

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THE  
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

**Eighty-Second Session  
June 1, 2023**

The Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections was called to order by Chair Michelle Gorelow at 4:09 p.m. on Thursday, June 1, 2023, in Room 3142 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4406 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. Copies of the minutes, including the Agenda [[Exhibit A](#)], the Attendance Roster [[Exhibit B](#)], and other substantive exhibits, are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau and on the Nevada Legislature's website at [www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/82nd2023](http://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/82nd2023).

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Assemblywoman Michelle Gorelow, Chair  
Assemblywoman Brittney Miller, Vice Chair  
Assemblywoman Jill Dickman  
Assemblyman Reuben D'Silva  
Assemblywoman Cecelia González  
Assemblyman Brian Hibbetts  
Assemblyman Richard McArthur  
Assemblywoman Sabra Newby

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Assemblyman Rich DeLong (excused)  
Assemblyman Cameron (C.H.) Miller (excused)  
Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno (excused)  
Assemblyman Steve Yeager (excused)

**GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:**

Senator James Ohrenschall, Senate District No. 21

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Haley Proehl, Committee Policy Analyst  
Shuruk Ismail, Committee Manager  
Kristi Howard, Committee Secretary  
Bet Torres, Committee Assistant

Minutes ID: 1329



**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Arnold Thomas, Vice Chairman, Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, Duck Valley Indian Reservation, Owyhee, Nevada

Jennifer Willet, Nevada Grassroots Manager, All Voting is Local

Emily Persaud-Zamora, Executive Director, Silver State Voices

Alex Tanchek, representing Shoshone-Paiute Tribes; Duck Valley Indian Reservation; Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe; and Duckwater Shoshone Tribe

Cassie Charles, Campaign Director, Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada

Jennifer Lanahan, representing Las Vegas Paiute Tribe; and Reno-Sparks Indian Colony

Brian Harris, Voter Education Organizer, Battle Born Progress

Mathilda Guerrero, Government Relations Director, Native Voters Alliance Nevada

Elveda Martinez, Private Citizen, Schurz, Nevada

Jamie Lynn Rodriguez, Registrar of Voters, Washoe County

Mercedes Krause, Chair, Nevada Native Caucus

Kerry Durmick, Nevada State Director, All Voting is Local

Izack Tenorio, representing Campaign Legal Center

Charcris Chotisin, Legislative Assistant, One APIA Nevada

Briana Escamilla, Director of Regional Organizing, Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains

Cyrus Hojjaty, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada

Sean Sever, Deputy Administrator, Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles

**Chair Gorelow:**

[Roll was called. Rules and protocol were explained.] We will get started with today's agenda. It is that time in the session when people may be in and out and in other meetings.

I will now open the hearing for Senate Bill 216 (2nd Reprint). This measure establishes provisions related to elections. We have Senator Ohrenschall with us today. Please begin when you are ready.

**Senate Bill 216 (2nd Reprint): Establishes provisions relating to elections.  
(BDR 24-264)**

**Senator James Ohrenschall, Senate District No. 21:**

I appreciate your hearing Senate Bill 216 (2nd Reprint) today. Senate Bill 216 (2nd Reprint) comes to your Committee from the 2021-2022 Joint Interim Standing Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections. It is a product of discussions held during meetings of the interim committee regarding the difficulties faced by members of tribal nations in this state when voting and registering to vote. The interim committee heard testimony from the Nevada Indian Commission, tribal members, and others whose concerns the interim committee took into consideration when voting to draft legislation for this session.

Our tribal citizens have historically faced high barriers to participating in the voting process due to many reasons, primarily the remote locations of our tribal lands. Twenty-four of the twenty-seven federally recognized tribal nations in Nevada are more than an hour's drive from a community of 10,000 people or more. We have also heard from the Nevada Indian Commission that, with the high amount of turnover amongst county clerks, it has been difficult for tribal leaders and citizens who are engaged in voter outreach to maintain relationships with the local election officials. Additionally, some tribal nations are not in contact with their city or county clerk, meaning their needs or concerns are not a part of the conversation when it comes to election administration. Senate Bill 216 (2nd Reprint) would require regular communication between county and city clerks and the tribal nations within their jurisdiction to ensure tribal nations are continually included in conversations surrounding voter participation and access. With your permission, I will do a brief overview of the bill. After hearing from my copresenters I will be happy to answer any questions.

