



Government Relations Report to the 2022 Delegate Assembly

2021 GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

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2020 ELECTION

The 2020 General Election in Nevada was successful for NSEA. We worked closely with the NEA to elect Joe Biden and other endorsed candidates. NSEA facilitated NEA support for statewide door-knocking operations in Clark and Washoe run by the Culinary Union. In addition to the Biden/Harris win, our 3 endorsed incumbent members of Congress won reelection. NSEA endorsed candidates won 4 of 7 State Senate races, and 26 of 30 Assembly races, maintaining strong majorities in the legislature.

We also were successful in advancing our internal NSEA candidate strategy, See Educators Run, with the significant wins of Natha Anderson for Assembly and Lisa Guzman for CCSD Trustee. NSEA's independent expenditure committee Strong Public Schools Nevada, together with ESEA's IE Education Matters, focused on the election of Lisa Guzman, while Strong Public Schools Nevada ran a campaign for Natha Anderson in the primary. Our communications included :30 video spots, aggressive internet advertising and direct mail. We also coordinated independent expenditure operations with the Culinary Union, For Our Future, and America Votes.

- Biden defeats Trump, 703,486 (50.1%) to 669,890 (47.7%)
- Anderson defeats Hoff, 15,459 (54.1%) to 11,693 (40.9%)
- Guzman defeats Leavitt 70,873 (53.3%) to 62,148 (46.7%)

2020 SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS

In response to the COVID pandemic and impacts on the state budget, Nevada had 2 Special Sessions in the summer of 2020. On the first day of the [31st Special Session](#), hundreds of educators in red face coverings lined the street from the legislature to the Capitol with a clear call to fund healthy schools. Educators chanted "Be Brave. Be Bold. New Revenue's the Way to Go!" We called for at least a dollar of new revenue for any dollar cut from education funding. This set the stage for the introduction of significant new mining tax revenue during the [32nd Special Session](#) later that summer. While hundreds of millions of dollars were cut from education budgets, we were able to preserve base education funding and set the stage for new revenue in the next legislative session. We also blocked an effort to limit education employer liability.

2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

In a [Legislative Session](#) heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, NSEA amplified our call for decision makers to listen to educators. The NSEA Lobby Team maintained a strong and consistent presence from before the legislative building was open to the public all the way through the last day of the session.

Members of NSEA's ground team tracked 145 bills, with 37 of 57 bills we supported passing out of the legislature and 20 of the 22 bills we opposed failing. NSEA ground team and member leaders were a regular presence during the session testifying in committee meetings over the phone and then in person. We also submitted exhibits on over 50 unique bills. Check [here](#) for NSEA's bills tracker with links. Click [here](#) for video testimony.

NSEA scored several important victories for educators and students during the session. Highlights include:

- Unemployment eligibility for education support professionals for the summer of 2021.
- A review of student assessments and new regulations to limit their time and number.
- A one year pause on the use of student data in teacher evaluations (SLGs/SLOs).
- New district reporting requirements related to class size and accommodations for evaluation of teachers with large class sizes.
- Important legislative wins for social and racial equity in education.
- Budget wins with new revenue dedicated to K-12 public education.
- Changes in the new funding plan to account for enrollment growth in hold harmless provisions and the ability to use some district ending fund balance in the collective bargaining process.
- Passage of a new public healthcare option that will provide greater health access for retired members.
- Protection of paraprofessionals from new licensing requirements.
- Preservation of important education committees like the Regional Professional Development Programs and Academic Standards Council.
- Expansion of voting rights including universal vote by mail for all Nevadans.
- Defense of democratically electing school boards.

2022 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

An important component of developing NSEA's biennial legislative priorities is our survey of membership. Over the last several weeks, nearly 800 NSEA members have completed the survey on the topics of revenue, COVID funding, the school funding formula, charter schools, quality teaching and education, standards and accountability, social and racial equity, and worker rights and protection. Results of the survey will be presented to the Delegate Assembly.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Since her appointment, NSEA has met monthly with State Superintendent Jhone Ebert. We have been able to discuss legislative priorities, COVID response in schools, educator supports during distance education and hybrid learning, issues with the Nevada Educator Performance Framework, needs related to social and emotional learning, and K12 funding issues. NSEA also monitors and engages the Nevada State Board of Education, the Commission on School Funding, and interim legislative committees. See NSEA's [website](#) for a record of our public comment.

REVENUE EFFORTS/GRASSROOTS TASK FORCE

NSEA has continued our efforts to build support for new revenue for K-12 public education. We helped start the Progressive Revenue Coalition, which includes over 60 groups. Along with key allies, we laid the groundwork for the passage of a new mining tax, scheduled to be dedicated to education starting on July 1, 2022. NSEA is a regular fixture at the Commission on School Funding. There are two revenue measures which may appear on the ballot, one to raise the Local Schools Support Tax and another to increase the gaming tax.

From the momentum generated during the special sessions, NSEA launched a new Grassroots Task Force of members active in advocating for better education funding. The Grassroots Task Force organized NSEA's Red for Revenue rally and lobby day during the last legislative session.

TIME FOR 20

Time for 20 is a [new campaign](#) launched out of NSEA's Grassroots Task Force to address the crisis in Nevada public schools. With an unprecedented shortage of educators to teach our kids and make our schools run, Time 20 means a 20% increase in educator pay and at least \$20/hour for the workers who make our schools run. With some of the largest class sizes in the country, Time for 20 means reaching an average class size of 20 students in core academic subjects.

2022 ELECTION

NSEA has already begun to engage the 2022 election campaign with a number of [early endorsements](#), including NSEA members [Natha Anderson](#), [Brittney Miller](#), and [Selena Torres](#). We plan to continue our effort to elect internal NSEA candidates with an emphasis on adding [Selena La Rue Hatch](#) and [Brian Lee](#) to this list. Selena is the co-chair of NSEA's Grassroots Task Force and a WEA Board Member. Brian Lee is NSEA's Executive Director. Meanwhile NSEA's Strong Public Schools Nevada was [successful in recruiting](#) NSEA's Assistant Executive Director and CCSD Trustee Lisa Guzman to run for State Senate.

NSEA Together in Politics (TIP) makes endorsements and provides support for candidates as a part of NSEA's overall political program. In addition to campaign contributions, this may include membership communications and engagement, campaign trainings, polling and research, candidate identification, precinct activities, and coalition-building. NSEA is now [soliciting contributions to our TIP committee](#) online. We are asking NSEA members to consider [donating to TIP](#) at the Loretta Harper level, \$25/month. Loretta was a member leader who was a fierce advocate for our schools and students, who led NSEA's engagement in countless political campaigns.