

# Certified Public Official Program

Created by Extended Studies at the University of Nevada, Reno in partnership with the Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities, Nevada Association of Counties and Nevada Association of School Boards, the Certified Public Official (CPO) Program is an in-depth series that provides diverse resources for educational and professional development responsive to the changing needs of elected and appointed officials in public office throughout Nevada.

Designed for

- Elected and appointed city, state and county officials
- School board members and school district superintendents
- Improvement district and public utility district trustees



Extended Studies  
University of Nevada, Reno

Photo by Richard Campbell - [www.ricampbellphoto.com](http://www.ricampbellphoto.com)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact Shera Alberti-Annuizio, associate director, professional development and certificate programs, (775) 784-1676; email [shera@unr.edu](mailto:shera@unr.edu).

## TAX DEDUCTIONS

Some expenses for continuing education, including registration fees, travel, meals and lodging, undertaken to maintain and improve professional skills, may be tax deductible. (Treas. Reg. 1-162-5 Coughlin vs. Commissioner, 203F 2d 307) Consult your tax advisor for more information.

## ATTENDANCE SHEETS

The CPO attendance sheet is available for download online at <http://bit.ly/2oQt8wk>. Attendance sheets verifying participation in courses and sessions applicable to the CPO Program should be submitted as each course is completed. Submissions should include the attendance sheet with a copy of the enrollment, certificate or conference agenda and a description of program content. Send attendance information to:

University of Nevada, Reno  
Extended Studies/0048  
Attn.: Shera Alberti-Annuizio  
CPO Program  
Reno, NV 89557  
or email to [shera@unr.edu](mailto:shera@unr.edu)

## PROUD PARTNER

Nevada POOL/PACT is a proud partner of the CPO program.



[www.extendedstudies.unr.edu](http://www.extendedstudies.unr.edu)  
(775) 784-4046 | (800) 233-8928

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# Certified Public Official Program



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
CERTIFICATE FOR ELECTED  
AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS



Extended Studies  
University of Nevada, Reno

# Certified Public Official Program

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE FOR ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS



### POWER ORIENTATION PROGRAM

The P.O.W.E.R. Orientation Program provides an overview of the skills and knowledge required of the public official. Program sessions are held throughout Nevada in conjunction with the state conferences of the Nevada Association of Counties, Nevada Association of School Boards, and Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities. To earn the CPO designation, program participants must complete the following P.O.W.E.R. Orientation modules offered through Extended Studies at the University of Nevada, Reno and meet additional program requirements. While CPO units may be earned in any order, participants are encouraged to complete the P.O.W.E.R. Orientation training first.

### P.O.W.E.R. MODULES (REQUIRED)

- Module 1: Realities of Public Life: Roles and Relationships of Public Office (1 hour)
- Module 2: Budgets: Revenue Sources, Projections and Forecasts (2.5 hours)
- Module 3: Ethics in Nevada (1.5 hours)
- Module 4: Nevada's Open Meeting Law (2 hours)
- Module 5: Citizen Participation and Public Information (1.5 hours)
- Module 6: Interviewing and Media Relations (1.5 hours)
- Module 7: Employment Law: Keeping your Agency out of Court (4 hours)

### POWER PROGRAM FACULTY

Faculty for the P.O.W.E.R. Program are public officials, University instructors and other acknowledged experts in such fields as public and business administration, finance, human resources, and community development and law. They were chosen for their depth of knowledge, teaching skill and commitment to the education of public officials.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Contact hours earned prior to completing the P.O.W.E.R. modules may be applied toward CPO requirements if they meet the following criteria as determined by the Extended Studies program director.

- The course must have been taken while the participant was serving as an elected or appointed public official.
- Course content must reflect current issues and topics within the CPO Program areas.
- The course must be relevant to the needs of today's public official.

Those who have completed or are in the process of completing a University of Nevada, Reno professional development certificate may submit their transcripts for approval of credit hours toward the CPO designation. Formal admission to the University is not required.

### HOW TO EARN CPO UNITS

In addition to the P.O.W.E.R. Orientation, CPO program participants are required to complete 52 hours of training as listed in the Program Topics. CPO hours may be earned by attending training or conferences through:

- Nevada Association of Counties
  - Nevada Association of School Boards
  - Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities
  - Nationally affiliated associations
  - Nevada POOL/PACT
  - Extended Studies at the University of Nevada, Reno
  - University of Nevada, Las Vegas Division of Educational Outreach
- Seminars or conferences presented by organizations not listed above also may qualify.

See reverse for information about required attendance sheets.

### PROGRAM TOPICS

The examples listed below each topic do not comprise an exclusive list, but are designed to assist in course selection. Two contact hours are equivalent to one CPO unit.

- **Public Finance** (6 CPO units)  
Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB), grant funding, accounting, auditing, government financing, asset management, taxation, school funding issues
- **Leadership and Governance** (6 CPO units)  
Time management, team building, communication skills, personal growth, diversity and cultural awareness issues, ethics in government, board development
- **Public Information and Media Relations** (2 CPO units)  
Minutes, agendas, sharing government information, marketing, presentation skills, media interviewing skills
- **Community Development and Infrastructure** (4 CPO units)  
Federal and state public land issues, property rights, tourism, community partnerships, business and workforce development, water issues, school planning, challenges to smaller learning communities, school programs
- **Employee Relations** (4 CPO units)  
Performance appraisals, labor issues, conflict resolution, employment law, ethics, staff development, board/staff relations
- **Electives** (4 CPO units)  
May include any of the topics above or courses more broadly applicable to community needs



**Extended Studies**  
University of Nevada, Reno



# Transforming public safety communications



The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) has entered into a public-private partnership with AT&T to build the first nationwide wireless broadband network dedicated to first responders for use in disasters, emergencies and daily public safety work.



FirstNet provides initial funding, 20 MHz of spectrum and deep public safety expertise to the partnership. AT&T brings a proven track record and strong commitment to public safety, as well as the commercial expertise and nationwide resources to deploy, maintain and operate the network.



This 25-year partnership offers the best overall value to America and its public safety responders – both from an investment perspective and in terms of the lifesaving technology it will put in the hands of law enforcement, fire and emergency medical personnel in communities across the nation.

## FirstNet will serve...



FIRST RESPONDERS  
fire, police, EMS

IN



COMMUNITIES  
counties, cities,  
tribal, rural

ACROSS



THE NATION  
50 states,  
territories & DC

## Technology first responders need to save lives, protect communities

### MODERNIZED

innovative app & device ecosystem



network improvements & upgrades



commercially proven cybersecurity solutions

### PRIORITIZED

emergency communications receive highest priority



rapid buildout with public safety input



nationwide public safety solutions leveraging existing infrastructure



### SPECIALIZED

robust coverage where public safety needs it



connectivity for advanced mobile data



highly available customer care



FirstNet™

Learn more at [FirstNet.gov/mediakit](http://FirstNet.gov/mediakit)

# What is FirstNet?

*The First-Ever High-Speed Nationwide Wireless Broadband Network Dedicated to First Responders*

## Founding and Mission

- The FirstNet network grew out of and addresses a 9/11 Commission recommendation calling for **interoperable communications for all U.S. first responders**. FirstNet is an independent government authority established in 2012 by Congress.
- FirstNet's public safety mission is to build and deploy the **first-ever high-speed nationwide wireless broadband network dedicated to first responders**.