Section 2 and section 4 of the bill require county and city clerks to establish and maintain a working relationship with Indian tribes within the county's or city's jurisdiction. Again, the intent here is to ensure tribal nations are part of the conversation and able to provide input or receive information and support. The bill puts the onus on the city and county clerks, the officials responsible for administering elections in the state, to regularly reach out to tribal nations. It will take effort on behalf of both parties to foster a working relationship. However, the initial contact and frequent follow-up contact should come from the city and county clerks who have the resources to contact the tribes and the responsibility to administer elections for all eligible voters in this state.

Additionally, there are two other points in the bill that I would like to go over. We are looking here in this bill to expand Nevada's Effective Absentee System for Elections to include tribal nation members to support voting in these extremely remote communities. In addition, Senate Bill 216 (2nd Reprint) creates a stand-alone tribal liaison position in the Office of the Secretary of State to facilitate in establishing polling places and other needs of our tribal communities.

With your permission, Chair, I would like to welcome Vice Chairman Arnold Thomas on Zoom.

**Arnold Thomas, Vice Chairman, Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, Duck Valley Indian Reservation, Owyhee, Nevada:**

I am using my phone, and I have you on video. I am located 100 miles north of Elko, Nevada. First and foremost, I am totally blind and am disabled. For a number of years, I resided in another state and had easy access to voting down the street a couple of blocks. I was able to travel there with my cane and vote. When I moved back home in the last 10 years, to actually get to a valid voting booth again, I had to travel one hour south to Elko. Back in 2020 while I was in my second term as a leader in the legislative branch of our tribal government, we requested a voting booth here on the reservation in Duck Valley, and we were denied. Again, last year, we requested a voting booth here on the reservation, not only for me, but for other tribal members and community members. The end result was we had to

sue Elko County to have a voting booth here. To make a long story short, we won the case. It was very, very taxing. I was the lead on the lawsuit along with Chairman Brian Mason. Back in 2022 we had five days, but in the next election cycle we will actually have the same number of days that the City of Elko has for a voting booth.

The short end of that was being the original people of Nevada going back hundreds of years—my family is from the territory of Nevada—waited this long, until 2022, to where we were able to vote here in our community. We had a lot of senior citizens, first-time voters in their eighties and nineties, who actually voted for the first time. It was very historical. I am a former cowboy, and was actually able to ride in our parade. I rode the horse down the hill to near where the voting booth was and encouraged people to vote.

Because of our remoteness, the bill that has been presented will guarantee we will have Internet access for voting as well as that the local county clerks will work with our tribes here in Nevada to ensure that right continues like all other Nevadans and all other Americans. Thank you for your time, and I really encourage your support on this bill.

**Chair Gorelow:**

Committee members, are there any questions?

**Assemblywoman Dickman:**

I am just curious as to why we need to have polling places since we have universal mail ballots. They do have mail there, right?

**Senator Ohrenschall:**

What I learned while serving with Assemblywoman Brittney Miller on the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections, as well as during this session, is that there is a lot of unreliability on tribal lands in terms of mail service and with voters being able to get their mail. That is why having a polling place, whether it is on Election Day or during early voting is very much preferred on tribal lands. Some of what we learned, too, was in some areas there had not been much communication between the county election official and the tribe within that county. This bill here really is to try to make sure those lines of communication are open. On the Senate side, we amended the bill because we heard from the registrars there was a concern about how to establish communication. For example, the registrar knocks on the door one time, and nobody answers, then knocks on the door the second time, leaves notes to call to figure out where the best polling place would be, and never gets an answer. We are trying to take account for that in the bill. Certainly, communication is going to be a two-way street, but we do want to start with that county clerk or city clerk as the case may be.

**Chair Gorelow:**

I think it is very important that all eligible voters are able to vote in the manner they prefer, whether it is in person or by mail, so thank you very much. You touched a little bit about one of the registrars going out and knocking on doors. It does not really prescribe that it is in

person—at least I did not see it or overlooked it. So really, they could do a variety of methods, if it is easier to do a Zoom. I think in-person would be the best option, but I am just curious what kind of conversations you had about that?

**Senator Ohrenschall:**

I certainly did not want to micromanage in terms of statute how the county clerk or county registrar would communicate. I hope that if there is not a way to communicate electronically or if there is no success, maybe there would be an effort even if it requires a trip out to the headquarters of the tribal government. That is not in the statute. It is something that could be. I hope there would be efforts like that, if they do not have reliable Internet, in terms of that kind of communication.

