

Carrara Nevada

# LEGISLATIVE INSIDER

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## The Final Goodbye!

Just before its 67th anniversary, the Tropicana closed its doors on April 2nd. Fans and regular visitors of the Tropicana said their goodbyes to their beloved casino. The Tropicana was one of only two casinos on the Strip that opened in the 1950s. It is set to be demolished later this year to make way for a new Major League Baseball stadium expected to host the Oakland A's starting in 2028. While some folks are sad to see the Tropicana go, others are excited for the MLB team and stadium that will be replacing it.



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## Culinary's Future Plans...

After 10 months of contract negotiations with multiple casinos and properties, the Culinary Workers Union Local 226 is setting its eyes on growing its membership. The contracts that resulted from months of talks and negotiations have incentivized the union to look at new properties and folks that have not been previously covered under the union. According to *The Nevada Independent*, "Culinary Secretary-Treasurer Ted Pappageorge said in an interview that the restaurant organizing effort" the union is looking to pursue "could involve as many as 10,000 workers."

The union has card check neutrality agreements—a voluntary process for workers to vote to organize under a union contract without resistance from their management—in place with The Venetian and Palazzo, Fontainebleau Las Vegas, Sphere, and Formula One's Grand Prix Plaza to organize workers at those properties. Culinary will seek permission to organize half of the part-time workforce at Allegiant Stadium while preparing to unionize its long-time foe, Red Rock Resorts.

Culinary Workers Union Local 226's membership is comprised of more than 60,000 workers.



## Planting Different Seeds...

Jacky Rosen, the junior U.S. Senator for the State of Nevada has unveiled a new approach in her 2024 re-election campaign. In a new campaign ad, titled "Never Have," that aired on Tuesday, April 2nd, Rosen meets with police officers and advocates for bipartisan efforts in the Senate. She states that she "stood up to her own party to support police officers and get more funding for border security." She continues by saying that she "won't walk the party line and never has," and that she "doesn't work for anyone in Washington" but that she works for Nevadans.

Senator Jacky Rosen (D) was one of the few senators who supported a GOP-led effort to block a police accountability package that was ultimately vetoed by President Biden. Rosen also supported an amendment to a government spending bill in 2022 that continued a pandemic-era program to expel migrants at the border because of public health concerns and increased funding for border security. She has voted with Republicans many times, earning her the rating of ninth most bipartisan U.S. Senator from the Lugar Center and McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University.

The 30-second ad is an alternative strategy that attempts to prove that Senator Jacky Rosen is not afraid to differ from the Democratic Party. It will be interesting to see if this strategy gets her re-elected this November.



## *Regretting the Repost!*

Assembly District 35 Democratic candidate, Sharifa Wahab recently expressed remorse over a social media post. As reported by *The Nevada Independent*, "[i]n 2016, Sharifa Wahab shared a graphic animated video depicting an abortion on her Facebook account that was captioned, '[a]nyone who aborts a child is undoubtedly a murderer.'" Wahab deleted the post and said that she has changed her mind and believes that the decision to have an abortion should be between patient and their doctor.

In an interview with the news outlet, Wahab stated, "I regret sharing this Facebook post, and I can't emphasize enough how it does not reflect my opinion on access to safe, legal abortion." She claimed she forgot she reposted the video until she was directly asked about it.



## April Showers Bring FBI Investigations?

As reported by the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, Senator Dina Neal (D) is under investigation by the FBI for allegedly “using her influence to secure federal money for a friend.” College of Southern Nevada (CSN) professors and colleagues of Senator Neal have been questioned by the FBI on Senator Neal’s conduct.

The *Review-Journal* first broke this news and reported on Neal’s involvement in the multimillion-dollar, tax-funded NV Grow grant program, which is intended to help local businesses. CSN professor, Kevin Raiford, claims that “Senator Neal worked to get him removed as the director of NV Grow after he refused to award money to unqualified companies. One of those businesses is owned by Neal’s friend, former North Las Vegas police officer Donovan McIntosh.” He has reported this to the State and CSN. He provided the business cards of the agents who interviewed him to confirm the FBI investigation.

Senator Dina Neal (D) has denied any allegations of misconduct and of pressuring Raiford to award the funds to her friend. She has referred to this as a “smear campaign” and claimed that she has always conducted herself ethically. Neal formed a legal defense fund in August but dissolved it in November, writing in a campaign filing that it was never used.



### ***Spring Into Action!***

The Nevada Latino Legislative Caucus (NLLC) Policy Summit Opening Reception was hosted in early March and concluding the set of meetings, the Caucus is looking to submit legislation for the 2025 Legislative Session. It will host group meetings and work sessions from now until the summer. In late summer, the NLLC will strategize and submit Bill Draft Requests (BDRs) with their chosen policy proposals to LCB in hopes of getting some across the finish line next session.

The Nevada Latino Legislative Caucus is chaired by Senator Fabian Doñate (D). The Vice-Chair is Assemblywoman Elaine Marzola (D) and the Secretary/Treasurer is Assemblywoman Selena Torres (D).

## Budding Bipartisanship!

After Governor Lombardo (R) sent his letter on his concerns surrounding land availability and housing to President Joe Biden in March, an opportunity for bipartisan alignment appeared. Congresswoman Susie Lee (D) tweeted the Governor and stated that she agreed with him. She asked him to endorse a bipartisan bill she sponsored to streamline the process for appraising public lands before potential transactions, such as turning land over to developers for housing.

On April 4th, Governor Lombardo responded to Congresswoman Lee. According to *The Nevada Independent*, Lombardo took a “rare step of publicly endorsing a Democratic bill in Congress —let alone one by a Nevada Democrat in a competitive seat where the governor has weighed in on the race to oust her.”



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Additionally, Lombardo stated, “Congresswoman Lee’s AACE Act will help eliminate federal red tape so we’re able to move more efficiently on new housing and infrastructure projects here in Nevada.” He also stated, “[a]s we seek innovative housing solutions in our state and across the country, I’m pleased to endorse this bipartisan legislation.”

The act would allow the Department of Interior to contract with appraisers who are credentialed in any state to evaluate public land for potential transfer, not only the state where the land is located. The intent is to streamline the process with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and allow for land to be released to be turned into affordable housing.