

Nevada US Governor 2026

THE ISSUES

AARON
FORD

DEMOCRAT

JOE
LOMBARDO

REPUBLICAN · INCUMBENT

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ABORTION Ban or legal?	Legal. “ Throughout my career, I’ve fought to protect reproductive freedom.” As Attorney General joined a lawsuit against the FDA for its regulation of the abortion pill mifepristone. Joined a lawsuit challenging the defunding of Planned Parenthood. In 2019 filed a brief arguing that a state can’t limit abortion services by relying on available services in a neighboring state.	Mixed. Is “ pro-life with exceptions.” Supports a 15-week cutoff effort but says abortion should be left up to Nevada voters. Opposed a 2024 ballot measure to establish the right to an abortion in the Nevada Constitution up to fetal viability. Signed a bill to protect out-of-state abortion seekers from prosecution and to protect in-state abortion providers.
CLIMATE CHANGE Should climate change be a top priority?	Yes. Would “prioritize delivering clean and affordable energy.” Supports promoting residential solar installation. Filed a suit to recover \$155 million in federal solar funding. Joined a lawsuit against EPA over its claim that vehicle emissions do not cause climate change.	Mixed. Withdrew Nevada from the U.S. Climate Alliance. Revised Nevada’s climate plan to focus on energy affordability over meeting emission goals. Signed a bill to incentivize the use of certain zero-emission medium-duty and heavy-duty vehicles by businesses. Said he’s pro clean energy.
CRIMINAL JUSTICE How to ensure effectiveness and fairness in law enforcement?	Supported bills limiting no-knock warrants and allowing the AG to probe civil rights complaints made against police. Filed a brief urging the Supreme Court to uphold sentencing relief for some drug crimes. In 2017, sponsored a bill to require police to wear body cameras. “Supporting ...lawful policing is not the antithesis of supporting law enforcement.”	“ Under my administration, Nevada is standing firmly on the side of law and order.” Signed a bill barring certain offenders from the Las Vegas Strip and stiffening penalties for offenses against hospitality workers. Supports cash bail. Supports “more extensive vetting” of police officers and a “multicultural advisory council” to prepare officers for communities.
EDUCATION Use public funding for private and/or for-profit schools?	No. Supports public charter schools but opposes taking public school resources to fund private schools. As a Nevada senator, opposed public-funded vouchers for private schools.	Yes. Opted Nevada into a federal school voucher program that offers tax credits to fund private school scholarships. In 2023 proposed expanding the Nevada private school voucher program .
EDUCATION Limit teaching about racism and gender identity?	No. “ Black history is American history.” Said “Nevada history” includes the history of Black people, and that “should be taught in our schools.” In 2017 voted in the Nevada Senate to create ethnic and diversity studies in high schools.	Yes. Vetoed a bill that would have prohibited school library book bans. Vetoed a bill allowing sex education in schools unless parents opt their children out of it. In 2021 said would block critical race theory in public schools.
ENVIRONMENT Loosen or tighten environmental regulations?	Tighten. Says data centers in Nevada must “find alternative water sources or cooling systems to protect our fresh water supply.” In 2019, called on EPA to regulate mercury under the Clean Air Act. In 2019, joined a lawsuit against EPA for not allowing California to set higher-than-national emissions standards. Said the higher standards “have measurable benefits to our air quality.”	Mixed. Joined a multistate water-sharing agreement to protect the Colorado River. Would permit data centers with “responsible plans” for water and energy use to ensure “Nevada’s natural resources are protected for generations to come.” Advocates for the sale of federally protected lands to private developers. Vetoed a Styrofoam ban on containers at restaurants.