**Chair Gorelow:**

I would agree. I think that would be very micromanaging on our part to prescribe that in legislation. I would hope they would make that effort to be in person, but sometimes that might not be possible. I was just curious what those conversations were. Committee members, are there any final questions?

Seeing that there are none, we will open up for testimony in support of Senate Bill 216 (2nd Reprint) here in Carson City.

**Jennifer Willet, Nevada Grassroots Manager, All Voting is Local:**

All Voting is Local is an organization that exists to expose and dismantle threats to voter freedom in order to make voting safe, fair, and accessible, to build a democracy for us all. All Voting is Local is also a member of the Let Nevadans Vote coalition. We are in strong support of S.B. 216 (R2). Tribal nations face persistent and longstanding barriers to voting access. In 2021 the Nevada Legislature passed a bill that allowed tribes to request a polling place for their community. While that was progress, we learned that barriers remained in the 2022 election.

To support the establishment of polling places in tribal nations, S.B. 216 (R2) mandates that the clerk develops a relationship with the tribal nations in their county. To determine how this relationship should best function to support polling place establishment, we worked with clerks to understand what they needed when, such as polling place location, needed days and times, and poll worker recruitment. Also, the expansion of Effective Absentee System for Elections (EASE) will support tribal voting particularly in tribal nations like Duck Valley that are extremely remote and returning in-person ballots is a burden on the community. Tribal nations could be several hours away from their county seat. Because elections are held in November, poor weather conditions can affect travel, which affected the latest election. Expanding the EASE system will give more options to vote for rural communities. In addition, expanding the EASE system will also allow a pilot program to try to fix the longstanding problem that tribal members cannot register online with their tribal identification.

Due to the nature of the session, a lot of our partners are not here today, but we have confirmed that they support this bill. In conclusion, we strongly urge you to support this bill to support equitable access for voting for tribal nations.

**Emily Persaud-Zamora, Executive Director, Silver State Voices:**

Silver State Voices leads the Let Nevadans Vote coalition, and today we are in strong support of S.B. 216 (R2). Plain and simple, this bill requires each county and city clerk to maintain a working relationship with every tribal nation in their respective county. This aligns with the efforts of many tribal councils and ensures that county clerks participate in building productive partnerships. We have been along on this journey since 2017 when Assembly Bill 137 of the 79th Session passed. As Jennifer said earlier in her statement, there has been a lot of progress, but we know there needs to be more to ensure all Indigenous communities are able to cast their ballot. Thank you so much, and we urge your support.

**Alex Tanchek, representing Shoshone-Paiute Tribes; Duck Valley Indian Reservation; Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe; and Duckwater Shoshone Tribe:**

We are speaking in support of this bill.

**Cassie Charles, Campaign Director, Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada:**

Despite the passage of a bill in 2017 that intended to establish polling places on reservations, barriers to voting access persist for these communities which were still evident during the 2022 election. Senate Bill 216 (2nd Reprint) will ensure that communication is maintained between tribal nations and local election officials, so tribes have all the resources they need for their communities to actively participate in our democracy. We urge your support.

**Jennifer Lanahan, representing Las Vegas Paiute Tribe; and the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony:**

We just want to urge your support.

**Chair Gorelow:**

Is there anyone else who would like to come to the table in Carson City in support? Seeing no one, we will go to Las Vegas. [There was no one.] We will move to callers to testify in support for Senate Bill 216 (2nd Reprint).

**Brian Harris, Voter Education Organizer, Battle Born Progress:**

I am calling on behalf of Battle Born Progress in support of S.B. 216 (R2). This bill is a wise investment in our democracy so the relationship between our government and tribal nations can thrive and share access to voting for tribal members. Thank you for your time and please support S.B. 216 (R2). [Additional testimony was submitted [Exhibit C](#).]

**Mathilda Guerrero, Government Relations Director, Native Voters Alliance Nevada:**

We support Senate Bill 216 (2nd Reprint) because it empowers our election officials to cultivate trust-filled relationships, garner indispensable insight, and foster a more encompassing and diverse electorate.

By requiring collaboration with tribal nations within the respective counties, this bill guarantees our distinctive viewpoints and needs are respected and considered throughout the electoral process. It is no secret that tribal nations have rich histories and cultural diversity; however, Indigenous communities are often confronted with historical hurdles when it comes to the ballot box—from limited access to polling locations, language barriers, and more.

