

# Carrara Nevada LEGISLATIVE INSIDER

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## The First Lady Came to Visit!

On March 2nd, First Lady Jill Biden visited Las Vegas to kick off the Women for Biden-Harris campaign program. Las Vegas was one of her stops as she additionally visited Arizona, Wisconsin, and Georgia. This highlights the Biden campaign's efforts to draw voters in key swing states.

Dr. Biden spoke at the Service Employees International Union Local 1107 while focusing on reproductive rights. According to the *Las Vegas Sun*, Dr. Biden stated that "increasing restrictions on women's healthcare is a rupture in the foundations of our democracy."



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## Waiting for the Green Light...

On March 5th, the Oakland Athletics released four renderings of the Major League Baseball club's planned \$1.5 billion stadium. The stadium is proposing to replace the Tropicana casino and is designed to seat 33,000 people. Bjarke Ingels Group, the Danish architectural firm that created the stadium's design in partnership with contracting firm HNTB, called the roof "five pennant arches" that will enclose the ballpark, shading the stadium from any direct sunlight. The idea was to allow the attendees to have a view of the Las Vegas Strip. *The Nevada Independent* reports that, "[t]he team initially hoped to install a retractable roof stadium on the site, but in an interview with The Nevada Independent, A's owner John Fisher said the decision to create a non-retractable roof would allow the stadium to be used year-round for other events." The ballpark is expected to fit on 9 acres of the 35-acre site housing the Tropicana. The casino will be closed on April 2nd with plans to demolish the structure later this year. Previous renderings released last year were declared invalid and stadium construction will begin next year. The Athletics will officially relocate to Las Vegas for the start of the 2028 season. Naming rights of the stadium will be sold before it officially opens.



## Feeling Lucky During the Candidate Filing Period...

March 4th marked the first day of the two week long candidate filing period for incumbents and candidates alike hoping to become or remain elected officials in November. The incumbents showed up in droves on Monday to officially file for re-election, and after took some group caucus photos to show their strength in unity.

Additionally, endorsed candidates also showed up on Monday to submit their candidate filing paperwork and put their names on the ballot. This includes the endorsed candidates of the Democratic and Republican Assembly and Senate Caucuses and Governor Lombardo. Federal incumbents also filed for re-election and shared their decisions on social media. The candidate filing period ended on March 15, and over 700 candidates filed to run for public office.

According to *The Nevada Independent*, “[i]n a speech, Speaker Steve Yeager (D) highlighted the diversity of the caucus-backed candidates and laid out priorities for Democratic lawmakers heading into the 2025 Session, including improving public education, lowering the costs of prescription drugs and utilities, addressing the housing crisis, providing free breakfast and lunches at schools and protecting fundamental freedoms.” The primary election takes place on June 11th, with early voting from May 25th to June 7th.



### *Lucky You!*

On March 7th, the Nevada Assembly Democratic Caucus endorsed attorney Erica Roth (D) for Assembly District 24. Roth is running for the seat that is held by Assemblywoman Sarah Peters (D) who announced that she would not be running for re-election last year. The caucus stated that they are proud to endorse her and that she is “committed to protecting reproductive freedoms, addressing housing insecurity, and combatting climate change.” Erica is a public defender for Washoe County and was previously the lobbyist for the Washoe County Public Defender's Office for the 2023 Legislative Session.

Kurt Thigpen (D), who had previously announced an intention to run for the seat, dropped out of the race and endorsed Roth during the candidate filling period.

## Double Rainbows or Ballot Initiatives?

With a nationwide focus on abortion access and women's reproductive health, Nevada is no different. A group who advocates for women's reproductive health and abortion rights filed petitions to place the issue on the ballot for the 2024 election.

As reported by *The Nevada Independent*, "[t]he Nevadans for Reproductive Freedom PAC, which was founded last year and is connected to Planned Parenthood's political advocacy arm, has simultaneously filed two separate abortion-related ballot efforts that have different scopes and legal statuses." The first initiative was submitted in September of 2023 and is at risk of failing due to a judicial ruling that deemed the language too broad and violated the state's single-subject rule.

The second proposal is a fail-safe measure with more narrow language. The same judge cleared the second petition and it will be appealed to the Nevada Supreme Court for a decision. The second initiative is intending to ensure that abortion decisions are without government interference and have regulations after viability. The language aims to, "protect the right to an abortion until fetal viability, generally considered about 23 or 24 weeks, or when necessary to protect the life or health of the pregnant patient."



### *Off of Their Sham-rocker...*

Despite her reputation as a thoughtful, balanced, and fair member of the Nevada State Senate, on March 13th, the Culinary Workers Union Local 226 announced that they would not be supporting Senator Rochelle Nguyen (D) who represents Senate District 10. Culinary stated that she doesn't deserve to hold the seat after she voted against the union's interests during the 2023 Legislative Session.

