



2016 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Recently RPEN asked candidates for State Assembly and State Senate questions about retired public employee issues. Their responses to those questions are enclosed. They may be helpful in decision making in the election process. RPEN provided background information to candidates on the four questions they were asked.

The questionnaire was sent to all major party candidates for legislative office. We appreciate the commitment respondents made in considering and answering the questions. It is noted where candidates did not respond to our questions.

Voting in this election is perhaps the best way for retirees to have an impact on the topics most vital to their retirements.

Candidate	District	Party	Question 1. Public Pensions Will you commit not to make any additional changes to the system until the previous reforms have had time to be in place long enough to realize the full impact to PERS? If not, why?	Question 2. Public Employees' Benefits Program Will you support legislation to require the Medicare exchange vendor to have a Nevada office and staff? If not, why?	Question 3. Retiree Safety and Privacy Will you support legislation that would confine the release of retiree information to amount of benefits only? If not, why?	Question 4. Other Do you plan to introduce any legislation that could affect seniors and/or retirees? If yes, please describe.
SENATE						
Arsen Ter-Petrosyan	1	R	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes. I welcome any and all changes that help the retiree and/or seniors. I would propose and offer discounts on auto registration and property taxes and discounts on medications.
Joyce Woodhouse	5	D	Yes. As you may know, I served as a member and as chair of the Nevada Public Employees' Retirement Board of Directors for sixteen years and 13 years respectively. During that time Nevada PERS staff and Board worked very hard to put in place the investment policy and operational policies that still exist today. The System is one of the best in the country, and I believe we do not need to make any further reforms.	Yes. I am very concerned regarding the fact that these retirees still do not have an in-state service for their health insurance needs. It is imperative that they have the opportunity to easily access answers to their questions and concerns.	Yes. It is appalling that this issue received the ruling that it did in the courts. I believe that a person's retirement benefit has been earned by the retiree and the private information that you listed above should and must be kept private. To keep this information private will go a long way toward making sure our retirees are not at risk for scams, fraud, and identity theft.	Yes. During the 2015 legislative session, I sponsored Senate Bill 269, which called for a study during the interim to research issues regarding the behavioral health and cognitive care of older persons. I was not successful in getting the study funded, as it died in the Assembly Legislative Operations Committee. I plan to sponsor the measure again in 2017. I am open to sponsoring other legislation that you feel is important to seniors and /or retirees.
Nicole Cannizzaro	6	D	Yes. I do not support changes to PERS that fundamentally destroy the PERS system, and will work to protect and strengthen the PERS system and ensure any changes we have made are benefitting retirees.	Yes. Retired Nevadans, and especially those retired from public service, must have the option of in-state assistance. It makes no sense to force Nevadans to contract with out of state parties for benefit services. I would generally support legislation requiring the vendor to have a Nevada office and staff to serve retired public employees, so long as the provisions for those requirements are benefitting our retired Nevadans.	Yes. As a prosecutor, I speak with victims of identity theft on a regular basis, and have prosecuted those who commit identity theft. Unfortunately, identity theft is on the rise in the State of Nevada and across the country. This is particularly true when it comes to seniors and retirees. The Court's order providing additional and unnecessary information concerning a retired employee beyond their benefit will only lead to additional opportunities for identity theft.	No. I currently do not have any specific plans to introduce any legislation that would affect seniors or retirees. However, as I walk my district and speak with voters-in particular, seniors in my community-I understand there are important issues that must be addressed by our Legislature. I am open to meeting with RPEN and other retiree groups to craft legislation to address some of the most important issues affecting seniors and retired public employees.
Kent Bailey	13	R	Yes. We must make certain the changes made have the intended impact. We also must maintain certainty for those who are affected by such changes.	Yes. Health care is too important to not have direct access. We cannot put additional burdens on retirees for their health care needs.	I support doing everything necessary to protect the ID of all people within a public data base. I would want to gain more specific info on this before I committed to a position.	No. If there are issues that your organization feels must be addressed, you would have access to me, my staff, etc.
Devon Thomas Reese	15	D	Yes	Yes	Yes. I want to also point out that I represented consolidated law enforcement agencies statewide that litigated this issue with PERS and the Reno Gazette Journal.	Yes. I believe that all legislation can affect seniors and/or retirees. Whether it is organ and tissue donation or education, seniors and/or retirees can be affected.

SENATE CANDIDATES WHO DID NOT RESPOND

DISTRICT 1: Patricia Spearman (D); **DISTRICT 3:** Dennis Palmerston (R); **DISTRICT 4:** Kelvin Atkinson (D); Stephen Harvey Munford (D); **DISTRICT 5:** Carrie Buck (R); Nicholas Lash (D); **DISTRICT 6:** Victoria Seaman (R); Erv Nelson (R); **DISTRICT 7:** David Parks(D); Toni Wernicke (D); **DISTRICT 11:** Aaron Ford (D); Jon Frazier (R); **DISTRICT 13:** Samantha Brockesby (R); Julia Ratti (D); **DISTRICT 15:** Eugene Hoover (R); Heidi Gansert (R); **DISTRICT 18:** Scott Hammond (R); Alexander Marks (D); **DISTRICT 19:** Pete Goicoechea (R)

Senator Tick Segerblom	3	D	I apologize but I don't answer questionnaires. <i>RPEN Comment: While Senator Segerblom has a policy to not respond to questionnaires, he has always been a strong supporter of all of our issues and has signed on as a sponsor of our legislation in some cases.</i>
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ASSEMBLY

