

WASHOE COUNTY DISTRICT 2 COMMISSIONER MIKE CLARK

In 2026, Republican Reno County Commissioner from District 2 Mike Clark will seek re-election. Clark, who won his current seat in 2022 after defeating incumbent Republican Bob Lucey, previously served as Washoe County Assessor for eight years. Clark's first run for county commissioner was supported by Robert Beadles, a prominent right-wing activist, cryptocurrency entrepreneur, and election conspiracy theorist. (Clark disclosed a [\\$3,000 contribution](#) from Beadles' PAC, Franklin Project and a [\\$5,000 contribution](#) from Beadles' business, Coral Bay, while press reports noted that Franklin Project sent out [multiple mail pieces](#) attacking Clark's 2022 primary opponent.) Clark has denied accusations alleging he is an election-denier. District 2, which leans conservative, covers most of South Reno into Washoe Valley. In addition to two Democrats who have filed to run in the race, Clark also faces a primary challenge from Jon Killoran, a well-known non-profit leader who has said "it's time to bring common sense and discipline back to the District 2 Commission seat." During his term on the commission, Clark has opposed annual county budgets. In 2024, he initially voted against certifying primary election results in Washoe County.

Key findings:

After nearly a decade as Washoe County Assessor, Clark defeated incumbent District 2 Commissioner Bob Lucey in a bruising Republican primary in 2022. An unmarried man in his 70s, Clark challenged Lucey in what the Reno-Gazette Journal called a "bruising local primary." The paper later reported that "Washoe County has seldom seen an election as ugly as the District 2 primary race...claims...of...racism, abusing their office, nepotism or moving out of their elected jurisdiction. All smoke, no fire. Almost every day brings new allegations or new twists on old claims with innuendo high and sourced facts low." After defeating Lucey, Clark won the general election with approximately 53% of the vote. Two Democrats, Susan Broili Kamesch and Marie Rodriguez, have filed to challenge Clark in 2026. Clark also faces a primary challenge from Jon Killoran, the CEO of Reno Tahoe Winter Games Coalition, who has said that "District 2 deserves leadership that is present, accessible, and grounded in conservative values, reflecting the core principles of service over self...it's time to bring common sense and discipline back..."

Clark has taken positions on many elections-related issues through the years including:

2020 Election. "I don't have any personal knowledge of who won that election," Clark said in 2022 about the 2020 presidential election. "I wasn't involved in any election counting or processes."

Election Certification. In June 2024, Clark said he was neutral on whether to certify the results of the 2024 general election. "I'm going to wait until the election's over," he said. That same month, Clark voted against certifying Washoe County's primary election results. "The leadership is incompetent, the leadership is deficient," Clark said, criticizing County Manager Eric Brown and his management team for what he described as ongoing concerns with the election process. According to reporting in the Reno Gazette-Journal, "Clark emphasized that he's not an election denier and doesn't care what voting machines are used, but he's got a serious problems with voter rolls that led to about 25,000 ballots...being returned as undeliverable." The 3-2 vote against certifying election results led to lawsuits and swift condemnation from public officials including Nevada Secretary of State Cisco Aguilar, who claimed Nevada elections were under "the threat of rogue county commissioners" who faced "conspiratorial pressures." In July 2024, Clark and another commissioners who refused to certify the results previously reversed course and voted to certify. "My vote today is being made under extreme

duress under the threat of both my position and prosecution,” Clark said. Months later, Clark recused himself from a vote to certify the November 2024 election results in the county; the commission’s vote was 3-1. “I...apologize to Washoe County because we didn’t do our duty,” Clark said. “In my opinion, and based on information I’ve received, not every vote counted.”

Election Integrity. “Clark sees big election integrity issues,” the Reno Gazette-Journal reported in 2022. “Clark doesn’t have confidence in the voter rolls and thinks they need an audit.” “They wonder why people are questioning (the election process)...” Clark said in October 2022. “They make mistakes, and then tell everybody they never make a mistake.” Clark has denied accusations he’s an election denier. He answered “no” when asked if he believed there was widespread fraud in elections. “I’m not an election denier by any stretch of the imagination,” he said in 2024. “I’ve won my last six elections, so I couldn’t be an election denier...I’ve seen a lot of mismanagement, and that’s a different thing than denying what took place in an election.”

Election Workers. “We’re a laughingstock,” Clark said in 2024 after interim registrar Cari-Ann Burgess took a leave of absence for stress-related issues, becoming the third registrar in approximately two years to leave the role.

Voter Rolls. In 2022, Clark was asked how to improve the election process. “That would be to take the existing county resources and figure out a way to make the voter rolls as clean as other county rolls.” “My issues are cleaning up the voter rolls,” Clark has said. “The county’s got the resources to do that in a meaningful way.”

Clark has taken positions on many other issues of note including:

Philosophy. In 2024, Clark called moderate Republicans on the Washoe County Commission “absolutely, in my world, the example of what’s wrong with the political system in America.”

Budget & Finances. In 2023, Clark was the only County Commissioner to vote against the county budget. Clark called it a “protest vote” over displeasure with raises. In 2025, Clark casted the only dissenting vote against budget, criticizing the county for not doing enough to plan for future deficits. “We need to start doing something proactively to make sure that this kind of thing doesn’t happen in the future,” Clark said. “You just can’t spend more than you take in.”

Criminal Justice. In 2022, the Reno Gazette-Journal reported that “Clark wants more law enforcement on the street because he thinks crime is through the roof...”

Homelessness. “The no. 1 issue that should be front and foremost for everyone is the homeless issue that we have here,” Clark said in 2022. “Some may say it's being addressed now but I don't see any improvement year in and year out. It seems to be the same revolving door that's not really changing. I'd like to see a census to have an idea of how many folks that we have out there and then investigate which of those folks are having mental health issues and how that can be addressed...”

LGBTQ+. In 2023, Clark was part of a lengthy commission hearing about drag queen story hours. “People weren’t vilifying anybody’s sexual orientation or however they want to conduct themselves as adults,” Clark said. “It’s the children that they don’t want mixed in here.”

Transparency. “If I could stop anything, it’s the stifling information,” Clark said in 2022. “I would make the county much more transparent.”

Controversies include:

Clark had a protective order filed against him for an anonymous mass mailing that included a picture of a county employee in a bathing suit. In July 2021, a judge in the Reno Justice Court approved a one-year extension of a protective order against Clark, then the county's assessor, for harassment. The order was triggered by an anonymous mass mailing sent in April 2021 that included a picture of a county employee in a swimsuit. The order was modified to allow Clark to access Building D of Washoe County's Ninth Street complex; the previous temporary protective order banned Clark from all buildings as well as interacting with county employees, including staff at the assessor's office.

- Clark was also accused of mail fraud for sending the mailer out with another official's information as the return address. The Reno Gazette-Journal reported that "testimony from a US Postal Service inspector proved...especially damning for Clark...Postal Service Inspector Steve Klein accused the assessor of violating federal law when he sent out 162 mailers to various officials under a former city official's name. Klein testified that Clark violated two federal statutes involving false representation and use of a fictitious address when he mailed out the packets alleging 'political skullduggery' to various public officials and other recipients earlier this year. Klein confirmed that the 69-page packets used the home address of former City of Reno Manager Andrew Clinger 'It's a fraudulent mailing,' Klein said. 'It's a false representation because the return address is not for the people who mailed it.'" "He made a mistake," Clark's lawyer said. "He chose this course of action and tried to hide his identity," a lawyer representing the county said. "The act of mailing these packages under false pretenses was a cowardly act, a malicious act."

Robert Beadles supported Clark in 2022. Clark has also found controversy due to his association with Robert Beadles, a cryptocurrency millionaire whom the New York Times cited as part of a "growing movement of election denialists." Beadles backed Clark in his 2022 race. In 2024, the Nevada Independent reported that "in the wake of Donald Trump's stolen election lies, a growing combination of vitriol, conspiracy theories, and a wealthy donor have given far-right Republicans growing influence over local politics...Beadles is one of the local party's top donors..."

Clark directed a donation to the Branded Few, a motorcycle group with a swastika as part of its logo. In 2024, Clark directed a \$10,000 donation from his discretionary funds to the Branded Few, a motorcycle group, for its annual toy drive. Another commissioner later asked that the donation be rescinded after a man wore a vest with the Branded Few motorcycle club insignia, which includes a swastika and eagle similar to that on the Nazi insignia; the commission later voted 3-2 in favor of retaining the donation. "My donation was clearly to the Reno Toy Run," Clark said. "None of those members of that board were wearing a swastika, bent cross, whatever you want to call it...To smear them and drag their name through the dirt...I hope it doesn't cost them any more donations."