By participating in sincere dialogue and consultation, election officials signaled their commitment to preserving the government-to-government relationship between our communities and tribal nations. We urge your support. [Additional testimony was submitted [Exhibit D.](#)]

**Elveda Martinez, Private Citizen, Schurz, Nevada:**

I have been working on voter registration and working just to get our tribal people registered to vote and participate in all voting activities for many years. I am a member of the Walker River Paiute Reservation, and I would just like to offer my support for S.B. 216 (R2).

**Chair Gorelow:**

We have no other callers to testify in support, so we will close testimony in support of S.B. 216 (R2). We will move on to testimony in opposition to S.B. 216 (R2). Seeing no one in Carson City or Las Vegas, we will move to callers in opposition. [There were none.] We will close testimony in opposition and move to testimony in neutral to S.B. 216 (R2). Is there anyone in Carson City to come to the table to testify in neutral?

**Jamie Lynn Rodriguez, Registrar of Voters, Washoe County:**

I want to thank Senator Ohrenschall and proponents for working with us on the bill. As discussed, we were very involved in the discussions and makeup of the bill in front of you today.

I did want to address your question, Chair Gorelow, about the meeting in person. There are two reasons, really, why we did not include that in the bill. The first reason will be covered in the next bill on your agenda, Senate Bill 327 (2nd Reprint), which talks about the actual establishment of the vote centers on the tribal lands. That will require us to actually go to those locations to ensure they are compliant. If a tribe elected to not want to have a vote center, or to not want to have those meetings, requiring us to go out there to have them say they did not want to do it did not seem like a positive starting point for a working relationship. Also, there are years where there are not significant changes in elections. Where we have very established relationships with the tribes—where we already know the voting location—there may not be an extensive meeting we really have to have year after year to look at those things. For example, in Washoe County, we have had polling locations at the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, as well as the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, for many, many elections now.

The Summit Lake Paiute Tribe elected this last cycle to have a ballot drop-box at their location. We went out to view the location where they were looking to have it, but their understanding was that it was a small box that was placed on a table. We explained that it is

a much larger box and that, in Washoe County, we have to have someone who is a ballot clerk—even for a drop-box-only location—actually accept those ballots to make sure there are no questions, and that we are able to manage that chain of custody of those ballots. In actually working through this with them, we were able to expand their original request of a drop-box-only location to a full-blown vote center of in-person voting machines, as well as the mail ballot drop-box. Those types of meetings are going to occur if they so elect to have a location, and we felt that was the point in time when that in-person, nitty-gritty conversation is probably more appropriate than necessarily just walking through that they can have a vote center. What some of these requirements may or may not be—especially if they have already had an established vote center—unless there are going to be a lot of changes, is the main reason why it is not included in this bill, but it definitely is addressed in the next bill. Again, if they elect to have a vote center, we do have to actually go out to that location and ensure it is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act and meets any space requirements that we do have to operate a vote center.

**Chair Gorelow:**

Thank you very much for that clarification. Is there anyone else in Carson City who would like to come to the table in neutral? Seeing no one, we will go to Las Vegas. [There was no one.] We will move to callers to testify in neutral to Senate Bill 216 (2nd Reprint). [There were no callers.] We will close the hearing on Senate Bill 216 (2nd Reprint). We are not going to work session any bills today because we are missing so many members, so we will probably be doing that behind the bar tomorrow. With that, we will open the hearing on Senate Bill 327 (2nd Reprint), which revises provisions related to elections.

**Senate Bill 327 (2nd Reprint): Revises provisions relating to elections. (BDR 24-892)**

**Senator Ohrenschall, Senate District No. 21:**

Thank you for hearing Senate Bill 327 (2nd Reprint). As we heard from Vice Chairman Thomas earlier on the prior bill, there have been issues in terms of tribal lands getting polling places when they wanted them. Currently, our statutory scheme is a tribe requests a polling place and if the county clerk or the city clerk is able to provide that, they do; if not, there is no polling place. Unfortunately, as we heard from Vice Chairman Thomas, there had to be litigation in terms of trying to get that polling place. Senate Bill 327 (2nd Reprint) tries to change the statutory scheme from being an opt-in for tribal lands, to an opt-out, where the default will be that the county clerk will make sure there is a polling place and if a tribe does not want it, then they do not have to have a polling place. Certainly, as we worked on this bill, I heard from some tribes who told me this is not something they would want because they were conveniently close to other polling locations. I think in many cases they will want it. We heard from the Washoe County registrar this is something they already do. Certainly, it is a struggle in some counties.

