



Legislative Update

Assemblywoman Marilyn Kirkpatrick

APRIL 2011

Assembly District 1

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I'm on the Web!

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Dear Neighbor,

We are more than halfway through the 2011 Legislative Session and while the budget shortfall is daunting, we are committed to finding solutions for Nevada. Many of the issues our state is facing will take time to resolve, but we understand that improving education, getting Nevadans back to work, diversifying our economy, and making government more efficient are priorities that must be addressed now.

Changes to the Budget Process

This year, the state legislature is undertaking a new, more transparent, process for hearing the budget. We will be taking the major budget discussions out of the committees and the subcommittees and bringing it out onto the Assembly and Senate floors for an open and transparent debate for all Nevadans to see.

This new way of doing business will allow Nevadans to follow legislative activities on these pressing and sometimes contentious issues. Every legislator will have the opportunity to stand up and vote their conscience on funding for K-12, higher education, jobs, and health care. These are difficult decisions that we will have to make and we want Nevadans to know what we're doing and who is participating.

For information on floor hearings on the budget, as well as committee hearings on the budget and other issues, visit the legislative website at www.leg.state.nv.us.

My last email newsletter included information on legislation on education. I want to update you on some critical measures to get Nevadans back to work, cut the cost of government and make state spending more transparent. These are just a few of several bills we are considering. I would be happy to provide you a more in-depth list.

Jobs, Economic Development, and Security

The first step in keeping Nevada's economy afloat and spurring economic growth is to get Nevadans back to work. We have proposed measures to create jobs now and to prevent high unemployment rates in the future by reforming our economic development efforts to be significantly more effective and productive.

- **AB 144** - establishes a bidder's preference for companies that hire Nevada workers and purchase materials locally to keep jobs funded with taxpayer dollars in our state and put Nevadans back to work. This bill passed the Assembly and is currently in the Senate.
- **AB 449** - is a comprehensive reorganization of our state's economic development efforts to bring together existing businesses, state and local government and higher education to attract new high-tech industries to Nevada. This legislation, a collaborative effort of legislators in both parties and the governor, has been heard by the Assembly Ways and Means Committee.

Government Efficiency & Transparency

Continuing the work we began last session, we have proposed measures to better track state spending, to make sure every tax dollar spent is producing measurable results, and to eliminate any program that is not working.

- **AB 248**—requires long-term planning by state agencies that includes the measurement of the performance of each program, with funding based on those performance indicators. Performance based budgeting results in the setting of priorities, the improvement of existing programs and the elimination of "dead wood" that is not moving our state forward or serving our citizens. This bill has been heard by the Assembly Government Affairs Committee.

DMV Kisok

I am happy to share that in mid-May the Nevada DMV will be opening a new self service kiosk at the Albertson's on Craig & Decatur. Kiosk transactions are simple and fast, and your records are updated instantly. Your registration and plate decal or driver history printout on the spot. Services are offered in English, Spanish, and voice assistance.

Contact

I am honored to be representing you and the residents of Assembly District 1 in Carson City. If you ever have any questions about my bills, or any of the other bills being heard in the Legislature, please don't hesitate to contact my office. I can be reached at 702-486-2626 or mkirkpatrick@asm.state.nv.us. You can also follow the legislative process by logging on to our website, www.leg.state.nv.us, and watching hearings live.