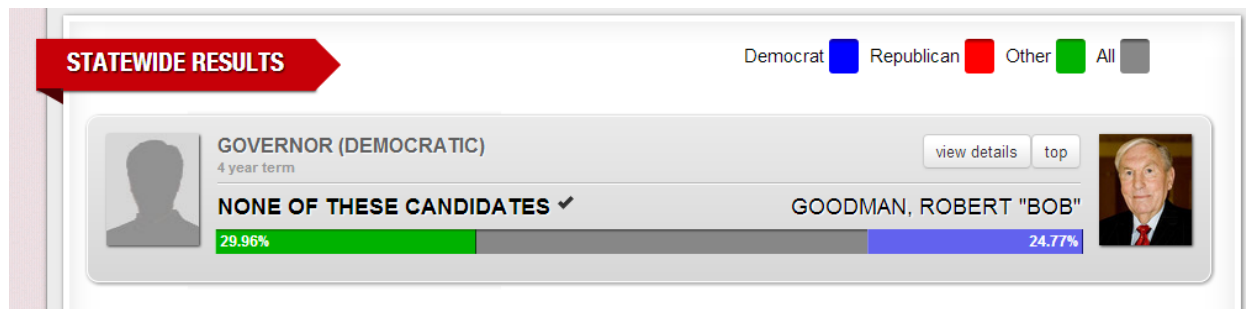




Nevada Student Mock Election

SPECIAL BULLETIN: None of These Candidates

In the 2014 Democratic primary election for the office of Nevada State Governor, voters selected a unique option for their choice. They chose "None Of These Candidates", rather than a candidate. Robert Goodman who got the second highest number of votes will proceed to the general election.



None of These Candidates is a choice that must appear on Nevada’s ballots for statewide offices or President and Vice President of the United States.

Every ballot upon which appears the names of candidates for any statewide office or for President and Vice President of the United States shall contain for each office an additional line equivalent to the lines on which the candidates’ names appear and placed at the end of the group of lines containing the names of the candidates for that office. Each additional line shall contain a square in which the voter may express a choice of that line in the same manner as the voter would express a choice of a candidate, and the line shall read “None of these candidates.” ([NRS 293.269\(1\)](#))

(Added to NRS by 1975, 475)

More information:

[None of These Candidates – One Online Nevada Encyclopedia](#)

<http://www.mynews4.com/news/story/Secretary-of-State-weighs-in-on-atypical-election/7elxHEkBpEmt-t-FzY9bhQ.csp>

NONE OF THESE CANDIDATES

By ROBERT ERICKSON
*Former Research Director
Legislative Counsel Bureau*

THE 1975 Nevada Legislature approved a bill that gives voters the option of voting for "none of these candidates" for all public offices elected statewide. This option appears on both primary and general election ballots for the offices of United States President and Vice President, United States Senator, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, State Controller and Justice of the Nevada Supreme Court.

State Assemblyman Don Mello sponsored the 1975 legislation to stimulate voter turnout by providing an alternative to voting for candidates who are either not popular or little known. Another goal of the measure is to allow voters to express dissatisfaction with the quality of candidates or the nature of election campaigns. Its provisions, which are found in *Nevada Revised Statutes* 293.269, require that the actual candidate receiving the most votes is elected or nominated, regardless of the number of votes cast for "none of these candidates." The winning candidate in an election with a high percentage of votes for "none of these candidates" is put on notice to work hard while in office or face a tough battle for reelection.

In general, the "none" line on the ballot has attracted greater support in primary than general elections. It has been suggested that voters may feel freer to cast such ballots in primary elections when candidates are being nominated rather than when offices are actually filled. For example, "none of these candidates" finished first, with 47.3 percent of the vote, against two candidates in the 1976 Republican primary for Representative in Congress, which was a statewide office at that time. In 1986, "none" again finished first, against five candidates, in the Democratic primary for State Treasurer.

Although "none of these candidates" has not been the top vote-getter for an office in the general election, it has been a popular option in certain races. In 1994, for example, "none" garnered 89,235 votes (24.1 percent of total) in the election for Supreme Court Justice, Seat C.

Although other states have expressed interest in the alternative of "none of these candidates," Nevada is the only state to have enacted it into law.