Action.
Accomplishment.
Accountability.
As Chairman of the Board of Trustees and a longtime Nevadan, I am proud of the work the Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce has done and the strong leadership it has demonstrated during the legislative session. Together with legislators, other organizations, and key stakeholders, we have helped shape the dialogue to improve the economic environment of our state.

At the beginning of the legislative session, the Metro Chamber shared with you, our members, that Nevada was at a major crossroads and that the business community had the choice to be a part of the solution to address the inadequacies that we face as a state or that we could continue on the same path of falling behind. The Metro Chamber made the commitment to make Nevada the best state in the nation to do business. What that means, however, is that significant change and investment in key areas would need to occur.

Prior to the start of the legislative session, the Metro Chamber recognized the importance to begin acknowledging these issues, beginning with an in-depth overview of our state’s tax system. Knowing that there was a need for additional revenue to address K-12 education, higher education and workforce development needs, the Metro Chamber worked with partners regarding the shortcomings of our public education system, including pinpointing areas of improvement and identifying a revenue source that would fund education reform initiatives.

We knew that action had to be taken this legislative session or opportunities to change the path of Nevada’s future would be lost. The Metro Chamber played a vital role as a convener and consensus builder with partners to engage in thoughtful policy discussions on how to fix these problems.

The Metro Chamber also recognized that our region is challenged because of the less than ideal capacity in industry sectors such as healthcare, manufacturing, and information technology. Our roads and infrastructure are also underdeveloped, making it harder to connect businesses with customers, transport goods and services, and take full advantage of economic synergies. While progress had been made in past legislative sessions in some key areas, we knew now was the time to make significant changes with the long-term in mind.

As chairman of the largest business association in Nevada, I am pleased to share with you that significant progress was made in the areas of K-12 education funding and reform, transforming higher education, investing in transportation infrastructure, and moving economic development efforts forward for the benefit of all Nevadans.

This legislative session demonstrated the importance that consensus building, pragmatic discussion and leadership has in identifying and fixing Nevada’s problems. Fixing those problems now, reforming education now and implementing those policies now will lead to the growth of good jobs. These things matter and I believe we have selected the right path to a bright future for Nevada.

Sincerely,

Bob Brown
Chairman, Board of Trustees
Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce
I don’t have to tell you that this was a tough session. The Metro Chamber took very seriously the matter of how to balance and protect the interests of a diverse group of businesses and industries that operate in our state, taking into consideration that we represent thousands of employers of many different sizes and types and hundreds of thousands of employees. No other organization in the state has that privilege and the awesome responsibility that goes with it. In difficult times, I do try to listen to my inner Lou Holtz: “Follow three rules: Do the right thing, do the best you can and always show people you care.”

What is the right thing? It is the Chamber’s job to cultivate and promote an environment that helps businesses succeed, creates jobs and realizes economic opportunities. The Chamber relentlessly focuses on these goals. Through continuing efforts year-after-year, businesses will individually benefit; collectively, the economy will grow.

Our Government Affairs team, guided by the government affairs policy setting committee of the Chamber, started out with a set of priorities to shape the Chamber’s legislative strategy for the 2015 session. Many of these have been areas of long-standing effort and I am happy to provide the attached report on the incremental gains that were realized, results of years of work and focus by the Chamber in concert with others:

- K-12 education reform and funding
- Funding the UNLV School of Medicine and Graduate Medical Education (GME)
- Tax reform
- Government accountability and transparency
- Economic development
- Tort reform

How did we do the best we could? We never gave up and tried not to be distracted by those who wanted to detract from our efforts on your behalf. The Metro Chamber tracked 352 bills, engaged in 131 and testified on 109 throughout the session. Our team was in Carson City each and every day, continuously and persistently working with legislators, community leaders, other business organizations and key individuals on matters that will strengthen our long-term economic health and advance opportunities for Nevada and its citizens. And, you, our members, were instrumental in the remarkable progress that was made. You answered the Metro Chamber’s calls to action, contacted your legislators, stayed up-to-date on the issues and provided us with useful feedback and information along the way.

We are providing this legislative summary to show you the efforts that were made and the meaningful outcomes that were achieved to strengthen our economy and provide opportunities for the future of Nevada. When the legislature adjourned on June 1, Nevada had made some historic strides in improving the quality of life for all Nevadans – both now and in future generations. While there were significant achievements, the work does not stop now. In the interim between sessions, the Metro Chamber will continue its work every day. Our Government Affairs team and the leadership of the Metro Chamber are engaged at every level of government and will continue to champion policies that will better Nevada and ensure that we have a firm place in a growing and dynamic global economy.

It is my pledge to you that the Metro Chamber will continue to do the right thing, do the best we can on your behalf and always show that we care. Thank you for your critical support and partnership during this legislative session and into the future.

Sincerely,

Kristin McMillan
President & CEO
Each legislative session, certain issues arise that are of interest to the general business community of Nevada, such as tax reform, education initiatives and economic development. The Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee, representing industries throughout Nevada, approached each of these issues weighing how the business community would be impacted, including how it will affect the quality of life of all Nevadans. The long-term impact of legislative issues on the viability of our business enterprises is important because it is employers whose investments provide needed products and services and the jobs upon which our citizens rely for financial security.

I want to thank our Government Affairs Committee for their dynamic leadership during the 2015 legislative session. As representatives of our broad-based and diverse membership, their insight and engagement has been invaluable to developing and promoting the Metro Chamber’s policy positions.

We also appreciate you, our members, for participating and lending your voice when asked to support the Metro Chamber’s advocacy efforts on important matters such as education funding and investing in transportation infrastructure in Southern Nevada.

I am pleased to report that the Metro Chamber’s involvement had a direct and significant impact on several important policy priorities that will transform the state, strengthen the economy and spur economic development efforts.

BizPAC funding was an important part of sustaining the Metro Chamber’s successful legislative efforts this session. Please continue to support the Metro Chamber’s efforts to keep the business community’s priorities front and center by contributing to BizPAC. Your financial support today will send a strong message and help ensure the continuity of our efforts, especially as vital priorities are determined and recommendations are made in the interim period before the next legislative session. You can make your contribution today by going to LVChamber.com.

This legislative report is intended to serve as a reference about the positions taken by the Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce on these perennial issues during the 2015 legislative session and their impact on the business community.

We hope employers, employees, lawmakers and all interested parties find this legislative report useful as a summary of the state policy priorities and positions of the business community — a community committed to working in consensus and in partnership to achieve a higher quality of life for all Nevadans.

Sincerely,

Hugh Anderson
Chairman, Government Affairs Committee
Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce
The Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce is Nevada's largest and most broad-based business association, with more than 4,000 members that employ approximately 230,000 Nevadans. It has a long and robust tradition, based on sound public policy, data and objective analysis, as a firm advocate on behalf of Nevada’s employers in the state capital. Prior to the start of the 2015 legislative session, the Metro Chamber renewed its commitment to press for laws and policies that support business and job growth and improve our overall economic climate. The Metro Chamber played an important role on behalf of its members as the leading business association in Nevada.

The following summary is a synopsis of key reform legislation and other business-related laws in which the Metro Chamber was actively involved in Carson City, and identifies their associated impact on the business community. These legislative priorities were based on the principles of increasing Nevada’s economic competitiveness, creating and sustaining job growth, and improving the quality of education and workforce.

By the Numbers:

- 1,294 Bill Draft Requests
- 1,103 total legislative bills
- 549 bills signed into law by Governor
- 7 bills vetoed by Governor
- 352 bills tracked by the Metro Chamber
- 131 bills considered to be high priority by the Metro Chamber
- 109 bills on which the Metro Chamber testified
- 157 number of bills tracked that ‘became law’

Taxes - Pg 6
K-12 Education Reform & Funding - Pg 12
Higher Education Funding - Pg 26
Improving & Protecting the Business Climate - Pg 30
Economic Development - Pg 38
Governance Reform & Transparency - Pg 44
Local Government Reform - Pg 56
Infrastructure Investment - Pg 62
After defeating State Ballot Question 3 (Margin Tax Initiative) with its coalition partners in November 2014, the Metro Chamber made a commitment to our members to start the discussion early about how to fix Nevada's patchwork revenue system. In doing so, the Metro Chamber commissioned an objective comprehensive report to analyze Nevada's tax system.

As a result of that commitment, one of the top priorities for the legislative session was to be part of the process to develop long-term solutions that will stabilize Nevada's taxes, fund services and infrastructure upon which we all depend, and help the employers of this state to better plan for the future. The Metro Chamber engaged in discussions about tax reform in a manner that ensured those discussions were broad-based, balanced and advantageous for employers and employees. If developed and implemented properly, a reformed tax structure will provide Nevada with more dependable revenue sources for priorities such as education, infrastructure and social services.

Throughout the legislative session, the Metro Chamber advocated for fair and equitable tax policy that was based on the principles of good tax policy: neutrality, stability, transparency and simplicity. These are necessary components of any good tax proposal. To facilitate attracting new businesses to the state in an increasingly competitive environment, as well as retain and grow existing businesses and industries, the tax structure must be stable and fair. As a result of objective analysis, in-depth discussions and the consideration of several legislative proposals, a series of tax reform bills were passed by the state legislature and signed into law by the Governor.

In addition, the Metro Chamber also successfully opposed tax proposals that would be harmful to employers and employees and derail job creation efforts and economic recovery.
Assembly Bill 56:
Revises Provisions Regarding the Equalization of Assessments of Property for Purposes of Taxation

As submitted, the bill would have revised the process and procedure for the equalization of assessments of property among Nevada’s 17 counties. This bill would have also required the Nevada Department of Taxation to conduct an annual ratio study to determine whether each group or class of property has been assessed equally throughout the state. The legislation would have also required the Department of Taxation to conduct an annual review of the ratio study and performance audits as part of proposed revisions.

The Metro Chamber opposed this bill because of the negative impact it would have on the different counties’ tax structures and taxpayers.

**Assembly Vote:** No vote taken by the Assembly.

**Senate Vote:** No vote taken by the Senate.

**Final Action:** The bill failed because there was no committee vote taken by the Assembly Committee on Taxation and, as a result, the bill received no further consideration during the legislative session.

Assembly Bill 380:
Revises Provisions Relating To Sales and Use Taxes

Online businesses should be treated like brick and mortar businesses when it comes to the imposition and collection of sales tax. This bill will not increase taxes, but will improve the method of collecting taxes already owed.

The Metro Chamber supported AB 380. AB 380 will strengthen Nevada’s laws in regard to online sellers who provide goods to customers in this state.

**Assembly Vote:** Yeas: 33, Nays: 9, Excused: 0

**Senate Vote:** Yeas: 20, Nays: 0, Excused: 1

**Final Action:** Signed into law by the Governor.
Assembly Bill 464: 
Revises Provisions Related to the Modified Business Tax and the Business License Fee

This plan to raise revenues was one of several that had been proposed during the legislative session. Major components of the bill included a Modified Business Tax rate of 1.56% for all businesses, excluding those with payroll below $50,000 per quarter, and a Business License Fee of $300 for non-corporations and $500 for corporations. Healthcare deductions would have been eliminated under the proposal. Components of this plan were incorporated into the final "compromise plan" that resulted in the passage of SB 483 to fund education reform initiatives.

The Metro Chamber monitored this tax proposal as part of the overall discussions about the need to reform Nevada’s tax structure and fund the new education reform initiatives proposed by the Governor.

**Assembly Vote:** No action taken by the Assembly.

**Senate Vote:** No action taken by the Senate.

**Final Action:** The bill passed the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means but failed to be considered by the Assembly for a floor vote and received no further consideration during the legislative session.

Assembly Bill 494: 
Makes Various Changes Relating to the Clark County Sales and Use Tax Act of 2005

This bill would have created a regional board for the purpose of considering whether to approve an ordinance, enact the legislatively approved increase in the tax, and specify the membership and additional duties of the regional board, as well as revise requirements for the imposition of the increased rate. It would have directed that the increase in the tax must be imposed by the Board of County Commissioners of Clark County if the increase was approved, after a public meeting, by a two-thirds majority of the members of a regional board. The regional board would have been composed of one member of each of the six respective governing bodies of Boulder City, the City of Henderson, the City of Las Vegas, the City of Mesquite, the City of North Las Vegas and Clark County.

This bill would have also amended the Clark County Sales and Use Tax Act of 2005 to extend the temporary suspension of certain provisions of the Act which require a governing body to approve expenditures by a police department, if certain proceeds received from the taxes imposed if the governing body determines that the proposed expenditure will not replace or supplant existing funding for the police department.

