

2026 GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

ESEA	Misty Olmos
NEASN	Jeremy Heckler
NSEA-R	Phil Kaiser
AE	Miles Shanor
NRE	Katie Vezina
WEA	Robert Munson (Chair)
WESP	vacant

2024 NEVADA GENERAL ELECTION

NSEA had 5 top priorities for the November Election.

1. Win key state legislative contests.
2. Win Presidential, US Senate, and 3 House contests.
3. Push pro-public education/progressive political platform with community partners and Schools Over Stadiums.
4. Active engagement with locals in key school board races.
5. Yes on Question 6 for reproductive freedom.



Through a coordinated effort and an independent effort from Strong Public Schools Nevada, we were able to help Selena La Rue Hatch to a 5-point win in a heavily contested election. While the NEA-endorsed candidate for President was bested by 3 points, NSEA helped Jacky Rosen, Dina Titus, Steven Horsford, and Susie Lee win reelection. In addition, 3 of 4 endorsed State Senate candidates, 21 of 24 Assembly candidates, and all 3 endorsed Regent candidates were victorious. Meanwhile, we had success with locals at the school board level and assisted with the passage of Question 6.

SCHOOLS OVER STADIUMS -> SCHOOLS OVER STUDIOS

While Schools Over Stadiums was unsuccessful in our electoral and legal efforts to block the use of public funds for the A's ballpark, we had significant success in reframing the discussion around the use of tax giveaways for large development projects. A [2024 poll](#) conducted by Emerson College found a majority of Las Vegas voters opposed the use of public money to construct a ballpark. NSEA's multi-year effort with Schools Over Stadiums generated earned media and helped build momentum against the use of tax credits entering the 2025 legislative session.

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION – PASS THE PLAN

With strong member advocacy across 120 days, NSEA's **presence at the Legislature was impossible to ignore.** NSEA member leaders headed our lobbying effort. Meanwhile, NSEA partnered with the National Education Association to further amplify our members' voices through our Local Advocacy Days,



NSEA Ambassadors, and Republican Educators. Local Advocacy Days was a new effort to give every NSEA local the opportunity to lobby in person at the Legislature. This allowed dozens of NSEA members to provide compelling testimony, publish impactful op-eds, and consistently engage the media.

NSEA scored our biggest win before the end of the session with the passage of our PERS equity bill ([Support AB232](#)). NSEA had been engaged in the fight for fairness in PERS accrual for education support professionals for many years. AB232 was our latest effort to correct an inequity that exists for our education support professionals, allowing ESPs to receive a full year of PERS service credit for working at least 900 hours of the school year.

NSEA also ended the session on a high note, defeating the largest-ever proposed corporate handout ([Oppose AB238](#)) in the Senate. For 120 days, educators and advocates stood united with one resounding message for Nevada lawmakers: ***Schools Over Studios***.

NSEA had mixed success engaging late education bills from the Governor and legislative leaders. The Speaker's bill ([Amend AB398](#)) passed out of the legislature without including education support professionals in pay enhancements for hard-to-fill positions. However, the bill did make an additional \$90M available for teacher bargaining units during negotiations.

The Governor's faulty Education Accountability Act ([Oppose AB584 - Blame Without a Budget](#)) was killed and with it went some of its worst components. This includes a proposal to extend private school vouchers to students in public schools with poor test scores as well as a proposal to convert neighborhood public schools into charters. However, several of its provisions were rolled into the Senate Majority Leader's omnibus education bill ([Oppose SB460](#)). The final product was a mix of good and bad.

Finally, despite our loud and persistent calls for real investments in public education, both the Legislature and the Governor failed to ***Pass the Plan***. Instead, their decision to allocate just \$2 in new base funding per student, while not advancing any new revenue measures, was not just disappointing, it was damaging. However, we did win a continuation of the one-time SB231 monies passed in 2023, meaning educator pay wasn't reduced. NSEA has been in the fight for adequate education funding for decades, and we look forward to meaningful conversations about revenue in the future.

You can read the full report from the 2025 Legislative Session [here](#).

2025 SPECIAL SESSION

In November, Governor Lombardo issued a proclamation calling a special session of the Nevada Legislature for the following morning. Several bills were introduced, including [AB5](#), a rehash of AB238 from the regular session authorizing \$1.6 billion in transferable tax credits to build movie studios in Summerlin. The bill was nearly killed upon introduction with a challenge led by NSEA

member and Assemblymember Selena La Rue Hatch. The bill barely survived with a 21-21 vote. After a contentious hearing, an aggressive lobbying effort from supporters, and [controversial voting rules](#), the bill passed out of the Assembly on a 22-20 vote. See [coverage](#) in the NV Indy. NSEA played a large role in the opposition to the bill at the Senate with NSEA member Maggie Babb [presenting an educator perspective](#) on the bill during a formal opposition presentation and members calling in for public comment. While the bill was voted out of committee, it failed to pass the Senate by a single vote.

2026-27 NSEA LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

NSEA TIP Policies outline the process for development of our legislative program. “The Government Relations Committee, in concert with the President and the Executive Director, shall develop the NSEA Legislative Program for each legislative session by assessing the membership, evaluating external legislative proposals, and reviewing the current political climate. The NSEA Delegate Assembly may propose legislative items for consideration. The NSEA-TIP Board of Directors shall make final approval of the NSEA Legislative Program.” This winter, we assessed the membership. The NSEA TIP Board of Directors has previewed the results, which will be shared at Delegate Assembly. The GR Committee will be submitting a draft document of NSEA’s Legislative Program after DA for the TIP Board’s consideration.

2026 ELECTION

NSEA has already endorsed Aaron Ford for Governor, Zach Conine for Attorney General, and in certain state legislative contests. The NEA has also endorsed three congressional candidates recommended by NSEA. We will be considering additional endorsements during our Board meeting immediately before Delegate Assembly. You can find an up-to-date list of NSEA endorsements [here](#).

REPUBLICAN EDUCATORS

Republican Educators is a committee representing more than 3000 Republican educators across Nevada who are also members of NSEA. Republican Educators is led by longtime members of the Republican Party who advocated for a distinct voice for Republican members within our union. Currently, Republican Educators is considering endorsements in several legislative districts with strong Republican registration advantages.

STATE ADVOCACY

NSEA continues our regular presence at state meetings like the Board of Education, the Commission on School Funding, and interim legislative committees. See NSEA’s [resource library](#) to view written public comments. Meanwhile, NSEA has started to work on developing bill draft request recommendations for interim committees and certain legislators.

COMMUNITY COALITIONS

NSEA continues our participation in community coalitions, including the [Battleborn Progress](#) communications hub, [America Votes](#) Nevada table, [PLAN](#) member group, and Progressive Revenue Coalition.

FEDERAL ADVOCACY AND FOOD SECURITY

NSEA supported efforts led by the National Education Association, including defending the Department of Education and engagement around the [federal government shutdown](#). During the interruption in federal food assistance programs, NSEA stepped up to survey our membership on the impacts. One in 4 respondents reported that their families were impacted by the government shutdown with about 8% affected by the interruption in SNAP benefits. In response, NSEA partnered with the Food Bank of Northern Nevada, Three Square Food Bank (Southern Nevada), and ULAN to ensure support was available for our members and communities impacted.