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Candidate	Total Raised	Total Expenditures	Cash on Hand
Michael E. Clark	\$6,350	\$0	\$6,350

[Nevada Secretary of State Databases, accessed 3/10/26]

BACKGROUND & PHILOSOPHY

2022: Clark challenged incumbent Republican in District 2 in “bruising local primary...” “The most bruising local primary race this year may be between Republicans Mike Clark and Bob Lucey for Washoe County Commission, District 2. The two went to court to see if Clark could stay on the ballot after a problem with Clark's candidate filing that stemmed from the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles unexpectedly switching his party affiliation to nonpartisan after 50 years as a Republican. The judge said Clark could stay in the race and on the ballot. Then a Robert Beadles-funded PAC sent out postcards to Washoe County residents — even those who can't vote in the closed primary — featuring unsubstantiated personal attacks on Lucey as well as a person who won a temporary protection order in 2021 against Clark. That TPO is still in effect against Clark. Clark said he has no connection to the postcard. ‘None whatsoever,’ he said in a call with the RGJ. ‘Somebody showed it to me, but I didn't get it in the mail and I know nothing about it.’ District 2 — which covers most of south Reno down into Washoe Valley — tends to lean Republican, so the primary winner would have a strong chance of winning in the general election.” [Reno-Gazette Journal, 4/28/22]

Clark a single man in his 70s. [Reno-Gazette Journal, 4/28/22]

2022: Reno Gazette-Journal: “Washoe County has seldom seen an election as ugly as the District 2 primary race pitting incumbent commissioner Bob Lucey against county assessor Mike Clark.” “Washoe County has seldom seen an election as ugly as the District 2 primary race pitting incumbent commissioner Bob Lucey against county assessor Mike Clark. Both are Republicans. After two weeks of diving deep into the heated accusations, either no substantive evidence was found or the real story was less serious than alleged regarding such claims as racism, abusing their office, nepotism or moving out of their elected jurisdiction. All smoke, no fire. Almost every day brings new allegations or new twists on old claims with innuendo high and sourced facts low. Below is a look at some of the main claims against each candidate with a brief look at what could be verified about them as of this writing. First, a bit of background on the primary race itself: District 2 election details: Only registered Republicans can vote in the primary for District 2, which covers most of south Reno down into Washoe Valley. The winner between Clark and Lucey will face Democrat Keith Lockard and Libertarian David Michael Banuelos in the November general election. Both Lockard and Banuelos do not face challengers from their own party and automatically advance to the general election... The claim: Mike Clark moved from Washoe County to Douglas County for five months in 2021 while serving as Washoe County assessor, an elected position. Short finding: This appears to be false, with only circumstantial evidence supporting it.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 6/8/22]

Clark claimed he contemplated—but never saw through—a residence change to a different county during pandemic. “Longer discussion: In late March, Clark claimed Lucey threatened him to drop out of the District 2 race, while Lucey said he merely informed Clark as a professional courtesy that his candidate filing had false information and he (Lucey) would file a complaint if Clark went ahead with his run. In an RGJ article about the initial complaint, it came out Clark had changed his voter registration address from Washoe County to Douglas County in May 2021 and that it wasn't changed

back until October. (A judge sided with Clark that he could stay on the ballot.) Because Clark is currently serving as Washoe County's assessor, it would be a problem if he moved to another county. It might even be against Nevada law. Clark told the RGJ he had thought about moving to Douglas County and put in an address change at the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles, but then changed his mind and never moved from his Washoe Valley home. 'I was contemplating moving, but I did not move,' Clark said. 'I never physically moved. It was during the COVID time so after I decided I wasn't going to move, it took a number of months to get back into the DMV waiting for an appointment and getting the record straight.' No evidence was uncovered to support an actual move. Efforts to corroborate that Clark did not move included a Douglas County property records search and a 'comprehensive person search' of public records using LexisNexis." [Reno Gazette-Journal, 6/8/22]

District 2 covered most of south Reno into Washoe Valley. "Commissioner Bob Lucey and Washoe County Assessor Mike Clark, both Republicans, are battling to represent this district, which covers most of south Reno down into Washoe Valley. The primary winner will face Democrat Keith Lockard and Libertarian David Michael Banuelos in November; Lockard and Banuelos automatically advance to the general election because they are the sole candidates for their parties in the race." [Reno Gazette-Journal, 6/14/22]

2022: Reno Gazette-Journal: "District 2 has leaned Republican for years." "District 2 has leaned Republican for years. Republican incumbent Bob Lucey trounced his Democratic opponent 2-to-1 in 2014 and still won with a strong 54% of the votes in 2018." [Reno Gazette-Journal, 10/21/22]

2022: Clark: "the primary election vindicated my position." "Clark bested Lucey in the Republican primary despite having an active restraining order involving an official in the county manager's office. It has since expired, and Clark hopes everyone can put it behind them. 'That's in the rearview mirror,' he told the RGJ. 'If anything, the primary election vindicated my position. We had an eight-year incumbent who was doing everything under the sun to try to smear me and the public thought otherwise.'" [Reno Gazette-Journal, 10/21/22]

November 2022: Clark won general election. "Washoe County Assessor and Republican candidate Mike Clark has defeated Democrat and retired Reno city engineer Keith Lockard and Libertarian candidate Daniel Banuelos for the seat on the Washoe County Commission representing District 2, which lies just south of the Reno-Tahoe International Airport and extends to the southeast corner of the county in the Washoe Valley. As of this Wednesday, Clark is more than 8 percentage points ahead of Lockard, his closest competitor...Clark has said if elected, he wants to reduce homelessness, as well as focus on development and transparency in government. Clark drew headlines after he sent out anonymous mass mailers containing court documents, public records and a photo of a county official in a bikini last year. Clark defeated incumbent Commissioner Bob Lucey with help of Robert Beadles, a far-right cryptocurrency millionaire and political activist." [Nevada Independent, 11/9/22]

2022: Clark won general election with nearly 53% of the vote. "The Washoe County Commission should have new board members in Republican Mike Clark (District 2) and Democrat Mariluz Garcia (District 3). They've received 52.7% and 62% of the vote respectively. Republican incumbent Jeanne Herman in District 5 will likely win reelection. She has 53.8% of the vote." [Reno Gazette-Journal, 11/13/22]

November 2025: Jon Killoran, CEO of Reno Tahoe Winter Games Coalition, announced primary challenge to Clark. "Jon Killoran, CEO of the Reno Tahoe Winter Games Coalition, announced Tuesday that he's running for Washoe County Commission District 2 seat now held by Mike Clark. Both

are Republicans. Killoran is a former news director for KRNVTV. In 2008, he joined the nonprofit whose mission is to return the Winter Olympics to the region. In a news release, Killoran listed his campaign priorities as using taxpayer dollars accountably, strengthening public safety with emphasis on wildfire prevention, and investing in infrastructure and policies that protect Nevada characteristics, emphasizing clean and safe neighborhoods.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 11/4/25]

- **Killoran: “District 2 deserves leadership that is present, accessible, and grounded in conservative values, reflecting the core principles of service over self.”** ““County government’s duty is to the people who live and work here, not to the politics of the moment,” Killoran said in the release. ‘District 2 deserves leadership that is present, accessible and grounded in conservative values, reflecting the core principles of service over self.’ In 2022, Killoran put his name forward as a possible replacement for Oscar Delgado after Delgado resigned from the Reno City Council. Miguel Martinez was appointed the Ward 3 representative instead.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 11/4/25]
- **Killoran: “It’s time to bring common sense and discipline back to the District 2 Commission seat.”** “Below are updates on the latest 2026 Nevada major candidate announcements. To see a comprehensive list of candidates who have announced, see our tracker here. Nonprofit leader Jon Killoran announced Tuesday that he is running for Washoe County Commission in District 2, setting up a Republican primary in the race next June against incumbent Mike Clark who has raised concerns about election integrity and initially voted against certifying 2024 election results. ‘It’s time to bring common sense and discipline back to the District 2 Commission seat,’ Killoran said in his campaign announcement. Since 2008, Killoran has served as CEO of the Reno Tahoe Winter Games Coalition, a nonprofit formed to lobby for bringing the Olympics to Northern Nevada but that has since expanded into a sports event management company. He is a former news and sports broadcaster. Clark, a Reno real estate broker first elected in 2023, spent eight years as the Washoe County assessor, where he was responsible for appraising property values.” [Nevada Independent, 11/4/25]

ELECTIONS & BALLOT ACCESS

2020 Election

2022: Clark on 2020 election: “I don’t have any personal knowledge of who won that election. I wasn’t involved in any election counting or processes.” “Do you think Joe Biden is the duly elected president of the United States? Clark: I don’t have any personal knowledge of who won that election. I wasn’t involved in any election counting or processes.” [Reno-Gazette Journal, 4/28/22]

Election Certification

June 2024: Clark said he was neutral on whether to certify results of 2024 election: “I’m going to wait until the election’s over.” “Headed into November, Clark said he is neutral on whether to certify the results of the 2024 presidential election and hasn’t made a decision. ‘I’m going to wait until the election’s over,’ he said.” [Nevada Independent, 6/14/24]

