

## Summary of Nevada 1998 Legislative Races

By Denise Roth Barber

February 24, 2000

### *The Money*

**Total 1998 dollars: \$7,331,077**

Assembly Total: \$4,435,199

Senate Total: \$2,895,878

Total number of votes: 435,790

Average raised per vote: \$16.82

Money Raised by Winners: \$ 4,968,013

Money Raised by General Election Losers: \$ 1,823,642

Money Raised by Primary Election Losers: \$ 539,422

### The Races

<i>RACES</i>	Contested	Uncontested		Open Races	Races w/Incumbents
Assembly	35	7		9	33
Senate	9	2		1	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>9</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>43</b>

In all, 53 legislative seats were up for election in 1998 42 Assembly and 11 Senate. A majority of the races, 83%, were contested and 81% had incumbents seeking re-election. Nine House incumbents and one Senate incumbent chose not to seek re-election.

### Total Dollars by Office

OFFICE	Total	Average/Candidate	Number of Candidates
Assembly	\$4,435,199	\$43,060	103
Senate	\$2,895,878	\$120,662	24
<b>Legislative Total</b>	<b>\$7,331,077</b>	<b>\$57,725</b>	<b>127</b>

Candidates in the 1998 legislative races raised a total of \$7.3 million, slightly more than was raised in 1996, when candidates raised \$6.9 million. On average, candidates in 1998 raised \$58,000 -- 24% more than the 1996 candidate average of \$44,000.

### Total Dollars by Party

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>3rd Party</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Assembly</b>	\$1,897,581	\$2,489,829	\$47,789	<b>\$4,435,199</b>
<b>Senate</b>	\$1,727,564	\$1,168,314	\$0	<b>\$2,895,878</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,625,145</b>	<b>\$3,658,143</b>	<b>\$47,789</b>	<b>\$7,331,077</b>

### Average Money Raised, by Party

<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>3rd Party</b>
<b>Assembly</b>	\$37,952	\$52,975	\$7,965
<b>Senate</b>	\$143,964	\$129,813	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$58,470</b>	<b>\$65,324</b>	<b>\$5,310</b>

### The Candidates

<i>Candidates</i>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>3rd Party</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Incumbents</b>	<b>Challengers</b>	<b>Open</b>
<b>Assembly</b>	50	46	7	103	33	37	33
<b>Senate</b>	12	9	3	24	10	11	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	62	55	10	127	43	48	36

### Total Money Raised, by Candidate Type

<b>TOTAL \$</b>	<b>Incumbents</b>	<b>Challengers</b>	<b>Open Races</b>	<b>Winners</b>	<b>Primary Losers</b>	<b>General Losers</b>
<b>Assembly</b>	\$2,443,746	\$794,895	\$1,196,558	\$3,105,346	\$296,238	\$1,033,615
<b>Senate</b>	\$1,707,906	\$688,025	\$499,947	\$1,862,667	\$243,184	\$790,027
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,151,652</b>	<b>\$1,482,920</b>	<b>\$1,696,505</b>	<b>\$4,968,013</b>	<b>\$539,422</b>	<b>\$1,823,642</b>

### Average Money Raised, By Candidate Type

<b>AVERAGE \$</b>	<b>Incumbents</b>	<b>Challengers</b>	<b>Open Races</b>	<b>Winners</b>	<b>Primary Losers</b>	<b>General Losers</b>
<b>Assembly</b>	\$74,053	\$21,484	\$36,259	\$73,937	\$12,343	\$27,936
<b>Senate</b>	\$170,791	\$62,548	\$166,649	\$169,333	\$81,061	\$79,003
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$96,550</b>	<b>\$30,894</b>	<b>\$47,125</b>	<b>\$93,736</b>	<b>\$19,979</b>	<b>\$38,801</b>

### The Winners

<i>Winners</i>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>		<b>Incumbents</b>	<b>Challengers</b>	<b>Open</b>
<b>Assembly</b>	14	28		33	0	9
<b>Senate</b>	7	4		8	2	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	21	32		41	2	10

Control of both chambers remained the same after the 1998 elections. While Democrats lost three seats in the House, they maintained their majority (25 to 17), and Republicans maintained their control of the Senate with no gain or loss of seats (12 to 9).

## WHO GIVES

### Sources of Funds by Major Sectors

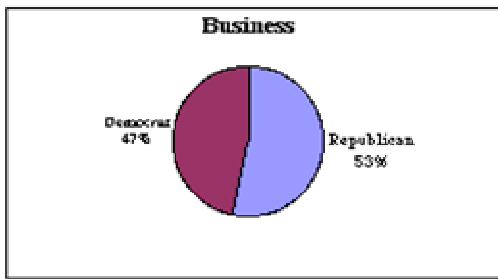
The following table shows the breakdown of contributions by sector. Not included in this graph is money given by contributors whose economic interest could not be identified, which accounts for 5% of the total contributions.

