

WASHOE COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICT 4

This document analyzes the race for Washoe County Board of Commissioners in District 4. As of April 2024, the race included 7 candidates: incumbent Clara Andriola (R), Tracey Hilton-Thomas (R), Mark Lawson (R), Trista Gomez (R), John L. Walter II (R), Marsela Kupfersmith (Nonpartisan), and Gabriel Christenson (Nonpartisan). Andriola, who was appointed to the seat by Republican Governor Joe Lombardo in 2023 after her predecessor resigned, was kicked out of the Washoe County Republican Party in February 2024 for “intentionally and willfully” failing to “uphold...Republicans...in her official capacity by predominantly voting with the Democrats on the commission.”

Primary Election Day occurs on June 11, with early voting running from May 25 to June 7.

Key findings:

Incumbent Republican Clara Andriola was appointed to the seat in 2023 by Republican Governor Joe Lombardi but ousted from the Washoe County Republican Party amidst accusations of RINO-ism. In 2024, the Washoe County GOP central committee voted on a resolution that argued “Andriola has intentionally and willfully failed to uphold the Republicans and the Republican brand in her official capacity by predominantly voting with the Democrats on the commission.” As a result, Andriola will not receive an endorsement or resources from the party. In its resolution, the party criticized Andriola for supporting Democratic chair Alexis Hill over Republican Jeanne Herman, allegedly not supporting restoration of public comments before meetings, approving of hiring “left-wing consulting firm” The Elections Group, approving equipment that was “vulnerable to hacking” and ignoring “expert testimony that proves the county is violating voter’s rights, supporting Sen. Jacky Rosen’s Truckee Meadows Public Lands Management Act, and allegedly appointing “liberals” to boards and committees in Washoe County. Andriola’s chief opponent in the upcoming primary, Tracey Hilton-Thomas, was vice-chair of the Washoe County GOP, but did not participate in the discussion or vote on the resolution against Andriola.

Challenger Tracey Hilton-Thomas is supported by Robert Beadles, a prominent Republican donor and election conspiracy theorist who has gained prominence in Nevada in recent years. In recent years, Beadle, a California transplant, filed multiple lawsuits against Washoe County and Nevada citing fantastical allegations of massive voter fraud. Beadles has praised Hilton-Thomas for questioning the county’s handling of the 2020 election. In early 2024, members of the public questioned Interim Registrar Cari-Ann Burgess’s qualifications and recommended Tracey Hilton-Thomas be appointed as interim registrar, including Beadles. In 2022, Beadles sought to have Hilton-Thomas replace Washoe County Commissioner Vaughn Hartung, whom he targeted with a recall effort. Hilton-Thomas refused to comment on the attempted recall, but said she was ready to run if it succeeds.

Hilton-Thomas has shared specious claims about election integrity and voter fraud. According to Operation Sunlight, Hilton-Thomas allegedly warned Washoe County Commissioners about 2020 election issues. In an email published by Operation Sunlight, Hilton-Thomas claimed to have spoken with several polling place managers who registered voters with California drivers licenses because they showed a Reno address, claimed to have friends who received ballots for deceased loved ones, and claimed several people tried to vote twice. In March 2024, Hilton-Thomas shared a link to a video claiming a couple “discovered nearly 600,000 Illinois voting violations” with the caption “we are not alone.” In 2024, Hilton-Thomas shared an article titled “1 in 5 admits 2020 election fraud” with the caption “Is this one of the same sources that reported the 2020 election as the most secure election????”



Frontrunners Andriola and Hilton-Thomas both support Donald Trump. In 2024, Andriola endorsed Trump. Andriola said she was “looking forward to supporting President Trump and getting our country back on the right path.” Hilton-Thomas shared a photo of herself and Trump at an event in 2017, saying “I whole heartedly endorse America First policies, especially as they apply to the residents of Washoe County.”

Incumbent Andriola received over \$100,000 in contributions in 2023, while Hilton-Thomas’ campaign was mostly self-funded. Clara Andriola ended 2023 with \$82,066.13 on hand. Andriola reported \$114,044.07 in total contributions and \$31,977.94. Tracey Hilton-Thomas ended 2023 with \$1,287.30 on hand. Hilton-Thomas reported \$3,158.81 in contributions and \$1,871.51 in expenditures. Among her few contributions, Hilton-Thomas received a \$150 donation from Tom Green, private investigator with [controversial ties to Robert Beadles](#). No other candidate has filed finance reports as of April 2024.

CANDIDATES

Clara Andriola - Republican Party
Tracey Hilton-Thomas - Republican Party
Mark Lawson - Republican Party
Trista Gomez - Republican Party
John L. Walter II - Republican Party
Marsela Kupfersmith – Nonpartisan
Gabriel Christenson – Nonpartisan

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Candidate	Total Raised	Total Expenditures	Cash on Hand
Clara Andriola	\$114,044.07	\$31,977.94	\$82,066.13
Tracey Hilton-Thomas	\$3,158.81	\$1,871.51	\$1,287.30
Mark Lawson	-	-	-
Trista Gomez	-	-	-
John L. Walter II	-	-	-
Marsela Kupfersmith	-	-	-
Gabriel Christenson	-	-	-

[Nevada Secretary of State Databases, accessed 4/5/24]

Hilton-Thomas

January 2024: Hilton-Thomas had just over \$1,000 on hand after raising more than \$3,000 in 2023. “Challenger Tracey Hilton-Thomas has a little more than \$1,000 going into 2024 after raising more than \$3,000 in 2023.” [Sparks Tribune, 1/28/24]

As of January 2024, Hilton-Thomas’ campaign was mostly self-funded. “Hilton-Thomas' campaign is mostly self-funded, but she also received a \$200 donation from 2022 State Assembly District 26 hopeful Tom Daly, and a \$150 donation from Tom Green, a private investigator with clients including prominent Republican donor Robert Beadles. Beadles, who has denied the outcomes of elections and bankrolled a legal challenge of the results that was rejected by a court, has praised Hilton-Thomas in his blog for her questioning of the county's handling of the 2020 election.” [Sparks Tribune, 1/28/24]

- **2023: Hilton-Thomas contributed \$1,000 to her campaign.** [Hilton-Thomas 2024 Annual CE Filing, Nevada Secretary of State, [1/12/24](#)]

Hilton-Thomas received a \$150 donation from Tom Green, a private investigator with clients including Robert Beadles. “Hilton-Thomas' campaign is mostly self-funded, but she also received a \$200 donation from 2022 State Assembly District 26 hopeful Tom Daly, and a \$150 donation from Tom Green, a private investigator with clients including prominent Republican donor Robert Beadles. Beadles, who has denied the outcomes of elections and bankrolled a legal challenge of the results that was rejected by a court, has praised Hilton-Thomas in his blog for her questioning of the county's handling of the 2020 election.” [Sparks Tribune, 1/28/24]

Hilton-Thomas received a \$200 donation from 2022 State Assembly candidate Tom Daly. “Hilton-Thomas' campaign is mostly self-funded, but she also received a \$200 donation from 2022 State Assembly District 26 hopeful Tom Daly, and a \$150 donation from Tom Green, a private investigator

with clients including prominent Republican donor Robert Beadles. Beadles, who has denied the outcomes of elections and bankrolled a legal challenge of the results that was rejected by a court, has praised Hilton-Thomas in his blog for her questioning of the county's handling of the 2020 election.” [Sparks Tribune, 1/28/24]

2023: Hilton-Thomas received \$500 in contributions from Sally Thoman. [Hilton-Thomas 2024 Annual CE Filing, Nevada Secretary of State, [1/12/24](#)]

Andriola

January 2024: Andriola had \$82,000 cash on hand. “Republican Commissioner Clara Andriola has \$82,000 cash on hand.” [Sparks Tribune, 1/28/24]

Andriola’s biggest donor was Roger Primm of Carson City, who maxed out to her campaign. “Andriola's biggest donor was Roger Primm, a resident of Carson City who also gave \$10,000 to Gov. Joe Lombardo during his 2022 campaign. Primm donated more than \$10,000 to Andriola in 2023, but is refunding Primm the over \$200 that exceeded the legal donating limit, her campaign said on Monday.” [Sparks Tribune, 1/28/24]