## The FirstNet and AT&T Public-Private Partnership

- FirstNet and AT&T announced their public-private partnership on March 30, 2017, **and are bringing their resources and expertise together** for the benefit of public safety.
- FirstNet brings its relationships with states, territories, tribes, federal agencies, and public safety and **deep public safety expertise** to this partnership, as well as 20 MHz of spectrum (Band 14) and **\$6.5 billion in initial funding** for the network.
- **AT&T is making a significant investment in public safety: \$40 billion** over the 25-year life of the contract.
- Instead of conducting a "greenfield" build of the Network, this public-private partnership will utilize **AT&T's national footprint and commercial resources – including a \$180 billion infrastructure**. This will help deliver specialized features, in an efficient manner to public safety.

## Why AT&T and FirstNet?

- With the FirstNet network, first responders will have **access** to fast, highly secure and reliable communications whenever they need them. This will **help first responders stay safe while they help others during both day-to-day operations and disaster response and recovery, and when managing large events**.
- Through this new public-private partnership with FirstNet, AT&T will deliver a dedicated, interoperable network and ecosystem that will **give first responders the technology they need to better communicate and collaborate across agencies and jurisdictions – local, tribal, state and national**.
- One of the key benefits of the FirstNet Service will be the availability of quality of service and **priority for data services after a governor opts in. These features will be made available over the entire AT&T network (AT&T LTE bands) at no additional charge** to primary users of AT&T's FirstNet services.
- **Preemption (for opt-in states) is anticipated on all AT&T LTE bands by the end of 2017**. The feature will provide primary users with access to the Network when the need arises without competition from commercial customers. Preemption will be available on Band 14 when that spectrum is deployed.
- This network will provide public safety, for the first time, with a **dedicated help desk specifically for them – 24/7, 365, just like their mission**.



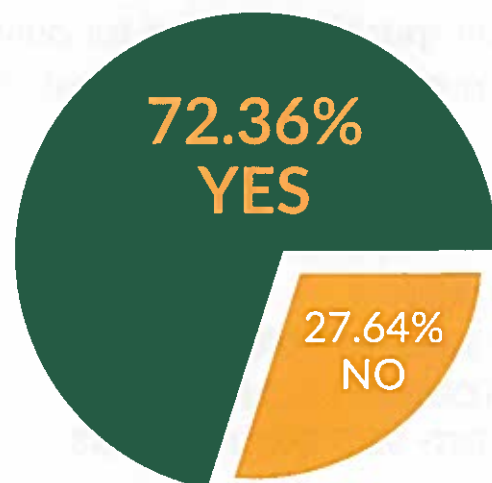
THE ENERGY CHOICE INITIATIVE

## NEVADANS FOR ENERGY CHOICE

Approval of the Energy Choice Initiative, otherwise known as Question 3, in 2018 would add a new section to the Nevada Constitution establishing that every customer has the right to choose the provider of its electric utility service, including but not limited to, selecting providers from a competitive retail electric market, or by producing electricity for themselves or in association with others, and shall not be forced to purchase energy from one provider. The proposed amendment does not by itself create an open and competitive retail electric market, but rather requires the Legislature to provide by law for such a market by July 1, 2023.

**BALLOT LANGUAGE:** *Shall Article 1 of the Nevada Constitution be amended to require the Legislature to provide by law for the establishment of an open, competitive retail electric energy market that prohibits the granting of monopolies and exclusive franchises for the generation of electricity?*

## 2016 ELECTION RESULTS





THE ENERGY CHOICE INITIATIVE

## LOWER POWER BILLS

Consumers are saving 20% on their energy bills in choice states, as illustrated in the charts below. A study showed that on average, the 13 existing energy choice states have seen prices fall 4.5% against inflation, while monopoly states have seen prices rise against inflation by 8.5%.

## MORE RENEWABLE ENERGY

Even though Nevada has plentiful solar, wind and geothermal resources, these energy sources still only make up 20% of our energy mix. The passage of ECI will allow consumers to access clean, renewable energy and will spur the demand for building these projects right here in our state.

## JOBS JOBS JOBS

Passage of the Energy Choice Initiative means more opportunity to build new renewable energy projects and benefit from the jobs that come with it. One Nevada Economist estimated that our state could see our renewable energy economy grow as much as 8% annually, leading to as many as 35,000 new jobs.

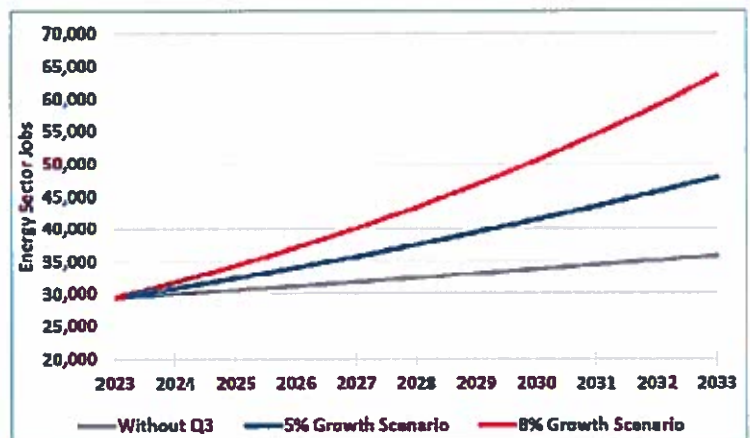
## FREEDOM TO CHOOSE

The freedom to choose your energy provider will result in increased competition, leading to more innovation, lower costs and enhanced customer service.

Source: Based on economic analysis performed by RCG Economics <http://energyfreedomnv.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/2016->