General Business	\$1,459,210	21.0%
Political Parties	\$1,241,588	17.8%
Labor	\$840,034	12.1%
Energy/Natural Resources	\$573,439	8.2%
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	\$537,265	7.7%
Construction	\$438,802	6.3%
Health	\$385,972	5.5%
Candidate Self Finance	\$373,623	5.4%
Lawyers & Lobbyists	\$298,972	4.3%
Small Contributions	\$263,858	3.8%
Transportation	\$236,717	3.4%
Communications & Electronics	\$185,006	2.7%
Ideology	\$95,790	1.4%
Agriculture	\$20,550	0.3%
Non-Business Interests	\$9,900	0.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,960,726</b>	<b>100%</b>

The following is a brief analysis of contributions within each sector. The graphs depict a breakdown of the sectors contributions by the candidates party affiliation. It is interesting to note that of all the sectors, only political parties and labor gave more to Democrats and the rest gave predominantly to Republican candidates.

### **General Business: 21.0%**

This broad category encompasses manufacturing, food and beverage sales, tobacco money, business and general services, recreation and live entertainment, hotels, motels and resorts, and gambling interests. In 1998, these businesses gave a total of \$1.5 million. The largest business



donor, with contributions totaling \$83,500, was the Hilton Corporation. The second largest business contributor was the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce Biz PAC, which gave \$76,960.

Not surprisingly, gambling interests contributed 53% (\$790,464) of the \$1.5 million from general business interests. Among those in the general business sector, money from gambling interests exceeded the amount given from all other business industries *combined*. In fact, the gaming industry gave the most of all Nevadas industries.

Gambling money went to candidates in all the legislative races, contested or not. In fact, 45% (\$354,917) of the gambling money went to candidates who were unopposed (19 Assembly and 5 Senate). Further, in 29 contested races, gambling money went to more than one candidate per race.

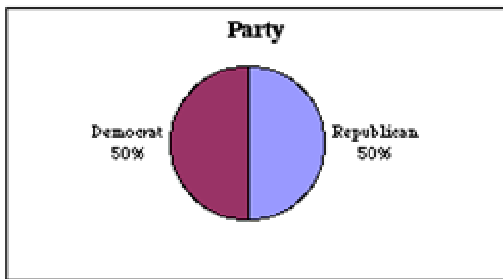
Of the 127 candidates in the legislative races, 88 (69%) received gambling money. Incumbents seeking re-election received 76% of the money, candidates in open races received 16%, and challengers received the remaining 8%. Gambling interests spent their money well. Of the 88 candidates supported by gambling money, 52 won (combined, winners received 83% of the gambling money). The losing candidates received the remaining 17%. Democrat candidates received 53% of the gambling money, while 47% went to Republicans.

Contributions from gambling interests proved to be a wise investment. Gaming interests held the high cards during the 1999 legislature avoiding new tax hikes and receiving large tax breaks. A bill to raise gaming taxes (SB88) never saw the light of day, after dying a quick death in the Senate Taxation Committee. That same committee granted Mirage Inc. Chairman Steve Wynn an \$18 million sales and property tax exemption for his fine art collection at the Bellagio Casino (in exchange for expanding visiting hours for school children and a half-price discount for Nevada residents). Though the bill was written by and for Steve Wynns Mirage, it will give similar tax breaks to all gambling interests. With total contributions of \$76,000, Bellagio/Mirage Inc was the second largest contributor among the gaming interests, and the ninth largest contributor overall (excluding party money).

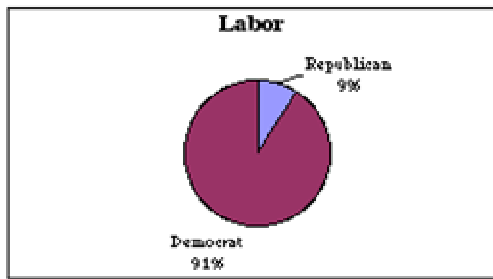
One pro-gambling bill did fail, however, despite the \$50,000 in campaign contributions given by the bills primary backer, Boyd Gaming Corporation. AB522 would have allowed Boyd Gaming Corporation to build two Las-Vegas area hotel-casinos in areas where casinos werent allowed. However, the bill was soundly defeated in first committee early in the session.

