowledge and belief and were signed in his presence by persons registered to vote in that county.

3. The petition of candidacy may state the principle, if any, which the person qualified represents.

4. Petitions of candidacy must be filed not earlier than the first Monday in ~~May~~ April preceding the general election and not later than 5 p.m. on the ~~second~~ first Friday after the first Monday in ~~May~~ April.

5. No petition of candidacy may contain the name of more than one candidate for each office to be filled.

6. A person may not file as an independent candidate if he is proposing to run as the candidate of a political party.

7. The names of independent candidates must be placed on the general election ballot and must not appear on the primary election ballot.

8. If the candidacy of any person seeking to qualify pursuant to this section is challenged, all affidavits and documents in support of the challenge must be filed not later than 5 p.m. on the fourth Monday in ~~May~~ April. Any judicial proceeding resulting from the challenge must be set for hearing not more than 5 days after the fourth Monday in ~~May~~ April.

9. Any challenge pursuant to subsection 8 must be filed with:



1 (a) The First Judicial District Court if the petition of candidacy
2 was filed with the Secretary of State.

3 (b) The district court for the county where the petition of
4 candidacy was filed if the petition was filed with a county clerk.

5 10. An independent candidate for partisan office must file a
6 declaration of candidacy with the appropriate filing officer and pay
7 the fee required by NRS 293.193 not earlier than the first Monday in
8 ~~May~~ April of the year in which the election is held nor later than
9 5 p.m. on the ~~second~~ first Friday after the first Monday in ~~May~~
10 April.

11 **Sec. 10.** NRS 293.205 is hereby amended to read as follows:

12 293.205 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 293.208, on
13 or before the third Wednesday in ~~May~~ March of every even-
14 numbered year, the county clerk shall establish election precincts,
15 define the boundaries thereof, abolish, alter, consolidate and
16 designate precincts as public convenience, necessity and economy
17 may require.

18 2. The boundaries of each election precinct must follow visible
19 ground features or extensions of visible ground features, except
20 where the boundary coincides with the official boundary of the State
21 or a county or city.

22 3. Election precincts must be composed only of contiguous
23 territory.

24 4. As used in this section, "visible ground feature" includes a
25 street, road, highway, river, stream, shoreline, drainage ditch,
26 railroad right-of-way or any other physical feature which is clearly
27 visible from the ground.

28 **Sec. 11.** NRS 293.206 is hereby amended to read as follows:

29 293.206 1. On or before the last day in ~~May~~ March of
30 every even-numbered year, the county clerk shall provide the
31 Secretary of State and the Director of the Legislative Counsel
32 Bureau with a copy or electronic file of a map showing the
33 boundaries of all election precincts in the county.

34 2. If the Secretary of State determines that the boundaries of an
35 election precinct do not comply with the provisions of NRS
36 293.205, he must provide the county clerk with a written statement
37 of noncompliance setting forth the reasons the precinct is not in
38 compliance. Within 15 days after receiving the notice of
39 noncompliance, the county clerk shall make any adjustments to the
40 boundaries of the precinct which are required to bring the precinct
41 into compliance with the provisions of NRS 293.205 and he shall
42 submit a corrected copy or electronic file of the precinct map to the
43 Secretary of State and the Director of the Legislative Counsel
44 Bureau.



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3. If the initial or corrected election precinct map is not filed as required pursuant to this section or the county clerk fails to make the necessary changes to the boundaries of an election precinct pursuant to subsection 2, the Secretary of State may establish appropriate precinct boundaries in compliance with the provisions of NRS 293.205 to 293.213, inclusive. If the Secretary of State revises the map pursuant to this subsection, he shall submit a copy or electronic file of the revised map to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau and the appropriate county clerk.

4. As used in this section, "electronic file" includes, without limitation, an electronic data file of a geographic information system.