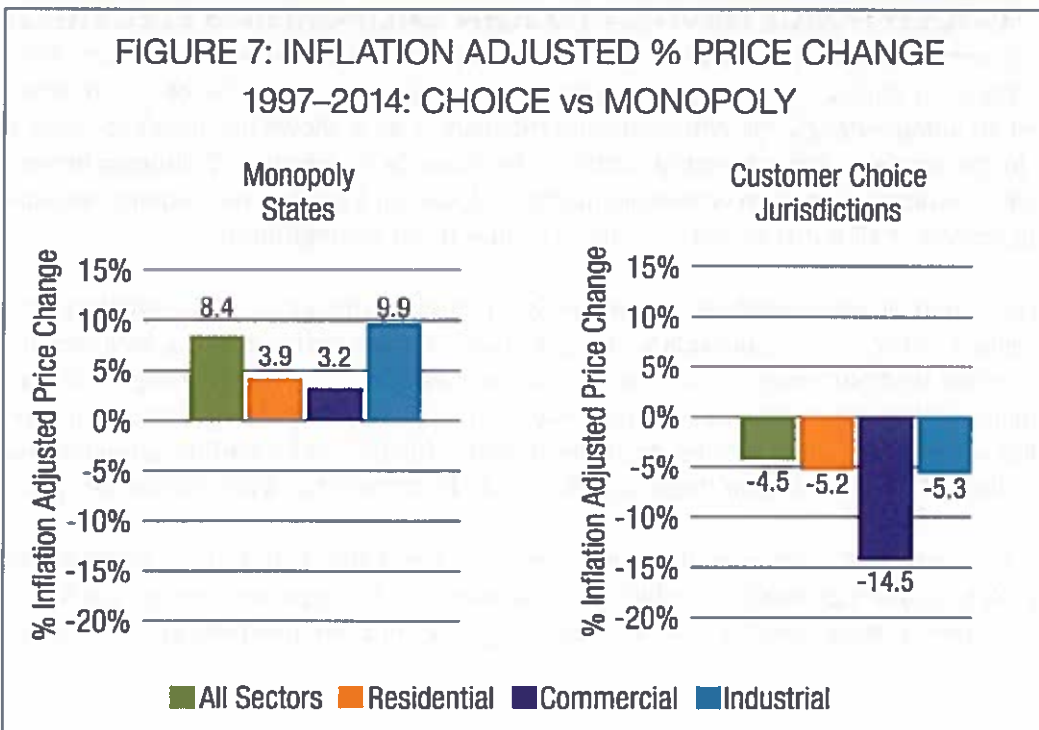
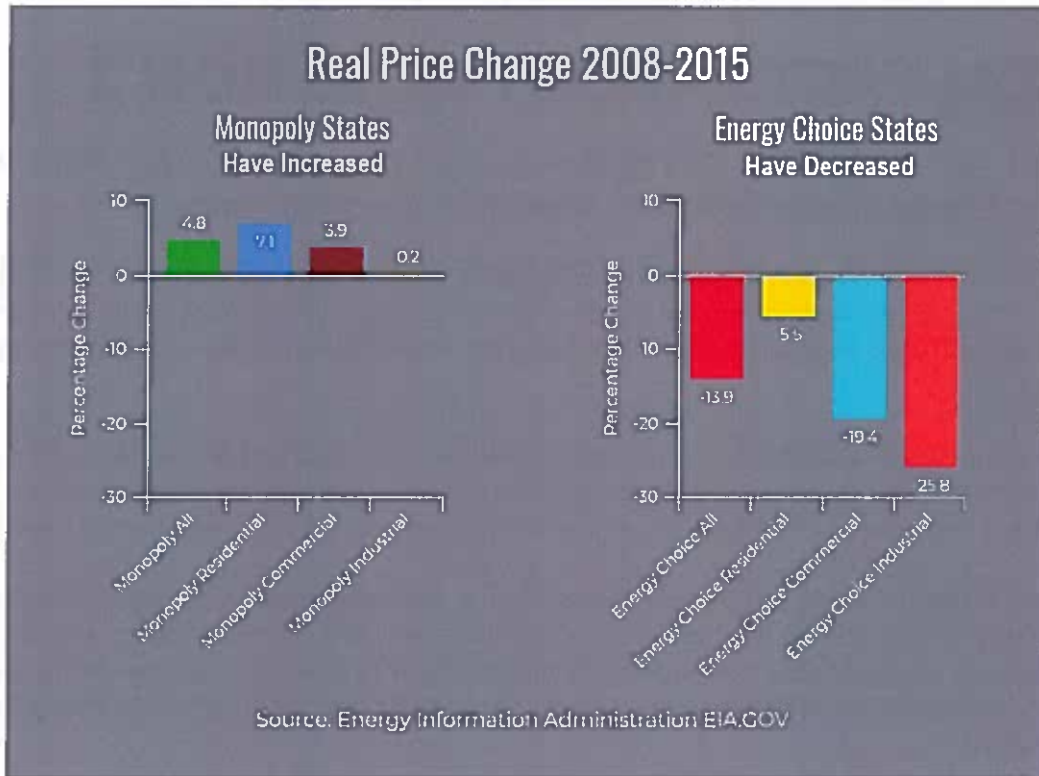
**FIGURE IV-1  
POSSIBLE JOB GROWTH  
OUTCOMES IN CLEAN  
ENERGY SECTOR: 2023-2033**

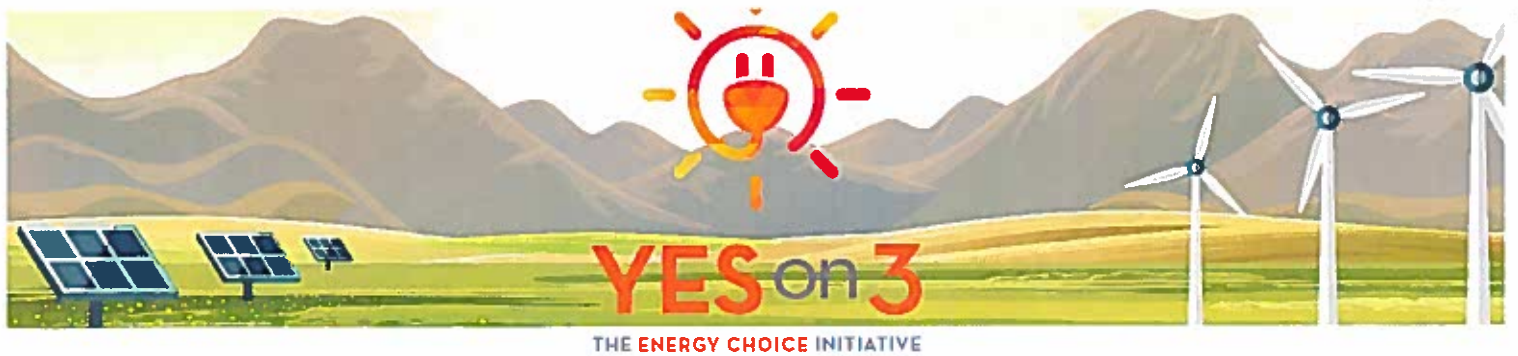
Source: RCG economics





THE ENERGY CHOICE INITIATIVE





## **THE REAL FACTS ABOUT QUESTION 3**

*You've heard the misleading information & fear branding coming from NV Energy regarding the Energy Choice Initiative. Now, it's time for the facts.*

### **MYTH #1 - ECI "LOCKS A RISKY EXPERIMENT INTO NEVADA'S CONSTITUTION"**

In reality, only two principles would be placed into the Nevada Constitution as a result of ECI: electric generation monopolies in Nevada would be eliminated and the legislature would have to create an open, competitive energy market by July 1, 2023.

The initiative does not mandate what the new market will look like. Rather, it requires that the legislature undertake the responsibility to ensure meaningful choice, freedom to compete, and consumer protection. By doing so, ECI allows for flexibility and adaptability in markets as the energy industry develops and innovates moving forward.

The details of implementation are left to both the legislature and administrative agencies of state government that will be responsible for carrying out the initiative, just like every other law enacted in the state of Nevada. If modifications need to be made they can be made administratively from year-to-year or during each legislative session. As such, energy choice will be implemented exactly as it has been in the 17 other states that offer some form of energy choice.

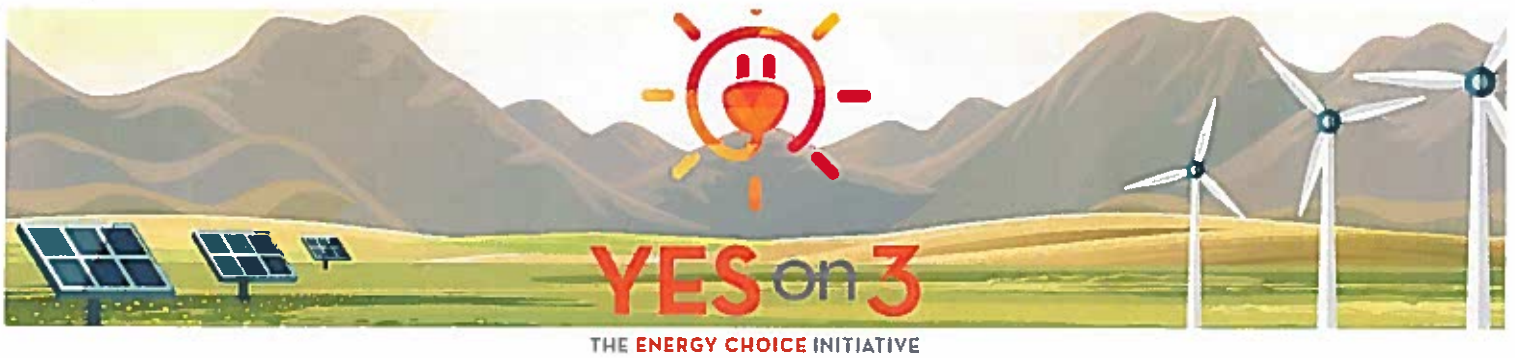
### **MYTH #2 - "COULD FORCE NEVADA TO JOIN CALIFORNIA'S ELECTRICITY GRID"**

Nevada's grid will remain just as it is today- physically connected to the Western grid which includes California and nine other Western states. However, the maximum benefits of energy choice are realized when choice states are part of an independently run wholesale electric market, as it allows for power to move freely amongst all participants in the market. One potential option is for Nevada to join the "California Independent System Operator" or CAISO, which is one such wholesale market. However, ECI does not require Nevada to join CAISO or any wholesale market at all for that matter; that decision is up to the legislature.

