#### Amendment No. 579

Senate Amendment to Senate Bill No. 403	(BDR 24-799)		
Proposed by: Senate Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections			
Amends: Summary: No Title: Yes Preamble: No Joint Sponsors.	hip: No Digest: Yes		

ASSEMBLY	ACT	TION	Initial and Date	SENATE ACTIO	ON Initial and Date
Adopted		Lost	1	Adopted	Lost
Concurred In		Not	1	Concurred In	Not
Receded		Not	1	Receded	Not

EXPLANATION: Matter in (1) *blue bold italics* is new language in the original bill; (2) variations of <u>green bold underlining</u> is language proposed to be added in this amendment; (3) <u>red-strikethrough</u> is deleted language in the original bill; (4) <u>purple double strikethrough</u> is language proposed to be deleted in this amendment; (5) <u>orange double underlining</u> is deleted language in the original bill proposed to be retained in this amendment.

KCP Date: 4/20/2015

S.B. No. 403—Revises provisions relating to elections. (BDR 24-799)

## SENATE BILL No. 403–SENATOR FARLEY

#### MARCH 17, 2015

Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to elections. (BDR 24-799)

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

Effect on the State: Yes.

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

AN ACT relating to elections; requiring a candidate who violates certain residency requirements for elected public office to reimburse persons who made <a href="mailto:certain\_campaign\_contribution">certain\_campaign\_contribution</a> reports; revising provisions governing the filing of a declaration or acceptance of candidacy; enacting provisions relating to an ineligible candidate for office as a <a href="Legislator">Legislator</a>; providing penalties; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

### **Legislative Counsel's Digest:**

Existing law provides that a person may not be a candidate for any elected public office unless, for the 30-day period immediately preceding the date of the close of the filing period for that office, the person has actually, as opposed to constructively, resided in the State, district, county, township or other area prescribed by law for that office. Existing law provides that a person who knowingly and willfully files an acceptance of candidacy or declaration of candidacy which contains a false statement regarding the person's compliance with the 30-day residency requirement is guilty of a gross misdemeanor. (NRS 293.1755, 293C.200)

Existing law also regulates campaign finance practices, including campaign contributions. (Chapter 294A of NRS) Candidates must comply with certain reporting requirements for campaign contributions and must dispose of unspent or excess campaign contributions after an election. (NRS 294A.120, 294A.125, 294A.128, 294A.160, 294A.200) Candidates may use campaign contributions only for certain authorized purposes such as paying for campaign expenses and certain legal expenses. (NRS 294A.160, 294A.286) The Secretary of State may investigate, bring civil actions and impose civil penalties for violations of the campaign finance laws. (NRS 294A.410, 294A.420)

Sections \(\overline{+}\) \(\frac{3}{2}\) and \(\overline{+}\) \(\overline{2}\) \(\overline{1}\) finish bill provide that in addition to any other remedies or penalties, a candidate who violates the 30-day residency requirement prescribed by law must

Sections 11 3 and 12 12 of this bill provide that in addition to any other remedies or penalties, a candidate who violates the 30-day residency requirement prescribed by law must comply with the campaign contribution reimbursement requirements set forth in section 13 of this bill. Section 13 13 provides that if a district court finds that a candidate has violated the 30-day residency requirement, the district court must order the candidate must, within a prescribed period, to reimburse certain campaign contributors in an amount equivalent to the amount of the monetary contributions received for that campaign, or any proportion thereof as determined by the district court, whether or not the contributions were spent on any authorized campaign expenses or legal expenses. For any monetary tentribution contributions which, singly or cumulatively, exceeded \$100, the candidate must: (1) reimburse the contributor in an equivalent amount of money 13 in the amount or

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proportion ordered by the district court; or (2) if the contributor declines to be reimbursed or cannot be located, donate an equivalent amount of money in the amount or proportion ordered by the district court to any tax-exempt nonprofit entity. For any monetary contribution which did not exceed \$100, the candidate must donate an equivalent amount of money in the amount or proportion ordered by the district court to any tax-exempt nonprofit entity.

If the candidate is unable to comply with the requirements within the prescribed period, section [2] 13 authorizes the Secretary of State to extend the period or approve a payment plan. Section [2] 13 also requires the candidate to submit to the Secretary of State reports of each reimbursement or donation, and section [6] 16 of this bill authorizes the Secretary of State to impose certain civil penalties if the candidate fails to report within the required period. [Finally, section 2] Section 13 also prohibits [6] the candidate from disposing of any unspent or excess monetary contributions after the election until it has been determined whether the candidate must reimburse or donate any monetary contributions pursuant to section [2] 13. Finally, to make candidates aware of the potential liability under section 13, the Secretary of State must include a description of the section in any guides, handbooks or other informational materials prepared for the candidates and on the Internet website of the Secretary of State.

Existing law requires a candidate to file a declaration or acceptance of candidacy before his or her name may appear on a ballot, and existing law specifies the forms for a declaration or acceptance of candidacy. (NRS 293.177, 293C.185) Sections 4 and 11 of this bill provide that the forms for a declaration or acceptance of candidacy must include a statement in which the candidate acknowledges that a violation of the 30-day residency requirement subjects the candidate to a civil action disqualifying the candidate from entering upon the duties of the office and making the candidate liable under section 13.