June 2024: Clark voted against certifying primary election results. “Praise and criticism rained on the Washoe County commissioners and election staff Friday at a meeting to certify primary election results, ending in commissioners voting 3 to 2 to certify the vote. Alexis Hill, Mariluz Garcia and Clara Andriola voted in favor while Mike Clark and Jeanne Herman voted against. Interim Registrar of Voters

Cari-Ann Burgess reported that 80,262 votes were cast and counted, or 24.52% of registered voters. Public commenter Bob Blackstock, who described himself as an inventor and former venture capitalist, praised Burgess' work and said he'd visited multiple voting centers around the county to investigate what was happening at them. 'I am satisfied they conducted honest and very well-run polling stations,' he said. 'I am confident that the results provided by the registrar accurately reflect the voters' will in this election.' He had numerous people behind him stand in the one-third-full gallery to show they agreed with his assessment." [Reno Gazette-Journal, 6/21/24]

- **Clark: "The leadership is incompetent, the leadership is deficient."** "Clark unloaded on County Manager Eric Brown and his management team for what he described as ongoing concerns with the election process. 'I'm not calling out the county employees,' he said. 'I think they do a good job. I say the leadership stinks. The leadership is incompetent, the leadership is deficient.' Clark cited a public commenter from Incline Village who said she studied her sample ballot only to discover when she went to vote that different names were on the actual ballot. He listed sample ballot concerns such as a race being left off and Democratic candidates being listed in a Republican race." [Reno Gazette-Journal, 6/21/24]
- **Clark: "How does this stuff slip through the cracks with so many eyes looking at it?"** "Clark added that even he, a commissioner, didn't receive a ballot while someone who doesn't live at his house did. 'How do I endorse that?' Clark said of the election process. 'How do I say that that's great when even I didn't get it correct?' He asked how this can happen despite there being sharp, hardworking election staff. 'How does this stuff slip through the cracks with so many eyes looking at it?' he asked." [Reno Gazette-Journal, 6/21/24]
- **Reno Gazette-Journal: "Clark emphasized that he's not an election denier and doesn't care what voting machines are used, but he's got a serious problem with voter rolls that led to about 25,000 ballots...being returned as undeliverable."** "Concerns over people on Washoe County's voter rolls who shouldn't be came up frequently during Friday's meeting. 'That's the foundational basis of the whole election,' Clark said. 'You can work as hard as you want and do everything as perfectly as you can, but if the foundation of the system – the voter rolls – isn't correct, what have you done?' Clark emphasized that he's not an election denier and doesn't care what voting machines are used, but he's got a serious problem with voter rolls that led to about 25,000 ballots – at a cost of \$3.50 each, per Burgess – being returned as undeliverable. 'I'd like to see us be the leader in the United States of having clean roles,' Clark said." [Reno Gazette-Journal, 6/21/24]

July 2024: Washoe County Commission, with Clark's support, voted against certifying a recount of primary results. "The Washoe County Commission voted against certifying a recount of primary results in a 3-2 vote, with Clara Andriola saying her conscience drove her to switch her stance that had favored certification in previous elections. 'There's a lot of information that in my opinion warrants further investigation,' she said. The recounts were conducted for candidates Mark Lawson in Washoe County Commission District 4 and Paul White in Washoe County School Board Trustee District G, at a cost of about \$50,000 each. They were paid for by Republican donor Robert Beadles. Andriola with Mike Clark and Jeanne Herman voted against certifying the results, while Alexis Hill and Mariluz Garcia voted in favor. Such a no vote has little precedent. The next step appears to be sending Washoe County's primary recount totals to the Nevada Secretary of State's office, which oversees elections. Assistant District Attorney Nate Edwards said it could vote to certify based on the same information commissioners had. If it did not certify Washoe's primary recount, a candidate could sue seeking certification and then a court would decide. 'I'm not entirely sure,' Edwards said regarding the exact

next steps. Andriola emphasized she was not criticizing the work of the county's election department. 'This is not against anything that you all did, it's really to look at the investigative part of the allegations,' she said, pointing to an Election Integrity Violation Report that had been filed with the state about the primary recount. 'It creates doubt.' Her no vote came after more than three hours of public comment, the vast majority of which urged the commission to vote against certification. Many requested the primary be redone from scratch or said a hand recount would restore trust in the election system by demonstrating whether or not the electronic tabulation was correct." [Reno Gazette-Journal, 7/9/24]

- **Clark said he couldn't vote for canvass: "I'm not going to vouch for it. I'm not going to say how great it was because I don't believe it."** "Commissioner Mike Clark praised many commenters and said he could not vote in favor of the canvass. 'I'm not going to co-sign for this,' he said. 'I'm not going to vouch for it. I'm not going to say how great it was because I don't believe it.'" [Reno Gazette-Journal, 7/9/24]

Nevada SOS Cisco Aguilar: "It is unacceptable that any public officer would undermine the confidence of their voters." "Three Republican commissioners in a key Nevada swing county have refused to certify an election recount, creating new turmoil in a community that since the 2020 election has been a hotbed for election skepticism, misinformation, and vitriol against public officials. The members make up a majority of the Washoe County Commission, a five-member board in the Reno area that signs off on all election results in the county and will be responsible for holding a similar vote after the Nov. 5 presidential election. The secretary of state and attorney general said Wednesday night the commissioners have failed to uphold a nonpartisan law and are asking the Nevada Supreme Court to require the entire county commission to meet their legal obligations and certify the results. 'It is unacceptable that any public officer would undermine the confidence of their voters,' Nevada Secretary of State Cisco Aguilar, a Democrat, said in a statement. 'The importance of this issue cannot be overstated.' Washoe County is the second-largest county in the Silver State, and, along with Clark County around Las Vegas, it will determine which presidential candidate wins the swing state's electoral votes. The county is a battleground split roughly evenly among Republican, Democratic, and independent voters. 'The most conservative counties in our state have never done this,' said Alexis Hill, the Democratic commission chair who voted for certification. 'This is unprecedented, truly going against democratic norms.'" [USA Today, 7/11/24]

July 2024: Two of the three commissioners who refused to certify results previously reversed course and voted for certification. "Two of the three Washoe County commissioners who refused to certify the results of two primary election recounts reversed course Tuesday, acknowledging that certification is mandatory and that delaying the process could potentially subject them to criminal prosecution. The Washoe County Commission, in a 4-1 vote, certified the results of the two primary election recounts, which resulted in only minor changes to total vote counts. Commissioners had rejected certification 3-2 on July 9, though they had approved the original canvas of the election 3-2 earlier in June. Commissioners Clara Andriola — who voted to certify the original results, then voted against certifying the recount, then asked that the board reconsider that vote — said in prepared remarks that the Washoe County District Attorney's Office had provided 'clarifying direction on the nature of our duties to canvas the election returns.' She also acknowledged that the secretary of state and attorney general had quickly petitioned the Nevada Supreme Court to intervene and force certification. 'Essentially, it is my crystal clear understanding that canvassing elections — whether it's a primary, general, or recount — as defined in statute is a legal duty and affords no discretion to refuse,' Andriola said. 'In America, in Nevada, and right here in Washoe County, we can and must do everything we can to restore faith and confidence in our elections.'" [Nevada Current, 7/17/24]

- **Clark also voted to certify: “My vote today is being made under extreme duress under the threat of both my position and prosecution.”** “Commissioner Mike Clark, who twice rejected certification of the primary election results, also acknowledged he was required to certify, though he added he was doing it 'with a heavy heart' and made it clear he remains uncertain about the validity of election results. Clark said District Attorney Christopher Hicks sent him a letter after last week's vote stating the commissioners could be subject to criminal prosecution and forfeiture of office for not certifying the results of the recount. 'As such my vote today is being made under extreme duress under the threat of both my position and prosecution,' Clark added.” [Nevada Current, 7/17/24]
- **Day after vote against certification, SOS Aguilar and AG Ford petitioned Nevada Supreme Court to confirm legal obligations of commission.** “The day after Clark, Herman and Andriola voted against certifying the recount results, Secretary of State Francisco Aguilar and Attorney General Aaron Ford petitioned the Nevada Supreme Court to 'confirm the legal obligations of county commissioners and require the entire Washoe Board of County Commissioners to canvass and certify the accurate, recounted election results.' The ACLU of Nevada filed an amicus brief in support of the secretary of state and attorney general, with Executive Director Athar Haseebullah saying in a statement that a quick resolution is 'necessary in advance of November, when election deniers are likely to use this tactic and others to perpetuate absurd conspiracy theories in an effort to undermine our democracy.’” [Nevada Current, 7/17/24]

