

# Vision & Voices

NEVADA WOMEN'S LOBBY A VOICE FOR WOMEN AND FAMILIES

The Organization Dealing with Issues Concerning Women, Children and Families



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## COMING IN JANUARY

Watch for NWL's January newsletter where we will introduce you to our new lobbyist and present our issue and legislation priorities for the 2007 session.

During the legislative session we will let you know through our email alert network when your action can help on key legislation impacting Nevada's women and families.

On the NWL website ([www.nevadawomenslobby.org](http://www.nevadawomenslobby.org)), we'll make it easy for you to contact your legislators on our priority legislation. You'll find position papers, links to the full text of key bills, quick-links to legislators and committees, directions for tuning in on live hearings, and tips for grassroots lobbyists.

## WHAT WOMEN REALLY WANT

"How American Women are Quietly Erasing Political, Racial, Class, and Religious Lines to Change the Way We Live," states the book jacket.

Written by two female pollsters on different sides of the political spectrum, this book describes the similar trends of women of different ages, employment, marital status and economic status, coming together to get where they want to be.

Following the 2004 elections, Celinda Lake, a leading strategist for the Democratic Party and Kellyanne Conway, a leading conservative pollster, collaborated on interviews, polls and focus groups to discover that women are the most powerful force reshaping the future of America.

In their research, Lake and Conway identified 10 trends being driven by women in all aspects of their lives.

1) Singular Sensations: Single women are a major demographic group; making their own decisions; not putting their lives on hold waiting for Mr. Right. Politically, in 2006 and 2008, this will be a target group like the Soccer Moms in 1992 and NASCAR Dads in 2004.

2) Altered States: Related to singular sensations, women are marrying later and redefining marriage and family. This will result in advancement of policies such as domestic benefits and Social Security.

3) Baby Flux: Changes include fewer children, step-families, single women having children and adopting. We'll see advances in child support enforcement and child protection.

4) Open-Collar Workplaces: Women are making new, more satisfying, more open ways of working.

They lobby for family-friendly workplace changes.

5) The Electric Hive: The home has become the "central nervous system" of modern life. It has become a hub of family, work, school, and fitness.

6) The Mouse Race: Men invented the rat race but women are striving to slow it down to the "mouse race." Best places to work will be those that provide flexible hours and adequate vacation.

7) Generational Compression: Women across generations find commonality. As women defer or deny marriage and motherhood, a woman's stage of life becomes the defining characteristic, not her age.

8) Beauty In Action: A total lifestyle integrating healthy living with a desire for beauty.

9) Purse-string Power: "Women are the primary purchasers of cars, computers, electronics, appliances, insurance and other high-ticket items." This will set the stage for women to lead in economic matters.

10) Just-in-time Politics: Women are beginning to shape the political discussion around national security and social security issues. Women are more committed to voting than men. Will this result in a woman being elected President?

Perfectly summed up in the concluding chapter, "This new reality represents a dramatic shift in the way women have learned to use their power. Gone are the days of pounding on closed doors and demanding equal access. Today's women are simply bypassing settings that ignore their needs, creating parallel circuits which, in turn, immensely impact the

## CANDIDATE FORUMS & DEBATES

Have some questions for your candidates? Want to see them in action? NWL is a co-sponsor of several election-related forums plus the October 9 Las Vegas debate featuring gubernatorial candidates Dina Titus and Jim Gibbons. Over 50 other candidates will be available to attendees that night. See details below.

Forums featuring ballot questions and Washoe County's state legislative candidates (details below), were arranged by AAUW Nevada and will be broadcast later on FOX 11 in Reno, as will earlier judicial and school board forums.

•October 6, 7:00 - 9:00 pm, Washoe County State Legislative Candidate Forum, AAUW, League of Women Voters, NWL, at the National Judicial College at UNR, Room 103, (775) 327-4856

•October 9, 6:00 - 9:00 pm, You Decide! 2006, Over 50 Candidates & Gubernatorial Debate (7:00-8:00), League of Women Voters, National Association of Women Business Owners, NWL and others, at Bally's Convention Center, Las Vegas, (702) 804-0039, ext. 237

•October 19, 7:00 - 9:00 pm, Ballot Issues Forum, AAUW, LWV, NWL, at Reed High School Theater, Sparks, (775) 327-4856

Additional debates and interviews will be available on TV and radio and in newspapers. Another gubernatorial debate will take place in Elko. Watch for other candidate nights and catch candidates at your door. Be sure to ask those important questions, and tell them what you would like to see them accomplish in office.

Continued from Page 1

old standards. This trend is vividly apparent in the big-ticket commerce of cars and computers.