This bill was heard by your sister committee on the Senate side. It also went to the Senate Finance Committee where they went over the different fiscal notes. Now it is here before you. I believe this would improve opportunities for people to vote who are on tribal lands. I hope the Committee will consider processing it. I am happy to answer any questions.



**Chair Gorelow:**

Committee members, do you have any questions? Seeing none, we will open up for testimony in support of S.B. 327 (R2).

**Jennifer Willet, Nevada Grassroots Manager, All Voting is Local:**

As we have been discussing, despite the 2021 law there are barriers remaining for tribal voting access. As the law is currently written, tribal nations have to apply for a polling place and the clerk has significant discretion over dates and times of the polling place. In many instances, the clerk worked with the tribal nation to determine what was best and in other cases, clerk discretion limited voting access. For instance, for some tribal nations, the clerk offered days and times for polling places that were not sufficient or convenient for the tribal nation's needs. Duck Valley Indian Reservation, where Vice Chairman Thomas is from, applied for all voting days, but was only offered three days with minimal hours on days that did not work for the tribe. In other cases, the clerk did not respond to a tribal nation's application at all, or rejected the requests, so there were no polling places despite the fact that tribes followed the law.

By changing the law from an opt-in application process to an opt-out process, polling place establishment will be driven by the tribal nations and their needs. Along with our partners, we have confirmed that all tribal nations are in support of this bill. We thank Senator Ohrenschall for sponsoring this important bill, and the clerks and the Office of the Secretary of State for working to advance tribal voting access.

**Cassie Charles, Campaign Director, Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada:**

Despite the passage of a bill in 2017 which intended to establish polling places on reservations, barriers to voting access persisted for these communities, including long travel. Senate Bill 327 (2nd Reprint) will ensure that all tribes are guaranteed the resources they need to vote on their land whenever they would like. We urge your support.

**Jennifer Lanahan, representing the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe; and the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony:**

The Las Vegas Paiute Tribe and the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony urge your support.

**Alex Tanchek, representing Shoshone-Paiute Tribes; Duck Valley Indian Reservation; Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe; and Duckwater Shoshone Tribe:**

On behalf of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, Duck Valley Indian Reservation, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, and Duckwater Shoshone Tribe, we are here in support.

**Chair Gorelow:**

Seeing no one else in Carson City to come to the table in support, we will move to Las Vegas in support of S.B. 327 (R2). [There was no one.] We will move to callers in support of Senate Bill 327 (2nd Reprint).

**Brian Harris, Voter Education Organizer, Battle Born Progress:**

I am calling in to testify in support of S.B. 327 (R2). This bill is crucial to ensure equal voting access for individuals facing historical and ongoing challenges to access to voting like our tribal nations. By removing barriers and bringing voting resources directly to these communities, S.B. 327 (R2) will promote inclusivity, empower the tribal community to cast their vote and take part in elections, and strengthen our democracy. I urge you to support this bill and contribute to a more equitable and democratic society. [Additional testimony was submitted [Exhibit E](#).]

**Mercedes Krause, Chair, Nevada Native Caucus:**

I am an Oglala, Lakota citizen, and born-and-raised Nevadan. I am an educator, and chair for our Nevada Native Caucus. I thank you for your consideration of S.B. 327 (R2) today, and for taking the time to hear what I have to say in support of this bill.

First, one thing that I really wanted to share is that I do not think many are aware of the hurdles to even citizenship that Native Americans have faced in our country. It was not until 1924 when it is said that President Calvin Coolidge was so inspired by our high rate of enlistment during World War I, we received citizenship through the Indian Citizenship Act.

After this, the push to having our voices heard through the electoral process still has not been an easy one. We can see today, hearing the stories of people who are having to travel so far and facing these issues in getting their vote in, we still have this difficulty in our community. In the past and as we have seen recently, some injustices have been pretty heartbreaking. I think it is important that we look and realize that our fellow Nevadans are still not receiving equitable access to voting. I think we have to stand together and show support, show that we think it is important, and show we support all Nevadans having their voices heard because that is who we are.

I stand in support of this bill. I believe it will help resolve longstanding voting issues and accessibility issues that remote tribal nations of Nevada have faced. It is very clear to see that these communities have historically been underserved, with few polling places and voter registration initiatives, and they deserve better. Thank you for your consideration, and I really look forward to seeing positive outcomes from this hearing.