Roger Baum	1	R	Yes. The question is "How Long" will "try to hold the line mean?" This open ended system (PERS) needs much work.	No. It is premature, given the results of the National Election. The cost would be in the millions, is it worth this? We need to start over and trigger help to our elderly retirees quicker and with more guarantees. (ASAP)	No. Judge Russell's ruling, for the most part, is already public record.	Yes. Particularly, as it pertains to our retiree VA members. Fast access to more than one medical alternative. I will do everything possible to improve our current system.
Daniele Monroe-Moreno	1	D	Yes	Yes	Yes. This is completely unacceptable, yes I would support legislation to confine the release of Retiree's information to that which simply states fiscal matters, not personal/family identifying information.	I have not yet decided what legislation I will be introducing, but my passions are Nevada's working families, early childhood-higher education, justice reform, protecting NV PERS and Collective Bargaining and protecting Nevada Seniors, Retirees and Veterans. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss any legislation RPEN has in mind for the 2017 legislative session.
Bert Lucas, Jr.	4	D	No. It's difficult to commit to something so broad without knowing more than what you've written here. I agree that PERS should not be tinkered with continuously, and that it's a financial system that takes time to mature. If, during my time as a legislator, someone wants to make changes without good reason they will not have my support. PERS is doing very well right now and like the old saying goes, "If it ain't broke..."	Yes	Yes	No. I do not intend to at this time, but I will be a legislator that anyone can approach to suggest good ideas. I look forward to working with the members of RPEN to see how I can be of assistance.

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John Piro	4	D	<p>Yes. I too am a public employee, and have been one since 2001, when I worked at U.M.C. and was a member of SEIU. I will also be dependent on PERS to play a large role in my retirement plan. During the last legislative session, I do understand that several independent experts testified that Nevada's PERS was one of the best run public employee retirement systems in the nation. I do believe that we should be further supporting the system. I am also willing to wait and see what the previous reforms impacts will do.</p>	<p>Yes. Nevada's Medicare recipients deserve the services they were promised and vendors should be held to the assurances they make to Nevadans.</p>	<p>Yes. This seems like a rushed order that did not properly think out the unintended consequences to our PERS' members. In light of the high rate of identity theft in our state, we should be making every effort necessary to protect the privacy of our retired public employees that are on a fixed income. So, yes, I would support legislation that would confine the release of retiree information.</p>	<p>No. I have not planned on any specific legislation that would affect seniors or retirees. However, you can be sure that I plan on working with the Caucus to make sure that we are standing with, and supporting all of Nevada's retired public employees.</p>
Artemus Ham	5	R	<p>I am unable at this time to answer this question yes or no as I am not fully educated on this issue. I welcome the opportunity to hear your thoughts on this issue. I look forward to learning from you.</p>	<p>Yes. It seems reasonable to me that vendors should be required to have a Nevada office and staff.</p>	<p>I am very concerned about the release of any retiree's personal information that is not absolutely necessary. However, without seeing the legal briefs that led to Judge Russell's decision, it is hard to answer this question with a definitive yes or no. I welcome the opportunity to learn more about this issue from you.</p>	<p>No. While I have no specific legislation in mind that could affect seniors and/or retirees, I am committed to doing everything possible to assist and protect seniors and/or retirees. I look forward to hearing from you what new legislation you believe is required.</p>
Brittney Miller	5	D	<p>Yes. There is an aggressive movement attempting to switch PERS from a defined benefit, or traditional pension, to a defined contribution. Credits and years have already been impacted by the latest legislative session. I believe I am the only candidate in my race for AD5 that is actually part of PERS, so this directly affects me as well. One of the benefits, or trade-offs of public service is the ability to work toward a pension, often in lieu of the higher salaries that are available in the private sector. I will work to keep PERS intact!</p>	<p>Yes. It's concerning that this is not already provided. It's quite ineffective that in-state office services are not available for elderly retirees. Accessibility is essential. Retirees need the opportunity to walk into an office and sit down with a representative. Maneuvering through the Medicare process can be confusing and tricky.</p>	<p>Yes. I read this bill and found it ludicrous. I cannot see any legitimate or necessary reason to disclose personal information of retirees. In addition to being invasive, it is dangerous. How could anyone want to put our retirees, who in certain instances may be elderly and/or already vulnerable, at risk for scams, identity theft, and possible robbery or burglary?</p>	<p>No. I don't have any specific plans at the moment but I am certainly interested in supporting any legislation that provides seniors and retirees the benefits they are entitled to. I know a number of people from another state who are now retiring and learning that their benefits have been drastically reduced. I see the impact that has on these individuals who devoted their entire career to public service, only to get a fraction of what they were promised and planned for. It's simply devastating. I also spent a number of years as a caregiver for my sick grandmother, and my mother is currently considering retirement. I believe that quality care should be provided to our seniors and that retirees should have the benefits they've worked toward.</p>

