

## **SHIRLEY FOLKINS-ROBERTS**

Shirley Folkins-Roberts is a Republican candidate for Nevada Secretary of State. She is the community development director at Panattoni Development Company, a commercial real estate firm where she has worked since 2014. Roberts' husband also works for Panattoni as the president of North America development. Folkins-Roberts is a longtime advocate for children battling cancer. She is the co-founder of the Northern Nevada Children's Cancer Foundation (NNCCF) and has served on the group's board of directors since 2003. NNCCF provided financial assistance and supportive programs for children with cancer and their families. She also worked as NNCCF's executive director from 2018-2021. Folkins-Roberts is currently chair of the Nevada Strategic Growth Initiative. Folkins-Roberts is also an attorney, who previously worked in private practice in Nevada and in California.

### Key Findings:

**Folkins-Roberts was recruited and endorsed by Trump-backed Gov. Joe Lombardo, who publicly cast doubt on the 2020 election outcome.** In March 2026, shortly after Folkins-Roberts launched her campaign for Secretary of State, she received the endorsement of Nevada Gov. Joe Lombardo. According to The Nevada Independent's Jon Ralston, "team Lombardo recruited" Folkins-Roberts. "Gov hoping for legit contender against SOS @CiscoForNevada," Ralston wrote. According to KUNR Public Radio, Lombardo, "publicly cast doubt on the outcome of the 2020 presidential election without outright declaring fraud." Nevada Current editor Hugh Jackson opined, "Gov. Joe Lombardo endorsed one, fake elector Jesse Law, when Law sought and won re-election to chair the Clark County Republican Party. [...] Lombardo has not denied the 2020 presidential election results and has strived carefully to avoid being labeled an election denier. He's just election-denier adjacent." Lombardo was endorsed by Trump in 2022 and has received Trump's endorsement again for his reelection effort.

**Folkins-Roberts has supported voter roll purges, implementing voter ID "responsibly," and ensuring election results are delivered clearly and on time.** Folkins-Roberts' campaign website stated: "She believes Nevada should lead the nation in both election integrity and business innovation. Shirley supports keeping voter rolls accurate, implementing voter ID responsibly, and ensuring election results are delivered clearly and on time. She also wants to modernize the Secretary of State's office, streamline business filings, and support the creation of business courts so companies can resolve disputes efficiently and focus on growing jobs instead of navigating red tape." "I'm fully committed to ensuring the safety and security of Nevada's elections because I believe every voter deserves confidence in the integrity of the process," she said on Facebook on March 2026.

## BACKGROUND

**2014- Present: Folkins-Roberts is the community development director at Panattoni Development Co.** Folkins-Roberts has worked at Panattoni Development Co. Inc. since 2014, when she began as a development manager. In January 2024, she became the firm’s community development director. [Panattoni](#) is a commercial real estate firm. [LinkedIn, accessed [3/24/26](#)]

- **Folkins-Roberts’ husband Doug Roberts is the President of North American Development at Panattoni.** According to their website, “Doug Roberts is currently President, North American Development. Doug also serves on the company Investment Committee. In addition, Doug serves as the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for Panattoni Development Company in North America for an international e-commerce company.” [Panattoni Development Company website, accessed [3/24/26](#)]

**2024: Folkins-Roberts was named to the board of directors for commercial real estate development association, NAIOP (National Association for Industrial and Office Parks).** “NAIOP Northern Nevada has announced the slate of board officers and directors for 2024. The leaders chosen to represent the Northern Nevada community include: [...] Shirley Folkins-Roberts, Panattoni Development Company”. [Northern Nevada Business View, [1/19/24](#)]

- **Folkins-Roberts led teams to Washington DC and to the state capitol on behalf of NAIOP to represent the commercial real estate industry.** “Shirley co-chaired the NAIOP Governmental Affairs Committee and led teams to Washington DC and our state capitol to represent the commercial real estate industry. In this capacity, she created and co-chaired the Northern Nevada Regional Transportation Coalition creating collaborative relationships between the private sector and state and local transportation officials.” [REMSAHealth.com, accessed [3/23/26](#)]