**Chair Gorelow:**

As there are no more callers in support of Senate Bill 327 (2nd Reprint), is there anyone in Carson City who would like to come to the table in opposition? Seeing no one and seeing no one in Las Vegas, we will go to callers in opposition. [There were none.] We will close testimony in opposition and move to testimony in neutral. Seeing no one in Carson City or Las Vegas, we will move to callers in neutral. [There were none.] Senator Ohrenschall, do you have any closing remarks?

**Senator Ohrenschall:**

Thank you for hearing Senate Bill 327 (2nd Reprint). I hope you will consider moving it forward. I think that if this law changes and the default is that every tribe is entitled to a polling place during these periods and they can opt-out if they do not want to, I really think that will remove some obstacles to voter participation. As we heard from some of the witnesses today, and from Vice Chairman Thomas, those obstacles were there and at least in one case, the tribe had to go to court to try to get a polling place.

**Chair Gorelow:**

Thank you very much. We will close the hearing on Senate Bill 327 (2nd Reprint), and we will let you stay right where you are and open up the hearing for Senate Bill 443 (2nd Reprint). This bill revises provisions related to voter registrations.

**Senate Bill 443 (2nd Reprint): Revises provisions relating to voter registration. (BDR 24-842)**

**Senator Ohrenschall, Senate District No. 21:**

Thank you for hearing Senate Bill 443 (2nd Reprint). Senate Bill 443 (2nd Reprint) was amended over on the Senate side. We removed over 60 sections to make it a little easier reading for everybody who would have to handle the bill. It was amended quite a bit, but what remains is still very important. Senate Bill 443 (2nd Reprint) has to do with registering to vote—either on Election Day or in the period of early voting—and trying to make sure that if you are someone who is qualified to vote, obstacles are not going to stand in your way.

The bill deals with what kind of identification would satisfy proof of identity and proof of residency, and with asking for extended hours from the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles in our state's two largest counties in terms of population, Clark County and Washoe County. This would be to allow folks who do not have a Nevada Identification to get one so they can participate and vote. I am very lucky to have a copresenter with me today. Emily Persaud-Zamora is here to help me copresent the bill. Then I am happy to answer any questions.

**Emily Persaud-Zamora, Executive Director, Silver State Voices:**

Silver State Voices leads the Let Nevadans Vote coalition. I want to start by thanking Senator Ohrenschall, who is also my senator. I am very lucky for the opportunity and for listening to our concerns. We are excited to talk about this piece of legislation that addresses one of our favorite policies: same-day voter registration, also known as SDR.

What is same-day voter registration [page 1, [Exhibit F](#)]? It is the process by which an eligible Nevada voter can register to vote or update their voter information at a polling location during early voting or on Election Day. The voter must then immediately cast their ballot when participating with same-day voter registration. From our experience on the field in running election protection programs, one of the reasons why people participate in same-day voter registration is that they have had a recent address change. The move rate in the state of Nevada is pretty high. Folks may also become a U.S. citizen after the close of

the voter registration deadline; they have had a legal name change; maybe they got married, divorced, or had some other type of legal name change. In Nevada people move all the time both within the state and coming from other states. In 2020 alone, almost 70,000 new Nevadans surrendered their out-of-state driver's license or identification in exchange for a Nevada license or identification [page 1, [Exhibit F](#)].

In the 2022 general election, over 26,500 Nevadans used same-day voter registration throughout the state. Of those, 72 percent of those folks were updating existing voter registrations, and the remaining 28 percent were brand-new voters [page 1]. For example, here in the wonderful city of Carson City in the 2022 general election there were 166 Republicans, 93 Democrats, 57 nonpartisans, and 33 of other party affiliations who participated in same-day voter registration—349 individuals total [page 2, [Exhibit F](#)].

I have lots and lots of comments, but I know you all are tired, and we are almost at the end. One thing I really wanted to talk about is in Senate Bill 443, (2nd Reprint), section 3, regarding the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles [page 3, [Exhibit F](#)]. This part is really important to ensure that we are upholding the integrity of same-day voter registration. There is the identification aspect of that part. What we have seen is a lot of folks do not know that to participate in same-day voter registration you have to have a Nevada identification.

They go to a polling location, and since the pandemic, it is not as easy to get into the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to get an appointment. This piece of legislation would require the DMV to be open longer hours on Saturday and Sunday, and it would also require them to be open those longer hours six days after Election Day [page 4, [Exhibit F](#)]. One of the biggest questions we get is, why? The reason for that is for folks who are casting their ballot via mail, if they have any problem with mail curing and need to get an updated identification, they are able to do so.

