ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 311–ASSEMBLYMEN HARDY, SHERWOOD; HANSEN AND MUNFORD

MARCH 18, 2011

JOINT SPONSORS: SENATORS CEGAVSKE, GUSTAVSON AND HALSETH

Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing early voting. (BDR 24-1045)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact. Effect on the State: Yes.

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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; eliminating early voting in elections; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

This bill eliminates early voting in primary elections, primary city elections, general elections and general city elections.

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

Section 1. NRS 293.2546 is hereby amended to read as follows:

293.2546 The Legislature hereby declares that each voter has the right:

- 1. To receive and cast a ballot that:
- (a) Is written in a format that allows the clear identification of candidates; and
- (b) Accurately records the voter's preference in the selection of candidates.



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- 2. To have questions concerning voting procedures answered and to have an explanation of the procedures for voting posted in a conspicuous place at the polling place.
 - 3. To vote without being intimidated, threatened or coerced.
- 4. To vote on election day if the voter is waiting in line at his or her polling place to vote before 7 p.m. and the voter has not already cast a vote in that election.
- 5. To return a spoiled ballot and is entitled to receive another ballot in its place.
 - 6. To request assistance in voting, if necessary.
 - 7. To a sample ballot which is accurate, informative and delivered in a timely manner.
- 8. To receive instruction in the use of the equipment for voting [during early voting or] on election day.
- 9. To have nondiscriminatory equal access to the elections system, including, without limitation, a voter who is elderly, disabled, a member of a minority group, employed by the military or a citizen who is overseas.
- 10. To have a uniform, statewide standard for counting and recounting all votes accurately.
- 11. To have complaints about elections and election contests resolved fairly, accurately and efficiently.
 - **Sec. 2.** NRS 293.330 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 293.330 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 293.3157 and subsection 2 of NRS 293.323 and any regulations adopted pursuant thereto, when an absent voter receives an absent ballot, the absent voter must mark and fold it in accordance with the instructions, deposit it in the return envelope, seal the envelope, affix his or her signature on the back of the envelope in the space provided therefor and mail the return envelope.
- 2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, if an absent voter who has requested a ballot by mail applies to vote the ballot in person at:
- (a) The office of the county clerk, the absent voter must mark the ballot, seal it in the return envelope and affix his or her signature in the same manner as provided in subsection 1, and deliver the envelope to the clerk.
- (b) A polling place, [including, without limitation, a polling place for early voting,] the absent voter must surrender the absent ballot and provide satisfactory identification before being issued a ballot to vote at the polling place. A person who receives a surrendered absent ballot shall mark it "Cancelled."
- 3. If an absent voter who has requested a ballot by mail applies to vote in person at the office of the county clerk or a polling place [, including, without limitation, a polling place for early voting.] and





the voter does not have the absent ballot to deliver or surrender, the voter must be issued a ballot to vote if the voter:

(a) Provides satisfactory identification;

- (b) Is a registered voter who is otherwise entitled to vote; and
- (c) Signs an affirmation under penalty of perjury on a form prepared by the Secretary of State declaring that the voter has not voted during the election.
- 4. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 293.316, it is unlawful for any person to return an absent ballot other than the voter who requested the absent ballot or, at the request of the voter, a member of the voter's family. A person who returns an absent ballot and who is a member of the family of the voter who requested the absent ballot shall, under penalty of perjury, indicate on a form prescribed by the county clerk that the person is a member of the family of the voter who requested the absent ballot and that the voter requested that the person return the absent ballot. A person who violates the provisions of this subsection is guilty of a category E felony and shall be punished as provided in NRS 193.130.
 - **Sec. 3.** NRS 293.343 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 293.343 1. A registered voter who resides in an election precinct in which there were not more than 200 voters registered for the last preceding general election, or in a precinct in which it appears to the satisfaction of the county clerk that there are not more than 200 registered voters, may vote at any election regulated by this chapter in the manner provided in NRS 293.345 to 293.355, inclusive.
- 2. Whenever the county clerk has designated a precinct as a mailing precinct, registered voters residing in that precinct may vote at any election regulated by this chapter in the manner provided in NRS 293.345 to 293.355, inclusive.
- 3. In a county whose population is 100,000 or more, whenever a registered voter is entitled to vote in a mailing precinct or an absent ballot mailing precinct, the county clerk :
- (a) Shall shall designate at least one polling place in the county as the polling place where such a voter may vote in person, pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 2 of NRS 293.353 or subsection 3 of NRS 293.353, on election day. [; and]
- (b) May designate certain polling places for early voting as the polling places where such a voter may vote in person, pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 2 of NRS 293.353 or subsection 3 of NRS 293.353, during the period for early voting, if it is impractical for the county clerk to provide at each polling place for early voting
- 43 a ballot in every form required in the county.]





