

Regents District 1 — Clark County

2024 Candidates: Matthew Bowen, Carlos Fernandez, Ida Zeiler

Question	Matthew Bowen	Carlos Fernandez	Ida Zeiler
City Address		Las Vegas	
Email Address		Carlos@Fernandez4NV.com	idazeiler.nv@gmail.com
Campaign Website		www.Fernandez4NV.com	www.idazeiler.com
Any notable endorsements		Vegas Chamber of Commerce AIA Nevada AFL-CIO Veterans in Politics	Laura Perkins [current Regent, District 1] Scott Black, Councilman North Las Vegas
Educational background		B.A. Journalism – Integrated Marketing Communication – University of Nevada, Las Vegas M.A. Urban Leadership (In Progress) – University of Nevada, Las Vegas	Bachelor degree, Brigham Young University, 2004 Texas teaching certificate, 2005-current

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Current profession/employment		Executive Director – The American Institute of Architects – Nevada & Las Vegas Chapters	<p>-Teacher, homeschool my four children</p> <p>-History fact checking and proofreader for a curriculum company, independent contractor</p>
Professional/employment background		<p>Public Policy Manager – Vegas Chamber</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Specialized on issues related to K-12 Education, Higher Education & Workforce Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program Manager – University of Nevada, Las Vegas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Established UNLV’s Passport Acceptance Facility in partnership with the U.S. Department of State and Vice President’s Office for Student Affairs • Solutions Analyst – Foresee Consulting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Project management consulting role focused on system migration and upgrades. 	<p>-High school history teacher</p> <p>-ESL online tutor students aged 4-80yrs old</p> <p>-History fact checker and proofreader for a curriculum company as an independent contractor</p>

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Past elected offices or other public service		<p>President – Consolidated Students of the University of Nevada (CSUN)</p> <p>Vice Chair – Nevada Student Alliance</p>	<p>- Planning Commissioner, North Las Vegas 2022-current</p> <p>-City Charter Committee, North Las Vegas 2024-current</p>
Briefly, why are you running for the Board of Regents at this time?		<p>I am running for the Board of Regents because I see a critical opportunity to shape the future of Nevada's higher education to better align with our evolving workforce needs, ensure greater accessibility, and support student success from enrollment through graduation and into their careers. My experiences have given me a unique perspective on how to bridge gaps between education and industry, and I feel compelled to contribute at a pivotal time for educational policy in Nevada.</p>	<p>I believe in the bright future of Nevada and want to be a contributing factor to the growth and legacy of Nevada's university system. There are some key decisions on the immediate horizon for NSHE. I would like to lend my efforts to assist those decisions to yield long-term solutions.</p>
What are your three highest priorities for the Board of Regents and the Nevada System of Higher Education?		<p>1) Accessibility (Engage): Enhancing accessibility to higher education for all Nevadans, reducing barriers to entry, and promoting diverse educational pathways.</p> <p>2) Student Success (Empower): Fostering environments that support student success, including comprehensive advising,</p>	<p>1. Affordability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ reduce student fees ○ connect employer education plans with Nevada campuses <p>2. Accessibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ expand workforce and apprenticeship programs ○ unify dual enrollment programs

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		<p>career services, and community engagement initiatives.</p> <p>3) Workforce Alignment (Elevate): Ensuring that academic programs are closely aligned with the current and future needs of Nevada's economy, preparing students for successful careers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o create pathways for veterans pursuing graduate degrees <p>3. Sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o empower Nevada graduates to become Nevada employed o prioritize educational opportunities to meet evolving market demands
<p>From your perspective, what is the role of higher education in Nevada?</p>		<p>The role of higher education in Nevada is to serve as a cornerstone for personal and professional development, economic growth, and societal advancement. It should provide accessible, high-quality educational opportunities that prepare students for successful careers, foster innovation, and contribute to the state's overall prosperity.</p>	<p>The role of higher education is to prepare students successfully for their own personal and career goals. This will look different for each student. It is vital that we have numerous opportunities and avenues. Higher education needs to work with the business community to ensure that students are leaving with the skill set that employers need.</p>
<p>The Board of Regents oversees two comprehensive universities, a four-year state university, four community colleges, and a research institute. Given limited resources, how would you balance the needs and allocate resources for the various institutions of NSHE?</p>		<p>Balancing the needs and allocating resources among NSHE institutions requires a strategic approach based on each institution's strengths, community needs, and potential for impact. I would advocate for a collaborative assessment of priorities, ensuring that resources support programs with the highest potential for student success and alignment with Nevada's economic development goals. The work that the Board of Regents is doing in providing institutions with an updated funding formula will help address this very issue.</p>	<p>One way to balance needs with resources is to streamline services. No need to reinvent the wheel, each institution needs to collaborate in order to reduce overlap and waste. The rural area campuses need as much consideration as the urban ones. We need to ensure they all thrive.</p>