Valencia Burch	6	D	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Macon Jackson	6	D	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Jennifer Fawzy	7	R	Yes. I will look into these issues because it affects my community and potentially myself in the future. Time should be given to see how these reforms help and if they don't then I will always make myself accessible to take input from the public to make reforms that help RPEN and all retirees.	Yes. Nevadans who are eligible for benefits under this program definitely need to have access to in-state service. I would also like to find out why assistance and access has not been granted to these eligible retirees. Nevada having an office for this exchange will also create local jobs thus helping local families.	Yes. Privacy is a very important issue for me. People's privacy must be protected and I will always stand up for each citizen's right to protect his or her privacy.	Yes. I would like to introduce laws that reduce the amount of taxes that seniors pay due to the fact that most seniors are on a fixed income, yet the cost of living continues to increase.
Dina Neal	7	D	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Jason Frierson	8	D	Yes. I have always fully supported PERS and currently see no reason for additional changes. I believe that we need to fight to protect PERS while also being open to ways to adjust to make it even stronger. I am weary of making changes that will hurt PERS but I do believe that we should be open to ways to make it stronger if we receive new, credible information. I also realize that it can be dangerous opening the discussion for changes to PERS and we can only do this IF the majority in the Legislature, or at least in the Assembly, shares a common value the PERS is a strong retirement system that needs to be protected.	Yes. I lost the election in 2014 and firmly believe that I need to focus on winning rather than assuming I will be in a position to support or sponsor specific legislation. As a former public employee, I support public employees and public employee retirees. I'm not well versed in the issue of the Medicare health care exchange and would welcome being educated on the details of the issue to be able to better articulate a position. I agree, however, that in-state staff would provide a meaningful way to follow through with the assurances provided in 2011.	Yes. I share the concerns of many who have seen identity theft and other ways of victimizing seniors in our community. I worked to address this previously as a Deputy Attorney General when I served on the Cyber Crimes Task Force, joining local, state and federal partners to address the problem. I have also been contacted by constituents recently with the IRS scams that have been targeting seniors in Nevada.	I must focus on winning so that I can return to the legislature and continue working to better the lives of Nevadans, including our retirees who served for years as the public face of our government and the front line for the needs of Nevadans statewide.
Steve Yeager	9	D	Yes. I support Nevada's defined benefit retirement system and I don't believe any additional changes to PERS are warranted at this time.	Yes. It makes sense to service Nevada retirees close to home.	Yes. Although I recognize the need for transparency, financial crimes are on the rise, especially against seniors. Because of that, I oppose the release of personal identifying information.	No. I don't have any plans to introduce any such legislation at this time. If that changes, I will reach out to RPEN.

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Chris Brooks	10	D	Yes. Nevada's PERS is an important component of our economy and one of the tools we use to attract and retain high quality public employees. All the stakeholders got together and agreed to compromise legislation in the last two sessions. We should make sure these changes work as intended before we discuss further changes to this important system.	Yes. Retirees that have been moved to a Medicare health care exchange must have easy access to services. A local office and staff would help provide easier access to those services.	Yes. I agree that the order goes too far. The safety and privacy of our retired public employees, and all seniors, should be our top priority.	Yes. Over 15 years ago I started one of the first solar companies in the country. I installed all of the first net energy metered (NEM) solar systems in the state. Recently the NEM industry has experienced tremendous growth. The business models of many of these NEM companies as well as the recent actions of the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada have put many seniors and retirees at financial risk. If elected, I intend to introduce legislation that would change the laws that currently apply to NEM solar systems. We need to protect those who currently have these systems while providing a fair and sustainable model for the future.
Melody Howard	14	R	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Stan Vaughan	15	R	Yes. PERS recently went over 70% funded and is well on its way to 100% funded.	Yes	Yes	Yes. See above requests. Further my website puts seniors as a #1 emphasis with slogan Seniors Matter. While my opponent incumbent gives but 3 lines to mention seniors issues.
Ronald Newsome	17	R	Yes	Yes. This should have been done and once again my opponent has let the people down. I not only would follow up and demand this was done but impose and push fines "per day" until it was done.	Yes. I not only would push and sponsor privacy laws to protect retirees from this but for all people. I also would push for laws to make it an upgraded felony to victimize a senior/retiree with mandatory sentencing guidelines.	Yes. Tougher laws to support more protection on retirees/seniors. Making it upgraded charges and higher felony charges with mandatory sentencing guidelines on crimes against seniors. Imposing automatic confiscation laws to regain losses for the senior and restitution as victims.
Tyrone Thompson	17	D	Yes	Yes. I would support this legislation, but also seek clarification on the true definition of "in-state assistance." It is very difficult to effectively communicate with a Medicare vendor that is out of state. An optimal level of customer service is desired for elderly retirees. I would work closely with staff to ensure there are adequate funds to support an in-state office should that become an issue.	Yes. I would support legislation that would help minimize or eliminate potential identification fraud.	Currently, I am in the process of determining bills that I will sponsor in 2017. I am always open to introduce and support legislation that would greatly benefit seniors and on the contrary, I would do my part to speak out in the event that there was potentially bad legislation for seniors.