Andriola’s largest donors included Panattoni Development, Western Nevada Supply Co., Hamilton Properties Inc., Jensen Electric Company and Associated Builders and Contractors PAC. “Andriola's second-largest donor was Panattoni Development, with more than \$5,000, followed by Western Nevada Supply Co., Hamilton Properties Inc., Jensen Electric Company and Associated Builders and Contractors PAC, which gave Andriola \$5,000 each.” [Sparks Tribune, 1/28/24]

Andriola received donations from Sparks Mayor Ed Lawson and a business owned by Reno Councilwoman Kathleen Taylor. “She also received donations from other development companies, lobbying businesses and local politicians, including Sparks Mayor Ed Lawson and a business owned by Reno Councilwoman Kathleen Taylor.” [Sparks Tribune, 1/28/24]

CLARA ANDRIOLA

Background & Philosophy

Andriola: “I have a long history of being a Republican.” “‘I have a long history of being a Republican,’ she said. ‘I have a long history of doing what I can to ensure that taxpayer dollars are being used the best they can, that we have limited government and are as efficient as possible.’” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 2/1/24]

Andriola: “I have a long history of doing what I can to ensure that taxpayer dollars are being used the best they can, that we have limited government and are as efficient as possible.” “‘I have a long history of being a Republican,’ she said. ‘I have a long history of doing what I can to ensure that taxpayer dollars are being used the best they can, that we have limited government and are as efficient as possible.’” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 2/1/24]

Andriola served as the Regional CEO of the American Red Cross and the President and CEO of Associated Builders and Contractors Nevada Chapter. “Prior to being with the Foundation she served as the Regional CEO of the American Red Cross, the President and CEO of Associated Builders

and Contractors Nevada Chapter, and owned Productivity Point International the largest technology training company in the region.” [Washoe County, accessed [3/28/24](#)]

Andriola owned Productivity Point International, the largest technology training company in the region. “Prior to being with the Foundation she served as the Regional CEO of the American Red Cross, the President and CEO of Associated Builders and Contractors Nevada Chapter, and owned Productivity Point International the largest technology training company in the region.” [Washoe County, accessed [3/28/24](#)]

Andriola graduated with an MBA from the University of Nevada-Reno. [Washoe County, accessed [3/28/24](#)]

April 2023: Andriola was appointed to the commission by Republican Gov. Joe Lombardo to replace Vaughn Hartung after he was selected to lead the Nevada Transportation Authority. “Republican Gov. Joe Lombardo appointed Andriola to the commission in April, replacing Vaughn Hartung after he was appointed to lead the Nevada Transportation Authority.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 2/1/24]

February 2024: Andriola was kicked out of the Washoe County Republican Party. “The Washoe County Republican Party kicked out County Commissioner Clara Andriola on Monday night.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 2/1/24]

A resolution voted on by the Washoe County GOP Central Committee argued “Andriola has intentionally and willfully failed to uphold the Republicans and the Republican brand in her official capacity by predominantly voting with the Democrats on the commission.” ““Andriola has intentionally and willfully failed to uphold the Republicans and the Republican brand in her official capacity by predominantly voting with the Democrats on the Commission,” said a resolution voted on by the county Republican party’s central committee during a meeting at Boomtown casino.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 2/1/24]

- **Andriola said she was baffled by the resolution and claimed nobody from the Republican Party had contacted her to even ask questions.** “Andriola told the RGJ on Tuesday that she’s baffled by the resolution. ‘I don’t understand why they’re concentrating on me,’ she said. ‘There’s so much work that needs to be done as a party. Nobody from the party contacted me about this, not even to ask questions.’” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 2/1/24]
- **The Washoe County GOP will not help Andriola retain her seat with an endorsement or any resources, such as volunteers.** “The county party says it no longer considers Andriola a Republican. She faces a June election in the Republican primary. Because of the resolution, the Washoe County Republican Party will not help Andriola retain her seat with an endorsement or any resources such as volunteers going door to door in support of candidates.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 2/1/24]

The Washoe County GOP Central Committee singled out Andriola’s vote to keep Democratic commissioner Alexis Hill as the board’s chair, rather than Republican Jeanne Herman, the longest serving board member. “The Washoe County Commission recently voted on who should be its chair and run its meetings. Andriola sided with Democratic commissioners Alexis Hill and Mariluz Garcia to keep Hill, who has been chair since last spring, rather than pick Republican Jeanne Herman,

who has been on the board longest. The county party's central committee meeting singled that vote out for criticism.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 2/1/24]

- **Andriola said she voted based on the experience required to do a challenging job and would consider Herman for the chair position after she gained more confidence running meetings and gained experience in chair duties.** “Andriola said she based her vote on who had the best experience required to do a challenging job. Once Herman garners more confidence in running meetings and gains experience in chair duties by attending a higher percentage of agenda reviews with staff, Andriola said, she would consider Herman for the chair position.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 2/1/24]

Among 6 reasons for condemning Andriola, The GOP Central Committee criticized Andriola for “abrogating our rights of free speech by not supporting restoration of public comments at the beginning of Commission meetings.” “The central committee's resolution listed a half-dozen reasons for condemning Andriola and no longer recognizing her as a Republican. Among them was for ‘abrogating our rights of free speech by not supporting restoration of public comments at the beginning of Commission meetings.’” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 2/1/24]

Chair Hill had eliminated the pre-meeting public comment period in an effort to make meetings more efficient, but ultimately restore it. “Last April, Hill eliminated the general public comment period that preceded meetings. The after-meeting public comment period remained. Based on commission rules, the chair has authority to structure meetings. Hill had said the change was an experiment to see if it would make meetings more efficient, especially for people with business on the agenda. In October, Hill restored the general public comment period at the start of meetings.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 2/1/24]

- **Andriola supported restoration of public comments at the beginning of meetings.** “Contrary to the county GOP resolution, Andriola supported restoration of public comments at the beginning of meetings.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 2/1/24]
- **Hill restored the comment period, in part due to a request from Andriola.** “At the time, the RGJ reported that comments from Republican commissioners Herman and Mike Clark ‘as well as a request from Commissioner Clara Andriola inspired her (Hill) to make the change ‘in the spirit of compromise.’” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 2/1/24]

The GOP criticized Andriola for approving the hiring of “the left-wing consulting firm The Elections Group for a whopping \$600K in a no-compete bid approval process.” “The resolution also says Andriola approved ‘the County Manager's hiring of the left-wing consulting firm The Elections Group for a whopping \$600K in a no-compete bid approval process.’” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 2/1/24]

- **The Elections Group bills itself as nonpartisan and is ran by a former Utah election official.** “The Elections Group bills itself as nonpartisan, and its CEO is a former Utah election official and Air Force veteran.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 2/1/24]
- **Andriola said election integrity was a “huge concern,” but claimed the resolution had misrepresented what happened.** “Andriola said election integrity is a “huge concern,” but that the resolution misrepresents what happened. ‘That item actually included \$100,000 for Phase One and \$500,000 for Phase Two,’ she said of an agenda item for The Elections Group voted on

by commissioners. ‘I led the charge to not approve the \$500,000 as presented.’ Phase One was to audit the county's 2022 election processes, and Phase Two was for possible work helping to implement the audit's recommendations. Andriola said that before agreeing to fund Phase Two, she wanted to see the results of the audit, which was nearly done when the funding vote took place. She noted that \$100,000 is within the county manager's authority to spend without commission approval. Phase Two funding was never approved.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 2/1/24]

The GOP criticized Andriola for approving equipment it claimed was vulnerable to hacking and for ignoring “expert testimony that proves the county is violating voter’s rights.” “In addition to approving equipment the county party says is vulnerable to hacking, the resolution says, Andriola ignored ‘expert testimony that proves the county is violating voter's rights.’” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 2/1/24]

- **A lawsuit by Robert Beadles, who claimed the county violated his voter rights, was rejected in district court and appealed to the Nevada Supreme Court.** “A lawsuit by Robert Beadles, a Washoe County Republican Party central committee member who claimed the county violated his voter rights, was rejected in district court and he was ordered to pay the county's legal fees. He has appealed to the Nevada Supreme Court.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 2/1/24]
- **Andriola faced attacks from Robert Beadles, a prominent Republican donor and election conspiracy theorist.** “Despite being of different political parties, both Hill and Andriola have faced attacks from Robert Beadles, a prominent Republican donor and election conspiracy theorist.” [Nevada Independent, 3/27/24]

