



NEVADA POLICY
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

20 **19**

ANNUAL
REPORT

Thank You!

Our success is made possible because of your support and partnership.

Together with coalition members, philanthropic partners, thought leaders and engaged Nevadans, we are changing lives in the Silver State.

When policies empower *people*, rather than governments, we protect everyone's unique opportunity to prosper.



Nevada Policy

Nevada Policy develops and champions policy solutions that protect the freedoms necessary for human flourishing, ensuring every Nevadan has the opportunity to pursue their unique version of the American Dream.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

(Click the title to jump to that section)

<i>A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP</i>	4
<i>NEVADA POLICY IN ACTION</i>	6
<i>KEY METRICS AND IMPACT</i>	8
<i>TRANSPARENCY</i>	10
<i>WORKER FREEDOM</i>	12
<i>TAXES AND SPENDING</i>	14
<i>EDUCATION REFORM</i>	16
<i>EVENTS</i>	18
<i>FINANCIAL SUMMARY</i>	21
<i>THE NEVADA POLICY TEAM</i>	22
<i>PARTNER WITH US</i>	24

TIME TO GET IN THE GAME

Dear Friends,

This is the time to get in the game.

Since 1991, Nevada Policy has been fighting to keep our beautiful state a place where the spirit of freedom thrives.

Today, we're facing strong headwinds in our state's ever-changing political landscape. However, Nevada Policy was built for the very challenges our state is currently facing — and together with our supporters and sponsors, we're rising to the occasion.

Nevada Policy's transparency projects (TransparentNevada.com and TransparentCalifornia.com) generate a staggering amount of pageviews each year — with Transparent Nevada's web traffic alone translating into roughly 1 out of every 4 registered Nevada voters visiting the site to see how their tax dollars are being spent!

In 2019, we took our transparency efforts even further by leading a broad coalition of organizations and press outlets calling for stronger government transparency. Our proposed reform to Nevada's public records law ultimately passed the legislature with broad bipartisan support and was signed by the governor *despite* a very hostile political landscape and intense objections from government insiders.

During that legislative session, we saw the full power of the largest “special interest” in state politics — *government itself*. Government-sector unions, government lobbyists, the public education establishment and the politicians who depend on those insiders for political support all worked overtime to swell the size of government in the Silver State — putting *their* priorities over those of regular Nevadans.

Government unions specifically have long flexed their disproportionate political power to violate the rights of workers and taxpayers alike. Public teachers in Nevada who are unhappy with their union, for example, are only allowed to drop their union membership during a mere *two-week window* in the middle of summer — leaving many teachers stuck paying dues to a union they don't even feel represents their interests!

That's why Nevada Policy has been fighting hard to expand worker freedom in the Silver State. In the years ahead, we will be building on these efforts, providing Nevada's newly-unionized state government employees with the education and resources they need to keep unions from using their paychecks — and our tax dollars — to violate the rights of the very workers they claim to represent.

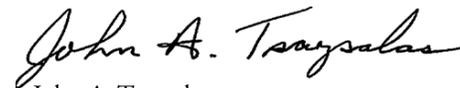
As we head into 2020 and beyond, the challenges before us are quite clear. The government's politically-powerful special interests are stepping up *their* efforts as well, asking for higher taxes and building on the powergrabs of recent years. In fact, there is already an effort by the Clark County Education Association to make hard working Nevadans pay the *nation's highest average sales tax!*

This is the time to get in the game.

Together we will stand up to these forces and defend — even *expand* — the freedoms that are necessary for Nevadans to prosper. With your support, we will continue to reach new audiences, build new coalitions and forge new partnerships with Nevadans from all backgrounds!

Nevada Policy is uniquely positioned to promote the ideas that matter in this fight and to advance changes that will shape not only 2020, but an entire generation of Nevadans.

Thank you for being our partners. It is our honor to get up every day to keep Nevada a state where the spirit of freedom thrives.