The Metro Chamber monitored this bill.

**Assembly Vote:** No action taken by the Assembly.

**Senate Vote:** No action taken by the Senate.

**Final Action:** The bill was referred to the Assembly Committee on Taxation, but received no further consideration during the legislative session.
Assembly Bill 497: 
Revises Provisions Relating to Taxes

AB 497 revises provisions governing the financing of certain undertakings located in a tax increment area for the purpose of creating a special account for the payment of bonds or other securities issued to defray the cost of an undertaking, including a drainage and flood control project, an overpass project, a sewerage project, a street project, an underpass project or a water project. The designation of a tax increment area by the governing body provides for the allocation of a portion of the taxes levied upon taxable property in the tax increment area each year to pay the bond requirements of loans, money advanced to, or indebtedness incurred by the municipality to finance or refinance the undertaking. This bill provides that, in addition to such property taxes, a portion of the sales and use taxes imposed within the tax increment area and the excise tax imposed on financial institutions and employers (the “modified business tax”) located in the tax increment area may be allocated to pay the debt incurred by the municipality to finance or refinance the undertaking if the undertaking is a water project, the estimated cost of which exceeds $50,000,000, and such financing is approved by the Interim Finance Committee.

The Metro Chamber is supportive of legislation such as AB 497 because it provides local governments the necessary tools to attract new businesses to Southern Nevada, while encouraging existing businesses to expand. The Metro Chamber is committed to fostering job creation, improving the business climate and promoting economic development efforts.

Assembly Vote: Yeas: 34, Nays: 6, Excused: 2
Senate Vote: Yeas: 20, Nays: 0, Excused: 1
Final Action: Signed into law by the Governor.

Senate Bill 252: 
Proposes a Restructuring of the Business License Fee

SB 252 was the Governor’s original tax proposal as part of his revenue plan to fund new education reform initiatives to improve the quality of education in Nevada. The bill was based on revising the Business License Fee with multiple industry specific rates, which were determined by a business’ gross revenue in Nevada. The Governor later proposed a “compromise” plan that resulted in the passage of SB 483 to fund education reform initiatives.

The Metro Chamber monitored this tax proposal as part of the overall discussions about the need to reform Nevada’s tax structure and fund the new education reform initiatives proposed by the Governor.

Assembly Vote: No vote taken by the Assembly.
Senate Vote: Yeas: 18, Nays: 3, Excused: 0
Final Action: The bill failed because there was no committee action taken by the Assembly Committee on Taxation and, as a result, the bill received no further consideration during the legislative session.
Senate Bill 266:
Changes Provisions to Nevada’s Live Entertainment Tax

This bill changes provisions to Nevada’s Live Entertainment Tax (LET). The intent of the bill is to bring stability and simplicity to the current structure of the LET. It is also designed to broaden the scope of the tax, while clarifying many of the challenges that currently exist with a bifurcated tax rate. The bill clarifies when the tax is collected, the type of events to which it applies, changes the rate and does not apply to food and beverage purchases.

Addressing the structural problems with the LET has been a priority of the Metro Chamber as part of its tax reform priorities.

Assembly Vote: Yeas: 38, Nays: 2, Excused: 2
Senate Vote: Yeas: 19, Nays 0, Excused: 2
Final Action: Signed into law by the Governor.

Senate Bill 378:
Revises Nevada’s Tax Structure

SB 378 was a tax proposal introduced by Senate Democrats to provide funding for new education reform initiatives. The tax proposal would have eliminated the Modified Business Tax and replaced it with a gross receipts tax for those businesses exceeding more than $25,000 a quarter at a rate of 0.465%.

The Metro Chamber monitored this tax proposal as part of overall discussions about the need to reform Nevada’s tax structure and fund the new education reform initiative proposed by the Governor.

Assembly Vote: No vote taken by the Assembly.
Senate Vote: No vote taken by the Senate.
Final Action: The bill failed because there was no committee vote taken by the Senate Committee on Revenue and Economic Development and, as a result, the bill received no further consideration during the legislative session.

Senate Bill 483:
Implements the Nevada Revenue Plan

The Governor’s new tax package, the Nevada Revenue Plan (SB 483), which passed the legislature and was signed by the Governor, represents a compromise of many different positions and ideas, including components proposed in SB 252 and AB 464. The Metro Chamber appreciated the Governor’s leadership and willingness to compromise.

While not perfect, it balances the interests of the diverse base of industries by broadening the tax base to lessen the burden on Nevada’s current taxpaying employers and preserving protections for small businesses. It also will enable a path towards expanding the tax base to better reflect the state’s economy and lower the burden on Nevada’s employers. As part of the Nevada Revenue Plan, the Commerce Tax component contains a complete exemption for businesses that generate revenues of less than $4 million per year (estimated to exclude most of the small businesses registered in Nevada). Business Licensing Fees for corporations increase to $500, while non-corporations remain at $200 per year. It also contains some other positive attributes, including a 50% offset of Commerce Tax payments against Modified Business Tax (MBT) liability to provide a mitigating factor for Nevada’s job-creating employers that are relatively labor intensive.
It was clear during the legislative discussions about additional revenue for education that Nevadans are frustrated by the current quality of education. While the Metro Chamber lent support to the overall plan in the spirit of compromise to get education funded, the Metro Chamber did express concerns about the component of the plan that taxes adjusted gross revenues. Unfortunately, without it, there would be near certainty of more initiative petitions based on worse tax policies.

Throughout the process, the Metro Chamber sought expert analysis from a number of sources, modeled the impacts on different industry groups, elicited input from affected businesses and carefully deliberated the pros and cons of each of the alternative proposals within the ranks of its Government Affairs Committee. The goal was always to promote the principles of good tax policy, mitigate the hardships of a tax burden on the membership, weigh its effects given the diversity and breadth of businesses that would have to pay, and take into consideration the growth of Nevada's economy.

The place to debate and decide tax policies is before the legislature, not via ballot measures. The totality of this compromise, borne of significant legislative discussion and debate, protects small businesses, expands the tax base and provides some relief to labor-intensive businesses that have the capacity to create the most jobs. It is not perfect, but is the most balanced plan to have emerged this session and adequate to fund the much needed education reforms during the next two years. It also balances the interests of a very wide base of industries that comprise the Metro Chamber’s membership.

Agreeing to the compromise now will fund education in the interim but still provide time to work on better tax policy for the future. In fact, during the tax hearings, Metro Chamber leaders emphasized the importance of a continued focus on an identifiable path to better tax policy that is more reflective of Nevada’s service-based economy.

The Metro Chamber’s decision to support the tax compromise was also in part to fund critical K-12 education programs and funding of the UNLV medical school. As a result of the new spending, the requested K-12 education programs have numerous accountability provisions in each of the different plans to ensure the funds are spent as intended, which is to support student achievement.

**Assembly Vote:** Yeas: 30, Nays: 10, Excused: 2  
**Senate Vote:** Yeas: 18, Nays: 3, Excused: 0  
**Final Action:** Signed into law by the Governor.
Reforming the quality of K-12 education is a long-standing legislative priority for the Metro Chamber. The Metro Chamber has a long history of supporting education reforms and initiatives at the state and local levels. Improving the quality of K-12 education is paramount to the economic development and diversification of our state. The Metro Chamber believes that improving the performance of the state’s K-12 educational system is necessary to provide a strong foundation for Nevada’s competitive business climate. It is also important that state funds are allocated to targeted programs with accountability standards that support increasing student achievement.

The Metro Chamber successfully advocated for increased investment in K-12 programs including the English Language Learner program, reading by third grade, expanded full day kindergarten, additional funding for Gifted and Talented Education (GATE), career and technical education as well as College and Career Readiness Grants. Each of these programs were passed with accountability measures and targeted spending to enhance student achievement.
Assembly Bill 27:
Changes to Licensure of Educational Personnel

This measure allows school districts throughout the state to license individuals to teach who are not citizens of the United States but are otherwise permitted to work in the country, in compliance with existing federal regulations, provided that the school district can demonstrate a need.

The Metro Chamber supported AB 27 because it will allow school districts greater flexibility and more options when recruiting high quality teachers to Nevada, for which there is a demonstrated need. Providing school districts with the ability to recruit from a larger labor pool will assist in the efforts to fill the state’s teacher shortage in urban and rural school districts.

Assembly Vote: Yeas: 42, Nays: 0, Excused: 0
Senate Vote: Yeas: 21, Nays: 0, Excused: 0
Final Action: Signed into law by the Governor.

Assembly Bill 30:
Changes Student Achievement Measurements

Provisions in the bill will change how the state measures student achievement in regards to literacy skills and streamline the reporting of plans by principals. The bill will also encourage greater engagement between the State Board of Education, the Department of Education and principal(s) when it comes to identifying how to best provide support to schools.

The Metro Chamber supported AB 30, which was brought forward by the Nevada Department of Education. This legislation will be beneficial to schools throughout the state in their efforts to improve academic achievement.

Assembly Vote: Yeas: 41, Nays: 0, Excused: 1
Senate Vote: Yeas: 19, Nays: 0, Excused: 2
Final Action: Signed into law by the Governor.

Assembly Bill 55:
Revises Teacher Licensing Procedures

This legislation would have been another tool in Clark County’s mission to address its teacher shortage issue.

The Metro Chamber supported this bill because it would have directed a process to be developed that would allow the granting of temporary teacher licenses, providing school districts with greater flexibility to recruit teachers from other states. The Metro Chamber also supported the accountability provisions associated with the proposed legislation in obtaining licensing from the state.

Assembly Vote: No vote taken by the Assembly.
Senate Vote: No vote taken by the Senate.
Final Action: The bill failed because there was no action taken by the Assembly Committee on Education and, as a result, the bill received no further consideration during the legislative session.
Assembly Bill 165: Establishes the Nevada Educational Choice Scholarship Program

The bill allows families at or below 300% of the federally designated poverty level to apply for funds that may be used to attend a private school of their choice.

The Metro Chamber supported AB 165, which establishes the first educational choice program in the state. The Metro Chamber has been a long-time advocate for school choice.

Assembly Vote: Yeas: 25, Nays: 17, Excused: 0
Senate Vote: Yeas: 11, Nays 9, Excused: 2
Final Action: Signed into law by the Governor.

Assembly Bill 278: Establishes a Framework to Reduce Class Sizes

Existing state law provides a formula by which to determine class sizes. This law directs districts to develop plans within the existing framework to monitor and ensure that the number of pupils in a given classroom is compliant with state law and creates an environment conducive to learning.

The Metro Chamber supported AB 278. This bill will help districts improve the quality of education delivered in our classrooms, aligning with the Metro Chamber’s longstanding education reform priorities.

Assembly Vote: Yeas: 42, Nays: 0, Excused: 0
Senate Vote: Yeas: 20, Nays: 1, Excused: 0
Final Action: Signed into law by the Governor.

Assembly Bill 291: Makes an Appropriation for School Districts to Provide Early Childhood Education Programs

This bill would have provided funds to the Nevada Department of Education for early childhood education programs. Local school districts would have been able to request funds to support programming at the local school district level, as long as their plan had been provided by the Department of Education.

As an education priority, the Metro Chamber supports early childhood education programs because of the positive impact they have on a child. Investment in these types of programs increases a child’s ability to academically successful in the classroom.

Assembly Vote: No action taken by the Assembly.
Senate Vote: No action taken by the Senate.
Final Action: The bill failed because there was no action taken by the Assembly Committee on Education and, as a result, the bill received no further consideration during the legislative session.
Assembly Bill 303:  
**Repeals Common Core Standards**

In addition to being an improvement on prior state standards, the Nevada Academic Content Standards, which are based on Common Core Standards, provide state standards similar to those in many other states, allowing teachers to pool knowledge, expertise and lessons to improve the quality of education in Nevada. Common Core Standards have broad support in the business community because of the important role they play in college and career readiness.

The Metro Chamber opposed repealing the state's academic standards pertaining to English and math. Common Core is part of the Metro Chamber's efforts to improve K-12 education and the workforce in the state.

**Assembly Vote:** No action taken by the Assembly.  
**Senate Vote:** No action taken by the Senate.  
**Final Action:** The bill failed because there was no action taken by the Assembly Committee on Education and, as a result, the bill received no further consideration during the legislative session.

