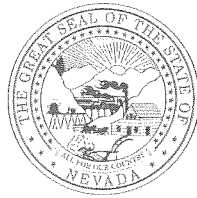


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## Office of the Governor

May 30, 2017

The Honorable Aaron Ford  
Nevada State Senate Majority Leader  
The Nevada Legislature  
401 South Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701

### **RE: Senate Bill 434 of the 79<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session**

Dear Leader Ford:

I am herewith forwarding to you, for filing within the constitutional time limit and without my approval, Senate Bill 434 ("SB 434"), which is entitled:

AN ACT relating to cities; requiring the City Attorneys of the cities of Reno and Sparks to be appointed rather than elected; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

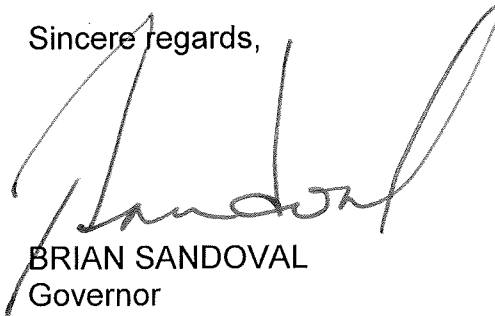
SB 434 makes a significant change to how the City Attorneys of Reno and Sparks are selected. Until now, the individual holding this position has been selected by the voters. This bill would eliminate voter selection of the City Attorney and replace it with appointment by the respective city councils of Reno and Sparks.

Currently, the City Attorneys maintain allegiance and responsibility to their respective communities, and not a majority of their city councils. Such an arrangement preserves legal discretion and maintains a balance between attorney and client that should not be disturbed.

Finally, neither the City of Sparks nor the City of Reno asked for or supported this bill. In fact, the City of Sparks, through its Mayor and city council, have opposed it. Not only does this proposed legislative change circumvent the process usually used to amend the Reno and Sparks City Charters, but it also ignores the will of the voters, who in 1974 and 1991 overwhelmingly rejected similar attempts to make the Sparks City Attorney an appointed rather than an elected position.

For these reasons, I veto SB 434 and return it without my signature or approval.

Sincere regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Sandoval", written over the printed name and title.

BRIAN SANDOVAL  
Governor

*Enclosure*

cc:    *The Honorable Mark Hutchison, President of the Senate (without enclosure)*  
      *The Honorable Jason Frierson, Speaker of the Nevada Assembly (without enclosure)*  
      *The Honorable Barbara Cegavske, Nevada Secretary of State (without enclosure)*  
      *Claire J. Clift, Secretary of the Senate (without enclosure)*  
      *Susan Furlong, Chief Clerk of the Assembly (without enclosure)*  
      *Brenda Erdoes, Esq., Legislative Counsel (without enclosure)*