NV Energy is already part of one market run by the CAISO via their participation in the Western Energy Imbalance Market. Also, Valley Electric, a co-op providing power to rural Nevada customers, is a member of the full CAISO market. It's estimated that NV Energy's participation in the CAISO run Western Energy Imbalance Market has conferred \$27 million in benefits to Nevada ratepayers over the last year. Nevada's participation in the full CAISO wholesale market would yield even greater financial benefits for the state. CAISO provided estimates to the Nevada Public Utilities Commission that these benefits could be as much as \$100 million per year.

It is important to note that California does not regulate the CAISO, but it is instead overseen by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which has jurisdiction to regulate energy choice states as well. The CAISO is neither a state agency nor a federal agency, but an independent non-profit corporation.





### **MYTH #3 – “WOULD COST NEVADA CONSUMERS AND TAXPAYERS BILLIONS”**

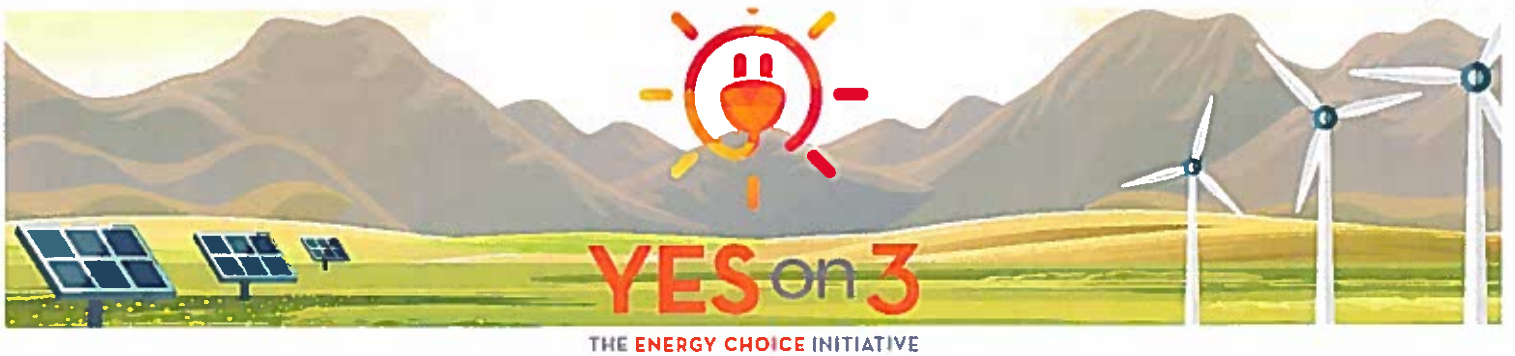
You will owe nothing more to NV Energy when the Energy Choice Initiative passes than you do now. If they choose to sell their generating plants (ECI does not require them to do so) there may be a claim on NV Energy's part that they are entitled to the difference between the book value of those plants (original cost less depreciation) and the market value at auction. If the market value is less than book value then the difference is called “stranded costs”. If the market value is higher than the book value the difference is a “stranded benefit”. NV Energy will try to make Nevada consumers pay if there are any stranded costs, but they will want to keep the money if there are any stranded benefits.

Our preliminary estimates indicate that instead of \$5 to \$12 billion of stranded costs as NV Energy has recklessly claimed, there may be stranded benefits as high as \$500 million to \$1 billion dollars related to the value of their generating assets. Also, they have included other “stranded costs” in their estimates that are just wrong and instead should be characterized as stranded benefits. For example, almost \$1 billion of NV Energy's purported stranded costs consumers will be required to pay really are 50 years in the future worth of low cost hydro power from Hoover Dam that is priced below market at \$.027 per kilowatt hour. This contract is in fact a benefit that will not be lost to Nevada consumers when ECI passes. It should be counted as a \$1 billion benefit rather than a “stranded cost”. It is completely misleading and disingenuous to do otherwise. The legislature and the Nevada Public Utilities Commission will look at these issues and properly determine the relative costs and benefits to the people of Nevada at the time that ECI is implemented. To attempt to do so now prior to the formulation of the enabling statutes by the Nevada Legislature, and the accounting and depreciation determinations by the PUCN in implementing those statutes would be pure speculation.

### **MYTH #4 – “DISRUPTS NV'S PROGRESS TOWARD A RENEWABLE ENERGY FUTURE”**

The Energy Choice Initiative clearly states in paragraph 3(c), “Nothing herein shall be construed to invalidate Nevada's public policies on renewable energy, energy efficiency and environmental protection or limit the Legislature's ability to impose such policies on participants in a competitive electricity market.” Assembly Bill 405 from the 2017 legislative session not only restored rooftop solar and net metering in Nevada, but also ensured that both would be preserved in an open market. In fact, in choice markets customers should receive more benefits from net metering than they do under traditional utility monopolies because the full value of the excess solar production from their systems can be valued and compensated. The passage of Question 3 guarantees that neither NV Energy nor the PUC can take away rooftop solar or net metering again

When ECI passes, it will offer the market and policy stability necessary to encourage renewable energy development in Nevada at a 5-8% higher annual rate than currently projected, according to a study. These projections will result in as many as 34,080 new jobs in our state and will produce hundreds of millions in direct annual income impact. Market participants would still have to comply with Nevada's renewable portfolio standard, currently set at 25% renewables by 2020. A proposed ballot initiative in the signature gathering phase would raise that standard to 50% renewables by 2030. With all our abundant sunshine, the Smart Electric Power Alliance doesn't even rank NV Energy in the top 10 for best solar utilities.



## **MYTH #5 – “RELIABILITY WILL BE IMPACTED UNDER ECI”**

The Energy Choice Initiative clearly states in paragraph 3(a), “...The legislature need not provide for the deregulation of transmission or distribution of electricity in order to establish a competitive market consistent with this act.” In other words, NV Energy is not forced to divest of their poles and wires.

NV Energy CEO Paul Caudill said himself in a 2016 TV interview that energy choice would not have any effect on reliability because “the transmission and distribution system (poles and wires) is the backbone of the system”. Under energy choice, NV Energy will still own and maintain the transmission and distribution system. So, if the power goes off you will still call NV Energy just as you do today as they will still remain in charge of grid reliability in the same areas of Nevada that they serve now. The Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN) will still regulate them and require them to ensure the safe and secure continued delivery of electricity to Nevada electric customers.

## **MYTH #6 – “RATES WILL SKYROCKET”**

Free market principles drive costs down, not up, in competitive markets across the country. This principle is true and understood to the point that 19 other states have limitations on monopolies in their state constitutions, 6 states have gone so far as to support amending the US Constitution to prohibit monopolies. Public opinion on monopolies is not driven by campaigns, but by everyday experience.