The GOP condemned Andriola for approving the Truckee Meadows Public Lands Management Act, a public lands bill from U.S. Sen. Jacky Rosen. “The resolution said Andriola shouldn't have approved a public lands bill that U.S. Sen. Jacky Rosen, a Nevada Democrat, introduced. Among other things, the Truckee Meadows Public Lands Management Act would make just under 16,000 acres of federally controlled land eligible for sale with the intention of inspiring economic development.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 2/1/24]

- **Andriola stood by the public lands bill, saying “the city of Sparks unanimously voted for it.”** “It had been negotiated for years with local officials and conservation groups. It was supported by the Reno-Sparks Chamber of Commerce. ‘The city of Sparks unanimously voted for it,’ Andriola said, adding she stands by her vote.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 2/1/24]

The GOP resolution said Andriola had agreed to the appointment of “liberals’ to boards and committees in Washoe County “in lieu of a conservative,” but Andriola said she had no idea what that was in reference to. “The resolution also says Andriola had agreed to the appointment of ‘liberals’ to boards and committees in Washoe County ‘in lieu of a conservative.’ Andriola said she has no idea what this is referring to. ‘Give me a name,’ she said. ‘The reality is that I'm the only commissioner that I'm aware of that goes through an extensive process to look at board appointments.’ She said she calls every applicant and asks them the same questions to determine who is best qualified.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 2/1/24]

Terisia Kolesnick, a GOP Central Committee member and candidate for Nevada Assembly, said it was “pretty plain” that Andriola was not “really a Republican, she’s a RINO,” though she did not know Andriola Personally. “Terisia Kolesnick is a Washoe County Republican Party central committee member who voted in favor of the resolution against Andriola. Kolesnick, who is running for

a Nevada Assembly seat in District 24, said that although she didn't know Andriola personally, she'd read about her online and listened to all the comments about her and her record at Monday night's meeting. 'It's pretty plain to me that she isn't really a Republican, she's a RINO,' said Kolesnick, referring to Republicans in Name Only. 'I'm very conservative.'" [Reno Gazette-Journal, 2/1/24]

A letter signed by a few dozen registered Republicans was sent to the Washoe County Republican Party asking the committee to reject the resolution on Andriola. "A letter signed by a few dozen active registered Republicans was sent Monday to the Washoe County Republican Party asking the central committee to reject the resolution." [Reno Gazette-Journal, 2/1/24]

Republican Gov. Lombardo said he was "outrated" with the Washoe County GOP for excommunicating Andriola and reiterated his "absolute support for Clara." "Lombardo also said he was 'outraged' with the Washoe County GOP — Nevada's lone swing county — for excommunicating a Republican county commissioner he had appointed. The Washoe County GOP said that Clara Andriola's bipartisan votes 'intentionally and willfully failed to uphold the Republicans and the Republican brand,' according to the Reno Gazette-Journal. 'I've had several conversations with the players in the space,' Lombardo said. 'And I've been very, very, very vocal in my absolute support for Clara.'" [Reno Gazette-Journal, 3/7/24]

On The Issues

Cannabis

Andriola voted against allowing cannabis consumption lounges in Washoe County. "Commissioners Clark, Clara Andriola and Jeanne Herman all Republicans voted against allowing cannabis consumption lounges in Washoe County." [Northern Nevada Business View, July 2023]

Energy & Environment

Andriola voted to rescind Ormat Technologies' permit to drill exploratory wells for a geothermal project. "Ormat Technologies' proposed geothermal exploration in the Gerlach area is on hold after Washoe County commissioners voted 3-2 Tuesday to rescind a permit needed to move forward with the project. Commissioners Jeanne Herman, Mike Clark and Clara Andriola voted to rescind the permit. Chair Alexis Hill and Commissioner Mariluz Garcia voted against. In January, the county's Board of Adjustment approved an administrative permit for the project. The permit was one of several local and federal permits necessary for Ormat Technologies to be able to drill up to 13 geothermal test wells with associated facilities around Gerlach." [Reno Gazette Journal, [4/11/23](#)]

Health Care

In an op-ed, Andriola criticized a provision in the senate health care reform bill that "essentially excluded small construction companies" from receiving an "important exemption" from mandates requiring employers to provide health benefits. "Last minute backroom deals and hastily prepared eleventh hour amendments are a way of life in the United States Congress. We accept this as a regrettable reality in American politics. However, a last second amendment to the Senate health care reform bill, proposed by Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.), threatens to deliver a crippling blow to America's construction industry. When the bill passed the Senate last month, legislators wisely exempted small businesses (defined as those with fewer than 50 employees) from mandates requiring employers to provide health benefits to their employees. Unfortunately, as the clock was running out, Sen. Merkley

managed to slip five devastating paragraphs into the bill, which essentially excluded small construction companies from receiving this important exemption. There was no discussion and no debate, just an ill-advised last second maneuver inexplicably targeting one of America's most important industries.” [Elko Daily Free Press, 1/19/10]

Labor

Andriola wrote a letter to the editor that said “Many believe Labor Day focuses on labor unions” but “only 13 percent of the nation's construction workers currently choose to join a labor union, while 87 percent work in a merit shop, free-enterprise setting.” “Many believe Labor Day focuses on labor unions. However, the fact of the matter is that according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, only 13 percent of the nation's construction workers currently choose to join a labor union, while 87 percent work in a merit shop, free-enterprise setting. So this Labor Day, let's remember to thank all the construction professionals, regardless of labor affiliation, whose hard work building America each day improves all of our lives.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 8/28/06]

- **Andriola: “this Labor Day, let's remember to thank all the construction professionals, regardless of labor affiliation, whose hard work building America each day improves all of our lives.”** “Many believe Labor Day focuses on labor unions. However, the fact of the matter is that according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, only 13 percent of the nation's construction workers currently choose to join a labor union, while 87 percent work in a merit shop, free-enterprise setting. So this Labor Day, let's remember to thank all the construction professionals, regardless of labor affiliation, whose hard work building America each day improves all of our lives.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 8/28/06]

2004: Andriola was president of the Associated Builders and Contractors Sierra Chapter when it claimed union banners at a construction project were illegal picketing. “The National Labor Relations Board has entered into a tentative settlement with Local 971 of the Reno Carpenters Union to settle unfair labor practice charges filed by the Sierra Nevada Chapter of the Associated Builders and Contractors. The union was charged for illegal picketing of Pinecrest Development and Dynamic Drywall at the Kietzke office construction project. The NLRB initially decided that the Union banners were illegal after Reno Labor Attorney Mark Thierman filed charges. The Union has indicated it will cease the bannering and picketing and make whole anyone who was injured by their actions. A formal settlement agreement has been drafted including a notice to inform the public that the union will no longer engage in such illegal picketing again. ABC President Clara Andriola called the decision of the NLRB precedent-setting because it exposed the union's bannering as a disguised form of illegal picketing. ‘I don't care how tall or wide or low the banner is, a banner is nothing more than a large picket sign, and the union should not be allowed to avoid the secondary boycott law just because it carries a non-regulation size sign,’ Andriola said.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 5/14/04]

- **Andriola: “I don't care how tall or wide or low the banner is, a banner is nothing more than a large picket sign, and the union should not be allowed to avoid the secondary boycott law just because it carries a non-regulation size sign.”** “ABC President Clara Andriola called the decision of the NLRB precedent-setting because it exposed the union's bannering as a disguised form of illegal picketing. ‘I don't care how tall or wide or low the banner is, a banner is nothing more than a large picket sign, and the union should not be allowed to avoid the secondary boycott law just because it carries a non-regulation size sign,’ Andriola said.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 5/14/04]

Andriola said the Associated Builders and Contractors' mission was to help prevent any type of workplace accident. "Clara Andriola, president of the Associated Builders and Contractors in Reno, said it is the organizations mission to help prevent any type of workplace accident. 'We have a very clear, very deep commitment in helping any contractor educate their employees,' Andriola said. "If we can help create a safe environment for all employees, we have really accomplished a lot." [Reno Gazette-Journal, 10/23/05]

