



West

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

Nevada State Visit

The 80th Session of the Nevada Legislature began on January 4 and made U.S. history as the first female-majority state legislature (10 of 21 senators; 23 of 42 assembly members). After the 2018 election, the legislature experienced a thirty-percent turnover and provided Democrats a supermajority in the Assembly, a majority in the Senate, and the Governorship.

In early April, near the half way point of the 120 calendar-day session, CSG West Director Edgar Ruiz and accompanying staff visited the legislature and met with key members including Speaker Jason Frierson and newly elected Senate Majority Leader Nicole Cannizzaro- both alumni of the [Western Legislative Academy](#) (WLA). Nevadans holding leadership positions in CSG West for the 2019-2020 biennium include Senator Pat Spearman serving as Chair of the Westrends Board and Senator Mo Denis serving as Vice Chair of the Education Committee.

Graduates of the WLA and newer legislators eligible to apply for the Academy joined CSG West staff for a breakfast to share their academy experiences. The visit provided opportunities to meet with legislative members, chamber leadership, and staff to discuss relevant issues in the western region and how CSG West can continue to provide supporting programs and services to our members.

With the session still underway and scheduled to adjourn on June 14, the legislature is addressing a wide variety of issues. Several bills drawing significant attention failed to make it out of committee earlier this week. These include bills to [abolish the death penalty](#), [automatic restoration of voting rights to felons](#), allowing [concealed carry](#) without a permit, and making prostitution illegal across the state. Issues that remain at the forefront include [minimum wage increases](#), [same day voter registration](#), stabilizing the healthcare market, [collective bargaining](#) for state workers, and [raising renewable energy standards](#).

Public safety, criminal justice reform, and gun control have also been prevalent topics throughout this session. Early in February legislators passed [SB143](#), inspired by a 2016 ballot initiative that voters approved but that was never implemented, which requires state-administered background checks on almost all private-party gun transfers or sales. On February 15, SB143 became newly elected Governor Steve Sisolak's first bill signed into law. Another first for the Governor came on April 1 when he signed his first executive order establishing [Nevada's Complete Count Committee](#) to ensure proper execution and appropriate representation for the 2020 Census.

With nearly two months to go the legislature is still in full swing with 784 bills still active. For more information please visit the [Nevada Legislature's Session Information website](#).



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