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Assembly Bill 339:  
**Revises the Composition of Local School Boards of Trustees**

This measure attempted to change the way communities select members of a school district’s board of trustees, allowing the State Board of Education to appoint a certain number of members to a board of trustees. It also would have provided a process by which to change election districts for school boards of trustees to be reflective of the new process.

The Metro Chamber supported AB 339 because it would have allowed for the conversation of governance structure to be discussed, which is important to improving education.

**Assembly Vote:** No action taken by the Assembly.  
**Senate Vote:** No action taken by the Senate.  
**Final Action:** The bill failed because there was no committee vote taken by the Assembly Committee on Education and, as a result, the bill received no further consideration during the legislative session.

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Assembly Bill 394:  
**Creates an Advisory and Technical Committee to Develop a Plan to Reorganize the Clark County School District**

Assembly Bill 394 creates an advisory committee and a technical committee to develop a plan to reorganize the Clark County School District. AB 394 authorizes boards of trustees of contiguous school districts to consolidate their respective school districts and create an advisory committee and technical advisory committee for the purpose of developing a plan to reorganize the Clark County School District into certain local school precincts.

The Metro Chamber monitored AB 394.

**Assembly Vote:** Yeas: 35, Nays: 5, Excused: 2  
**Senate Vote:** Yeas: 13, Nays: 7, Excused: 1  
**Final Action:** Signed into law by the Governor.
Assembly Bill 447:
Revises Provisions Related to the Use of Student Information During Teacher Evaluations

Assembly Bill 447 will revise and standardize the use of student data to evaluate teachers in the state. The bill establishes timelines for the use of student data in teacher evaluations, structured in such a way to maximize the fairness of the evaluations and to match the timeline of pupil evaluation under the new academic content standards implemented in Nevada.

The Metro Chamber supported AB 447. Ensuring that teachers are fairly evaluated is an important component of accountability standards in the classroom.

Assembly Vote: Yeas: 39, Nays: 1, Excused: 2
Senate Vote: Yeas: 20, Nays: 0, Excused: 1
Final Action: Signed into law by the Governor.

Assembly Bill 448:
Establishes the Achievement School District within the Nevada Department of Education

This bill that establishes the Achievement School District within the Department of Education, authorizing certain underperforming schools to be converted to achievement charter schools sponsored by the Achievement School District. The Achievement School District will be administered by the Nevada Department of Education as a statewide program with most schools located in Clark County.

The Metro Chamber monitored AB 448.

Assembly Vote: Yeas: 25, Nays: 17, Excused: 0
Senate Vote: Yeas: 11, Nays: 8, Excused: 2
Final Action: Signed into law by the Governor.

Senate Bill 75:
Administration of Academic Testing Standards Test

This bill will ensure that all students receive the same amount of instructional time prior to taking the test, which is used to measure their academic progress. The intent is to provide teachers with the necessary instruction time to cover needed material with their students before the test.

The Metro Chamber supported SB 75, as the bill will provide needed flexibility in the testing date of the state’s academic standards to benefit students in local school districts and charter schools.

Assembly Vote: Yeas: 26, Nays: 14, Excused: 2
Senate Vote: Yeas: 21, Nays: 0, Excused: 0
Final Action: Signed into law by the Governor.
Senate Bill 92: 
Revises Provisions Related to the Qualification of Teachers in Nevada

This measure will require the boards of trustees in school districts to adopt specific policies relating to teacher qualifications for certain employees who have graduated from the probationary period. It also inserts specific items in the statewide performance evaluation system that accounts for the evaluation of district level administrators and proscribes policies for carrying out a reduction in educational workforce, if needed.

The Metro Chamber supported SB 92 because of the greater accountability it will bring into the state’s K-12 education system.

Assembly Vote: Yeas: 28, Nays: 11, Excused: 3
Senate Vote: Yeas: 19, Nays: 0, Excused: 2
Final Action: Signed into law by the Governor.

Senate Bill 119: 
Allows Bond Rollover for School Construction

SB 119 relates to the rollover of existing bonds for school construction projects, but the provisions relating to eliminating prevailing wage have since been repealed with the passage of AB 172.

The rollover of existing bonds will provide financing for the construction of new schools in local school districts by extending the life of existing bonds for ten years. The Clark County School District will use the funds toward the construction of new schools, the refurbishment of older schools, and infrastructure and information technology updates.

The Metro Chamber supported the concepts of the bill because of the need to build new schools and address overcrowding in Clark and Washoe counties. It would also be available to rural counties in the state. The Metro Chamber is supportive of efforts to build additional schools for the benefits of Nevada’s students. The passage of this bill was a legislative priority for the Metro Chamber.

Assembly Vote: Yeas: 23, Nays: 19, Excused: 0
Senate Vote: Yeas: 11, Nays: 9, Excused: 1
Final Action: Signed into law by the Governor.
Senate Bill 133: 
Creates the Teachers’ School Supplies Reimbursement Account

SB 133 creates a state account to reimburse teachers for out-of-pocket expenses related to their classrooms. Teachers will be eligible to be reimbursed $250 per year by the state.

The Metro Chamber supported SB 133. The Metro Chamber is supportive of providing additional classroom resources to teachers throughout Nevada.

Assembly Vote: Yeas: 36, Nays: 3, Excused: 3
Senate Vote: Yeas: 20, Nays: 0, Excused: 1
Final Action: Signed into law by the Governor.

Senate Bill 207: 
Allows Bond Rollover for School Construction

SB 207 would allow to the rollover of existing bonds for school construction projects. The rollover of existing bonds will provide financing for the construction of new schools in local school districts by extending the life of existing bonds for ten years. The Clark County School District will use the funds toward the construction of new schools, the refurbishment of older schools, infrastructure and information technology updates. The bonding measures will cover school construction and improvements projects across the school district. It will not raise property taxes.

The Metro Chamber supported the bill because of the need to build new schools and address overcrowding in Clark and Washoe Counties. It would also be available to rural counties in the state.

Assembly Vote: Yeas: 27, Nays: 14, Excused: 1
Senate Vote: Yeas: 15, Nays: 4, Excused: 2
Final Action: Signed by the Governor into law.

Senate Bill 236: 
Recognizes Exceptional Accomplishments By Nevada Students In STEM Education

Senate Bill 236 would have revised provisions related to the Advisory Council on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education in the state, requiring it to establish events to recognize exceptional achievement or performance by students and schools in the state.

The Metro Chamber is a strong advocate of increased STEM education in schools and believes recognizing achievement in these fields will help elevate the profile of STEM education in the state.

Assembly Vote: No vote taken by the Assembly.
Senate Vote: No vote taken by the Senate.
Final Action: The bill failed because there was no committee vote taken by the Senate Committee on Finance and, as a result, the bill received no further consideration during the legislative session.
**Senate Bill 241: Changes Collective Bargaining Provisions**

This bill will exclude certain school administrators from membership in a bargaining unit for the purpose of collective bargaining based on salary thresholds. It will also eliminate evergreen clauses and modify the guidelines relating to the arbitration process.

The Metro Chamber supported SB 241 especially because this bill would eliminate evergreen clauses that are unfair to taxpayers and because collective bargaining reform is a longstanding priority of the Metro Chamber.

**Assembly Vote:** Yeas: 41, Nays: 0, Excused: 1  
**Senate Vote:** Yeas: 15, Nays: 4, Excused: 2  
**Final Action:** Signed into law by the Governor.

**Senate Bill 295: Provides for Additional Workforce Development Resources Regarding STEM**

This legislation would have provided an appropriation and required the Nevada Department of Education to maintain a website relating to information about different career pathways and options in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Local schools would have provided that information to the Department of Education.

The Metro Chamber was supportive of this bill as it related to STEM education, which is important to improving the quality of education in Nevada.

**Assembly Vote:** No vote taken by the Assembly.  
**Senate Vote:** No vote taken by the Senate.  
**Final Action:** The bill passed the Senate Committee on Education but failed to be considered by the Senate for a floor vote and received no further consideration during the legislative session.

**Senate Bill 302: Creates Education Savings Accounts**

This bill establishes a program by which a child who receives instruction from a certain entity rather than from a public school may receive a grant of money in an amount equal to the statewide average basic support per-pupil, providing for the amount of each grant to be deducted from the total apportionment to the school district. The State Treasurer’s office is responsible for determining regulations for implementation. Students will be eligible for approximately $5,100, or 90% of the per pupil allocation in Clark County.

The Metro Chamber monitored SB 302.

**Assembly Vote:** Yeas: 25, Nays: 17, Excused: 0  
**Senate Vote:** Yeas: 11, Nays: 8, Excused: 2  
**Final Action:** Signed into law by the Governor.
Senate Bill 332:  
Funds Teacher Peer Evaluation Program in Clark County

Senate Bill 332 makes an appropriation to the Clark County School District to fund a teacher peer evaluation program. Existing law has already created a teacher performance evaluation system, which includes a process for peer evaluations, but SB 332 provides funding to support new teachers by providing a veteran teacher to meet with them regularly and assist them in their professional development.

The Metro Chamber supported SB 332. The Metro Chamber believes that peer evaluation programs are important to the professional development of teachers.

Assembly Vote: Yeas: 31, Nays: 9, Excused: 2,  
Senate Vote: Yeas: 19, Nays: 1, Excused: 1,  
Final Action: Signed into law by the Governor.

Senate Bill 391:  
Requires Districts to Implement Plans to Improve Reading in Public Schools

This bill will require school districts and charter schools to develop plans to improve reading skills; designate an individual at each school as a learning strategist charged with helping to execute the plan; provide for the professional development of teachers in the area of reading improvement; and prohibit the promotion of students to grade four who have not demonstrated grade three-level reading competency.

The Metro Chamber supported SB 391. The Metro Chamber has long supported Read by Three strategies and supports this legislation’s professional development mechanisms.

Assembly Vote: Yeas: 38, Nays: 0, Excused: 4  
Senate Vote: Yeas: 19, Nays: 0, Excused: 2  
Final Action: Signed into law by the Governor.

Senate Bill 405:  
Funds and Expands the Zoom Schools Program

The legislation will expand the successful Zoom Schools program. This measure targets more resources for students who have the most potential for improvement and will help raise the overall quality of education in the district while ensuring a steady flow of qualified individuals into the workforce.

The Metro Chamber supported SB 405. The Metro Chamber supported the creation of the Zoom Schools program in the 2013 legislative session, and the results in student achievement have been meaningful and consistent.

Assembly Vote: Yeas: 35, Nays: 7, Excused: 0  
Senate Vote: Yeas: 18, Nays: 1, Excused 2  
Final Action: Signed into law by the Governor.
**Senate Bill 430:**
**Funds and Expands the Zoom Schools Program**

This measure targeted more resources at students who have the most potential for improvement and would have helped raise the overall quality of education in the district while ensuring a steady flow of qualified individuals into the workforce. SB 405, a nearly identical measure to SB 430, was signed into law by the governor.

The Metro Chamber supported SB 430, a measure aimed to expand the Zoom Schools program. The Metro Chamber supported the creation of the Zoom Schools program in the 2013 Legislative Session, and the results in student achievement have been meaningful and consistent.

**Assembly Vote:** No vote taken by the Assembly.
**Senate Vote:** No vote taken by the Senate.
**Final Action:** The bill failed because there was no committee vote taken by the Senate Committee on Education and, as a result, the bill received no further consideration during the legislative session.

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**Senate Bill 432:**
**Creates Victory Schools**

Senate Bill 432 is a key component of the Governor’s education reform agenda. This measure funds the Victory School program, which targets persistently underperforming schools in economically challenged areas of the state. The money appropriated by this measure must be used to offer certain programs and services and includes accountability measures to ensure the maximum dollar amount goes directly to student services and educational programs. This measure promotes good government by including accountability measures for the tax dollars being spent.

The Metro Chamber supported SB 432. Targeted dollars where improvement is most urgently needed has been one of the Metro Chamber’s top educational priorities.

**Assembly Vote:** Yeas: 33, Nays: 8, Excused: 1
**Senate Vote:** Yeas: 20, Nays: 1
**Final Action:** Signed into law by the Governor.

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**Senate Bill 460:**
**Revises Provisions Related to the Statewide System of Accountability for Public Schools**

Senate Bill 460 provides an alternative performance framework to evaluate certain schools which serve certain populations.

The Metro Chamber supported SB 460 because it would more accurately allow for the progress and results of students enrolled in select schools to be evaluated.

