the GREAT BASIN SUN

Looking Beyond Local

GreatBasinSun.com | SECTION B | The Week of November 13, 2026

Ford Leads Nevada Ticket as Democrats Sweep House Seats

Republicans lead legislative races across the Great Basin Sun's seven-county coverage area. Voters back both statewide ballot questions.

By Rachel Dahl

Nevada Attorney General Aaron Ford led Republican Gov. Joe Lombardo by nearly 83,000 votes in the race for governor, and Democrats led all six statewide executive races. The Associated Press called all four of Nevada's U.S. House races for Democrats, including the open northern Nevada seat where former Assembly Majority Leader Teresa Benitez-Thompson defeated Republican David Flippo.

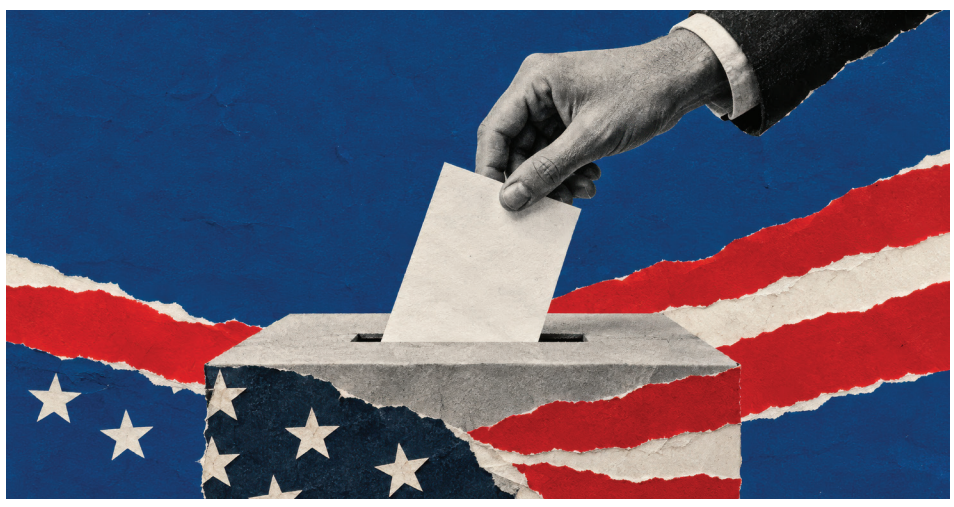
Congress

In District 1, Democratic Rep. Dina Titus won reelection with 140,944 votes, or 59.2%, to Republican Carrie Buck's 89,724, or 37.7%. The Clark County district includes the Las Vegas Strip, downtown Las Vegas, parts of Henderson and Boulder City.

In District 2, Benitez-Thompson received 161,438 votes, or 50.2%, to Flippo's 142,337, or 44.3%. She will succeed retiring Republican Rep. Mark Amodei. The district includes Reno and much of northern Nevada, including Carson City, Elko, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Pershing and White Pine counties, as well as parts of Churchill and Lyon counties.

In District 3, Democratic Rep. Susie Lee won reelection with 161,418 votes, or 59.6%, to Republican Marty O'Donnell's 103,197, or 38.1%. Her district covers the western and southwestern Las Vegas Valley, including parts of Summerlin and Enterprise.

In District 4, Democratic Rep. Steven Horsford won reelection with 152,008 votes, or 60.4%, to Republican Cody Whipple's 94,741, or 37.7%. The district stretches from North Las Vegas into central and southern Nevada, taking in Mineral, Esmeralda and Nye counties and parts of Churchill and Lyon counties. Churchill and Lyon are split between Districts 2 and 4.



File photo

No U.S. Senate seat was on Nevada's ballot this year.

State offices

Ford received 562,737 votes for governor, or 51.6%, to Lombardo's 479,760, or 44.0%. In the lieutenant governor's race, Democrat Sandra Jauregui led Republican incumbent Stavros Anthony, 589,387 to 443,906, or 54.4% to 41.0%.

Democrat Nicole Cannizzaro led Republican Adriana Guzmán Fralick in the race for attorney general, 607,779 to 445,810, or 56.4% to 41.4%. Democratic Secretary of State Cisco Aguilar led Republican Jim Marchant in his bid for another term, 616,452 to 424,402, or 57.0% to 39.2%.