John A. Tsarpalas
President



Ranson Webster
Board Chairman

NEVADA POLICY *IN ACTION*

THE POLITICAL PUSH FOR STATE-WORKER
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

NEVADA'S 2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
REVIEW AND
REPORT CARD

SOLUTIONS
A SOURCEBOOK FOR
NEVADA POLICYMAKERS

Taxpayer's Guide

A citizen's guide for
keeping track of Carson
City...and your wallet!

MAEL SCHAUS
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Senate Committee on Government Affairs

KEY METRICS AND IMPACT

- **HISTORY OF IMPACT...** In 1990, our founder, Judy Cresanta, traveled to the Soviet Union to train pro-democracy leaders in the principles of free markets and free elections. Judy saw people with no concept of personal freedom, private ownership or how market-driven economies operate. Determined not to let these values slip away here at home, Judy founded Nevada Policy in 1991. *That's 29 years of fighting for free-market solutions in Nevada.*
- **UNCOMPROMISING...** By remaining steadfast to its founding principles and mission, Nevada Policy has achieved lasting change — including the creation of the most ideologically diverse coalition in state history: *The Nevada Open Government Coalition.*
- **NON-PARTISAN...** Nevada Policy is, and will remain, focused on policy solutions that lead to a prosperous and innovative state economy, where the spirit of freedom thrives.
- **INNOVATIVE...** Nevada Policy reaches beyond academic policy research and analysis, launching innovative campaigns like *Transparent Nevada* and *Transparent California*.



Nevada Policy testified before legislative committees 25 times, met with individual lawmakers 40 times and appeared before multiple audiences representing coalition partners, legislative staff and engaged Nevadans — reaching hundreds of thought leaders throughout the state *in person*.



Our engagement on Facebook grew by 180 percent over 2018's total numbers, from 7,280 engaged viewers in 2018 to 20,470 in 2019.



Nevada Policy earned over 800 media mentions in 2019, including, *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, *The Washington Free Beacon*, *Reason.com*, *Townhall.com*, *Nevada Independent*, *The Hill*, *Politico* and countless local TV and radio outlets in Nevada and California.



We partnered with the three-hour statewide syndicated radio program “Live & Local Now with Kevin Wall” thirty-six times over the course of the year, reaching listeners in Las Vegas, Carson City, Reno and southern California.



Our transparency projects, [Transparent Nevada](#) and [Transparent California](#), earned more than 55 million pageviews in 2019!

TRANSPARENCY

Nevadans deserve a government that is both accountable and transparent to the citizens it was designed to serve, and that's why Nevada Policy has always made government transparency a core aspect of our mission.

Citizens have a right to know how, exactly, their tax dollars are being spent by government, and we at Nevada Policy work to ensure the public has the [tools and the resources necessary](#) to see how government is spending their hard-earned tax dollars.

Our unique and innovative online transparency projects — [TransparentNevada.com](#) and [TransparentCalifornia.com](#) — provide real data on how your tax dollars are spent by elected officials. Seeing the pricetag that comes with an ever-growing government class has turned out to be ridiculously popular among average citizens. We're seeing tens of millions of pageviews between our two transparency sites each year, with a total of 55 million views in 2019!

Keeping government transparent and accountable is especially difficult work given the way government agencies and officials routinely flout the state's transparency laws — leading to protracted legal battles and a chilling effect among citizens interested in keeping an eye on their government.

At Nevada Policy, we believe Nevadans deserve an open government that treats the public records law the same as every other law... [by including penalties for those who violate it](#). To that end, we made the case and persuaded legislators in 2019 that it was necessary to reform and strengthen the state's transparency law.

Thanks to our efforts, key parts of our reform passed, and were signed into law. While the penalties were watered-down (and no longer applied to the individual government officials, but rather the agency as a whole) our success demonstrated Nevada Policy's unique ability to effect real change, *regardless of the political landscape* in Carson City. As a result, we moved the needle closer to ensuring government is held accountable to the very people it is designed to serve.



