

Balanced Plan for Growth: A Budget for the New Nevada

A working group of Nevada Republicans led by Assembly Majority Whip Jim Wheeler is pleased to announce the ***Balanced Plan for Growth: A Budget for the New Nevada***.

This comprehensive budget proposal supports the Governor's recommended 2016-2017 budget by funding, to the extent possible, the spending increases proposed by the Governor through a balanced approach using both revenue enhancement and spending restraint to arrive at a reasonable total spending figure of \$6.92 billion.

The ***Balanced Plan for Growth*** achieves this goal by prioritizing program needs and increasing local control over spending. It secures the key values of the Governor's proposed budget while avoiding divisive and destructive tax increases:

- The plan rejects new or increased taxes on businesses and individuals to ensure that Nevada continues to offer an inviting climate that will attract the most talented and ambitious individuals to Nevada to pursue their dreams – the same climate that has attracted world class companies like Tesla to our state.
- Allows the so-called “sunset” taxes to actually sunset in order to restore stability and predictability to Nevada's economic climate.
- Recommends funding over 98% of the \$2.88 billion in General Fund appropriations to support K-12 education requested in the Executive Budget, including \$389.2 million in appropriations intended to offset the loss of revenues from an expiring temporary increase in the Local School Support Tax.
- Moves K-12 spending for specific education programs into a Block Grant, giving local schools increased control over how they allocate both the resources they currently have to improve education as well as the increased education spending proposed by Governor Sandoval on new initiatives to improve our schools.
- Preserves the Governor's proposed technology enhancements and facilities maintenance, much of which has been deferred over the past six years.
- Maintains the Governor's recommendation to eliminate furloughs for state workers going forward.

In his January 2015 State of the State address, Gov. Brian Sandoval outlined a bold vision for a “new Nevada.” – A new Nevada that would become a leader in academic achievement in its schools and prepare future generations to succeed and thrive in an increasingly competitive and dynamic global economy.

The Governor's enthusiasm for this vision was contagious, and his enthusiasm is shared by every Republican in Nevada. After much thought, discussion and careful deliberation, we believe that we have developed a proposal to allow us to achieve the vision of the new Nevada by creating a pathway to achieve Governor Sandoval's vision through a broad consensus of all Nevadans.

At the center of this comprehensive budget proposal lies the key issue that Gov. Sandoval identified as being critical to the success of the new Nevada: the academic achievement of our children. The Balanced Plan for Growth empowers our local schools to decide the best and most effective way to use their resources to cater to the unique needs of every

classroom. This lets existing dollars to be spent more effectively, so that the \$50 million in *new* money flowing into our classrooms will give the biggest boost possible to our schools.

The goal is to position the next generation of Nevadans to not only staff the firms launched by others, but to develop an entire spectrum of new and innovative companies right here in Nevada. Armed with the talent, skills, and foresight to become successful entrepreneurs in their own right, we share Governor Sandoval's vision that Nevadans will lead the world into a new era of global prosperity. Thirty years from now, we look forward to having the most innovative and sought-after brands in the world make their home in Nevada, and to see today's Nevada students leading the way.

But it is not enough to ensure that Nevada's students graduate with the skills and abilities to lead the new Nevada. If we succeed in education, but fail to make Nevada the most attractive business climate in the world, our children will take their talents to places where they are better able to succeed. We must not penalize success; we must instead teach our children that we value their success. It is essential that we offer an inviting climate that will induce the most talented and ambitious individuals, both from here in Nevada and elsewhere, to choose Nevada as the best place to pursue their dreams.

For these reasons, we must limit the burdens we place on success and allow high-achieving individuals to keep the reward of their own labors. It is for this reason that the ***Balanced Plan for Growth*** rejects all new forms of taxation on businesses or individuals.

We believe it is not only possible to accomplish our goals using Nevada's existing revenue base, but we feel strongly that it is our responsibility to do so.

Nevada voters spoke loud and clear in the November election. They rejected the status quo, and made it clear that they wanted their representatives to govern and improve the quality of our schools without raising taxes. In 2014, the most popular choice on the ballot was opposition to a new business tax based on gross receipts to increase education spending. Opposition to the measure received broad, bipartisan support, and led to the defeat of the tax proposal by a margin of nearly four-to-one.

The Balanced Plan for Growth honors the voice of Nevada voters while supporting Governor Sandoval's vision for the new Nevada. We look forward to starting on the road to achieving our shared goals, and we believe this plan gives us the best opportunity to turn our shared vision into reality.