Democrat Tya Mathis-Coleman led Republican Drew Johnson for treasurer, 593,501 to 461,770, or 55.1% to 42.9%. Democrat Michael MacDougall led Republican incumbent Andy Matthews for controller, 583,552 to 465,109, or 54.4% to 43.4%.

State Senate and Assembly

Republicans ran unopposed in four of the six legislative races on the ballot across Lyon, Churchill, Mineral, Pershing, Humboldt, Lander and Eureka counties. They also led the two contested races. The vote totals are for the full districts.

In Senate District 14, which includes Humboldt, Lander and Pershing counties and part of Eureka County, Republican Ira Hansen ran unopposed and received 46,451 votes. In Senate District 17, which includes Churchill, Mineral and Lyon counties, Republican Robin Titus led Democrat Lynne Ballatore, 45,000 to 20,245, or 69.0% to 31.0%.

Part of Eureka County also falls in Senate District 19. Republican John Ellison was elected to that seat in 2024, and it was not on this year's ballot.

In Assembly District 32, which includes Humboldt, Lander and Pershing counties and part of Eureka County, Republican Alexis Hansen ran unopposed and received 21,342 votes. Republican Bert Gurr also ran unopposed in Assembly District 33, which covers another part of Eureka County, and received 20,199 votes.

Republican Gregory Koenig ran unopposed in Assembly District 38, which includes Churchill and Mineral counties and part of Lyon County, and received 21,406 votes. In Assembly District 39, which covers another part of Lyon County, Republican Blayne Osborn led Democrat Erich Obermayr, 26,229 to 12,882, or 67.1% to 32.9%.

Courts

In the two statewide Supreme Court races, Justice Kristina Pickering received 75.9% in Seat B, and Justice Douglas Herndon received 76.0% in Seat D. Each was the only named candidate, with "None of These Candidates" the other option on the ballot.

In Lyon County's 3rd Judicial District, John "JP" Schlegelmilch received 18,793 votes in Department 1 and Stephen Rye received 18,529 in Department 2. Both ran unopposed. In Humboldt County's 6th Judicial District, Michael Montero ran unopposed and received 4,793 votes.

In the 7th Judicial District, which serves Eureka, Lincoln and White Pine counties, Steve Dobrescu ran unopposed in Department 1 and received 4,969 votes. In Department 2, Dylan Frehner led Jane Eberhardy, 3,382 to 1,990.

Thomas Stockard ran unopposed in Churchill County's 10th Judicial District and received 8,023 votes. Bryce Shields ran unopposed in the 11th Judicial District, which serves Lander, Mineral and Pershing counties, and received 4,403 votes. In Mineral County's Hawthorne Justice Court race, Karry Larramendy led James Kenner, 1,055 to 383.

Continue reading on page B-2.

Nevada Spells Out What Data Centers Must Promise For a Tax Break

The state's 12-page agreement covers water, power bills and what happens when a developer falls short. Five requests for tax breaks are up for possible action Dec. 7.

Staff Report

Nevada has put in writing what data center developers must promise before the state will consider giving them a tax break. The first test close to home could come Dec. 7, when the state Board of Economic Development is scheduled to consider five requests, including one from Wok LLC in Churchill County and two from Microsoft, one each in Lyon and Storey counties.

The 12-page Nevada Community Support Commitment, posted by the Governor's Office of Economic Development, carries out a September executive order from Gov. Joe Lombardo. The order requires applicants to sign the commitment before going before the board. It also sets a minimum combined sales and use tax rate of 4.6% for those applications, preserving the Local School Support Tax in full. The requirements apply through the state's tax incentive process. Cities and counties retain their authority over local land use.

Water and power

In areas without Colorado River return-flow credits, a developer would need an approved water conservation plan and would be responsible for protecting existing users' allocations and covering the water costs the project creates. Each facility would commit to a maximum annual consumptive use in acre-feet. That makes the number in each project's agreement especially important to communities that draw from local groundwater. The posted form also calls for facilities that use evaporative cooling to offset that consumption in the same basin. The proposed offset ratio is still in brackets.