Richard Carrillo	18	D	PERS is among the best performing pension system in the country today. I don't know of any significant changes that need to be made to PERS and I would oppose any major reforms that undermine the ability of PERS to perform at a high level. I do depend on groups like RPEN to educate and inform so that I am able to make informed decisions on such issues.	I have always believed that the state should show preference to companies who are based in Nevada. This satisfies two goals: It puts Nevadans to work and makes the company more accessible to those it's serving. I'd like to understand more about this particular vendor and why this vendor was chosen given the fact that the legislature has voted to ensure that companies use Nevada workers first in other areas.	Identity theft is a huge problem in Nevada and I believe that the state should be doing all that it can to protect its citizens to the maximum extent possible. This ruling needs to be closely looked at to determine how much additional risk of identity theft has been increased and take any action necessary to limit that by legislative means.	At this time I do not, however, I am open to any suggestions that you may have. And, of course, my door is always open so that I may be better able to make the difficult decisions that we are faced with throughout the legislative session.
Erica Mosca	18	D	Yes. As someone who worked in high-level policy in the Clark County School District's Superintendent's Office and has a degree in Education Policy & Management from Harvard's Graduate School of Education, I know the most important part of creating and enacting policy changes is implementation ramifications as well as continually evaluating policy effectiveness. I currently believe policy changes here made in 2015 have not had adequate time to be evaluated for effectiveness and need to remain in place until valid data can be gathered.	Yes. I would like to learn more information about this subject. However, in general, I do believe vendors receiving money to render services in our state should do everything possible to positively empower and impact our constituents. If the retirees who were promised this benefit are advocating for a state office that they believe would more effectively address their needs, then I would support such legislation.	I would like to learn more about this issue. I would like to know more about how retirees themselves feel about the issue and why. I would also like to know the purpose behind asking for more information and what kind of safeguards are in place to protect individual's personal information before making a decision.	No. I currently do not plan to introduce any legislation that could affect seniors and/or retirees as I plan to use my bills for education and coordinated community services to all. However, coordinated community services could include better information and resources that would empower seniors to continue to have the fair shot they deserve in our state.
Matt Sadler	18	R	No. I cannot commit to not voting change 100%. Realizing full impact of this reform is by definition a subjective matter. Objectively committing to an action or inaction based on subjective interpretations or consensus is not rational to me.	No. At this time I cannot commit to supporting this legislation without having more knowledge on balance.	Yes. I would advocate all reasonable measures to protect retiree privacy.	No. Nothing is planned specifically, but generally speaking, I will do all in my power to repeal/replace the ACA. Any way I can steer NV to that end, I will try. Retirees, such as my parents, have been crippled by this terrible national legislation.
Carol Linton	20	R	Yes	Yes. Please excuse my manners. This is part of the reason I am trying to gain access to the legislature. To stop all the lying and corruption. If they won't provide in-state service or at least have an office. If I can get the answers for you, we will have to stand up. This is part of making America Great Again.	Yes. Frankly, if I may be honest, identity theft is so common now it may not be as easy as it sounds to regulate it. The Nevada Legislature I feel has so many dishonest and underhanded assemblymen & women. It's almost like trying to stop a run away train. But I give you my promise to try my hardest.	No. Just remember something. I only want to represent my friends and neighbors in District 20. I wouldn't introduce anything unless you want it. I only want to help. I have lived in District 20 all of my life. 50 years. I went to Bishop Gorman High School and I am honored to have the opportunity to represent all of you fine people.

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Ellen Spiegel	20	D	I know that Nevada PERS is one of the finest public employee retirement programs in the country, and I do not believe that additional changes are needed at the present time. I agree that previous reforms need to be implemented and assessed before additional changes are made.	Philosophically, I agree with requiring that the Medicare exchange vendor have a Nevada office and Nevada staff. Rather than answer this question in a vacuum, I would want to better understand why the current vendor did not have in-state assistance and what the trade-off would be to implement this requirement. Put differently, I would not want to constrain the PEBP board with this requirement if it would mean hiring an inferior vendor solely because they agreed to open a Nevada office.	Yes	No. While I currently have no plans to introduce legislation that could affect senior citizens and/or retirees, I serve on the Legislative Committee for Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults with Special Needs and spend time working on senior citizens' issues, and I spend considerable time speaking with my senior citizen constituents, both of which could help me identify emerging legislative needs.
Craig Jordahl	23	D	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

Amber Joiner	24	D	<p>Yes. As a former State Employee, vested member of PERS, and future member of RPEN myself, the issues relating to public pensions are not abstract to me. They are personal. They not only will affect me in the future, but they currently affect my family, friends, and neighbors who dedicated their careers to public service and now deserve to have a secure retirement. I very vocally opposed and fought hard against multiple attempts during the last legislative session to undermine PERS, including the proposal to create a hybrid, privatized PERS system. I will continue to fight to maintain the defined benefit system we have. Nevada's system is a model looked up to around the country, and I would absolutely oppose any major reforms that would undermine it for current and future retirees.</p>	<p>Yes. I'm disappointed to learn that there is no in-state assistance provided under the current contract. I'd like to learn more about what level of assistance has been requested and why the current vendor is not able to provide it. A best practice for quality care and customer service is generally understood to include assistance where the people who need the assistance are located. We should be able to look a live person in the eye and have our questions answered and needs addressed. Furthermore, providing all of the assistance jobs to out of state workers is concerning to me when we have plenty of Nevadans in need of work who understand our communities better and could serve in that role.</p>	<p>Yes. I'm extremely concerned about identity theft and constantly looking for ways to strengthen our laws to prevent it. Having experienced it myself and watched family members fall victim to it in various forms, I know how devastating it can be. Are there compelling reasons to release such specific details? I need to learn more about the justifications for this order and would welcome a conversation about whether the identifying information currently being released is appropriately protecting people. If it's too specific and puts people at further risk of identity theft, then I would support legislation to modify the information released.</p>	<p>Yes. I've been working on public employee and senior issues in my professional life for more than a decade. Last session I served on the Assembly Committees on Government Affairs and Health and Human Services, where I advocated strongly for public retiree and senior issues. Previously, as a Senior Research Analyst in the Legislative Counsel Bureau, I served as the Policy Analyst for the same two committees during legislative sessions, as well as for the Interim Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans & Adults with Special Needs for two interims. While a Deputy Director at Nevada's Department of Health & Human services, I collaborated with the Aging & Disability Services Division on various policy issues. Through these experiences, I have developed a passion for helping make sure that seniors and retirees are protected and have the services they need. I'm currently considering a variety of issues for bill drafts to be introduced at the next legislative session and plan to finalize the list by our first deadline in August. I welcome ideas from RPEN members about legislation that would help improve the lives of public retirees, seniors, and families in our community. Please don't hesitate to call or e-mail me with your ideas for legislation.</p>
Clinton Jamison	25	R	<p>Yes. I feel it is necessary to wait for the current reforms to have a sufficient amount of time to take affect before any changes are made.</p>	<p>Yes. There is no reason that there should not be an in-state office to where it can best serve the people of Nevada.</p>	<p>Yes. It is imperative the rights and security of a person be protected and I would support any legislation that would confine the release of retiree information to amount of benefits only.</p>	<p>No. As this current moment I have not planned on introducing any bills that could affect seniors and/or retirees.</p>

