



# Legislative Update

## Assemblywoman Marilyn Kirkpatrick

MARCH 2011

Assembly District 1

Marilyn Kirkpatrick

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I'm on the Web!

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Dear Neighbor,

As we close out the 7<sup>th</sup> week of the Legislative Session, we are continuing to work diligently on our top priorities of jobs, education, and transparency in government. There is a lot happening here in Carson City, and I want to make sure you are aware of the public hearings in your area, our proposed reforms to education, additional information about the Governor's K-12 budget, and details about how you can give feedback about the redistricting process. Please let me know if there are any other topics that you would like to know more about.

### Public Hearings

Saturday, April 2, 2011

Grant Sawyer State Office Building, Room 4401  
(555 E. Washington Ave., Las Vegas, NV)

Joint Committee on Legislative Operation & Elections  
Public Hearing on Redistricting  
10 AM - 2 PM

### Education Reform

Nothing is more important to a student's prospects for success than a highly effective teacher and parental involvement and family engagement. We are working to make significant reforms to how we evaluate educators—teachers AND administrators. I've signed onto and am sponsoring a number of bills to reward good teachers and principals, help them improve, and remove those who don't belong in the education profession.

- **A.B. 222** improves the evaluation process of educators by creating the Teachers and Leaders Council. This council will develop a more comprehensive and effective evaluation system for teachers and will include administrators in the process for the first time.
- **A.B. 225** provides a way to make sure veteran teachers and principals are performing. Under this legislation, educators receiving negative evaluations two years in a row will be placed back on probationary status.
- **A.B. 229** rewards good teachers and principals by establishing a pay for performance system and makes it easier to terminate teachers and principals quickly for egregious misconduct.

### Education Budget

Over the past few weeks we have received more details about the extent of cuts proposed in Governor Sandoval's K-12 budget. As has been reported in the media, the cuts are devastating. Listed below is a summary of those cuts:

- \$238.2 million reduction in basic support to schools (\$238.2 million)
- **AND** 5% pay cut to education staff – teachers, principals, counselors, secretaries, bus drivers, etc. (\$256.6 million)
- **AND** 5.3% pay cut to education staff for portion of retirement (\$200.9 million)
- **AND** \$141 million in cuts to teacher pay for years of service and levels of education (\$20 million added back for pay for performance program)
- **AND** Elimination of requirements for class size reduction
- **AND** Elimination of requirement for full-day kindergarten (these funds are then put in one "pot," cut by 5.4% and distributed to the districts to use at their discretion)

- **AND** \$8 million reduction for incentives for licensed education personnel who receive national certification
- **AND** \$2.1 million reduction to funding for categorical programs such as Career & Technical Education

### **Redistricting**

The Nevada State Constitution makes decennial redistricting a mandatory duty for our State Legislature and it is one that we take very seriously. Our redistricting efforts will focus on creating districts of equal population that fairly represents the diversity of Nevada's population. We will be working to create a plan that makes geographic sense, and gives communities across our state an opportunity to have their voices heard. We want to know what you think about the redistricting process and will be having public hearings on this topic in the coming weeks. I began this email with details of the public hearing on redistricting in our area, and more information on the redistricting process can be found on the Legislature's website [www.leg.state.nv.us](http://www.leg.state.nv.us).

### **Contact**

Do you have questions or concerns about any of the legislation being heard in Carson City? Please feel free to contact me in my office 702-486-2626 (toll free) or via email [mkirkpatrick@asm.state.nv.us](mailto:mkirkpatrick@asm.state.nv.us). You can also share your opinions on the Legislature's website [www.leg.state.nv.us](http://www.leg.state.nv.us). I look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks again!