On electricity, the developer would bear the cost of serving the project and the risk that it uses less power than it contracted for. The Public Utilities Commission of Nevada would determine how those obligations are carried out through rates and agreements. A facility could cut its demand on the grid in an emergency by switching to on-site generation or storage. The posted form lists 75 megawatts as the proposed threshold for requiring equipment to reduce demand on the grid. That figure is also still in brackets.

Continue reading on page B-3.

Powering Nevada: The Last Mile

Building power plants and transmission lines is only part of the challenge. Getting electricity to the customer requires another layer of infrastructure, agreements and investment.

By Rachel Dahl

Nevada is building an electrical system to accommodate growth on a scale the state has never experienced. New power plants are being proposed, transmission lines are crossing hundreds of miles of open country, and industrial developers are making plans that depend on having enormous amounts of electricity available.

But there is one more piece of the puzzle -- getting the power from the transmission line to the customer.

For the past five weeks, Great Basin Sun has examined Nevada's growing demand for electricity, the industrial customers driving much of that growth, who pays for the infrastructure, what happens when customers cannot get power quickly enough, and the massive transmission system being built to move electricity across the state.

Now we arrive at the last mile. And as it turns out, that last mile can be a pretty complicated piece of real estate.

Last week, we compared Nevada's transmission system to a highway network. Power plants generate electricity, and high-voltage transmission lines move it over long distances. But just as a freeway is of little use if there is no exit near your destination, a transmission line cannot serve a factory or data center simply because it runs past the property.

The electricity has to reach a point where it can be transferred to another part of the system and that's where substations come in.

Substations contain transformers, switching equipment, protective devices and other infrastructure that connect different parts of the electrical grid. Some change electricity from one voltage to another. Others connect transmission lines, distribute electricity to customers or help isolate equipment when something goes wrong.

While a small business may be able to connect to an existing distribution system, a manufacturing plant, mine or large data center requiring hundreds of megawatts may need its own high-voltage facilities, a dedicated substation or substantial improvements to the surrounding grid.

And those improvements require engineering, equipment, land, permits and money. Lots of money.

Consider NV Energy's Walker River Substation near Yerington, which is being built as part of the Greenlink Nevada transmission project.

Continue reading on page B-4.

COMMENTARY

A Fair Pour for American Beer



File Photo

By Sigmund "Sig" Rogich

Over a long career in business and public service, I have witnessed the power of free markets to bring about prosperity. As a lifelong Las Vegan who built Nevada's largest advertising and public relations firm, I spent years developing market strategies for some of the largest beer distributors and best-known brands in the hospitality industry. I also served as a director of the Tuesday Team, which created the advertising for President Ronald Reagan's 1984 re-election campaign, and later as a senior assistant to President George H.W. Bush in the West Wing. When it comes to international trade, however, it is not enough for markets to be free. They must also be fair. We have forgotten this important caveat over the years, and many American industries have suffered and even disappeared as a result. One that is suffering right now is the American beer industry.

When I was getting my start in the political world, imports made up less than 4 percent of the American beer market. Jump ahead to the year 2013, and that number had grown to 14 percent. Now, nearly a quarter of the beer sold in the United States is imported. And one nation is responsible for more than 80 percent of those imports: Mexico. Why Mexico? It's because the economics of brewing in Mexico are fundamentally different from those in the United States and drastically favor Mexican breweries.

The wages paid to Mexican brewery workers would be considered unthinkably low here in the States, averaging just $3,700 a year. I consider myself a strong believer in free markets, but what Mexico has set up—lower taxes, fewer regulations, pennies on the dollar in labor costs, and lower agricultural input costs—is anything but free. Asking American breweries to compete against Mexican breweries under these conditions is not the kind of free market competition that creates prosperity. Instead, it creates a race to the bottom.

Few places in the country know hospitality the way Las Vegas does. Our hotels, casinos, restaurants, and entertainment venues, along with the independent breweries, distributors and retailers that serve them, make up one of the most important beverage markets in America. This supply chain relies on a strong, competitive domestic beer industry, one that employs American workers, buys from American farmers, and invests in American communities.