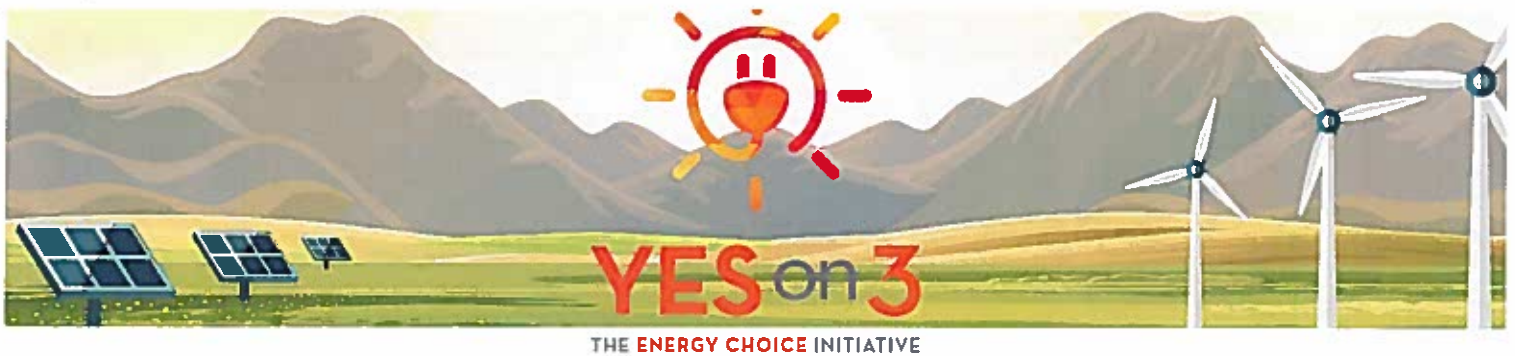
A July 2015 study definitively shows that consumers in choice state have seen their power costs fall 4.5% against inflation on average, while consumers in monopoly states have seen their price rise 8.5% more than inflation. This is true in Nevada as rates are up more than 50% since 2000, out-pacing the rate of inflation.

Energy Choice will enable all Nevada consumers to control their energy bills and lower costs in two major ways.

First, retail Energy Choice will provide both business and residential customers with meaningful options to lower energy costs through competitive energy service plans from multiple service providers where you decide which option best meets your needs and lowers your bills.

Second, Energy Choice will allow for innovative ways to re-imagine energy, for example, by giving Nevada consumers the ability to sell energy services back to the grid to further lower overall energy costs. You don’t have to have a solar system to do this or even a battery. Tens of thousands of consumers in states with retail energy competition now sell shifts in their energy use back to the grid and get paid to do so. This lowers further their overall energy bill.

The language of the Energy Choice Initiative is clear in the legislative duty to provide for safe, reliable, and competitively priced energy and to protect consumers. The initiative is also clear on establishing the legislature’s right to impose policies on participants in a competitively priced marketplace. Important issues such as low-income energy assistance can and should be addressed by the legislature as a part of implementing the Energy Choice Initiative.



## **MYTH #7 – “\$142 MILLION IN EDUCATION FUNDING WILL GO AWAY IF ECI PASSES”**

No money “goes away”. All of the assets necessary to provide energy services (lines and wires, poles and transformers, generators and substations) will all remain in place and continue to provide service. This means that regardless of who owns them, those assets will continue to pay property taxes and other assessments that will pay for schools. Further, any franchise taxes, business taxes or mill taxes that are now collected from energy revenues received by NV Energy will continue to be collected from competitive retail energy providers. No money will be lost to state or local governments. This is a blatant scare tactic with no basis in fact.

## **MYTH #8 – ENERGY CHOICE IS “DEREGULATION” AS IN “NO REGULATION”**

Energy choice is not “deregulation” but rather “thoughtful restructuring”. The Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN) will have complete regulatory authority over the lines and wires and all other distribution assets of NV Energy just as it does now. Rates for distribution service will be set by the PUCN in a full evidentiary hearing under full economic regulation.

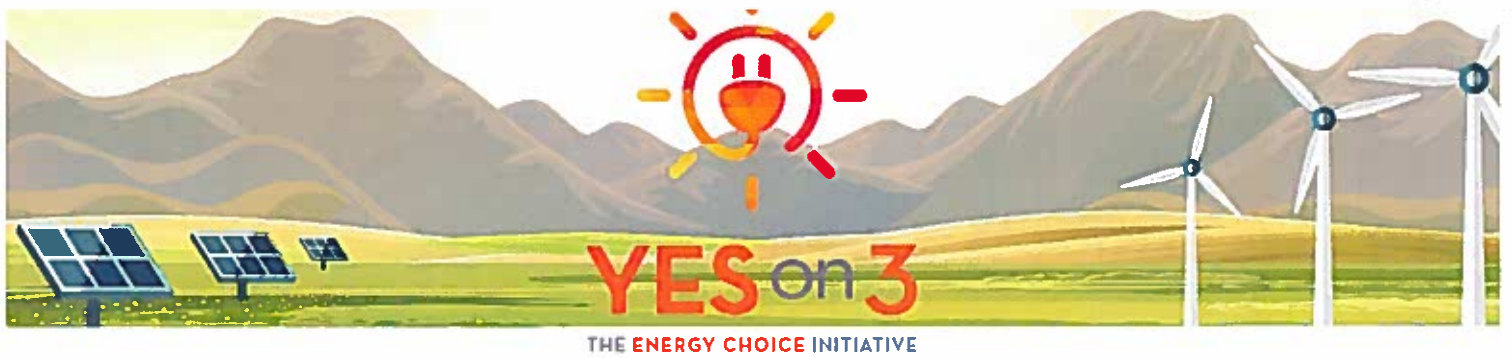
In addition, an entity designated by the legislature will have the responsibility to fully license all new retail energy service providers and oversee and set rules and regulations for the new retail energy market. So, there will be full market regulation of the retail market by a state agency. In addition, a state agency will also be responsible for investigating consumer complaints and ensuring that consumers are treated fairly by all market participants. These functions are similar to the functions now performed by the Nevada State Contractors Board for licensing and regulating contractors who do business in Nevada providing consumers contracting services like plumbers, electricians and builders.

In addition, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission oversees the wholesale electric markets all over the country and under ECI, Nevada will be no different.

## **MYTH #9 – “NEVADA WILL SUFFER THE SAME FATE AS CALIFORNIA DID W/ ENRON”**

The so called “Enron crisis” resulted when multiple wholesale energy market traders, including Enron, engaged in fraud and manipulation in the wholesale energy markets. This was not the result of putting retail energy choice in place. Enron and others at the time (1999-2001) were able to engage in wholesale market manipulation as a direct result of ineffective enforcement mechanisms and few resources at the federal level, causing prices to skyrocket. These prices eventually drove up retail energy prices for consumers in California and throughout the West.

In 2005, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) was given substantial new authority by Congress to go after fraud and manipulation in the wholesale energy markets. The FERC Office of Enforcement has gone from approximately seven people during Enron to over 200 today. Since Congress authorized FERC’s increased enforcement authority in 2005 there has not been an incident of market fraud or manipulation that even approached the scale of Enron. And every subsequent instance of attempted fraud or manipulation has resulted in heavy fines and orders of reimbursement by FERC.



## **MYTH #10 – “MASSACHUSETTS MARKET ISSUES WILL HAPPEN IN NEVADA TOO”**

Massachusetts let the incumbent monopoly utilities provide competitive service along side the competitive retail providers allowing those monopolies to subsidize their retail energy service from their regulated monopoly distribution (poles and wires) service. So of course they could and did offer lower rates to retail customers causing competitive retail providers to be pushed out of the market in a form of predatory pricing.

In Nevada we will not allow the monopoly distribution provider (NV Energy) to also provide competitive retail energy services.

