

Nevadans eye political honesty

RENO, Nev. (AP) - Nevadans overwhelmingly favor stronger campaign finance disclosure laws, according to a statewide poll recently released. The survey conducted for the *Reno Gazette-Journal* also found that Nevadans strongly support keeping term limits on elected officials.

The poll of 600 likely voters was conducted April 16-18 by Research 2000 of Washington, D.C. It has a margin of error of 4 percent-

age points either way.

The survey showed that 62 percent favored changing the law to require more frequent campaign contribution reports, with 31 percent opposed.

"What this poll shows is there is an upswing in the amount of attention that voters are paying to campaign financing, and I think that's a good thing," said Bob Fulkerson, executive director of the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada.

But the timing of when contribution reports are filed is more important than the frequency, Fulkerson added.

"We want to know who is influencing these elected people before the election," he said. "Right now, the final reporting period is after the election is already over. If we could require more reporting before the election, I think that would be really good."

Democrats favored changing disclosure laws by

a 70 percent to 22 percent margin, while Republicans were in support by a 53-40 margin and non-partisans in favor by a 65-31 edge.

Asked whether the Nevada Constitution should be changed to eliminate term limits, 71 percent were opposed and only 16 percent were in favor.

Independents, in particular, opposed lifting term limits — by a 79 percent to 10 percent margin. Democrats opposed it 66-21 and Republicans opposed it 73-14.

Chase

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their claims harder to prove, Dressler said

Harris sued Scott after the crash, claiming the deputy's decision to ram the Cadillac violated Harris' Fourth Amendment right to be free from unreasonable seizure.

Lower federal courts ruled the lawsuit could proceed, but the Supreme Court said Monday that the officer could not be sued for his actions. Justice John Paul Stevens dissented.

During oral argument, justices repeatedly invoked the video to support how recklessly they believed Harris was driving. Stevens, however, said that a district court judge and three appellate judges who watched the same video concluded otherwise. Those judges determined the issue should be decided after a trial, not by a judge in a pretrial ruling.

Nicotine

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homes have more health problems, like asthma and ear infections. They are sicker and stay in bed more. They miss more school days than children whose homes are smoke-free. Babies who live in homes with secondhand smoke are more likely to die as infants than other babies."

The report adds that the number of Black children with asthma is 25 percent higher than the number of White children with asthma — "These children can have attacks if they breathe cigarette smoke."

Moreover, most Americans don't know about the harmful chemicals in tobacco smoke.

According to the CDC, there are 4,700 chemicals in tobacco smoke — at least 60 that cause cancer in humans. The list of chemicals include arsenic — rat poison; acetone — fingernail polish remover; ammonia — toilet cleaner; butane — cigarette lighter fluid; cadmium — used in paint; carbon monoxide — car exhaust fumes; formaldehyde — used to preserve dead people; hexamine — barbecue lighter; hydrogen cyanide — gas chamber poison; methanol — rocket fuel; naphthalene — mothballs; nicotine — an insecticide and an addictive drug, nitrobenzene — a gasoline additive, and stearic acid — candle wax.

The listing of these chemicals gives new meaning to the term, "secondhand smoke," which the Environmental Protection Agency has classified as "a known cause of cancer in humans." Still, the most loving mother, when addicted to nicotine, takes the risk.

"Lately, I haven't tried to quit," Terry said. "When I've tried to quit, I get headaches. Every time I've tried to stop, I just get mean," she ex-

plained.

A smoker for 14 years, Terry says she has only tried to quit cold turkey, with no outside assistance. It has always failed, she says.

Her way of protecting the teenagers is by telling them not to ever take up the cigarette habit, no matter how much peer pressure they feel. But, in a household of tobacco smoke, scientific experts say that's not nearly protection enough.

Parents and grandparents who smoke often view it as an innocent activity around their youngsters, who sometimes cough, wave their hands and plead with their loved ones to stop smoking. Terry says her 14-year-old shares with her what she has learned at school about the dangers of tobacco. But, children's complaints are often to no avail as they are scolded for speaking up to adults.

What some children may be trying to communicate is what the American Lung Association has reported:

—Secondhand smoke exposure causes disease and premature death in children and adults who do not smoke.

—Secondhand smoke, especially harmful to young children, is responsible for between 150,000 and 300,000 lower respiratory tract infections in infants and children under 18 months of age, resulting in between 7,500 and 15,000 hospital-

izations each year, and causes 1,900 to 2,700 sudden infant death syndrome deaths in the United States annually.

—Secondhand smoke exposure may cause buildup of fluid in the middle ear, resulting in 700,000 to 1.6 million visits to the doctor per year.