SOS Aguilar said Nevada elections were under “the threat of rogue county commissioners” who faced “conspiratorial pressures.” “Nevada’s elections are under ‘the threat of rogue county commissioners’ who face ‘conspiratorial pressures,’ and the Nevada Supreme Court needs to intervene. That’s the argument of Secretary of State Cisco Aguilar in a legal filing Thursday against three Washoe County commissioners who opposed certifying recount results in two primary races. The Supreme Court had been asked to clarify whether county commissioners must approve vote totals even if they have concerns about the election process or how some ballots were handled. The Washoe County Commission eventually approved the recount results, and the Supreme Court asked if the matter was now moot. On Thursday, a legal brief was filed by the Nevada Attorney General’s Office on behalf of Aguilar. It makes the case that it’s still important for the court to give clarity. ‘While the Washoe County Board of Commissioners corrected their failure to canvass the recounted elections, their initial vote sent a dangerous message,’ Aguilar said in a statement Friday...In changing her vote to approve the recount totals, Andriola cited state law saying that approving election results is a legal duty with no discretion to revise them. ‘Contrasting Andriola’s cautious approach, Commissioner Clark lamented having been ‘under extreme duress’ and ‘forced to vote to certify this election,’ due to legal advice he received from the Washoe DA, the Board’s own attorney — legal advice that Clark construed as ‘threats’ of criminal prosecution and removal from office,’ Aguilar’s brief says.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 8/2/24]

August 2024: Nevada Supreme Court declined to wade into electoral controversy, ruling that matter was moot since Washoe County’s original 3-2 vote against certification was later nullified. “Nevada’s Supreme Court declined Tuesday to wade into an electoral controversy despite pleas from the state's top election official and attorney general after one county initially voted against certifying recount results from the June primary. The Democratic officials wanted the justices to make clear that counties have no legal authority to refuse to certify election results. The high court said in a ruling that the matter was moot since the Washoe County Commission's original 3-2 vote against certification was later nullified when it re-voted the following week to certify the results. The court dismissed Secretary of State Cisco Aguilar and Attorney General Aaron Ford's request for a ruling declaring the commission acted illegally. But the justices also made clear that they have the legal authority to make such a

declaration and warned they may do so on an expedited basis if it becomes an issue again. As petitioner argues, even when an issue becomes moot, we may still consider the issue if it constitutes a matter of widespread importance capable of repetition, the court said. Aguilar and Ford had argued that it's likely the county commission would refuse to certify results from the general election in November. The court agreed that the issue is important but said it wasn't persuaded there would be a repeat.” [Las Vegas Sun, 8/20/24]

November 2024: Washoe County Commission voted 3-1 to certify general election results; Clark recused himself before vote was taken. “The Washoe County commission voted 3-1 on Friday to certify the general election results after two and a half hours of public comment and lengthy commissioner discussion. Commissioner Mike Clark recused himself and left before the vote was taken. Commissioner Jeanne Herman voted not to certify. Chair Alexis Hill and Commissioners Mariluz Garcia and Clara Andriola voted yes, thus sending the canvass to the Secretary of State's Office. ‘All validly cast ballots were counted,’ Deputy Registrar of Voters Andrew McDonald told the commission before the vote. ‘There were no errors or admissions in this election. No voters were disenfranchised. ‘We ran a fair, accurate, secure and transparent election.’” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 11/15/24]

- **Clark: “I...apologize to Washoe County because we didn’t do our duty. In my opinion, and based on information I’ve received, not every vote counted.”** “Clark disagreed with the registrar's office statement that there were no disenfranchised voters. He said he was not an election denier just because he raised concerns about the county's voting system. ‘As an elected official -- no, as an American, it is our duty to preserve and protect fairness and transparency of every election and support the men and women who make it happen. I speak today to apologize to Washoe County because we didn't do our duty,’ Clark said. ‘In my opinion, and based on information I've received, not every vote counted.’ Clark said that in addition to his concerns on the accuracy of the vote count, he believed he had a conflict of interest because he uses the same law firm as the interim registrar of voters, so he would abstain from the vote. Clark then walked out of the meeting and did not stay for the vote. The commissioners voted 3-1 to certify the general election results. As she had done during the primary election recount, Herman voted no.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 11/15/24]

Election Integrity

2022: Reno Gazette-Journal: “Clark sees big election integrity issues...” “Clark sees big election integrity issues, starting with his own experience having his 50-year status as a Republican changed. ‘This ties right back into the major issues that are playing out in our county right now over voter-roll integrity,’ he said. ‘If lots of people miss that box (on the DMV form), how can they ever have a baseline point of accuracy’ at the country registrar's office and the Secretary of State?” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 4/1/22]

October 2022: Reno Gazette-Journal: “Clark doesn’t have confidence in the voter rolls and thinks they need an audit...” “Election integrity: Lockard and Clark had the most disagreement on Washoe County’s election process. Lockard feels the system is working well as is. Clark doesn’t have confidence in the voter rolls and thinks they need an audit for accuracy because their integrity is the foundation of good elections...”[Reno Gazette-Journal, [10/6/22](#)]

2022: Clark: “We’ve...seen evidence that there are multiple registered voters at businesses, which is not allowed.” “Clark: We've also seen evidence that there are multiple registered voters at businesses, which is not allowed. There's numerous situations that I've heard of where vacant lots have got people

registered to vote. I'd just like to look at that. If that's accurate, let's clean it up. Shad: Okay, so you're not saying it's accurate, you're saying that that's what you've heard, right? But you don't have evidence to show it. Clark: I'm not in that position yet. But by getting the position, that's one of the first things I'll do is audit those voter rolls." [Reno Gazette-Journal, [10/6/22](#)]

2022: Clark: "They wonder why people are questioning (the election process)...They make mistakes, and then tell everybody they never make a mistake." "They wonder why people are questioning (the election process),' said Mike Clark, Washoe County assessor and commission candidate. He suggested candidates be sent their ballot listings to proof them before printing. 'I've been working with the county for eight years, and this is the kind of stuff I see on a regular basis,' Clark said. 'They make mistakes, and then tell everybody they never make a mistake. We're all human. Anybody can make a mistake. We get that, but it's disingenuous on one hand to say 'How dare you ask a question like that (about election problems)?' And then turn around and make foolish errors like this out in the public.'" [Reno Gazette-Journal, 10/7/22]

2022: Clark said "no" when asked if he believed there was widespread fraud in election. "Do you think there was widespread fraud in the 2022 primary Lockard: No. Clark: No." [Reno Gazette-Journal, 10/21/22]

Clark: "I'm not an election denier by any stretch of the imagination." "I'm not an election denier by any stretch of the imagination,' Clark said before he voted against certification on the basis of there being too many people on the voter rolls. The vote followed more than an hour of public commenters." [Nevada Independent, 6/14/24]

2024: Clark: "I've won my last six elections, so I couldn't be an election denier...I've seen a lot of mismanagement, and that's a different thing than denying what took place in an election..." "Clark in his comments pushed back on the characterization of him as an election denier. 'I've won my last six elections, so I couldn't be an election denier,' he said, 'but I've seen a lot of mismanagement, and that's a different thing than denying what took place in an election. Mismanagement. People not understanding what they're doing. Trying to wing it. Trying to use the NRS statute for their own personal gain. Telling half the story.'" [Nevada Current, 7/10/24]

- **Clark: "This is a missed opportunity for transparency. The leadership of this board could have had samples, could have had a hand county, could have had a parallel count to check this..."** "Clark has said he did not receive his own ballot in the mail but received the ballot for someone who no longer lives in the country and had attempted unsuccessfully to remove themselves from the state's voter roll. He has also pointed to acknowledged errors, such as a misprint on the sample ballot, as reasons why he does not trust the process. 'This is a missed opportunity for transparency,' he said. 'The leadership of this board could have had samples, could have had a hand count, could have had a parallel count to check this, especially when somebody else was paying for it.' Clark was referring to Beadles, the right-wing activist who funded the recounts whose results were being voted on Tuesday." [Nevada Current, 7/10/24]
- **Clark: "The person who oversees the person who runs the election system tells the public that the system is flawed...How dare they say that my vote causes the whole of Washoe County to not trust the system. How dare they."** "Clark said it was disingenuous to say the commission is causing people to view the election system as unfair by its decision not to certify the recount results. 'The person who oversees the person who runs the election system tells the public that the system is flawed to the point where it needs to be torn down to the studs and that

he has no faith in the system,' he said. 'How dare they say that my vote causes the whole of Washoe County to not trust the system. How dare they.'" [Reno Gazette-Journal, 7/11/24]

Election Workers

2024: Cari-Ann Burgess elected as interim registrar by Washoe County commissioners in 3-2 vote; Clark voted in opposition. "Cari-Ann Burgess' favorite ice cream is vanilla soft serve mixed with a blue raspberry slushie, a concoction she consumed nearly every day while managing an ice cream shop in Ocean Isle Beach, a seaside town in North Carolina. This idyllic moment provides a stark contrast to her new reality: elections. Burgess was appointed to the interim registrar position by the Washoe County commissioners on a 3-2 vote with Republican Commissioners Jeanne Herman and Mike Clark in opposition after former Registrar Jamie Rodriguez announced her resignation Jan. 2. However, this isn't Burgess' first time working in elections and it isn't even her first time following a predecessor who left as a result of the difficult working conditions registrars and clerks have faced since the Big Lie the baseless conspiracy theory that the 2020 election was stolen thanks to massive voter fraud. The Big Lie resulted not only in an attempted insurrection in the Capitol, but major turnover in the election workforce across the country, as registrars and clerks face increased threats and harassment." [Nevada Independent, 2/5/24]