The last thing I wanted to address is another question we get around this piece of legislation—why are only Washoe County and Clark County asked to be open longer? The answer is because those are currently the only two counties where the DMV is open on the weekends [page 3, [Exhibit F](#)].

**Chair Gorelow:**

Committee members, are there any questions? In talking to the DMV, how are they on the extra hours? I know they submitted a fiscal note, but I was just wondering staff-wise, are they going to be able to cover those extra hours?

**Senator Ohrenschall:**

I do not want to speak for the DMV. When we worked on this bill on the other side, I was able to have meetings with them. During the Finance Committee hearing, I believe an appropriation was made for the extra security costs required for having that extra time—for appointments, for walk-ins, or actually for anybody who wants to come in—but not for any overtime. I am sorry, I cannot speak for them, but I did work with them on the amendment during the interim. I also met with them to try to get a lot of feedback from them.

**Chair Gorelow:**

I know this is not a fiscal committee, but for less than \$65,000, I think that is a small price for democracy. Since there are no more questions from Committee members, we will open testimony in support of Senate Bill 443 (2nd Reprint) here in Carson City.

**Kerry Durmick, Nevada State Director, All Voting is Local:**

All Voting is Local is also a proud member of the Let Nevadans Vote coalition. Same-day voter registration has been monumental for eligible Nevada voters to voter registration and voting in the state. Senate Bill 443 (2nd Reprint) will only make same-day voter registration more accessible for all Nevadans through several DMV-accessible changes. We are in full support of S.B. 443 (R2) and urge your support.

**Izack Tenorio, representing Campaign Legal Center:**

We urge you to support S.B. 443 (R2) to expand the types of identification that can be used in same-day registration and require the DMV offices in Clark and Washoe Counties to offer expanded hours in days before and after the election. Senate Bill 443 (2nd Reprint) makes commonsense improvements to Nevada law that would allow more eligible Nevadans to register to vote and participate in our democracy. The DMV registration is the most-used voter registration method in our state. This reform will ensure that Nevada's residents are not denied the opportunity simply because their work schedules do not permit them to visit the DMV during regular operating hours. Campaign Legal Center encourages you to support S.B. 443 (R2) and appreciates the opportunity to come before you today.

I want to thank the sponsors, Emily Persaud-Zamora and Senator Ohrenschall. Since this might be the last Committee meeting, I want to thank Senator Ohrenschall for his grace, class, positive attitude, and most importantly, for being a champion for democracy.

**Cassie Charles, Campaign Director, Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada:**

Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada believes that all eligible Nevadans should have access to voting in all elections they are eligible for. To do this, Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada has worked for more than a decade to remove barriers to voting, and this includes same-day voter registration. This bill is a worthy investment to ensure that Nevada's elections remain the most professional and safe in the country by ensuring people have their identification to vote and are not disenfranchised by bureaucracy and red tape. We are in support.

**Chair Gorelow:**

Seeing no others in Carson City to testify in support of Senate Bill 443 (2nd Reprint), we will move to support testimony in Las Vegas. [There was none.] We will move to callers in support.

**Charcris Chotisin, Legislative Assistant, One APIA Nevada:**

On behalf of the organization, we urge your support for S.B. 443 (R2). We ditto the support comments that were made before me.

**Brian Harris, Voter Education Organizer, Battle Born Progress:**

On behalf of Battle Born Progress, and as a member of the coalition of Let Nevadans Vote, we are in support of S.B. 443 (R2) and this investment in the DMV extending hours and the more this bill does can help ensure all eligible voters can have equal access to exercise their right to vote, promoting a more fair and democratic election process. Thank you for your time, and I ask that you please support S.B. 443 (R2). [Additional testimony was submitted [Exhibit G](#).]

**Briana Escamilla, Director of Regional Organizing, Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains:**

Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains is a member of the Let Nevadans Vote coalition, and we are in strong support of S.B. 443 (R2), as it makes voter registration and voting more accessible for all Nevadans. We urge your support.

**Chair Gorelow:**

There are no other callers, so we will close testimony in support of S.B. 443 (R2). We will move to opposition testimony in Carson City. [There was none.] Seeing no one in Las Vegas, we will move to callers who would like to testify in opposition to S.B. 443 (R2).

**Cyrus Hojjaty, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada:**

I see that this bill has massive opposition with about 87 percent of the people who are opposed. I do not see the need of this.