**Assembly Vote:** Yeas: 40, Nays: 0, Excused: 2
**Senate Vote:** Yeas: 19, Nays: 2, Excused: 0
**Final Action:** Signed into law by the Governor.
**Senate Bill 474:**
**Creates the Great Teaching and Leading Fund**

This bill will allow school boards, charter school authorities and other associated education entities to submit an application to the Superintendent of Public Instruction for funds to provide professional development, leadership training and recruitment and retention of effective teachers and principals.

The Metro Chamber supported SB 474 as an effort to recruit, develop and retain highly effective teachers and administrators.

**Assembly Vote:** Yeas: 33, Nays: 9, Excused: 0
**Senate Vote:** Yeas: 21, Nays: 0, Excused: 0
**Final Action:** Signed into law by the Governor.

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**Senate Bill 493:**
**Establishes a Program for Awarding STEM Workforce Challenge Grants**

The intent of this bill was to establish a program for awarding matching grants to support the development and implementation of STEM programs in postsecondary education.

The Metro Chamber supported SB 493. The Metro Chamber is a strong advocate for increased STEM education programming which will have a direct impact on workforce development in the state.

**Assembly Vote:** No vote taken by the Assembly.
**Senate Vote:** No vote taken by the Senate.
**Final Action:** The bill failed because there was no committee vote taken by the Senate Committee on Finance and, as a result, the bill received no further consideration during the legislative session.

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**Senate Bill 508:**
**Revises the Nevada Plan**

SB 508 addressed several provisions to the Nevada Plan which pertain to the state's K-12 funding formula. This includes the Weighted Pupil Funding Formula, which addresses the additional needs of specific student demographics and provides additional per-student dollars to those individuals and the schools that educate them.

The Metro Chamber is supportive of revising and updating the Nevada Plan in order to address the changing needs of Nevada’s students in the classroom.

**Assembly Vote:** Yeas: 31, Nays: 9, Excused: 2
**Senate Vote:** Yeas: 18, Nays: 1, Excused: 2
**Final Action:** Signed into law by the Governor.
Senate Bill 511:
Creates the Teach Nevada Scholarship Program

This bill creates the Teach Nevada Scholarship Program. The intent of the legislation is to provide scholarships and grants to attract students to enter the teaching profession. The Nevada State of Board of Education will be responsible for administering the scholarships and awarding them to students.

The Metro Chamber is supportive of programs that will increase the number of teachers available to local school districts.

**Assembly Vote:** Yeas: 36, Nays: 4, Excused: 2
**Senate Vote:** Yeas: 18, Nays: 0, Excused: 3
**Final Action:** Signed into law by the Governor.

Senate Bill 515:
K-12 Public Education Spending

SB 515 provides for funding for K-12 education from the state during the 2015-2017 biennium. The basic support guarantee for school districts for operating purposes for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 is an estimated weighted average of $5,710 per pupil. The basic support guarantee for school districts for operating purposes for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 is an estimated weighted average of $5,774 per pupil.

Funding components of the bill include a variety of education reform initiatives supported by the Metro Chamber, including expanded full day kindergarten, additional funding for Gifted and Talented Education (GATE), and career and technical education, as well as College and Career Readiness Grants.

**Assembly Vote:** Yeas: 32, Nays: 8, Excused: 2
**Senate Vote:** Yeas: 17, Nays: 2, Excused: 2
**Final Action:** Signed into law by the Governor.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 1:
Provides for a Study on Professional Development for Educators

This bill attempted to urge the state to conduct an interim study on the professional development of teachers and administrators. This study would have examined best practices and proper implementation of these new measures.

The Metro Chamber supported SCR 1. The introduction of new teaching tools and educational standards has increased the need to provide teachers and administrators with training.

**Assembly Vote:** No vote taken by the Assembly.
**Senate Vote:** No vote taken by the Senate.
**Final Action:** The bill failed because there was no committee vote taken by the Senate Committee on Legislative Operation and Election and, as a result, the bill received no further consideration during the legislative session.
Transforming the role of higher education in Nevada is an important component to strengthening Nevada’s workforce and enhancing economic development initiatives throughout the state. As a legislative priority for the Metro Chamber, the state’s largest business association supported several initiatives, such as the full funding of the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) recommendation of $26.7 million for a four-year public allopathic medical school at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), as well as adequately funding Graduate Medical Education (GME) throughout Nevada.

With the strong support of the Metro Chamber, UNLV received the full $26.7 million needed to continue the path toward accreditation for the UNLV School of Medicine. In addition, $10 million was allocated for Graduate Medical Education (GME) that will be used to provide residencies for medical students currently studying in public and private medical schools in Nevada.
Assembly Bill 491:  
Authorizes and Provides Funding for Certain Projects of Capital Improvement

This bill pertains to the funding of the capital improvement projects by the state. The Metro Chamber supported this bill because it provides funding for the construction of UNLV’s new College of Hotel Administration Building. UNLV’s College of Hotel Administration is considered to be one of the premiere hospitality programs in the nation. It attracts students from around the world and gives Southern Nevada a competitive edge in ensuring we continue to have a well-trained hospitality workforce.

The Metro Chamber supports this project, as it will provide new classrooms, training facilities and learning space to fully prepare students for the needs of our core tourism industry.

**Assembly Vote:** Yeas: 32, Nays: 8, Excused: 2  
**Senate Vote:** Yeas: 20, Nays 0, Excused: 1  
**Final Action:** Signed into law by the Governor.

Senate Bill 128:  
Changes Provisions Relating To Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarships

This bill changes provisions to the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship by increasing the number of college course credits a student would need to take to be eligible for the scholarship.

The Metro Chamber supported SB 128 because it encourages students to complete their degree in four years. These changes would help efforts to increase Nevada's college graduation rate.

**Assembly Vote:** Yeas: 41, Nays: 0, Excused: 1  
**Senate Vote:** Yeas: 18, Nays: 0, Excused: 3  
**Final Action:** Signed into law by the Governor.

Senate Bill 227:  
Creates the Silver State Opportunity Grant Program

Senate Bill 227 will create a state grant program for students attending Nevada's public institutions of higher education. The grant program will be funded at an annual allocation level of $5 million from the State General Fund.

The Metro Chamber supported SB 227 as it will provide students the ability to access resources to help them pursue and complete their post-secondary degree in Nevada. An educated workforce will improve Nevada’s economy, support economic development efforts and sustain job growth in targeted industry sectors.

**Assembly Vote:** Yeas: 37, Nays: 3, Excused: 2  
**Senate Vote:** Yeas: 20, Nays: 0, Excused: 1  
**Final Action:** Signed into law by the Governor.
Senate Bill 496:  
Creates the Workforce Development Rapid Response Investment Fund

Senate Bill 496 would have created a Workforce Development Rapid Response Investment Fund and established processes by which to award grants from the fund to community colleges. The fund was meant to target students in community colleges receiving training in skills critically needed by businesses in Nevada in the short-term.

The Metro Chamber supported SB 496. This fund would have assisted in workforce development efforts, an area of high priority identified by the Metro Chamber.

Assembly Vote: No vote taken by the Assembly.  
Senate Vote: No vote taken by the Senate.  
Final Action: The bill failed because there was no committee vote taken by the Senate Committee on Finance and, as a result, the bill received no further consideration during the legislative session.

Senate Bill 514:  
Funding for the UNLV Medical School and Boyd School of Law

This bill brought the funding level to the full amount recommended by the Nevada System of Higher Education for the UNLV School of Medicine ($26.7 million). Full funding is essential as the school has begun the national accreditation process. In addition to funding needed to continue the path toward accreditation for the UNLV School of Medicine, $10 million was allocated for Graduate Medical Education (GME) that will be used to provide residencies for medical students currently studying at the University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine (UNSOM) as well as Roseman University and Touro University. As many doctors choose to practice medicine in and around the cities where they complete their residencies, these additional funds will allow more medical students the opportunity to complete their residencies in Las Vegas and potentially practice here upon completion. The last piece of funding in SB 514 was $1.5 million for the UNLV Boyd School of Law. In the short time Boyd School of Law has existed, it has soared to the top of many national ranking and continues to produce top quality legal scholars in our community.

The Metro Chamber testified that full funding of the UNLV School of Medicine was one of the conditions for the Metro Chamber to support increased taxes. The funding of UNLV’s School of Medicine was a priority for the Metro Chamber because of the positive impact it will have on improving the state’s healthcare system and supporting economic development efforts in growing the healthcare industry in Nevada.

Assembly Vote: Yeas: 34, Nays: 6, Excused: 2  
Senate Vote: Yeas: 19, Nays: 2, Excused: 0  
Final Action: Signed into law by the Governor.
Assembly Majority Leader Paul Anderson
The Metro Chamber continued efforts to improve transparency and streamline existing business processes, making it easier for employers to do business in Nevada at the state and local levels. The Metro Chamber championed policy initiatives that would support horizontal integration of business licensing between the Office of the Secretary of State and local municipalities, creating the ability for information to flow between entities and reduce the burden on businesses during the licensing process.

The Metro Chamber also advocated for improvements to Nevada’s legal climate. A state with a good litigation climate attracts new businesses, which in turn creates new jobs and spurs economic development in everything from consumer spending to real estate. A business’ decision to expand or relocate to a particular state depends, in part, on a state’s litigation environment and the overall health of the state’s court system. Currently ranked at the bottom of states with business friendly legal climates, some improvements were made during the 2015 legislative session in the area of tort reform and workers’ compensation.
Assembly Bill 116:  
Revises Regional Business Development Advisory Council

This bill modifies the board of the existing regional development council in Clark County in a way that promotes efficiency and brings regional stakeholders into the discussion about economic development.

The Metro Chamber supported AB 116. This will help foster an attitude of inclusion and bring important stakeholders into the process of diversifying and growing Nevada's economy. Supporting economic development efforts is a priority for the Metro Chamber in its mission to develop an employer and business friendly climate.

Assembly Vote: Yeas: 41, Nays: 0, Excused: 1  
Senate Vote: Yeas: 11, Nays: 0, Excused: 0  
Final Action: Signed into law by the Governor.

Assembly Bill 125:  
Reforms Residential Construction Defect

AB 125 relates to construction defect reform. The reform provisions of the bill amended the definition of construction defects, addressed indemnification issues, modified the language to specifically detail defect and location, removed attorney fees and clarified the process in submitting claims. This bill is also about supporting economic development efforts and creating good paying jobs, which will help grow Nevada’s economy.

The Metro Chamber supported construction defect reform because of the need to restore clarity to the process, encourage prompt resolution of disputes, reduce litigation costs and provide procedures that are understandable to all interested parties. The Metro Chamber believes that reforming these statutes will help assist in the economic recovery of the residential construction sector, not just in Southern Nevada, but throughout the state.

Assembly Vote: Yeas: 25, Nays: 17, Excused: 0  
Senate Vote: Yea: 11, Nays: 8, Excused: 2  
Final Action: Signed into law by the Governor.

Assembly Bill 127:  
Revises Provisions Related to Worker’s Compensation

Assembly Bill 127 would have limited the ability of insurers and employers to reduce healthcare costs by contracting with specific doctors.

The Metro Chamber opposed AB 127 because research indicates this measure would have created a 10 to 15 percent increase in costs associated with providing healthcare benefits to employees while decreasing market-driven competition.

Assembly Vote: No vote taken by the Assembly.  
Senate Vote: No vote taken by the Senate.  
Final Action: The bill failed because there was no committee action taken by the Senate Committee on Government Affairs and, as a result, the bill received no further consideration during the legislative session.
Assembly Bill 277: 
Prohibits State Action from Substantially Burdening a Person’s Exercise of Religion under Certain Circumstances

This bill would have created the Nevada Protection of Religious Freedom Act, which would have changed current law in regards to how it relates to civil liberties and businesses.

The Metro Chamber opposed this bill from an economic development perspective because of the potential negative impact it could have had on the state’s economy, especially to the state’s tourism industry.

Assembly Vote: No vote taken by the Assembly
Senate Vote: No vote taken by the Senate
Final Action: The bill failed because there was no action taken by the Assembly Committee on Judiciary and, as a result, the bill received no further consideration during the legislative session.

Assembly Bill 306: 
Mandates Certain Requirements for Employers of Nursing Mothers

The bill would have required certain employers to provide a reasonable break time and a clean, private place for an employee who is a nursing mother to express breast milk.

The Metro Chamber worked with the bill’s sponsor to address provisions that may have caused an undue burden to small businesses. While acknowledging the importance of supporting and encouraging new mothers in the workplace, the Metro Chamber ensured that concerns were addressed to provide that employers and business owners are treated fairly and reasonably.

