

An Intro To Understanding Reno-Washoe Tax and Political Issues

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Local Government in Washoe: Reno, Sparks, Washoe County? Think again

There are over a dozen 'local governments' operating in Washoe gobbling up your tax dollars.

Fire: Reno, Sparks, Tribal, Airport, TMFPD. NDF, NLTFD and maybe more

Law Enforcement: Reno Police, Sparks, Washoe, Constables, Marshalls, Tribal, Airport, School Police, University Police ...

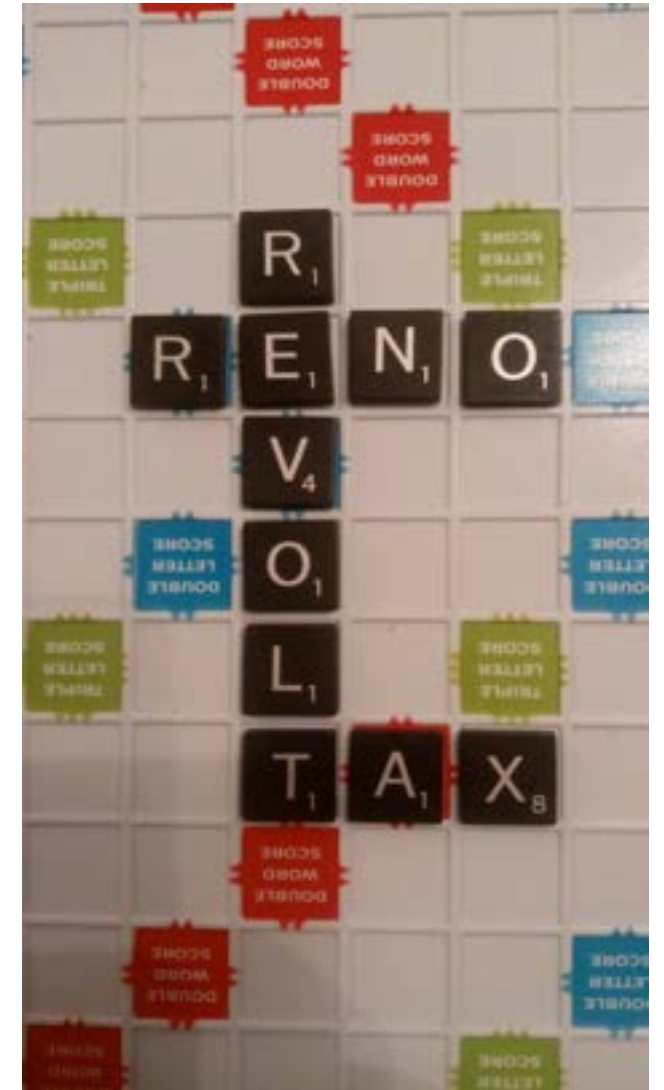
Local Governments: In addition to Reno, Sparks, Washoe: RSCVA, Airport Authority, Tribal, RTC, BID/DRP, Flood, TMWA, etc. and the various State and Federal Agencies. And the largest is the Washoe County Schol District (WCSD) with a budget over \$1 Billion, the largest employer in Northern Nevada.

Within these there are dozens of boards and committees.

Oh My!

The Golden Rules of Taxation (Learned the hard way)

1. Taxes Must Sunset and soon (not 30 years or forever) period- no “renewal”. We just saw this is 2024 with the Library Tax which citizens wisely turned down
2. Taxes Must have Real True Citizen Oversight including the right to challenge improper use in court and be awarded attorney fees
3. Taxes must be for a specific purpose as actually spelled out in the actual ballot measure, i.e. a bridge, a library, etc.
 - Beware such things as 10 more police officers because with growth 10 more is overwhelmed by that growth.



Beware Taxes are Called Fees

Beware Taxes with no Oversight

The Downtown Reno Business Improvement District is a great example of a tax / fee.

Is there any oversight? We need a DOGE and/or Inspector General in most Local Governments

The RTC5 Gas Tax Never ends!

When Contractors know that pot of money is set aside separate from the General Fund they Know they can bid high and get it.

BTW: For Developers Open Space means "not suitable to build on".

The Bigger the billboard the more the candidate has special interest money- run away!



Waste, Fraud an Abuse. Money Funneling and misuse of Non-Profits are another Story to be Told

You'll run away screaming

You'll see why we need an "I.G"
independent Inspector General or
DOGE

The Nevada Commission on Ethics- is
Not! It is another worthless expensive
boondoggle

The Strange Case of one Paul Orphan-
hint: Receiving a tax payer funded
retirement.

All in another Presentation



<https://transparentnevada.com/pensions/2022/>

In 2022 there were Fifty Retirees from Nevada making over \$200,000.

The Government spent thousands fighting the release of that information then cooked the books to prevent you from knowing who-and how much today!
How that for Transparency.

<https://nevadapolicy.org/press/nv-pers-files-appeal-after-court-orders-them-to-release-pension-data/>

Ongoing complaints that governments routinely ignore PDR (NRS239) Public Document Requests knowing that few can afford legal action.

Bob Conrad of ThisIsReno via attorney Luke Busby

A Sample Tax Bill

Where do your taxes go?

Most Taxes Come from Property and Sales Tax and some Gas Tax and other taxes and “fees”.

Property taxes are assessed by the Assessor separate from the Treasurer that collects and disburses those taxes.

Some are for specific dedicated purposes either never ending or with a sunset.

