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AB421
April 8, 2003
Unopposed Non-Partisan Elections

Good afternoon, Madame Chair and members of the Senate Government Affairs Committee. For the record, I am Valerie E Weber, representing Assembly District 5, Clark County. I bring before you today AB421, a practical bill that can assist voters and candidates for office in several ways.

The essence of this bill is as follows:

In a **non-partisan** race that has only one filed candidate for office (unopposed), the name of that candidate shall appear on the PRIMARY election ballot. Currently, the name of this candidate goes on the general election ballot. Recall that these unopposed candidates only require one vote to be elected to their respective offices.

NRS 293.260 Section 1, subsection 5 (a) and (b) on page 2 addresses two changes:

1. Partisan and Supreme Court Justice candidates must appear on the general election ballot. Article 6, Section 3 of the Nevada Constitution requires this of the latter office.
2. Unopposed nonpartisan candidates; if a candidate receives one or more votes at the *primary election*, he must be declared elected to the office and his name must not be placed on the *general election* ballot.

Benefits from this bill:

1. This modification "unclogs" the general election ballot where "choices" in other races are required. For example, at least 16 names would have "shifted" from the 2002 general election ballot in Clark Co to the primary ballot had this legislation been in effect at that time. These races included unopposed District Court judges and Justice Court offices. Additionally, the 2000 general election would have had 14 less names on that ballot as well. This could significantly remove up to 1/3 of the candidate names (by office) we see now on the general election ballot. With initiatives and critical races for voters true consideration, this would alleviate the voter of time spent on races requiring no choice. It should shorten their time casting ballots.
2. The candidate only needs one vote to win anyway
3. It should help Clark Co get rid of some of those "cherished" campaign signs sooner from our open spaces.

In summary, this bill is practical. It assists voters, candidates, and the environment and makes the process more efficient. I urge your support for passage.