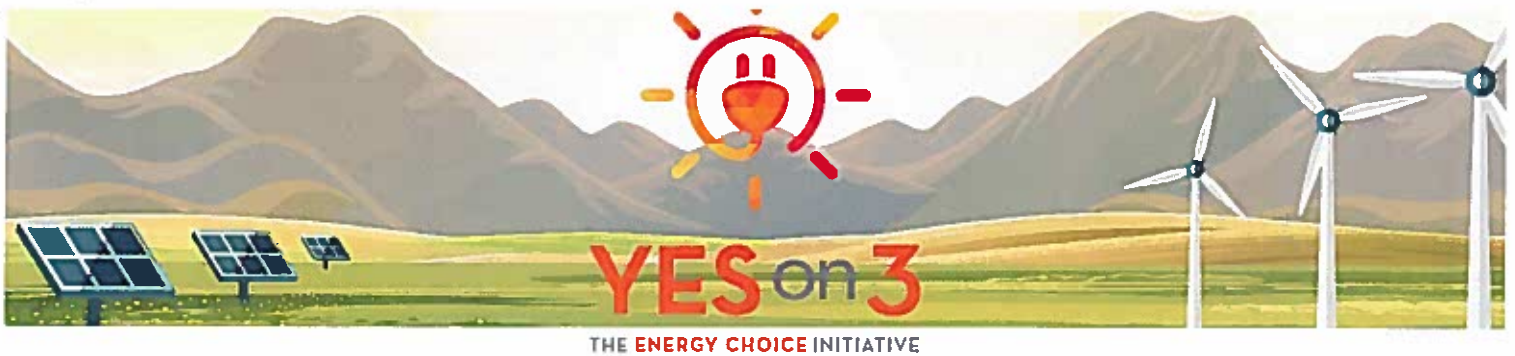
There were some small retail (residential) providers, pushed to the edge by this situation, who did engage in inappropriate behavior and perhaps even made misrepresentations to customers. Some consumers were abused and over charged, clearly. But it is also clear from reading the AG's report in Massachusetts that the Massachusetts consumer protection laws were not adequate to protect consumers from this fraud and abuse.

The legislature in Nevada is tasked by the initiative to ensure that the enabling legislation provides for strong consumer protection laws that prevent such fraud and abuse.

The retail market for residential consumers in Massachusetts is, according to the AG's own report, not transparent. Thus consumers are prevented from easily shopping and comparing retail energy offers. Consumers had no idea if what they were being offered by a particular retail provider was a good deal or not.

In Nevada, the legislature can ensure that we have an open and transparent system like they do in Texas where there is a independent government run website that is updated constantly to provide consumers with the latest offers by all retail energy providers in the state.

In Nevada, NV Energy is estimated to have overcharged Nevadans about \$300 million in the last few years alone, resulting in about \$200 million in over earnings for the utility. Consumers are already being negatively financially impacted by the monopoly utility in Nevada.



## MYTH #11 - THE PUC REPORT

In April of 2018, the PUCN adopted a report prepared by Chairman Joe Reynolds. The PUCN Report was over 100 pages and has been questioned as exceeding the bounds of its subject matter as assigned by the Governor's Committee on Energy Choice ("CEC"). The ECI campaign prepared a motion and detailed rebuttal comments on the PUCN Report prior to the report's adoption. Instead of being properly placed into the docket for public viewing, it was placed into the public comment file and is only accessible by public records request. To this day, the ECI motion and Rebuttal Comments have never been disclosed or ruled upon. Such treatment of a motion is unprecedented in PUCN practice.

The ECI Rebuttal alleged that the PUCN Report: (i) did not respect the spirit of the Nevada initiative process and improperly committed public resources to comment on and criticize the initiative; (ii) exceeded PUCN authority; (iii) did not adhere to the guidelines set forth by the CEC; and (iv) was based on numerous factual and legal errors. The PUCN Report warns the public against the Energy Choice initiative, raises concerns of hundreds of millions of dollars of costs, and a future where the PUCN is unable to protect the public from the unknowns of energy choice. The reality is ECI presents Nevada residents with several opportunities that will keep energy costs low for consumers, allow for the development of clean, renewable energy, create jobs, and put Nevada in a position to become a national leader in energy development and policy. These opportunities have been highlighted by numerous entities over the past three years and have been discussed in detail by experts.

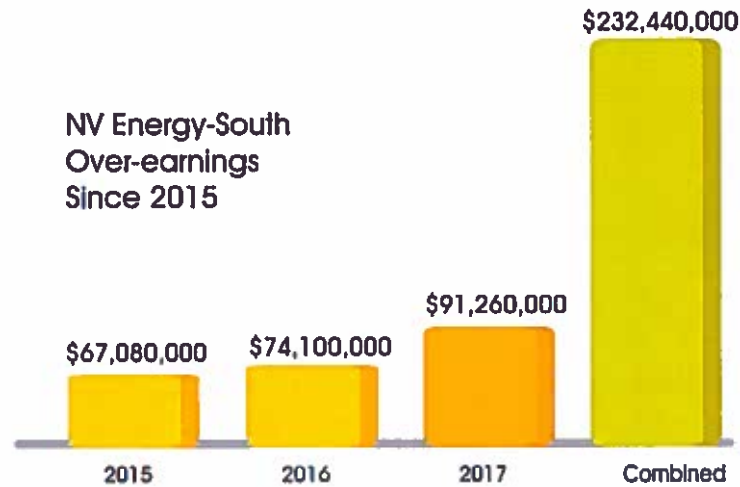
One report is that of Dr. Phil O'Connor, Ph.D., on behalf of the Retail Energy Supply Association, who presented his findings before the PUCN during the investigation and workshop. Dr. O'Connor collected twenty years of data from states that have adopted competitive electric markets and states that have maintained traditional energy monopolies. He found that (a) electricity prices in states with competitive retail markets trend downward, whereas monopoly states trend upward; (b) investments in competitive market states are tempered by the market, rather than driven upward by guaranteed, captive rate-payers; and (c) power plants in market states worked more efficiently than their counterparts in monopoly states. Despite this evidence, the PUCN Report inexplicably concludes that if energy choice is adopted, rates will rise. The only way to reach such a conclusion would have been to wholly ignore this empirically researched analysis while embracing NV Energy's unsupported allegations of higher costs. And indeed, review of Chairman Reynolds' initial report reveals no mention of Dr. O'Connor's work. However, it was mentioned in the addendum after the final report was approved on April 30, 2018.

A report by industry expert Mark Garrett, on behalf of ECI, also rebutted the PUC's claim that setting up the new market would cost \$4 billion. To the contrary, Mr. Garrett found that there would be \$1.1 billion in net benefits to Nevada ratepayers when ECI passes, with more than \$500 million of that coming from accumulated deferred income taxes, which is Nevada ratepayer money that was not addressed in the PUC report. These discrepancies are disconcerting, as they provide evidence that the PUC Report restates NV Energy talking points and purposefully excludes counter-evidence in an effort to protect the monopoly.