Be careful what you vote for- it may sound good at that moment but not in the long term. . Others for to Cities and the County for their “General Fund”. The General Fund is the wisest use as it allows your local elected representatives to allocate it based on changing needs .

From a sample tax bill downtown. Did you know you pay taxes for all these purposes? Many never end. About Twenty-Four different allocations!

Reno BID Senior Citizens Indigent Care

County Jail Over Indigent Insuran

County General Ab104 Fair Share

Gross Tax washoe County Sc

School General School Debt

Truckee Mdws/Sun Valley Water Basin

State Of Nevada RNO.RDV2

City of Reno General

*Includes 3 over-rides for Police & Fire

District Courts Animal Shelter

Agriculture Exte Capital Faciliti

County Debt Child Protective

Library Override Youth Facilities

Over \$40 million dollars annually for a Taj Mahal Freebie Homeless “Campus”! Are you kidding me? (Covered in another Presentation)

The 4th Street \$53 million dollar homeless “campus” is a good idea given to bureaucrats gone horribly wrong. From a simple bunk shelter plan to this? \$15 million +++ per year

Cares Campus Operations Funding and Expenses

Funding				
	FY24	FY23	FY22	Total
General Fund	\$ 17,576,804.41	\$ 17,417,356.14	\$ 8,478,973.00	\$ 43,473,133.55
Grants	\$ 889,773.88	\$ 3,434,058.07	\$ 3,928,047.44	\$ 8,251,879.39
Reimbursements	\$ 1,021,970.17	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,021,970.17
Donations	\$ 5,300.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 240,000.00	\$ 255,300.00
Total	\$ 19,493,848.46	\$ 20,861,414.21	\$ 12,647,020.44	\$ 53,002,283.11

Expenses				
	FY24**	FY23	FY22*	Total
Capital Improvements	\$ 218,732.89	\$ 486,774.24	\$ 2,085,963.00	\$ 3,117,851.60
Diversion and Assistance	\$ 50,508.72	\$ 33,375.91	\$ 3,151.84	\$ 81,023.13
Employee Cost	\$ 4,512,623.21	\$ 3,485,900.42	\$ 583,282.11	\$ 7,850,274.70
Non-Capital Expense	\$ 254,409.46	\$ 970,974.88	\$ 128,721.51	\$ 1,450,544.68
Operating Services	\$ 2,186,100.02	\$ 1,754,544.52	\$ 794,202.51	\$ 5,102,689.57
Operating Supplies	\$ 554,285.68	\$ 395,089.38	\$ 123,281.69	\$ 1,130,354.85
Professional Services	\$ 6,949,098.05	\$ 7,062,187.86	\$ 4,878,951.60	\$ 20,646,200.05
Repair and Maintenance	\$ 89,068.73	\$ 197,858.15	\$ 22,539.43	\$ 313,775.92
Utilities	\$ 258,157.04	\$ 329,632.81	\$ 171,786.66	\$ 796,626.77
Total	\$ 15,072,985.80	\$ 14,716,339.17	\$ 8,791,840.35	\$ 40,489,341.27

* FY22 not a full year as we began operating the Cares Campus September 1, 2021. This year was under an interlocal agreement, Reno and Sparks contributed.

** FY24 actuals, year to date 7.25.24

*** Year over year costs have increased over the years as buildings/staff/services have come online

The Growing Crisis in Public Transparency and Free Speech

- A Growing Trend is Government blatantly ignoring Public Document Requests (NRS 239) knowing that the only alternative- litigation is costly and takes a long time as they fight on your taxpayer money!
 - Bob Conrad of ThisIsReno has lead the way but can only do so much
- Government sponsored Assembly Bill seeks to allow Government and others to Sue citizens for comments made at Public Comment. Largely considered Free Speech ad Privileged Communications in most jurisdictions.
- Open Meeting Law (OML) The A.G. is backlogged years behind in addressing complaints so by the time they rule, it s too late to enforce.
- The Nevada Commission on Ethics is worthless and toothless.
- No one is looking out for you.

The people of this state do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies which serve them. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over instruments they have created.

**Stockton newspapers, inc. V. Redevelopment agency,
214 cal. Rptr. 561, 1985**

The Downtown Reno Business Improvement District

Covered in a separate Presentation but ALL property owners in the Downtown core are assessed on their tax bills even retiree condo owners with no business interests.

Subtotal	3,100,303	3,462,493	3,310,549	3,310,549
SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS				
Business Improvement District (DMO)	2,778,087	3,156,763	3,675,282	3,675,282
Downtown Police District	-			
Tax Maintenance District	-			
Subtotal	2,778,087	3,156,763	3,675,282	3,675,282
MISCELLANEOUS				
Interest earnings	1,092,158	1,000,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Rents and royalties	604,401	375,000	205,000	205,000
Reimbursements & restitution	3,215,094	2,716,020	1,050,000	1,050,000
Private grants	244,542	114,057	20,882	20,882
Change in fair value of investments	(1,699,845)	-	-	-
Other	56,626	326,495	3,726	3,726
Subtotal	3,512,976	4,531,572	2,779,608	2,779,608
SUBTOTAL REVENUE ALL SOURCES	257,655,123	280,701,825	286,421,214	286,321,214

CITY OF RENO, NEVADA

Regional Fire & Emergency Response Issues Covered in another Presentation

A must read!

Insanity on steroids

At the sign post up ahead- the
Twilight Zone.

Multiple agencies, multiple dispatch
centers, drug use, and houses burn
and people die.