"We noticed a striking absence of victimization that has characterized past generations of women; their mantra seems to be, 'If you want it, go out and get it.' What women really want is the opportunity to do just that."

## VOTER GUIDES, SURVEYS & BACKGROUND

Find out how your candidates answered key questions, and learn more about them at the following sites which are being updated this month:

AAUW Nevada: [www.AAUWNV.org](http://www.AAUWNV.org)  
(AAUW will be mailing NWL members a copy of their survey results)

League of Women Voters:  
[www.lwvlasvegasvalley.org/VoterGuide.pdf](http://www.lwvlasvegasvalley.org/VoterGuide.pdf)

Planned Parenthood Mar Monte:  
[www.votingprochoice.org](http://www.votingprochoice.org) - link to Nevada

NOW: [www.nevadanow.org](http://www.nevadanow.org)

Some newspapers that have candidate information online:

Review Journal:  
[www.reviewjournal.com/news/election](http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/election)

Reno Gazette Journal:  
[www.vgt2004.org/a-rgj2006](http://www.vgt2004.org/a-rgj2006)

VOTE EARLY!  
BEAT THE RUSH  
(see page 4)

## WHY VOTE PRO-CHOICE ?

Did you know 950 bills related to reproductive health care are pending in state legislatures this year? Across the country unrealistic politicians are attempting to put roadblocks between women and access to family planning and abortion services. Could this happen here in Nevada?

Less than 30% of eligible voters showed up to the polls for Nevada's primary election on August 15. A

## GRASSROOTS LOBBY DAYS



NWL will sponsor its ninth Grassroots Lobby Days for three days next March at the legislature. The event is open to all and will include grassroots

lobbyist training, issue education, floor sessions and hearings, and lobbying of legislators one-on-one. It is also an opportunity to make contact with other citizen activists. Dates, speakers, registration forms and more information will be available on NWL's website, [www.nevadawomenslobby.org](http://www.nevadawomenslobby.org), which also will give you a look at the programs and events of earlier Grassroots Lobby Days.

Scholarships and reduced fees for students will be available, and application information will be on our website.

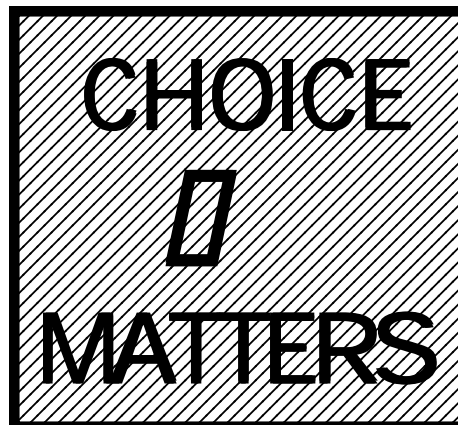
For additional information, to volunteer, or if your group would like to participate as a co-sponsor, call (775) 327-4856.

small number of people can have a major impact on election outcomes.

Who we elect into office determines policies that impact reproductive rights. Every elected official has the opportunity to influence access to family planning, abortion and sexuality education

City councils and county commissions can affect access to care through setting and enforcing laws that prohibit blocking access to clinics. School Board Trustees can make decisions through choices in curricula that support comprehensive sex education. State legislatures and Congress can affect the access of minors to confidential services, reproductive freedom, and reproductive health care services.

All of us who support reproductive justice and freedom of choice must become informed about the candidates and vote. Every vote counts and we must make a difference.



## KEY BALLOT QUESTIONS

NWL has taken positions on the following state ballot questions:

#1: NO

The Education First Initiative (approved in 2004 and going to voters for the second time):

This initiative would require the legislature to approve spending for public schools before any other part of the state budget. While we recognize the importance of raising Nevada's sorely inadequate funding for education, this is not the answer. It is meaningless at best, but its circuitous and unnecessary process could both harm education funding and allow funding of other essential services to be neglected.

#3 TASC Initiative - Removed from ballot. NWL will oppose any reappearance of this dangerous plan to limit Nevada taxes and endanger many important programs and services. This plan would limit future growth in Nevada expenditures to annual changes in population plus inflation. Irrespective of needs, any further growth in taxes would require voter approval.

#4 - NO (Choose #5)

Responsibly Protect Nevadans from Second Hand Smoke: This largely maintains current state smoking laws, and was meant to counter the more restrictive Clean Indoor Air Act.

#5 - YES

Clean Indoor Air Act: This proposal would change state law and outlaw smoking in restaurants, supermarkets, convenience stores, hotel and motel rooms and most bars. This law could boost Nevada's very low ratings on many health indicators.