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Kime King	25	R	No. Nevadans have made some baby steps in addressing our Public Employees' Retirement System with Senate Bill 406 (Chapter 218C of NRS). The problem is this bill has not addressed the unfunded liabilities. I have no plans for writing or creating a bill addressing retirement in the 2017 session, but unfunded mandates are never sustainable long term. We must honor our agreements made to our current employees, but we should stop creating a system that is unsustainable for the future because this could undermine the entire system and our current retirement agreements.	Yes. I strongly believe that our Medicare exchange should be provided for in-state, and if a third party is hired to fulfill this obligation, then they should have both an office and staff in Nevada to meet its obligations.	Yes. Our information is not for public sale and sharing. I would support a privacy law to protect our retirees from unusual and excessive sharing of personal information.	Yes. I have no direct plans to introduce legislation about seniors and/or retirees. I wish to keep my options available.
Allen Smith	25	D	Yes	Yes	Yes	I plan on making the public more heard in the state legislature. I plan on getting the PUCN to reverse their decision and perhaps re-structure the PUCN.
Jill Tolles	25	R	Yes. One of my primary goals of the 2017 session will be to evaluate how the recent reforms are working along with examining the savings to taxpayers and any impact on the members and the system itself. It will take time to let the full implementation take effect in order to evaluate those results. If I am elected to the legislature, I look forward to learning more about the current system and future projections and will consider recommendations by the PERS board along with other qualified entities before considering any additional proposals for changes to the program.	Yes. I agree this commitment should be honored with the provision of in-state assistance. I would consider requiring a Nevada office with staff, giving consideration to the fiscal impact and role of state enforcement of the requirement.	Yes. I understand the importance of transparency in government but I also recognize the very real threat of identity theft is on the rise, and as a member of PERS myself, I believe there can be a reasonable balance between accountability and protecting individual rights to privacy.	Yes. I am very concerned about caring for our seniors and ensuring they are safe and have adequate access to quality care. After a long discussion with a senior in my district who is taking care of her bed-ridden husband, I would like to investigate administrative vehicles for home-care coverage under Medicare when there isn't a Medicare approved home health agency that will accept a case due to diagnosis or location (i.e. rural Nevada) in addition to more stringent Medicaid licensure, regulation and oversight policies.

Jason Guinasso	26	R	Yes. I have worked with Tim Ross, President of the Washoe County Sherriff's Association, to educate myself on PERS. I sat through a training with the Director of PERS, asked several questions and learned about the history of PERS, the recent changes to PERS and the future solvency of the program. As a result of this training, I have concluded that no additional changes to PERS are necessary or appropriate. It appears to me that the PERS system is sound and working the way it was designed by delivering on our State's promise regarding this important benefit.	This is the first time I have been informed about this problem. Outrageous! Yes, after getting more details about the problem and the proposed legislation, I would be willing to support, in principle, the legislative objective you have briefly described.	Yes. As someone who represents Government entities, I have serious concerns about public records laws in our State that allow for the disclosure of information about public employees because such disclosures put our public employees at risk. Your proposed legislation would be something that I am interested in supporting, along with other reforms to public records laws.	No. However, I am open to considering legislation that would deal with health care delivery to seniors, housing and housing costs for seniors, fraud and abuse effecting seniors and programs that provide seniors opportunities to contribute their time and talent to our education system and economy. We have a wealth of education, skill and experience within the State's senior/ retiree population. I would like to see policy makers avail themselves of their wisdom more often.
Lisa Krasner	26	R	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes. I am a Commissioner for the State of Nevada Commission on Aging. I would be happy to help senior citizens and retirees by bringing needed legislation that helps our seniors/retirees in Nevada.
Wesley Cornwell	28	R	Yes. Due to the fact that my Mother is a public servant set to retire within the next few years, this issue hits home for me. I take the duty of protecting our public servants very seriously whether it is while they are currently serving our communities or they are in retirement. Since the changes should save PERS money, it is imperative that we monitor the changes closely and ensure that nothing is done to jeopardize the fund.	Yes. I believe that we should provide the best service to our retired public servants. In this, what better way is there than to have an office that is accessible to our retirees? In addition to this, I will fight to ensure that our retirees receive the same or better medical coverage for the same or lessor price in retirement that they had available to them while they were still actively serving the public. We owe them that!	Yes. While I support the public's right to know who is receiving money and benefits from the State and how much they are receiving. I also, wholeheartedly agree that we, as a State, have a basic duty to protect our retired public servants' identity.	I am currently undecided on whether or not I will introduce new legislation. In this, as I state above, my goal is to ensure that our Retirees have access to the same quality of medical care along with the same amount of coverage for the same price the retiree was paying before they retired. If this takes new legislation to make happen, then YES, I will introduce new legislation, but if it does not, then no, I will not.