Existing law requires a candidate for office as a Legislator to meet certain qualifications for the office and, if elected, such a candidate is entitled to receive a certificate of election and must take and subscribe to the official oath before taking office. (NRS 218A.200, 218A.210, 218A.220) Sections 1, 2, 5-10 and 17-23 of this bill revise the legal rules, standards and procedures that apply to a candidate who is or becomes an inclipible candidate for the office of Legislator during an election.

becomes an ineligible candidate for the office of Legislator during an election.

Section 17 defines the term "ineligible candidate" to mean a candidate for office as a Legislator who fails to meet any qualification required for the office or who is found by a court to be disqualified from entering upon the duties of the office. If, after the date a candidate files a declaration or acceptance of candidacy and on or before the date of the general election, the candidate is or becomes such an ineligible candidate, sections 1, 2, 5-10 and 17-23 provide that the ineligible candidate: (1) is not eligible to be seated as a Legislator; (2) must not be issued a certificate of election regardless of the number of votes cast for the ineligible candidate; (3) shall not take and subscribe to the official oath as a Legislator; and (4) may not demand or receive a recount of the vote at the election or contest the results of the election.

Lastly, before the Assembly meets for each regular session, existing law requires the Secretary of State to make out a roll from the election returns of the persons who received the highest number of votes to be elected as members of the Assembly, and the members whose names appear upon the roll must be allowed to participate in the organization of the Assembly. (NRS 218A.400) Section 22 provides that the Secretary of State shall not include an ineligible candidate upon the roll of the persons elected as members of the Assembly and the name of the ineligible candidate must not appear upon the roll regardless of the number of votes cast for the ineligible candidate.

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

Section 1. NRS 293.034 is hereby amended to read as follows:

293.034 "Certificate of election" means a certificate prepared by the county or city clerk or Governor, as the case may be, for the person having the highest

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number of votes for any district, county, township, city, state or statewide office as official recognition of the person's election to office \(\frac{1}{2}\), except that if the name of an ineligible candidate, as defined in section 17 of this act, could not be removed from the ballot pursuant to this chapter, such a certificate must not be prepared for the ineligible candidate regardless of the number of votes cast for the ineligible candidate.

Sec. 2. NRS 293.042 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Contest" means an adversary proceeding between a candidate for a public office who has received the greatest number of votes and any other candidate for that office or, in certain cases, any registered voter of the appropriate political subdivision, for the purpose of determining the validity of an election H, except that an ineligible candidate, as defined in section 17 of this act, may not contest the election for the office for which he or she is an ineligible candidate.

Sec. 3. NRS 293.1755 is hereby amended to read as follows:

293.1755 1. In addition to any other requirement provided by law, no person may be a candidate for any office unless, for at least the 30 days immediately preceding the date of the close of filing of declarations of candidacy or acceptances of candidacy for the office which the person seeks, the person has, in accordance with NRS 281.050, actually, as opposed to constructively, resided in the State, district, county, township or other area prescribed by law to which the office pertains and, if elected, over which he or she will have jurisdiction or will represent.

2. Any person who knowingly and willfully files an acceptance of candidacy or declaration of candidacy which contains a false statement in this respect is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

In addition to any other remedy or penalty provided by law, if a district court finds that a person who is a candidate for any office violated subsection 1, the person is subject to the requirements of section  $\frac{13}{13}$  of this act.

4. The provisions of this section do not apply to candidates for the office of district attorney.

Sec. 4. NRS 293.177 is hereby amended to read as follows:

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 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 March.

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:

DECLARAT	ION OF CANDIDACY OF Office of	FOR THE
State of Nevada		
County of		

	For the purpose of having my name placed on the official ballot as a candidate for the
	(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
(b)	For nonpartisan 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 office of
from entering upon the duties of this office and making me liable upon
order of the court pursuant to section 13 of this act to reimburse each
person who made a monetary contribution to my campaign in an amount
determined by the court, whether or not I already used the monetary contribution for campaign expenses or legal expenses pursuant to
chapter 294A of NRS; 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

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 the candidate 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:

Notary Public or other person

authorized to administer an oath

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

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- (b) The candidate does not present to the filing officer:
- (1) A valid driver's license or identification card issued by a governmental agency that contains a photograph of the candidate and the candidate's residential address; or
- (2) A current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, or document issued by a governmental entity, including a check which indicates the candidate's name and residential address, but not including a voter registration card issued pursuant to NRS 293.517.
- The filing officer shall retain a copy of the proof of identity and residency provided by the candidate pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 3. Such a copy:
  - (a) May not be withheld from the public; and
- (b) Must not contain the social security number or driver's license or identification card number of the candidate.
- By filing the declaration or acceptance of candidacy, the candidate shall be deemed to have appointed the filing officer for the office as his or her agent for service of process for the purposes of a proceeding pursuant to NRS 293.182. Service of such process must first be attempted at the appropriate address as specified by the candidate in the declaration or acceptance of candidacy. If the candidate cannot be served at that address, service must be made by personally delivering to and leaving with the filing officer duplicate copies of the process. The filing officer shall immediately send, by registered or certified mail, one of the copies to the candidate at the specified address, unless the candidate has designated in writing to the filing officer a different address for that purpose, in which case the filing officer shall mail the copy to the last address so designated.
- If the filing officer receives credible evidence indicating that a candidate has been convicted of a felony and has not had his or her civil rights restored by a court of competent jurisdiction, the filing officer:
- (a) May conduct an investigation to determine whether the candidate has been convicted of a felony and, if so, whether the candidate has had his or her civil rights restored by a court of competent jurisdiction; and
- (b) Shall transmit the credible evidence and the findings from such investigation to the Attorney General, if the filing officer is the Secretary of State, or to the district attorney, if the filing officer is a person other than the Secretary of
- The receipt of information by the Attorney General or district attorney pursuant to subsection 6 must be treated as a challenge of a candidate pursuant to subsections 4 and 5 of NRS 293.182. If the ballots are printed before a court of competent jurisdiction makes a determination that a candidate has been convicted of a felony and has not had his or her civil rights restored by a court of competent jurisdiction, the filing officer must post a notice at each polling place where the candidate's name will appear on the ballot informing the voters that the candidate is disqualified from entering upon the duties of the office for which the candidate filed the declaration of candidacy or acceptance of candidacy.
  - NRS 293.395 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- The board of county commissioners, after making the abstract of votes as provided in NRS 293.393, shall cause the county clerk to certify the abstract and, by an order made and entered in the minutes of its proceedings, to make:
  - (a) A copy of the certified abstract; and
- (b) A mechanized report of that abstract in compliance with regulations adopted by the Secretary of State,
- → and forthwith transmit them to the Secretary of State.

 On the fourth Tuesday of November after each general election, the justices of the Supreme Court, or a majority thereof, shall meet with the Secretary of State, and shall open and canvass the vote for the number of presidential electors to which this State may be entitled, United States Senator, Representative in Congress, members of the Legislature, state officers who are elected statewide or by district, district judges, or district officers whose districts include area in more than one county and for and against any question submitted.
 Thel Except as otherwise provided in NRS 218A.200, 218A.210 and

3. [The] Except as otherwise provided in NRS 218A.200, 218A.210 and 218A.220 and section 17 of this act, the Governor shall issue certificates of election to and commission the persons having the highest number of votes and

shall issue proclamations declaring the election of those persons. **Sec. 6.** NRS 293.397 is hereby amended to read as follows:

293.397 A: Except as otherwise provided in NRS 218A.200, 218A.210 and 218A.220 and section 17 of this act, a certificate of election or commission must not be withheld from the person having the highest number of votes for the office because of any contest of election filed in the election or any defect or informality in the returns of any election, if it can be ascertained with reasonable certainty from the returns what office is intended and who is entitled to the certificate or commission.

Sec. 7. NRS 293.400 is hereby amended to read as follows:

293.400 1. If, after the completion of the canvass of the returns of any election, two or more persons who are not ineligible candidates as defined in section 17 of this act receive an equal number of votes, which is sufficient for the election of one or more but fewer than all of them to the office, the person or persons elected must be determined as follows:

(a) In a general election for a United States Senator, Representative in Congress, state officer who is elected statewide or by district, district judge, or district officer whose district includes area in more than one county, the Legislature shall, by joint vote of both houses, elect one of those persons to fill the office.

(b) In a primary election for a United States Senator, Representative in Congress, state officer who is elected statewide or by district, district judge, or district officer whose district includes area in more than one county, the Secretary of State shall summon the candidates who have received the tie votes to appear before the Secretary of State at a time and place designated by the Secretary of State and the Secretary of State shall determine the tie by lot. If the tie vote is for the office of Secretary of State, the Governor shall perform these duties.

(c) For any office of a county, township, incorporated city, city organized under a special charter where the charter is silent as to determination of a tie vote, or district which is wholly located within one county, the county clerk shall summon the candidates who have received the tie votes to appear before the county clerk at a time and place designated by the county clerk and determine the tie by lot. If the tie vote is for the office of county clerk, the board of county commissioners shall perform these duties.

2. The summons mentioned in this section must be mailed to the address of the candidate as it appears upon the candidate's declaration of candidacy at least 5 days before the day fixed for the determination of the tie vote and must contain the time and place where the determination will take place.

3. The right to a recount extends to all candidates in case of a tie [+], except for an ineligible candidate as defined in section 17 of this act.

Sec. 8. NRS 293.403 is hereby amended to read as follows:

293.403 1. [A] Except for an ineligible candidate as defined in section 17 of this act, a candidate defeated at any election may demand and receive a recount of the vote for the office for which he or she is a candidate to determine the number

of votes received for the candidate and the number of votes received for the person who won the election if within 3 working days after the canvass of the vote and the certification by the county clerk or city clerk of the abstract of votes the candidate who demands the recount:

(a) Files in writing a demand with the officer with whom the candidate filed his or her declaration of candidacy or acceptance of candidacy; and

(b) Deposits in advance the estimated costs of the recount with that officer.

2. Any voter at an election may demand and receive a recount of the vote for a ballot question if within 3 working days after the canvass of the vote and the certification by the county clerk or city clerk of the abstract of votes, the voter:

(a) Files in writing a demand with:

(1) The Secretary of State, if the demand is for a recount of a ballot question affecting more than one county; or

(2) The county or city clerk who will conduct the recount, if the demand is for a recount of a ballot question affecting only one county or city; and

(b) Deposits in advance the estimated costs of the recount with the person to whom the demand was made.

3. The estimated costs of the recount must be determined by the person with whom the advance is deposited based on regulations adopted by the Secretary of State defining the term "costs."