September 2024: Washoe County interim Registrar of Voters Cari-Ann Burgess took leave of absence after experiencing "stress related health issues." "Washoe County interim Registrar of Voters Cari-Ann Burgess will be taking a leave of absence ahead of the November general election after experiencing 'stress related health issues.' Washoe County spokesperson confirmed the leave to The Nevada Independent on Wednesday, just six weeks before Election Day. '[Burgess] has requested a leave of absence for self-care,' county spokesperson George Guthrie wrote in a statement. 'We are committed to the health and well-being of Ms. Burgess and running a smooth and fair election is a top priority for the County.'" [Nevada Independent, 9/25/24]

- **Burgess was the third registrar in a little over two years to leave the role.** "Burgess is the third registrar in a little more than two years to leave the role. She replaced Jamie Rodriguez, who announced her resignation Jan. 2. Rodriguez said that the long hours were one reason she left the position after little more than a year full-time. 'I have given everything to this position and felt that I needed to leave to allow myself a work/life balance and to be able to see family and friends again, which I have had little ability to do over the last 2 years,' Rodriguez wrote to The Nevada Independent in an email shortly after her resignation." [Nevada Independent, 9/25/24]
- **Clark: "We're a laughingstock."** "Republican Washoe County Commissioner Mike Clark blamed the high turnover in the county's registrar of voters office on management and said the announcement of Burgess' leave is 'embarrassing' for the county. 'We're a laughingstock,' Clark told The Nevada Independent. 'The rest of the world is looking at Washoe County and saying, 'What's wrong with those hicks?' There are so many folks in the city of Reno that were offended by that TV show, Reno 911. It was a spoof...and now we're living up to it.' Clark's speculation that management is the problem aligns with his long-standing vocal criticism of Washoe County Manager Eric Brown, who was one of the key figures behind Clark's ban from county offices for harassment when Clark was serving as the county's assessor. Clark and Republican County Commissioner Jeanne Herman voted not to confirm Burgess as interim registrar of voters, have repeatedly voted not to certify election results and publicly questioned the integrity of the election process. Clark has been backed by far-right activist Robert Beadles. Beadles has

targeted and sought to oust Brown and other Washoe County officials in lawsuits, falsely claiming the county's voting process skewed election results. The lawsuit was later dismissed with prejudice, meaning it can't be refiled.” [Nevada Independent, 9/25/24]

February 2025: Washoe County Commission voted 3-2 to appoint former deputy registrar Andrew McDonald as new registrar of voters; Clark voted against appointment. “The Washoe County Commission voted 3-2 on Tuesday to appoint former deputy registrar Andrew McDonald as the county's new registrar of voters. The appointment comes after former interim registrar Cari-Ann Burgess’s leave of absence in September. The county conducted the recruitment for a permanent registrar of voters from August to October. Since Burgess was interim registrar, the plan had always been to recruit for a permanent person to fulfill it, according to county spokesperson Bethany Drysdale. McDonald was selected among 41 candidates and recommended for appointment by County Manager Eric Brown. McDonald previously served as the assistant registrar of voters for San Diego County and Clark County. He then became deputy registrar of voters for Washoe County in 2024 and filled in for Burgess during her leave, overseeing Washoe County's 2024 general election. Commissioners Jeanne Herman and Mike Clark voted against McDonald's appointment. ‘I'm very concerned about this appointment,’ Herman said. ‘I think our citizens deserve someone who is super qualified, and I'm afraid we're not doing our job if we don't look into this a little bit better and go back to the drawing board.’ According to HR representative Julie Paholke, one commissioner was invited to partake in the selection process, which was Herman. Herman told the board on Tuesday that McDonald was not her first choice then and now.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 11/15/24]

- **Clark: “I want somebody else to pick. We’ve got to get somebody in here who knows how to pick somebody who can stay and do the task.”** “Clark voted no because he felt Burgess's leave was not settled yet, and he wanted a better selection team. ‘I want somebody else to pick,’ Clark said. ‘We've got to get somebody in here who knows how to pick somebody who can stay and do the task.’ [Reno Gazette-Journal, 2/12/25]

Voter Rolls

2022: Clark asked how to improve election process: “That would be to take the existing county resources and figure out a way to make the voter rolls as clean as other county rolls.” “If you could improve one thing about the county’s election process, what would it be? Clark: That would be to take the existing county resources and figure out a way to make the voter rolls as clean as other county rolls. I'm going to use a comparison of the assessor's rolls, the treasurer's rolls. Most of those roles are 98%, 99% or better accurate. Let’s strive for 90% accuracy on the voter rolls. Nobody wants illegitimate voter rolls. It’s a nonpartisan issue.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 10/21/22]

2022: Clark: “My issues are cleaning up the voter rolls. The county’s got the resources to do that in a meaningful way.” “Clark said Lockard had ‘graciously’ called Saturday to concede, but that he didn’t feel comfortable declaring victory until all the votes were counted. If his lead continues, Clark said of the county commission, ‘I hope there’s consensus and bipartisanship right down the line. My issues are cleaning up the voter rolls. The county’s got the resources to do that in a meaningful way. The (Truckee) river and seniors are also big priorities that, as far as I'm concerned, have nothing to do with partisanship.’ In reference to concerns over a restraining order against him by a county official, he said, ‘I want to put whatever has taken place in the rearview mirror and look forward.’ Clark’s opponent said that he recognized he couldn't overcome the deficit regardless of how the remaining votes are counted. ‘Running for election is just a wonderful experience,’ Lockard said. ‘It's one of the best experiences a person can have, and people need to have more civic engagement in a variety of different areas.

Hopefully, we'll see a commission that works well for the people of the county.’” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 11/15/22]

ON THE ISSUES

Philosophy

June 2024: Clark called moderate Republicans on Washoe County Commission “absolutely, in my world, the example of what’s wrong with the political system in America.” “Andriola and Hill may both survive their challenges. Protest votes against Andriola, who is well-funded, are likely to split among her four opponents, and Hill has a significant fundraising lead over Berkbigler. But the Trumpist wing of the local Republican Party is eager to replace them and pursue its agenda. ‘I hope they both lose,’ Clark said. ‘These people are absolutely, in my world, the example of what's wrong with the political system in America.’” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 6/9/24]

Budget & Finances

May 2023: Clark only commissioner to vote against county budget. “At the May 16 Washoe County Commission meeting, Penny Brock said during public comment that she couldn't believe the amount of the budget being voted on for fiscal year 2024. ‘It is shocking that the budget is over 1 billion – that's a B as in boy – 1 billion dollars for 500,000 population,’ she said. ‘I compared it with Clark County. They've got 2.29 million people, and their budget is under \$2 billion.’ If true, this shows a huge disparity in budgets. Based on Brock’s numbers, Washoe County would be spending \$2,000 per person while Clark County would be spending \$830 per person. Commissioner Mike Clark wondered about this concern before he voted against approving the budget. ‘I just find it interesting – the fact that Ms. Penny Brock brought up about our budget being so disproportionate compared to Clark County, that this is the largest county in the state and has four times as many people as we have and our budget is more than half of theirs,’ he said. ‘I just thought that was an unusual comparison.’ The commission voted 3-to-1 to approve the \$1 billion budget with Alexis Hill, Mariluz Garcia and Clara Andriola in favor and Clark opposed. Jeanne Herman was absent. This budget comparison was also made earlier this month on the political blog Operation Sunlight by Robert Beadles. ‘Behold the absurdity of comparing the Clark County 2024 budget to Washoe County’s budget,’ the post says. ‘Clark County boasts a hefty \$1.95 billion for 2024, while Washoe’s is a cool \$1.06 billion. But, oh, the irony! Clark County’s population in 2021 was 2.3 million, while Washoe had a mere 493,000 souls. Do the math, and you’ll find that Washoe County’s population is only 21.43% of Clark County’s, yet its budget is a whopping 54.36% of Clark’s!’” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 5/19/23]

- **Clark said he made “protest vote” over displeasure with raises given.** “The misunderstanding in this analysis stems from the fact that Clark County focuses on the general fund portion of its overall budget in commission meetings, whereas Washoe County looks at its total budget. This can cause confusion for anyone casually looking at budget discussions or reading news reports between Reno and Las Vegas...I contacted Commissioner Clark by phone Friday while he was driving and asked about his no-vote on the budget as well as the Clark County-Washoe County comparison. Before I even mentioned what I’d found, he said he’d since learned the comparison was wrong. ‘I was trying to Google it at the meeting – the people's information was incorrect,’ he said of those who claimed Washoe’s budget was much higher. ‘They were apparently looking at a different line item versus the total budget.’ He said he’d been hearing the comparison for several months and that he was just raising the concern during his comments on the agenda item, but that it was not the reason he voted no on approving the

budget. There were enough votes to approve the budget with or without him. So, he said, he made a ‘protest vote’ over his displeasure with the amount of raises given to leadership positions at the county and how raises were given to leaders before the rank-and-file workers. ‘If it was incorrect information, the county should’ve come up with that rebuttal,’ he said about the faulty comparison between counties. ‘And that’s my position on things: If people have questions, if people make misstatements, it’s incumbent upon the county to rebut that, to take that perception away. If somebody runs around and says that number and other people believe that and then they don’t hear it rebutted from anybody, they presume it’s correct.’” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 5/19/23]