4. In a county whose population is less than 100,000, whenever a registered voter is entitled to vote in a mailing precinct or an absent ballot mailing precinct, the county clerk [:

(a) May may designate one or more polling places in the county as the polling place where such a voter may vote in person, pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 2 of NRS 293.353 or subsection 3 of NRS 293.353, on election day. F: and

(b) May designate certain polling places for early voting as the polling places where such a voter may vote in person, pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 2 of NRS 293.353 or subsection 3 of NRS 293.353, during the period for early voting, if it is impractical for the county clerk to provide at each polling place for early voting a ballot in every form required in the county.]

5. Polling places designated pursuant to subsection 3 or 4 may include, without limitation, polling places located as closely as practicable to the mailing precincts.

Sec. 4. NRS 293.345 is hereby amended to read as follows:

293.345 1. Before 5 p.m. on the [last business day preceding the first day of the period for early voting for any] third Friday preceding a primary election or general election, the county clerk shall cause to be mailed to each registered voter in each mailing precinct and in each absent ballot mailing precinct an official mailing ballot, and accompanying supplies, as specified in NRS 293.350.

- 2. If the county clerk has designated, pursuant to subsection 3 or 4 of NRS 293.343, one or more polling places where a voter may vote in person, the official ballot and the sample ballot must include a notice in bold type informing the voter of the location of the designated polling place or polling places on election day [and the polling places during the period for early voting] where the voter may vote in person pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 2 of NRS 293.353 or subsection 3 of NRS 293.353.
 - **Sec. 5.** NRS 293.353 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 293.353 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2 or 3, upon receipt of a mailing ballot from the county clerk, the registered voter must, in accordance with the instructions, mark and fold the ballot, deposit and seal the ballot in the return envelope, affix his or her signature on the back of the envelope and mail the envelope to the county clerk.
- 2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, if a registered voter who has received a mailing ballot applies to vote in person at:
- (a) The office of the county clerk, the registered voter must mark the ballot, place and seal it in the return envelope and affix his or her signature in the same manner as provided in subsection 1, and deliver the envelope to the clerk.