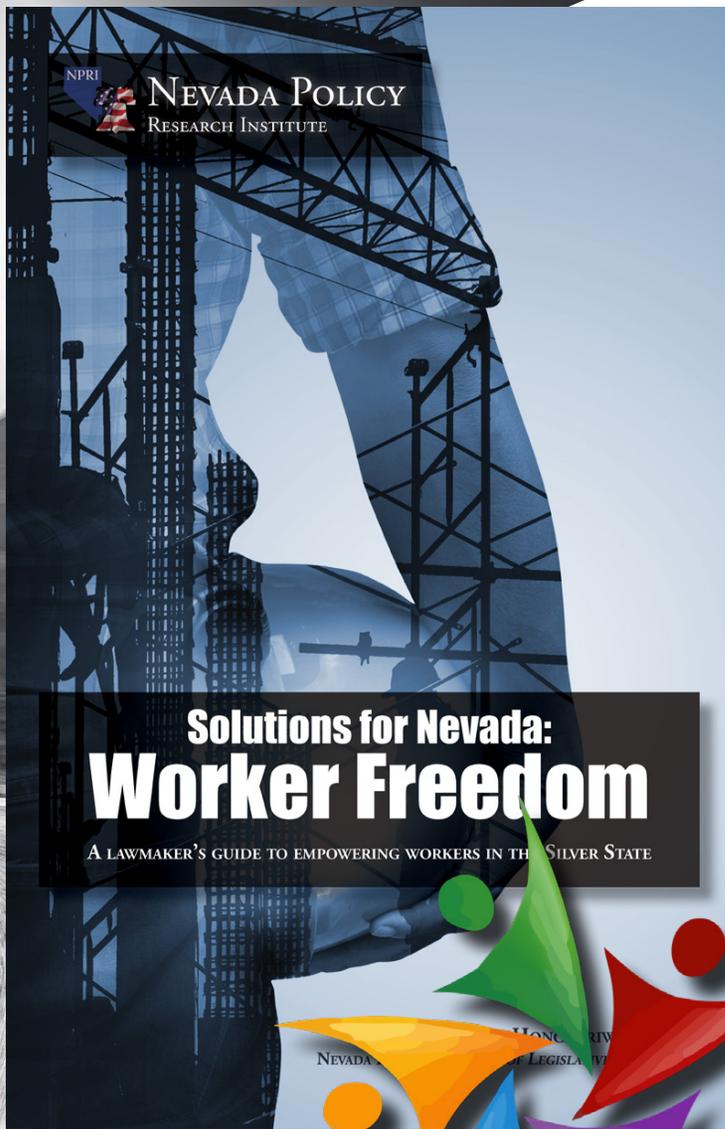
During this fight, we built the state's most ideologically diverse coalition, [Right to Know Nevada](#), and worked with lawmakers on both sides of the political divide as well as motivated activists and engaged citizens. This coalition has since become an official nonprofit organization of its own, with Nevada Policy named as a founding board member.

In the 2019 legislative session, Nevada Policy proved we're more than a mere collection of white papers and policy proposals — we're a public force that generates substantive and tangible results for everyday Nevadans.

A banner for 'TRANSPARENT CALIFORNIA' with a background image of the Golden Gate Bridge. The text 'TRANSPARENT CALIFORNIA' is in a bold, dark red, sans-serif font.

TRANSPARENT CALIFORNIA

California's largest database of public sector pay and pension



WORKER FREEDOM

Organized labor's disproportionate influence over Nevada state politics has resulted in a patchwork of laws and policies which put the interests of government-sector unions over those of individual workers and taxpayers alike.

Nevada Policy is dedicated to changing this by fighting for taxpayers and working tirelessly to protect the rights of workers.

