

# LAS VEGAS REGIONAL HEARING

## (Nevada and Utah)

**Clark County Government Center**  
**Las Vegas, Nevada**  
**April 26, 2014**

### **GUEST COMMISSIONERS**

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Hon. Karen Bennett-Haron, Chief Judge, Las Vegas Township Justice Court	Gregory Cendana, Executive Director, Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance
Carmen Berkley, Director, AFL-CIO Civil Rights Division	Jeanetta Williams, President, ID-NV-UT NAACP

### **PANELISTS**

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Rachel Anderson, Professor of Law, University of Nevada, Las Vegas	Kevin E. Hooks, President & CEO, Las Vegas, Clark County Urban League
William S. Boyd, President, Las Vegas National Bar Association Professor of Law, University of Nevada, Las Vegas	Mark Maryboy, Former San Juan County Commissioner (Utah)
Morgan Lyon Cotti, Program Manager, Hinckley Institute of Politics, University of Utah	Dan McCool, Professor, University of Utah
Lonnie Feemster, NV State Director, NAACP National Voter Fund	Ross Miller, Nevada Secretary of State
Jenn Gonnolly, Co-President, League of Women Voters of Utah	Andres Ramirez, Consultant, Mi Familia Vota
	Donald Rust, President, League of Women Voters of Nevada

### **WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

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ACLU of Utah	Eric Swenson, Attorney
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### **SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS (NOT EXHAUSTIVE)**

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ACLU of Utah	NACCP
Las Vegas Urban League	NAACP National Voter Fund
League of Women Voters of Nevada	Utah League of Women Voters
Mi Familia Vota	

## LAS VEGAS REGIONAL HEARING HIGHLIGHTS

## I. Felony Disenfranchisement

Rachel Anderson, a professor of law at the William S. Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada, highlighted the continuing problem of disenfranchisement for thousands of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals in Nevada, many of whom are African American and Latino. 2010 data from the Sentencing Project shows that 21,000 African Americans, or 12.5 percent of the State's African-American population, were disenfranchised in Nevada.<sup>1</sup> Although Nevada does have laws that allow individuals to have their voting rights reinstated, Anderson pointed to research she conducted showing the difficulty of accessing the information needed to apply for reinstatement.<sup>2</sup> "It took me a week to get the information, and I'm a law professor with a lot of resources at my disposal and have spent time working on these issues," Anderson testified.

## II. Language Assistance for Latino Voters in Clark County, Nevada

Andres Ramirez, representing Mi Familia Vota, pointed to the marked gains that have been made by Clark County's Latino voters in both voter registration and turnout in the past decade, which he attributed to the county's additional investment in language assistance.

**"[Clark County] has actively recruited bilingual poll workers. They've provided ample information in Spanish and other languages and work with Hispanic and other community service organizations on identifying the best locations to conduct early voting."**

Andres did add, however, that the increase in the number of Latino voters has led to a need for more bilingual poll workers and registrars.

<sup>1</sup> See: "State Data: Louisiana" by: The Sentencing Project  
(<http://sentencingproject.org/map/statedata.cfm?abbrev=NV&mapdata=true>)

<sup>2</sup> Nev. Rev. Stat. § 213.090