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- (b) One of the polling places on election day [or a polling place for early voting] in the county designated pursuant to subsection 3 or 4 of NRS 293.343, the registered voter must surrender the mailing ballot and provide satisfactory identification before being issued a ballot to vote at the polling place. A person who receives a surrendered mailing ballot shall mark it "Cancelled."
- 3. If a registered voter who has received a mailing ballot wishes to vote in person at the office of the county clerk or at one of the polling places on election day [or a polling place for early voting in the county] designated pursuant to subsection 3 or 4 of NRS 293.343, and the voter does not have the mailing ballot to deliver or surrender, the voter must be issued a ballot to vote if the voter:
 - (a) Provides satisfactory identification;
 - (b) Is a registered voter who is otherwise entitled to vote; and
- (c) Signs an affirmation under penalty of perjury on a form prepared by the Secretary of State declaring that the voter has not voted during the election.
- 4. It is unlawful for any person to return a mailing ballot other than the registered voter to whom the ballot was sent or, at the request of the voter, a member of the family of that voter. A person who returns a mailing ballot and who is a member of the family of the voter who received the mailing ballot shall, under penalty of perjury, indicate on a form prescribed by the county clerk that the person is a member of the family of the voter who received the mailing ballot and that the voter requested that he or she return the mailing ballot. A person who violates the provisions of this subsection is guilty of a category E felony and shall be punished as provided in NRS 193.130.
 - **Sec. 6.** NRS 293.4695 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 293.4695 1. Each county clerk shall collect the following information regarding each primary and general election, on a form provided by the Secretary of State and made available at each polling place in the county, [each polling place for early voting in the county,] the office of the county clerk and any other location deemed appropriate by the Secretary of State:
- (a) The number of ballots that have been discarded or for any reason not included in the final canvass of votes, along with an explanation for the exclusion of each such ballot from the final canvass of votes.
- (b) A report on each malfunction of any mechanical voting system, including, without limitation:
 - (1) Any known reason for the malfunction;
- (2) The length of time during which the mechanical voting system could not be used;





- (3) Any remedy for the malfunction which was used at the time of the malfunction; and
 - (4) Any effect the malfunction had on the election process.
- (c) A list of each polling place not open during the time prescribed pursuant to NRS 293.273 and an account explaining why each such polling place was not open during the time prescribed pursuant to NRS 293.273.
- (d) A description of each challenge made to the eligibility of a voter pursuant to NRS 293.303 and the result of each such challenge.
- (e) A description of each complaint regarding a ballot cast by mail or facsimile filed with the county clerk and the resolution, if any, of the complaint.
- (f) The results of any audit of election procedures and practices conducted pursuant to regulations adopted by the Secretary of State pursuant to this chapter.
- (g) The number of provisional ballots cast and the reason for the casting of each provisional ballot.
- 2. Each county clerk shall submit to the Secretary of State, on a form provided by the Secretary of State, the information collected pursuant to subsection 1 not more than 60 days after each primary and general election.
- 3. The Secretary of State may contact any political party and request information to assist in the investigation of any allegation of voter intimidation.
- 4. The Secretary of State shall establish and maintain an Internet website pursuant to which the Secretary of State shall solicit and collect voter comments regarding election processes.
- 5. The Secretary of State shall compile the information and comments collected pursuant to this section into a report and shall submit the report to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmission to the Legislature not later than 30 days before the start of each regular session of the Legislature.
- 6. The Secretary of State may make the report required pursuant to subsection 5 available on an Internet website established and maintained by the Secretary of State.
 - **Sec. 7.** NRS 293.565 is hereby amended to read as follows:
 - 293.565 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, sample ballots must include:
 - (a) If applicable, the statement required by NRS 293.267;
- (b) The fiscal note or description of anticipated financial effect, as provided pursuant to NRS 218D.810, 293.250, 293.481, 293.482, 295.015 or 295.095 for each proposed constitutional amendment, statewide measure, measure to be voted upon only by a special district or political subdivision and advisory question;





- (c) An explanation, as provided pursuant to NRS 218D.810, 293.250, 293.481, 293.482 or 295.121, of each proposed constitutional amendment, statewide measure, measure to be voted upon only by a special district or political subdivision and advisory question;
- (d) Arguments for and against each proposed constitutional amendment, statewide measure, measure to be voted upon only by a special district or political subdivision and advisory question, and rebuttals to each argument, as provided pursuant to NRS 218D.810, 293.250, 293.252, 293.481, 293.482 or 295.121; and
 - (e) The full text of each proposed constitutional amendment.
- 2. Sample ballots that are mailed to registered voters may be printed without the full text of each proposed constitutional amendment if:
- (a) The cost of printing the sample ballots would be significantly reduced if the full text of each proposed constitutional amendment were not included:
- (b) The county clerk ensures that a sample ballot that includes the full text of each proposed constitutional amendment is provided at no charge to each registered voter who requests such a sample ballot; and
- (c) The sample ballots provided to each polling place include the full text of each proposed constitutional amendment.
- 3. Before the [period for early voting for any election begins,] third Saturday preceding a primary or general election, the county clerk shall cause to be mailed to each registered voter in the county a sample ballot for his or her precinct, with a notice informing the voter of the location of his or her polling place. If the location of the polling place has changed since the last election:
- (a) The county clerk shall mail a notice of the change to each registered voter in the county not sooner than 10 days before mailing the sample ballots; or
- (b) The sample ballot must also include a notice in bold type immediately above the location which states:

NOTICE: THE LOCATION OF YOUR POLLING PLACE HAS CHANGED SINCE THE LAST ELECTION

- 4. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 5, a sample ballot required to be mailed pursuant to this section must:
 - (a) Be printed in at least 12-point type; and
- (b) Include on the front page, in a separate box created by bold lines, a notice printed in at least 20-point bold type that states:



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NOTICE: TO RECEIVE A SAMPLE BALLOT IN LARGE TYPE, CALL (Insert appropriate telephone number)

- 5. A portion of a sample ballot that contains a facsimile of the display area of a voting device may include material in less than 12-point type to the extent necessary to make the facsimile fit on the pages of the sample ballot.
- 6. The sample ballot mailed to a person who requests a sample ballot in large type by exercising the option provided pursuant to NRS 293.508, or in any other manner, must be printed in at least 14-point type, or larger when practicable.
- 7. If a person requests a sample ballot in large type, the county clerk shall ensure that all future sample ballots mailed to that person from the county are in large type.
- 8. The county clerk shall include in each sample ballot a statement indicating that the county clerk will, upon request of a voter who is elderly or disabled, make reasonable accommodations to allow the voter to vote at his or her polling place and provide reasonable assistance to the voter in casting his or her vote, including, without limitation, providing appropriate materials to assist the voter. In addition, if the county clerk has provided pursuant to subsection 4 of NRS 293.2955 for the placement at centralized voting locations of specially equipped voting devices for use by voters who are elderly or disabled, the county clerk shall include in the sample ballot a statement indicating:
 - (a) The addresses of such centralized voting locations;
- (b) The types of specially equipped voting devices available at such centralized voting locations; and
- (c) That a voter who is elderly or disabled may cast his or her ballot at such a centralized voting location rather than at his or her regularly designated polling place.
- 9. The cost of mailing sample ballots for any election other than a primary or general election must be borne by the political subdivision holding the election.
 - **Sec. 8.** NRS 293B.150 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 293B.150 Not earlier than 2 weeks before and not later than 5 p.m. on the [day before the first day of early voting,] third Friday preceding an election, the county or city clerk, as applicable, shall test:
- 1. The mechanical recording device which directly records votes electronically, if any; or
 - 2. The automatic tabulating equipment and programs, if any,
- to ascertain that the device or equipment and programs will correctly count the votes cast for all offices and on all measures.





- **Sec. 9.** NRS 293C.110 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 293C.110 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, conduct of any city election is under the control of the governing body of the city, and it shall, by ordinance, provide for the holding of the election, appoint the necessary election officers and election boards and do all other things required to carry the election into effect.
- 2. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 293C.112, the governing body of the city shall provide for:
- (a) Absent ballots to be voted in a city election pursuant to NRS 293C.305 to 293C.325, inclusive, and 293C.330 to 293C.340, inclusive; and
 - (b) The conduct of **!**÷

