

2010 General Election Endorsements

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Prior to every election, QVegas and Las Vegas Night Beat combine forces and offer our readers a list of endorsements for various races and ballot questions/initiatives. Recommendations on who to endorse are made by a committee of community leaders who meet and arrive at a consensus on most races and ballot questions.

Discussion by this endorsement committee is not limited to LGBT issues but also includes concerns such as freedom of speech, civil and human rights, education and the state's social safety net. We attempt to ally and build coalitions with other community groups. This group carefully researches each candidate's position and any voting record. We also consider political parties and in some cases, if control of a legislative body is in the balance, we weight a candidate by the actions and intent of their political party. A recent example is Sept. 20, 2010 when the Senate Republicans defeated repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell by filibustering the defense budget.

You are encouraged to carefully consider our guide and are welcome to take a copy of this publication – or one of our endorsement guides – into your polling place and use the guide as you cast your ballot. This guide will also be available by e-mail (send your request to Bugleditor@aol.com) or online at www.NevadaImpact.com

Early voting begins Oct. 16 and ends Oct. 29. There are dozens of early voting sites but the sites at most shopping malls are open daily. A complete list will be available at www.NevadaImpact.com. The general election is Tuesday, Nov. 2. If you don't vote early, you must go to the designated polling location for your precinct. Registered voters should receive a sample ballot which will provide your precinct's voting location. Voters can also contact the Clark County Election Department at (702) 455-VOTE (8683) or check online at www.accessclarkcounty.com/election to find their polling place.

Due to space limitations, we often only list the endorsed candidate. You may refer to your sample ballot or visit the Clark County Voter's Registrar's office on-line for a complete list of candidates. The complete text, along with arguments for and against all ballot questions is also available at the same site. Early voting sites are listed on line.

United States Senate

✓ Reid, Harry (D)

We're siding with Lady GaGa and going with Reid. More to the point, without Senator Reid, we'll never get equality. He was instrumental in passing the Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Bill, ENDA and he kept the Constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage from ever reaching the Senate floor. He's pledged to get Don't Ask, Don't Tell repealed and with a little cooperation from some Republicans, he just might do it.

Rep. in Congress District 1

✓ Berkley, Shelley (D)

She's an advocate for our community with a record of support for LGBT issues that rivals even Barney Frank. She's earned our support once again.

Rep. in Congress District 2

✓ Price, Nancy (D)

Formerly a Republican, Nancy has always been a LGBT supporter and has worked tirelessly for fairness. The incumbent (Dean Heller) was once a supporter but did an absolute about face when he got to Congress.

Rep. in Congress District 3

✓ Titus, Dina (D)

Rep. Titus has never missed a beat on our issues – while in Congress or her 20

years in the Nevada State Legislature.

Congresswoman Titus' opponent was against mandatory insurance coverage for the Gardasil vaccine, which helps prevent the HPV (human papillomavirus) and advertises himself as a "Tea Party Doctor" – Republican medical professionals who deny the HIV/AIDS connection, among other fringe ideas. Heck also opposes the repeal of DOMA and is supported by those would deny us equality.

Governor

✓ Reid, Rory (D)

While Brian Sandoval says he would have supported SB-283, he signed the Marriage Protection Pledge which also states the candidates are against domestic partnerships and anything which might be deemed similar. We'll go with Reid because we also prefer his stance on immigration, education and he'll work better with a Democratic majority in the legislature. We wish both candidates would address the state's budget crisis.

Lieutenant Governor

✓ Krolicki, Brian K. (R)

✓ Sferrazza, Jessica (D)

If it ever came down to a tie vote in the Senate, Brian Krolicki would be for our issues. He's our favorite Republican. Jessica Sferrazza took the lead in implementing non-discrimination in the City of Reno.

Secretary Of State

✓ Miller, Ross (D)

We ♥ Ross Miller

State Treasurer

✓ Marshall, Kate (D)

State Controller

✓ Wallin, Kim R. (D)

Attorney General

✓ Cortez Masto, Catherine (D)

Her office is signing off on second parent adoptions and she refused to join the health care lawsuits against the Obama administration.