4. As used in this section, "canvass" means:

(a) In any primary election, the canvass by the board of county commissioners of the returns for a candidate or ballot question voted for in one county or the canvass by the board of county commissioners last completing its canvass of the returns for a candidate or ballot question voted for in more than one county.

(b) In any primary city election, the canvass by the city council of the returns for a candidate or ballot question voted for in the city.

(c) In any general election:

(1) The canvass by the Supreme Court of the returns for a candidate for a statewide office or a statewide ballot question; or

(2) The canvass of the board of county commissioners of the returns for any other candidate or ballot question, as provided in paragraph (a).

(d) In any general city election, the canvass by the city council of the returns for a candidate or ballot question voted for in the city.

Sec. 9. NRS 293.407 is hereby amended to read as follows:

293.407 1. At Except for an ineligible candidate as defined in section 17 of this act, a candidate at any election, or any registered voter of the appropriate political subdivision, may contest the election of any candidate, except for the office of United States Senator or Representative in Congress.

- 2. Except where the contest involves the general election for the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Assemblyman, Assemblywoman, State Senator, justice of the Supreme Court or judge of the Court of Appeals, a candidate or voter who wishes to contest an election, including election to the office of presidential elector, must, within the time prescribed in NRS 293.413, file with the clerk of the district court a written statement of contest, setting forth:
- (a) The name of the contestant and that the contestant is a registered voter of the political subdivision in which the election to be contested or part of it was held;

(b) The name of the defendant;

(c) The office to which the defendant was declared elected;

(d) The particular grounds of contest and the section of Nevada Revised Statutes pursuant to which the statement is filed; and

(e) The date of the declaration of the result of the election and the body or board which canvassed the returns thereof.

3. The contestant shall verify the statement of contest in the manner provided for the verification of pleadings in civil actions.4. All material regarding a contest filed by a contestant with the clerk of the

district court must be filed in triplicate.

Sec. 10. NRS 293.427 is hereby amended to read as follows:

293.427 1. The Secretary of State shall deliver the statement of contest filed pursuant to NRS 293.425 and all other documents, including any amendments to the statement, to the presiding officer of the appropriate house of the Legislature on the day of the organization of the Legislature.

2. Until the contest has been decided, the candidate who received the highest number of votes for the office in the contested election must be seated as a member of the appropriate house ; except that if the name of an ineligible candidate, as defined in section 17 of this act, could not be removed from the ballot pursuant to this chapter, the ineligible candidate must not be seated as a member of the appropriate house regardless of the number of votes cast for the ineligible candidate.

3. If, before the contest has been decided, a contestant gives written notice to the Secretary of State that the contestant wishes to withdraw his or her statement of contest, the Secretary of State shall dismiss the contest.

- 4. The contest, if not dismissed, must be heard and decided as prescribed by the standing or special rules of the house in which the contest is to be tried. If after hearing the contest, the house decides to declare the contestant elected, the Governor shall execute a certificate of election and deliver it to the contestant. The certificate of election issued to the other candidate is thereafter void.
- 5. In a contest of a general election for the office of Assemblyman, Assemblywoman or Senator, the house in which a contest was tried or was to be tried shall determine the remedy, if any, to be awarded to a party to such a contest. The remedy may include, without limitation, any costs incurred by a party in connection with the contest.

Sec. 11. NRS 293C.185 is hereby amended to read as follows:

293C.185 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 293C.115 and 293C.190, a name may not be printed on a ballot to be used at a primary city election unless the person named has filed a declaration of candidacy or an acceptance of candidacy and has paid the fee established by the governing body of the city not earlier than 70 days before the primary city election and not later than 5 p.m. on the 60th day before the primary city election.

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

DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY OF FOR THE OFFICE OF
State of Nevada
City of
For the purpose of having my name placed on the official ballot as a randidate for the office of, I,

constructive, residence in the city, township or other area prescribed by law

to which the office pertains began on a date at least 30 days immediately

office)

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preceding the date of the close of filing of declarations of candidacy for this office; that I understand that if I violate the foregoing residency requirements, it subjects me to a civil action disqualifying me from entering upon the duties of this office and making me liable upon order of the court pursuant to section 13 of this act to reimburse each person who made a monetary contribution to my campaign in an amount determined by the court, whether or not I already used the monetary contribution for campaign expenses or legal expenses pursuant to chapter 294A of NRS; 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 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 o
Subscribed and sworn to before me this day of the month of of t	he year
Notary Public or other person authorized to administer an oath	

- 3. The address of a candidate that must be included in the declaration or acceptance of candidacy pursuant to subsection 2 must be the street address of the residence where the candidate 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 the residence; or
  - (b) The candidate does not present to the filing officer:
- (1) A valid driver's license or identification card issued by a governmental agency that contains a photograph of the candidate and the candidate's residential address; or
- (2) A current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, or document issued by a governmental entity, including a check which indicates the candidate's name and residential address, but not including a voter registration card issued pursuant to NRS 293 517
- 4. The filing officer shall retain a copy of the proof of identity and residency provided by the candidate pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 3. Such a copy:

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

- (b) Must not contain the social security number or driver's license or identification card number of the candidate.
- 5. By filing the declaration or acceptance of candidacy, the candidate shall be deemed to have appointed the city clerk as his or her agent for service of process for the purposes of a proceeding pursuant to NRS 293C.186. Service of such process must first be attempted at the appropriate address as specified by the candidate in the declaration or acceptance of candidacy. If the candidate cannot be served at that address, service must be made by personally delivering to and leaving with the city clerk duplicate copies of the process. The city clerk shall immediately send, by registered or certified mail, one of the copies to the candidate at the specified address, unless the candidate has designated in writing to the city clerk a different address for that purpose, in which case the city clerk shall mail the copy to the last address so designated.
- 6. If the city clerk receives credible evidence indicating that a candidate has been convicted of a felony and has not had his or her civil rights restored by a court of competent jurisdiction, the city clerk:
- (a) May conduct an investigation to determine whether the candidate has been convicted of a felony and, if so, whether the candidate has had his or her civil rights restored by a court of competent jurisdiction; and
- (b) Shall transmit the credible evidence and the findings from such investigation to the city attorney.
- 7. The receipt of information by the city attorney pursuant to subsection 6 must be treated as a challenge of a candidate pursuant to subsections 4 and 5 of NRS 293C.186. If the ballots are printed before a court of competent jurisdiction makes a determination that a candidate has been convicted of a felony and has not had his or her civil rights restored by a court of competent jurisdiction, the city clerk must post a notice at each polling place where the candidate's name will appear on the ballot informing the voters that the candidate is disqualified from entering upon the duties of the office for which the candidate filed the declaration of candidacy or acceptance of candidacy.
  - [Sec. 2.] Sec. 12. NRS 293C.200 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 293C.200 1. In addition to any other requirement provided by law, no person may be a candidate for a city office unless, for at least the 30 days immediately preceding the date of the close of filing of declarations or acceptances of candidacy for the office that the person seeks, the person has in accordance with NRS 281.050, actually, as opposed to constructively, resided in the city or other area prescribed by law to which the office pertains and, if elected, over which he or she will have jurisdiction or which he or she will represent.
- 2. Any person who knowingly and willfully files a declaration of candidacy or an acceptance of candidacy that contains a false statement in this respect is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.
- 3. In addition to any other remedy or penalty provided by law, if a district court finds that a person who is a candidate for any office violated subsection 1, the person is subject to the requirements of section [3] 13 of this act.
- [Sec. 3.] Sec. 13. Chapter 294A of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:
- 1. In addition to any other remedy or penalty provided by law, but except as otherwise provided in this section, if a district court finds that a person who is a candidate for any office violated subsection 1 of NRS 293.1755 or subsection 1 of NRS 293C.200, the district court shall order the candidate, [shall] in the manner and within the period prescribed by this section, to reimburse each person who made a monetary contribution to the candidate [s] in an amount equal to the

monetary contribution or any proportion thereof as determined by the district court, whether or not the candidate used the monetary contribution for campaign expenses or legal expenses pursuant to this chapter.

2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, the candidate shall reimburse fal each person in the amount or proportion ordered by the district court for each monetary contribution in excess of \$100 and any other monetary

contributions which cumulatively exceeded \$100 from the same person.

3. If a person who made a monetary contribution declines to be reimbursed pursuant to this section or cannot be located at the address listed on the report submitted to the Secretary of State pursuant to NRS 294A.120 or a different address after a reasonable search, the candidate shall donate an equivalent amount of money in the amount or proportion ordered by the district court to any tax-exempt nonprofit entity.

4. If the candidate received any contributions in the amount of \$100 or less, the candidate shall donate an equivalent amount of money in the amount or

proportion ordered by the district court to any tax-exempt nonprofit entity.

5. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6, not later than the 15th day of the second month after the date that written notice of entry of the district court's [finding] order is served or, if an appeal is taken, after the date that the appeal is resolved by a final order, the candidate shall make all the reimbursements and donations required by this section.

6. If, by the date prescribed by subsection 5, the candidate is unable to make all the reimbursements and donations required by this section, the Secretary of State may, upon a request filed by the candidate before that date:

(a) Extend the period for making all the reimbursements and donations

required by this section; or

(b) Approve an installment plan proposed by the candidate to make, in installments, all the reimbursements and donations required by this section.

7. If the Secretary of State approves an installment plan pursuant to this section, the Secretary of State shall:

(a) Create a record which describes the circumstances that require the installment plan, sets forth the terms of the installment plan and establishes the dates on which any reports regarding the reimbursements and donations required

(b) Ensure that the record is available for review by the general public.

8. In addition to the reporting requirements set forth in NRS 294A.120, 294A.125, 294A.128, 294A.200 and 294A.286, the candidate shall submit to the Secretary of State a report listing all reimbursements and donations made pursuant to this section not later than the dates established by the Secretary of State by regulation.

9. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 294A.3733, any report required pursuant to this section must be filed electronically with the Secretary of State. The report shall be deemed to be filed on the date that it was received by the

Secretary of State.

by this section are due; and

10. The candidate shall not use any contributions received as a candidate

for another election to comply with the provisions of this section.

11. The candidate shall <u>not</u> dispose of any unspent or excess contributions fas provided in subsections 4 and 5 off pursuant to NRS 294A.160 fonly until after the date prescribed by subsection 5. If, after that date, the candidate has any unspent or excess contributions, the candidate shall dispose of the unspent or excess contributions pursuant to NRS 294A.160 but only to the extent that such unspent or excess contributions are not necessary to comply with the provisions of this section.