May 2025: Clark only dissenting vote against county budget; said Washoe wasn’t doing enough to prevent years of deficits to come. “The Washoe County Commission approved the fiscal year 2026 budget Tuesday, cementing the year with no layoffs, no hiring freeze and no other cuts despite their originally projected \$27 million deficit. Commissioner Mike Clark was the only dissenting vote because he said the county wasn’t doing enough with this budget to prevent years of deficits to come. Commissioner Jeanne Herman was not in attendance for the vote. ‘No taxes, no increase,’ Commissioner Clara Andriola said before her yes vote. Washoe County budget manager Lori Cooke said they officially have a plan to fill the gap of this year’s deficit, just days before their June 1 deadline to submit it to the state. But the complex state of Washoe County’s finances still hangs on the shoulders of the commissioners and their finance team.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 5/23/25]

- **Clark: “We need to start doing something proactively to make sure that this kind of thing doesn’t happen in the future. You just can’t spend more than you take in.”** “Clark voted no on the budget, specifically because he believes the county needs to do more to prevent these deficits. ‘We need to start doing something proactively to make sure that this kind of thing doesn’t happen in the future. You just can’t spend more than you take in,’ Clark said.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 5/23/25]

Criminal Justice

October 2022: Reno Gazette-Journal: “Clark wants more law enforcement on the street because he thinks crime is through the roof...” • “Public safety: Clark wants more law enforcement on the street because he thinks crime is through the roof and people don’t think downtown Reno is safe. He also wants more firefighters. Lockard’s top safety issue is the wildfire threat and wants to see more support for Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, [10/6/22](#)]

Homelessness

2022: Clark: “The no. 1 issue that should be front and foremost for everyone is the homeless...” “The No. 1 issue that should be front and foremost for everyone is the homeless issue that we have here. Some may say it’s being addressed now but I don’t see any improvement year in and year out. It seems to be the same revolving door that’s not really changing. I’d like to see a census to have an idea of how many folks that we have out there and then investigate which of those folks are having mental health issues and how that can be addressed...” [Reno-Gazette Journal, 4/28/22]

LGBTQ+

May 2023: Opposition to drag queen story hour dominated Washoe County Commission meeting. “Stretching for about 2 1/2 hours, opposition to drag queen story hour dominated the public comment period of Tuesday’s Washoe County Commission meeting. Usually geared toward kids ages 3 to 11,

drag queen story hours typically involve men dressed in exaggerated female clothes and makeup who read children's books at public libraries. Although the meeting featured no agenda item related to this topic, dozens spoke in opposition to such events at Washoe County libraries. Many attendees likely received a mass email sent to a self-described Nevada patriots group by Bruce Parks, Washoe County Republican Party chairman. The email urged people to bring their library cards, carry a small U.S. flag and request the end of drag queen library events..." [Reno Gazette-Journal, 3/1/23]

- **Clark: "People weren't vilifying anybody's sexual orientation or however they want to conduct themselves as adults. It's the children that they don't want mixed in here."**
"Capturing the sentiment of many in opposition, Commissioner Mike Clark said what he heard primarily during the comment period was that people don't want children being read to by men dressed as women in what has traditionally been considered adult entertainment. 'People weren't vilifying anybody's sexual orientation or however they want to conduct themselves as adults,' he said. 'It's the children that they don't want mixed in here.'" [Reno Gazette-Journal, 3/1/23]

Transparency

2022: Clark: "If I could stop anything, it's the stifling information. I would make the county much more transparent." "If I could stop anything, it's the stifling of information. I would make the county much more transparent. I would make it a whole lot easier to get public records. I'd make it a lot easier for the public to attend meetings. I would have rotating evening meetings, which I think would help working people who can't take a day off work to come in and watch the process in action. There are many large cities like San Jose that have evening meetings so the public can truly take part in the process..." [Reno-Gazette Journal, 4/28/22]

May 2023: Clark opposed to move public comment at only end of meetings. "Washoe County Commission Chair Alexis Hill's decision to allow general public comment only at the end of board meetings continued to generate heat Tuesday. 'We had one person and one person only take away public comment here in our county,' said Commissioner Mike Clark, referring to Hill and generating applause. 'This wasn't agendized, it wasn't talked over with the other commissioners. It was a unilateral decision.' Clark asked that the topic of public comment be put on a future agenda for discussion. Commissioner Jeanne Herman supported his request." [Reno Gazette-Journal, 5/9/23]

July 2023: Complaints about novel "Lawn Boy" arrived in Washoe County after frequent targeting of parental concern and censorship efforts around the country. "Complaints about Jonathan Evison's novel 'Lawn Boy' have finally made it to Washoe County after being a frequent target of parental concern and censorship efforts around the country. A June Washoe County Commission meeting went into recess after Victoria Myer tried to read a sexually graphic passage from it, and legal counsel said county staff needed to be protected from hearing it. Myer expressed disbelief at this. 'I was only reading from a book that's being read to our children, folks,' she told the commission. 'Hello, America. Moms, dads. Wake up, America. Wake up, Washoe County. Wake up, school board. Wake up, county commissioners. It's in our schools. It's in our school libraries.' Myer wants to see 'Lawn Boy' and other books she considers objectionable – including Toni Morrison's 'The Bluest Eye,' Jesse Andrews' 'Me and Earl and the Dying Girl' and Elana K. Arnold's 'Damsel' – banned from school libraries and kept from being accessed by children at public libraries." [Reno Gazette-Journal, 7/13/23]

- **Clark: "I want to make sure that certain books are not available unless their parents are allowed to read it...adults should be able to read whatever they want...I'm concerned**

with...minors, juveniles.” “Commissioner Mike Clark expressed sympathy with Myer at Tuesday’s board meeting – and emphasized that he doesn’t want to censor titles for adults. ‘I want to make sure that certain books are not available unless their parents are allowed to read it,’ he said. ‘I think adults should be able to read whatever they want to read. What I’m concerned with is minors, juveniles.’” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 7/13/23]

August 2023: Clark called County Commission Chair Alexis Hill a “dictator.” “Washoe County Commissioner Mike Clark has repeatedly and publicly expressed frustration with how Chair Alexis Hill runs board meetings, going so far as to call her a ‘dictator.’ At Tuesday’s meeting, those feelings reached their zenith when Clark requested a vote on whether Hill should keep her position as chair - and Hill agreed. Such a vote in Washoe County would be unprecedented. RGJ research turned up no previous instances of a Washoe County commission chair being removed early. ‘But after looking into it more and talking with the DA’s office, I realized the rules need to change,’ Hill told the RGJ on Wednesday. The rules that govern how the commission conducts its business are laid out in a procedural handbook. It says the chair and vice-chair ‘serve a two-year term.’ Commissioner Jeanne Herman is vice-chair. In order for the chair to be removed before the two years are up, the handbook would need to be changed first, Hill said. Hill said she would email Clark to let him know he needs to submit an agenda item on changing the handbook before requesting a board vote on her role as chair. Clark said he would do that, but believed Hill was trying to ‘weasel her way out’ of the chair vote. ‘The chances of that happening are zero to nil,’ Clark said of the vote happening now. ‘The fix is in.’” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 8/27/23]

2023: Clark pleased as general public comment came back to beginning of meetings. “General public comment will be back at the beginning of Washoe County Commission meetings starting Tuesday after months of protests. In April, Chair Alexis Hill altered the traditional meeting structure regarding general public comment, where anyone can speak on any topic for three minutes before the commission. It had generally been at the beginning and end of meetings; she changed this so it was just at the end. Hill framed it as an experiment to see if this would make meetings more efficient and shorter in the wake of many marathon meetings stretching past eight hours. The change caused criticism from fellow commissioners Mike Clark and Jeanne Herman, protests from some in the community to ‘waste time’ at meetings by speaking on every single agenda item, and an Open Meeting Law complaint filed with the state attorney general’s office, even though the Washoe County District Attorney’s office said that what she’d done was legal...Clark said the new change was a positive development. ‘I’m just happy that the people will be able to express themselves,’ he said. ‘Now, let’s move forward. We’ve got to be able to work together.’” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 10/8/23]