American breweries aren't the only ones feeling the pressure. The downstream effects have already hit America's barley farmers, who are seeing weaker demand due to declining domestic beer production according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. And Mexico already has new breweries scheduled to open that will do nothing but produce beer for the American market. If nothing changes, we risk shuttered breweries, lost jobs, and real pain for the communities that depend on them.

America has never needed special favors to compete. What we need, and what we have always asked of our trading partners, is a level field. That's why I support tariffs on Mexican beer, and I urge our leaders in D.C. to implement them on behalf of the workers and businesses who keep our state's economy strong.

Nevada Is Open for Business. But Who's Paying the Bill?

By Rachel Dahl

Nevada has always been a place where people come to make something happen. Gold strikes, silver mines, railroads, casinos, industrial parks and now enormous buildings filled with computers. We have a long history of welcoming anyone with a big idea, a little ambition and enough capital to get started. Sometimes we even offer to help with the taxes.

And why wouldn't we? Economic development is practically a Nevada tradition. When somebody comes along promising millions of dollars in investment, good-paying jobs and economic security, it's hard not to roll out the welcome mat.

But lately I've been wondering whether we've become so good at attracting investment that we've forgotten to ask what happens after the company arrives.

Sam Shad had an interesting conversation on his Nov. 4 Nevada Newsmakers program with Russell Rowe, an attorney who represents Tesla, and former state Sen. Warren Hardy. Both men have spent considerable time around Nevada's economic development machinery and understand the business of bringing large companies into the state.

Rowe helped negotiate Tesla's original Nevada incentive package and remains convinced the deal was a success, with benefits tied to company performance and substantial investment flowing into Northern Nevada.

But even Rowe acknowledged that Nevada may have pushed its incentive programs beyond where they ought to be. He expects lawmakers to take a serious look at tax abatements during the next legislative session, particularly those offered to data centers.

Hardy agreed, suggesting Nevada's early successes may have encouraged us to assume more of the same would always be a good idea.

It's an interesting admission from two men who are hardly enemies of economic development.

For those who haven't spent much time wandering through the weeds of tax policy, an abatement is essentially a reduction in taxes that would otherwise be owed. Nevada offers incentives to attract businesses, including reductions in sales, payroll and property taxes. The theory is straightforward: Give a company some breathing room on taxes in exchange for investment and economic activity that eventually produce more public revenue than the state surrendered.

There's nothing inherently unreasonable about that arrangement. A company that builds a factory, hires workers and creates an ongoing economic presence can generate benefits well beyond its own tax payments. Suppliers prosper, employees buy houses and local businesses gain customers.

The trouble begins when the promised benefits are counted before the actual costs are understood.

Consider the data centers and large manufacturing facilities locating across Nevada – on top of the electric and water demands being addressed at every level, are the roads and infrastructure, emergency services and housing demands that come long before the full economic contribution is realized.

And those demands don't necessarily fall on the same government that approved the incentive.

While a state agency can celebrate a multibillion-dollar investment, the county where that investment lands must deal with the consequences. Somebody has to account for all the impacts on public services.

And what about neighboring counties? Rural communities are already discovering that thousands of new jobs can create housing pressures well beyond the county lines where the development occurs. Those communities may inherit the growing pains without receiving the corresponding tax benefits.

In Humboldt, Churchill and Lyon counties, industrial development is no longer a theoretical conversation about jobs that might someday arrive. It's a practical discussion about land, water, power, infrastructure, housing and what communities are willing to accommodate.

None of those challenges mean the answer should automatically be no, but careful consideration and wise decision-making will be in high demand.

One useful observation from the interview was that not all data centers are alike. Rowe cautioned against blanket moratoriums that treat relatively modest facilities the same as enormous industrial installations. Hardy acknowledged the value of temporarily slowing approvals while communities establish the facts but warned against allowing fear to eliminate opportunities.

Both have a point. A community that refuses every new industry risks losing its economic future. One that welcomes every proposal without understanding the obligations may discover growth isn't quite the bargain it expected.

Another intriguing moment came when Rowe pointed out that Nevada's property tax caps are themselves a form of tax relief. Homeowners benefit from limits on annual increases, just as businesses benefit from incentive programs. The arrangements differ, but both affect the revenue available for public services.