According to *The Nevada Independent*, "[i]nstead, union leaders said voters should support Geoconda Hughes, a cardiovascular thoracic nurse practitioner and the daughter of former Culinary Secretary-Treasurer Geoconda Arguello-Kline." Hughes announced her candidacy Wednesday and formally filed her paperwork to run as a Democrat.

## A Pot of Gold at the End of These Interim Committees!

The 2024 Interim Joint Standing Committees are in full swing and have been meeting since January 2024. In March, the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Health and Human Services and Joint Interim Standing Committee on Growth and Infrastructure met and discussed important issues to consider for the 2025 Legislative Session.

On March 11th, the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Health and Human Services met and lasted 6 hours. There were presentations by the Culinary Health Fund, deans of Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at UNLV and University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine, the Nevada Board of Medical Examiners, the National Conference of State Legislatures, and more. The meeting had a packed agenda and included crucial conversations on Graduate Medical Education (GME). There were discussions of new ways to create more residency and fellowship slots in the state to combat the physician shortage. This has become a priority for the committee as access to healthcare is a critical problem in Nevada.

The Joint Interim Standing Committee on Growth and Infrastructure met on March 13th and discussed transportation. The Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles, Nevada, Nevada Department of Transportation, and more presented to the committee and gave updates.



### ***Congratulations! Welcome a New Nevadan!***

Assemblywoman Cecelia Gonzalez (D) who represents Assembly District 16 announced on March 13th in a tweet that she, “kicked off this [#Ramadan](#) with the birth of our daughter. Although it was an emergency and early, we are both in great health! Our hearts are so full. Thank you to the amazing nurses and doctors at Sunrise Hospital. Wishing everyone a blessed Ramadan. Ramadan Mubarak!”

We want to congratulate Assemblywoman Gonzalez and her husband on the birth of their baby and wish them the best. Welcome to the newest and (smallest) Nevadan, we are happy you joined us!

## This Isn't Clover Yet...

After the Governor promised to bring more transparency and accountability to Nevada's K-12 system, the audit he ordered concluded and released its findings. As reported by *The Nevada Independent*, the 154-page report reviewed by the Executive Branch Audit Committee revealed many shortcomings in the state's education system. The report claimed that "student achievement is not necessarily dependent on dollars spent," and this sent the committee into debate. Governor Lombardo stated that this statement was "a little disturbing," adding that "\$2.6 billion put into the education program for the state of Nevada, but yet this audit says that's, for lack of a better term, a waste of money." The Chief Auditor stated that it is not so much how much money is spent but how it is spent and that it "is not to say that more money invested doesn't necessarily lead to better outcomes."

Lombardo stated that they would use the audit's findings to help shape his education policy. He stated, "I firmly believe that our unprecedented investment into K-12 education warrants unprecedented accountability and fiscal responsibility." The audit also revealed that rural districts often failed to comply with auditing standards and thought it was optional.



## *Irish You Luck, You're Endorsed!*

Governor Lombardo announced his endorsement of U.S. Senate candidate Sam Brown (R), a retired U.S. Army captain. The Governor stated, "Sam Brown is committed to fighting to return more federal land to Nevada, securing America's borders, lowering taxes, reducing crime, and ensuring our law enforcement and military have the tools, resources and respect they deserve."

On March 14th, Governor Lombardo endorsed Dr. Rebecca Edgeworth for Assembly District 35. Dr. Edgeworth is an assistant professor and medical director for Touro University's School of Physician Assistant studies. The Governor stated, "Dr. Rebecca Edgeworth is a respected physician, medical educator, and advocate for improving access to quality healthcare in Nevada, and she will bring unique perspective and experience to the State Assembly."

## Show Me the Green!

The Governor's Finance Office (GFO) 2026-2027 Budget Kickoff took place on March 6th, and broke down how the agency will accept budget requests. The GFO instructed state agency staff on how to prepare their proposed budget plans to have an organized process for the summer. The Governor's Finance Office also released a list of important dates for budget submittals. The Governor's 3-Year Plan prioritizes education & workforce, economic growth & business development, health & wellness, public safety & infrastructure, government support services, and rural & natural resources.

### Important Dates:

1. Budget Timeline/Key Deadlines
2. Agency Request
  - a. Due Friday, August 30, 2024 – NEBS locked at 4pm
3. Governor Recommends
  - a. Submitted in January 2025
4. Legislatively Approved
  - a. Session starts February 3, 2025
  - b. Session ends June 2, 2025



**Carrara Nevada**  
–government affairs–



## Appointment

On March 11th, Governor Joe Lombardo announced Col Mary L. Devine as the new Director of the Nevada Department of Veterans Services. In the press release, he stated, "Mary's decades of exemplary military leadership have long prepared her for this role, and I'm confident that her management experience, financial acumen, and passion for service will enable her to serve our veterans with honor and integrity."

Col Mary L. Devine was most recently the Chief of Staff to the Adjutant General, serving directly under Maj. Gen. Ondra Berry. Prior to that role, Devine served as the Nevada National Guard's ninth U.S. Property and Fiscal Officer for six years, overseeing nearly \$1 billion in federal assets.