2009: Andriola wrote an op-ed arguing that non-union members should be allowed to access the jobs created by Obama's American Recovery & Reinvestment. "Obama's economic stimulus package, in creating public works 'shovel-ready' construction projects, offers similar parallels to FDR's New Deal road-to-recovery jobs. But who will be doing the work? It won't include the majority of Nevada's construction work force. Instead, the promised job creation through Obama's American Recovery & Reinvestment proposed \$775 billion to \$1 trillion plan will be reserved for union-only members [...] Many sectors of the economy are hurting, especially the construction industry. Economic recovery predictions remain bleak and when people aren't working they are not spending. Eliminating the majority of the construction work force will deepen the economic situation and continue to stifle consumer confidence. America is supposed to be the land of the free with opportunities for all. Isn't it?" [Reno Gazette-Journal, 1/21/09]

LGBTQ

Andriola voted against reappoint Library Trustee Amy Ghilieri, amid public outcry over a Drag Queen Story Hour program. "Displeasure by some community members with the Washoe County Library System over Drag Queen Story Hour and children's access to books with adult-themed content derailed the reappointment of a library board trustee at Tuesday's county commission meeting. 'I am absolutely adamantly opposed to reappointing somebody who's caused such a stir in the community,' Commissioner Mike Clark said, referring to Library Trustee Amy Ghilieri. [...] During public comment, Nichelle Hull said Ghilieri showed disdain for people speaking at library board meetings and that critics seek the end to only one of the library system's hundreds of programs: Drag Queen Story Hour. [...] County staff had recommended that commissioners reappoint Ghilieri to another four-year term as a trustee on the library board, where she serves as chair. Commissioners voted 3-2 not to reappoint her, with Garcia and Alexis Hill in favor of keeping Ghilieri while Clark, Jeanne Herman and Clara Andriola voted against." [Reno Gazette-Journal, 7/12/23]

Religion

Andriola requested that the board considering doing invocations before meetings. "Washoe County has not historically had 'invocations' – a word used for prayers at the beginning of government meetings that are often nondenominational in content. In June 2023, Commissioner Clara Andriola requested that the board consider doing this." [Reno Gazette-Journal, 1/16/24]

Andriola left chambers during a "satanic invocation" and publicly stated that she disagreed with the invocation presenter, Reno Satanic's Jason Miller. "Andriola left chambers during the satanic invocation. Reno Satanic's Jason Miller, standing at the dais, began by reciting a bit of Latin that included references to Satan and Lucifer. Invocations are limited to two minutes, and his was short. [...] Later in the meeting, when it was time for commissioner comments, Andriola said she would like to publicly state that she disagreed with the invocation presenter." [Reno Gazette-Journal, 1/16/24]

2006: Andriola said Republican gubernatorial candidate Jim Gibbons had “a proven track record of supporting free enterprise in our country and especially in Nevada.” “‘Jim has a proven track record of supporting free enterprise in our country and especially in Nevada,’ said Clara Andriola, president of the Sierra Nevada Chapter of the Associated Builders and Contractors.” [AP, 10/19/06]

Trump

2024: Andriola supported Trump for president. “Tonight is the Republican Caucus. I’m looking forward to supporting President Trump and getting our country back on the right path!” [Facebook, [2/8/24](#)]

- **Andriola endorsed Trump.** [Instagram, [2/8/24](#)] (image)

Boards & Memberships

2004: Andriola joined the advisory board for the Nevada Small Business Development Center. “The Nevada Small Business Development Center has announced the addition of four new members to its advisory board: Clara Andriola, Vince Goicoechea, Gary Rosenbloom, and Diane Torry.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 5/19/04]

2007: Gov. Jim Gibbons appointed Andriola to the Workforce Investment Board. “During his three months in office, Governor Jim Gibbons has made 52 appointments to state boards and commissions in addition to his appointment or reappointment of 16 cabinet members and the appointment of two Clark County district judges and two county commissioners for Clark and Lincoln Counties. [...] Workforce Investment Board Dianne Cornwall (state employee) Larry Mosley Las Vegas Clara Andriola Reno” [Press Release, Governor of Nevada, 3/29/07]

2014-present: Andriola was Executive Director of the Reno Rodeo Foundation, a nonprofit supported children with extraordinary needs. “Since 2014, she has held the position of Executive Director for the Reno Rodeo Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting children with extraordinary needs in 14 northern NV counties since 1986.” [Washoe County, accessed [3/28/24](#)]

Leadership Roles:

- Council Member, State of Nevada Apprenticeship Council, Labor Commissioner appointed
- Commissioner Member and Past Chair, State of Nevada Commission on Postsecondary Education, Governor appointed
- Board representative and founding member, Nevada Board of Plumbing Examiners
- Board Member, Nevada Governor’s Workforce Investment Board, Governor appointed
- Member, Vice-Chair Sparks Planning Commission
- Member, Sparks Advisory Committee
- Board Member, Academy of Career Education High School
- Member, American Society of Association of Executives

[Washoe County, accessed [3/28/24](#)]

Awards

2005: Andriola received a Citizen Commendation Certificate for helping a woman found lying in a parking lot. “Clara Andriola and Share Porri were awarded Citizen Commendation Certificates for helping a woman found lying in a parking lot and not breathing in June 2005. The two Reno women

gave mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and other emergency aid to the victim until fire department personnel arrived.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 3/31/06]

Community Involvement & Recognition:

- Best in Business 2020 High Profile Leaders to Know
- 2018 Top 20 Most Powerful Women of the Sierra Nevada
- Association of Fundraising Professional Sierra Nevada Chapter past board member
- 2017 Graduate of Chamber of Commerce Reno Sparks Leadership
- Nevada Women’s Fund Salute to Women Honoree
- Rotary Club Sparks Centennial Sunrise past member and marketing chair

[Washoe County, accessed [3/28/24](#)]

TRACEY HILTON-THOMAS

Background & Philosophy

1997: Hilton-Thomas was a Washoe County Intern – MIS. [Washoe County, accessed [3/28/24](#)]

1999-2015: Hilton-Thomas worked in Washoe County Tech Services. [Washoe County, accessed [3/28/24](#)]

2010-2014: Hilton-Thomas was a Washoe County Employee Association Board Member. [Washoe County, accessed [3/28/24](#)]

2016-2018: Hilton-Thomas was a Grand Jury Foreperson. [Washoe County, accessed [3/28/24](#)]

2019: Hilton-Thomas was a Field Registrar for Naturalization Ceremonies. [Washoe County, accessed [3/28/24](#)]

2000 – 2018: Hilton-Thomas was Washoe County Polling Place Manager. [Washoe County, accessed [3/28/24](#)]

2020: Hilton-Thomas was a Washoe County Poll Worker Trainer and Poll Worker. [Washoe County, accessed [3/28/24](#)]

Hilton-Thomas received an Associates of Business Administration – Mid-Management from Truckee Meadows Community College, Reno. [Washoe County, accessed [3/28/24](#)]

Bachelors of Business Administration – Management with a Minor in Information Systems from University of Nevada, Reno. [Washoe County, accessed [3/28/24](#)]

2022: Hilton-Thomas said she was planning to run for county commission in 2024 when Vaughn Hartung’s term expired. “Hilton-Thomas said she had no comment about the recall petition but said she’s ready to run if it succeeds. The former county worker said she was planning to run in 2024 anyway when Hartung’s term expires.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 3/26/22]

2024: Many public commenters who questioned Interim Registrar Cari-Ann Burgess’s qualifications recommended that Tracey Hilton-Thomas be appointed as interim registrar, including Robert Beadles. “Many of those commenting recommended that Washoe County

Commission District 4 candidate Tracey Hilton-Thomas be appointed as interim registrar. That group included Robert Beadles a prominent Republican donor and conspiracy theorist active in state and county politics and who has filed multiple lawsuits against the county and state citing fantastical allegations of massive voter fraud.” [Sparks Tribune, 2/9/24]

