



NEVADA POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

SHARON J. ROSSIE
President

April 10, 2016

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Traveling around the state recently, visiting with many of your fellow **Nevada Policy Research Institute** supporters, I heard the same thing from *every single one of them*.

Getting control of our Public Employee Retirement System *has got to be the Number One state priority!*

“If we don’t get a handle on this, it’s eventually going to bankrupt our state,” one friend told us.

Another said he wanted to see a constitutional amendment on the issue, to force policymakers to do the right thing!

It was *great* to at last hear so much concern over this very serious problem. NPRI has been talking about this issue and illuminating it for decades. But in a state where public-employee unions have so much political clout, it’s been hard to get any real progress out of the state legislature.

Confidentially, I think that’s about to change. NPRI has a dynamite research study in the works that’s going — I believe — to change the political calculus in Nevada. Stay tuned!

So visiting with our friends was wonderful: It was truly *energizing* to see how eager our supporters are for us to keep tackling the serious issues facing the state — even though so many other issues currently get bigger headlines.

Our supporters showed me once again that they’re focused on real solutions, concerned for the future health and prosperity of our state, and eager for real, fiscally conservative reforms...*even if those issues are not currently saturating the news cycle.*

Do you feel the same as these supporters, [REDACTED] Or are other issues on your mind right now?

No matter what you think should be top of the state's agenda, Nevada Policy Research Institute has you covered.

Backed up by you and other supporters just like you, we're laying out a full, comprehensive plan for major improvement in our state...including a host of PERS reforms, and much, much more.

Now, all we need is your continued support to hammer these points home, until our state leaders finally decide to do the right thing!

Please help us make our case for continued free market reform by rushing your special contribution of \$100, \$200, \$300, or even more today.

We're counting on you, [REDACTED]

Because without you and all those other concerned, policy-minded supporters across the state, we're going to be disappointed by our elected officials once again.

As Nevadans learned all too well last year, elections aren't everything.

Conservatives can win every office in the state, but if you and I don't give our elected officials good ideas to guide them, and demand they stand by their principles, we're going to be let down time and time again.

I certainly don't need to remind you of the tremendous disappointments of last year... when our first Republican majority in both legislative houses were expected to give us so many good things, *but then went bust.*

- Instead of the fiscal responsibility they promised, we got the largest tax hike in state history.
- And instead of reforms to PERS and state labor practices we need, we got bigger government spending and unbelievable cronyism!

It's been several months since that last legislative session wrapped up, and I still can't believe how badly they let us down.


And you know what? Without good policy solutions to rely on the next time around, and strong pressure from citizens like you, *the politicians are going to wreak havoc again.*

You and I need to keep that from happening.

You and I need to get to work, right now, to build the knowledge of how to make necessary improvements possible, and to spur the demand for such a bold agenda from our state's citizens.

Those fellow donors of yours are on the right track, calling for real, substantial change to the state's PERS. I know they'll keep it up. *And I hope you will too!*

You can do that by supporting Nevada Policy Research Institute once again today, and ensuring our limited government reform agenda can set the stage for the policy debates to come in 2016 and on into the new legislative session next year.

Please let us count on your gift of \$100, \$200, \$300, or any other size you think right, 

Your special gift will help us keep the good ideas coming fast and furious.

In fact, your contribution will support one of our biggest and most high-impact efforts of the year.

It's called *Solutions 2017*, our comprehensive guide to the issues Nevada faces, with the policy and research our legislators need to do the right thing for our state.

With *Solutions 2017*, you'll help us provide the guideposts our state's elected officials so clearly need.

If they follow it, they'll succeed. If they ignore it, they'll let Nevadans down once again and continue the status quo, big government policies that have put us in trouble.

Your support today will make success much more likely!

We know these guidebooks can succeed, because they've done so in the past.

You may recall our *Solutions 2013* and *Solutions 2015*. Between them, nearly two dozen pieces of free market legislation have emerged, many of which went on to be enacted successfully.

- Foremost among these wins came with Education Savings Accounts, one of the only highlights for conservatives out of last year's legislative session.
- Other successes include the creation of scholarship tax credits to spur more education choice... construction defect reform... and a joint legislative resolution calling for fairer treatment of federal lands in Nevada.

These wins were encouraging. *And it's great to see state leaders paying attention to the solutions we offer!*

But we need to have many, many more wins in 2017 to get our state back on track and deliver the type of improvements Nevada's citizens rightly expect.

That can happen with your support, as we bring the ideas of *Solutions 2017* to every single state legislator, as well as every candidate now running for the legislature.

With your help, this guidebook will provide the inspiration these leaders and would-be leaders need... ideas they can campaign on to energize voters with calls for action, and policy proposals they can get behind once the legislative session kicks in next year.

It seems a long way off right now. But it'll be here faster than we know. And we have to be prepared.

We will be prepared with your gift of \$100, \$200, \$300, or any other amount,

On issue after issue, *Solutions 2017* provides the step-by-step road map Nevadans need to avoid the pitfalls and disappointments of last year, and to enact a winning agenda that meets the demands of you and those other friends of ours I visited with the past few months.

Last time around, with *Solutions 2015*, we sent out 1,000 copies, including one to every single candidate and legislator in the state. We want to match and exceed that this year, spreading the word far and wide.

Solutions 2017 is full of positive, workable ideas. And you can help get it to all the current and future policymakers who can use it to institute the reforms Nevada needs.

In it, we offer in-depth discussions and principled solutions on over 50 of the biggest issues facing our state.

Some of these issues are in the headlines even now, others are more low-profile... but every bit as important!

By helping us spread the word, you'll make a tremendous difference and ensure the ideas you care about will get a fair hearing now and leading up to the next legislative session.

You can help make the case for long-needed PERS reform.

