MINUTES OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Eighty-third Session
May 27, 2025

The Senate Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections was called to order by Chair James Ohrenschall at 2:35 p.m. on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, in Room 2149 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 9 of the Nevada Legislature Hearing Rooms, 7120 Amigo Street, 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 James Ohrenschall, Chair
Senator Skip Daly, Vice Chair
Senator Nicole J. Cannizzaro
Senator Lisa Krasner
Senator John C. Steinbeck

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

Assemblymember Jill Dickman, Assembly District No. 31
Assemblymember Cecelia González, Assembly District No. 16

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Pepper Sturm, Committee Policy Analyst
Suzanne Efford, Committee Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Joshua Skaggs, Nevada Republican Party
Devin Livziey, Clark County Republican Party
Kimberly Fergus

CHAIR OHRENSCHALL:
We will open the hearing on Assembly Bill (A.B.) 92.

ASSEMBLY BILL 92 (1st Reprint): Revises provisions relating to elections. (BDR 24-101)

ASSEMBLYMEMBER JILL DICKMAN (Assembly District No. 31):
Assembly Bill 92 allows major political parties to use rooms and spaces in certain public buildings. Prior to 2021, there was much in statute that specifically dictated the operations of political parties, for example, county conventions, the number of delegates permitted, precinct meetings prior to the conventions, et cetera. Included in this statute, state and county central committees of major political parties were able to use rooms or spaces in public buildings without charge for any purpose during presidential election years and for precinct meetings in nonpresidential election years. That was in *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 293.143. They could use the rooms at an equitable rate for purposes other than precinct meetings during nonpresidential election years.

Senate Bill No. 292 of the 81st Session eliminated this authorization. Major political parties are no longer able to use public buildings for precinct meetings or other events. Assembly Bill 92 seeks to restore the ability of major political parties to use government buildings for meetings and other essential activities. Since this language was removed from statute in 2021, political parties have faced significant challenges in securing adequate spaces for their functions. Political parties play a crucial role in organizing elections, informing voters and fostering civic engagement.

I was asked if this would apply to all buildings opened to the public such as a police station. This was not the intent of the original language prior to S.B. No. 292 of the 81st Session and certainly is not the intent of this bill.

This bill is quite simple. It provides a public officer or an employee in control of a room or space that is open to the general public and occupied by the state or a local government shall grant the use of the room or space to a state or county central committee of a major political party upon application by the committee if the room or space is available.

The room or space shall be provided without charge during presidential election years and during other years for the purpose of holding a precinct meeting. If the major political party committee requests to use a public room or space during a nonpresidential election year for a purpose other than holding a precinct meeting, the room or space shall be provided at a rate that does not exceed

what another group would be charged to use the room or space. That is the exact language that used to be in statute.

Finally, A.B. 92 defines a precinct meeting to mean a meeting of the state or central committee of a major political party held to elect delegates and alternates for a state or county convention of a major political party.

SENATOR DALY:
What was the genesis in 2021 and why they removed this? I was just looking it up, it was Senator Roberta Lange's bill. I don't know if you talked with her or not.

ASSEMBLYMEMBER DICKMAN:
I actually haven't. When we went to primaries from caucuses, they took all that language out that referred to the political parties and told them how they had to operate. So that whole section was taken out. But I think this was probably an oversight because that whole section of NRS 293 was taken out. So I want to put back that little tiny bit that allows us to use … and mostly we use high schools.

The Republican Party had caucuses this past election cycle, and all they were able to use were elementary schools and middle schools which have smaller rooms. They don't have gymnasiums, and they don't have any parking because those kids don't drive. Basically, we would just like to restore that to be able to use high schools for both parties for their meetings. It is just for the major political parties.

JOSHUA SKAGGS (Nevada Republican Party):
The Nevada Republican Party supports A.B. 92, which would mandate that state and county central committees of major political parties be granted complimentary access to rooms or spaces in public buildings during presidential election years for any purpose including holding a presidential caucus to determine a party's presidential nominee.

In years without presidential elections, these committees can utilize public facilities without charge for conducting precinct meetings and at a reduced rate for other activities. The repeal of similar provisions in 2021 inadvertently limited political parties' abilities to utilize public spaces, adversely hindering their efforts to connect with voters and run presidential caucuses.

By reinstating the provisions that allow major political parties free or a subsidized use of public spaces, A.B. 92 promotes fairness in the political process, ensuring that all parties have equal opportunities to organize and engage with voters by encouraging informed and active participation in accessible public buildings. Please pass A.B. 92.

DEVIN LIVZIEY (Clark County Republican Party):
Aside from the incredible turmoil that happened at the caucus for the previous presidential election, schools are paid for by everybody's tax money. We feel that aside from just political parties, organizations should be allowed to use these facilities at a cost. There is no problem paying for the use of the room, the facilities and the staff needed to maintain those rooms while we are in them.