**2023: Folkins-Roberts was appointed to the Reno City Council’s Building Enterprise Fund Advisory Committee.** “Council members appointed Teresa Di Loreto (reappointment), Andy Durling, Shirley Folkins-Roberts and Brian Moon to the Building Enterprise Fund Advisory Committee.” [This is Reno, [5/12/23](#)]

**2024: Folkins-Roberts appointed to the board of the Nevada Strategic Growth Initiative, a privately funded nonprofit launched by Gov. Lombardo.** “A new nonprofit entity designed specifically to diversify Nevada's gaming and tourism-dependent economy was set in motion recently by Gov. Joe Lombardo and the Governor's Office of Economic Development. The privately funded Nevada Strategic Growth Initiative will collaborate with myriad development agencies, chambers of commerce and other state and local leadership to work toward creating jobs, helping existing businesses grow, recruiting new businesses to operate in Nevada and stimulating entrepreneurship, according to the governor and other officials. [...] Leading the Nevada Strategic Growth Initiative is board chair Matt Maddox, a longtime gaming executive and the former CEO of Wynn Resorts. Also serving on the board: Peter Guzman, president of the Latin Chamber of Commerce; Danny Thompson, executive secretary-treasurer of the Nevada state American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO); longtime marketing leader and philanthropist Staci Alonso, formerly a member of the Nevada

State Athletic Commission and an executive at Station Casinos; and Shirley Folkins-Roberts, community development director at Panattoni Development Company.” [Las Vegas Weekly, 10/10/24]

- **March 2026: Folkins-Roberts was chair of NSGI’s board.** [NSGI website, accessed [3/24/26](#)]

**2012-2013: Folkins-Roberts worked as an associate attorney at greater Reno law firm Kern and Associates LLC.** From 2012 to 2013, Folkins-Roberts worked as an associate attorney at greater Reno law firm Kern and Associates LLC. [LinkedIn, accessed [3/24/26](#)]

**Folkins-Roberts previously practiced law in Sacramento.** “Prior to relocating to Northern Nevada, Folkins-Roberts practiced law in Sacramento after receiving her juris doctor from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 3/29/15]

- **1998-2000: Folkins-Roberts was an associate attorney at Qirko & Associates.** [LinkedIn, accessed [3/24/26](#)]
- **1994-1998: Folkins-Roberts was an associate attorney at Haworth, Bradshaw, Stallknecht and Barber.** [LinkedIn, accessed [3/24/26](#)]

**Folkins-Roberts earned her JD from the McGeorge School of Law at the University of the Pacific (1993) and her Bachelor of Arts from the University of California, Davis (1987).** “Shirley earned her Juris Doctor from the McGeorge School of Law at the University of the Pacific and her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of California, Davis. Shirley became a member of the California Bar in 1993 and the Nevada Bar in 2010 and has practiced with private firms in both states.” [REMSAHealth.com, accessed [3/23/26](#); LinkedIn, accessed [3/24/26](#)]

**2020: Folkins-Roberts was appointed to a three-year term on the Nevada Rare Disease Council.** “In 2020 Shirley was appointed to a three year term on State of Nevada Rare Disease Council. She is a member of the Rotary Club of Reno and was named Outstanding Philanthropist in 2022 by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Sierra Nevada Chapter.” [REMSAHealth.com, accessed [3/23/26](#)]

**Folkins-Roberts was a member of the California Bar Association and Nevada Bar Association.** “She has also practiced law in the state of Nevada and is a member of the California Bar Association and Nevada Bar Association.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 3/29/15]

**Reno Gazette-Journal: Folkins-Roberts grew up in Eureka, CA.** “Debbie Strickland is in the middle of the fundraising. ‘She will absolutely get in the trenches,’ said Shirley Folkins-Roberts, a Reno resident and foundation member who grew up with Debbie Strickland in Eureka, Calif.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 12/31/06]

**Folkins-Roberts is married to Doug Roberts and has two children.** “Shirley and her husband Doug truly cherish the northern Nevada community and raised two children in the area enjoying

skiing, water sports, travel and local arts and music with their family.” [REMSAHealth.com, accessed [3/23/26](#)]

**Folkins-Roberts once chaired of REMSA Health’s Board of Directors.** As of March 23, 2026, Folkins-Roberts was chair of REMSA Health’s Board of Directors. [REMSAHealth.com, accessed [3/23/26](#)]