- **Beadles praised Hilton-Thomas for questioning the county’s handling of the 2020 election.** “Andriola is also set to run against Hilton-Thomas in the upcoming primary election for a full term on the commission. Hilton-Thomas was praised by Beadles (himself an executive member of the county party) and others in public comment for her questioning of the county's handling of the 2020 election.” [Sparks Tribune, 2/9/24]
- **Beadles was a prominent Republican donor and conspiracy theorist active in local politics.** “Many of those commenting recommended that Washoe County Commission District 4 candidate Tracey Hilton-Thomas be appointed as interim registrar. That group included Robert Beadles a prominent Republican donor and conspiracy theorist active in state and county politics and who has filed multiple lawsuits against the county and state citing fantastical allegations of massive voter fraud.” [Sparks Tribune, 2/9/24]
- **Beadles filed multiple lawsuits against Washoe County and Nevada citing fantastical allegations of massive voter fraud.** “Many of those commenting recommended that Washoe County Commission District 4 candidate Tracey Hilton-Thomas be appointed as interim registrar. That group included Robert Beadles a prominent Republican donor and conspiracy theorist active in state and county politics and who has filed multiple lawsuits against the county and state citing fantastical allegations of massive voter fraud.” [Sparks Tribune, 2/9/24]

2022: Robert Beadles sought to have Tracey Hilton-Thomas replace Washoe County Commissioner Vaughn Hartung, whom he targeted with a recall effort. “It's unknown how many signatures were collected before the petition was withdrawn, she said. Beadles, who also put up money to cover the cost of signature verification for the recall, said he still plans to see Hartung recalled and his preferred candidate Tracey Hilton-Thomas replace him.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 3/26/22]

- **Hilton-Thomas refused to comment on the attempted recall of Hartung, but said she was ready to run if it succeeds.** “Hilton-Thomas said she had no comment about the recall petition but said she's ready to run if it succeeds. The former county worker said she was planning to run in 2024 anyway when Hartung's term expires.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 3/26/22]
- **Robert Beadles ran an ad featuring accusations against former Washoe County Commissioner Vaughn Hartung, as part of an effort to call into question election integrity in Washoe County.** “A petition to recall Washoe County commissioner Vaughn Hartung was withdrawn Friday, but the person funding it has vowed to find others to submit it again. [...] The tipping point for withdrawing the petition came when she heard a radio ad making accusations against Hartung she felt were unsubstantiated and unfair. The ad is part of Robert Beadles' Operation Sunlight effort to call into question election integrity in Washoe County.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 3/26/22]
- **Beadles paid for the cost of signature verification for the recall effort against Hartung.** “It's unknown how many signatures were collected before the petition was withdrawn, she said. Beadles, who also put up money to cover the cost of signature verification for the recall, said he

still plans to see Hartung recalled and his preferred candidate Tracey Hilton-Thomas replace him.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 3/26/22]

2024: Hilton-Thomas was the vice-chair of the Washoe County Republican Party when it voted to oust Commissioner Clara Andriola, a Republican who voted in favor of appointing Cari-Ann Burgess as interim registrar. “Hilton-Thomas is the vice chair of the Washoe County Republican Party, which recently voted to oust Commissioner Clara Andriola, a Republican who voted in favor of appointing Burgess as interim registrar. [Sparks Tribune, 2/9/24]

- **Hilton-Thomas did not participate in the discussion or the vote to oust Andriola.** “Andriola's primary opponent is Tracey Hilton-Thomas, vice chair of the Washoe County Republican Party. Hilton-Thomas did not participate in the discussion or vote.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 2/1/24]
- **2020: Burgess filled in as Itasca County elections administrator after her predecessor left due to harassment.** “Nevada is no exception. Ninety-eight percent of Nevadans will see their elections run by a different person this election compared to 2020, the year Burgess began her role as the Itasca County elections administrator in Minnesota, where she is originally from. ‘I stepped into the election in September of 2020 after my predecessor had a few issues,’ Burgess said in an interview with The Nevada Independent. ‘She felt the pressure. She felt she was starting to get a little bit more harassment in the 2020 election. And my boss at the time asked me if I could do it.’ Burgess accepted, citing her experience in elections since 2017 holding positions from poll worker to head election worker before taking on more administrative duties. But after five years working in elections in Minnesota and a year and a half as elections administrator, she left because of work-related stress.” [Sparks Tribune, 2/9/24]
- **Several people questioned Burgess’ experience and recommended Tracey Hilton-Thomas.** “During public comment, several people questioned Burgess' experience and recommended Tracey Hilton-Thomas a Republican running against incumbent Clara Andriola in District 4 in the upcoming election take on the role instead.” [Sparks Tribune, 1/20/24]

On The Issues

Election Denial & Voter Fraud

Hilton-Thomas shared an article titled “1 in 5 admits 2020 election fraud” with the caption “Is this one of the same sources that reported the 2020 election as the most secure election???? 🤔” [Facebook, [1/25/24](#)]

Hilton-Thomas shared a link to a video claiming a couple “discovered nearly 600,000 Illinois voting violations” with the caption “we are not alone.” “We are not alone..... <https://rumble.com/v4mgu6n-3.30.24-It-w-ken-and-jodie-zitko-dedicated-lives-to-fixing-our-elections-di.html>” [Facebook, [3/31/24](#)]

Hilton-Thomas allegedly warned Washoe County Commissioners about 2020 election issues. “Tracey Hilton-Thomas Warned The Commissioners About The 2020 Election Issues, Only Herman Took Action, Now We’re Worse Off Than In 2020!” [Operation Sunlight, [3/13/22](#)]

- **Hilton-Thomas requested that the commissioners require bipartisan confirmation of each and every signature.** "IF Washoe County is going to continue using signatures for verification, please make amendments to require bipartisan confirmation of each and every signature, whether submitted in-person or on a paper envelope. Washoe County is actually in a prime position to implement 'thumbprint' verification!" [Operation Sunlight, accessed [3/29/24](#)]
- **Hilton-Thomas:** "To encourage confidence and security in Washoe County's election system, staff and/or independent authority needs the ability to conduct 'forensic' audits. Please mandate open source software on Washoe County's election equipment." [Operation Sunlight, accessed [3/29/24](#)]
- **Hilton-Thomas claimed that two friends received ballots for deceased loved ones and called for revisions to establish mandates for maintaining clean rolls.** "I was questioned by two friends of why they received ballots for their deceased loved ones This MUST be improved ... Please provide revisions establishing consistent weekly mandates for maintaining clean rolls, as well as the day following an election day, BEFORE election results are certified." [Operation Sunlight, accessed [3/29/24](#)]
- **Hilton-Thomas claimed to have spoken with several polling place managers who registered voters with California drivers licenses because they showed a Reno address.** "In the call center, I spoke to several polling place managers who were registering voters with California drivers licenses because they showed Reno address (unconstitutional deviations from the technicalities of the election code). [...] Please provide revisions outlining the process for fraudulent registrations." [Operation Sunlight, accessed [3/29/24](#)]
- **Hilton-Thomas claimed to witness dozens of voters being flagged for successfully casting a digital ballot after submitting a paper ballot.** "I personally witnessed more than a dozen voters 'flagged' in Washoe County's 'ding-ding' program for successfully casting a digital ballot after a paper ballot had already been received in the office. Three were 'flagged' by me. One was a registered democrat, one was republican, and one was independent. So, this is NOT partisan specific. There were also several that attempted to vote twice, but we were able to call the manager in time for them to pull their card before they could cast another ballot. However, no record was kept of these 'attempts.'" [Operation Sunlight, accessed [3/29/24](#)]
- **Hilton-Thomas claimed "there were also several that attempted to vote twice, but we were able to call the manager in time for them to pull their card before they could cast another ballot. However, no record was kept of these 'attempts.'"** "I personally witnessed more than a dozen voters 'flagged' in Washoe County's 'ding-ding' program for successfully casting a digital ballot after a paper ballot had already been received in the office. Three were 'flagged' by me. One was a registered democrat, one was republican, and one was independent. So, this is NOT partisan specific. There were also several that attempted to vote twice, but we were able to call the manager in time for them to pull their card before they could cast another ballot. However, no record was kept of these 'attempts.'" [Operation Sunlight, accessed [3/29/24](#)]

Trump



Hilton-Thomas’s campaign Facebook page posted a photo of Hilton-Thomas with former President Donald Trump. [Facebook, [1/15/24](#)]

- **Hilton-Thomas met Trump in 2017.** “Finally received our photos from the President's visit on 12/17. I whole heartedly endorse America First policies, especially as they apply to the residents of Washoe County.” [Facebook, [12/29/23](#)]
- **Hilton-Thomas: “I whole heartedly endorse America First policies, especially as they apply to the residents of Washoe County.”** “Finally received our photos from the President's visit on 12/17. I whole heartedly endorse America First policies, especially as they apply to the residents of Washoe County.” [Facebook, [12/29/23](#)]