Candidate	District	Party	Question 1. Public Pensions Will you commit not to make any additional changes to the system until the previous reforms have had time to be in place long enough to realize the full impact to PERS? If not, why?	Question 2. Public Employees' Benefits Program Will you support legislation to require the Medicare exchange vendor to have a Nevada office and staff? If not, why?	Question 3. Retiree Safety and Privacy Will you support legislation that would confine the release of retiree information to amount of benefits only? If not, why?	Question 4. Other Do you plan to introduce any legislation that could affect seniors and/or retirees? If yes, please describe.
Lesley Cohen	29	D	<p>Yes. We need to let the changes made to PERS go forward to determine if they are effective. This will take time and study. The reforms were made based on negotiations by many concerned parties and legislators. We should not let those efforts become futile, and we certainly should not risk people's retirements by needlessly experimenting with a good system.</p>	<p>Yes. Our state retirees deserve to receive quality services. This is especially true for healthcare services which often require a quick response. If a vendor cannot provide that service because there is no in-state service, that should be changed. Moreover, all vendors providing services to the state should expect that their performance will be of high quality or will be discontinued, Of course, I will need to see any legislation proposed before agreeing to support it.</p>	<p>Yes. While I will have to see any legislation before agreeing to support it, I believe the release of more than limited information will be unnecessarily detrimental to many people. As the daughter of a retired state employee, I am greatly concerned about the risk of identity theft to her and other retirees. Moreover, I am concerned about safety in general given the anti-government rhetoric spewed by some people. Apparently I should be concerned about my own personal information now because of the release of beneficiary information. There is a difference between transparency and bullying, and this looks like bullying.</p>	<p>Yes. While seniors and retirees do have unique concerns, all legislation potentially effects them. My district has a high number of seniors. I have found that they have very good ideas for the state. I have also found that they are often unaware of the ability for citizens to be involved in our legislative process. Likewise, they are often unaware of good programs in the state, either through public or private providers, that could offer them assistance when necessary. I am greatly interested in how we create better civic engagement in our state and would like to introduce legislation that would encourage it. I am also particularly concerned with waste in the government such as out-of-state vendors not providing good services. The state should not allow our funds to be wasted in such a way.</p>
Richard Daly	31	D	Yes	Yes	No	No
Zach Conine	34	D	<p>Yes. I am running a campaign for Assembly in order to focus on things that need to be improved in order to benefit Nevada. PERS is a system that is a model for other state retirement programs; I don't think any efforts should be spent to adjust systems that work.</p>	<p>Yes. This seems like a common sense solution to preserving the levels of care that the PEBP should be providing. I would be interested in looking into any cost details or other factors.</p>	<p>Your suggestion seems reasonable, but I'd like to understand why the information was released in the first place by Judge Russell.</p>	<p>Yes. One of my main focuses is on economic diversification and growth. A strong and diverse economy creates additional tax revenues. When we have a strong fiscal position as a state there are fewer misguided attempts to remove benefits from seniors and retirees.</p>
Manny Garcia	34	D	<p>Yes. Pensions are a contract between the employee and the employer. After a long career, people rely on their pensions for retirement. Pensions are negotiated as part of compensation and should not be subject to change after the bargaining period has ended. I don't think it's lawful or moral to change someone's pension.</p>	<p>Yes. Again, this is changing someone's negotiated benefits after the bargaining period has closed. People's lives are at risk, all to benefit a private management company. I support any legislation which will correct this including putting these people back on PEBP.</p>	<p>Yes. I have been the victim of identity theft many times, due to my common name. I find it frustrating that government; local, state, and federal, have little concern for this problem. I support any legislation which protects people's identity.</p>	<p>Yes. More needs to be done to protect seniors from fraud and scams.</p>