Sec. 12. NRS 293.208 is hereby amended to read as follows:

293.208 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsections 2, 3 and 5 and in NRS 293.206, no election precinct may be created, divided, abolished or consolidated, or the boundaries thereof changed, during the period between the third Wednesday in ~~May~~ *March* of any year whose last digit is 6 and the time when the Legislature has been redistricted in a year whose last digit is 1, unless the creation, division, abolishment or consolidation of the precinct, or the change in boundaries thereof, is:

(a) Ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction;

(b) Required to meet objections to a precinct by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to the Voting Rights Act of 1965, 42 U.S.C. §§ 1971 and 1973 et seq., and any amendments thereto;

(c) Required to comply with subsection 2 of NRS 293.205;

(d) Required by the incorporation of a new city; or

(e) Required by the creation of or change in the boundaries of a special district.

As used in this subsection, "special district" means any general improvement district or any other quasi-municipal corporation organized under the local improvement and service district laws of this State as enumerated in title 25 of NRS which is required by law to hold elections or any fire protection district which is required by law to hold elections.

2. If a city annexes an unincorporated area located in the same county as the city and adjacent to the corporate boundary, the annexed area may be included in an election precinct immediately adjacent to it.

3. A new election precinct may be established at any time if it lies entirely within the boundaries of any existing precinct.

4. If a change in the boundaries of an election precinct is made pursuant to this section during the time specified in subsection 1, the county clerk must:



(a) Within 15 days after the change to the boundary of a precinct is established by the county clerk or ordered by a court, send to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau and the Secretary of State a copy or electronic file of a map showing the new boundaries of the precinct; and

(b) Maintain in his office an index providing the name of the precinct and describing all changes which were made, including any change in the name of the precinct and the name of any new precinct created within the boundaries of an existing precinct.

5. Cities of population categories two and three are exempt from the provisions of subsection 1.

6. As used in this section, "electronic file" includes, without limitation, an electronic data file of a geographic information system.

Sec. 13. NRS 293.260 is hereby amended to read as follows:

293.260 1. Where there is no contest of election for nomination to a particular office, neither the title of the office nor the name of the candidate may appear on the ballot.

2. If more than one major political party has candidates for a particular office, the persons who receive the highest number of votes at the primary elections must be declared the nominees of those parties for the office.

~~3. [If only one major political party has candidates for a particular office and a minor political party has nominated a candidate for the office or an independent candidate has filed for the office, the candidate who receives the highest number of votes in the primary election of the major political party must be declared the nominee of that party and his name must be placed on the general election ballot with the name of the nominee of the minor political party for the office and the name of the independent candidate who has filed for the office.]~~

~~—4.] If only one major political party has candidates for a particular office : [and no minor political party has nominated a candidate for the office and no independent candidate has filed for the office:]~~

(a) If there are more candidates than twice the number to be elected to the office, the names of the candidates must appear on the ballot for a primary election. Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, the candidates of that party who receive the highest number of votes in the primary election, not to exceed twice the number to be elected to that office at the general election, must be declared the nominees for the office. If only one candidate is to be elected to the office and a candidate receives a majority of the votes in the primary election for that office, that candidate must be



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1 declared the nominee for that office and his name must be placed on
2 the ballot for the general election.

3 (b) If there are no more than twice the number of candidates to
4 be elected to the office, the candidates must, without a primary
5 election, be declared the nominees for the office.

6 ~~{5-}~~ 4. Where no more than the number of candidates to be
7 elected have filed for nomination for:

8 (a) Any partisan office or the office of justice of the Supreme
9 Court, the names of those candidates must be omitted from all
10 ballots for a primary election and placed on all ballots for a general
11 election;

12 (b) Any nonpartisan office, other than the office of justice of the
13 Supreme Court or the office of member of a town advisory board,
14 the names of those candidates must appear on the ballot for a
15 primary election unless the candidates were nominated pursuant to
16 subsection 2 of NRS 293.165. If a candidate receives one or more
17 votes at the primary election, he must be declared elected to the
18 office and his name must not be placed on the ballot for the general
19 election. If a candidate does not receive one or more votes at the
20 primary election, his name must be placed on the ballot for the
21 general election; and

22 (c) The office of member of a town advisory board, the
23 candidate must be declared elected to the office and no election
24 must be held for that office.