Those Nevada Policy Research Institute supporters I spoke with are absolutely right. We need to get a handle on PERS before it bankrupts the state.

Decades of overly generous, short-sighted pension policies have put Nevada's pensions at risk, and will leave you and me to foot the bill.

We've got to fix it, even if the labor unions and special interests make it difficult. And we've got to do it fast before another economic slump like that of 2008 comes along and devastates our budget, leaving us all empty-handed.

Solutions 2017 offers a step-by-step plan to do that, demonstrating how other states in our situation have fixed their pension messes, and showing how Nevada could do the same with brave leadership. Among many other reforms:

- We call for creating a "hybrid" system like Utah created, which got their pension problems under control in a smart way.
- We ultimately want a *defined contribution plan*, rather than a defined benefit plan, so that state employees have retirement plans more like those of us in the private sector.
- We want to see non-PERS recipients on the board that determines PERS policies...*ending the conflicts of interest that make reform so difficult.*
- And we want to get local government employees to actually start contributing to their own pensions, just like state employees and private sector workers. As State Controller Ron Knecht demonstrated with his 2015 plan, just that reform alone could *balance the budget without a need for tax increases.*

It won't be easy, but you can help us make common-sense, fiscally responsible reforms like these happen next year. Please let us count on your special support to make it all possible.

You can help protect property rights by ending civil asset forfeiture abuse.

Right now, law enforcement agencies are trampling due process and brazenly seizing property from citizens accused (*not even convicted*) of a crime. Abuses are out of control, with police using such asset seizures to pad their own budgets.

- We call for reforming this process... requiring convictions before assets can be seized, and that property seized was related to the crime.
- We also want to end “policing for profit” by requiring legitimate seizures go to state or local treasuries, not police departments.
- And we want to protect innocent third party property owners caught in asset forfeiture nightmares.

Proposals like these will end abusive behavior by police departments and protect citizens’ property rights. Conservatives in other states have led the way on this issue, and we know they can do the same here in Nevada.

You can help bring transparency and accountability to Nevada’s budget.

Nevadans deserve to know the truth about the state’s budget, and how their money is being spent. They also need to know to what extent the federal government calls the shots here because of all the grants we receive for programs like Medicaid and education.

That’s why, in *Solutions 2017*, we make the case for spending transparency to shine the light of truth on this issue and make sure taxpayers, and even state leaders, know how much money they’re dealing with.

Only then can they make smart, truly fiscally responsible decisions... *and help Nevada stand on its own two feet.*

And you can fight to end Nevada’s harmful new Commerce Tax.

You and I fought hard against the “margins tax,” winning an overwhelming victory against it at the polls in 2014. But no sooner did that happen than Governor Sandoval and state legislators turned around and created a version of it, as part of the largest tax hike in state history!

Solutions 2017 reminds lawmakers of the enormous costs this tax places on Nevada businesses, and lays out how *certain* industries and other interests who support it are exempt from it!

Our scholars point out that the only way to end this destructive policy is to repeal the commerce tax entirely, and never again consider such Gross Receipts Taxes in our state. This won't be an easy battle, but it's one you and I must continue to wage, for the sake of our entrepreneurs and our economy.

On all these key issues and many, many more, your generous contribution will help us get the proposals of *Solutions 2017* to the current and future state leaders who hold Nevada's fate in their hands.

What's more, you'll help us offer follow-up consultations and advice to legislators and candidates who are interested and who want to learn more.

We know from past experience that our *Solutions* books will spur excitement out there, and provide the bold reform agenda so many of them want.

You can help us give them one-on-one lessons to get a deeper understanding, and encourage them to become true champions of conservatism when they get into office.

There's so much on the line, and only with your help can we steer these state leaders straight!

- Will they botch it again, like they did last year?
- Or will they do the right thing, supporting the fiscally responsible, principled reforms you and I expect of them?

You can make good outcomes possible with your generous support and involvement today.

Please help us get the word out, and put *Solutions 2017* into the hands of every single legislator and candidate in Nevada in the weeks and months to come. This is what you and I need to show them a smarter, more successful way forward.

You've helped Nevada Policy Research Institute come so far already. And as we lay our plans for this year and the legislative session to come next year, your continued generosity would help us do what it takes to fight successfully for the conservative ideas you and our other supporters across the state care about.

██████████ I hope we can count on you and your special gift of \$100, \$200, \$300, or any other amount you think right.

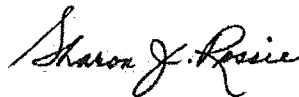
Solutions 2017 is now complete and ready to share with our audiences.

So if you too want to see our state leaders tackle the big issues and make principled decisions to improve Nevada's future health and prosperity, the best thing you can do right now is to share *Solutions 2017* far and wide.

I look forward to hearing from you, and receiving your most generous, tax-deductible contribution to make our forward-looking work possible today.

Please respond right away, using the enclosed reply form and envelope I've shared with you. Thank you for taking the time to consider my request, and for all the generous support you've shared with Nevada Policy Research Institute.

Best wishes,




Sharon J. Rossie
President

P.S. Do you agree with your fellow Nevada Policy Research Institute supporters about the biggest issue facing our state today? Or do you have concerns of your own that you'd prefer to see policymakers tackle in the legislative session to come?

No matter what your concerns, there's a good chance the biggest issues you care about are covered in *Solutions 2017*, our comprehensive guidebook for state leaders. Please help us hammer these policy proposals home, and ensure every single legislator and candidate hears the principled lessons we have to offer.

Your contribution of \$100, \$200, \$300, or any other amount would help your friends at Nevada Policy Research Institute spread the word, and help state leaders avoid repeating the mistakes and disappointments of last year.

So  do what you can to support this important and timely effort today.