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"A Vast Sea of Emptiness"

Colton Witt

# STATE OF NEVADA A Report to Our Citizens

FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2012

# THE NEVADA VISION

Nevada's leaders will work to protect the health and welfare of its communities by promoting a healthy economy, a business–friendly environment and excellent schools.

## **PLANS FOR THE FUTURE**

### **Ensure a Healthy Economy**

- -Establish a stable revenue base
- -Attract skilled and educated workers
- -Maintain a business-friendly environment

### Provide First Rate Education for all Nevadans

- -Enable schools to determine the needs of their students
- -Improve high school graduation rates
- -Remove barriers to higher education

### Continue to diversify Nevada's Economy

- -Create Business IT Ecosystems
- -Explore New Areas for Mining
- -Provide Skilled Workers for the Renewable Energy Industry

# **DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**

|                            | Calendar Year<br>2010 | Calendar Year<br>2011 |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Population *               | 2,704,283             | 2,723,322             |
| Per Capita Income          | 36,938                | 38,173                |
| Visitor Volume             | 50,101,227            | 51,372,307            |
|                            | Fiscal Year<br>2011   | Fiscal Year<br>2012   |
| Public School Enrollment   | 438,866               | 444,003               |
| State Government Employees | 25,814                | 25,372                |
| Unemployment Rate *        | 13.5%                 | 11.6%                 |



\* Figures have been updated to reflect revised estimates for calendar year 2010 and fiscal year 2011.



# **NEVADA'S PROGRESS** IN FISCAL YEAR 2012

### **Renewable Energy**

Nevada has an abundance of solar, geothermal and wind resources with the potential to drive a strong economy. As the renewable energy industry matures, our business environment and policies will become even more important than the natural resources at our disposal. Today's challenge is to provide the best business environment for employers that design, manufacture and install renewable power generation systems. The State's renewable portfolio standards require all public utilities to generate 25% of their electricity from renewable energy resources by 2025. In calendar year 2011, 16% of the State's net electricity generation came from renewable sources, up from only 10% in 2010. Several of the world's largest solar projects are located in Nevada. Boulder City's Copper Mountain, 55-megawatt solar photovoltaic power plant, is currently the largest in the United States. Nevada is second in the nation in geothermal energy production, with 22 plants capable of generating 469-megawatts of power. The Spring Valley Wind Farm located near Ely in White Pine County consists of 66 2.3-megawatt wind turbines capable of producing enough energy to power 45,000 homes. The project, which was completed in July 2012, created 225 jobs during construction and 13 permanent positions, and is expected to generate \$20 million in tax revenues over the next 20 years.

### Mining

Nearly 80% of the gold mined in the United States comes from Nevada. This remains a lucrative industry as gold prices remain strong. During the fiscal year the number of mining jobs grew by 2,200 to over 16,200 employed in the natural resources and mining industry. Employment in this sector is expected to increase by 5.7% annually. Mineral tax revenues increased from \$243 million in fiscal year 2011 to \$253 million in fiscal year ended June 2012.

### **Business IT Ecosystems**

Apple, Inc. has committed to invest \$400 million over the next four years in a new data center and office building in Washoe County. The data center estimates that they will add 35 employees and more than 200 contractors. Apple's application agreement with the

State includes tax abatements: sales tax reduced to 2% for up to three four-year periods; and a reduction in personal property taxes by 85% for up to three 10-year periods.

### Education

The Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) results for all Nevada public schools show improvement over last year's results. This year, 49% or 339 of our schools met the AYP requirements, up from 45%, or 308 schools, last year. Among the schools that met AYP, 56 received distinguished recognition as High Achieving, Continuing Exemplary, Exemplary or Exemplary Turnaround. This is an improvement of 24 schools or 43% over last year. This is the last year that Nevada will report AYP results since the State has adopted a new Common Core Standards measure system. Nevada was granted a waiver from U.S. Department of Education's "No Child Left Behind" mandates by adding a condition that the State adopts a 100-point index system to measure students' performance. This differs from No Child Left Behind in that it measures students' progress rather than focusing on test scores at grade levels. Nevada will replace old standardized tests and create new ones based on Common Core Standards. Nevada joins 32 other states and the District of Columbia that have abandoned the federal measure system.



"Home Sweet Home'

### **PERFORMANCE MEASURE HIGHLIGHTS**

**Nicole Kersting** 

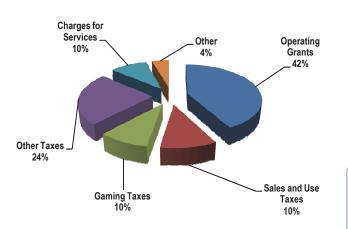
|  | FY | ′ 11             | FY 12            | Goal             |
|--|----|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Reduce highway fatalities                            |    | 270              | 255              | 0                |
| Percent of roads rehabilitated annually              |    | 4.5%             | 3.6%             | 7.8%             |
| Nevada's national ranking of freeway miles congested |    | 40 <sup>th</sup> | 40 <sup>th</sup> | 25 <sup>th</sup> |
| Graduation rates (11 and 12 report cards)            |    | 70.3%            | 68.8%            | 74.4%            |
| Expenditures per pupil (11 and 12 report cards)      | \$ | 8,515            | \$ 7,716         | \$ 9,424         |