**Folkins-Roberts was a member of the Rotary Club of Reno Central.** “She is an active member in the community helping organizations and serving on various boards such as Rotary Club of Reno Central and REMSA.” [Press release, Northern Nevada Children’s Cancer Foundation, accessed [3/23/26](#)]

**Folkins-Roberts previously served as a trustee for the Reno Philharmonic.** “Her community impact extends to multiple philanthropic and civic organizations. Shirley is an active member and Chair of the REMSA Health Board of Directors, serves as a Trustee for the Reno Philharmonic, and is involved with the Rotary Club of Reno Central. In 2024, she was appointed by the Governor to the Nevada Strategic Growth Initiative Board, a role that focuses on guiding the state's economic diversification.” [NSGI, accessed [3/23/26](#)]

### Childhood cancer advocacy

**Folkins-Roberts co-founded the Northern Nevada Children's Cancer Foundation (NNCCF) and has served on the board of directors since 2003.** According to their website, “Shirley Folkins-Roberts has been a dedicated advocate for children battling cancer since 2003. As a co-founder of the Northern Nevada Children’s Cancer Foundation (NNCCF), she serves on the Board of Directors and since 2006 has annually led advocacy teams of Nevada families to Washington, D.C., championing for childhood cancer research funding.” [NNCCF, accessed [3/24/26](#); LinkedIn, accessed [3/24/26](#)]

- **2018-2021: Folkins-Roberts served as NNCCF’s executive director.** According to her LinkedIn profile, from 2018 to 2021, Folkins-Roberts served as NNCCF’s executive director. “In her Executive Director role at NNCCF, Shirley was responsible for developing and managing donor contributions, developing strategic alliances, creating a stable business environment and managing community relations, in an effort to provide advocacy and assistance for local families afflicted with childhood cancer. During her tenure, the annual revenue increased by 32% despite challenges posed by the pandemic.” [LinkedIn, accessed [3/24/26](#)]
- **NNCCF provided financial help and supportive programs for children with cancer and their families.** “This week's Someone 2 Know is the co-founder and executive director of the Northern Nevada Children's Cancer Foundation. The Reno-based group provides financial help and support programs - for children with cancer, and their families. Under the leadership of Shirley Folkins-Roberts, the foundation has also successfully advocated for increased research-funding for childhood cancer.” [2 News Nevada, [4/1/21](#)]

- **Carson Now: Folkins-Roberts efforts on NNCCF’s behalf resulted in \$7 million in financial assistance for local families and \$3 million raised for childhood cancer research.** “As the major force behind NNCCF, her efforts have resulted in \$7 million in financial assistance for local families and \$3 million raised for childhood cancer research. In 2021, NNCCF renamed its Hope Award as the Shirley Folkins-Roberts Hope Award. Folkins-Roberts joined Panattoni Development as Development Manager in 2014 where she has worked as a coalition builder and business advocate to help the community during this time of great growth.” [Carson Now, 11/27/22]
- **Folkins-Roberts co-founded NNCCF after knowing a family personally impacted by childhood cancer.** “Shirley has been a dedicated advocate for children with cancer since 2003. After knowing a family personally impacted by childhood cancer, she became one of the co-founders of NNCCF and served on the Board of Directors for 15 years. During the early years of the organization, Shirley provided oversight of daily operations, establishment and management of operating budgets, and development and implementation of fundraising events. As an advocate for the organization, she led the creation of a bill in 2007 to submit to the Nevada State Legislature which sought money for childhood cancer.” [REMSAHealth.com, accessed [3/23/26](#)]

**Reno Gazette-Journal: Folkins-Roberts “drafted and submitted bills to the Nevada Legislature on behalf of childhood cancer organizations and testified in committee to secure funds.”** “In addition to her role at Panattoni, Folkins-Roberts serves as a member of the board of directors for the Northern Nevada Children’s Cancer Foundation. As an advocate, she has drafted and submitted bills to the Nevada Legislature on behalf of childhood cancer organizations and testified in committee to secure funds. She also is a member of Rotary and the Renown Children’s Hospital Champion Council.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 3/29/15]

