



# Legislative Update

## Assemblywoman Marilyn Kirkpatrick

July 2008

Assembly District 1

### Marilyn Kirkpatrick

4747 Showdown Drive

North Las Vegas, NV 89031

702-655-0332 (Home)

702-767-1315 (Cell)

[marilyn@marilynkirkpatrick.com](mailto:marilyn@marilynkirkpatrick.com)

### I'm on the Web!

[www.marilynkirkpatrick.com](http://www.marilynkirkpatrick.com)

Dear Neighbor,

I want to take this opportunity to update you about the special session and the results of the survey that I mailed out in the spring.

I want to thank everyone who returned a survey.

I would also like to thank the state employees who were instrumental in helping the Legislature find \$55 million in savings in state departments and uncollected taxes.

Please continue to stay in touch and keep sending your ideas on how we can best cope with our shortfall in state revenues and its impact on state services.

Thank you,

Marilyn Kirkpatrick



### Update about the 24<sup>th</sup> Special Session

As most of you know, the Legislature met in special session on June 27 to address the continuing shortfalls in our state revenue.

Because of strong bipartisan cooperation among legislators, we were able to complete our work in only one day. We agreed that we would NOT take back the cost of living adjustments for teachers and state employees; taking back the COLA's would have likely resulted in lawsuits against our school districts and would have seriously hurt our efforts to recruit and keep teachers.

We had the task of finding \$275 million in reductions; more than \$900 million has already been cut from our state budget. Working in a bipartisan manner, we were able to identify about \$169 million in one-time reductions, leaving agencies, the university system and school districts having to find another \$106 million in cuts (about 3%). While none of these cuts will be easy, the agencies, university system and school districts will work over the next month or two to find programs that can be reduced with the least impact on Nevadans and the future of the state. These cuts will not be across-the-board but will allow prioritization and will be taken to the Interim Finance Committee for approval.

Here are a few highlights of the one-time reductions:

Transfer \$4,000,000 to the State General Fund from the Disaster Relief Account created pursuant to NRS 353.2735.

Transfer \$3,500,000 to the State General Fund from the Fund for Mortgage Lending created pursuant to NRS 645F.270.

Transfer \$800,000 to the State General Fund from the amount held in reserve for the program to issue revenue bonds for industrial development described in NRS 349.400 to 349.670, inclusive.

Transfer \$4,000,000 to the State General Fund from the amount held in reserve for the Central Repository for Nevada Records of Criminal History created pursuant to NRS 179A.075.

Transfer \$4,000,000 to the State General Fund from the Fund for Care of Sites for Disposal of Radioactive Waste created by NRS 459.231.

Transfer to the State General Fund \$3,500,000 from the revolving account within the State General Fund established pursuant to section 5 of chapter 432, Statutes of Nevada 2005, at page 1933, by the Division of Emergency Management of the Department of Public Safety.

#### **Textbook Funds**

While all of these cuts were very difficult, they were made after talking with those who would be most affected to determine if the one-time reductions would be less painful than cuts to ongoing programs. In particular, representatives of the school districts supported a one-time reduction to their textbook allocation, with a trigger to restore the funding if revenues improve as an alternative to deeper cuts in their ongoing operating budgets. **The important piece to this is that there is a trigger and if the revenues come back, the money will be replaced. This is a one-time event. The fund stays in place and will collect future money.**

#### **Tax Credit on Comps and Employee Meals**

The Assembly attempted to pass a bill to clarify that casinos should not get a tax break for comped employee meals, but the bill died in the Senate.



#### **Survey Results**

I want to tell you the results of the survey I sent this spring to Assembly District 1.

If you would still like to respond to the survey or if you have changed your opinion on an issue, you can do so on my website: [www.marilynkirkpatrick.com](http://www.marilynkirkpatrick.com).

Thank you to everyone who responded. If you supplied me with your name and address, you should have received a response from me.

***Here are the results so far, with Number One being the issue that was mentioned most frequently as the most critical issue facing our state and Number 7 being the one getting the fewest responses.***

1. Economy
2. Education
3. Preparing students
4. Teacher salaries
5. Affordable Health care
6. Public Safety
7. Housing prices