ISSUES	FORD (D)	LOMBARDO (R)
GUN LAWS Loosen or tighten gun laws?	Tighten. Supports Nevada's ghost gun law. "My office will continue to advocate for and defend impactful gun legislation that leads to safer schools, neighborhoods." Filed suit against the ATF over a plan to return seized gun parts to their owners, including forced reset triggers that allow for automatic fire. In 2019 supported legislation to expand Nevada's background check program.	Mixed. "I'm pro-Second Amendment. But I think everything requires a look." Opposes open carry without a permit. Supports universal background checks. Vetoed bills that would prevent gun purchases for certain convicts and raise the age to purchase semi-automatic rifles. In 2022 said he would remove Nevada's red flag laws. In 2024 said red flag laws reduce gun violence.
HEALTHCARE Increase or decrease government support for health care?	Increase. Would "cap the cost of many prescription drugs at the Medicare-negotiated rate." Filed a lawsuit against the new Medicaid work requirements in the Big Beautiful Bill. Said they remove "protections for vulnerable Nevadans who rely on Medicaid." Supports canceling some medical debt. Supports Nevada's new low-cost public health insurance option.	Mostly increase. Supported legislation to spend \$60 million on healthcare in underserved areas. Supported the building of a new children's hospital in Las Vegas and an increase in community behavioral health centers. Vetoed a bill to expand paid family and medical leave. Wrote a letter urging Congress not to cut Medicaid. Supports and stands with federal efforts to combat "Medicaid provider fraud."
IMMIGRATION How to handle immigration?	Joined a lawsuit to protect birthright citizenship. Filed two suits against a federal requirement that states cooperate with immigration enforcement or lose billions of federal dollars. Developed a model immigration policy guide on protecting immigrants in schools, courthouses, and hospitals.	"Nevada... will never be a sanctuary state under my leadership." Signed a letter supporting federal deportation policies, offering state law enforcement. Called for passage of a bill giving \$70 billion to DHS and ICE. Agreed to end state legal aid for DACA recipients.
LABOR Make it easier or harder for unions to organize workers?	Easier. Would repeal Nevada's right-to-work law. Is open to making more parts of state worker collective bargaining agreements binding. Would "strongly support graduate student workers' right to organize and collectively bargain." In 2017 voted to expand the pool of funds available to public union employees in negotiations.	Mostly harder. Supports Nevada's right-to-work law. Vetoed a bill that would permit employees of Nevada System of Higher Education to collectively bargain. Signed bipartisan legislation to grant pay increases and authorize implementing some collective bargaining provisions for Nevada public employees.
LGBTQ RIGHTS Limit or expand LGBTQ rights?	Expand. " My office will be steadfast in its use of every legal tool at its disposal to fight for the LGBTQIA+ community's rights." Called the ban of trans people in the military "hateful." Joined a lawsuit defending a ban on the practice of conversion therapy. In 2019 filed a brief to "protect LGBTQ+ employees from discrimination."	Mixed. Signed bills to ban insurance companies' discrimination against transgender people and to protect trans inmates. Vetoed a bill that would require developing policies to aid trans people in local jails. Vetoed a bill to protect doctors who provide gender affirming care. Opposes trans athletes competing in women's and girls' sports.
TAXES How to handle state taxes?	Is open to not adding new taxes during an affordability crisis. Supports growing the tax base by recruiting new businesses and jobs to Nevada. Supports creating a new financial district in Las Vegas to attract "high-tax businesses." Would " require data centers to earn tax abatements by creating good-paying jobs each year."	" My commitment will always be no new taxes for Nevada families." Lowered the Modified Business Tax by 15 percent. In 2025 signed a bill to index fuel taxes to inflation in Clark County after vetoing it in 2023. Supported a bill to give tax credits to the film industry. Said the bill "was an economic driver."
VOTING RULES Make voting harder or easier?	Easier. Opposes voter ID. Opposes a bill that requires proof of U.S. citizenship when registering to vote in federal elections. Joined a lawsuit opposing an executive that would restrict mail-in ballots. In 2019 launched a campaign to inform former convicts of restored voting rights under a new law. Voted to create automatic voter registration.	Harder. Called voter ID "essential for ensuring election integrity." Vetoed a voter ID bill because it would applied inconsistently "across all voting methods." Called for passing a voter ID bill. Opposes expanding access to drop boxes. Says universal mail balloting is expensive; wants people to request mail ballots. Introduced a bill requiring ballots arrive by Election Day.

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