**2022: Folkins-Roberts was named Outstanding Philanthropist by the Northern Nevada Children’s Cancer Foundation.** “RENO Northern Nevada Children’s Cancer Foundation announced Shirley Folkins-Roberts was named Outstanding Philanthropist at the 31st Annual Cornerstone Awards, hosted by the Association of Fundraising Professionals NV, Sierra Chapter. The 2022 National Philanthropy Day was held Friday, Nov. 18, 2022 at The Atlantis Casino Resort & Spa.” [Carson Now, 11/27/22]

**2021: Folkins-Roberts was appointed to the St. Baldrick’s National Advocacy Advisory Committee, a group pushing for federal legislation for childhood cancer research.** “In recognition of her dedication, she was appointed in 2021 to the St. Baldrick’s National Advocacy Advisory Committee, a distinguished group of public policy experts, physician-scientists, and parents, working to advance federal legislation for childhood cancer research.” [NNCCF, accessed [3/24/26](#)]

**2009: Folkins-Roberts was the Nevada Team Leader for CureSearch National Childhood Cancer Foundation.** “Shirley Folkins-Roberts, Nevada Team Leader for CureSearch National Childhood Cancer Foundation, is making her eighth trip to the Capitol to push for funding.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 6/21/09]

**2005: Folkins-Roberts was named to the Reno Chapter board of directors of The Keaton Raphael Memorial, which provided financial support to families battling cancer.** “Officials of The Keaton Raphael Memorial have announced the newly named 2005-06 Reno Chapter board of directors. The Reno chapter was recently founded to help provide local families with grant assistance and to establishment long-term services which directly benefit families battling cancer in Northern Nevada. The following individuals of the Reno chapter have been named to the 2005-2006 board: Robyn Raphael, Doug Roberts, Jason Quintel, Brad Woodring, Bob Walter, Marcia Lu, Shirley Folkins-Roberts, Debbie Strickland, Kyle Larkin, Tierra Griffiths, and Joel Grace.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 10/26/05]

**Folkins-Roberts was a steering committee member for the Max Vincze Foundation, an organization financing research on adolescent and young adult cancers.** “She is also a steering committee member for the Max Vincze Foundation, an organization financing research focused on adolescent and young adult cancers.” [NNCCF, accessed [3/24/26](#)]

### Questions surrounding political giving

**This is Reno: City Councilman Devon Reese received campaign donations from board members of nonprofits that received donations from those council members’ discretionary funds, including from Folkins-Roberts.** “While using discretionary funds for nonprofit donations is not a violation of city policy, in several instances, council members received campaign donations and support from individuals who also served on the boards of the nonprofits that received donations from those council members’ discretionary funds. [...] In 2022 and 2023, Council member Devon Reese took in \$7,475 in campaign contributions from board members of nonprofits that received donations from his city discretionary fund. [...] In November 2023, Reese received \$2,500 for his campaign from Shirley Folkins-Roberts, co-founder and board member of Northern Nevada Children’s Cancer Foundation. The donation arrived nine months after Reese allocated to the nonprofit a \$1,500 city donation.” [This is Reno, [2/20/24](#)]

**The Nevada Globe: Reno City Councilman Devon Reese raised over \$66,000 for his 2024 campaign in a yet to be determined ward, from real estate industry donors, including from Folkins-Roberts.** “According to publicly available documents (see below), Councilman Reese has raised over \$125,000 for his 2024 campaign in a ward that has yet to be determined as the City of Reno is finalizing the boundaries of a 6th Ward. From Q1-Q2 of this year, Reese has raised a total of \$128,397 for his campaign. The contributions reflect that \$66,600, or 52 percent, are from those affiliated with real estate and development with the largest donors highlighted in bold. 1. \$5,000 Dermody Properties (Michael Dermody-EDAWN) (Q1) 2. \$5,000 Greenstreet Development, Inc (Dane Hillyard) (Q1) [...] 16. \$2,500 Shirley Folkins-Roberts (Q1)” [The Nevada Globe, [8/3/23](#)]