CONFLICTS & CONTROVERSIES

Protective Order

July 2021: Reno Justice Court approved one-year extension of protective order against Washoe County Assessor Mike Clark, triggered by anonymous mass mailing Clark sent that included picture of county employee in swimsuit; judge cited significant evidence that “harassment in the workplace occurred.” “Reno Justice Court approved a one-year extension of a protective order against Washoe County Assessor Mike Clark for harassment, which was triggered by an anonymous mass mailing Clark sent out in April that included a picture of a county employee in a swimsuit. Judge Richard Glasson ruled for the extension on Wednesday, citing sufficient evidence that ‘harassment in the workplace occurred.’ The court order was modified to allow Clark to access Building D of Washoe County’s Ninth Street complex, which is where the assessor’s office is located. The previous temporary

protective order banned Clark from all buildings as well as interacting with county employees, including staff at the assessor's office. Clark is still barred under the new order from other buildings in the complex unless he gets prior approval from County Security Administrator Ben West to be escorted in the building. Clark can also attend the Washoe County Commission meetings but will need to contact West first. The order bars Clark from contacting or interacting with the Washoe County employee pictured in a swimsuit in the mailings barring exceptional situations and only in the presence of a security officer. The order is effective for one year through the end of June 2022. Glasson slammed Clark's lawyer Mark Mausert repeatedly for bringing up questioning and testimony that was not relevant to the harassment case. At one point, Mausert asked a witness for the county - the same woman who was pictured in the mailings - 'What's a sister wife?' The witness responded with a puzzled look. Mausert also brought in one witness to testify about hearing 'inappropriate noises' while sharing an office wall with a Washoe County Commission member named in the packets that Clark mailed. 'Did that noise occur between May 3rd and today?' Glasson asked. 'No, your honor,' Mausert replied. 'Then that's irrelevant,' Glasson said. Glasson also sternly warned Mausert not to continue with his line of questioning after the 'sister wife' question." [Reno Gazette-Journal, 7/1/21]

- **US Postal Service Inspector accused Clark of violating federal law when he sent out 162 mailers to various officials under former city official's name.** "Testimony from a U.S. Postal Service inspector proved to be especially damning for Clark. U.S. Postal Service Inspector Steve Klein accused the assessor of violating federal law when he sent out 162 mailers to various officials under a former city official's name. Klein testified that Clark violated two federal statutes involving false representation and use of a fictitious address when he mailed out the packets alleging 'political skullduggery' to various public officials and other recipients earlier this year. Klein confirmed that the 69-page packets used the home address of former City of Reno Manager Andrew Clinger 'It's a fraudulent mailing,' Klein said. 'It's a false representation because the return address is not for the people who mailed it.'" [Reno Gazette-Journal, 7/1/21]
- **Reno Gazette-Journal: "The mailer quickly raised red flags at the office due to the sheer volume—the whole endeavor cost more than \$1,250 for postage alone..."** "The mailer quickly raised red flags at the office due to the sheer volume - the whole endeavor cost more than \$1,250 for postage alone - as well as the recipients, who were primarily county employees and officials within the state, according to Klein. Most of the mailing was also done at two post offices, one at the same zip code where Clinger lived and another close to his place of employment, which Klein thought was done intentionally. Clark was eventually identified through post office security footage." [Reno Gazette-Journal, 7/1/21]
- **Clark's lawyer: "He made a mistake. He put down Mr. Clinger's address. He shouldn't have done that."** "Klein confirmed that he has forwarded the case to the U.S Attorney's office for possible action. Klein has not received a response from the U.S. Attorney's office as of Wednesday morning. Even Clark's lawyer called the decision to mail 162 documents comprising over 11,000 pages under someone else's address a bad idea. 'He made a mistake. He put down Mr. Clinger's address. He shouldn't have done that,' Mausert said. 'If he talked to me, I would've said not to send the packet.'" [Reno Gazette-Journal, 7/1/21]
- **Lawyer representing county: "He chose this course of action and tried to hide his identity. The act of mailing these packages under false pretenses was a cowardly act, a malicious act."** "Klein was the first witness at the hearing over a temporary protective order for Clark, who has been accused of alleged harassment by Washoe County over the mailers. The packets included allegations against several local officials as well as a picture of a county employee in a

swimsuit, which triggered the harassment claim against Clark. Clark, who says he did not author the documents that he sent, has not been allowed back in his office since a temporary protection order was granted to the county by Reno Justice Court on May 25. The county was asking for a one-year extension of the temporary protective order. Judge Glasson, who was brought in from Tahoe District Court to preside over the case to avoid any conflicts of interest, stated that he was especially mindful of any impact a decision would have on a potential criminal case in the future. ‘Sometimes these proceedings bleed into a criminal lawsuit,’ Glasson said. ‘One of the things we’re looking at today is whether or not there has been harassment or stalking, and both are misdemeanor crimes.’ Clark’s lawyer Mausert slammed the proposed extension of the temporary protective order. Mausert, who attended the hearing with Clark virtually, says his client has no intention to harass anybody. The original order prohibiting Clark from reaching out to county employees, including staff at the assessor’s office, also made it difficult for him to do his job, Mausert added. Clark was re-elected to his position in 2018. ‘I don’t think there’s any basis to restrict his movements,’ Mausert argued. ‘He’s not a violent man. He’s 70 years old,’ Mausert added. Lawyer Brian Brown, who represented the county at the hearing, strongly disagreed. The mailers not only impacted those specifically named in the documents, they affected every county employee, he said. The fact that this was done by a colleague made it even worse. ‘He chose this course of action and tried to hide his identity,’ Brown said. ‘The act of mailing these packages under false pretenses was a cowardly act, a malicious act.’” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 7/1/21]

August 2021: Clark appealed protection order. “Washoe County Assessor Mike Clark is appealing a protection order that was granted against him over anonymous mailers that included a picture of a county employee in a swimsuit. On June 30, Clark’s temporary protective order was extended for a year by Reno Justice Court after Judge Richard Glasson ruled in favor of Washoe County, agreeing that Clark demonstrated harassing behavior. Glasson was brought in from Tahoe District Court to avoid any potential conflicts of interest. Clark was initially banned from all county offices after he was identified as the person who sent 162 packets to lawmakers, officials and county employees, alleging ‘political skulduggery.’ He has since been allowed back to his office but still needs permission to enter other parts of Washoe County’s Ninth Street complex. Clark is also required to stay away from the employee who was pictured in a swimsuit in the mailers unless a security officer is present.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 8/7/21]

June 2022: Judge ruled against Clark’s appeal to end temporary restraining order. “A judge ruled against Washoe County Assessor Mike Clark’s appeal to end a temporary protection order against him by a fellow county official. The TPO will stay in place. Clark had claimed his due process rights were violated by a previous court decision that extended the TPO against him because he hadn’t been able to present his side of the story. In a decision released Tuesday, Judge Kathleen Sigurdson wrote that Clark ‘had ample opportunity to present his version of events using evidence relevant to his actions regarding the extension of the protection order.’ A TPO had been granted in May 2021, causing Clark to be physically banned from all county offices. The protection order came after Clark anonymously sent out a mass mailing using a false return address. It accused specific people in the city of Reno and county commission of ‘political skulduggery.’ The mailing included a photo of the county official in a swimsuit.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 6/15/22]

Robert Beadles

2024: New York Tims: “In 2022, a local cryptocurrency millionaire named Robert Beadles and a growing movement of election denialists helped elect a second commissioner who expressed doubt about the 2020 results, Mike Clark.” “For that reason, Andriola’s hyperlocal primary had taken on

national importance. Washoe County's longest-serving commissioner, Jeanne Herman, was one of the first and only local commission members in the country to vote against certifying Biden's win in 2020, 'because the election was improper,' she told me. She was outvoted at the time by the four other commissioners. But in 2022, a local cryptocurrency multimillionaire named Robert Beadles and a growing movement of election denialists helped elect a second commissioner who expressed doubt about the 2020 results, Mike Clark. With one more like-minded Republican commissioner, the doubters would have a three-vote majority." [New York Times, 11/3/24]

In 2022 primary race, Clark benefitted from the backing of election-fraud proponent Robert Beadles. "Washoe County assessor Mike Clark looks like he'll beat incumbent Bob Lucey in the Republican primary for the District 2 commission race covering south Reno and Washoe Valley. This comes in spite of Clark having a temporary protection order against him involving a fellow county official. A judge on Tuesday denied his appeal against the TPO. Clark had the backing of election-fraud proponent Robert Beadles, a relatively recent California transplant who funded hyperbolic postcards calling Lucey 'Lucifer' and suggesting he's a crooked racist, despite offering scant evidence beyond innuendo. Perhaps because Clark's TPO baggage hinted at an easy win or perhaps because of relentless attacks against him (or both), Lucey did not mount a highly visible campaign with signs everywhere, widespread mailings and in-person voter outreach." [Reno Gazette-Journal, 6/16/22]

2022: Clark supported by Robert Beadles; Beadles claimed widespread voter fraud corrupted state and local elections. "If Mike Clark wins his District 2 race as expected and Jeanne Herman holds onto her District 5 seat – a strong possibility given her incumbency advantage – the Washoe County Commission would have three out of five members supported by political influencer Robert Beadles. Beadles claims widespread voter fraud has corrupted local and state elections and has been involved in lawsuits over voting machines and observation of vote counting." [Reno Gazette-Journal, 10/21/22]