THE ENERGY CHOICE INITIATIVE

## NV ENERGY OVER-EARNINGS (SOUTHERN NEVADA ONLY)



## NV ENERGY QUARTERLY OVER-EARNINGS (SOUTHERN NEVADA ONLY)

Year-to-Date Quarters	NV Energy-South Earned Rate on Equity	NV Energy-South Authorized Return on Equity	Variance (%)	Variance (basis points)	NV Energy-South Quarterly Over-Earnings*
Q1 2015	11.06%	9.80%	1.26%	126	\$12,285,000
Q2 2015	11.03%	9.80%	1.23%	123	\$15,990,000
Q3 2015	11.34%	9.80%	1.54%	154	\$30,030,000
Q4 2015	11.52%	9.80%	1.72%	172	\$67,080,000
<b>2015 Total</b>	<b>11.52%</b>	<b>9.80%</b>	<b>1.72%</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>\$67,080,000</b>
Q1 2016	11.05%	9.80%	1.25%	125	\$12,187,500
Q2 2016	11.52%	9.80%	1.72%	172	\$22,360,000
Q3 2016	11.59%	9.80%	1.79%	179	\$34,905,000
Q4 2016	11.70%	9.80%	1.90%	190	\$74,100,000
<b>2016 Total</b>	<b>11.70%</b>	<b>9.80%</b>	<b>1.90%</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>\$74,100,000</b>
Q1 2017	12.15%	9.80%	2.35%	235	\$22,912,500
Q2 2017	12.70%	9.80%	2.99%	299	\$38,870,000
Q3 2017	12.29%	9.80%	2.49%	249	\$48,555,000
Q4 2017**	12.14%	9.80%	2.34%	234	\$64,740,000
<b>2017 Total</b>	<b>12.14%</b>	<b>9.80%</b>	<b>2.34%</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>\$91,260,000</b>

\* Based on Docket No. 17-06003, see Smart Energy Alliance Expert Witness Written Testimony, Brad Mullins at 4. See also PUCN Staff's testimony that every 10 basis points of Return on Equity ("ROE") is worth approximately \$3.9 million. Swetha Venkat Testimony p. 184, Ins. 17-20.

\*\* Q4 2017 Estimate based on annualizing 3rd Quarter YTD 2017 Results.

**GRAND TOTAL**

**\$232,440,000**



# CALCULATE YOUR OWN BILL

**CONSUMERS DON'T PAY RATES, THEY PAY BILLS AND NEVADA'S EFFECTIVE RATES ARE MUCH HIGHER THAN THE 8.38 CENTS/KWH THAT NV ENERGY PROCLAIMS IN IT'S ADS**

**NV Energy** 03-15-2018  
PAGE 1 OF 2

Service Address: LAS VEGAS, NV

Usage History	No. Days	kWh	Avg kWh Per Day
This Month	31	850	27.4
Last Month	31	860	27.7
Last Year	31	905	29.2

Avg Cost Per Day This Month: \$3.79

**Avg kWh Per Day By Month**

DATE DUE:	Mar 6, 2018
AMOUNT DUE:	\$117.36
Account:	[REDACTED]
Customer Number:	[REDACTED]
Premises Number:	[REDACTED]
Billing Date:	[REDACTED]
Next Read Date:	[REDACTED]

Meter Mult.	Usage
1	850

Electric Charges	117.36
Current Amount Due	\$117.36

Previous Account Balance: 118.63  
Payment - Jan 23, 2018: 118.63 CR

Electric Residential Service

Meter Number	Service Type	Service Period From	To	Bill Days	Previous Meter Reading	Current Meter Reading	Meter Mult.	Usage
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Jan 12, 2018	Feb 12, 2018	31	4,513	5,363	1	850

Electric Consumption	850.000 kWh	x	0.11248	95.81
Temp. Green Power Financing	850.000 kWh	x	0.00086	0.73
Renewable Energy Program	850.000 kWh	x	0.00095	0.81
Energy Efficiency Charge	850.000 kWh	x	0.00183	1.56
Basic Service Charge				12.75
Local Government Fee			5%	5.57
Universal Energy Charge	850.000 kWh	x	0.00039	0.33
<b>Total Electric Service Amount</b>				<b>\$117.36</b>

Thank you for maintaining an excellent payment record. We look forward to serving you in the future.

To determine your actual power cost, divide your "current charges" by the "usage".

**Total bill cost of \$117.36 / usage of 850 kWh**

**13.8 cents a kWh**



# 2016-2018 RESIDENTIAL RATES BY EIA.GOV

Residential Electricity Rates by State 2016 Annual Average			Residential Electricity Rates by State 2017 Annual Average			Residential Electricity Rates by State March 2018 YTD		
Rank	State	Cost per kWh	Rank	State	Cost per kWh	Rank	State	Cost per kWh
1	Louisiana	9.34	1	Louisiana	9.51	1	Louisiana	9.05
2	Washington	9.48	2	Washington	9.60	2	North Dakota	9.24
3	Arkansas	9.92	3	Idaho	10.11	3	Washington	9.56
4	Idaho	9.95	4	Arkansas	10.22	4	Oklahoma	9.65
5	North Dakota	10.16	5	North Dakota	10.40	5	Nebraska	9.67
6	Oklahoma	10.20	6	Oklahoma	10.48	6	Missouri	9.73
7	Tennessee	10.41	7	Kentucky	10.64	7	Arkansas	9.79
8	Mississippi	10.47	8	Tennessee	10.65	8	Idaho	10.15
9	Kentucky	10.49	9	Oregon	10.71	9	Kentucky	10.16
10	Oregon	10.66	10	Nebraska	10.98	10	Tennessee	10.40
11	Nebraska	10.84	11	Utah	11.04	11	Utah	10.40
12	Montana	10.94	12	Montana	11.11	12	Oregon	10.66
13	Florida	10.98	13	North Carolina	11.12	13	Montana	10.74
14	Texas	10.99	14	Texas	11.18	14	South Dakota	10.77
15	Utah	11.02	15	Mississippi	11.19	15	North Carolina	10.84
16	North Carolina	11.03	16	Missouri	11.27	16	Georgia	10.90
17	Wyoming	11.13	17	Wyoming	11.41	17	Wyoming	10.91
18	Missouri	11.21	18	West Virginia	11.62	18	Mississippi	11.07
19	Virginia	11.36	19	Virginia	11.67	19	Texas	11.11
20	Nevada	11.41	20	South Dakota	11.68	20	West Virginia	11.25
21	West Virginia	11.44	21	Georgia	11.80	21	Virginia	11.30
22	South Dakota	11.47	22	Florida	11.85	22	Iowa	11.48
23	Georgia	11.50	23	Indiana	11.95	23	Indiana	11.52
24	Indiana	11.79	24	Nevada	12.00	24	Colorado	11.66
25	Iowa	11.94	25	Colorado	12.13	25	Florida	11.98
26	Alabama	11.99	26	Ohio	12.37	26	Alabama	12.06
27	New Mexico	12.03	27	Arizona	12.50	27	Ohio	12.16
28	Colorado	12.07	28	Iowa	12.60	28	South Carolina	12.21
29	Arizona	12.15	29	Alabama	12.61	29	New Mexico	12.23
30	DC	12.29	30	Illinois	12.70	30	Delaware	12.25
31	Ohio	12.47	31	South Carolina	12.78	31	Arizona	12.26
32	Illinois	12.54	32	New Mexico	12.92	32	Illinois	12.48
33	South Carolina	12.65	33	DC	12.93	33	Nevada	12.49
34	Minnesota	12.67	34	Minnesota	13.19	34	Minnesota	12.55
35	Kansas	13.06	35	Kansas	13.27	35	DC	12.59
36	Delaware	13.42	36	Delaware	13.44	36	Kansas	12.69
37	Pennsylvania	13.86	37	Maryland	13.99	37	Maryland	13.09
38	Wisconsin	14.07	38	Pennsylvania	14.33	38	Pennsylvania	13.84
39	Maryland	14.23	39	Wisconsin	14.68	39	Wisconsin	14.22
40	Michigan	15.22	40	Michigan	15.47	40	Michigan	15.46
41	New Jersey	15.72	41	New Jersey	15.69	41	New Jersey	15.59
42	Maine	15.83	42	Maine	15.96	42	Maine	15.95
43	Vermont	17.37	43	Vermont	17.65	43	Vermont	17.64
44	California	17.39	44	New York	18.04	44	New York	17.82
45	New York	17.58	45	California	18.24	45	California	19.03
46	New Hampshire	18.38	46	Rhode Island	18.30	46	New Hampshire	19.62
47	Rhode Island	18.62	47	Massachusetts	18.92	47	Connecticut	20.77
48	Massachusetts	19.00	48	New Hampshire	19.22	48	Rhode Island	21.42
49	Connecticut	20.01	49	Connecticut	20.31	49	Alaska	21.43
50	Alaska	NM	50	Alaska	21.57	50	Massachusetts	21.64
51	Hawaii	27.47	51	Hawaii	29.50	51	Hawaii	31.57

Table 5.6.B Average Price of Electricity for 2016/2017  
Annual average: <https://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/archive/february2018.pdf>

Table 5.6.B Average Price of Electricity March 2018 YTD  
[https://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/current\\_month/epm.pdf](https://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/current_month/epm.pdf)

Published 5/24/2018



## THE ENERGY CHOICE INITIATIVE

Explanation: Language in ***bolded italics*** is to be added to the constitution by this amendment.