That isn't an argument for eliminating homeowner protections. It's a reminder that tax policy is considerably more complicated than deciding whether a corporation deserves a break.

Which brings us to the most important observation of the conversation.

Rowe said the objective of an incentive ought to be making sure the state and the community come out ahead.

That should be the first question asked about every economic development agreement Nevada approves.

How much tax revenue will be forgone? What will the project cost local government? Who pays for water, power and housing infrastructure? Who monitors compliance, and what happens when promises aren't kept?

Those aren't anti-business questions. They're the questions responsible businesspeople ask before making an investment of their own.

Nevada has extraordinary opportunities ahead. We shouldn't abandon them because growth comes with challenges. But neither should we confuse being open for business with accepting any terms offered.

As lawmakers revisit Nevada's incentive programs, perhaps they should evaluate every agreement not simply by the investment it attracts, but by the lasting value it creates.

Because the question isn't how much Nevada is willing to give away to bring a company here.

It's whether Nevada – and the communities that welcome it – will be better off after it arrives.

Watch the entire show and all the rest of Sam's interviews at NevadaNewsmakers.com

Continued from page B-1 - Ford Leads Nevada.

Board of Regents

Pete Goicoechea led Lori Lane, 36,069 to 34,394, in the nonpartisan race for District 8 on the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents. The district includes Eureka County.

The other two regent districts serving the Sun's coverage area were not on the ballot this year. District 9 includes Churchill, Lander, Lyon and Mineral counties, and District 11 includes Humboldt and Pershing counties. Elsewhere in Nevada, Jennifer McGrath led in District 2, Byron Brooks in District 3, Stephanie Molina in District 5 and Joseph Arrascada in District 10.

Ballot questions

Nevadans backed both statewide ballot questions. Voters first approved both measures in 2024, and each needed a second approval this year to amend the Nevada Constitution.

Question 6, the abortion rights amendment, led 671,916 to 386,221, or 63.5% to 36.5%. It establishes a constitutional right to an abortion performed by a qualified health care professional until fetal viability, or later when necessary to protect the life or health of the pregnant patient.

Question 7, the voter identification amendment, led 662,488 to 403,045, or 62.2% to 37.8%. It requires voters to show photo identification when voting in person and provide identifying information when voting by mail, such as the last four digits of a Nevada driver's license number.

Results are unofficial at press time Tuesday, Nov. 10.

NEVER MISS A SINGLE WORD!

THE FALLON POST
the Fernley reporter
Lovelock Review-Miner
The Humboldt Sun
The Battle Mountain Bugle
THE EUREKA COUNTY STAR
PIZEN POST

EVENTS

Worth The Drive

BY DORIS RODRIGUEZ

A Road Trip to Honor Our Vets



U.S. Army Maj. Gen. D. Rodger Waters, second from right, shakes hands with members of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2350 during the Sept. 4 dedication of Elko National Cemetery. Waters is the Nevada National Guard's adjutant general. The cemetery is Nevada's first national cemetery.
Photo courtesy of U.S. Army National Guard. Photo by Staff Sgt. Adrianne Lopez

Nevada doesn't stop saying thank you just because the calendar flipped past Nov. 11. Our veterans went the distance for us, so this weekend, let's go the distance for them. There are plenty of chances to shake a hand, share a meal and say the two words every veteran deserves to hear. And while you're out, there's a little something worth stopping for in just about every direction.

Elko is polishing its boots and pressing its dress blues for a night of dancing with the ones who served. The Elko Veterans Ball runs from 5 to 11 p.m. Nov. 14 at the Elko Conference Center. The Nevada Cattlemen's Association's 91st Annual Convention and Trade Show runs through Nov. 14 at the Elko Convention Center. Try Bows & Throws archery from 1 to 2 p.m. Nov. 14 at the California Trail Interpretive Center.

Spring Creek is setting up tables full of handmade finds, perfect for the veteran on your Christmas list. The Lamoille Women's Club Fall Craft Festival runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 14 and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 15 at Spring Creek High School. Admission is free.