Assembly Vote: No action taken by the Assembly.
Senate Vote: No action taken by the Senate.
Final Action: The bill passed the Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services but failed to be considered by the Assembly for a floor vote and received no further consideration during the legislative session.

Assembly Bill 364: 
Revises Provisions Relating to the State Business Portal

This bill allows for horizontal integration of business licensing between the Office of the Secretary of State and local municipalities. This bill was also a priority of the Southern Nevada Forum.

The Metro Chamber supported AB 364 as it will decrease the administrative burden on businesses that apply for business licenses in local jurisdictions and also choose to integrate with the Office of the Secretary of State.

Assembly Vote: Yeas: 39, Nays: 3, Excused: 0
Senate Vote: Yeas: 20, Nays: 0, Excused: 1
Final Action: Signed into law by the Governor.
Senate Bill 59:  
**Revises Provisions Relating to the State Business Portal**

This bill establishes common business registration information that is used by state and local agencies and health districts to conduct necessary transactions with businesses in this state, and allows the state business portal to provide common business registration information to state and local agencies and health districts that conduct necessary transactions with businesses. SB 59 also authorizes state and local agencies and health districts to integrate their electronic applications processes into the state business portal, as well as use the state business portal to accept and disseminate common business registration information that is needed by the state or local agencies or health districts to issue a license, certificate, registration, permit or similar type of authorization to conduct a business in the state or to engage in an occupation or profession in Nevada. This bill also requires the Secretary of State to assign a unique business identification number to each business entity organized in the state, and to each person who is issued a state business registration or who claims to be excluded or exempt from the requirement, obtain a state business registration.

The Metro Chamber monitored SB 59.

**Assembly Vote:**  Yeas: 40, Nays: 1, Excused: 1  
**Senate Vote:** Yeas: 21, Nays: 0, Excused: 0  
**Final Action:** Signed into law by the Governor.

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Senate Bill 134:  
**Makes Changes to Appeal Cap Bonds in Civil Actions**

This bill brings Nevada in line with other states by capping the bond amount required for a business to post when appealing a civil judgment, freeing those dollars for economic growth and job creation.

The Metro Chamber supported SB 134. Tort reform has been a longstanding priority for the Metro Chamber and such efforts will help improve Nevada’s business and economic development climate.

**Assembly Vote:**  Yeas: 42, Nays: 0, Excused: 0  
**Senate Vote:** Yeas: 18, Nays: 2, Excused: 1  
**Final Action:** Signed into law by the Governor.

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Senate Bill 160:  
**Limits Trespass Liability**

Senate Bill 160 will bring Nevada in line with 42 other states. It precludes businesses from the current liability they incur when trespassers are injured on their property.

The Metro Chamber supported SB 160 because it will remove the burden of liability from business owners for what happens to a person on their premises when the person had no invitation, permission or license to be there.

**Assembly Vote:**  Yeas: 38, Nays: 4, Excused: 0  
**Senate Vote:** Yeas: 18, Nays: 2, Excused: 1  
**Final Action:** Signed into law by the Governor.
Senate Bill 161:  
Limits Product Liability Claims

This bill would have removed the burden of frivolous lawsuits from distributors and retailers who sell and distribute products with a manufacturing defect. SB 161 would have enhanced the state’s business climate by protecting sellers and distributors, while at the same time allowing claimants appropriate recourse against the manufacturers of defective products.

The Metro Chamber supported this bill because it would have protected Nevada businesses and was an important tort reform measure, a longstanding priority of the Metro Chamber.

Assembly Vote: Yeas: 25, Nays: 17, Excused: 0
Senate Vote: Yeas: 11, Nays: 9, Excused: 1
Final Action: Vetoed by the Governor.

Senate Bill 180:  
Provides Damages for Employees Who Have Been Injured by Certain Unlawful Employment Practices

This measure would have mandated that courts award plaintiffs the cost and fees associated with hiring an attorney to file a suit in addition to any other damages or relief already awarded in the lawsuit.

The Metro Chamber opposed SB 180. The Metro Chamber believes this bill would have created an undue burden on employers and contributed to an environment that encourages frivolous lawsuits and hinders the state’s business environment.

Assembly Vote: No vote taken by the Assembly.
Senate Vote: No vote taken by the Senate.
Final Action: The bill failed because there was no committee vote taken by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Labor and Energy and, as a result, the bill received no further consideration during the legislative session.

Senate Bill 193:  
Revises Daily Overtime Provisions

SB 193, as originally proposed, would have revised the existing “daily overtime” law for certain hourly employees who work more than eight hours in a day, but under 40 hours a week. This would not impact hourly employees who work more than 40 hours a week and receive overtime. However, additional revisions to the bill included a provision to raise minimum wage requirements for those employers that did not provide healthcare to their employees.

The Metro Chamber supported the original provisions of the bill related to the changes to the “daily overtime” because it would have allowed for greater flexibility in scheduling between employers and employees, increased scheduling efficiencies and brought Nevada more in line with federal employment standards regarding overtime provisions.

Assembly Vote: Yeas: 22, Nays: 20, Excused: 0
Senate Vote: Yeas: 11, Nays: 9, Excused: 1
Final Action: The bill failed because the conference report between the Assembly and Senate was not accepted by the Assembly.
Senate Bill 224: Limits the Amount of Time Employees Have to Recover Wages

This bill defines the term “independent contractor” and limits the period in which a person can recover unpaid wages without written notice.

The Metro Chamber supported SB 224 because it protects employers from frivolous lawsuits and reduces costs associated with these types of lawsuits.

**Assembly Vote:** Yeas: 41, Nays: 0, Excused: 1
**Senate Vote:** Yeas: 20, Nays: 0, Excused: 1
**Final Action:** Signed into law by the Governor.

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Senate Bill 232: Makes Various Changes Relating to Workers’ Compensation

Senate Bill 232 will make changes to payments of certain workers’ compensation claims, raising the current lump-sum award limit from 25% to 30% for a permanent partial disability and revising provisions relating to the reopening of a workers’ compensation claim.

The Metro Chamber supported SB 232. The Metro Chamber supports changes to workers’ compensation laws that allow for commensurate compensation to employees and appropriate understanding by employers.

**Assembly Vote:** Yeas: 42, Nays: 0, Excused: 0
**Senate Vote:** Yeas: 21, Nays: 0, Excused: 0
**Final Action:** Signed into law by the Governor.

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Senate Bill 259: Requires Private Employers to Provide Paid Sick Leave to Employees

Senate Bill 259 would have required private employers to provide at least one hour of sick leave for every 30 hours worked beginning on the 90th calendar day of employment. This measure would have raised costs and limited the ability of employers to hire additional workers.

The Metro Chamber opposed SB 259 because it would have placed an unnecessary burden on employers, as well as complicated current benefits offered by employers and hindered the state’s business environment.

**Assembly Vote:** No vote taken by the Assembly.
**Senate Vote:** No vote taken by the Senate.
**Final Action:** The bill failed because there was no committee action taken by the Senate Committee on Finance and, as a result, the bill received no further consideration during the legislative session.
Senate Bill 291: 
Revises the Process in Certain Civil Trials

This bill would have allowed defendants to introduce additional evidence during civil trials and limited some medical expenses that could have recovered as the result of a civil action.

The Metro Chamber supported SB 291 because it would have reduced the number of frivolous lawsuits filed and ensured that awards resulting from a civil action were fair and reasonable.

Assembly Vote: No vote taken by the Assembly. 
Senate Vote: Yeas: 15, Nays 6, Excused: 0
Final Action: Placed on the desk of the Chief Clerk of the Assembly and, as a result, the bill received no further consideration during the legislative session.

Senate Bill 296: 
Limits Liability for Some Parties in Certain Civil Actions

In certain cases, this bill would have limited the conditions under which a manufacturer or seller of a product was liable for damages in a civil action. It would have also revised the type of damages a plaintiff could have recovered in certain civil actions.

The Metro Chamber supported SB 296 as part of its longstanding commitment to tort reform and protecting the state's business climate.

Assembly Vote: Yeas: 22, Nays: 18, Excused: 2,
Senate Vote: Yeas: 16, Nays: 5, Excused: 0,
Final Action: Vetoed by the Governor.

Senate Bill 329: 
Revises Civil Procedure Relating to Actions against Partners

Currently, some individuals may be liable as a partner in certain civil proceedings even though he or she may not be an actual partner in the business arrangement. This bill will exempt such individuals who have come together to do business in accordance with Title 7 of the Nevada Revised Statutes and establishes procedures to protect individuals from being held liable as partners when they are not actual partners.

The Metro Chamber supported SB 329 as part of its longstanding commitment to improve the state’s business climate.

Assembly Vote: Yeas: 29, Nays: 13, Excused: 0
Senate Vote: Yeas: 21, Nays: 0, Excused: 0
Final Action: Signed into law by the Governor.
**Senate Joint Resolution 4:**

**Marketplace Fairness Act**

This resolution urges Congress to pass the Marketplace Fairness Act, as the increase in Internet commerce is eroding the state’s tax base. This will help create a more even playing field between traditional brick and mortar businesses and Internet businesses.

The Metro Chamber supported SJR 4. The Metro Chamber is working with Nevada’s Congressional delegation in support of this legislation at the federal level, as well.

**Assembly Vote:** Yeas: 29, Nays: 12, Excused: 1
**Senate Vote:** Yeas: 19, Nays: 0, Excused: 2
**Final Action:** Enrolled and delivered to Secretary of State.

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**Senate Joint Resolution 8:**

**Increases Minimum Wage Provisions**

The Metro Chamber stated its opposition and concerns with changing the state minimum wage rate to $15 per hour, or $16 per hour if healthcare coverage is not offered by the employer.

The Metro Chamber opposed SJR 8 because of the potential negative impact that it would have had on Nevada’s economy, employers and employees. However, the Metro Chamber is supportive of workforce development and training programs to help workers advance and strengthen their skills.

**Assembly Vote:** No vote taken by the Assembly.
**Senate Vote:** No vote taken by the Senate.
**Final Action:** The bill failed because there was no committee vote taken by the Senate Committee on Legislative Operation and Election and, as a result, the bill received no further consideration during the legislative session.

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**Senate Bill 162:**

**Strengthens Insurance Protection**

SB 162 will allow for accurate and timely medical documentation to be provided to insurance companies when insurance claims are filed.

The Metro Chamber supported SB 162 because the current system of claim filling allows for the process to be delayed by not submitting all claimant documentation and then asking the insurer for full information regarding policies.

**Assembly Vote:** Yeas: 23, Nays: 18, Excused: 1
**Senate Vote:** Yeas: 20, Nays: 0, Excused: 1
**Final Action:** Signed into law by the Governor.
Senate Bill 231: 
Revises Provisions Relating to Workers’ Compensation

SB 231 will limit the amount of a controlled substance that health care providers may dispense to an injured employee; revises the time that an insurer has to pay a bill submitted by a health care provider; and revises provisions relating to injured employees who were injured while intoxicated or under the influence of a controlled substance.

The Metro Chamber supported SB 231 and changes to workers’ compensation laws that allow for clearer understanding to businesses while providing a safe work environment.

Assembly Vote: Yeas: 42, Nays: 0, Excused: 0
Senate Vote: Yeas: 18, Nays: 3, Excused: 0
Final Action: Signed into law by the Governor.
(top) Tim Cashman, Bob Brown, Chairman of the Board, Senator Scott Hammond, Chairman, Senate Committee on Transportation, Jim Wadhams, Jay Barrett (middle left) Jesse Wadhams, Assembly Speaker John Hambrick, Tyre Gray (middle right) Assemblywoman Olivia Diaz (bottom left) Kristin McMillan, Senator Mo Dennis, Paul Marashkian, Jim Wadhams
Diversifying Nevada’s economy by bringing new industries to our state and advocating for a business climate that is conducive to allowing business to grow has been a long-standing priority for the Las Vegas Metro Chamber. The Metro Chamber worked with stakeholders and partners to support legislation that would attract new businesses to the state and to support the expansion of existing businesses in Nevada. The Metro Chamber continues to work in partnership with the Governor’s Office of Economic Development, as well as our member businesses, to encourage economic development and create jobs.
Assembly Bill 161:
Provides Certain Tax Abatements to the General Aviation Industry

AB 161 will provide businesses that own, operate, manufacture or service aircraft, or a component of an aircraft, with the ability to apply for a partial tax credit for local sales and use tax through the Governor’s Office of Economic Development. This credit will be made available to those qualified businesses that plan to expand or relocate to Nevada for 20 years.