Hilton-Thomas shared a Facebook video in which President Bill Clinton said “illegal aliens” that was captioned “Bill Clinton said this in 1995 and got a standing ovation Trump says it in 2016 and he’s a racist?” [Facebook, [2/4/24](#)]

Legal Issues

2004: Hilton-Thomas was ordered to pay \$2,293.67 to Christopher S. Reichman in a small claims court case. “Judgment entered in favor of the plaintiff and against the defendant in the sum of \$2097.68 plus court costs of \$98.00 for a total judgment in the sum of \$2293.67.” [Case 04-SC-84057, Washoe County Justice Courts, accessed 4/1/24]

- **Hilton-Thomas satisfied the judgment in December 2004.** “Judgment entered in favor of the plaintiff and against the defendant in the sum of \$2097.68 plus court costs of \$98.00 for a total judgment in the sum of \$2293.67.” [Case 04-SC-84057, Washoe County Justice Courts, accessed 4/1/24]

MARK LAWSON

Background & Philosophy

Lawson was born and raised in Sparks, NV. “I am 55 years old. I was born and raised in Sparks, and all my family still lives there. My wife Melissa and I have 2 children. For 32 years, I worked as an executive firefighter with CalFire and Mariposa in California. In 2019, I retired and returned home to Sparks.” [Marklawson4nevada.com, accessed [4/2/24](#)]

Lawson is married and has two children. “I am 55 years old. I was born and raised in Sparks, and all my family still lives there. My wife Melissa and I have 2 children. For 32 years, I worked as an executive firefighter with CalFire and Mariposa in California. In 2019, I retired and returned home to Sparks.” [Marklawson4nevada.com, accessed [4/2/24](#)]

Lawson said he was “running to improve government openness, transparency, and accountability so corrupt government officials — like the ones who defamed me, tried to ruin me professionally and schemed to deprive me of my freedom — don’t do that to someone else.” “I’m running to improve government openness, transparency, and accountability so corrupt government officials — like the ones who defamed me, tried to ruin me professionally and schemed to deprive me of my freedom — don’t do that to someone else. Someone who opposes them. Someone they don’t like.” [Marklawson4nevada.com, accessed [4/2/24](#)]

Lawson’s website listed “accountability in homeless assistance,” “prioritizing seniors,” and “the increase in short term rentals in Incline Village” as priorities in District 4. [Marklawson4nevada.com, accessed [4/2/24](#)]

Lawson posted “Donald J. Trump has a sold out sneaker ... Never Surrender, I understand that.” “Donald J. Trump has a sold out sneaker ... Never Surrender, I understand that. #marklawson” [Facebook, [3/10/24](#)]

Lawson is a retired fire chief and police officer with over 34 years of public service experience. “Retired Fire Chief / Police Officer (34) years. Government Background: Former Firefighter Former Law Enforcement Officer Former Small Business Owner Former College Educator Reason for seeking position: With over (34) years of public service in both the states of California and Nevada, I still have a passion to serve the citizens within Northern Nevada but in a different capacity of an elected official.” [2024 Candidates, WashoeCounty.gov, accessed [3/29/24](#)]

Lawson was the Assistant Chief/Division Chief of Operations for California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection in Merced, California. “Mark Lawson, 32 years in the fire service; experience includes being the former Assistant Chief/Division Chief of Operations for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) of the Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit in Merced, California” [Sparks Tribune, 9/24/22]

Lawson has a college degree in fire science. “College Degree in Fire Science.” [2024 Candidates, WashoeCounty.gov, accessed [3/29/24](#)]

Legal Issues

December 2022: Lawson resigned less than a week after being hired as Sparks Fire Chief, due to impending criminal charges. “Less than a week after being hired, Sparks Fire Chief Mark Lawson has resigned. ‘I am here with terrible bad horrible news,’ said city manager Neil Krutz in a video message to Sparks Fire Department employees Monday. He said the city had learned late last week that ‘serious criminal charges’ were about to be filed against Lawson. The specific criminal charges against Lawson have not yet been announced.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 12/5/22]

Lawson faced four felony drug charges, including possession of a controlled substance and sale of a controlled substance. “Four felony drug charges were announced Friday against Mark Lawson after

he resigned Monday as Sparks fire chief. The charges include possession of a controlled substance and sale of a controlled substance.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 12/10/22]

- **Lawson’s drug charges were related to steroids.** “The felony drug charges against Mark Lawson, who was Sparks fire chief for less than a week, involve steroids. [...] Both face charges of: •Conspiracy to violate the uniform controlled substances act. •Possession of a controlled substance – Lawson faces two counts of this; Forrester one. •Sale of a controlled substance. Counts 2 and 4 say that on or about Aug. 26, 2021, Lawson possessed 34.6 grams of anabolic steroids and on or about July 28, 2021, Forrester possessed 45 grams. Counts 5 and 6 say that over a period of months, they possessed the steroids ‘for the purpose of sale.’ The steroids are considered Schedule III controlled substances.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 12/12/22]
- **Lawson and another man were accused of illegally possessed anabolic steroids for the purpose of selling the drugs.** “A former Cal Fire division chief faces multiple charges in Nevada related to allegations he and another man illegally possessed anabolic steroids for the purpose of selling the drugs.” [Fresno Bee, 12/13/22]

Weeks later, Lawson said he never gave his resignation and wanted to be reinstated. “The former Sparks fire chief accused of illegal possession and distribution of steroids says he never gave his resignation and wants to be reinstated. Mark Lawson's lawyers said in a letter sent to Sparks officials this week he should be returned to his role and placed on paid administrative leave pending the outcome of his criminal case. They said Lawson maintains his innocence and threatened to file a civil lawsuit alleging he was ‘condemned, terminated and tried in the public’ before criminal charges had been filed. But he is confident the criminal complaint will be dismissed.” [AP, 12/23/22]

- **Lawson’s lawyers argued that he should be returned to the role and placed on paid administrative leave pending the outcome of his criminal case.** “The former Sparks fire chief accused of illegal possession and distribution of steroids says he never gave his resignation and wants to be reinstated. Mark Lawson's lawyers said in a letter sent to Sparks officials this week he should be returned to his role and placed on paid administrative leave pending the outcome of his criminal case. They said Lawson maintains his innocence and threatened to file a civil lawsuit alleging he was ‘condemned, terminated and tried in the public’ before criminal charges had been filed. But he is confident the criminal complaint will be dismissed.” [AP, 12/23/22]

January 2023: Lawson sought over \$400,000 from the city of Sparks for damage to his reputation, attorney fees, and unused leave and wages. “Mark Lawson's attorney sent a second demand letter Thursday to the city of Sparks over his short-lived stint fire chief. The letter gives a deadline of two weeks for those demands to be addressed, including possible presentation to the city council, or else ‘Chief Lawson will be left with no other choice but to seek relief in the courts.’ The city says, ‘Mr. Lawson is not currently employed with the city of Sparks. As this matter is now at the pre-litigation stage, the city of Sparks does not have any further comment.’ The letter seeks \$441,218.83 – \$250,000 for alleged damage to his reputation, \$20,000 for attorney fees and costs, and the rest for wages and unused leave. It also requests health and disability insurance for six months. The first demand letter sought reinstatement.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 1/20/23]

February 2023: Sparks City Council rejected Lawson’s \$441,000 settlement offer. “With no comment, the Sparks City Council unanimously rejected a \$441,000 settlement offer Monday regarding former fire chief Mark Lawson. Assistant City Attorney Brandon Sendall informed the council that the

settlement offer was above the city manager's approval threshold so it was up to them to decide how to handle it.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 2/15/23]

March 2023: Lawson rejected a \$100,000 settlement offer from Sparks City Council. “The Sparks City Council approved a \$100,000 counteroffer Monday afternoon to settle a lawsuit by former fire chief Mark Lawson – and he has rejected it. Last month, Lawson submitted a letter to the city through his attorney with his ‘last, best, and final offer’ of \$170,000. The council voted down that amount before proposing and approving the \$100,000 counteroffer.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 3/14/23]

October 2023: Lawson asked for a \$600,000 settlement from the city of Sparks. “The price has more than tripled for the city of Sparks to settle a lawsuit by Mark Lawson over his termination as fire chief. A ‘last, best, and final settlement offer of \$600,000’ was conveyed in a demand letter sent Tuesday to Sparks city attorney Wes Duncan.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 10/27/23]