Winnemucca is tipping its cowboy hat to the buckaroos this weekend. The Buckaroo Traditions Gathering runs Nov. 13–15 at the Winnemucca Events Complex. Admission is $8 a day or $20 for all three days. Kids 11 and younger get in free. The Boy Scouts Winter Craft Fair runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 14 in the Events Complex Exhibit Hall, and the Bad Habit Barrel Race is Nov. 15 at the Events Complex.

Mike Beck brings *The Ponies Show* to the Martin Hotel from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Nov. 13. The Winnemucca Basque Club's Mus Tournament and Fall Dinner is Nov. 14 in the Winnemucca Convention Center's West Hall. The Buckaroo Voices Project launches at 7 p.m. that evening at the convention center.

Battle Mountain is lacing up the little ones' shoes for Adventure Buddies, from 10 to 11 a.m. Nov. 13 at Elquist Park.

Fallon, a Navy town through and through, keeps the salute going long after Nov. 11. The American Legion Riders' Christmas Toy Run is Nov. 14 at the American Legion Hall. Registration starts at 10 a.m., and the ride leaves at 11 a.m. Bring one new, unwrapped toy per person for Toys for Tots.

The Nevada Community Alliance Christmas Craft Fair runs from noon to 6 p.m. Nov. 13 and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 14 at E.C. Best Elementary School. Admission is free. *Nate's World – A Living Breathing Recital* starts at 6 p.m. Nov. 13 at the Barkley Theatre at Oats Park Art Center.

Schurz is making room for some holiday shopping. The Walker River Paiute Tribe's Agai Dicutta Elder Center Fall Craft Fair runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 13 at the Schurz Community Center.

Virginia City has already marched its Veterans Day parade down C Street, and now it's turning up the music. Dusty Miles and the Sundown Drifters play from 7 to 10 p.m. Nov. 14 at the Red Dog Saloon.

Gardnerville proves the best thank-you sometimes comes with a hot cup of coffee and a good listener. The Carson Valley Veterans Brunch Brigade meets from 10 a.m. to noon Nov. 13 at Woodette's Diner. A reception featuring artists Angelena Gilroy, Andi Parsons and Leah Andrews runs from 3 to 6 p.m. that day at the Carson Valley Museum & Cultural Center. Clara's Nutcracker Tea runs from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 15 at the Douglas County Community & Senior Center.

Minden is bringing a little history and a lot of music to the valley. The Carson Valley Arts Council presents Wolf Jett at 7 p.m. Nov. 13 at CVIC Hall. A Chautauqua performance about George and Elia Whittell runs from 1 to 2:15 p.m. Nov. 15 at Minden Mill Distilling. It's free, but seats are limited and tickets should be reserved.

Genoa has a little Italy on the walls this weekend. The *Plein Air dall'Italia* reception runs from 3 to 5 p.m. Nov. 14 at the Genoa Gallery.

Lund is getting a jump on Christmas. The Lund Christmas Bazaar runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 14 at the Lund Community Center.

Pahrump is rolling out the welcome mat for veterans looking for a helping hand and good company. The free Living Well Senior and Veteran Expo runs from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 13 at the Pahrump Nugget. The Hope, Hearts & Heroes Foundation hosts the event, which includes resources, raffles and an adaptive clothing fashion show. An indoor craft fair runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 14 at Preferred RV Resort.

Mesquite is where a thousand flags dance in the desert wind. The free 1000 Flags Over Mesquite Field of Honor continues through Nov. 15 on the west field at the Mesquite Recreation Center and Park. The closing ceremony starts at 2 p.m. Nov. 15, with a U.S. Air Force flyover scheduled for 2:30 p.m. For a different kind of thunder, Moon Shadows brings its Pink Floyd tribute to Eureka Casino Resort at 7 p.m. Nov. 14.

If you know a veteran, tell them thank you. And if you are a veteran, from all of us out here in the wide-open middle of Nevada, thank you for your service.

Safe Travels!



File photo

Continued from page B-1 - Data Centers.

What counties can see and do

A developer would meet with the host city or county before applying and invite the water provider and school district. The host government and water provider could submit comments to the state board. The state would enforce the tax agreement, and a county or city could still negotiate its own development agreement or impose lawful conditions tied to documented impacts. GOED's form says the state will not make a separate local community benefit agreement a condition of the tax break.