25 ~~{6-}~~ 5. If there are more candidates than twice the number to be
26 elected to a nonpartisan office, the names of the candidates must
27 appear on the ballot for a primary election. Those candidates who
28 receive the highest number of votes at that election, not to exceed
29 twice the number to be elected, must be declared nominees for the
30 office.

31 **Sec. 14.** NRS 293.368 is hereby amended to read as follows:

32 293.368 1. Whenever a candidate whose name appears upon
33 the ballot at a primary election dies after 5 p.m. of the second
34 Tuesday in ~~{June-}~~ *April*, his name must remain on the ballot and the
35 votes cast for the deceased candidate must be counted in
36 determining the nomination for the office for which the decedent
37 was a candidate.

38 2. If the deceased candidate on the ballot at the primary
39 election receives the number of votes required to receive the
40 nomination to the office for which he was a candidate, except as
41 otherwise provided in subsection 3 of NRS 293.165, he shall be
42 deemed nominated and ~~{there shall be a}~~ *the* vacancy in the
43 nomination ~~{that}~~ must be filled as provided in NRS 293.165 or
44 293.166. If the deceased person was a candidate for a nonpartisan



1 office, the nomination must be filled pursuant to subsection 2 of
2 NRS 293.165.

3 3. Whenever a candidate whose name appears upon the ballot
4 at a general election dies after 5 p.m. on the first Tuesday after the
5 primary election, the votes cast for the deceased candidate must be
6 counted in determining the results of the election for the office for
7 which the decedent was a candidate.

8 4. If the deceased candidate on the ballot at the general election
9 receives the majority of the votes cast for the office, he shall be
10 deemed elected and the office to which he was elected shall be
11 deemed vacant at the beginning of the term for which he was
12 elected. The vacancy thus created must be filled in the same manner
13 as if the candidate had died after taking office for that term.

14 **Sec. 15.** NRS 293.481 is hereby amended to read as follows:

15 293.481 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2,
16 every governing body of a political subdivision, public or quasi-
17 public corporation, or other local agency authorized by law to
18 submit questions to the qualified electors or registered voters of a
19 designated territory, when the governing body decides to submit a
20 question:

21 (a) At a general election, shall provide to each county clerk
22 within the designated territory on or before the third Monday in July
23 preceding the election:

24 (1) A copy of the question, including an explanation of the
25 question;

26 (2) Except as otherwise provided in NRS 295.121 or
27 295.217, arguments for and against the question; and

28 (3) A description of the anticipated financial effect on the
29 local government which, if the question is an advisory question that
30 proposes a bond, tax, fee or expense, must be prepared in
31 accordance with subsection 4 of NRS 293.482.

32 (b) At a primary election, shall provide to each county clerk
33 within the designated territory on or before the second Friday after
34 the first Monday in ~~May~~ **March** preceding the election:

35 (1) A copy of the question, including an explanation of the
36 question;

37 (2) Arguments for and against the question; and

38 (3) A description of the anticipated financial effect on the
39 local government which, if the question is an advisory question that
40 proposes a bond, tax, fee or expense, must be prepared in
41 accordance with subsection 4 of NRS 293.482.

42 (c) At any election other than a primary or general election at
43 which the county clerk gives notice of the election or otherwise
44 performs duties in connection therewith other than the registration
45 of electors and the making of records of registered voters available



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1 for the election, shall provide to each county clerk at least 60 days
2 before the election:

3 (1) A copy of the question, including an explanation of the
4 question;

5 (2) Arguments for and against the question; and

6 (3) A description of the anticipated financial effect on the
7 local government which, if the question is an advisory question that
8 proposes a bond, tax, fee or expense, must be prepared in
9 accordance with subsection 4 of NRS 293.482.

