



## ➤ PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE



Have you met Nevada Speaker Jason Frierson? As Co-Chair of the CSG West Public Safety Committee, he will work with Oregon Representative Rick Lewis to facilitate member dialogue and collaborative solutions to issues faced throughout the region. We look forward to supporting the committee's efforts in the coming years.

### **WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE EMERGING PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES IN THE WEST?**

I think that the overarching and most pressing issue in the West as it relates to public safety is the need to find common ground in modernizing how we police our communities without unduly villainizing law enforcement as a whole. We cannot ignore the growing need for systematic change and accountability of the agencies intended to protect our communities. However, as an essential part of our community, law enforcement must be respected for their service and empowered to do their job effectively.

While COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted communities of color at alarming rates, I believe this pandemic has exposed how flawed our system has been. In that context, some emerging issues around public safety include increasing access to mental health professionals for emergency dispatchers, addressing mass incarceration with changes to our criminal laws that do not excessively punish non-violent offenders and increasing use of restorative justice programs. I also believe removing discriminatory aspects of cash bail that excessively incarcerate people from low income communities, reforming death penalty laws, empowering the community to have a greater voice in how they are policed, and supporting treatment access to combat the opioid crisis are public safety issues likely on the horizon.



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### **WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE PEOPLE TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR DISTRICT?**

I represent the Southwest portion of Las Vegas, just minutes away from the Las Vegas strip. My district includes several gaming technology companies as well as Allegiant Stadium, the home of the Las Vegas Raiders. Southwest Las Vegas has historically been one of the fastest growing areas in Southern Nevada and is home to an extremely diverse constituency. Due to its proximity to the Las Vegas strip, a large portion of my district's population work in the gaming and service industry, particularly in the arts, entertainment, and recreation sector. For this reason, my constituents have been greatly impacted by the economic and social impacts of COVID-19.

### **WHAT IS ONE THING THAT MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT WOULD FIND INTERESTING?**

While most people who know me also know that I played football as a running back at the University of Nevada, Reno during my college days, most don't know that when I experienced a career ending knee injury, I was leading the nation in rushing yards. The Monday after I suffered the injury, the Dallas Cowboys had come to meet with me. I can now take credit for allowing the Cowboys to have drafted Emmitt Smith!