January 2024: Sparks City Council rejected Lawson’s \$600,000 settlement offer. “The Sparks City Council on Monday unanimously rejected the ‘last, best and final settlement offer of \$600,000’ by former fire chief Mark Lawson in his civil lawsuit. Lawson claims his employment contract’s requirements for written notice of termination and severance were not honored when he was let go in December 2022, just a few days into the job. Lawson says he was fired, while then-city manager Neil Krutz said publicly that Lawson resigned upon news that he would soon be arrested on four felony steroid charges. Lawson maintains his innocence. Council members did not publicly comment during Monday’s meeting nor ask questions of the attorney the city retained to handle the case. The next step in Lawson’s civil case is mediation with the city. It’s scheduled for Jan. 30, a day before a preliminary hearing in Lawson’s criminal case is scheduled in Sparks Justice Court.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 1/9/24]

February 2024: Lawson’s felony charges were dismissed without prejudice, though the Nevada Attorney General’s office said they planned to refile soon. “Former Sparks fire chief Mark Lawson’s criminal case on four felony steroid charges was dismissed without prejudice Wednesday – and a settlement agreement has been reached in his civil case against the city for wrongful termination. ‘Without prejudice’ means the case can be refiled by prosecutors. The state of Nevada was trying the case against Lawson and moved for a continuance to delay Wednesday's hearing. The state's attorney said out-of-state witnesses were not present ‘because of budget issues with the State of Nevada,’ according to Sparks Justice Court comments posted online. And the state wanted ‘a few weeks’ to go through discovery documents it’d received the week before. Justice of the Peace Jessica Longley denied the request for a delay, saying ‘the State had notice and was not surprised about the non-attendance of the witnesses,’ according to the court website. The Nevada Attorney General’s office told the RGJ via email, ‘We do plan to refile soon, but have no further comment.’” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 2/2/24]

February 2024: Sparks City Council approved a \$381,000 settlement for Lawson. “After rejecting a settlement agreement of \$170,000 about a year ago, the Sparks City Council voted Monday to pay more than twice that amount to former fire chief Mark Lawson over wrongful termination and defamation claims. The unanimous vote was made without comment to pay Lawson \$381,000.” [Reno Gazette-Journal, 2/13/24]

TRISTA GOMEZ

Background & Philosophy

Gomez said she was running for office because “the current appointee has not voted with the residents and constituents of our district in a way that is consistent with our needs and values.” “The current appointee has not voted with the residents and constituents of our district in a way that is consistent with our needs and values. I hope to provide a voice consistent with our demographic, with my wide range of experience - common sense that also cares about the community as a whole and the issues that affect us. We know where the road ends when highly paid, unaccountable government leaders create inefficient and cumbersome policies.” [2024 Candidates, WashoeCounty.gov, accessed [3/29/24](#)]

Gomez: “We know where the road ends when highly paid, unaccountable government leaders create inefficient and cumbersome policies.” “The current appointee has not voted with the residents and constituents of our district in a way that is consistent with our needs and values. I hope to provide a voice consistent with our demographic, with my wide range of experience - common sense that also cares about the community as a whole and the issues that affect us. We know where the road ends when highly paid, unaccountable government leaders create inefficient and cumbersome policies.” [2024 Candidates, WashoeCounty.gov, accessed [3/29/24](#)]

Gomez is a 4th generation Northern Nevadan. “I am a 4th generation Northern Nevadan. The first to graduate college in my family of blue collar, hardworking people. My mom was a truck driver and my dad a grease monkey.” [About, trista4washoe.com, accessed [3/29/24](#)]

Gomez was raised in a blue collar family with a mother who was a truck driver and a father she described as a “grease monkey.” “I am a 4th generation Northern Nevadan. The first to graduate college in my family of blue collar, hardworking people. My mom was a truck driver and my dad a grease monkey.” [About, trista4washoe.com, accessed [3/29/24](#)]

Gomez described herself as a mom, wife, and sister. “I graduated from UNR with a degree in Social Work, worked in that field as both a Worker and Supervisor off and on for 10 years. I’ve managed a small business for nearly 17 years and understand the difficulties and poor statistics of small business owners. I’ve also worked in the non-profit sector as a Director and Volunteer. I’ve been a Realtor in the area for about 5 years now. Housing is a huge concern for families and a huge boost and security when you can own. I am a mom, wife, sister and community member that cares about the direction we are headed.” [About, trista4washoe.com, accessed [3/29/24](#)]

Gomez graduated from the University of Nevada with a Bachelor of Social Work. “I graduated from University of Nevada with a Bachelors of Social Work. Before that an AA from TMCC and graduated POST Law Enforcement.” [2024 Candidates, WashoeCounty.gov, accessed [3/29/24](#)]

Gomez graduated from Truckee Meadows Community College with an Associate in Arts degree. “I graduated from University of Nevada with a Bachelors of Social Work. Before that an AA from TMCC and graduated POST Law Enforcement.” [2024 Candidates, WashoeCounty.gov, accessed [3/29/24](#)]

Gomez completed Peace Officer’s Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) law enforcement training. “I graduated from University of Nevada with a Bachelors of Social Work. Before that an AA from TMCC and graduated POST Law Enforcement.” [2024 Candidates, WashoeCounty.gov, accessed [3/29/24](#)]

2014: Gomez worked for the State of Nevada. “For Trista Gomez, who has been working for the State of Nevada for the last four months and travels 36 miles one way from Sparks to the Capital for her daily commute, the last thing she wants to do is be productive on her commute.” [Sparks Tribune, 10/15/14]

- **Gomez commuted 36 miles one way from Sparks, NV to the Capital for her job with the state, saying she enjoyed the down time.** “For Trista Gomez, who has been working for the State of Nevada for the last four months and travels 36 miles one way from Sparks to the Capital for her daily commute, the last thing she wants to do is be productive on her commute. ‘I really enjoy having 35-45 minutes by myself in the morning.; Gomez said. ‘That’s my down time for the day. I won’t get an ear piece because then I’d feel obligated to make phone calls. I really enjoy the commute time.” [Sparks Tribune, 10/15/14]

Nov. 2023-Present: Gomez was a real estate broker at Fathom Realty. [LinkedIn, accessed [4/1/24](#); Facebook, accessed [4/1/24](#)]

- **Gomez’s website claims she has been a Realtor for about 5 years.** “I’ve been a Realtor in the area for about 5 years now.” [About, trista4washoe.com, accessed [3/29/24](#)]

2008-Present: Gomez worked as a part time office manager at Performance Chiropractic Enterprises. [LinkedIn, accessed [4/1/24](#); Facebook, accessed [4/1/24](#)]

1994-2016: According to her LinkedIn, Gomez worked in offices, warehouses, and government agencies. “I’ve been involved in a wide and diverse section of several business operations as an employee, supervisor, with program start-up experience, large systems and in implementation. With a well-rounded knowledge in areas of business from front office to back office, small privately owned business and large agencies, I am able to relate to many areas of an operation. Direct service, community partnering, family systems and problem solving are what I am most passionate about.” [LinkedIn, accessed [4/1/24](#)]

- **Gomez worked in the social work field as a worker and supervisor off and on for 10 years.** “I graduated from UNR with a degree in Social Work, worked in that field as both a Worker and Supervisor off and on for 10 years. I’ve managed a small business for nearly 17 years and understand the difficulties and poor statistics of small business owners. I’ve also worked in the non-profit sector as a Director and Volunteer. I’ve been a Realtor in the area for about 5 years now. Housing is a huge concern for families and a huge boost and security when you can own. I am a mom, wife, sister and community member that cares about the direction we are headed.” [About, trista4washoe.com, accessed [3/29/24](#)]
- **Gomez managed a small business for nearly 17 years.** “I graduated from UNR with a degree in Social Work, worked in that field as both a Worker and Supervisor off and on for 10 years. I’ve managed a small business for nearly 17 years and understand the difficulties and poor statistics of small business owners. I’ve also worked in the non-profit sector as a Director and Volunteer. I’ve been a Realtor in the area for about 5 years now. Housing is a huge concern for families and a huge boost and security when you can own. I am a mom, wife, sister and community member that cares about the direction we are headed.” [About, trista4washoe.com, accessed [3/29/24](#)]