10 (d) At any city election at which the city clerk gives notice of
11 the election or otherwise performs duties in connection therewith,
12 shall provide to the city clerk at least 60 days before the election:

13 (1) A copy of the question, including an explanation of the
14 question;

15 (2) Arguments for and against the question; and

16 (3) A description of the anticipated financial effect on the
17 local government which, if the question is an advisory question that
18 proposes a bond, tax, fee or expense, must be prepared in
19 accordance with subsection 4 of NRS 293.482.

20 2. A question may be submitted after the dates specified in
21 subsection 1 if the question is expressly privileged or required to be
22 submitted pursuant to the provisions of Article 19 of the
23 Constitution of the State of Nevada, or pursuant to the provisions of
24 chapter 295 of NRS or any other statute except NRS 293.482,
25 354.59817, 354.5982, 387.3285 or 387.3287 or any statute that
26 authorizes the governing body to issue bonds upon the approval of
27 the voters.

28 3. A question that is submitted pursuant to subsection 1 may be
29 withdrawn if the governing body provides notification to each of the
30 county or city clerks within the designated territory of its decision to
31 withdraw the particular question on or before the same dates
32 specified for submission pursuant to paragraph (a), (b), (c) or (d) of
33 subsection 1, as appropriate.

34 4. A county or city clerk:

35 (a) Shall assign a unique identification number to a question
36 submitted pursuant to this section; and

37 (b) May charge any political subdivision, public or quasi-public
38 corporation, or other local agency which submits a question a
39 reasonable fee sufficient to pay for the increased costs incurred in
40 including the question, explanation, arguments and description of
41 the anticipated financial effect on the ballot.

42 **Sec. 16.** NRS 293.5235 is hereby amended to read as follows:

43 293.5235 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 293.502, a
44 person may register to vote by mailing an application to register to
45 vote to the county clerk of the county in which he resides. The



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1 county clerk shall, upon request, mail an application to register to
2 vote to an applicant. The county clerk shall make the applications
3 available at various public places in the county. An application to
4 register to vote may be used to correct information in the registrar of
5 voters' register.

6 2. An application to register to vote which is mailed to an
7 applicant by the county clerk or made available to the public at
8 various locations or voter registration agencies in the county may be
9 returned to the county clerk by mail or in person. For the purposes
10 of this section, an application which is personally delivered to the
11 county clerk shall be deemed to have been returned by mail.

12 3. The applicant must complete the application, including,
13 without limitation, checking the boxes described in paragraphs (b)
14 and (c) of subsection 10 and signing the application.

15 4. The county clerk shall, upon receipt of an application,
16 determine whether the application is complete.

17 5. If he determines that the application is complete, he shall,
18 within 10 days after he receives the application, mail to the
19 applicant:

20 (a) A notice informing him that he is registered to vote and a
21 voter registration card as required by subsection 6 of NRS 293.517;
22 or

23 (b) A notice informing him that the registrar of voters' register
24 has been corrected to reflect any changes indicated on the
25 application.

26 6. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 5 of NRS
27 293.518, if the county clerk determines that the application is not
28 complete, he shall, as soon as possible, mail a notice to the applicant
29 informing him that additional information is required to complete
30 the application. If the applicant provides the information requested
31 by the county clerk within 15 days after the county clerk mails the
32 notice, the county clerk shall, within 10 days after he receives the
33 information, mail to the applicant:

34 (a) A notice informing him that he is registered to vote and a
35 voter registration card as required by subsection 6 of NRS 293.517;
36 or

37 (b) A notice informing him that the registrar of voters' register
38 has been corrected to reflect any changes indicated on the
39 application.

40 ➡ If the applicant does not provide the additional information
41 within the prescribed period, the application is void.

42 7. The applicant shall be deemed to be registered or to have
43 corrected the information in the register ~~f:~~

44 ~~—(a) If the application is received by the county clerk or~~
45 ~~postmarked not more than 3 working days after the applicant~~



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~~completed the application, on the date the applicant completed the application; or~~

~~—(b) If the application is received by the county clerk or postmarked more than 3 working days after the applicant completed the application, on the date the application is received by the county clerk.]~~ *on the date the application is postmarked or received by the county clerk, whichever is earlier.*

8. If the applicant fails to check the box described in paragraph (b) of subsection 10, the application shall not be considered invalid and the county clerk shall provide a means for the applicant to correct the omission at the time the applicant appears to vote in person at his assigned polling place.

