



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: August 25, 2026

DATE: Thursday, August 20, 2026

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Cadence Matijevich, Government Affairs Liaison
775-328-2077, cmatijevich@washoecounty.gov

THROUGH: Kate Thomas, Manager, Washoe County

SUBJECT: Update, discussion and direction to staff regarding potential Bill Draft Requests (BDRs) for the 84th (2027) Session of the Nevada Legislature. The subject(s) of potential BDRs to be considered include a measure requiring that a local government reimburse a county for any costs incurred by that county as a result of errors in a local government billing file remitted to its county treasurer; recounts of votes in elections; expansion of the types of documents that may be filed in the Nevada Lockbox; and abatement of nuisances on public and/or private property. The Board may direct staff to pursue BDRs on one or more of these subjects and/or on other subjects the Board identifies as being in the best interests of the county for approval at a future meeting. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

SUMMARY

Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 218D.205 authorizes Washoe County to submit up to two (2) requests for the drafting of legislative measures for consideration by the Nevada Legislature during each regular session of the Legislature. Such requests are commonly referred to as Bill Draft Requests (BDRs). Should the Board choose to exercise its authority to submit one or more BDRs for the 84th Session of the Nevada Legislature, which is scheduled to begin February 1, 2027, the request(s) must be submitted to the Legislative Counsel Bureau on or before September 1, 2026.

NRS Chapter 218D also grants authority to Legislators, the chairs of standing legislative committees, joint standing interim legislative committees, the Governor, the Nevada Association of Counties, and to various other persons and entities to submit BDRs for consideration during regular sessions of the Nevada Legislature. Washoe County may solicit one or more of these persons or entities to sponsor a BDR on behalf of the County.

Section 17 of Article 4 of the Constitution of the State of Nevada requires that each law enacted by the Legislature embrace only one subject.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

The Board is requested to affirm prior direction to staff on the subject of one BDRs to be submitted to the Legislative Counsel Bureau by Washoe County, contingent upon the Nevada Association of Counties (NACO) having not selected the subject as a NACO BDR.

Washoe County Strategic Objectives supported by this item: Fiscal Sustainability, Economic Impacts

PREVIOUS ACTION

On March 17, 2026, staff presented five subjects to the Board for consideration as potential Washoe County BDRs and/or to pursue for outside BDR sponsorship for the 84th Session of the Nevada Legislature. The Board provided direction and requested that staff return to the Board in summer of 2026 with an update and to provide an opportunity for the Board to give further direction. The Board's direction to staff on March 17, 2026, was as follows:

1. To submit to NACO, for consideration as a NACO BDR, the requirement that a local government which submits an erroneous billing file to a county treasurer must reimburse the county for any expenses incurred by the county due to the errors contained in the billing file.
2. To approve submission of a Washoe County BDR and/or to seek individual legislator sponsorship of a BDR to amend NRS 244A.7645 to allow a maximum of three (3) percent of a surcharge collected for enhancement of the telephone system used for reporting emergencies and purchase and maintenance of event recording devices (911 Telephone Surcharge) revenues to be used by counties to pay the costs associated with administration of the surcharge revenues.
3. To submit the following BDR recommendations to the Legislative Committee for the Review and Oversight of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and the Marlette Lake Water System to address equity in authority for and distribution of transient lodging tax and surcharge revenues collected in the Washoe County portion of the Lake Tahoe Basin for the purpose of establishing a dedicated funding source for public transit to, from, and with the portion of the Lake Tahoe Basin located in Washoe County:
 - a) Authorize a surcharge on the per night charge for rental of transient lodging in Incline Village and Crystal Bay to be used towards paying the costs of public transit to, from, and within the portion of the Lake Tahoe Basin located in Washoe County.
 - b) Amend Chapter 432, Statutes of Nevada, 1999, to require the Reno-Sparks Convention Authority to grant to Washoe County a percentage of certain taxes collected from the rental of transient lodging in Incline Village and Crystal Bay to be used towards paying the costs of public transit to, from, and within the portion of the Lake Tahoe Basin located in Washoe County.

Additionally, the Board requested that staff inquire as to the likelihood of a bill being brought forward in the 84th regarding automatic recounts of elections, similar to

Assembly Bill 287 of the 83rd (2025) Legislative Session and expressed interest in seeing continued appropriation of state funding for permanent supportive housing.

At the April 21, 2026, Strategic Planning Workshop the Board received updates regarding public education as a service diversion strategy. During the discussion on this topic, the potential for filing of estate documents such as a Last Will and Testament in the Nevada Lockbox was raised. The Board requested that staff engage with the Office of the Secretary of State regarding legislative changes that might be necessary to authorize such filings.

During Board discussion regarding several agenda items relating to public nuisances at the June 16, 2026, Board meeting, the Board expressed interest in exploring legislative remedies that would allow the County to act more expeditiously to remediate significant pervasive public nuisances, particularly on properties where no known owner(s) could be identified.