David LaBay	34	R	Yes. I feel that the reforms put in place are positive to address the long-term unfunded liability that has plagued PERS. While I do believe that more can be done to strengthen the system, I am willing to take a wait-and-see approach and allow time for the passed reforms to take effect.	Yes. I feel that healthcare needs to be accessible and affordable, especially for the elderly. Asking elderly retirees to have to travel long-distance, or incur delays while waiting for out-of-state support for health care is unreasonable and unfair. I would support legislation that requires in-state medical care and in-state medical exchange support staff.	Yes. I will support legislation that would confine the release of retiree information to amount of benefits only. I do not feel that it is necessary to provide in-depth retiree information to the public for purposes of listing benefits received. I feel that the only relevant information that needs to be listed is retiree name, amount of benefits received, and years of service. Additional information is unnecessary.	No. If elected, I will be limiting my legislative draft requests to issues relating to veteran's affairs, education, and criminal justice reform. While my proposed legislation may tangentially affect senior citizens, they aim to be broad spectrum reform plans. If any legislation comes across my desk that will have a substantial effect on seniors and/or retirees, I am willing to contact RPEN and inform them of the pending legislation and consult with representatives.
Sean Lyttle	37	D	Yes. Stability and predictability are important to any retirement planning plan, and PERS is no exception.	Yes. I believe in Nevadans serving Nevadans as much as possible. Additionally, improving access to services for our seniors is one of my top campaign priorities.	Yes. Protecting Nevada's seniors - in particular against crime, including identity theft - is one of my top campaign priorities. As a family law and estate planning attorney, I have seen firsthand the many vulnerabilities and challenges our seniors face, and I want to work toward eliminating as many of the vulnerabilities and challenges as possible.	Yes. Protecting Nevada's seniors will be among my top legislative priorities in the Assembly. I will work toward better access to services, improved safety against crime and predatory practices, more financial and neighborhood security, and improvements to our adult guardianship statutes.
Glenn Trowbridge	37	R	Yes. As an incumbent, I fought long and hard to protect the PERS benefits for current retirees and to minimize the changes which effect current employees and future hires. I will continue the fight as necessary.	Yes. The requirement for In-state Assistance by local employees should be mandatory in all future contracts for health insurance. The cost to provide in-state representation by Willis Towers Watson is minimal when compared to the benefits of having a local personal contact to answer questions by retirees and those considering retirement.	Yes. I will work to protect retirees from disclosure of personal information. The potential vulnerability of rank and file retirees for Identity Theft far exceeds the "need to know" of the media when it comes to disclosure of personal information about a particular retiree. Disclosure of compensation for some highly paid retirees may be justified.	Yes. This is my offer to sponsor legislation proposed by RPEN. I have also offered to submit legislation requested by the Silver Haired Legislative Forum, Chief Justice Hardesty's Committee on Guardianship and the Nevada Veterans Council.
George Dini	38	D	Yes. Nevada PERS is a well-managed, nationally recognized retirement system. Major pension reforms at the 2015 legislative session affect the benefits of newly hired PERS covered workers. Those changes should cut the future PERS costs by \$1 billion dollars a year. We can't break faith with PERS retirees in District 38 and the state who rely on the pensions they earned and we can't short fund their retirement system.	Yes. Since PEBP forced Medicare retirees into the confusing Medicare Exchange, I have heard from retired public employee friends, the reimbursement system and programs aren't well understood. Not everyone uses a computer and for some elderly members with hearing challenges, phone assistance doesn't work. The out of state sole source exchange operator needs to base permanent customer service staff in Nevada now.	Yes. Identity theft is a dangerous, growing phenomenon. It can cost a lot of money and takes years to undo the damage and rebuild credit where a person is a victim of identity theft. It's one thing knowing what public position salary levels are but another to release names and other personal identifying information. Nevada has increased penalties for some crimes committed against seniors. Why would we give away retirees' personal identifying information?	As Mayor of Yerington, I have seen an increasing demand for services in District 38 and in rural Nevada, many affecting seniors. Although I do not have a specific bill draft in mind, I believe additional discussion of the subject makes sense including some focus on taxes, rural senior centers, health services and more.
Michael Greedy	40	D	Yes. Nevada is a hostile work environment. PERS is the only attractive benefit.	Yes. Buy locally! Perhaps we should have a traveling exchange employee.	Yes	Yes. Protecting retiree and employee personal identifying information is necessary.
Al Kramer	40	R	Yes	Yes	Yes	No. Any legislation I introduce should not affect seniors or retirees any more than the population at large.

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PK O'Neill	40	R	<p>Yes. The various reforms made in 2015 by SB406 were developed to help save the system approximately \$10 million a year and keep it as a Defined Benefit program. I agree it would be best not to make any changes so as to fully evaluate what the impact, good or bad, may be.</p>	<p>Yes. It is my understanding that Willis Towers Watson is currently conducting a trial period with representatives in Carson City to give assistance. As stated prior, this program should be a requirement not an experiment.</p>	<p>Yes. I can understand the media's request for generalized information. However, I do believe that should and can be balanced with the individual participants need of security and personal information protection.</p>	<p>Yes. I am discussing with various individuals the need to provide better protection for seniors in regards to certain financial transactions. I'm not certain that a BDR will be requested. Additionally, I am Vice Chair of the Interim Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults with Special Needs. Due to this position we will be developing legislation related to seniors.</p>
Paul Aizley	41	D	<p>Yes. To the best of my knowledge PERS has never missed a payment. The theoretical "unfunded liability" is an accounting device that would come into play if all employees decided to retire at once. That will not happen. Adjustments have been made and further adjustments can be made as needed. An employee, when hired, has an agreed upon compensation, salary and benefits. Benefits include money set aside for a retirement pension. That money is handled by the state in the PERS account and it is the employee's money, not the state's money. The only way that the state can save money is by reducing the employee's salary of benefits.</p>	<p>Yes. I am a retired state employee (UNLV) with Medicare. Having the exchange out of state is annoying but has not been a hardship. With the minimum subsidy, I have a lot of dental and eyeglasses coverage.</p>	<p>Yes. The amount of money that retirees have contributed to the program and the amount of money that an employee is entitled to receive are known by everyone. The other information should be private. There is also a question of equal treatment because the professionals in NSHE contribute to the TIAA-CREF program and since those funds are not in the PERS system, the information that Judge Russell ruled for the PERS retirees was made available to the public but the same information was not made available for TIAA employees.</p>	<p>No. AB 303 (2013) is a bill I introduced and the governor signed. I'm ready to work with all retirees and future retirees on any legislation that they bring to me for consideration.</p>