For roughly a decade Nevada Policy has been [helping teachers exercise their constitutional right](#) to simply refuse union membership — a right that union leaders have fervently worked to deny teachers by burdening them with an overly complex and bureaucratic system for dropping membership.

The response from educational professionals has been stunning. Nevada's largest school district, Clark County, has seen *almost half* of its teachers exercise their right to leave the district's politically corrosive teachers union.

Our efforts to empower workers and taxpayers didn't stop at our state's borders. For more than five years Nevada Policy has also spearheaded [National Employee Freedom Week](#) — a week where more than 100 of our state and national coalition partners publicize their efforts to keep organized labor from trampling the individual rights of workers and the interests of taxpayers.

During the 2019 legislative session, our policy experts were busy as we [testified against a \\$500-million-per-year plan](#) to unionize state-level government employees, warning legislative committees about the [future tax hikes union handouts would force on Nevadans](#). We also spoke at length about the way [union cronyism has harmed teachers, students and taxpayers alike](#). In the years ahead, Nevada Policy will be expanding this work exponentially.

We are armed with one-to-one communication strategies for lawmakers, workers and taxpayer groups, and new polling data is giving us an exhaustive look [at what reforms will be possible](#) in Nevada's current political landscape. ([Visit NevadaPolicy.org for more](#))

Solutions for Nevada: Worker Freedom

A LAWMAKER'S GUIDE TO EMPOWERING WORKERS IN THE SILVER STATE

Opt Out

Nevada education professionals can opt out of union membership between July 1st 2020!

Teachers can opt-out of union membership!

Teachers, like all public sector workers, have the right to decide for themselves if they want to support a union.

If you're a teacher who wants to opt-out of your union, it only takes three easy steps, and you will **not** lose any of the benefits you have earned over the years — such as retirement benefits, tenure or health insurance. Click below to learn more.

VISIT NVTEACHERCHOICE.COM

TAXES AND SPENDING

Nevada Policy is committed to keeping Nevada a low-tax, fiscally responsible and business-friendly environment. Our transparency projects support this effort, but so too does our policy expertise as the leading authority on tax policy and government spending in the state.

We are, simply put, Nevada's principled free-market advocate.

Nevada Policy was among the first in the state to sound the alarm on the [Clark County Education Association's plan to hike taxes by \\$1.3 billion](#) — the bulk of which will be raised by forcing Nevadans to pay the nation's highest average sales tax!

Our [2019 Solutions Sourcebook](#) included one-page summaries of key policy issues that lawmakers from both political parties have advocated, including: Government transparency, Civil Asset Forfeiture reform, Occupational Licensing and Opportunity Tax Scholarships, among others.

In our publication "[The Political Push for State-Worker Collective Bargaining](#)" we made the case that extending collective bargaining to state-level workers in Nevada would increase state spending by almost *\$500 million annually* — a cost that is simply not justified, given the fact that state-level employees are already compensated well above market levels.

Perhaps most importantly, we published our [Legislative Review and Report Card](#) — a report that not only ranked lawmakers on their overall votes, but also issue-specific policy areas. We put our report card directly into the hands of our active partners and citizens who were looking to influence and advance liberty by working beyond partisan politics and engaging lawmakers on key issues.

Throughout 2019 and into 2020, we are updating and retooling our classes for candidates, policymakers and activists. The classes go beyond mere policy details, and dive into how to communicate such ideas in a culture that seems to be increasingly hostile to the core values of individual liberty and free markets.

Keeping Nevada a low-tax state is crucial to diversifying our economy, generating prosperity and building a Nevada that leads the rest of the nation in opportunity and freedom.

Because of that, Nevada Policy is constantly expanding the way we advance this core component of our mission to keep Nevada free and prosperous.

