

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

**Seventy-ninth Session
February 8, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections was called to order by Chair Nicole J. Cannizzaro at 3:33 p.m. on Wednesday, February 8, 2017, in Room 2144 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4404B of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. [Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda. [Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster. All exhibits are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Nicole J. Cannizzaro, Chair
Senator Tick Segerblom, Vice Chair
Senator Kelvin Atkinson
Senator James A. Settelmeyer
Senator Heidi S. Gansert

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michael Stewart, Policy Analyst
Kevin Powers, Counsel
Jan Brase, Committee Secretary
Janae Johnson, Committee Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Barbara K. Cegavske, Nevada Secretary of State

CHAIR CANNIZZARO:

The Committee Rules are identical to those approved by this Committee in 2015 ([Exhibit C](#)).

SENATOR ATKINSON MOVED TO ADOPT THE COMMITTEE RULES.

SENATOR SEGERBLOM SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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MICHAEL STEWART (Policy Analyst):

Our jurisdiction is parallel with the Assembly Legislative Operations and Elections Committee. The Committee Brief ([Exhibit D](#)), discusses bill statistics, topics of interest and contact information from our elected officials. Topics heard in this Committee will include elections, initiatives and referendums, campaign practices, legislative business, statutory revision, ethics in government, and State printing and publications for the Legislative Counsel Bureau. All 33 bills that are linked to this Committee are shown on pages 3 to 6 in the Committee Brief.

Our Committee is exempt from the deadlines, and we may meet late in the Session. The bills that relate to Legislative Operations and Elections on pages 7 and 8 apply to this Committee and the Assembly Committee. The automatic voter registration Initiative Petition (I.P.) 1 will be presented to the Assembly Committee. The Legislature has 40 days from receipt of the initiative to act. If the Legislature does not act upon the initiative, the proposal will be presented to Nevada voters for approval or disapproval during the next general election.

INITIATIVE PETITION 1: Revises provisions relating to voter registration.

The bill draft request (BDR) list includes voter registration, polling place accessibility, municipal elections, campaign practices and replacement of old voting machine systems. On page 9, there are elections and ethics listed for the Legislature and topics on *Nevada Revised Statutes*. Deadline dates for hearing bills for this Committee are April 14 from the first House and May 19 from the second House. Pages 11, 12 and 13 have contact information of our key election officials in Nevada. The mission of the Research Division at Legislative Counsel Bureau is to provide research for policies to the public and staff members of the Legislature.

CHAIR CANNIZZARO:

I welcome the Secretary of State, Barbara K. Cegavske.

BARBARA K. CEGAVSKE (Nevada Secretary of State):

I would like to introduce my staff members to the Committee: Scott Anderson, Wayne Thorley, Justus Wendland, Katie Siemon-Martin and Gilberto De La Luz. I will discuss the Elections Division Overview presentation ([Exhibit E](#)). Topics included on this presentation are the responsibilities of the Secretary of State (SOS) Office, and comprise Elections Division functions, status and requirements of 2016 initiative and referendum petitions, Help America Vote Act information, and voter registration statistics in 2017.

The presentation also includes the following topics: 2016 general election turnout; primary election turnout; Website for voter search information; military and overseas voters; early voting statistics and success; Nevada online voter registration and statistics; Nevada Student Mock Election; voter list maintenance; Election Integrity Task Force (EITF); 2016 Election Task Force; Aurora Campaign Finance Disclosure; [Assembly Bill 21](#); candidate residency declaration bill; [Assembly Bill 45](#); voter registration drives and SOS cleanup bill; and [BDR 463](#) voter registration deadline.

[ASSEMBLY BILL 21](#): Makes various changes relating to elections. ([BDR 24-2](#))

[ASSEMBLY BILL 45](#): Revises provisions relating to public office. ([BDR 24-426](#))

[BILL DRAFT REQUEST 463](#): Revises provisions relating to voter registration.
(Later introduced as [Assembly Bill 478](#).)

SENATOR SEGERBLOM:

Have you seen any voter fraud? Is there anything that is concerning?

SECRETARY OF STATE CEGAVSKE:

Since the media is concerned, my staff has put information on the Website about these types of issues. We have no evidence brought to us in the State for fraud. We do have an issue with a voter registration fraud. Two arrests have been made because of voter fraud registration.

SENATOR SEGERBLOM:

Are the voter registration groups signed up improperly? I see these groups mentioned in [Assembly Bill 45](#) in your presentation.

SECRETARY OF STATE CEGAVSKE:

Assembly Bill 45 is important for that reason, for training and certification, and for knowing the Nevada law for registration forms.

SENATOR SEGERBLOM:

Will there be any training provided for these processes?

SECRETARY OF STATE CEGAVSKE:

We have asked the 17 counties to help provide training for voter registration. One major training will take place after Session because this information is needed statewide.

SENATOR ATKINSON:

Registration fraud and voter fraud are two different things. There is no evidence that the illegal people signed up were able to vote, correct?

SECRETARY OF STATE CEGAVSKE:

Our staff looks through the database and verifies the information coming in by matching signatures and going through the Department of Motor Vehicles. There is a whole process of how this information is researched before each voter is verified. The different forms for fraud are online along with other information concerning voter fraud. Nationwide, we have heard that people are illegally voting, but Nevada has no information that someone has voted illegally. The registration forms did show fraud activity.

CHAIR CANNIZZARO:

That is separate and apart from the allegations that individuals had illegally voted. Is this an issue with voter registration forms being filled out by third-party individuals?

SECRETARY OF STATE CEGAVSKE:

Yes, that is correct. The registration forms are completely different than somebody actually voting. They are two different issues.

CHAIR CANNIZZARO:

There is no evidence that anybody actually voted improperly? It has to do with the registration forms?

SECRETARY OF STATE CEGAVSKE:

Yes, that is correct. We have no evidence that anybody voted illegally in the State of Nevada.

CHAIR CANNIZZARO:

Does the EITF provide additional safeguards, or how does that work to prevent any incidents for somebody voting illegally?

SECRETARY OF STATE CEGAVSKE:

On election night for the primary and general elections, we had a command center in Las Vegas and Carson City with staff managing the phones all night by receiving input from the counties. In Las Vegas, we had the law enforcement agencies help us input which jurisdiction the information was coming from. Wherever the complaint came from, we could verify who should go out and collect that information. This worked really well. We had no arrests this election year cycle. We did go out on several phone calls with concerning tips.

CHAIR CANNIZZARO:

This method was used as a model for other states, Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Justice.

Remainder of page intentionally left blank; signature page to follow.

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CHAIR CANNIZZARO:

Seeing no further business, this meeting is adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Janae Johnson,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator Nicole J. Cannizzaro, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBIT SUMMARY				
Bill	Exhibit / # of pages		Witness / Entity	Description
	A	1		Agenda
	B	3		Attendance Roster
	C	2	Senator Nicole J. Cannizzaro	Committee Rules
	D	14	Michael Stewart	Committee Brief
	E	30	Secretary of State Barbara K. Cegavske	Elections Division Overview