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- *12*. The provisions of this section do not apply to a legal defense fund established pursuant to NRS 294A.286.
- The Secretary of State shall include a description of the provisions of this section:
- (a) In any guides, handbooks or other informational materials prepared for candidates; and
  - (b) On the Internet website of the Secretary of State.
  - Sec. 14. NRS 294A.160 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 1. It is unlawful for a candidate to spend money received as a contribution for the candidate's personal use.
- 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of NRS 294A.286, a candidate or public officer may use contributions to pay for any legal expenses that the candidate or public officer incurs in relation to a campaign or serving in public office without establishing a legal defense fund. Any such candidate or public officer shall report any expenditure of contributions to pay for legal expenses in the same manner and at the same time as the report filed pursuant to NRS 294A.120 or 294A.200. A candidate or public officer shall not use contributions to satisfy a civil or criminal penalty imposed by law.
- Every Except as otherwise provided in section [3] 13 of this act, every candidate for office at a primary election, general election or special election who is elected to that office and received contributions that were not spent or committed for expenditure before the primary election, general election or special election shall dispose of the money through one or any combination of the following methods:
  - (a) Return the unspent money to contributors;
- (b) Use the money in the candidate's next election or for the payment of other expenses related to public office or his or her campaign, regardless of whether he or she is a candidate for a different office in the candidate's next election;
  - (c) Contribute the money to:
- (1) The campaigns of other candidates for public office or for the payment of debts related to their campaigns;
  - (2) A political party; or
- (3) Any combination of persons or groups set forth in subparagraphs (1) and (2);
  - (d) Donate the money to any tax-exempt nonprofit entity; or
- (e) Donate the money to any governmental entity or fund of this State or a political subdivision of this State. A candidate who donates money pursuant to this paragraph may request that the money be used for a specific purpose.
- Every Except as otherwise provided in section 131 13 of this act, every candidate for office at a primary election, general election or special election who withdraws pursuant to NRS 293.202 or 293C.195 after filing a declaration of candidacy or an acceptance of candidacy, is removed from the ballot by court order or is defeated for or otherwise not elected to that office and who received contributions that were not spent or committed for expenditure before the primary election, general election or special election shall, not later than the 15th day of the second month after the election, dispose of the money through one or any combination of the following methods:
  - (a) Return the unspent money to contributors;
  - (b) Contribute the money to:
- (1) The campaigns of other candidates for public office or for the payment of debts related to their campaigns;
  - (2) A political party; or

and (2);

(c) Donate the money to any tax-exempt nonprofit entity; or

(d) Donate the money to any governmental entity or fund of this State or a political subdivision of this State. A candidate who donates money pursuant to this

(3) Any combination of persons or groups set forth in subparagraphs (1)

paragraph may request that the money be used for a specific purpose.

Every Except as otherwise provided in section [3] 13 of this act, every candidate for office who withdraws after filing a declaration of candidacy or an acceptance of candidacy, is defeated for that office at a primary election or is removed from the ballot by court order before a primary election or general election and who received a contribution from a person in excess of \$5,000 shall, not later than the 15th day of the second month after the primary election or general election, as applicable, return any money in excess of \$5,000 to the contributor.

Except as otherwise provided in subsections 7 and 8, every public officer

who:

(a) Does not run for reelection to the office which he or she holds and is not a candidate for any other office; and

(b) Has contributions that are not spent or committed for expenditure

remaining from a previous election,

- ⇒ shall, not later than the 15th day of the second month after the expiration of the public officer's term of office, dispose of those contributions in the manner provided in subsection 4.
  - A public officer who:

(a) Resigns from his or her office;

(b) Is not a candidate for any other office; and

(c) Has contributions that are not spent or committed for expenditure

remaining from a previous election, ⇒ shall, not later than the 15th day of the second month after the effective date of the resignation, dispose of those contributions in the manner provided in subsection

A public officer who:

(a) Does not run for reelection to the office which he or she holds and is a candidate for any other office; and

(b) Has contributions that are not spent or committed for expenditure

remaining from a previous election,

- may use the unspent contributions in a future election. Such a public officer is subject to the reporting requirements set forth in NRS 294A.120, 294A.125, 294A.128, 294A.200 and 294A.362 for as long as the public officer is a candidate for any office.
- In addition to the methods for disposing of the unspent money set forth in subsections 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8, a Legislator may donate not more than \$500 of that money to the Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum created pursuant to NRS 427A.320.
- 10. Any contributions received before a candidate for office at a primary election, general election or special election dies that were not spent or committed for expenditure before the death of the candidate must be disposed of in the manner provided in subsection 4.
- The court shall, in addition to any penalty which may be imposed pursuant to NRS 294A.420, order the candidate or public officer to dispose of any remaining contributions in the manner provided in this section.
- 12. As used in this section, "contributions" include any interest and other income earned thereon.
  - [Sec. 5.] Sec. 15. NRS 294A.350 is hereby amended to read as follows:

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- 294A.350 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, every candidate for office shall file the reports required by NRS 294A.120, 294A.125, 294A.128, 294A.200 and 294A.286, and section [3] 13 of this act, even though the candidate:
  - (a) Withdraws his or her candidacy pursuant to NRS 293.202 or 293C.195;
- (b) Ends his or her campaign without withdrawing his or her candidacy pursuant to NRS 293.202 or 293C.195;
  - (c) Receives no contributions;