The schools should be open to the general public and organizations for their use, especially since we are the ones who paid to build and maintain them. Aside from just political parties, the American Legion, the VFW, Boy and Girl Scouts of America and whoever it happens to be, these rooms should be made available at no discrimination and no defining by principals or anybody else in the schools whether they approve of the organization—as long as it is an organization that does not promote any kind of adverse incidents that happen in the country or to the people around us. We completely understand that. But they should be made available to the general public for quality use of the room.

KIMBERLY FERGUS:
I want to go on the record to urge you to support A.B. 92, and I ditto the past comments.

ASSEMBLYMEMBER DICKMAN:
There is a long history of these buildings being used for these purposes, and if there were better options available for these meetings with more convenient locations, it would likely encourage more voter participation. It is a good thing for us to do. I hope you will support this commonsense bill.

CHAIR OHRENSCHALL:
We will close the hearing on A.B. 92 and open the hearing on A.B. 588.

ASSEMBLY BILL 588: Revises provisions relating to members of the Assembly of the Nevada Legislature. (BDR 17-1235)

ASSEMBLYMEMBER CECELIA GONZÁLEZ (Assembly District No. 16):
This session the Assembly Standing Rules and the Joint Standing Rules of the Senate and the Assembly changed the title of a member of the Nevada Assembly to Assemblymember regardless of the member's gender. Consistent with the rules of the Eighty-third Legislature, A.B. 588 revises references to the title of a member of the Assembly throughout NRS.

Assembly Bill 588 largely makes technical changes to replace Assemblywoman and Assemblyman with Assemblymember, but I would like to highlight a few sections of the bill that contain more substantive changes. Section 1 eliminates the authority of a female member of the Assembly to have Assemblywoman precede her name on official stationery and business cards. Section 13 requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to furnish to each Assemblymember a special license plate that says State Assemblymember along with the designated number showing the seniority of that member. Section 16 of the bill clarifies that the changes to such specialty plates will not take effect until after the 2026 general election to avoid the license plates having to be refurnished now and avoiding a cost to the State.

MR. SKAGGS:
The Nevada Republican Party opposes A.B. 588. Assembly Bill 588 unnecessarily alters historical, traditional titles and erases gender distinctions important to men and women. Gender titles are not inherently outdated. They are a sign of respect for women who have fought hard to achieve equality with men. We find it ironic that Nevada has the honor and distinction of being the female majority Legislature while simultaneously seeking to erase women.

Several Legislators of both genders spoke out against this change when it was implemented by rule at the beginning of the session because they understood that the change was demeaning to women. Assembly Bill 588 appears to be politically motivated, gender-ideology activism and distracts from more pressing legislative priorities such as economic issues and education reform. Please vote no on A.B. 588.

MS. FERGUS:
I rise in strong opposition to A.B. 588. This bill is government overreach at its worse. It proposes to strike the legally recognized titles of Assemblyman and Assemblywoman from our NRS titles codified in law for decades and used proudly by our elected officials.

Assembly Bill 588 is more than a style change, it's a discriminatory action that strips women of the right to use the title of Assemblywoman, which is specifically protected under NRS 218A.670. Eliminating gendered titles doesn't promote equality, it erases identity. It's a forced political correction that punishes tradition and silences choice. What's worse, the physical [fiscal] note claims no impact, yet we know this change will require statewide reprinting of letterhead, signage, websites, plaques and more—and guess what, all paid by the taxpayers. This is wasteful spending and language no one asked to change.

Enough is enough. Just because they amended internal rules at the start of the session doesn't mean we rewrite state law to match. Most states still use Assemblyman and Assemblywoman, and Nevada should proudly do the same. This isn't progress, its political theater. Please vote no on A.B. 588 and uphold the law as it stands.

CHAIR OHRENSCHALL:
We will close the hearing on A.B. 588. Given the short time until *sine die* and if members have the appetite for it, we will move on to a work session on A.B. 92 and A.B. 588.

Assembly Bill 92 was sponsored by Assemblymember Jill Dickman revising provisions relating to elections that has to do with making space open in certain public buildings to major parties' central committees for party activities the way statutes were prior to 2021.

SENATOR STEINBECK MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 92.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR OHRENSCHALL:
With that, I would like to go to A.B. 588 that was presented by Assemblymember Cecelia González revising provisions relating to members of the Assembly of the Nevada Legislature which deals with changing the titles in the Assembly and in NRS.

SENATOR DALY MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 588.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR STEINBECK:
I will vote yes to move it out of committee, but I reserve my right to change on the floor.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR KRASNER VOTED NO.)

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CHAIR OHRENSCHALL:
We will close the work session and go to the last item on the agenda, public comment. Having no public comment, we are adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

_____
Suzanne Efford,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

_____
Senator James Ohrenschall, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBIT SUMMARY				
Bill	**Exhibit Letter**	**Introduced on Minute Report Page No.**	**Witness / Entity**	**Description**
	A	1		Agenda
	B	1		Attendance Roster