SOLUTIONS



THE POLITICAL PUSH FOR STATE-WORKER COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

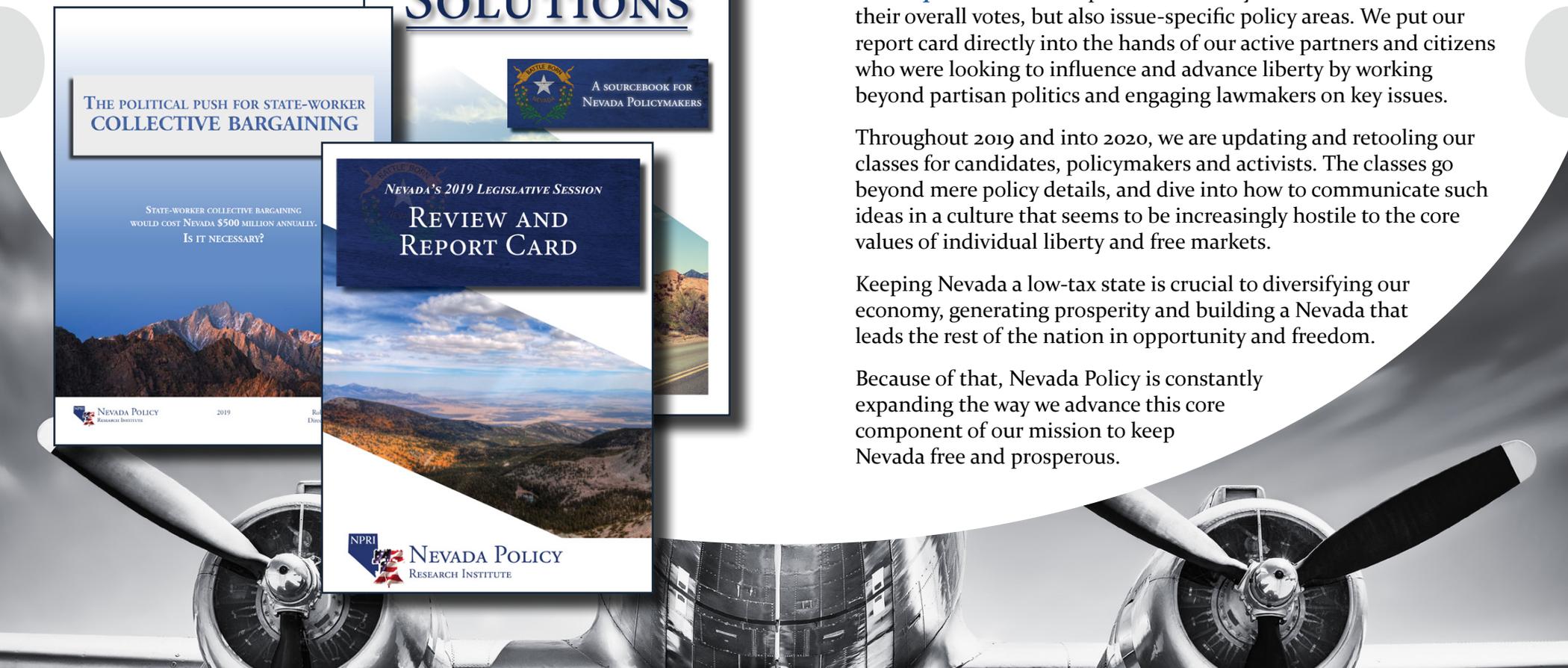
STATE-WORKER COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
WOULD COST NEVADA \$500 MILLION ANNUALLY.
IS IT NECESSARY?

NEVADA POLICY
RESEARCH INSTITUTE 2019

NEVADA'S 2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

REVIEW AND REPORT CARD

NPRI
NEVADA POLICY
RESEARCH INSTITUTE



OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS

A family's ability to seek quality educational options for their children shouldn't be limited by their income or zip code.

WHAT ARE OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS?

- Opportunity Scholarships are a lifeline for low-income students struggling in their assigned public school.
- In 2019, Democrats rolled the program back by severely limiting funding and eliminating the program's automatic annual increases.
- This move ripped scholarships away from nearly 1,000 struggling low-income students, and thousands more have been left with no hope of affording a quality educational option that fits their needs.