2014: Gomez thought Basket Case Organics had excellent customer service and reasonable pricing. “Long time Sparks residents Aric and Trista Gomez thought that Basket Case had excellent

customer service and reasonable pricing. ‘I think the prices are better than Whole Foods and on par with Smiths organic,’ said Trista Gomez. ‘The great part is you can customize your order for what you need each week if you want or you don’t have to think about it and you can just order their basic box of food.’” [Sparks Tribune, 8/28/14]

MARSELA KUPFERSMITH

Biography & Philosophy

As of March 29, 2024, Kupfersmith had not opted to publish additional background information on the Washoe County online candidates forum. [2024 Candidates, WashoeCounty.gov, accessed [3/29/24](#)]

Kupfersmith is nonpartisan. “Party Affiliation: Nonpartisan” [2024 Candidates, WashoeCounty.gov, accessed [3/29/24](#)]

Kupfersmith listed her occupation as “retired legal secretary.” [2024 Candidates, WashoeCounty.gov, accessed [3/29/24](#)]

1973-1974: Kupfersmith attended the Katharine Gibbs Secretarial School. [LinkedIn, accessed [04/05/24](#)]

Kupfersmith retired at 48 and moved from New York To Washoe County with her husband. “A young senior at 65, Marsy retired earlier than most - when she was just 48. That's when she and her husband moved from New York to Washoe County.” [2 News, [1/27/22](#)]

Kupfersmith was part of the policy committee of the Nevada Housing Coalition. “As an ex-New Yorker, Marsy Kupfersmith, who is also a part of the policy committee of the Nevada Housing Coalition, suggested rent stabilization for Nevada seniors, a concept that has been prevalent in New York since 1969.” [Nevada Current, [7/22/22](#)]

Kupfersmith was a member and secretary of the Senior Coalition of Washoe County. “Sparks resident, Marsy Kupfersmith is a member and secretary of the Senior Coalition of Washoe County and is on the board of Friends of Washoe County Library. Kupfersmith also serves as an ambassador for Senior Outreach Services, which is affiliated with Sanford Center for Aging at the University of Nevada, Reno. Kupfersmith’s focus on advocating for affordable senior housing in the community has been recognized by local government, with her nomination coming from Mayor of Reno, Hillary Schieve and Sparks City Councilman David Abbott.” [Nevada Business, [10/12/21](#)]

Kupfersmith served on the board of Friends of Washoe County Library. “Sparks resident, Marsy Kupfersmith is a member and secretary of the Senior Coalition of Washoe County and is on the board of Friends of Washoe County Library. Kupfersmith also serves as an ambassador for Senior Outreach Services, which is affiliated with Sanford Center for Aging at the University of Nevada, Reno. Kupfersmith’s focus on advocating for affordable senior housing in the community has been recognized by local government, with her nomination coming from Mayor of Reno, Hillary Schieve and Sparks City Councilman David Abbott.” [Nevada Business, [10/12/21](#)]

Kupfersmith was an ambassador for Senior Outreach Services, which is affiliated with the Sanford Center for Aging at UNR. “Sparks resident, Marsy Kupfersmith is a member and secretary of

the Senior Coalition of Washoe County and is on the board of Friends of Washoe County Library. Kupfersmith also serves as an ambassador for Senior Outreach Services, which is affiliated with Sanford Center for Aging at the University of Nevada, Reno. Kupfersmith's focus on advocating for affordable senior housing in the community has been recognized by local government, with her nomination coming from Mayor of Reno, Hillary Schieve and Sparks City Councilman David Abbott." [Nevada Business, [10/12/21](#)]

2012: Kupfersmith graduated from Emerge Nevada. "Class of 2012 Stephanie Bell Elizabeth Brickfield Jenny Brekhus Vikki Courtney Estrella Evangelista Sherri Grotheer Sylvia Joiner Greene Michelle Jotz Zakeisha Jones Marsy Kupfersmith Kristine Kuzemka Cynthia Moore Leslie Sexton Donna Schlemmer Alicia Taylor Jennifer Taylor Danielle Walliser" [Emerge Nevada, accessed [4/5/24](#)]

On The Issues

Elderly Adults

Kupfersmith helped senior citizens, primarily as a behind-the-scenes volunteer, for at least 17 years. "This week's Someone 2 Know has a passion for helping senior citizens - and she's been doing exactly that, every day, for the past 17 years. Almost all of her work is done as a behind-the-scenes volunteer. Recently, one of our viewers reached out to let us know how amazing she is. We think you'll agree. We met up with Marsy Kupfersmith at her Sparks home, where we saw a wall in her office filled with photos, awards and acknowledgements." [2 News, [1/27/22](#)]

Kupfersmith won the 2020 Nevada Senior Citizen of The Year award. "The 2020 Nevada Senior Citizen of The Year award is just one of many honors bestowed on Marsy. She says this one is especially special – 'It was the first time in six years a northern senior won the award!' she cheers with her arms." [2 News, [1/27/22](#)]

- **Kupfersmith was nominated for the 2020 Nevada Senior Citizen of the Year award by Reno Mayor Hillary Schieve and Sparks City Councilman David Abbott.** "Foundation Assisting Seniors is excited to announce the three finalists for the 2020 Nevada Senior Citizen of the Year. This statewide award recognizes and honors a senior citizen for his/her significant contributions made at local and/or state levels, specifically in support of senior citizens of Nevada. [...] Sparks resident, Marsy Kupfersmith is a member and secretary of the Senior Coalition of Washoe County and is on the board of Friends of Washoe County Library. Kupfersmith also serves as an ambassador for Senior Outreach Services, which is affiliated with Sanford Center for Aging at the University of Nevada, Reno. Kupfersmith's focus on advocating for affordable senior housing in the community has been recognized by local government, with her nomination coming from Mayor of Reno, Hillary Schieve and Sparks City Councilman David Abbott." [Nevada Business, [10/12/21](#)]

Kupfersmith advocated for affordable senior housing in her community. "Sparks resident, Marsy Kupfersmith is a member and secretary of the Senior Coalition of Washoe County and is on the board of Friends of Washoe County Library. Kupfersmith also serves as an ambassador for Senior Outreach Services, which is affiliated with Sanford Center for Aging at the University of Nevada, Reno. Kupfersmith's focus on advocating for affordable senior housing in the community has been recognized by local government, with her nomination coming from Mayor of Reno, Hillary Schieve and Sparks City Councilman David Abbott." [Nevada Business, [10/12/21](#)]

Rent

Kupfersmith advocated for rent stabilization: “Rent stabilization. Not rent control! You had a built-in increase so you knew how much you'd be paying for the next two to three years; the landlord knew what he'd be taking in.” “Kupfersmith spends her days making sure seniors get the funding and resources they need. Hours writing letters and emails, making phone calls and Zoom meetings. Marsy’s big push right now is for something called rent stabilization. Something she saw work well in New York City. ‘Rent stabilization. Not rent control! You had a built-in increase so you knew how much you'd be paying for the next two to three years; the landlord knew what he'd be taking in.’” [2 News, [1/27/22](#)]

Kupfersmith supported the Medicaid 1915(i) State Plan Option and/or the creation of an affordable housing tax credit program. “The following commenters supported the Medicaid 1915(i) State Plan Option and/or the creation of an affordable housing tax credit program recommendation contained in the Committee’s work session document (Agenda Item VII) (WSD): [...] Marsy Kupfersmith, private citizen” [Nevada Legislature Committee To Study Issues Regarding Affordable Housing, [5/31/18](#)]

JOHN L. WALTER II

Biography & Philosophy

Walter is a Republican. “Party Affiliation: Republican Party” [2024 Candidates, WashoeCounty.gov, accessed [3/29/24](#)]

As of March 29, 2024, Walter had not opted to publish background information on the Washoe County online candidates forum. [2024 Candidates, WashoeCounty.gov, accessed [3/29/24](#)]

GABRIEL CHRISTENSON

Background & Philosophy

Christenson is nonpartisan. “Party Affiliation: Nonpartisan” [2024 Candidates, WashoeCounty.gov, accessed [3/29/24](#)]

As of March 29, 2024, Christenson had not opted to publish background information on the Washoe County online candidates forum. [2024 Candidates, WashoeCounty.gov, accessed [3/29/24](#)]