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<p>The Board of Regents and Nevada System of Higher Education have been in the news lately and over many years for conflicts among and between Regents, the Chancellor, campus Presidents, and the Legislature. How would you address those issues?</p>		<p>Addressing conflicts within NSHE requires open communication, transparency, and a commitment to shared goals. I would promote a culture of collaboration, ensuring all voices are heard and focusing on common objectives that advance the quality and accessibility of higher education in Nevada. With this in mind, NSHE must stick and be accountable to policies that they have developed for themselves in terms of their actions and conducting themselves with the highest of standards, including the use of language that is proper and inclusive.</p>	<p>It is imperative that NSHE work to improve its reputation. They need to show effort in remaining a policy making board and allowing the Chancellor and campus Presidents to implement. If NSHE can hire well, then they can get out of the Chancellor's way and allow them to lead the university system. NSHE needs to attract candidates that are highly qualified. One of the best ways to do that is show that they will be a board that the university leadership has confidence working with. This will empower the Chancellor and campus Presidents to in turn create the environment that our Nevada students deserve.</p>
<p>What are your thoughts about collective bargaining for NSHE professional employees? Specifically, do you support or oppose legislation for collective bargaining rights for NSHE professional employees in statute?</p>		<p>I support collective bargaining rights for NSHE professional employees as a means to ensure fair treatment, equitable compensation, and a conducive working environment. It's important that employees have a voice in negotiations that affect their professional lives and the quality of education they provide.</p>	<p>Collective bargaining is a great tool to help the board and professional employees achieve a productive and prosperous work environment. It allows for the key stakeholders to come together and negotiate as they seek solutions. I support legislation for collective bargaining with NSHE.</p>
<p>In the wake of the December 6th tragedy at UNLV, how would you propose to improve campus safety?</p>		<p>Improving campus safety requires a comprehensive approach, including enhanced security measures, mental health support, and community engagement programs. I would advocate for a review of current safety protocols, investment in mental health resources, and the development of community-based strategies to foster a safe and supportive campus</p>	<p>Collaborating with security experts is a first step. They can assist NSHE in understanding what types of policy would be most effective and can actually be implemented. Technology is a great tool the campuses will need to expand and utilize. It can add security and</p>

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		environment.	reduce access without losing the community feel that having an open campus creates.
Would you support or oppose a policy to regulate discussion of or teaching about topics such as Critical Race Theory and gender identity on NSHE campuses?		I support academic freedom and the exploration of diverse perspectives in higher education. Policies regulating discussion on topics like Critical Race Theory and gender identity should protect this freedom and ensure that education fosters critical thinking, inclusivity, and understanding among students.	I support teaching students to use critical thinking skills. I like the saying “you don’t know, what you don’t know”. Teaching different theories and perspectives give students the opportunity to utilize those analytical skills. A well-rounded exploration of theory and thought aid in providing education not just schooling.
What is your view of NSHE governance? Should the Board of Regents concern itself with the internal operations of the eight NSHE institutions, or else should the Board simply hire the Presidents and let them run the institutions?		NSHE governance should balance oversight with autonomy, ensuring the Board of Regents sets strategic priorities and policy directions while empowering institution presidents to manage day-to-day operations effectively. This approach supports accountability and innovation across the system.	NSHE is a policy making board. It is important that they create an environment where the Chancellor and campus Presidents can lead. NSHE needs to hire well and then have confidence in the leaders they have chosen.

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<p>Recently, a search for Chancellor ended with no hire and an appointment of an Interim Chancellor. What steps would you recommend to create a transparent and successful process for hiring a highly qualified candidate for Chancellor?</p>		<p>A transparent and successful process for hiring a Chancellor involves clear criteria, broad stakeholder engagement, and a commitment to diversity and excellence. Considering the current structure that requires Nevada open meeting law be followed, I would recommend an open search process that solicits input from across the NSHE community and leverages external expertise to identify and attract top candidates.</p>	<p>I recommend that NSHE work on creating an environment that can attract the type of highly qualified candidates that Nevada students need. This includes gaining the cooperation of the campus Presidents by not micromanaging them. The current board decision to utilize a consult firm will also aid in transparency.</p>
<p>A proposed constitutional amendment to remove the Board of Regents from the Nevada Constitution is on the ballot this November. What is your position on the proposed amendment?</p>		<p>My stance on the proposed constitutional amendment to remove the Board of Regents from the Nevada Constitution is one I strongly support. Through my work with the Vegas Chamber, I've been actively involved in advocating for this change. I believe that by removing the Board from the constitution, we can enhance accountability and ensure that the Board does not function as an unchecked "fourth branch of government." This amendment is a crucial step towards ensuring that the governance of higher education in Nevada remains transparent, responsive, and fully accountable to the public and the state legislature.</p>	<p>I support the proposed amendment. Taking the campaign component away from the Regent positions allows for more highly qualified and invested individuals to serve on the board.</p>

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<p>If elected to the Board of Regents, do you pledge to uphold the principles of academic freedom and tenure as expressed in the AAUP/AACU 1940 Statement of Principles of Academic Freedom and Tenure? (Choose one)</p>		Yes	Yes, I agree with the above statement
<p>Responses in questionnaires from other organizations:</p>			Ballotpedia Questionnaire