### **Political Parties: 17.8%**

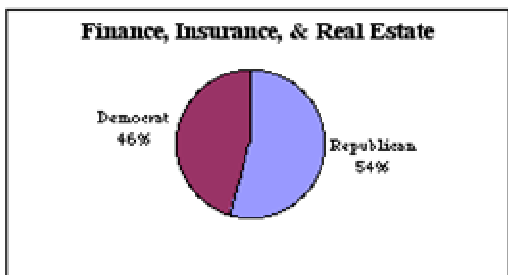
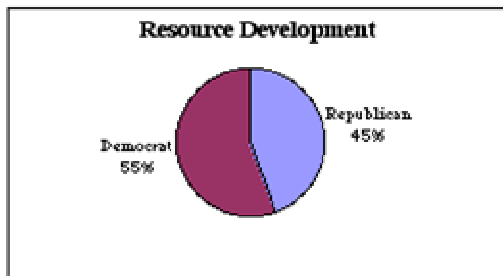
**Money from political party PACs and elected officials was the second largest source of funds in the 1998 election cycle, with contributions totaling \$1,241,588.**



contributed a total of donations totaling Assembly Caucus.



The largest contributor of party money was the Assembly Democratic Caucus, which \$114,401. Close behind, with \$112,347, was the Republican



**Labor: 12.1%**

In 1998, labor unions contributed \$840,034. The Nevada State Education Association PAC was the largest contributing union, giving \$240,036 to candidates. Another teachers union, the Clark County Classroom Teachers Association, was the second largest union contributor, which gave a total of \$126,000.

**Resource Development: 8.2%**

This category includes forestry and forest products, mining, oil and gas, utilities, environmental services, waste management, fisheries and wildlife, grazing interests and commercial fishing industries. Total contributions from the industries within this sector were \$537,439 in 1998.

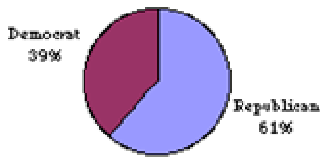
The Silver State Disposal PAC, a large waste-disposal company, was the largest contributor with \$100,000, and the Barrick Gold Strike Mines Inc was second largest at \$61,900.

**Finance, Insurance and Real Estate: 7.7%**

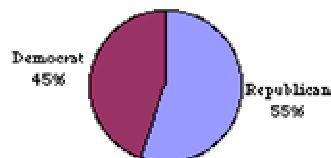
Combined, the finance, insurance and real estate industries gave \$537,265 million in 1998. Of those, Howard Hughes Properties was the lead contributor of this major sector with \$59,210. Next was the Household Financial Group, a credit card company, with total contributions of \$57,500

**Construction: 6%**

### Construction



### Health

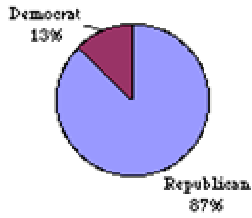


Construction interests, which consist of contractors and homebuilders, suppliers of

building materials and equipment, architects and engineers, gave a total of \$438,802.

The Hi-PAC of Southern Nevada, a general construction company, was the largest contributor among the construction interests, giving \$101,250. In distant second was the Association of General Contractors/Build PAC, which gave just under \$ 39,900.

### Candidate Self-Finance



### Health: 5.5%

The health industry, which consists of health professionals, medical institutions, pharmaceutical companies and health products, gave a combined total of \$385,972. The Sierra Health Plan Services of Nevada, an HMO, gave the most within this sector, \$43,700, and the second largest contributor was the Nevada Optometric Association PAC, which gave \$27,600. Close behind was Valley Hospital, which gave \$100 less than the Optometric PAC.

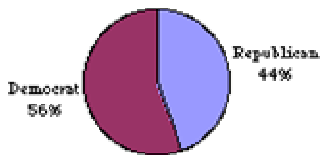
### Candidate Self-Finance: 5.4%

Personal money used by candidates to fund their own campaigns totaled \$373,623, 6% of all contributions. The 50 Republican candidates who gave to their own campaigns clearly had deeper pockets to draw from, giving themselves a total of \$313,674, or \$6,273 average per candidate. In comparison, the 15 Democratic candidates who gave to themselves only gave a total of \$42,018, \$2,801 per candidate average.

Almost a third of all the candidates personal money came from just one candidate, Republican Donald Forrester, who lost in the primary race for Senate Western District. Another primary loser, Jack Close Sr (R-Clarke 07) gave his own campaign \$65,000, far more than all those behind him. Together, these two gave themselves almost half of all personal candidate money.