State Senate District 2

No endorsement

State Senate District 5

✓ Woodhouse, Joyce (D)

Always a strong supporter and she's the incumbent so let's keep Joyce. Her opponent (Michael Roberson) supports a constitutional amendment to define marriage and would repeal Nevada's Domestic Partner law.

State Senate District 7

✓ Manendo, Mark (D)

Great on our issues and always a true friend.

State Senate District 8

✓ Peterson, Tammy (D)

Awesome! Strong on our issues. The incumbent (Barbara Cegavske) is a liar and has never seen an LGBT issue which she didn't actively campaign against. She lobbies other elected officials in her attempt to impede all progressive causes. Cegavske did vote for AB 5 (a public accommodation bill in the 2005 special session) but we suspect she fell asleep at the switch.

State Senate District 9

✓ Yerushalmi, Benny (D)

Great on our issues.

State Senate District 10

✓ Kihuen, Ruben (D)

An enthusiastic and vocal supporter!

State Senate District 12

✓ Ford, Aaron (D)

Solidly on our side.

State Assembly, District 1

✓ Kirkpatrick, Marilyn (D)

State Assembly, District 2

✓ Lerner, David (D)

The incumbent (John Hambrick) says he voted against SB-283 because the LGBT community did a bad PR job. He also lobbied aggressively against us and supports repeal of SB-283. We stand by our previous remarks that he's a jackass – even though he's an elephant. David Lerner is a conservative Democrat and may need some education on a few of our issues but we'll go with Lerner over Hambrick any day.

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State Assembly, District 3

✓ Pierce, Peggy (D)

Awesome and a true champion!

State Assembly, District 4

✓ Fisher, Gary (D)

Totally gets equality! This will be a tight race and if you can walk for him, it's important the Dems win this one. Gary Fisher has a slight disadvantage in registration. His opponent (Richard McArthur) claims the CCSD has more money than it needs – a real ignoramus.

State Assembly, District 5

✓ Loop, Marilyn Dondero (D)

The incumbent and good on our issues.

State Assembly, District 6

✓ Munford, Harvey J. (D)

Let's keep Harvey. He's great on our issues.

State Assembly, District 7

✓ Neal, Dina (D)

A tough call after reading some of Dina's answers on the Nevada Concerned Citizens' voter guide, but she's the better candidate in this race. We believe she'll listen to reason.

State Assembly, District 8

✓ Frierson, Jason (D)

State Assembly, District 9

✓ Segerblom, "Tick" (D)

Preeminent labor law attorney who has long fought for LGBT equality. Great supporter.

State Assembly, District 10

✓ Hogan, Joe (D)

A strong supporter of our issues.

State Assembly, District 11

✓ Diaz, Olivia (D)

State Assembly, District 12

✓ Ohrenschall, James (D)

Great guy! Actually crawled out of a hospital bed last year, just to make sure he was able to cast a vote in favor of SB-283.

State Assembly, District 13

✓ Desalvio, Louis (D)

Lou Desalvio is fairly good on our issues, but by no means a champion. He's a far cry better than anyone else in the race and decades ahead of the outgoing Assembly member.

State Assembly, District 14

✓ Carlton, Maggie (D)

A dependable stalwart and was indispensable in getting public accommodations and domestic partnerships laws passed.

State Assembly, District 15

✓ Anderson, Elliot T. (D)

A hard worker and will be supportive on our issues.

State Assembly, District 16

✓ Ocegüera, John (D)

As the next Speaker, we're depending on his

leadership.

State Assembly, District 17

✓ Atkinson, Kelvin (D)

Kelvin has a great understanding of our issues.

State Assembly, District 18

✓ Carrillo, Richard (D)

Will be supportive on our issues.

State Assembly, District 19

✓ Brooks, Steven (D)

Steven Brooks is a liberal Democrat and will likely side with us on all our issues. The other two in this race are unfriendly on LGBT social issues.

State Assembly, District 20

✓ Goya, Lynn (D)

This will be a tough race but Lynn is a fighter.

State Assembly, District 21

✓ Spiegel, Ellen (D)

This will be a tight race. We need Ellen, so lobby your neighbors on this one if you're in her district. She "gets" our issues.

