



Ryan Vortisch
Silver State Voices
Reno, NV

February 27, 2025

Assembly Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections
401 S. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Subject: Support for AB262

Good afternoon Chair Mosca and Assemblymembers,

For the record, my name is Ryan Vortisch— that's R-Y-A-N, last name V-O-R-T-I-S-C-H— and I am the Northern Nevada Democracy Coordinator of Silver State Voices. I'm here to testify in strong support of AB262 on behalf of my organization and the Let Nevadans Vote Coalition.

Firstly, we'd like to thank the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections for bringing forward this important piece of legislation.

There has been an ongoing shortage of election workers across Nevada, which has a serious impact on Nevadans' access to the polls. AB262 offers a strong solution to this problem by increasing opportunities for folks in our community to volunteer their time to ensure an efficient, accessible election process.

A significant percentage of poll workers are retirees¹, and countless retirees are former government employees within our state— many of whom likely receive PERS retirement benefits. Even though these positions are temporary and considered a form of paid volunteerism², poll workers are still technically employed by the State. As a result, our PERS-enrolled, retired election workers are limited in how long they can work before they risk losing their hard-earned retirement benefits.³ Thus— even if they are interested and available to work for multiple election cycles in one year — they often are limited in the number of shifts they can work, ultimately requiring further poll worker recruitment efforts regardless of the interest pool.

¹ U.S. Election Assistance Commission. (2019, June). *Election Administration and Voting Survey: 2018 Comprehensive Report*.

² Clark County Nevada. (2024, July 10). *Poll Workers*.

³ NVPERS. (2019, August). *Pre Retirement Guide: Regular Members*.



Giving election workers the option to volunteer without pay would both protect these retirees' benefits and create an opportunity for greater institutional knowledge and retention among those running our elections.

Additionally, we appreciate that AB262 expands employment opportunities at voter registration agencies and for field registrar positions by removing prohibitions against previously incarcerated applicants. At SSV, we have worked with many formerly incarcerated members who want to be involved in the civic engagement process by registering their community members to vote, but are not able to do so. Nobody should continue to be punished for a sentence they have already served, and we must support initiatives that make reintegration into society an easier process.

We urge your support in voting for AB262.

Thank you.

Ryan Vortisch

Northern Nevada Democracy Coordinator
Silver State Voices