#6 - YES

Raise the Minimum Wage for Working Nevadans (approved in 2004 and going to voters for the second time): This proposed constitutional amendment would increase the minimum wage by \$1 per hour, and each year the minimum wage would increase by the rate of inflation per the Consumer Price Index. Working Nevadans must be able to earn a living wage; this is a step in that direction.

## GOODBYE MAYA

Nevada lost a model of activism, compassion, quiet leadership, and philanthropy when we lost Maya Miller this summer.



Maya's memorial brought hundreds to her ranch in Washoe Valley with speakers from all over the world telling how she had touched their lives with her warmth and hospitality, nurtured their activism, championed women's rights, kept several national boards on track as a member, supported start-ups of progressive organizations, fought for peace and civil rights, helped indigenous people in several countries - and far more!

NWL so admired Maya that we created the Maya Miller Egalitarian Award, which has also been awarded to activists Jan Gilbert and Jon Sasser.

## POLITICAL TRAINING

Did you ever think about running for political office but didn't know how? A new organization, Emerge Nevada, has been formed to educate and inspire women Democrats to pursue elective local and state offices in Nevada. They aim to hone political skills, expand knowledge of local issues, and connect program participants with mentors.

Women are being recruited for the initial seven-month training class beginning in December. For more information and/or an application form go to [www.emergenv.org](http://www.emergenv.org). Applications are due November 1.

## NEVADA WOMEN'S SUMMIT JANUARY 20, UNLV



"Take Back the Public Agenda: Educating, Empowering and Activating Nevadans" is the theme of the sixth Nevada Women's Summit, sponsored by the Nevada Women's Agenda (NWA) on January 20 at UNLV. The Summit will feature workshops, training sessions and speakers addressing issues affecting Nevadans of all ages. High profile speakers in the political, business and community arenas are being invited to participate in this exciting day of education and activism.

The Summit coincides with the 34<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court decision of Roe v. Wade. We will celebrate 34 years of reproductive freedom in the United States, and learn how we all must continue working to ensure many more years of reproductive health and safety.

The Women's Summit is a community-wide effort. Several organizations are involved in the planning of this event: AARP of Nevada, Nevada NOW, Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada (PLAN), Planned Parenthood of Southern Nevada (PPSN), and the Women's Research Institute of Nevada (WRIN). If your organization would like to participate in Summit planning or if your business or group would like to co-sponsor and provide financial support, please contact Hazel Wong (702) 324-5353 or Bobbie Gang (702) 498-1383.

Save-the-date cards will be mailed soon, and registration will begin in November. The registration cost is \$60, with a \$25 student fee available.

For more information see [www.womenssummit.org](http://www.womenssummit.org), where registration forms will soon be available. NWA is the educational affiliate of NWL.

## CALENDAR

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- October 7, Last Day to Register by Mail, get form at [www.fec.gov/votregis/pdf/nvra.pdf](http://www.fec.gov/votregis/pdf/nvra.pdf)
- October 17, Last Day to Register in Person, see above for forms
- October 21-November 3: Early Voting at community locations and county offices
- November 7, Nevada General Election
- January 20, Nevada Women's Summit: Take Back the Public Agenda: Educating, Empowering and Activating Nevadans, Nevada Women's Agenda, UNLV Moyer Student Union, (702) 498-1383, [www.womenssummit@aol.com](mailto:www.womenssummit@aol.com)
- February 5, Nevada Legislative Session Begins
- March, Grassroots Lobby Days, Nevada Women's Lobby, (775) 327-4856
- June 4, Nevada Legislative Session Final Day

## 2006 NWL DUES

Please renew or join NWL now. Help strengthen our organization as we approach the 2007 legislative session with our new lobbyist.

### NWL Principles of Unity

Nevada Women's Lobby is a voice for women and children. We are dedicated to equity, non-violence and reproductive choice.

The lives of all people are inherently valuable and worthy of respect and dignity; therefore, we actively work to remove barriers of race, class, age, gender, religion, physical ability and sexual orientation.

Beginning with our own actions and language, we promote non-violence in all aspects of personal, economic and organizational relationships.

We support every woman's right to reproductive choice and self-determination.

### NWL CONTACTS

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## 2006 Membership Nevada Women's Lobby

P.O. Box 5565  
Reno, NV 89513

NWL is a statewide organization

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Dues:

- Individual \$40
- Living Lightly \$15
- Sustaining \$100
- Circle of Empowerment \$250
- Organization \$75

Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (thank you!)

NWL dues & donations are not tax deductible.



---A Statewide Organization---  
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