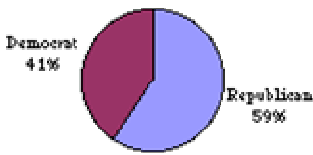
### Lawyers and Lobbyists: 4.3%

### Lawyers & Lobbyists



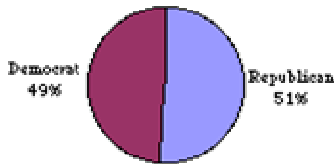
1998. The top two Justice Trial Lawyers contributions, and Legislative Strategies

### Small Contributions



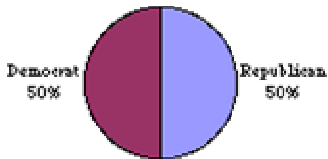
Lawyers and lobbyists contributed \$298,972 million in

### Transportation



contributors were Citizens for PAC, with \$92,750 in Harvey Whittemores PAC, which gave \$46,425

### Communications & Electronics



### Small Contributions: 3.8%

Small, non-itemized contributions in Nevada are contributions of less than \$100. Candidates are not required by law to identify the individuals who make small contributions so these contributions are reported as lump sums. In 1998, small contributions totaled \$263,858. Republicans received \$152,438, while Democrats received \$104,655. Third-party candidates received \$6,765 in small contributions.

### Transportation: 3.4%

The transportation industry includes trucks, automobiles, airlines, boats, and tourism services. In 1998, these industry contributions came to \$236,717.

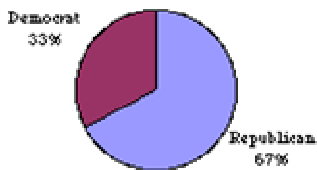
The Nevada Auto Dealers PAC, with \$66,150 in total contributions, was the largest contributor within this sector. Only \$100 behind the Auto PAC was the Cargo Corporation, a trucking firm.

### Communications & Electronics: 2.7%

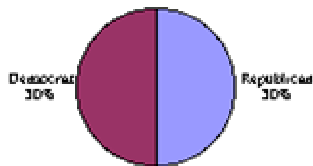
The communications and electronics sector consists of printing and publishing, TV and movie production and distribution, telephone services, and electronics. In 1998, these entities gave a total of \$185,006.

The largest contributor within this industry was Sprint, with contributions of \$95,900 total. Second was Nevada Bell with a total of \$25,800.

### Ideology



### Agriculture



### Ideology: 1.4%

Ideological interests, which include organizations that work on public-policy issues such as human rights, gun control, fiscal and tax policies, abortion, and environmental concerns, contributed a total of \$95,790. The largest contributor was the Keystone Corporation, a conservative policy organization (not a corporation), with donations of \$45,095. Far behind was the National Rifle Association Victory Fund, which contributed a total of \$9,000.

### Agriculture: 0.3%

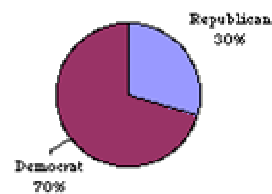
The agricultural industry gave a total of \$20,550 in contributions in 1998. The Model Dairy Company was the largest contributor with \$7,000, and the Peri & Sons Farms Inc was the second largest with total contributions of \$2,500.

### Other (Non-Business Interests): 0.1%

This category includes non-business interests such as clergy, military, government employees, tribal governments, non-profit institutions, artists and retirees. Contributions from these entities totaled \$9,900.

The Apollo Group, an adult education school, was the largest contributor within this category, giving \$3,500 to candidates. Second was the Nevada Faculty Alliance, a University Teachers Union, which gave \$2,400.

### Non-Business



### Top Contributors

The table below lists the top 10 contributors to the Nevada 1998 legislative races (excluding political party contributions).



TOP 10 CONTRIBUTORS	INDUSTRY	TOTAL \$
Nevada State Education Assoc/TIP	Public Sector Unions	\$240,036
Clark Co Classroom Teachers Assoc/CCCTA	Public Sector Unions	\$126,000
HI-PAC of Southern Nevada	General Contractors	\$101,250
Republic Silver State Disposal Inc	Waste Management	\$100,000
Sprint	Telephone Utilities	\$93,900
Citizens for Justice	Lawyers & Lobbyists	\$92,750
Hilton Corp	Gambling/Casinos	\$83,500
Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce/Biz PAC	Business Associations	\$76,960
Bellagio/Mirage Inc	Gambling/Casinos	\$75,595
State of Nevada Employees Association/AFSCME	Public Sector Unions	\$70,750
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$1,062,741</b>

Excluding contributions from political parties and candidates, 2,356 contributors gave a combined total of \$5.5 million. These contributors represent a fraction of one percent of the voting age population.