State Assembly, District 22

✓ Donovan, Kevinn (D)

Kevinn Donovan needs a little education on some of our issues, but Lynn Stewart is much worse and will certainly vote against all our interests.

State Assembly, District 23

✓ Bean, Monica Leija (D)

Her opponent (Melissa Woodbury) is an affront to women everywhere.

State Assembly, District 28

✓ Flores, Lucy (D)

State Assembly, District 29

✓ Hill, Dan (R)

✓ Mastroluca, April (D)

Dan Hill is Victory Fund-endorsed (the only other candidate from Nevada besides Kristine Kuzemka for Justice Court, Dept. 6 and Paul Cain from Washoe County). He's running against April Mastroluca, a Democrat who voted for the domestic partnership bill last session. She has a strong voting record and is consistently good on our issues.

State Assembly, District 34

✓ Horne, William C. (D)

William is an outspoken advocate of our issues.

State Assembly, District 36

✓ Goedhart, Ed (R)

More a Libertarian than a Republican.

State Assembly, District 37

✓ Conklin, Marcus (D)

He's a strong ally.

State Assembly, District 41

✓ Aizley, Paul (D)

He's not afraid to be out front on our issues.

State Assembly, District 42

✓ Bustamante Adams, Irene (D)

County Commissioner District E

✓ Giunchigliani, Chris (D)

Chris "G" has been a 100% supporter for our issues over the last two decades. Chris believes in fairness and equality for everyone.

County Commissioner District F

No endorsement

County Commissioner District G

✓ Bell, Douglas (R)

While a conservative on fiscal issues, Mr. Bell is a moderate on social issues. The Democrat (Mary Beth Scow) is decidedly bad on all our issues. Scow is also the only Democrat endorsed by Citizens for Responsible Government, an ultra-conservative organization.

Clark County District Attorney

No endorsement but several committee members are concerned with David Roger's grandstanding and his support of the coroner's inquest process which we feel is an affront to justice. Several committee members prefer Don Chairez while others had reservations about him. There is no consensus on a candidate for this very important office.

Clark County Assessor

No endorsement but Michele Shafe would be better in this administrative office. She knows the job and will be fair.

Clark County Clerk

No endorsement.

Clark County Recorder

No endorsement

Clark County Treasurer

✓ Fitzpatrick, Laura (D)

Clark County Public Administrator

✓ Cahill, John J. (D)

Was helpful during the successful SB-283 battle last year.

Constable, Boulder Township

✓ Hampe, Steve (R)

The only other person running is an Independent American Party candidate, and they're mostly a bunch of insufferable hate mongers. Steve Hampe appears to have some good ideas.

Constable, Bunkerville Township

✓ Laub, Erik L (D)

Constable, Goodsprings Township

✓ Rogers, Gary P. (R)

Constable, Henderson Township

✓ Mitchell, Earl (R)

Constable, Las Vegas Township

✓ Gariano, Peter F. (R)

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Constable, North Las Vegas Township

✓ Brown, Herb (D)

Justice of Supreme Court Seat A

✓ Hardesty, James W.

Justice of Supreme Court Seat E

✓ Parraguirre, Ronald D.

District Court Judge, Dept. 26

✓ Sturman, Gloria

District Court Judge, Dept. 27

✓ Allf, Nancy

District Court Judge, Dept. 28

✓ Howard, Jack

District Court Judge, Dept. 29

✓ Scann, Susan

District Court Judge, Dept. 30

✓ Davidson, Michael D.

Understands need for fairness on our issues although both candidates have attended several LGBT events.

District Court Judge, Dept. 31

✓ Dabney, Phil

✓ Kishner, Joanna

Both are equally qualified.

District Court Judge, Dept. 32

✓ Bare, Rob

District Court Judge, Family Div Dept. C

No endorsement but the incumbent (Jones) is fair on LGBT issues.

District Court Judge, Family Div Dept. F

✓ Eccles, John

Bill Gonzales says sodomy should be against the law and there should be no hate crimes (legislation). John Eccles has good reviews.