**Chair Gorelow:**

There are no other callers to testify in opposition at this time. We will close testimony in opposition and move on to testifying in neutral here in Carson City.

**Sean Sever, Deputy Administrator, Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles:**

We are neutral on S.B. 443 (R2), and we appreciate working with the bill sponsor on it. We did submit a fiscal note for overtime for our staff, security, and services, and I believe we are going to be appropriated for the security part but were asked to use our vacancy savings for the overtime, which brings me to your question. We are extremely short-handed at the DMV, down 20 percent in some departments. The answer is, we hope to cover it.

**Chair Gorelow:**

Is there anyone else who would like to come to the table to testify in neutral? Seeing no one in Carson City and still no one in Las Vegas, we will move to callers who would like to testify in neutral. [There were none.] Senator Ohrenschall, would you like to make any closing remarks?

**Senator Ohrenschall:**

Thank you very much for hearing Senate Bill 443 (2nd Reprint). If this bill passes into law, it does not see party label, and does not see if you are conservative or liberal. I think it tries to make some changes to remove obstacles for folks who are qualified to vote who want to

participate in the same-day voter registration, either during the early voting period or on Election Day. I believe it is good policy across the board, and I hope the Committee would consider it.

I was very flattered by the kind comments of Dr. Tenorio. I appreciate the leadership you have shown this session, Chair Gorelow, and the remarkable work you have done as the Assembly Legislative Operations and Elections Committee Chair. Chair Miller, during the interim, I was so lucky to get to serve with you on that interim committee and work on some of these great bills that you shepherded through to our regular session.

**Emily Persaud-Zamora:**

Just deep gratitude to Senator Ohrenschall for allowing me to be part of this process and for listening to the concerns we have had throughout two election cycles. I think this might be the last time this session. Thank you so much for being a great Committee.

**Chair Gorelow:**

Thank you. Senator Ohrenschall, we really appreciate everything you have done in the partnership that you have had with our Committee. We appreciate your leadership as well. With that, we will close the hearing on Senate Bill 443 (2nd Reprint), and we will now move on to our last item on the agenda, which is public comment. [Public comment was heard.]

Before we go, I want to say some final words. I want to thank each and every one of you for being on this Committee with me. It has been a pleasure being the Chair, and I really enjoyed it. Thank you to Vice Chair Brittney Miller, who has been amazing helping me go through this. I do not thank my staff enough and without them, we could not do what we do.

Thank you to Haley Proehl, our Committee Policy Analyst, who has just been wonderful. Our Committee Manager, Shuruk Ismail, is going to do something really exciting. She is going to be working for the United Nations. Congratulations on that. We are very, very proud of you. Our Committee Secretary, Kristi Howard, has been absolutely amazing. I have loved having her in my office. I want to give a shout-out to Garrett Kingen, who was our Committee Assistant. I know he is not here today, but he has been great. Finally, thank you to Bet Torres, who is pinch-hitting for Garrett today. Thank you for helping us out today. We really appreciate you. Committee, are there any other comments?

**Assemblywoman Dickman:**

I just wanted to say for one second that you have been a great Chair. This has been a really good Committee. I think you are very fair, and it has been great working with you.

**Chair Gorelow:**

With that, I want to thank everyone that is in the audience and even those that are not here today. I really appreciate each and every one of you coming and sharing your opinions and your passions with us for this session. We still have four days, so I appreciate you sticking it out with us. We will work together in the interim and continue all of the hard work. Be good to each other, and we are adjourned [at 5:10 p.m.].

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

---

Kristi Howard  
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

---

Assemblywoman Michelle Gorelow, Chair

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_



## EXHIBITS

[Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda.

[Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster.

[Exhibit C](#) is written testimony submitted by Brian Harris, Voter Education Organizer, Battle Born Progress, in support of Senate Bill 216 (2nd Reprint).

[Exhibit D](#) is testimony submitted by Mathilda Guerrero, Government Relations Director, Native Voters Alliance Nevada, in support of Senate Bill 216 (2nd Reprint).

[Exhibit E](#) is written testimony submitted by Brian Harris, Voter Education Organizer, Battle Born Progress, in support of Senate Bill 327 (2nd Reprint).

[Exhibit F](#) is a copy of a presentation titled "SB443 Presentation Outline & Notes," submitted and presented by Emily Persaud-Zamora, Executive Director, Silver State Voices.

[Exhibit G](#) is written testimony submitted by Brian Harris, Voter Education Organizer, Battle Born Progress, in support of Senate Bill 443 (2nd Reprint).