The Metro Chamber supported AB 161, as it will encourage economic diversification, job growth and business expansion in the general aviation industry. This economic development legislation is a priority identified by the Southern Nevada Forum.

Assembly Vote: Yeas: 39, Nays: 2, Excused: 1  
Senate Vote: Yeas: 19, Nays: 0, Excused: 2  
Final Action: Signed into law by the Governor.

Assembly Bill 342:
Establishes a System to Track Employer Needs

This bill would have directed the Governor’s Office of Economic Development to create and administer a system to track the skills needed by employers and the skills that are anticipated to be needed in the future.

The Metro Chamber supported AB 342. This bill would have helped the state’s educational institutions produce graduates who are ready to join the workforce and equipped with the skills needed for tomorrow’s high paying jobs. The Metro Chamber supported this legislation as it would have helped improve workforce development in the state.

Assembly Vote: No action taken by the Assembly.  
Senate Vote: No action taken by the Senate.  
Final Action: The bill failed because there was no committee vote taken by the Assembly Committee on Taxation and, as a result, the bill received no further consideration during the legislative session.

Assembly Bill 399:
Creates an Economic Development Pilot Program Based on Information Technology

AB 399 directs the Governor’s Office of Economic Development to create a two-year pilot program designed to help grow companies currently conducting business in Nevada by emphasizing information technology as a strategy for economic development and growth.

The Metro Chamber supported AB 399. Economic growth and the diversification of Nevada’s economy are longstanding priorities for the Metro Chamber.

Assembly Vote: Yeas: 32, Nays: 8, Excused 2  
Senate Vote: Yeas: 20, Nays: 1, Excused 0  
Final Action: Signed into law by the Governor.
**Senate Bill 93: Provides Certain Tax Abatements to the General Aviation Industry**

SB 93 would have provided businesses that own, operate, manufacture or service aircraft, or a component of an aircraft, the ability to apply for a partial tax credit for local sales and use tax through the Governor’s Office of Economic Development. This credit would be made available to those qualified businesses that plan to expand or relocate to Nevada. Action was taken on a similar measure, AB 161, which was passed by the state legislature and signed by the Governor.

The Metro Chamber supported the both bills, as they would encourage economic diversification, job growth and business expansion in the general aviation industry. This economic development legislation was a priority identified by the Southern Nevada Forum.

**Assembly Vote:** No vote taken by the Assembly.
**Senate Vote:** Yeas: 21, Nays: 0, Excused: 0
**Final Action:** The bill failed because there was no committee vote taken by the Assembly Committee on Taxation and, as a result, the bill received no further consideration during the legislative session.

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**Senate Bill 94: Makes Various Changes Relating to Transferable Film Tax Credits**

This bill makes various changes to the current structure and process for businesses applying for and receiving transferable film tax credits. Since 2013, nearly a dozen productions have taken advantage of the program, spending at least 60 percent of production costs in Nevada, stimulating the state’s economy and allowing for these productions to showcase our state.

The Metro Chamber supported SB 94 to encourage economic growth in this industry sector. The Metro Chamber also supported the initial legislation in the 2013 legislative session, which created the transferable film tax credit program.

**Assembly Vote:** Yeas: 34, Nays: 7, Excused: 1
**Senate Vote:** Yeas: 21, Nays: 0, Excused: 0
**Final Action:** Signed into law by the Governor.
Senate Bill 125: Establishes a Framework to Maintain and Grow Nevada’s Air Passenger Infrastructure

The measure would have increased Nevada’s business competitiveness by expanding and improving the ability to move goods and people through the state by air travel, particularly in Nevada’s small and rural communities. Businesses wanting to expand look at transportation infrastructure and services as two factors in deciding to relocate or expand their businesses.

The Metro Chamber supported SB 125. The Metro Chamber supported this measure because of the impact it would have had on increasing the state’s air passenger infrastructure and connectedness as it relates to economic development.

Assembly Vote: No vote taken by the Assembly.
Senate Vote: No vote taken by the Senate.
Final Action: Placed on Secretary’s desk of the Senate and, as a result, the bill received no further consideration during the legislative session.

Senate Bill 323: Creates a Loan Program to Support Minority and Woman-Owned Businesses through the Office of Economic Development

The measure would have created a program to provide loans to minority and woman-owned businesses in the state to promote business ownership in those constituencies.

The Metro Chamber supported SB 323. The Metro Chamber supported this bill because of the positive impact it would likely have had on economic development, job and business growth by minority and woman-owned businesses.

Assembly Vote: No vote taken by the Assembly.
Senate Vote: No vote taken by the Senate.
Final Action: The bill failed because there was no committee action taken by the Senate Committee on Revenue and Economic Development and, as a result, the bill received no further consideration during the legislative session.
Senate Bill 507: 
Clarifies and Revises Provisions Related to Economic Development Tax Credits and the Catalyst Fund

This bill clarifies aspects related to tax credits and the Catalyst Fund, part of the state’s signature economic development program.

The Metro Chamber supported SB 507 because of the positive effect it will have on the state’s abilities to attract new businesses to expand or relocate to Nevada.

Assembly Vote: Yeas: 30, Nays: 11, Excused: 1
Senate Vote: Yeas: 20, Nays: 0, Excused: 1
Final Action: Signed into law by the Governor.

Senate Joint Resolution 5: 
Expresses Support for the 2014 Nevada Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan

SJR 5 urges the United States Fish and Wildlife Service not to list the greater sage-grouse on the endangered or threatened species list, thus not impeding or derailing statewide economic development efforts as it relates to land development, land use, water use, mining, recreational activities and local economies.

The Metro Chamber supported this resolution because of concern that the impact of listing the greater sage grouse could have economic development efforts and job creation.

Assembly Vote: Yeas: 35, Nays: 6, Excused: 1
Senate Vote: Yeas: 14, Nays: 7, Excused: 0
Final Action: Enrolled and delivered to Secretary of State.
Greater transparency and government reform brings oversight and accountability, as well as easier comprehension, to processes at every level of government. As a strong advocate of efficient and accountable government, the Metro Chamber supports efforts to increase fiscal responsibility at every level of government, which is important to our economic health.

The Metro Chamber spent countless hours advocating for changes that directly affect the way government functions and will give the public the ability to be part of the decision-making process. Making certain information available to the public before a governing body meets to approve a collective bargaining agreement, as well as changing the governance structure of the public health district, were some of the good government reform initiatives that were supported by the Metro Chamber and brought forward this legislative session.
Assembly Bill 3: Changes PERS Board Composition

AB 3 would have changed the composition of the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) Board. It would have expanded the board from its current number of seven members to a total of nine members, and removed one existing member and added two outside subject matter experts and the state treasurer to the board.

The Metro Chamber testified in support of the bill because the addition of the two subject matter experts would have brought additional expertise, knowledge and transparency to the board, which would have benefitted both the individuals enrolled in PERS and taxpayers.

Assembly Vote: No vote taken by the Assembly.
Senate Vote: No vote taken by the Senate.
Final Action: The bill failed a vote by the Assembly Committee on Government Affairs and, as a result, the bill received no further consideration during the legislative session.

Assembly Bill 172: Revises Provision Relating to Public Works

AB 172 was amended in the closing hours of the session to repeal the provisions of SB 119 that would have allowed proceeds for the bond rollover for school construction to be used without paying prevailing wages. AB 172 eliminated that provision and raised the threshold on which prevailing wage must be paid on a project from $100,000 to $250,000.

The Metro Chamber opposed this bill.

Assembly Vote: Yeas: 25, Nays: 17, Excused: 0
Senate Vote: Yeas: 17, Nays: 4, Excused: 1
Final Action: Signed into the law by the Governor.

Assembly Bill 180: Revises Auditing Requirements for Public Employees’ Retirement System

AB 180, which will require the Public Employees’ Retirement System to use a request for a proposal (RFP) process for audits at least every four years and prohibits the same audit firm from conducting those audits in consecutive years.

The Metro Chamber supported this bill, as it brings additional transparency and accountability to the system, which is important to Nevada’s taxpayers.

Assembly Vote: Yeas: 42, Nays: 0, Excused: 0
Senate Vote: Yeas: 20, Nays: 0, Excused: 1
Final Action: Signed into the law by the Governor.
Assembly Bill 187:
Revises Provisions Governing the Selection of Providers of Healthcare

AB 187 would have changed state provisions and regulations relating to physicians and other healthcare providers. The bill would have also changed the process of how insurers contract with healthcare providers.

The Metro Chamber was opposed to this bill because of the potentially adverse impact it would have had on Nevada’s healthcare system.

Assembly Vote: No vote taken by the Assembly
Senate Vote: No vote taken by the Senate
Final Action: The bill failed because there was no action taken by the Assembly Committee on Commerce and Labor and, as a result, the bill received no further consideration during the legislative session.

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Assembly Bill 190:
Revises the Public Employees’ Retirement System

This bill attempted to reform the Public Employees’ Retirement System (PERS) and establish a hybrid system for certain public employees, as well as change the plan from a defined benefit to a defined contribution. These changes would have reduced the future burden on the state’s finances in regard to the significant unfunded liability that is associated with PERS. These proposed changes would have only affected new employees hired after July 1, 2016. Current employees and PERS recipients would have experienced no changes.

The Metro Chamber supported AB 190. This legislation was important to the sustainability of the system and promoted the responsible use of taxpayer dollars. Modifying the system was imperative to ensuring the state’s ability to honor agreements made with current employees and providing retirement benefits to Nevada’s public employees.

Assembly Vote: No vote taken by the Assembly
Senate Vote: No vote taken by the Senate
Final Action: The bill failed because there was no action taken by the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means and, as a result, the bill received no further consideration during the legislative session.
Assembly Bill 232: 
Revises Provisions Related to Health Districts

AB 232 attempted to change the governance structure of health districts in counties with more than 700,000 residents, designating a single executive officer responsible to the Board of Health. It also would have separated health-related issues from administrative issues in the governance structure, allowing public health and medical workers to focus solely on improving public health. This bill would have helped improve the function and role that health districts have in our community.

The Metro Chamber believes these changes would have benefited Southern Nevada’s business community by creating economies of scale within the district and supporting a collaborative partnership with the business community. AB 232 was a measure that came out of the Southern Nevada Forum.

Assembly Vote: No vote taken by the Assembly.
Senate Vote: No vote taken by the Senate.
Final Action: The bill failed a vote by the Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services and, as a result, the bill received no further consideration during the legislative session.

Assembly Bill 236: 
Adopts Internet Engagement as a Formal State Policy

This bill adopts as a formal policy the use of the Internet to help promote public engagement with state government. This bill directs all state agencies to take advantage of tools like email, social media and online forums to help drive discussion and disseminate information about the functions, opportunities and engagement available to Nevadans at the state level.

The Metro Chamber supported AB 236. The Metro Chamber believes this bill will help modernize the way the state interfaces with its citizens and promote transparency across all levels of government by encouraging engagement and making information easily accessible.

Assembly Vote: Yeas: 31, Nays: 10, Excused: 1
Senate Vote: Yeas: 21, Nays: 0, Excused: 0
Final Action: Signed into law by the Governor.
Assembly Bill 249:  
**Revises Provisions Related to Collective Bargaining**

This bill would have required a copy of a proposed collective bargaining or similar agreement be made public prior to it being voted on by a relevant governing body. It also attempted to change the process of fact-finding and arbitration for collective bargaining, and remove some balance of the general fund of a local government from the scope of collective bargaining as a consideration by a fact-finder or arbitrator.

The Metro Chamber supported AB 249. The Metro Chamber supports collective bargaining reform as part of its government reform priorities.

**Assembly Vote:** No vote taken by the Assembly  
**Senate Vote:** No vote taken by the Senate  
**Final Action:** The bill failed because there was no action taken by the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means and, as a result, the bill received no further consideration during the legislative session.

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Assembly Bill 289:  
**Creates a Legislative Commission to Study Regionalized Mental Health Services**

AB 289 builds on foundations laid by the Governor by creating a legislative commission to study the provision of mental health services on a regionalized basis within the state. The commission would have examined what district structures are best, how to transition from a statewide framework to a regionalized framework, revenue sources and accountability measures intended to improve the way mental health is handled in Nevada.