9. The Secretary of State shall prescribe the form for an application to register to vote by mail which must be used to register to vote by mail in this State.

10. The application to register to vote by mail must include:

(a) A notice in at least 10-point type which states:

NOTICE: You are urged to return your application to register to vote to the County Clerk in person or by mail. If you choose to give your completed application to another person to return to the County Clerk on your behalf, and the person fails to deliver the application to the County Clerk, you will not be registered to vote. Please retain the duplicate copy or receipt from your application to register to vote.

(b) The question, "Are you a citizen of the United States?" and boxes for the applicant to check to indicate whether or not the applicant is a citizen of the United States.

(c) The question, "Will you be at least 18 years of age on or before election day?" and boxes for the applicant to check to indicate whether or not the applicant will be at least 18 years of age or older on election day.

(d) A statement instructing the applicant not to complete the application if the applicant checked "no" in response to the question set forth in paragraph (b) or (c).

(e) A statement informing the applicant that if the application is submitted by mail and the applicant is registering to vote for the first time, the applicant must submit the information set forth in paragraph (a) of subsection 2 of NRS 293.2725 to avoid the requirements of subsection 1 of NRS 293.2725 upon voting for the first time.

11. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 5 of NRS 293.518, the county clerk shall not register a person to vote pursuant



1 to this section unless that person has provided all of the information
2 required by the application.

3 12. The county clerk shall mail, by postcard, the notices
4 required pursuant to subsections 5 and 6. If the postcard is returned
5 to the county clerk by the United States Postal Service because the
6 address is fictitious or the person does not live at that address, the
7 county clerk shall attempt to determine whether the person's current
8 residence is other than that indicated on his application to register to
9 vote in the manner set forth in NRS 293.530.

10 13. A person who, by mail, registers to vote pursuant to this
11 section may be assisted in completing the application to register to
12 vote by any other person. The application must include the mailing
13 address and signature of the person who assisted the applicant. The
14 failure to provide the information required by this subsection will
15 not result in the application being deemed incomplete.

16 14. An application to register to vote must be made available to
17 all persons, regardless of political party affiliation.

18 15. An application must not be altered or otherwise defaced
19 after the applicant has completed and signed it. An application must
20 be mailed or delivered in person to the office of the county clerk
21 within 10 days after it is completed.

22 16. A person who willfully violates any of the provisions of
23 subsection 13, 14 or 15 is guilty of a category E felony and shall be
24 punished as provided in NRS 193.130.

25 17. The Secretary of State shall adopt regulations to carry out
26 the provisions of this section.

27 **Sec. 17.** NRS 293B.354 is hereby amended to read as follows:

28 293B.354 1. The county clerk shall, not later than ~~June~~
29 ~~April~~ 15 of each year in which a general election is held, submit to
30 the Secretary of State for his approval a written plan for the
31 accommodation of members of the general public who observe the
32 delivery, counting, handling and processing of ballots at a polling
33 place, receiving center or central counting place.

34 2. The city clerk shall, not later than January 1 of each year in
35 which a general city election is held, submit to the Secretary of State
36 for his approval a written plan for the accommodation of members
37 of the general public who observe the delivery, counting, handling
38 and processing of the ballots at a polling place, receiving center or
39 central counting place.

40 3. Each plan must include:

41 (a) The location of the central counting place and of each polling
42 place and receiving center;

43 (b) A procedure for the establishment of areas within each
44 polling place and receiving center and the central counting place



1 from which members of the general public may observe the
2 activities set forth in subsections 1 and 2;

3 (c) The requirements concerning the conduct of the members of
4 the general public who observe the activities set forth in subsections
5 1 and 2; and

6 (d) Any other provisions relating to the accommodation of
7 members of the general public who observe the activities set forth in
8 subsections 1 and 2 which the county or city clerk considers
9 appropriate.

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