- - (2) Voting voting by absent ballot in person in a city election pursuant to NRS 293C.327. [; or
 - (3) Both early voting by personal appearance as described in subparagraph (1) and voting by absent ballot in person as described in subparagraph (2).]
 - Sec. 10. NRS 293C.112 is hereby amended to read as follows: 293C.112 1. The governing body of a city may conduct a city election in which all ballots must be cast by mail if:
 - (a) The election is a special election; or
 - (b) The election is a primary city election or general city election in which the ballot includes only:
 - (1) Offices and ballot questions that may be voted on by the registered voters of only one ward; or
 - (2) One office or ballot question.
 - 2. The provisions of NRS 293C.265 to 293C.302, inclusive, *and* 293C.305 to 293C.340, inclusive, [and 293C.355 to 293C.361, inclusive,] do not apply to an election conducted pursuant to this section.
- 3. For the purposes of an election conducted pursuant to this section, each precinct in the city shall be deemed to have been designated a mailing precinct pursuant to NRS 293C.342.
 - Sec. 11. NRS 293C.330 is hereby amended to read as follows:
 - 293C.330 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 293C.315 and subsection 2 of NRS 293C.322 and any regulations adopted pursuant thereto, when an absent voter receives an absent ballot, the absent voter must mark and fold it in accordance with the instructions, deposit it in the return envelope, seal the envelope, affix his or her signature on the back of the envelope in the space provided therefor and mail the return envelope.





- 2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, if an absent voter who has requested a ballot by mail applies to vote the ballot in person at:
- (a) The office of the city clerk, the absent voter must mark the ballot, seal it in the return envelope and affix his or her signature in the same manner as provided in subsection 1, and deliver the envelope to the city clerk.
- (b) A polling place, [including, without limitation, a polling place for early voting,] the absent voter must surrender the absent ballot and provide satisfactory identification before being issued a ballot to vote at the polling place. A person who receives a surrendered absent ballot shall mark it "Cancelled."
- 3. If an absent voter who has requested a ballot by mail applies to vote in person at the office of the city clerk or a polling place [, including, without limitation, a polling place for early voting,] and the voter does not have the absent ballot to deliver or surrender, the voter must be issued a ballot to vote if the voter:
 - (a) Provides satisfactory identification;
 - (b) Is a registered voter who is otherwise entitled to vote; and
- (c) Signs an affirmation under penalty of perjury on a form prepared by the Secretary of State declaring that the voter has not voted during the election.
- 4. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 293C.317, it is unlawful for any person to return an absent ballot other than the voter who requested the absent ballot or, at the request of the voter, a member of the voter's family. A person who returns an absent ballot and who is a member of the family of the voter who requested the absent ballot shall, under penalty of perjury, indicate on a form prescribed by the city clerk that the person is a member of the family of the voter who requested the absent ballot and that the voter requested that the person return the absent ballot. A person who violates the provisions of this subsection is guilty of a category E felony and shall be punished as provided in NRS 193.130.
- **Sec. 12.** NRS 293C.530 is hereby amended to read as follows: 293C.530 1. Before the [period for early voting for any election begins,] third Saturday preceding a primary city election or general city election, the city clerk shall cause to be mailed to each registered voter in the city a sample ballot for his or her precinct, with a notice informing the voter of the location of his or her polling place. If the location of the polling place has changed since the last election:
- (a) The city clerk shall mail a notice of the change to each registered voter in the city not sooner than 10 days before mailing the sample ballots; or





(b) The sample ballot must also include a notice in bold type immediately above the location which states:

NOTICE: THE LOCATION OF YOUR POLLING PLACE HAS CHANGED SINCE THE LAST ELECTION

- 2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, a sample ballot required to be mailed pursuant to this section must:
 - (a) Be printed in at least 12-point type;
- (b) Include the description of the anticipated financial effect and explanation of each citywide measure and advisory question, including arguments for and against the measure or question, as required pursuant to NRS 293.481, 293.482, 295.205 or 295.217; and
- (c) Include on the front page, in a separate box created by bold lines, a notice printed in at least 20-point bold type that states:

NOTICE: TO RECEIVE A SAMPLE BALLOT IN LARGE TYPE, CALL (Insert appropriate telephone number)