### SOS CAMPAIGN

**March 2026: Folkins-Roberts announced her campaign for Secretary of State.** “Shirley Folkins-Roberts, the co-founder of a Reno nonprofit to help children facing cancer, filed Wednesday to run in the Republican primary for secretary of state. Folkins-Roberts, who is also

an attorney and has spent more than a decade working at a commercial real estate company, joins a field of candidates seeking to unseat Democrat Cisco Aguilar. Two other Republican candidates have filed to run as of Wednesday, including perennial candidate Sharron Angle. Folkins-Roberts did not immediately respond to a request for comment Wednesday. A press release announcing her candidacy said Folkins-Roberts ‘supports keeping voter rolls accurate, implementing voter ID responsibly, ensuring election results are delivered clearly and on time, and streamlining business services so companies can grow and create jobs in Nevada.’” [The Nevada Independent, 3/2/26]

**March 2026: RightCount Nevada poll found Secretary Aguilar gaining 49% of the vote against hypothetical opponent Folkins-Roberts, who garnered 47% of the vote.** “Nevadans overwhelmingly oppose federal control of elections, which are currently administered by states, while a slight majority support changing the laws that provide universal, opt-out mail ballots and count post-Election Day ballots, a recent poll found. The poll conducted last month on behalf of RightCount Nevada — a nonprofit led by former Republican Gov. Robert List and former state Sen. Heidi Seevers Gansert (R-Reno) to restore trust in elections — found some bipartisan support among Nevadans, while other topics, such as trust in mail ballots, drew significant partisanship. [...] Although much of the survey focused on election administration, it also asked respondents to weigh in on the secretary of state's race. The poll found Secretary of State Cisco Aguilar (D) garnering 49 percent of the vote, while a hypothetical opponent Shirley Folkins-Roberts (R) received 47 percent of the vote. The breakdown was largely along party lines, with Aguilar ahead 5 points among independents.” [The Nevada Independent, [3/24/26](#)]

**Folkins-Roberts was endorsed by Gov. Lombardo.** “Lombardo has attempted to put his thumb on the scale in at least two contests for statewide office: He's backing Adriana Guzmán Fralick, former chair of the Cannabis Compliance Board, in her bid for attorney general, and Reno business leader Shirley Folkins-Roberts' bid to unseat incumbent Secretary of State Cisco Aguilar. Folkins-Roberts will face perennial candidates Sharron Angle and Marchant in the GOP primary.” [The Nevada Independent, 3/17/26]

- **The Nevada Independent’s Jon Ralston: Team Lombardo recruited Folkins-Roberts, “snubbing perennials Sharron Angle and Jim Marchant.”** In an X Post, The Nevada Independent’s Jon Ralston wrote, “Team Lombardo recruited her, snubbing perennials Sharron Angle and Jim Marchant. Gov hoping for legit contender against SOS @CiscoForNevada.” [ @RalstonReports, X, [3/17/26](#) ]
- **KUNR: Lombardo “publicly cast doubt on the outcome of the 2020 presidential election without outright declaring fraud.”** “Though his platform is more moderate than those of Marchant or Laxalt, Lombardo publicly cast doubt on the outcome of the 2020 presidential election without outright declaring fraud. Lombardo said Nevada’s recent adoption of universal mail-in ballots created ‘an environment for fraud,’ despite analysis that shows it is more likely for an American to be struck by lightning than to commit mail voting fraud.” [KUNR Public Radio, [7/28/22](#)]
- **Nevada Current Editor Hugh Jackson: Gov. Lombardo “election denier adjacent.”** In an op-ed, Nevada Current editor Hugh Jackson wrote, “Gov. Joe Lombardo endorsed

one, fake elector Jesse Law, when Law sought and won re-election to chair the Clark County Republican Party. Lombardo has posed for photos with McDonald. Lombardo of course campaigned with – and folded for – Trump while running for governor. And Lombardo has said he'll support Trump if Trump is the nominee. Lombardo has not denied the 2020 presidential election results and has strived carefully to avoid being labeled an election denier. He's just election-denier adjacent. Combine that squishiness with the office he holds, and Lombardo has done more than any single Nevadan to normalize Trump, election denialism, and fake electors." [Nevada Current, [10/12/23](#)]