—In America, 21 million, or 35 percent of children live in homes where people smoke on a regular basis. Approximately 50 to 75 percent of children in the United States have detectable levels of cotinine, the breakdown product of nicotine in the blood.

—Secondhand smoke causes approximately 3,400 lung cancer deaths and 22,700-69,600 heart disease deaths in adult nonsmokers in the United States each year.

—A surgeon general's report has concluded that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke.

"The debate is over. The science is clear: Secondhand smoke is not a mere annoyance, but a serious health hazard that causes premature death and disease in children and nonsmoking adults," said U.S. Surgeon General Richard Carmona in prepared remarks before the release of a report on secondhand smoke last year.

"Only smoke-free environments effectively protect nonsmokers from secondhand smoke exposure in indoor spaces."

Edelman

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new set of victims are splashed across the front pages of our newspapers. We have the power to act now to reduce gun proliferation and the violence it breeds. It's the responsibility of all of us.

For more information on the cost of gun violence in America today, the Children's Defense Fund's Protect Children, Not Guns 2007 report provides an analysis of the latest data on child and teen gun deaths from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and action steps we all can take to stop the killing of children and teens.

Marian Wright Edelman is President of the Children's Defense Fund and its Action Council.

Your Horoscope Says... May 3-May 9

ARIES

Your intuition is showing, and you may surprise yourself as much as you surprise another by making a sudden intuitive leap and saying what you feel. You may feel as if you can read a certain someone's mind. Use your gift for good.

Soul Affirmation: Facing down challenges makes me feel good about myself.

Lucky Numbers: 10, 50, 52

TAURUS

Happiness is where you find it this week. How hard are you looking? It's easy for you to pull your thoughts away from any negative emotions and flow with your inner harmony. Let yourself be very happy this week.

Soul Affirmation: Cheerfully handling what comes at me is the test of who I am.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 14, 40

GEMINI

Someone close to you may be acting up or acting out. Try to respond with patience and love. If that seems impossible, turn it over to your higher power and get on with your own joyful life.

Soul Affirmation: I face each day with a smile and the day smiles back at me.

Lucky Numbers: 16, 28, 43

CANCER

Make sure you look as lovely as can be this week as you breeze through the week like a butterfly. All communications are effective, and even more to your liking, they are fun! Take special care to do things right the first time. So what if you're the last one to finish?

Soul Affirmation: Emptiness inside creates the space that I can fill with love.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 12, 27

LEO

You'll want to spend some time with a special friend this week just being together. If you've been neglecting a relationship because of work demands, this week is a wonderful week to set things right. Have a convincing strategy ready when you ask for a favor.

Soul Affirmation: I go along to get along.

Lucky Numbers: 23, 34, 41

VIRGO

Lots of spirituality discussions are going on around you this week. Be ready to add your insights. Worry not about what others think about your spiritual ideas. They may be a little too advanced for some, but others will benefit.

Soul Affirmation: I let my friendships guide my way.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 49, 52

LIBRA

You will get so much done this week that your friends and co-workers will be amazed! Accomplish this small happy miracle by focusing on serenity instead of perfection. You'll be very surprised at the results.

Soul Affirmation: I open myself up to the vibrations of love.

Lucky Numbers: 14, 22, 31

SCORPIO

It's best to keep your opinions to yourself this week, as many will be experiencing minor irritations and general grumpiness. Let others be who they are. You are a beacon of serenity. Others will notice. This week you are due some special treats. Make sure you give them to yourself.

Soul Affirmation: I slow down so love can catch up with me.

Lucky Numbers: 15, 49, 54

SAGITTARIUS

You may find that discussions at home have taken a sudden spiritual orientation. Give everyone room to express their personal beliefs without trying to preach your point of view. Your open-mindedness helps you with deep learning this week.

Soul Affirmation: The winner is me. I smile for the cameras.

Lucky Numbers: 31, 32, 54

CAPRICORN

A dream in which you already are what you hope to be will offer much insight into your current situation. Take some practical steps to keep the focus on this wonderful vision. You know you can be what you see!

Soul Affirmation: This week is the week the Lord has made. I rejoice in it.

Lucky Numbers: 23, 38, 52

AQUARIUS

All vibes are positive this week, and your vibration may be the most positive of all. Many friends and family members may call, and all will want to see you.

You've got a way with words this week, so use them to spread the sunshine around.

Soul Affirmation: I change the way I look at business this week.

Lucky Numbers: 28, 32, 50

PISCES

Get out and enjoy the sunshine this week. Remember that the sun is always shining somewhere in our big island home, so use your imagination if the weather isn't perfect where you are. You can still enjoy your week and the sun that is shining whether you see it or not.

Soul Affirmation: Hope is future's way of shining on me this week.

Lucky Numbers: 12, 14, 21