



THE STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

2011 Pre-session Orientation Briefing

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Nevada Government

Three Branches of Government

- * The Executive Branch
- * The Judiciary
- * The Legislature

Checks & Balances --

One branch of government serves to keep the other two branches “in check.”

Nevada Government

-- Executive Branch --

- * All levels of government – federal, state, and local – have an Executive Branch.
- * The Executive Branch at the state level, primarily directed by the Governor, is responsible for carrying out the laws enacted by the Legislature.
- * Nevada's 17 counties, along with over two dozen cities and towns, provide additional services and governances at the local level.
- * Other forms of local government:
 - School Districts
 - General Improvement Districts
 - Various Special and Local Improvement Districts

Nevada Government

-- Constitutional Officers --

Constitutional officers are elected for four-year terms and their duties are set forth in the *Nevada Constitution* and statute.

- ✦ Governor – Chief executive of the State.
- ✦ Lieutenant Governor – Presides over the Nevada Senate and casts a vote in the case of a tie, fills any vacancy during the term of the Governor, and chairs the Commissions on Tourism and Economic Development.
- ✦ Secretary of State – Responsible for overseeing elections, commercial recordings, securities, and notaries.

Nevada Government

-- Constitutional Officers cont. --

- ✦ State Treasurer – Oversees State Treasury, sets investment policies for state funds, and administers the Unclaimed Property Division and the Millennium Scholarship Program, along with other college savings programs.
- ✦ State Controller – Responsible for paying the State's debts, including state employees' salaries, maintains the official accounting records, and prepares the annual statement of the State's financial status and public debt.
- ✦ Attorney General – Acts as the chief law enforcement officer, provides legal services to the State and State agencies, and defends or prosecutes litigation involving the State or State agencies.

Executive Branch Departments

The Governor oversees a number of statutorily created departments to carry out the laws.

Administration

Agriculture

Business & Industry

Conservation & Natural Resources

Corrections

Cultural Affairs

Employment, Training, & Rehabilitation

Health & Human Services

Information Technology

Motor Vehicles

Office of the Military

Personnel

Public Safety

Taxation

Transportation

Office of Veterans' Services

Wildlife

- ✦ Two State entities have separate elected boards:
 - State Board of Education (Dept. of Education)
 - Nevada System of Higher Education's Board of Regents

- ✦ The Governor also has appointing authority.

- ✦ The Governor also plays a critical role in the legislative process:
 - Prepares & presents the two-year budget
 - Nevada Constitution* gives the Governor veto power
 - The Governor may also call the Legislature into special session and set the agenda for the special session.

Nevada State Government on the Internet

State of Nevada “Home Page”

www.nv.gov

Local Government -- County

The *Nevada Constitution* provides for the existence and creation of counties by the Nevada Legislature. County names, boundaries, and county powers are set by statute.

For lawmaking purposes, counties are often grouped according to population (based on last Census).

POPULATION RANGE	COUNTY	POPULATION (2000)
Over 400,000	Clark	1,375,765
Under 400,000 – Over 100,000	Washoe	339,486
Under 100,000 – Over 40,000	Carson City	52,457
	Douglas	41,259
	Elko	45,291
Under 40,000 – Over 10,000	Churchill	23,982
	Humboldt	16,106
	Lyon	34,501
	Nye	32,485
Under 10,000	Esmeralda	971
	Eureka	1,651
	Lander	5,794
	Lincoln	4,165
	Mineral	5,071
	Pershing	6,693
	Storey	3,399
	White Pine	9,181

Nevada's Counties on the Internet

The Nevada Association of Counties
Internet Web Site:

www.nvnaco.org

Local Government – Cities

Nevada law provides for the creation of cities and towns.

Cities can be incorporated by a special act - “charter cities” - or incorporated by “general law” through a petition process (Chapter 266 of the NRS)

19 incorporated cities in Nevada

12 “charter cities” and 7 “general law” cities.

The Legislature sets the structure and powers of city councils and grants various powers to cities.

Categories of Cities (NRS 266.055)	Population
I	50,000 or more
II	5,000 up to 49,999
III	4,999 or less

Local Government -- Towns

Nevada law provides for the formation of two types unincorporated towns:

- ✦ Town board form of government
(currently only Round Mountain in Nye County)
- ✦ Towns formed under the Unincorporated Town Government Law (towns in Clark and Washoe Counties must be formed this way). Under these provisions, the Town Board is governed by the County Commission and serves as a liaison between the commissioners and the residents of the town.

Nevada's Cities & Towns on the Internet

Nevada League of Cities &
Municipalities

www.nvleague.org

Other Forms of Local Government

Nevada law authorizes the creation of:

* General Improvement Districts (GIDs)

- Created by a resolution of the county commission or by a petition presented to the commission by a property owner.
- Governed by an elected board of trustees.
- Services provided include: utilities, water, sewer, sanitation, cemeteries, recreation facilities, television and radio, sidewalks, storm drainage, fire protection, and emergency/medical.
- Funding comes from special assessments, usage fees, and property taxes. GIDs also have borrowing powers and may issue revenue bonds.

Other Forms of Local Government (cont.)

* Special Improvement Districts

- Created by a resolution of the county commission or by a petition presented to the commission by a property owner.
- Can include GIDs as well as water and sanitation districts, swimming pool districts, municipal power districts, or any other quasi-municipal districts.

* Local Improvement Districts

- Proposed by a majority of land owners to be benefited by the construction of power plants and the distribution of electrical energy, sewer systems, or the acquisition or construction of water systems.

Other Forms of Local Government (cont.)

* Tourism Improvement Districts

- Recently authorized by the Legislature to provide incentives for tourism-related activities.
- The governing body of a municipality may create, by ordinance, a tourism improvement district in order to acquire, improve, equip, operate, and maintain an economic development project within the district boundaries.
- Under certain circumstances, the pledge of certain sales and use tax proceeds and state funding may be used for certain projects for the promotion of economic development and tourism.

* School Districts

- School districts are considered local governments.
- Boundaries are the same as county boundaries.
- Size and election procedures are set by state law.

For More Information

Visit the Nevada Legislature's Web site:

www.leg.state.nv.us

Questions?