Developers would report actual jobs, investment, taxes, electricity use and water use. Host governments would receive annual project reports subject to confidentiality rules. The state's public figures would combine data from at least four facilities, so a resident could have trouble using those figures to check how much water or power the data center down the road actually used. State tax compliance audits would be public under the form.

If a developer fails to fix a material violation, the state could suspend the tax break and seek repayment of a portion of the taxes previously waived, subject to Nevada law. A material failure to meet a grid reliability obligation during a declared emergency or firm load-shedding event can trigger default on written notice without the usual time to correct it.

The Dec. 7 notice also lists Colovore Reno 2 in Washoe County and Vantage Data Centers NV 13 in Storey County. The public notice names the applicants and the types of tax breaks they're seeking. The project records are where residents can look for the figures that determine what each deal means locally, including how much tax the company would pay, how much would be waived, how much water the facility could consume and who would pay for the infrastructure it needs.





MADE HERE

Ninth Circuit Backs Nevada Horse Plans as Ranchers Seek Faster Removals



Horses from Jackson Mountain HMA Wild Horse Gather in 2026. Photo courtesy of BLM

By Rachel Dahl

A federal appeals court has upheld two Nevada wild horse gather plans challenged by ranchers who argued the Bureau of Land Management was giving itself too much time to remove excess animals.

The Oct. 29 decision in Colvin & Son, LLC v. Burgum concerns the Little Fish Lake Joint Management Area and Stone Cabin Complex in Nye County. The ranching companies argued that the plans failed to meet the Wild Free Roaming Horses and Burros Act's requirement for immediate removal once excess horses and the need for removal are established.

The Ninth Circuit affirmed a lower court's judgment for federal officials. It held that BLM must remove excess animals "as promptly as logistically and reasonably possible," taking account of humane treatment and other obligations under the law. The agency was not required to write a fixed removal deadline into the plans.

The judges distinguished initial removals intended to reach appropriate management levels from later maintenance operations after those levels have been achieved. They also made clear that the absence of a calendar deadline does not permit BLM to postpone initial gathers indefinitely.

The ruling leaves an important practical question open. This appeal tested the plans' legality, rather than whether BLM's actual pace of removal has been reasonable. The court said an appropriate party could bring a separate unreasonable-delay challenge under the Administrative Procedure Act.

The plans grew out of horse populations exceeding the agency's management ranges. The district court record describes a 2021 estimate of 291 horses at Little Fish Lake, compared with a management range of 79 to 132, and more than 1,000 at Stone Cabin, compared with 242 to 404.

BLM has since announced approval of a separate 2026 management plan covering the Stone Cabin, Saulsbury and Little Fish Lake herd management areas. Its planning register lists a July 21 decision date; the agency announced approval Aug. 21.

USDA Awards $359,385 for Rural Nevada Businesses and Downtowns

Seven grants will help finance small businesses, expand training for Native entrepreneurs and support a statewide rural development summit.

By Rachel Dahl

Nevada's Governor's Office of Economic Development will receive $20,000 for a statewide summit focused on challenges rural communities often have to solve with small staffs and limited budgets, including workforce needs, infrastructure planning and finding technical help.

The grant is one of seven announced Nov. 2 by USDA Rural Development. The awards total $359,385 and reach from Esmeralda County, where a regional loan fund will get more money to lend, to Lincoln County, where two projects will help put historic buildings back to work. USDA's announcement did not list a date or location for the Nevada Rural Economic and Community Development Summit.

For a rural business owner looking for financing, the award to watch is $90,000 for the Nye County Regional Economic Development Authority's revolving loan fund. USDA singled out Esmeralda County as a place where the fund could help entrepreneurs who struggle to secure conventional financing. As borrowers repay their loans, the fund can lend the money again.



Photo courtesy of Main Street Gardnerville

The largest award, $97,908, goes to Indian Dispute Resolution Services to expand business training and assistance for rural Native entrepreneurs on reservations. Business owners can already find one-on-one counseling and training through the nonprofit's Acorn Project.