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- (d) Has no campaign expenses;
- (e) Is not opposed in the election by another candidate;
- (f) Is defeated in the primary election;
- (g) Is removed from the ballot by court order; or
- (h) Is the subject of a petition to recall and the special election is not held.
- Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, a candidate described in paragraph (a), (b), (f) or (g) of subsection 1 may simultaneously file all the reports required by NRS 294A.120, 294A.125, 294A.128, 294A.200 and 294A.286 and section [3] 13 of this act that are due after the candidate disposes of any unspent or excess contributions as provided in subsections 4 and 5 of NRS 294A.160, as applicable, or after the candidate makes all reimbursements and donations required by section [3] 13 of this act, whichever is later, if the candidate gives written notice to the Secretary of State, on the form prescribed by the Secretary of State, that the candidate is ending his or her campaign and will not accept any additional contributions. If the candidate has submitted a withdrawal of candidacy pursuant to NRS 293.202 or 293C.195 to an officer other than the Secretary of State, the candidate must enclose with the notice a copy of the withdrawal of candidacy. A form submitted to the Secretary of State pursuant to this subsection must be signed by the candidate under an oath to God or penalty of perjury. A candidate who signs the form under an oath to God is subject to the same penalties as if the candidate had signed the form under penalty of perjury.
- This section does not exempt a person whose name appears on the ballot and who is elected to office from any reporting requirement of this chapter.

NRS 294A.420 is hereby amended to read as follows:

- <del>[Sec. 6.]</del> **Sec. 16.** 294A.420 1. If th 1. If the Secretary of State receives information that a candidate, person, committee, political party or nonprofit corporation that is subject to the provisions of NRS 294A.120, 294A.128, 294A.140, 294A.150, 294A.200, 294A.210, 294A.220, 294A.230, 294A.250, 294A.270, 294A.280 or 294A.286 *or* section [3] 13 of this act has not filed a report or form for registration pursuant to the applicable provisions of those sections, the Secretary of State may, after giving notice to that candidate, person, committee, political party or nonprofit corporation, cause the appropriate proceedings to be instituted in the First Judicial District Court.
- Except as otherwise provided in this section, a candidate, person, committee, political party or nonprofit corporation that violates an applicable provision of this chapter is subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$5,000 for each violation and payment of court costs and attorney's fees. The civil penalty must be recovered in a civil action brought in the name of the State of Nevada by the Secretary of State in the First Judicial District Court and deposited by the Secretary of State for credit to the State General Fund in the bank designated by the State Treasurer.
- 3. If a civil penalty is imposed because a candidate, person, committee, political party or nonprofit corporation has reported its contributions, campaign expenses, independent expenditures, *reimbursements*, *donations* or other expenditures after the date the report is due, except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the amount of the civil penalty is:

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- (a) If the report is not more than 7 days late, \$25 for each day the report is late.
- (b) If the report is more than 7 days late but not more than 15 days late, \$50 for each day the report is late.
- (c) If the report is more than 15 days late, \$100 for each day the report is late.
- → A civil penalty imposed pursuant to this subsection against a public officer who by law is not entitled to receive compensation for his or her office or a candidate for such an office must not exceed a total of \$100 if the public officer or candidate received no contributions and made no expenditures during the relevant reporting periods.
- For good cause shown, the Secretary of State may waive a civil penalty that 4. would otherwise be imposed pursuant to this section.
- 5. When considering whether to waive, pursuant to subsection 4, a civil penalty that would otherwise be imposed pursuant to subsection 3, the Secretary of State may consider, without limitation:
- (a) The seriousness of the violation, including, without limitation, the nature, circumstances and extent of the violation;
- (b) Any history of violations committed by the candidate, person, committee, political party or nonprofit corporation against whom the civil penalty would otherwise be imposed;
- (c) Any mitigating factor, including, without limitation, whether the candidate, person, committee, political party or nonprofit corporation against whom the civil penalty would otherwise be imposed reported the violation, corrected the violation in a timely manner, attempted to correct the violation or cooperated with the Secretary of State in resolving the situation that led to the violation;
  - (d) Whether the violation was inadvertent;
- (e) Any knowledge or experience the candidate, person, committee, political party or nonprofit corporation has with the provisions of this chapter; and
  - (f) Any other factor that the Secretary of State deems to be relevant.
- 6. If the Secretary of State waives a civil penalty pursuant to subsection 4, the Secretary of State shall:
- (a) Create a record which sets forth that the civil penalty has been waived and describes the circumstances that constitute the good cause shown; and
- (b) Ensure that the record created pursuant to paragraph (a) is available for review by the general public.
- The remedies and penalties provided by this chapter are cumulative, do not abrogate and are in addition to any other remedies and penalties that may exist at law or in equity, including, without limitation, any criminal penalty that may be imposed pursuant to this chapter or NRS 199.120, 199.145 or 239.330.
- Sec. 17. Chapter 218A of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:
- As used in this section and NRS 218A.200, 218A.210 and 218A.220, unless the context otherwise requires, "ineligible candidate" means a person who is a candidate for office as a Legislator and who:
- Fails to meet any qualification required for the office pursuant to the Constitution or laws of this State; or
- Is found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be disqualified from entering upon the duties of the office pursuant to the Constitution or laws of this State.
  - NRS 218A.200 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 218A.200 <u>1.</u> A person is not eligible to be elected or appointed to office as a Legislator unless the person:
  - (a) Is a qualified elector;

(b) Has been an actual, as opposed to constructive, citizen resident of this State for 1 year next preceding the person's election or appointment; fand 2.1 (c) At the time of election or appointment, has attained the age of 21 years

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(d) Meets all other qualifications for the office as required by the Constitution and laws of this State.