**The People of the State of Nevada do enact as follows:**

**Section 1:** Article 1 of the Nevada Constitution is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

**1. Declaration of Policy:**

***The People of the State of Nevada declare that it is the policy of this State that electricity markets be open and competitive so that all electricity customers are afforded meaningful choices among different providers, and that economic and regulatory burdens be minimized in order to promote competition and choices in the electric energy market. This Act shall be liberally construed to achieve this purpose.***

**2. Rights of Electric Energy Purchasers:**

***Effective upon the dates set forth in subsection 3, every person, business, association of persons or businesses, state agency, political subdivision of the State of Nevada, or any other entity in Nevada has the right to choose the provider of its electric utility service, including but not limited to, selecting providers from a competitive retail electric market, or by producing electricity for themselves or in association with others, and shall not be forced to purchase energy from one provider. Nothing herein shall be construed as limiting such persons' or entities' rights to sell, trade or otherwise dispose of electricity.***

**3. Implementation**

***(a) Not later than July 1, 2023, the Legislature shall provide by law for provisions consistent with this Act to establish an open, competitive retail electric energy market, to ensure that protections are established that entitle customers to safe, reliable, and competitively priced electricity, including, but not limited to, provisions that reduce costs to customers, protect against service disconnections and unfair practices, and prohibit the grant of monopolies and exclusive franchises for the generation of electricity. The Legislature need not provide for the deregulation of transmission or distribution of electricity in order to establish a competitive market consistent with this Act.***

***(b) Upon enactment of any law by the Legislature pursuant to this Act before July 1, 2023, and not later than that date, any laws, regulations, regulatory orders or other provisions which conflict with this Act will be void. However, the Legislature may enact legislation consistent with this act that provides for an open electric energy market in part or in whole before July 1, 2023.***

***(c) Nothing herein shall be construed to invalidate Nevada's public policies on renewable energy, energy efficiency and environmental protection or limit the Legislature's ability to impose such policies on participants in a competitive electricity market.***

**4. Severability:**

***Should any part of this Act be declared invalid, or the application thereof to any person, thing or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions or application of this Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are declared to be severable. This subsection shall be construed broadly to preserve and effectuate the declared purpose of this Act.***

**RECEIVED**

FEB 03 2016

SECRETARY OF STATE  
ELECTIONS DIVISION

# NOON3

## RISKY & COSTLY

### Information about Question 3



#### Environmental & Clean Energy

- Natural Resources Defense Council
- Sierra Club, Nevada Chapter
- Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEET)
- Western Resource Advocates
- Geothermal Resources Council

#### Labor

- AFSCME Local 4041
- AFSCME Retirees Chapter 4041
- IAFF Local 731
- IATSE Local 720
- IBEW Local 1245
- IBEW 1245 Retirees
- IBEW Local 396
- IBEW Local 401

#### Chambers of Commerce

- Nevada State AFL-CIO
- SEIU Nevada Local 1107
- Southern Nevada Central Labor Council
- Teamsters Local 631

#### Electricity Cooperatives

- Harney Electric Cooperative
- Mt. Wheeler Power, Inc
- Raft River Rural Electric Co-op
- Wells Rural Electric Company

#### Professional & Non-Profit Organizations

- AARP Nevada
- Mi Familia Vota
- Nevada Alliance for Retired Americans (NARA)
- Nevada Association of Public Safety Officers
- Nevada Cattlemen's Association
- Nevada Farm Bureau
- Nevada Mining Association
- Nevada State Association of Electrical Workers
- Nevada Veterans Association
- Professional Fire Fighters of Nevada
- Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada (PLAN)
- Reno Firefighters Association

**Question 3** is a Constitutional Amendment on Nevada's statewide ballot this November. If passed, this deeply flawed measure would deregulate and dismantle Nevada's existing electricity system, and would eliminate current consumer protections that keep a lid on electric rates.

Question 3 would cost Nevada consumers and taxpayers billions of dollars, cause the loss of thousands of good-paying jobs, and disrupt Nevada's progress toward a clean energy future.

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PO BOX 1539  
LAS VEGAS NV 89125-1539

## Electricity deregulation has failed in other states

In the late 1990s and early 2000s, 24 states passed laws to deregulate their electricity systems. The results were so negative that 10 of those states – including Nevada – reversed course and went back to regulated electricity markets. California’s failed attempt to deregulate electricity led to skyrocketing electric rates, rolling blackouts, the Enron energy resale scandal, and over \$40 billion in added costs for consumers and taxpayers.

Today, it’s been nearly 20 years since any state has tried to deregulate its electricity system because the process has proven to be so unsuccessful.

## Question 3 would lock a risky experiment into Nevada’s Constitution

Question 3’s approach to electricity deregulation is especially risky because it’s a Constitutional Amendment. If things go wrong, it would be very difficult and take at least 4 years to repeal. In fact, no state has ever used a Constitutional Amendment to deregulate its electricity system.

[Question 3] doesn’t say that it guarantees reduced prices ... I want to be careful that we’re realistic about what can happen.”

— Texas-based energy marketer & Question 3 supporter  
Terri Gray before Nevada’s Public Utilities Commission, 1-15-18

## Question 3 would cost consumers and taxpayers billions of dollars

According to a recent independent study by the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada, dismantling Nevada’s existing electricity system would cost \$4 billion. There would also be major costs involved in establishing a new deregulated electricity system. These costs would be paid for by all Nevadans in the form of higher electric bills and higher taxes.

Under Nevada’s current electricity system, average rates have already decreased 15% over the past decade, and are among the lowest in the country. In fact, in the 14 states that deregulated electricity, average residential rates are 30% higher than in Nevada. Even Question 3’s proponents have admitted in public hearings that the measure doesn’t guarantee lower electricity prices.

## Question 3 would disrupt Nevada’s progress toward a clean energy future

Nevada’s existing electricity system is a leader in renewable energy, ranking 2nd in the nation for geothermal and 4th for solar power. But Question 3 would threaten over 50 existing and planned clean energy projects across the state, including six major solar energy projects that will generate enough clean energy to power over 600,000 homes.

Question 3 would also eliminate Nevada’s current rooftop solar program, which serves over 23,000 homes and small businesses across the state and is rapidly growing. That’s why the authors of Nevada’s net metering legislation and clean energy advocates like the Sierra Club oppose Question 3.



## You may list me as a member of the Coalition to Defeat Question 3!

I oppose Question 3, a Constitutional Amendment on the November 2018 Nevada statewide ballot. You may list me publicly as a member of the Coalition to Defeat Question 3, a bipartisan coalition urging a NO vote on this risky and costly measure.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Occupation or Job Title\*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code

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Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Employer\*

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address

Below, please list any other current or former titles or affiliations you may have, including other job titles, organizational/board positions, volunteer activities, awards, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_