On July 14, 2026, staff provided the Board with an update regarding BDRs for 84th Session of the Nevada Legislature. Based upon that update, the Board's directed staff as follows:

1. To approve submission as a Washoe County BDR the requirement that a local government which submits an erroneous billing file to a county treasurer must reimburse the county for any expenses incurred by the county due to the errors contained in the billing file, contingent upon the NACO Board of Directors not selecting this item as a NACO BDR.
2. To rescind the Board's prior direction to approve submission of a Washoe County BDR and/or to seek individual legislator sponsorship of a BDR to amend NRS 244A.7645 to allow a maximum of three (3) percent of a surcharge collected for enhancement of the telephone system used for reporting emergencies and purchase and maintenance of event recording devices (911 Telephone Surcharge) revenues to be used by counties to pay the costs associated with administration of the surcharge revenues.
3. To continue discussions with the Office of the Secretary of State regarding the types of documents eligible to be filed in the Nevada Lockbox and the entities authorized to access the Lockbox, and to return to the Board on August 25, 2026, to provide an update on those discussions, including a recommendation as to whether Washoe County should submit a BDR on the matter or not.
4. To work directly with Assemblymember Heather Goulding regarding a BDR to allow for local government to expedite abatement of public nuisances under certain circumstances.

BACKGROUND

In October 2025, Washoe County departments were solicited to submit proposals for potential BDRs for the 84th Session of the Nevada Legislature to the Office of the County Manager. Submissions were requested to be provided on or before January 30, 2026. Submissions were reviewed for alignment with Washoe County's Strategic Plan and to determine political feasibility, legal soundness, resource implications, opportunity for collaboration with other stakeholders, and ability/capacity to implement. Potential BDR

topics were presented to the Board on March 17, 2026, and direction was provided to staff as outlined above.

As directed by the Board, staff presented the item to require that a local government which submits an erroneous billing file to a county treasurer must reimburse the county for any expenses incurred by the county due to the errors contained in the billing file to the Nevada Association of Counties (NACO) Legislative Committee, requesting that NACO consider submitting the item as a NACO BDR given that the item is germane to all Nevada counties. NACO is authorized to submit up to five BDRs. On July 31, 2026, the NACO Board of Directors received a recommendation from the NACO Legislative Committee on the five topics for submission as NACO BDRS. Included in the five topics was the item submitted by Washoe County. The NACO Board of Directors is scheduled to take action to approve their BDRs on August 28, 2026.

As directed by the Board, staff submitted the following recommendations to the Chair of the Legislative Committee for the Oversight of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and the Marlette Lake Water System:

- i. Authorize a surcharge on the per night charge for rental of transient lodging in Incline Village and Crystal Bay to be used towards paying the costs of public transit to, from, and within the portion of the Lake Tahoe Basin located in Washoe County.
- ii. Amend Chapter 432, Statutes of Nevada, 1999, to require the Reno-Sparks Convention Authority to grant to Washoe County a percentage of certain taxes collected from the rental of transient lodging in Incline Village and Crystal Bay to be used towards paying the costs of public transit to, from, and within the portion of the Lake Tahoe Basin located in Washoe County.

The Legislative Committee for the Oversight of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and the Marlette Lake Water System is scheduled to hold a work session on August 20, 2026, to identify their BDRs.

Discussions continue between Washoe County staff, Public Administrator Klitzke and the Office of the Secretary of State regarding expansion of the types of documents eligible to be filed in the Nevada Lockbox, the entities authorized to access the Nevada Lockbox, and whether there would need to be legislative changes to authorize such filings and access.

Assemblymember Heather Goulding has submitted a BDR to allow local governments to expedite remediation of significant, pervasive public nuisances, particularly on properties where no known owner(s) could be identified.

On July 31, 2026, the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections held a work session to determine the subjects of BDRs requested to be drafted on behalf of the committee. The committee approved a request for the drafting of a bill which is similar to Assembly Bill 287 (First Reprint) of the 2025 Nevada Legislative Session:

- a. Requiring a vote recount for ballot questions and certain offices if the difference between the question being approved or disapproved, or the difference

between the highest number and next highest number of votes cast for a candidate, as applicable, is 0.25 percent or less. Defeated candidates and voters may additionally demand and receive a recount of certain elections under certain circumstances;

b. Requiring that counties be repaid the allowable costs for a recount required under these provisions, if the recount concerns an office or ballot question for which voting is statewide; and

c. Requiring the Secretary of State to establish and administer the Voter Access Grant Program to provide grants of money to eligible entities to support the administration of elections and improve voter access.

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board affirm their prior direction to submit as a Washoe County BDR the requirement that a local government which submits an erroneous billing file to a county treasurer must reimburse the county for any expenses incurred by the county due to the errors contained in the billing file, contingent upon the NACO Board of Directors not approving this item as a NACO BDR

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be:

I move affirm prior direction to staff to submit as a Washoe County BDR the requirement that a local government which submits an erroneous billing file to a county treasurer must reimburse the county for any expenses incurred by the county due to the errors contained in the billing file, contingent upon the NACO Board of Directors not approving this item as a NACO BDR.