- **November 2025: Trump endorsed Lombardo's reelection bid.** "President Donald Trump endorsed Nevada's Republican governor for reelection Thursday. 'Joe Lombardo is the strong and very popular Governor of Nevada, a very special place to me in that we had a BIG Presidential Election Win just one year ago, November 5, 2024!' Trump said in a Nov. 6 social media post. 'Joe Lombardo is SMART, STRONG, AND TOUGH, and has my Complete and Total Endorsement for Re-Election — HE WILL NOT LET YOU DOWN!' Lombardo responded by thanking the president for his endorsement and his leadership. 'I look forward to continuing my work to advance our conservative agenda and keep Nevada red!' his post on X said. The endorsement comes as Democratic candidates for governor outperformed expectations earlier in the week in New Jersey and Virginia, giving Democrats hope that this forecasts successes in 2026." [Reno Gazette Journal, [11/6/25](#)]
- **2022: Lombardo was endorsed by Trump during the GOP gubernatorial primary.** "Trump endorsed Lombardo, a Republican, in his gubernatorial bid in 2022." [POLITICO, [1/18/24](#)]

**The Downballot: Folkins-Roberts "lacks the same kind of electoral baggage that accompanies her opponents."** "Folkins-Roberts, who founded a children's cancer foundation in Reno, lacks the same kind of electoral baggage that accompanies her opponents. She also enjoys the support of Lombardo, the state's most prominent Republican elected official. The governor hopes his endorsement will help primary voters avoid the mistakes they made when they selected Angle and later Marchant." [The Downballot, [3/19/26](#)]

**Folkins-Roberts among four GOP candidates for SOS including Jim Marchant, Socorro Keenan, and Sharron Angle.** "Secretary of State Francisco Aguilar will not have a primary this cycle as he was the only Democrat to file. He will face the winner of the four-candidate Republican primary. Jim Marchant, a virulent election denier who Aguilar defeated in the 2022 general election, is again running for the office. Shirley Folkins-Roberts, a prominent Renoite who founded a nonprofit children's cancer foundation there; Socorro Keenan, who previously ran for state Assembly; and Sharron Angle, who last election cycle lost a Republican primary for a state Senate seat, are also running." [Nevada Current, [3/16/26](#)]

**Folkins-Roberts said she was running for SOS because she believed government "should be practical, transparent, and accountable."** Folkins-Roberts' campaign website stated: "Shirley is running for Nevada Secretary of State because she believes government should be practical, transparent, and accountable. She understands how state policies affect small businesses, job

creators, and working families because she has worked directly with them for decades.” [Shirley Folkins-Roberts for Secretary of State, accessed [3/23/26](#)]

**Folkins-Roberts: “This campaign is about restoring trust, strengthening Nevada’s future, and getting to work for the people of our state.”** In a Facebook post, Folkins-Roberts wrote, “I am excited to announce that this morning I officially filed to run for Nevada Secretary of State. This campaign is about restoring trust, strengthening Nevada’s future, and getting to work for the people of our state. As a proven and experienced businesswoman, nonprofit leader, and attorney, I look forward to earning your vote on June 9th!” [Facebook, posted [3/4/26](#)]

## ELECTIONS & VOTING ISSUES

**Folkins-Roberts supported “keeping voter rolls accurate, implementing voter ID responsibly, and ensuring election results are delivered clearly and on time.”**

Folkins-Roberts’ campaign website stated: “She believes Nevada should lead the nation in both election integrity and business innovation. Shirley supports keeping voter rolls accurate, implementing voter ID responsibly, and ensuring election results are delivered clearly and on time. She also wants to modernize the Secretary of State’s office, streamline business filings, and support the creation of business courts so companies can resolve disputes efficiently and focus on growing jobs instead of navigating red tape. Her career reflects steady leadership, coalition building, and real-world results.” [Shirley Folkins-Roberts for Secretary of State, accessed [3/23/26](#)]

**Folkins-Roberts: “I’m fully committed to ensuring the safety and security of Nevada’s elections, because I believe every voter deserves confidence in the integrity of the process.”**

In a Facebook post, Folkins-Roberts wrote, “As a proven businesswoman, nonprofit leader, and attorney, I’ve spent my career delivering results, solving problems, and serving others. I’m fully committed to ensuring the safety and security of Nevada’s elections, because I believe every voter deserves confidence in the integrity of the process. I’m prepared to make our state the best place to start, grow, and succeed in business by supporting innovation, opportunity, and strong local economies.” [Facebook, posted [3/20/26](#)]