THE S

Expand the program (by increasing the Modified Business Tax credits) and resto

- *If the program were expanded to serve the population, it would save the state roughly \$25 million each year, helping 25,000 low-*

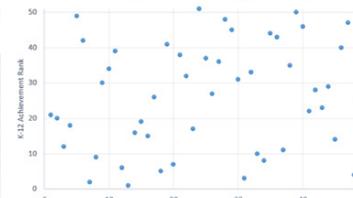
SALES TAX INCREASE

The Clark County Education Association is lobbying for a \$1.4 billion tax hike to increase spending on public education.

This would raise Nevada's average sales tax rate to the highest in the nation.

More public spending doesn't mean better education:

K-12 Spending and Performance Ranking of the 50 States



CURRENT NEVADA EDUCATION SPENDING COMPARED TO OTHER STATES: Nevada's per-pupil spending levels are already comparable to states that have consistently higher levels of academic performance, such as Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah and Florida.

EDUCATION REFORM

Up to 70 percent of Nevada parents believe in some form of educational choice.

And yet, the public-education establishment and teacher unions have consistently fought to strip parents and students of any alternative to government-funded public schools — schools that, incidentally, provide unions and the establishment with an ever-increasing share of taxpayer dollars.

Nevada Policy believes that a family's ability to seek quality educational options for their children shouldn't be limited by their income or zip code. Every child deserves access to a classroom that works for their unique needs — regardless of whether it is in a public, charter or private school.

As it turns out, empowering parents and students with choice is not only a life-altering experience, [but it makes fiscal sense as well.](#)

Historically, Nevada Policy has demonstrated this time and time again. We've demonstrated how the Clark County School District's special education department is rife with waste, fraud and abuse — and [far too many students are stuck](#) with no way of escaping some truly nightmarish experiences.

And it's not just about students, parents or even taxpayers. Teachers too would benefit, as we demonstrated using [Clark County's exceptionally high level of teacher absenteeism](#). [We've explained how choice would improve the lives](#) of those who pursue such an important career while bettering Nevada's younger generations.

In 2019, we helped mobilize parents in their fight for more choice, and we won't be letting up in the years ahead. When teacher unions say they want another massive tax hike on working families — while simultaneously lobbying to strip those same families of educational choices — [we're there to say "enough!"](#)

In the end, Nevadans deserve an educational system that actually works for students — not merely one that takes more hard-earned money away from working families.

Nevadans deserve an educational system that actually works for students — not merely one that takes more hard-earned money away from working families.

SPIRIT OF NEVADA SPRING CELEBRATION

*It was a great honor to host **Tammy Bruce**, conservative American radio host, author, and political commentator, on-air contributor to Fox News Channel and host of Get Tammy Bruce on Fox Nation in early 2019 at the **Peppermill Resort in Reno**. Her insight into the mindset of the Left was both fascinating and revealing.*

SPIRIT OF LAS VEGAS ANNIVERSARY DINNER

*We finished out 2019 strong with our Spirit of Las Vegas Anniversary Dinner. As always, **The Venetian Resort** was a wonderful venue to host our special guest **Dennis Prager**, founder of Prager University, a non-profit organization that creates educational videos on various political and policy topics with a free-market perspective.*



2019 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Thanks to your generosity and the hard work of many Nevada Policy Research Institute partners, we are ensuring that Nevada remains a state where her citizens can thrive in freedom and prosperity.

This is the time to get in the game. It's just the beginning of what we can accomplish to ensure Nevada is a state where the freedom to prosper is protected and promoted.