2. A person is not eligible to be seated as a Legislator if, at any time after the person most recently filed a declaration of candidacy or acceptance of candidacy for the office of Legislator pursuant to chapter 293 of NRS and on or before the date of the most recent general election held for the office, the person is or becomes an ineligible candidate.

Sec. 19. NRS 218A.210 is hereby amended to read as follows:
218A.210 A person who is elected to office as a Legislator is A person who is elected to office as a Legislator is entitled to receive a certificate of election from the Governor +, except that if the name of an ineligible candidate could not be removed from the ballot pursuant to chapter 293 of NRS, the Governor shall not issue a certificate of election to the ineligible candidate regardless of the number of votes cast for the ineligible candidate.

NRS 218A.220 is hereby amended to read as follows:

1. A person who receives a certificate of election or appointment 218A.220 to office as a Legislator must take and subscribe to the official oath before the person takes office as a Legislator, and an entry thereof must be made on the journal of the proper House.

A person shall not take and subscribe to the official oath to take office as a Legislator if, at any time after the person most recently filed a declaration of candidacy or acceptance of candidacy for the office of Legislator pursuant to chapter 293 of NRS and on or before the date of the most recent general election held for the office, the person is or becomes an ineligible candidate.

Sec. 21. NRS 218A.260 is hereby amended to read as follows:

218A.260 1. If a vacancy occurs in the office of a Legislator during a regular or special session or at a time when no biennial election or regular election at which county officers are to be elected will take place between the occurrence of the vacancy and the next regular or special session, the vacancy must be filled in the manner provided in this section.

2. If the former Legislator was elected or appointed from a district wholly within one county, the board of county commissioners of the county in which the district is located shall fill the vacancy by appointing a person who is a member of the same political party as the former Legislator, [and] who actually, as opposed to constructively, resides in the district H and who meets all qualifications for the

office as required by NRS 218A.200.

If the former Legislator was elected or appointed from a district comprising more than one county, the county commissioners of each county within or partly within the district shall fill the vacancy by appointing a person who is a member of the same political party as the former Legislator, [and] who actually, as opposed to constructively, resides in the district H and who meets all qualifications for the office as required by NRS 218A.200. To fill the vacancy:

(a) Each board of county commissioners shall first meet separately and determine the single candidate it will nominate to fill the vacancy.

(b) The boards shall then meet jointly. The joint meeting must be chaired by the person who is the chair of the board of county commissioners of the county with the largest population in the district. At the joint meeting:

(1) The chair of each board, on behalf of that board, shall cast a proportionate number of votes according to the percent, rounded to the nearest whole percent, which the population of that board's county is of the population of

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the entire district. Populations must be determined by the last decennial census or special census conducted by the Bureau of the Čensus of the United States Department of Commerce.

(2) The person who receives a plurality of these votes is appointed to fill the vacancy. If no person receives a plurality of the votes, the boards of county commissioners of the respective counties shall each select a candidate, and the appointee must be chosen by drawing lots among the candidates so selected.

The board of county commissioners or the board of the county with the largest population in the district shall issue a certificate of appointment naming the appointee. The county clerk or the clerk of the county with the largest population in the district shall give the certificate to the appointee and send a copy of the certificate to the Secretary of State.

Sec. 22. NRS 218Å.400 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Before the Assembly meets for each regular session, the 218A.400 Secretary of State shall make out a roll from the returns on file in the Secretary of State's office of the persons who received the highest number of votes to be elected to office as members of the Assembly in each district in the general election. except that if the name of an ineligible candidate could not be removed from the ballot pursuant to chapter 293 of NRS, the Secretary of State shall not include the ineligible candidate upon the roll of the persons elected to office as members of the Assembly and the name of the ineligible candidate must not appear upon the roll regardless of the number of votes cast for the ineligible candidate. The members whose names appear upon the roll must be allowed to participate in the organization of the Assembly.

On the first day of each regular session at a time that is appropriate for that regular session, the Secretary of State shall call the Assembly to order and shall

preside over the Assembly until a presiding officer is elected.

If a special session is convened between the date of the general election and the date of the next regular session, the Assembly must be organized for the special session according to the procedure set forth in this section, except that on the first day of the special session, the Secretary of State shall call the Assembly to order at a time that is appropriate for that special session.

As used in this section, "ineligible candidate" has the meaning ascribed to it in section 17 of this act.

Sec. 23. NRS 283.130 is hereby amended to read as follows:

283.130 Any Except as otherwise provided in NRS 218A.200, 218A.210 and 218A.220 and section 17 of this act, any officer elected or appointed to fill any vacancy shall be commissioned, or shall receive a certificate of election or appointment to such office.

Sec. 7. Sec. 24. This act becomes effective:

- Upon passage and approval for the purpose of adopting any regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative tasks necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; and
  - On January 1, 2016, for all other purposes.