



State Senate

District 3

Sue Lowden-R
John Vergiels-D

District 5

Ann O'Connell-R
Stan Colton-D
Geri McLain-Pop.

District 7

Dina Titus-D
Gary Walker-R

District 3

Sue Lowden
Republican
Age: 40

Occupation: Owner of Resorts International

Community involvement: UNLV women's sports, the UNLV Ned Day Scholarship, Juvenile Diabetes, and Nevada Childseekers

Why are you running?

"I am involved in so many community projects that I see my candidacy as a natural evolution to my commitment to Las Vegas."

If elected what is your main goal?

Lowden plans to reform the State Industrial Insurance System (SIIS). "It is imperative that we have a viable program for injured workers," she said.

John Vergiels
(Incumbent)
Democrat
Age: 54

Occupation: Professor at UNLV in the College of Education

Why are you running?

Vergiels said he was compelled to run because of his commitment to public service.

If re-elected what is your main goal?

Vergiels said he will focus on the budget, transportation and education.

District 5

Ann O'Connell
(Incumbent)
Republican
Age: 58

Occupation: Owner of three Christian bookstores and a hotel

Why are you running?

Initially, convinced to run for office by her peers, O'Connell wants "to keep the government out of business."

If re-elected, what is your main goal?

"To try and convince my colleagues that government is there to see that services are provided not to provide them."

Stan Colton
Democrat
Age: 53

Occupation: Capital development director for the library district

Political Past: State treasurer (1979-83)

Why are you running?

Colton said his decision to run was based on a need for change because of a lack of leadership and negativism from incumbent Ann O'Connell. He believes his experience will allow him to tackle the problems that Nevada is having with the budget.

If elected, what is your main goal?

Colton said if elected his main goal would be to solve the budget and State Industrial Insurance System (SIIS) problems.

District 7

Gary Walker
Republican
Age: 52

Occupation: Advertising salesman

Why are you running?

Walker is running because his grandson, who lives with him, made him worry about Las Vegas' economic future.

Walker said he was displeased after following the activities of the 1991 legislature and decided something needed to be done "to retain our Southern Nevada lifestyle before we get into a fiscal mess like California."

If elected, what is your main goal?

"To represent the people of my district faithfully."

Constandina Titus
(Incumbent)
Democrat
Age: 44

Occupation: Political Science professor at UNLV

Why are you running?

"(Originally), I studied, taught, and wrote books about it (politics), so I thought I would try running," she said. Titus said she feels she is the stronger candidate because she has more knowledge and experience than her opponent.

If re-elected, what is your main goal?

Her main goal in office has been to ensure the quality of life for Nevadans. Titus said she believes the next session will focus on reform which will include: government structure, budget, business tax, and worker's compensation. She also said, that as a professor, education is a top priority.

Three state Senate seats contested

by Randy Miller

State senators serve four-year terms and may be re-elected an indefinite number of times. Their duties include the passing and repealing of state laws, as well as the control of the state budget.

Nevada has a bicameral legislature with the Senate being the upper house. Senators are thought to have more power than assemblymen because they serve longer terms and because they are fewer in number.

In the three districts surrounding UNLV—3, 5, and 7—the state senators' terms are up. In total, 11 of Nevada's 21 state Senate seats are up for election on Nov. 3.

According to the candidates, issues in this year's races are the budget, taxes, and the reform of the State Industrial Insurance System.

Another concern is which party will retain the majority. The Democratic Party has been in control of the Senate since 1990 with a 11-10 majority.

According to Shaun McKinnon of the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, both Democrats and Republicans believe they will capture the majority although the race will be close. However, the two third-party candidates running may become a fly in both parties ointment by causing a 10-10-1 split, giving the Populists or Libertarian parties an advantage in deal making.

POLLS

race and has, despite Republican efforts, turned the focus away from his personal problems and towards the issues.

Then there is Ross Perot, the thorn that the other two candidates cannot pluck from their sides. Perot started out the election by stating if the American public put him on the ballot in all 50 states he would take, reluctantly, the job "no sane person should want." He hit the talk show circuit for a while—another

new wrinkle of this election—and then quit the race. But when, according to Perot, the two parties refused to address the issue of the deficit he re-entered the race.

Many of the most important races of this election fail to capture the imagination of voters and are seldom covered by the national media. Many of the state and local races being decided Tuesday will fill offices that institute sales and property taxes, assess land and property

values, decide the location of freeways and allocate the distribution of services like police and fire protection and education.

What it boils down to is an election in which practical considerations will count for more than party ideology. To feel secure in their choices, voters need to get as much information as possible before heading.

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