2022: Andrew Barbano column drew awareness about Robert Beadles' fringe views. According to a column by Andrew Barbano, "BEADLESMANIA. The California rich man who couldn't be a big fish in a big pond has slithered over here. Robert Beadles is scary-close to having a moonhowler majority on the Washoe County Commission. If incumbent Jeanne Herman gets re-elected and newbies Denise Myer and Mike Clark (the disgraced Washoe property assessor) prevail, the swing county in the swing state can be swung wide for Putin's favorite groupie. The county commission controls policy and budgets for the election process. Fake election fraud Valhalla. A county of Washoe's size would require thousands of by-hand ballot counters who would never be able to bring in a final result before the certification deadline. So Nevada's votes for president in 2024 could not be certified and thus would not count. Multiply that by seven or so states and 'Trump2 Revenge is Mine' premieres nationwide. A recent worldwide study found that it takes an average of nine years for a backsliding democracy like ours to become a dictatorship. We're basically in year two. Be very afraid." [Sparks Tribune, 11/9/22]

2024: Nevada Independent: "In the wake of Donald Trump's stolen election lies, a combination of vitriol, conspiracy theories, and a wealthy donor have given far-right Republicans growing influence over local politics..." "It's a county that President Joe Biden won by five points in 2020 and was key to his winning Nevada's six electoral votes. But now, in the wake of Donald Trump's stolen election lies, a combination of vitriol, conspiracy theories and a wealthy donor have given far-right Republicans growing influence over local politics. The battleground is the Washoe County Commission, which has the power to make some local election policies, appoint the local election administrator and decide whether to certify the results of elections for everything from municipal government to the presidency. Control hinges on winning one of two races in the next six months." [Nevada Independent, 6/14/24]

- **“Since 2020, two county election administrators have left their jobs, at least one citing threats and harassment.”** “Since 2020, two county election administrators have left their jobs, at least one citing threats and harassment. The commission is supposed to sign off on the results of all elections, but two of the five commissioners have voted against certifying at least one recent election.” [Nevada Independent, 6/14/24]
- **“Beadles is one of the local party’s top donors...”** “Beadles is one of the local party's top donors, shelling out more than \$37,000, according to records from the Nevada secretary of state. Nationwide, he's poured hundreds of thousands of dollars into electing like-minded people, according to a 2022 Reuters investigation. Beadles is known to come to commission meetings and rattle off allegations against the commission. He unsuccessfully sued the county for alleged election fraud and publicly accused a former voter registrar of ‘treason,’ suggesting she be jailed. Efforts to reach him were unsuccessful. ‘I just want to make sure our votes count, period,’ Beadles told Reuters. ‘Correctly. Legitimately.’” [Nevada Independent, 6/14/24]

June 2024: Nevada Independent: “Clark and Jeanne Herman both have connections to Beadles and the two are known for voting together on the five-person board on high-profile issues.”

“Commissioners Mike Clark and Jeanne Herman both have connections to Beadles and the two are known for voting together on the five-person board on high-profile issues. Though a majority of the votes on the Washoe County Commission are unanimous, Andriola is sometimes a swing vote on the Republican-majority commission a fact that the Washoe GOP cited in kicking her out of the party. Beadles is on the executive board of the county party. The morning after the primary, Beadles published a blog post thanking ‘all the candidates who put themselves out there for us’ and casting doubt on the election results by criticizing the lack of voter ID.” [Nevada Independent, 6/14/24]

June 2024: Robert Beadles paid for primary recount for progressive activist; consultant to Clark reached out to her with Beadles’ offer. “With only 15 votes separating her from the victor in a Reno City Council race, Lily Baran filed for a recount on Tuesday. The progressive activist had finished second behind Frank Perez, the former chair of the Washoe County Library board, in the Ward 1 race. The winner of the primary will face incumbent Kathleen Taylor. On Wednesday, KRNv's Ben Margiott broke the news that the recount was paid for by an unlikely benefactor far-right activist Robert Beadles. The \$50,560 payment from the prominent Republican donor who has quoted racist and antisemitic materials dismayed some of Baran's supporters and raised questions about whether it constituted an illegal campaign contribution. Baran said Candy Green, a local political consultant for officials such as Washoe Commissioner Mike Clark, reached out to her with Beadles' offer, which Baran accepted. A source close to the issue shared that Baran had posted on a private Instagram story on June 21 asking for people's opinions on whether she should accept the money or not. Beadles also wrote recount checks for Washoe County Commission District 4 hopeful Mark Lawson, who lost by 18.4 percentage points against Clara Andriola in the Republican primary, and Paul White, who was hoping to run against Perry Rosenstein for the Washoe County School Board District G trustee but came up almost 6 percentage points short. The three recounts Beadles paid for total more than \$150,000. Baran said the closeness of the vote which put her 0.43 percentage points behind Perez made it a ‘very reasonable’ decision to seek a recount and the \$50,560 cost forced her to accept Beadles' offer after she had only been able to raise \$350. ‘This does not, by any means, mean that I am consigned to his hateful agenda or conspiracy theories or anything like that,’ Baran said, adding she was not questioning the integrity of the election.” [Nevada Independent, 6/29/24]

- **Nevada Independent:** “Beadles is a prominent Republican donor who has quoted a controversial piece...(saying) there is little evidence showing slavery and racial discrimination’s legacy had negative effects on Black communities. He has also quoted the Protocols of Zion, a piece of long-debunked anti-Semitic propaganda stating that Jews are plotting to takeover the world.” Beadles is a prominent Republican donor who has quoted a controversial piece by conservative Black columnist Walter Williams who said there is little evidence showing slavery and racial discrimination's legacy had negative effects on Black communities. He has also quoted the Protocols of Zion, a piece of long-debunked antisemitic propaganda stating that Jews are plotting to take over the world, and funded mailers depicting Reno City Councilman Devon Reese, who is part of the LGBTQ+ community, as a drag queen. [Nevada Independent, 6/29/24]

Nazi Iconography

2024: Clark’s \$10,000 donation to motorcycle group for annual toy drive remained intact; Commissioner Hill asked for reconsideration after a man wore a vest with the Branded Few motorcycle club insignia, which included a swastika and an eagle similar to that on Nazi insignia. “Commissioner Mike Clark’s \$10,000 donation to a motorcycle group for their annual toy drive remains intact after being reconsidered on Tuesday, with a 3-2 vote in favor of retaining the donation. Clark and commissioners Clara Andriola and Jeanne Herman voted to retain the donation. Chair Alexis Hill and Mariluz Garcia voted to rescind. Hill had asked for the donation to be reconsidered after a man wore a vest with the Branded Few motorcycle club insignia, which includes a swastika and eagle similar to that on Nazi insignia, at the June 18 meeting. Hill said that the symbol is used by different cultures with many meanings, but that it means something hateful here. ‘Hitler kidnapped the swastika. The swastika has become a symbol of hate, racism, anti-Semitism, sexism, bigotry, discrimination and othering of people who were different,’ Hill said.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 7/17/24]

- **Clark:** “My donation was clearly to the Reno Toy Run...None of those members of that board were wearing a swastika, bent cross, whatever you want to call it...To smear them and drag their name through the dirt...I hope it doesn’t cost them any more donations.” “Hill said a swastika is a sign of Nazism and white supremacy, so she was not going to vote in favor of donating to an organization whose members can wear the symbol. Clark disagreed, saying that he does not condone the symbol or Nazism, but his donation was not to Regas’s organization. ‘My donation was clearly to the Reno Toy Run,’ Clark said. ‘None of those members of that board were wearing a swastika, bent cross, whatever you want to call it ... ‘To smear them and drag their name through the dirt over what somebody was wearing, I hope it doesn’t cost them any more donations.’” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 7/17/24]

Branded Few changed jacket insignia, which had featured a swastika; Clark proposed two more donations of \$10K each to go to Reno Toy Run. Clark also gave \$10K to Jewish Nevada. “The Branded Few are changing their jacket insignia, which featured a swastika, after being condemned at Washoe County Commission meetings, according to a motorcycle club spokesman. The Northern Nevada Confederation of Clubs runs the annual Reno Toy Run, a nonprofit that collects toys for children. It received a \$10,000 donation from Commissioner Mike Clark on June 18. Afterward, a photo of a Branded Few motorcycle club member at the meeting wearing a jacket with the Nazi symbol went viral on social media. Chair Alexis Hill called for the donation to be re-voted on on June 19. The donation was retained, with only Hill and Commissioner Mariluz Garcia voting against it. On Tuesday, Commissioner Jeanne Herman and Clark proposed two more donations of \$10,000 each to go to the Reno Toy Run. Clark also gave a \$10,000 donation to Jewish Nevada. ‘The Branded Few have decided

to be the adults in the room. (They) have boldly decided as an organization to remove the patch you sought to defame them with,' Northern Nevada Confederation of Clubs spokesman Tony Regas told the commission. The insignia, which the Branded Few refers to as a 'broken cross,' is being replacing with a 'BF' patch on their jackets." [Reno Gazette-Walker, 8/22/24]