



Office of the County Manager

Federal Legislative Activity Report – 2nd Quarter 2026

As specified in the *Washoe County Federal Legislative Principles and Lobbying Practices for the 119th United States Congress* approved by the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners on January 14, 2025, the following is a summary of the federal legislative activities of Washoe County staff, contract lobbyists and elected officials during the second quarter of calendar year 2026.

April 2026

- A letter of support under Manager Thomas' signature was submitted to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Ways and Means expressing Washoe County's support for a package of bills to modernize the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood. The Committee majority responded thanking Washoe County for our correspondence and indicated that they would be including it as part of their package of nationwide support. Included in the bill package are proposals that would:
 - I. Strengthen coordination between child welfare systems and housing programs to address housing instability;
 - II. Expanding access to education and training opportunities;
 - III. Improving support for expectant and parenting foster youth;
 - IV. Expanding access to legal services and other critical supports; and
 - V. Enhancing state flexibility and utilization of Chafee funds to better address unmet needs, updating allowable uses, reduces administrative barriers and empowering states and local jurisdictions to tailor services to current challenges foster youth are facing.
- Washoe County staff participated in a call with staff from Senator Cortez Masto's office to receive updates on a variety of topics, including the *Municipal Investment and Neighborhood Transformation (MINT) Act*, the *21st Century Road to Housing Act*, and an award from the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco for grants for affordable housing in Nevada.
- Washoe County staff provided information to Senator Cortez Masto and Senator Rosen in response to an inquiry from the Senators' offices regarding potential operational and/or fiscal impacts of President Trump's executive order on mail in ballots.

May 2026

- Senator Rosen attended an event hosted by AARP at the Washoe County Senior Center.
- Senator Cortez Masto and Senator Rosen's offices informed Washoe County that the Senators had jointly submitted all three of Washoe County's Federal Fiscal Year 2027 appropriations requests (WCSO Special Operations Hangar renovation, Updated floodplain risk mapping for Hidden Valley and Sun Valley, Carcione-Canepa Ranch Recreation Access Plan Phase II) to the respective Senate appropriations committees for funding. Timing as to review of the requests by the Senate Appropriations Committee/Subcommittees is currently unknown.

June 2026

- The House Appropriations Transportation Subcommittee markup of their bill included an appropriation of \$3M for renovation of the WCSO Special Operations Hangar. Timing as to full committee review of the bill is currently unknown.



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- Manager Thomas and Washoe County staff met with Ken Brooke, Chief of Staff for Congressman Amodei, and discussed a variety of topics, including appropriations and lands bills.
- Washoe County staff and contract lobbyist (Porter Group) provided updates to our congressional delegation members regarding the flash flooding in Hidden Valley and cleanup efforts following the event.