The Metro Chamber supported AB 289. Improving the quality of mental health in the state and ensuring that Southern Nevada’s unique needs are considered in the process is a goal set by the Southern Nevada Forum and supported by the Metro Chamber.

**Assembly Vote:** No action taken by the Assembly.  
**Senate Vote:** No action taken by the Senate.  
**Final Action:** The bill failed because there was no action taken by the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means and, as a result, the bill received no further consideration during the legislative session.
Assembly Bill 300:
Creates a State Inspector General

AB 300 attempted to create the Office of Inspector General in Nevada. This measure was intended to reduce fraud, waste and abuse at the state level by charging an individual to investigate and audit the state’s departments and move the currently existing Department of Internal Audits to the Inspector General’s office.

The Metro Chamber offered its support to AB 300. Increasing government oversight and reducing fraud and abuse of taxpayer dollars is a longstanding public policy objective of the Metro Chamber.

Assembly Vote: No action taken by the Assembly.
Senate Vote: No action taken by the Senate.
Final Action: The bill failed because there was no action taken by the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means and, as a result, the bill received no further consideration during the legislative session.

Assembly Bill 312:
Changes Provisions Relating to PERS

This measure would have changed the benefit timeline for individuals enrolling in the Public Employees’ Retirement System (PERS) in the future by raising the age at which an individual becomes eligible to receive their full retirement benefits. It also attempted to change the formula by which retirement benefits are calculated, determining averages over a longer period of time to establish a more accurate income picture.

The Metro Chamber supported AB 312 because it helps ensure long-term sustainability of PERS, while also making it accountable to taxpayers.

Assembly Vote: Yeas: 25; Nays: 17; Excused: 0
Senate Vote: No vote taken by the Senate.
Final Action: The bill passed the Assembly but failed to be considered by the Senate for a floor vote and received no further consideration during the legislative session.

Assembly Bill 387:
Revises Laws Relating to Nevada’s Public Employees’ Retirement System (PERS)

AB 387 would have barred the practice of purchasing service credits to reduce the number of years an employee eligible for PERS must work to receive a full benefit.

The Metro Chamber supported AB 387 because it would have brought financial responsibility and accountability measures to PERS, ensuring its long-term sustainability and promoting principles of good governance and fairness.

Assembly Vote: No action taken by the Assembly.
Senate Vote: No action taken by the Senate.
Final Action: The bill failed because there was no action taken by the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means and, as a result, the bill received no further consideration during the legislative session.
Assembly Bill 410:  
Revises Membership Provisions on State Boards and Commissions

This measure was designed to ensure that the Nevada State Real Estate Board has membership proportional to the population centers in the state.

The Metro Chamber supported AB 410 because it would provide additional representation for Southern Nevada.

Assembly Vote: Yeas: 40, Nays: 0, Excused 2  
Senator Vote: Yeas: 21, Nays: 0, Excused 0  
Final Action: Signed into law by the Governor.

Assembly Bill 436:  
Eliminates Longevity Payments for State Employees

Existing law provides for a plan to encourage continuity of service for state employees, whereby each employee with eight years or more of continuous state service is entitled to a semiannual payment which begins at $75 and increases annually after that for each year of continuous service to a maximum semiannual payment of $1,175 (referred to commonly as “longevity pay”). This bill repeals that provision, but does not affect any longevity pay of local government employees.

The Metro Chamber monitored this bill.

Assembly Vote: Yeas: 23, Nays: 19, Excused 0  
Senator Vote: Yeas: 20, Nays: 0, Excused 1  
Final Action: Signed into law by the Governor.

Senate Bill 46:  
Exempts Certain Employees of the Colorado River Commission

This bill would reduce oversight from the Executive or Legislative branches by exempting these commissions from the State Budget Act.

The Metro Chamber opposed this bill because it would have moved employees from the Colorado River Commission and the Public Utilities Commission to exempt status, allowing them to set their own pay scale while still receiving benefits from the Public Employees Retirement System.

Assembly Vote: No vote taken by the Assembly.  
Senator Vote: No vote taken by the Senate.  
Final Action: The bill failed because there was no committee vote taken by the Senate Committee on Finance and, as a result, the bill received no further consideration during the legislative session.
Senate Bill 68:
**Expedites the Licensure Process for Physicians**

SB 68 will expedite the licensure process for physicians. This important bill will help Nevada attract additional physicians to the state. It will also help strengthen Nevada's healthcare system and support economic development related to medicine.

The Metro Chamber supported SB 68. A strong and robust healthcare system is critical to the statewide business climate because of its significant impact on employers, employees and quality of life issues.

**Assembly Vote:** Yeas: 42, Nays: 0, Excused: 0
**Senate Vote:** Yeas: 21, Nays: 0, Excused: 0
**Final Action:** Signed into law by the Governor.

Senate Bill 158:
**Provides for Additional Transparency with Collective Bargaining Agreements**

This bill will require documents such as the entire agreement, summary of the articles of changes and fiscal impacts to be made available as part of the materials that would be provided at the public hearing. More transparency includes making the public aware of the specifics of the agreements; giving them the opportunity to understand both the short and long-term financial impacts of a bargaining proposal; and being able to easily access the necessary documents.

The Metro Chamber supported this important transparency bill relating to information about collective bargaining agreements that must be provided to the public during a public hearing. This bill is another step forward to providing the general public with the opportunity to have a greater understanding of the collective bargaining process.

**Assembly Vote:** Yeas: 42, Nays: 9, Excused: 0
**Senate Vote:** Yeas: 19, Nays: 1, Excused: 1
**Final Action:** Signed into law by the Governor.

Senate Bill 213:
**Creates Mechanisms to Track Federal Funding in the State**

This bill was designed to help Nevada receive its fair share of federal dollars redistributed to the state. The legislation required the chief of the state's budget division to maintain a database related to federal funds in Nevada and to conduct an annual report about the status of Nevada's federal funding and the mechanisms in place to distribute and administer those funds. This bill would have helped Nevada increase its return on federal tax dollars to help fund the essential services that the state provides.

The Metro Chamber supported SB 213.

**Assembly Vote:** Yeas: 37, Nays: 2, Excused: 3
**Senate Vote:** Yeas: 20, Nays: 0, Excused: 1
**Final Action:** Failed to concur between the Assembly and Senate and, as a result, the bill received no further consideration during the legislative session.
Senate Bill 214:  
Creates an Advisory Council on Federal Funding

SB 214 creates an advisory council on federal funding. The council is intended to help government agencies maximize their ability to get a return on taxes paid to the federal government by Nevada. The council will evaluate, monitor and advise state and local agencies on how best to apply for and receive federal dollars to help fund their respective operations.

The Metro Chamber supported the passage of this bill, as it will help increase Nevada’s return on federal tax dollars and help fund the essential services the state provides.

Assembly Vote: Yeas: 34, Nays: 3, Excused: 5  
Senate Vote: Yeas: 20, Nays: 0, Excused: 1  
Final Action: Signed into law by the Governor.

Senate Bill 223:  
Revises Provisions Relating to Collection of Debts on Construction Projects

SB 223 will limit the circumstances in which primary contractors are liable for labor costs accrued by subcontractors during the life of a project. The bill will also change certain provisions related to trusts between prime contractors and subcontractors and the penalties associated with nonpayment so that these changes promote transparency and fairness.

The Metro Chamber supported SB 223, testifying that the measure will promote economic development and restore integrity to the judicial system.

Assembly Vote: Yeas: 41, Nays: 0, Excused: 1  
Senate Vote: Yeas: 19, Nays: 0, Excused: 2  
Final Action: Signed into law by the Governor.

Senate Bill 244:  
Revises the Way State Agencies Hire and Compensate Outside Counsel

This measure revises the process by which the Attorney General may enter into contracts with outside attorneys, requires the approval of the Governor and legislature, and limits the contingency fees associated with those types of contracts. This measure is in line with the Metro Chamber’s good governance priorities by ensuring that executive agencies use existing resources when available and that the fees associated with cases where outside counsel is retained are both fair and transparent.

The Metro Chamber supported SB 244.

Assembly Vote: Yeas: 42, Nays: 0, Excused: 0  
Senate Vote: Yeas: 21, Nays: 0, Excused: 0  
Final Action: Signed into law by the Governor.
**Senate Bill 300:  
Revises Provisions Related to Comparative Negligence**

This bill would have changed the way juries (or judges, in a bench trial) evaluate comparative negligence (a rule allocating damages when both parties are found to be somewhat at fault) and joint and several liability (where each damaging party is independently liable for the full extent of the damages of the injuring act). Under this new structure, each defendant would have been liable to the plaintiff only for the percentage of responsibility attributed to him or her. Damages would have been allocated based on fault. This had the potential to curb financial incentives for frivolous lawsuits that deliberately seek damages from companies because of their ability to pay large sums of money, even though these companies' percentage of fault may be small or non-existent.

The Metro Chamber supported SB 300. This measure would have significantly reduced the number of frivolous lawsuits in the state and lowered the costs associated with doing business in Nevada.

**Assembly Vote:** No vote taken by the Assembly.
**Senate Vote:** No vote taken by the Senate.
**Final Action:** The bill failed because there was no committee action taken by the Senate Committee on Judiciary and, as a result, the bill received no further consideration during the legislative session.

**Senate Bill 314:  
Changes the Board Structure of Health Districts**

SB 314 changes the structure by which health districts are governed. It directs the board to hire a qualified individual as the district’s administrative director to oversee the district and perform other duties as directed by the board. It also reduces the number of voting members of a health district’s governing board from 14 to 11 voting members and eliminates alternate voting members. It provides for the creation of a public health advisory board to advise the health district’s board, which would be comprised of elected local officials, residents from cities within a health district and other relevant individuals.

The Metro Chamber supported SB 314 as part of its commitment to reforming governing institutions to better serve the businesses and residents of Southern Nevada and increase transparency. SB 314 was a Southern Nevada Forum priority.

**Assembly Vote:** Yeas: 22, Nays: 20, Excused: 0
**Senate Vote:** Yeas: 19, Nays: 2, Excused: 0
**Final Action:** Signed into law by the Governor.
**Senate Bill 406:**  
**Revises Laws Relating to Public Employees’ Retirement System (PERS)**

This bill contains several reform measures directed at the Public Employees’ Retirement System, including a provision that forfeits retirement benefits for individuals who have been convicted of or pleaded guilty to felonies. It changes the minimum age at which an individual may begin to receive benefits from their state-funded retirement system and also reforms the process by which employees may “buy a year” of service toward their retirement benefit.

The Metro Chamber supported SB 406. These reforms are part of the Metro Chamber’s efforts to ensure that the state’s retirement system is sustainable, while at the same time fair and accountable to taxpayers.

**Assembly Vote:** Yeas: 41, Nays: 1, Excused: 0  
**Senate Vote:** Yeas: 19, Nays: 0, Excused: 2  
**Final Action:** Signed into law by the Governor.

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**Senate Bill 442:**  
**Revises Provisions Governing Arbitration**

Currently, a person who is requested to serve as an arbitrator must disclose any facts that may affect impartiality. SB 442 prohibits an arbitrator from consolidating separate proceedings, all parties expressly agreeing to consolidation and requires a court to remove an arbitrator who did not disclose consolidation of proceedings.

The Metro Chamber supported SB 442 because of its longstanding commitment to reform the arbitration process in Nevada.

**Assembly Vote:** Yeas: 41, Nays: 0, Excused: 0  
**Senate Vote:** Yeas: 21, Nays: 0, Excused: 0  
**Final Action:** Signed into law by the Governor.

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**Senate Bill 473:**  
**Revises Laws Related to the Office of Grant Procurement**

This bill requires state agencies to notify the Office of Grant Procurement of any portion of a grant received by the state agency that is determined to be unexpended by the end of the period for which the grant was made. This will allow the Office of Grant Procurement to serve as a clearinghouse, disseminating information about unspent grant money to other agencies that may be able to use the unexpended funds.

The Metro Chamber supported SB 473 as part of increasing efforts to ensure that Nevada gets its fair share of federal grant dollars.

**Assembly Vote:** Yeas: 42, Nays: 0, Excused: 0  
**Senate Vote:** Yeas: 21, Nays: 0, Excused: 0  
**Final Action:** Signed into law by the Governor.
Senate Joint Resolution 6:  
Revises the Method for Determining Minimum Wage

SJR 6 attempted to amend the constitution to define what constitutes healthcare benefits for employees when calculating wages. Currently, health benefits are defined as healthcare coverage, the amount of which is not greater than 10 percent of an employee’s gross taxable wages. SJR 6 would have amended the constitution to include healthcare coverage as the amount of which is not greater than 10 percent of an employee’s gross taxable wages or 10 percent of the federal poverty level for a family of four, whichever is greater at the time the wage is calculated. This would have provided greater flexibility to state legislators to adjust the wage rate or calculation, which is important to employers.