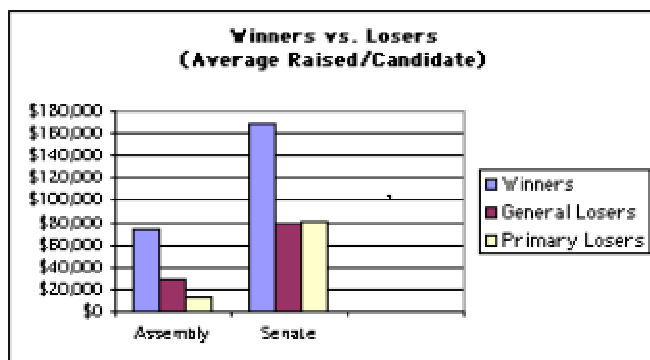
## WHO GETS

### Most expensive races

The open seat for Senate District 7 attracted the most money of the 53 legislative races. Republican Jack Close raised \$264,017, more than half the total raised by all candidates in the race. Despite the funding advantage, Close was defeated by Democrat Terry Care, who raised \$215,269. Russell Davis, a Democrat who lost in the primary, raised just more than \$20,000.

The three-way race for Assembly District 2 was the most expensive Assembly race with a total of \$235,135. Winning incumbent Republican, Merle Berman raised \$108,000 or 46% of the total, while the two challengers combined raised the remaining 52%.

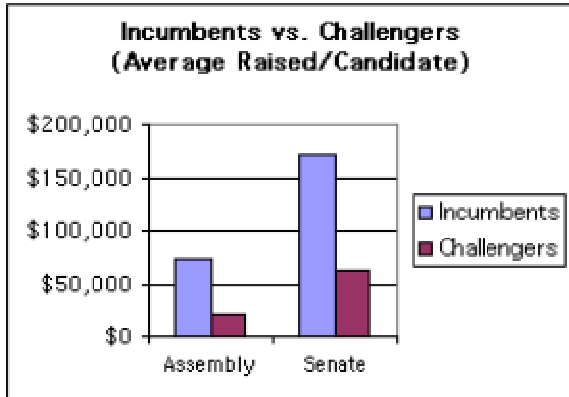
### Democrat vs. Republican Candidates



The 62 Republican candidates raised \$3.64 million total, slightly less than the 56 Democrats total of \$3.66 million. On average, Republican candidates raised \$58,774 per candidate, less than the Democrats average of \$65,337.

Winners vs. Losers

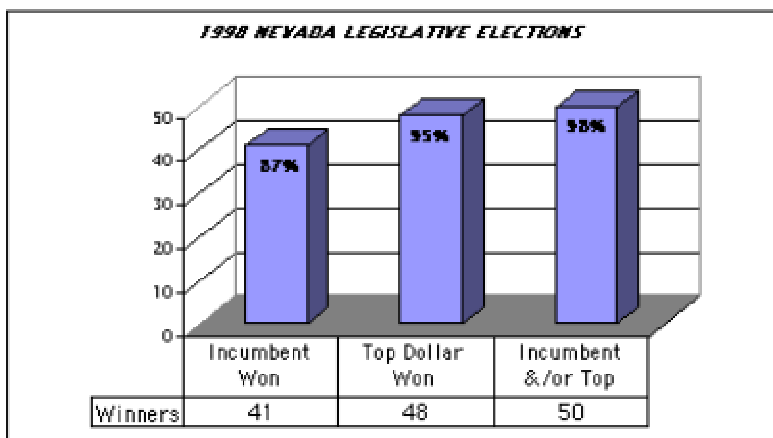
Overall, winners raised just under \$5 million total, with an average of \$94,000 per winner, three times higher than the general and primary losers average of \$32,000.



Incumbents vs. Challengers

Incumbents raised three times more than their challengers. The average incumbent raised \$96,550, compared to the challengers average of \$28,259.

WHY WINNERS WIN



Of the 53 legislative races, incumbents won in 41, or 77%, of those.

Candidates who raised the most money won 48, or 91% of the races.

Candidates who had either or both advantages won 94% of the time, while only 3 (6%) of the races were won by candidates who had neither advantage.

## **ABOUT OUR INFORMATION**

Data used for this study were collected from candidates by the Nevada Secretary of State's Office. The official state reports were compiled and input from hard copy by the Institute with the assistance of the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada or PLAN. PLAN staff conducted candidate and total audits on the database, researched the occupation or employers of the contributors, produced their own reports, and provided the Institute with a copy of the completed database.