# **NEVADA'S FINANCES** REVENUES AND EXPENSES

### **PRIMARY GOVERNMENT SOURCES OF REVENUE**

### FY 2012 REVENUES BY SOURCE



| Revenues by Source<br>Expressed in Thousands | 2011<br>Revenue | 2012<br>Revenue | %<br>Change |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Operating Grants                             | \$ 4,302,041    | \$ 3,954,105    | -8.09%      |
| Sales and Use Taxes                          | 931,911         | 967,373         | 3.81%       |
| Gaming Taxes                                 | 850,021         | 884,928         | 4.11%       |
| Other Taxes                                  | 2,177,341       | 2,264,736       | 4.01%       |
| Charges for Services                         | 967,637         | 888,479         | -8.18%      |
| Other  | 401,438         | 403,803         | 0.59%       |
| Total Revenues                               | \$ 9,630,389    | \$ 9,363,424    | -2.77%      |

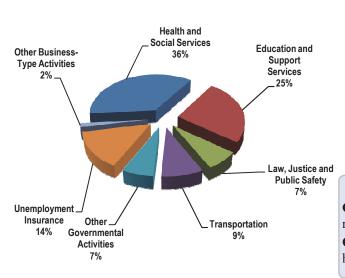
### Notes

**Operating Grants** – Primarily federal grants for various state programs. **Other Taxes** – Includes modified business tax, insurance premium tax, motor and special fuel tax, property and transfer tax.

Charges for Services – Includes inspections, licensing, permits, and fees.

## PRIMARY GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

### FY 2012 EXPENSES BY FUNCTION



| Expenses by Function<br>Expressed in Thousands | 2011<br>Expenses | 2012<br>Expenses | %<br>Change |
|--|------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Health and Social Services                     | \$ 3,209,237     | \$ 3,250,926     | 1.30%       |
| Education and Support Services                 | 2,393,536        | 2,280,899        | -4.71%      |
| Law, Justice and Public Safety                 | 667,598          | 646,701          | -3.13%      |
| Transportation                                 | 630,657          | 801,797          | 27.14%      |
| Other Governmental Activities                  | 740,707          | 604,538          | -18.38%     |
| Unemployment Insurance                         | 1,767,632        | 1,286,839        | -27.20%     |
| Other Business-Type Activities                 | 177,450          | 139,188          | -21.56%     |
| Total Expenses                                 | \$ 9,586,817     | \$ 9,010,888     | -6.01%      |

#### Notes

**Other Governmental Activities** – Regulation of business, recreation and resource development, general government.

**Other Business-Type Activities** – Housing, workers' compensation, higher education.

An independent audit of the State's financial statements resulted in an unqualified audit opinion. Financial information in this report is derived from Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) data in the State's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.



# WHAT'S NEXT?

FUTURE CHALLENGES AND ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

### **ECONOMIC CHALLENGES**

The recession hit Nevada harder than the other states due to its heavy reliance on the tourism, gaming and construction industries, which suffered serious downturns. The State's economy is growing but lags behind national trends. The projection going forward remains modest.

Sales taxes collected for the fiscal year were \$967 million, an increase of 3.8% over 2011, but remain 15.8% below prerecession levels. Gaming taxes collected for the fiscal year were \$885 million, an increase of 4.1% over last year, but remain down 14% from the peak in 2007. Visitor volume was up 3% compared to the same period in 2011. With the main sources of revenues continuing below prerecession levels, and growing at a modest rate, the State will need to create a broader tax base and not rely on one industry from which to raise revenue.

Nevada continues to experience modest, steady job growth. The unemployment rate in Nevada was 11.6% in June 2012, compared to the national rate of 8.2%. Nevada continues to have the highest unemployment rate in the nation. During 2012, Nevada is expected to have added 13,000 new jobs, compared to only 12,000 jobs added in 2011. Nevada's employment base is expected to grow by 12,000 jobs in 2013, dropping the unemployment rate to 10.6%. The State's largest industry-tourism, gaming and entertainment—has added nearly 20,000 jobs since reaching a recessionary low in November 2009. Other industries, professional and business services, health care and social assistance, trade, transportation and utilities have all seen modest gains since late 2010. While the employment picture is improving, it is a far cry from the growth seen during the most recent expansionary period.

Nevada spent \$1.6 billion on Medicaid in 2012, or 26% of all General Fund expenditures. Caseloads grew 5.6% to 285,485, or 10% of the State's population, and that figure is expected to top 350,000 by 2015. Other changes in the demands for social services during 2012: Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) decreased by 5%; food stamp recipients increased by 10%; the number of WIC participants increased by less than 1%. Additionally, it is estimated that 22%, or 589,000, Nevadans are uninsured compared to 15% or 46 million nationwide.

### **EDUCATION**

In order to diversify our economy, we need to educate our workforce. Despite continued efforts to improve in key areas, Nevada continues to have the lowest graduation rate in the nation. The Nevada Department of Education reports that only 62% of Nevada's high school students will graduate in four years. In Clark County that rate was even lower at 59%. The Reclaim Your Future program launched this year in Clark County is aimed at getting students back in the classroom. The program includes a mentorship program that reaches out to at-risk students by connecting community volunteers with struggling students to help them make progress towards graduation. Another initiative involves about 300 school and community volunteers visiting the homes of dropouts to encourage students to return to school

## INTERGOVERNMENTAL FINANCIAL DEPENDENCY AND RELATED RISKS

Because funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) has ended and overall federal spending will likely be shrinking, Nevada's funding from federal sources is uncertain. These numbers show Nevada's dependence on federal funds:

- Federal revenues to Nevada: \$4.7 billion, or 51% of all revenues to the State
- Federal grants from the State of Nevada to local governments: \$704 million 39% K-12 education, 39% public welfare
- Major contributing federal departments: Labor 36%, Health and Human Services 28%, Agriculture 15%, Education 6%, Transportation 10%
- 2011 to 2012 decreased Federal revenue: \$163 million
- Amount of investments in Federal Securities: \$7,759,539,927

We want to hear from you! Do you believe this report should include any other information? Please contact Kim Wallin, State Controller at (775) 684-5632.