- 3. A portion of a sample ballot that contains a facsimile of the display area of a voting device may include material in less than 12-point type to the extent necessary to make the facsimile fit on the pages of the sample ballot.
- 4. The sample ballot mailed to a person who requests a sample ballot in large type by exercising the option provided pursuant to NRS 293.508, or in any other manner, must be printed in at least 14-point type, or larger when practicable.
- 5. If a person requests a sample ballot in large type, the city clerk shall ensure that all future sample ballots mailed to that person from the city are in large type.
- 6. The city clerk shall include in each sample ballot a statement indicating that the city clerk will, upon request of a voter who is elderly or disabled, make reasonable accommodations to allow the voter to vote at his or her polling place and provide reasonable assistance to the voter in casting his or her vote, including, without limitation, providing appropriate materials to assist the voter. In addition, if the city clerk has provided pursuant to subsection 4 of NRS 293C.281 for the placement at centralized voting locations of specially equipped voting devices for use by voters who are elderly or disabled, the city clerk shall include in the sample ballot a statement indicating:
 - (a) The addresses of such centralized voting locations;
- (b) The types of specially equipped voting devices available at such centralized voting locations; and





(c) That a voter who is elderly or disabled may cast his or her ballot at such a centralized voting location rather than at the voter's regularly designated polling place.

7. The cost of mailing sample ballots for a city election must

5 be borne by the city holding the election.

6 **Sec. 13.** NRS 293.046, 293.356, 293.3561, 293.3564, 7 293.3568, 293.3572, 293.3576, 293.358, 293.3583, 293.3585, 8 293.3594, 293.3604, 293.3606, 293.3608, 293.361, 293C.355, 293C.356, 293C.3561, 293C.3564, 293C.3568, 293C.3572,

10 293C.3576, 293C.358, 293C.3583, 293C.3585, 293C.3594,

11 293C.3604, 293C.3606, 293C.3608 and 293C.361 are hereby

12 repealed.

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LEADLINES OF REPEALED SECTIONS

293.046 "Deputy clerk" defined.

293.356 Issuance of ballot; location at which ballot must be voted.

293.3561 County clerk to establish criteria for selection of permanent and temporary polling places for early voting by personal appearance.

293.3564 Permanent polling places for early voting.

293.3568 Period for early voting; hours for permanent polling places.

293.3572 Temporary branch polling places: Authority of county clerk to establish; hours during which voting may be conducted; legal rights and remedies of property owners or lessors not affected by presence of polling places.

293.3576 Schedule of locations and times for early voting.

293.358 Appointment of deputy clerks.

293.3583 Mechanical recording devices: Preparation before polls open each day.

293.3585 Procedure for voting.

293.3594 Security precautions.

293.3604 Mechanical recording devices: Duties of election board at close of each voting day; duties of ballot board for early voting and county clerk at close of last voting day.

293.3606 Returns; secrecy of ballots; disseminating information about count of returns before polls close prohibited; penalty.





293.3608 County clerk to ensure that mechanical recording devices used for early voting provide record of number of votes; delivery of records and other items to central counting place.

293.361 Electioneering prohibited near polling place;

penalty.

293C.355 Applicability of provisions.

293C.356 Issuance of ballots; voting booth for use by persons issued ballots.

293C.3561 City clerk to establish criteria for selection of permanent and temporary polling places for early voting by personal appearance.

293C.3564 Permanent polling places for early voting.

293C.3568 Period for early voting; hours for permanent polling places.

293C.3572 Temporary branch polling places.

293C.3576 Schedule of locations and times for early voting.

293C.358 Appointment of deputy clerks.

293C.3583 Preparation of mechanical recording devices before polls open each day.

293C.3585 Procedure for voting.

293C.3594 Security precautions. 293C.3604 Mechanical recording devices: Duties of election board at close of each voting day; duties of ballot board for early voting and clerks at close of last voting day.

293C.3606 Returns; secrecy of ballots; disseminating information about count of returns before polls close prohibited; penalty.

293C.3608 Delivery to central counting place of printed record of votes recorded on mechanical recording device during period for early voting and of related items and devices.

293C.361 Electioneering prohibited near polling place; penalty.