In Lincoln County, Caliente will receive $45,000 to help finish restoring and repurposing its railroad depot, with completion targeted for 2027. In nearby Pioche, Friends of Gem Theater will receive $29,977 for a fire alarm system. The building has already been stabilized, and the new system is another step toward reopening the Main Street theater.

In Douglas County, Main Street Gardnerville will receive $74,500 to develop a plan for supporting downtown businesses and bringing underused properties back into use. The Carson Valley Arts Council will receive $2,000 to stabilize the historic Copeland Lumber Building as it works toward turning the building into a community makerspace.

The USDA grant program funds organizations that serve rural businesses. For owners interested in borrowing or getting business advice, the place to start is with the organization running the local program.

Continued from page B-1 - Powering Nevada.

Located near the existing Fort Churchill facilities, Walker River is the largest substation project NV Energy has undertaken. It will become an important connection point for the new Greenlink transmission network, helping move electricity between Northern and Southern Nevada and connecting additional lines and generating resources.

But Walker River is part of the larger transmission system. It doesn't mean every industrial project in Lyon County can simply connect to the new line, individual projects still have to establish whether sufficient capacity is available at the particular location where they want service.

Microsoft's Northern Nevada development provides another example.

The company has been involved in separate regulatory proceedings for new high-voltage substations in Storey County, including infrastructure associated with its RNO12 and Viking projects.

Those facilities illustrate a fundamental point about electricity development: Having a power source somewhere on the system does not necessarily mean the infrastructure exists to deliver the required amount of electricity to a particular customer.

For most industrial customers, obtaining electric service begins with an application to the utility. The process can involve load studies, engineering designs, identifying an appropriate service route, obtaining easements and determining what equipment must be constructed or upgraded.

NV Energy's published service requirements explain that projects needing additional electric facilities generally require a line extension agreement.

Under the utility's Rule 9 tariff, large projects can also be subject to financial security requirements, construction-cost adjustments and charges if the customer substantially reduces or terminates its planned service.

Those provisions are intended, in part, to address a problem that becomes more significant as industrial projects grow larger. What happens if a developer requests enough infrastructure to serve a major facility, the utility makes the investment, and the project is delayed or never built?

For large industrial customers, the problem extends beyond the physical connection. The utility must also determine whether enough generation and transmission capacity will be available to supply the customer when it needs electricity.

That broader issue is at the center of NV Energy's proposed Large Load Electric Service Agreement, now under review by the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada. The commission is examining how major customers should make financial commitments and how the costs of serving their demand should be allocated, especially in situations where the infrastructure built for one industrial customer eventually becomes part of a system used by others.

There is another reason these decisions are important outside Reno and Las Vegas. Much of the new electrical infrastructure will be located in rural counties where mines, manufacturing operations, data centers and other major industrial projects are being proposed.

While a county may approve a new industrial development, but that approval does not establish that electricity will be available when construction is complete. The local government controls important land-use decisions, but the utility and electric regulators have separate responsibilities involving service, safety, reliability and cost.

And the schedules do not always line up -- In rural Nevada growth has happened faster than infrastructure was ready.

In Fernley, Mark IV Capital is pursuing a privately financed natural-gas generating plant and a local utility structure intended to serve industrial development in the Victory Logistics District.

Other Northern Nevada developers are proposing temporary generating facilities while permanent utility infrastructure is developed. These projects demonstrate that the challenge is not simply producing more megawatts. The power must be available at the right location, in the right amount, at the right time.

NV Energy's Integrated Resource Plan, under review in PUCN Docket 26-05007, examines the resources the utility expects to need over the next 20 years.

Commissioners are also considering the financial arrangements for large new electricity customers, while separate proceedings address individual generating plants, substations and transmission facilities.

The outcome will help determine how Nevada builds its next generation of electrical infrastructure and how the associated costs and risks are divided. In rural communities, those decisions may influence which industrial developments move forward and how quickly they can begin operating.

Over the past six weeks, we've followed electricity from the power plant to the transmission line, through the substation and finally to the customer.

Along the way, one thing has become apparent -- Nevada's challenge is not simply to produce more electricity. It is to build an interconnected system that can deliver dependable power while making sure the people who benefit from new development bear an appropriate share of its costs.