District Court Judge, Family Div Dept. S

✓ Wallace, Rebecca

District Court Judge, Family Div Dept. T

✓ Nathan, Gayle

Member, State Board of Education District 2

✓ Solorio, Jose A.

Member, State Board of Education District 5

✓ Corbett, Steven

Regent, State University District 3

✓ Lange, Ken

Regent, State University District 7

✓ Doubrava, Mark

Doubrava is a moderate Republican in this

non-partisan office, who leans towards our issues and will be much better than the alternative.

State Ballot Questions

Note: State Ballot Questions recommendations were not issued by the full committee, due to time limitations, but were written by three individuals who serve on the committee.

State Question No. 1

Yes

This November, voters are being asked to support judicial reform by voting YES on Question 1. This would expand the current system of filling vacancies by appointing all district and Supreme Court judges based upon recommendations of an independent citizen commission, subject all incumbent judges to a judicial performance review and require incumbent judges running for re-election to retain at least 55% of the vote to stay on the bench. This system has maximum transparency, promotes judicial quality and consistency, and gives voters more information about their judges than ever before. And need we remind anyone of Elizabeth Halverson?

State Question No. 2

Yes

A YES vote would authorize the Legislature to establish an intermediate appellate court. Currently, the State Supreme Court acts as the court of appeals for Nevada. Most states have Courts of Appeal.

State Question No. 3

Yes

This is a revenue generating measure. Failure to pass this measure could mean loss of revenue to the state from sources outside Nevada. For Nevada to remain in compliance with the country-wide Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement, Nevada must act in a timely manner regarding federal legislation or amendments to the Agreement that affect the Sales and Use Tax Act of 1955. A YES vote would authorize the Legislature to amend or repeal provisions of the Act without first requiring voter approval.

State Question No. 4

Yes

Two years ago, the voters passed the People's Initiative to Stop the Taking of Our Land (PISTOL). The measure was a well-intentioned, popular initiative that provided much needed protection for Nevada's private property owners; however, it also contains several flaws that have the potential to cost taxpayers money and hamper efforts to maintain and upgrade infrastructure, including schools, roads, water supply and sewage systems, and public transportation. A YES vote would correct these flaws.

Regent, State University Dist. 12

No endorsement. Neither candidate will be good on our issues but Mark Newburn may be the lesser evil.

Regent, State University Dist. 13

✓ Pitts, Joe

Joe Pitts describes himself as "socially liberal and economically conservative." The incumbent (James Leavitt) is dishonest and a pompous ass.

Trustee, Clark County School District D

✓ Trujillo, Javier

Trustee, Clark County School District F

✓ Edwards, Carolyn

Trustee, Clark County School District G

No endorsement. James Brooks is an idiot and social conservative. Erin Cranor is not great on our issues but will win either way.

Clark County Sheriff

✓ Bisch, Laurie P.

We're going with the long shot, Laurie Bisch because she's good on our issues. We hear good things about Gillespie from LGBT officers but are concerned with the Department's priorities (how many more Black men have to be killed during middle-of-the-night police "pot raids" before common sense prevails?) and the coroner's inquests make a mockery of justice.

Justice Of The Peace, Las Vegas Twsh Dept. 3

No endorsement but Tony Abbatangelo is good on our issues.

Justice Of The Peace, Las Vegas Twsh Dept. 6

✓ Kuzemka, Kristine

The most qualified. She has worked in the prosecutor's office, and has practiced as a civil litigator. She currently serves as a lawyer in the public defender's office and is endorsed by the Victory Fund. Her opponent claims "experience" but he's been reversed or admonished by the Nevada Supreme Court in several cases for prosecutorial misconduct.

Justice Of The Peace, Las Vegas Twsh Dept. 7

✓ Bennett, Karen

Amazing on our issues and extremely supportive.

Justice Of The Peace Las Vegas Twsh Dept. 13

✓ Baucum, Suzan

Justice Of The Peace Las Vegas Twsh Dept. 14

No endorsement and hope you never have to appear before either of these candidates. Bernie Zadrowski shows up at LGBT events but those who know him can tell you he's openly bigoted against our community when in private.