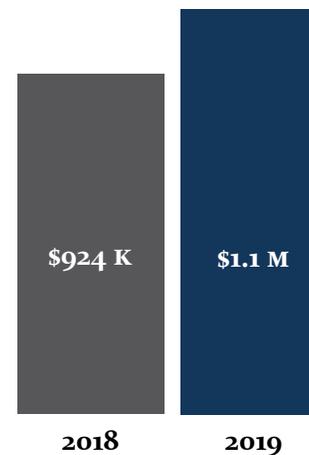
MOVING FORWARD

We are not slowing down. In fact, 2020 and beyond is a truly pivotal time as we prepare to shape the environment that will determine Nevada's future for generations to come.

We are looking at several key initiatives:

- *Hispanic and Asian Small Business Outreach*
- *Coalition building with partners on strategic policy issues*
- *Worker Freedom reforms*
- *Further strengthening Nevada's open records law*
- *Expanding educational choice programs*
- *Fighting against sweeping tax hikes on consumers, businesses and property owners*
- *Enforcing the state's Separation of Powers law through litigation*

REVENUE



REVENUE BY CATEGORY



Together, with our bold ideas and your continued support, we can keep Nevada free.

MEET THE NEVADA POLICY TEAM

John Tsarpalas
President

Steven B. Miller
Senior Vice President

Robert Fellner
Vice President | Policy Director

Michael Schaus
Communications Director

Daniel Honchariw
Legislative Affairs Director

Kelly L Smith
Development Director

Megan Heryet
Transparent California Development Director

Kaeley Cook
Office Manager

Donnie Bell
Administrative Assistant

Shaquille Cruz
Transparency Researcher

Keith Beauvais
Transparency Researcher

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ranson Webster
*Chairman
Reno*

Bryan Dziedziak, CPA
*Secretary/Treasurer
Henderson*

George Balaban
Las Vegas

Bob Davidson
Incline Village

Judy Cresanta
Founder and NPRI Emeritus Board Member

Ben Farahi
Reno

David Geddes
Reno

Steve Hardy
Zephyr Cove

Gary Richardson
Henderson

Gary Vause
Las Vegas

SUPPORT NEVADA POLICY



Tax-deductible donations can be made online by visiting: nevadapolicy.org/donate



Mail donations to:
7130 Placid Street,
Las Vegas, NV 89119



AmazonSmile is a simple way to support Nevada Policy when you shop online at no extra cost to you. Visit Smile.Amazon.com to get started!

What will be YOUR LEGACY?

“Leaving something in my will for NPRI is more than simply giving a gift to an organization. I want to do my best to ensure that generations to come will have a voice for freedom in Nevada. In other words, I see it as investing in a Legacy of Liberty.”

~Ms. Virginia Stickell

You can ensure your legacy of freedom lasts well into the future by remembering Nevada Policy in your estate plans and becoming a member of our **Legacy of Liberty Society**. Our goal is to build out our legacy program to fund our core programs from one generation to the next. Together, we can ensure we are building a Nevada where the spirit of freedom thrives for generations to come.

Contact Kelly Smith, Director of Development at kelly@nevadapolicy.org to request additional information about joining Nevada Policy’s **Legacy of Liberty Society**.

CONNECT WITH US!

NevadaPolicyRI 

@NevadaPolicyRI 

NevadaPolicy
Research Institute 

NevadaPolicy.org 

*“I have learned you cannot
fulfill a great purpose like
the building of Nevada,
and make ice-cream on the front
porch every night too.”*

~Howard Hughes



*Engage with all our
work online:*

NEVADAPOLICY.ORG

TRANSPARENTNEVADA.COM

TRANSPARENTCALIFORNIA.COM

EMPLOYEEFREEDOMWEEK.COM

NVTEACHERCHOICE.COM

RIGHTTOKNOWNEVADA.COM

NPRI



NEVADA POLICY
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

2020

The Nevada Policy Research Institute is a nonpartisan, nonprofit think tank that promotes policy ideas consistent with the principles of limited government, individual liberty and free markets. As a 501(c)(3) organization, as defined by the Internal Revenue Code, the Institute does not endorse or oppose political candidates.