Sandra Jauregui	41	D	Yes. Nevada has a model PERS system. One that should be protected. I don't feel it would be in the best interest. The reforms were a result of many groups working together to create legislation that all would support. I think we must allow time to assess whether further reform is needed. At this time I don't believe we need any further changes.	Yes. I think eligible retirees deserve easy access to their health care. Having an in-state office with staff would make it easier for our elder retirees and provide more efficient and expedient service.	Yes. I think our primary concern should always be the safety of our senior citizens. The release of information goes far beyond what the public should be able to see. The benefits provided are ones the retirees have earned and the information should not be disclosed if there is no essential need.	No. But I will always be open and accessible to RPEN if there are issues that they need to address or educate me on. If bills arise that affect Seniors I will reach out to experts like RPEN for guidance.
Howard Scheff	42	R	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes. I would like to see a tax break on money earned by retirees and seniors.

ASSEMBLY CANDIDATES WHO DID NOT RESPOND

DISTRICT 1: Howard Brean (R); **DISTRICT 2:** John Hambrick (R); Owen Carver (D); Garrett Leduff (D); Ron Nelsen (D); Joe Valdes (D); Clayton Kelly Hurst (R); **DISTRICT 3:** Nelson Araujo Jr (D); **DISTRICT 4:** Kenneth Rezendes (R); Richard McArthur (R); Melissa Laughter (R); Earle Orr (D); **DISTRICT 5:** Shannon Churchwell (D); Rory Martinez (D); Tony Baca (R); **DISTRICT 6:** Arrick Foster (D); William McCurdy II (D); Carlo Maffatt (R); **DISTRICT 8:** Norm Ross (R); **DISTRICT 9:** David Gardner (R); Diana Orrock (R); Minddie Lloyd (R); **DISTRICT 10:** German Castellanos (D); Shelly Shelton (R); **DISTRICT 11:** Olivia Diaz (D); **DISTRICT 12:** James Ohrenschall (D); Ron McGinnis (R); John Santacruz (R); Mark Riggins (R); Walter Seip II (R); **DISTRICT 13:** Leonard Foster (R); Steve Sanson (R); Paul Anderson (R); **DISTRICT 14:** Maggie Carlton (D); Quay Simons (R); **DISTRICT 15:** Elliot Anderson (D) Lou Toomin (D); **DISTRICT 16:** Heidi Swank (D); **DISTRICT 18:** Christine Decorte (R); **DISTRICT 19:** Chris Edwards (R); Connie Foust (R); **DISTRICT 20:** Darren Welsh (D); **DISTRICT 21:** Derek Armstrong (R); Ozzie Fumo (D); Ben Nakhaima (D); Vinny Spotleson (D); Blain Jones (R); **DISTRICT 22:** Luis Aguirre-Insua (D); Richard Bunce (R); Mark Isquith (D); **DISTRICT 23:** Melissa Woodbury (R); Swadeep Nigam (R); **DISTRICT 24:** Jim Riger Sr (R); **DISTRICT 25:** Jennifer Terhune (R); **DISTRICT 27:** Teresa Benitez-Thompson (D); Bonnie Weber (R); **DISTRICT 28:** Edgar Flores (D); **DISTRICT 29:** Stephen Silberkraus (R); Amy Groves (R); **DISTRICT 30:** Michael Sprinkle (D); Lauren Scott (R); **DISTRICT 31:** Jill Dickman (R); **DISTRICT 32:** Ira Hansen (R); **DISTRICT 33:** John Ellison (R); **DISTRICT 34:** Marty Hagans (R); Shannon Bilbray-Axelrod (D); Matt Williams (R); **DISTRICT 35:** Tom Blanchard (R); Justin Watkins (D); Tiffany Jones (R); Benjamin Donlon (R); Brent Jones (R); Raymond Giordano (R); **DISTRICT 36:** James Oscarson (R); Tina Trenner (R); Rusty Stanberry (R); **DISTRICT 37:** James Marchant (R); **DISTRICT 38:** Robin Titus (R); **DISTRICT 39:** Jim Wheeler (R); **DISTRICT 40:** Sam England (R); Chris Forbush (R); **DISTRICT 41:** Nicholas Phillips (R); Mary Rooney (R); **DISTRICT 42:** Irene Bustamante Adams (D).

Keith Pickard	22	R	Thank you so much for your interest in my campaign. I have to admit, though my wife is a member of PERS, I am unaware of any upcoming legislation dealing with PERS. Certainly, I am not supportive of any efforts that would weaken the plan for retirees. Retirement systems should not be raided to pay the state's bills. I am always in support of efforts to make earned benefits accessible without red tape, and will do what I can to help make things easier for retirees-it won't be long until I join those ranks. I also support efforts to protect the privacy and personal information for all of the citizens of Nevada, including retirees. Unfortunately, so much of our Social Security and Medicare rules are driven by federal law (meaning the state cannot force change), I do believe the state has a obligation to do what we can to assure that those that have earned their retirement benefits should certainly be given what they were promised. <i>RPEN Comment: Mr. Pickard chose not to respond to our questionnaire but did offer the response above. You will note he did not answer our questions definitively.</i>
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