The Metro Chamber supported SJR 6.

Assembly Vote: No vote taken by the Assembly.
Senate Vote: No vote taken by the Senate.
Final Action: The bill failed because there was no committee vote taken by the Senate Committee on Legislative Operation and Election and, as a result, the bill received no further consideration during the legislative session.
The Metro Chamber supported legislation that would augment economic development efforts, encourage job creation and allow for more delegated authority to be given to those elected officials and municipalities closest to the voters. Giving local governments more authority to act quickly and efficiently will allow matters of local concern to be addressed swiftly. Additionally, the Metro Chamber supported measures that will allow increased flexibility for local government entities during fiscal emergencies. This will also allow cities to reopen collective bargaining agreements during a fiscal emergency to renegotiate contracts. Flexibility is important to local governments and increases their ability to provide services during financially troubled times.
Assembly Bill 159:
Revises Project Labor Agreements

This bill revises Project Labor Agreements (PLAs), which are pre-hire collective bargaining agreements with a labor organization(s) for a specific public construction project. A PLA governs the number of core employees that a non-union contractor may use on the project. This legislation would remove the requirement by local governments to use PLAs on public construction projects.

The Metro Chamber supported AB 159 because it will increase openness, competitiveness and efficiencies associated with public construction projects and maximize the use of taxpayer dollars.

Assembly Vote: Yeas: 25, Nays: 17, Excused: 0
Senate Vote: Yea: 11, Nay: 8, Excused: 2
Final Action: Signed into law by the Governor.

Assembly Bill 182:
Reforms the Way Local Governments Interact with Employee Organizations

This measure would have potentially saved local governments more than $4 million annually. The bill provided for the elimination of binding arbitration in the public employee labor agreement process and evergreen clauses in contracts, which are viewed as a hindrance to the negotiation process.

The Metro Chamber supported AB 182, as this measure would have changed the way local governments deal with unions regarding collective bargaining. This measure promoted good government and transparency, two major legislative priorities for the Metro Chamber.

Assembly Vote: No vote taken by the Assembly
Senate Vote: No vote taken by the Senate
Final Action: The bill failed because there was no action taken by the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means and, as a result, the bill received no further consideration during the legislative session.
Assembly Bill 280: 
Revises the Way Local Governments Bargain with Public Employees Unions

This measure would have allowed current existing contracts that were a result of collective bargaining to run through the negotiated period and, upon expiration, would have provided local governments the flexibility to determine if they wish to continue with the collective bargaining process or opt out and proscribe the terms of employment without using the collective bargaining process.

The Metro Chamber testified in support of AB 280 because of the flexibility it would have given to local governments when negotiating employment contracts on behalf of taxpayers.

Assembly Vote: No action taken by the Assembly.  
Senate Vote: No action taken by the Senate.  
Final Action: The bill failed because there was no action taken by the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means and, as a result, the bill received no further consideration during the legislative session.

Assembly Bill 413:  
Revises Laws Related to Local Government

As proposed, this bill would have increased the powers of local government by repealing Dillon’s Rule, which would impact businesses at the local government level. However, the Metro Chamber is supportive of the principles of local governments having the necessary tools to function, pertaining to the delegated authority that has been given to them by the state constitution and state legislature.

The Metro Chamber opposed AB 413 as originally submitted for consideration by the Assembly Committee on Government Affairs. The Metro Chamber worked with stakeholders, including the State’s largest unincorporated cities, to address the business community’s concerns in the desire to find a balanced solution, which was brought forth in AB 493.

Assembly Vote: No vote taken by the Assembly.  
Senate Vote: No vote taken by the Senate.  
Final Action: The bill passed the Assembly Committee on Government Affairs but failed to be considered by the Assembly for a floor vote and received no further consideration during the legislative session.
Assembly Bill 445:  
Makes Various Changes Relating to Redevelopment  

This bill revises provisions for local redevelopment agencies. The bill provides a local government the ability to extend their redevelopment plans by an additional 15 years. Depending on population size of the city, it would be either 45 years or 60 years.

The Metro Chamber supported this bill because it will help with local development efforts in Las Vegas and Henderson. This will provide local governments another tool in their efforts to increase economic development initiatives in Southern Nevada.

Assembly Vote: Yeas: 34, Nays: 6, Excused: 2  
Senate Vote: Yeas: 20; Nays: 0, Excused: 1  
Final Action: Signed into law by the Governor.

Assembly Bill 493:  
Revises Laws Related to Local Municipal Government  

This bill will modify Dillon’s Rule for cities, allowing them to act with delegated authority when considering matters of local concern at the local government level.

The Metro Chamber supported this legislation, after working with the Nevada League of Cities as well as the City of Las Vegas. The Metro Chamber is supportive of the principles of local governments having the necessary tools to function, pertaining to the delegated authority that has been given to them by the state constitution and state legislature.

Assembly Vote: Yeas: 22, Nays: 18, Excused: 2  
Senate Vote: Yeas: 14, Nays: 6, Excused: 1  
Final Action: Signed into law by the Governor.

Senate Bill 29:  
Revises Laws Related to Local County Government  

This bill will modify Dillon’s Rule for counties, allowing them to act with delegated authority when considering matters of local concern at the local government level.

The Metro Chamber supported SB 29, after working with the Nevada Association of Counties, as well as Clark and Washoe counties. The Metro Chamber is supportive of the principles of local governments having the necessary tools to function, pertaining to the delegated authority that has been given to them by the state constitution and state legislature.

Assembly Vote: Yeas: 32, Nays: 9, Excused: 1  
Senate Vote: Yeas: 21, Nays: 0, Excused: 0  
Final Action: Signed into law by the Governor.
**Senate Bill 153:**
Revises Provisions Governing Heart and Lung Benefit

Existing law provides that certain diseases of the lungs or heart contracted by certain police officers, firefighters or other employees are, for purposes of industrial insurance claims, conclusively presumed to be occupationally related if the employee has served two years or more in the profession before contracting the disease. SB 153 limits the period in which certain employees may claim these presumptions and provides that a person who files a claim for the disease after he or she retires from employment as a police officer, firefighter or arson investigator is not entitled to receive any compensation for that disease other than medical benefits. The bill also prevents certain persons who use tobacco products or fail to follow a physician’s prescribed plan of care from claiming these presumptions. Currently, this is an open-ended benefit and the proposed time frame in the bill will allow for local government to better determine potential future liability with workers’ compensation claims. It would provide an opportunity for these claims to be more accurately quantified and fully funded by government.

The Metro Chamber testified in support of SB 153, recognizing the balance needed to provide workers’ compensation to public employees while establishing some eligibility perimeters to the benefits currently offered. The Metro Chamber recognizes the hard work of law enforcement officers and firefighters, but believes there is a need for reforming the requirements to receive this benefit.

**Assembly Vote:** Yeas: 36, Nays: 6, Excused: 0
**Senate Vote:** Yeas: 20, Nays: 0, Excused: 1
**Final Action:** Signed into law by the Governor.

**Senate Bill 157:**
Institutes the State and Local Government Cooperation Act

The bill provides for specific measures that help facilitate effective communication between state and local governments, benefiting Nevadans by increasing coordination and cooperation between governing bodies. The bill also sets out several definitions to help provide consistent and predictable decision-making mechanisms by local governments.

The Metro Chamber supported SB 157. The Metro Chamber believes this bill will help promote good governance at the state and local level, with employers and employees reaping the benefits of a communicating, coordinating government.

**Assembly Vote:** Yeas: 39, Nays: 1, Excused: 2
**Senate Vote:** Yeas: 21, Nays: 0, Excused: 0
**Final Action:** Signed into law by the Governor.
**Senate Bill 168:****
Defines Measures Related to Declaring a Fiscal Emergency for Local Governments

The provisions define the circumstances that allow local governments to declare a fiscal emergency and exempt certain funds from being considered during collective bargaining procedures. The measure will also allow cities to reopen collective bargaining agreements during a fiscal emergency to renegotiate contracts.

The Metro Chamber supported SB 168, citing increased flexibility for local government entities to address budgeting constraints during fiscal emergencies. This flexibility is important to local governments and increases their ability to provide services during financially troubled times.

*Assembly Vote: Yeas: 41, Nays: 0, Excused: 1*
*Senate Vote: Yeas: 11, Nays: 8, Excused: 2*
*Final Action: Signed into law by the Governor.*

**Senate Bill 479:**
Revises Provisions for Redevelopment Plans

As proposed, the bill would have extended the life of the redevelopment areas at the local government level for an additional 10 years. This would have allowed redevelopment areas additional time to recover from the impact that the Great Recession had on local property tax values.

The Metro Chamber supported SB 479. This bill would have also supported economic development efforts currently underway in the City of Las Vegas.

*Assembly Vote: No vote taken by the Assembly.*
*Senate Vote: No vote taken by the Senate.*
*Final Action: The bill failed because there was no committee vote taken by the Senate Committee on Government Affairs and, as a result, the bill received no further consideration during the legislative session.*
A robust and dependable transportation system is the backbone of all thriving metropolitan cities. The Metro Chamber has a legacy of supporting the construction of a multimodal and intermodal transportation system that promotes regional connectivity, increases productivity and reduces congestion. A strong and reliable federal transportation system means economic stability, job creation and business growth for Southern Nevada.

With this in mind, the Metro Chamber advocated for the funding of critical infrastructure investments in Southern Nevada. Under one measure, which combines two 2016 ballot questions about fuel revenue indexing into a single countywide ballot question, millions of dollars would be made available to bond for the construction of much needed road projects in Southern Nevada. If passed by the voters of Clark County, this initiative would effectively address the growing need for transportation and infrastructure projects in Southern Nevada. It would also support job creation and improving the quality of life for Nevada’s residents by decreasing congestion and increasing the region’s economic competitiveness.
Assembly Bill 191:
Revises Provisions Related to Fuel Revenue Indexing

AB 191 combines two ballot questions in 2016 about fuel revenue indexing into a single countywide ballot question.

The Metro Chamber supported AB 191. The Metro Chamber has been an advocate of fuel revenue indexing, citing Southern Nevada’s growing need for transportation and infrastructure updates. This legislation will support job creation and improve the quality of life for Nevada’s residents by decreasing congestion and increasing the region's economic competitiveness.

Assembly Vote: Yeas: 34, Nays: 8, Excused: 0
Senate Vote: Yeas: 20, Nays: 0, Excused: 1
Final Action: Signed into law by the Governor.

Assembly Bill 423:
Creates the Legislative Committee on Transportation Infrastructure and Funding

This bill would have created the Legislative Committee on Transportation Infrastructure and Funding. The creation of this committee would have allowed for a statewide dialogue regarding transportation infrastructure, as well as funding mechanisms, outside of the biennial legislative session.

Metro Chamber supported AB 423. Transportation infrastructure development and refurbishment has been a longstanding priority for the Metro Chamber.

Assembly Vote: No action taken by the Assembly.
Senate Vote: No action taken by the Senate.
Final Action: The bill failed because there was no action taken by the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means and, as a result, the bill received no further consideration during the legislative session.

Senate Bill 149:
Preservation of State Highway Trust Fund

This measure, which attempted to direct the state’s treasurer to establish a program to provide matching grants to supplement local funds marked for the maintenance and repair of the state’s transportation networks, would have improved the ability of Nevada’s businesses to conduct business both in their localities and across the state. This bill would have helped ensure the stability and solvency of Nevada’s Highway Trust Fund. Investment in roads is necessary for economic development, as it connects people between communities and allows for the movements of goods and products.

Expanding and improving Nevada’s transportation infrastructure is a longstanding priority for the Metro Chamber at the local, state and federal levels. The Metro Chamber supported SB 149 because of the possible impact it would have had on Nevada’s highways. This bill was also a priority from the Southern Nevada Forum.

Assembly Vote: No vote taken by the Assembly.
Senate Vote: No vote taken by the Senate.
Final Action: The bill failed because there was no committee action taken by the Senate Committee on Revenue and Economic Development and, as a result, the bill received no further consideration during the legislative session.
Metro Chamber Legislative Reception in Carson City

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