

POLITICS Stavros Anthony to run for Lt. Gov. **2B** **BUSINESS** Ahern buys \$17.5M headquarters **10B**

County hits 6,000 COVID-19 deaths

New cases, hospitalization rates rise for third time in week

By Mike Brunker
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Clark County surpassed 6,000 deaths from COVID-19 on Thursday as the rate of new cases of the

disease and hospitalizations rose for third time this week.

Updated figures posted by the Southern Nevada Health District showed 448 new COVID-19 cases and nine deaths in the county

during the previous day, pushing totals to 333,926 cases of the disease and 6,001 fatalities.

New cases were well above the two-week moving average of 324 per day, while the longer term measure

increased by 10 from the previous day, state data showed.

The average has been climbing from a recent low of 293 cases per day a week ago, returning the county to the "high" risk of transmission category on the Centers for Disease

See **NEW CASES** 3B

Welcoming a warrior



John Flynn, of MGM Resorts International, left, on Thursday salutes Luis Avila, who was wounded while serving in Afghanistan, as part of USO Salute to the Troops at The Mirage. The five-day program honored 95 wounded warriors and their guests.

K.M. Cannon Las Vegas Review-Journal @KMCannonPhoto

In Virginia outcome, Nevada's lessons vary

Sisolak, Cortez Masto might run into trouble

By Bill Dentzer
Review-Journal Capital Bureau

Could Nevada voters in 2022 follow Virginia's lead Tuesday, electing Republicans in statewide races next year even as both states have trended blue?

The answer might be more nuanced than most of Wednesday's quick-draw analyses suggest.

Partisans and pundits see Republican Glenn Youngkin's victory over former Democratic Gov. Terry McAuliffe Tuesday in the Virginia governor's race as a groundswell that portends similar results across the political landscape through next year. Youngkin's win anchored a GOP sweep in his state; elsewhere, Democrats on Long Island in suburban New York suffered similar losses, and in New Jersey, Democratic incumbent Gov. Phil Murphy Wednesday managed only a wafer-thin victory against an unexpectedly strong Republican challenger in a race no one thought would be that close.

Wasting no time, candidates and political observers set about Wednesday to reassess and refine strategies and recalibrate odds and expectations in Nevada's two top races next year, as incumbent Democrats Gov. Steve Sisolak and U.S. Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto seek re-election.

Among them, analysts at the University of Virginia's Center for Politics on Wednesday changed ratings in four key 2022 Senate races — including Cortez Masto's — moving it from "leans Democratic" to "toss-up" and calling Tuesday's elections

See **ELECTIONS** 5B

Homeless summit spotlights aid opportunity

By McKenna Ross
Las Vegas Review-Journal

An influx of federal aid as a result of the pandemic could give organizations charged with combating youth homelessness a chance to address problems that need significant

investment to fix.

"This is a unique opportunity, and I think everybody recognizes that if we screw this up, then we screwed it up for good," Clark County Commissioner Justin Jones said Thursday at a summit designed to address the issue. "If we fix it, then that's historic."

The theme of this year's summit, "The Movement Evolves," highlighted the flush of federal aid dedicated to housing and health treatments as a result of the pandemic. In Clark County, officials dedicated \$157

See **HOMELESS** 3B

NEVADA **EXTRA** & THE WEST Use your mobile phone camera and this QR code to access today's eEdition, with more local and regional stories.



TUNE UP NOW OR BUNDLE UP LATER!

AIR SUPPLY

AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING

702-659-7548

0% Financing Available!

BEFORE

Odors • Dust • Dirt • Insects
Mold • Pet Dander • Mildew • Pollen

AFTER

Cleaned & Sanitized

Air Duct Cleaning

\$699

PER VENT
No Limit

Free Register Cleaning and Free Deodorizing

ALLERGIES? SNEEZING? WATERY EYES? It's Time To Clean Your Ducts!

Expires 11/30/21

WITH AIR DUCT CLEANING YOU GET...

FREE

DRYER VENT CLEANING

TUNE-UP SPECIAL
For Your Heating System

- ✓ CHECK BURNERS
- ✓ CHECK MOTORS
- ✓ CHECK CAPACITORS
- ✓ CHECK LEAKS
- ✓ CHECK THERMOSTATS
- ✓ CHECK WIRING & COMPRESSOR
- ✓ CHECK INDOOR/OUTDOOR COILS

ONLY \$39

(Reg. \$79) Expires 11/30/21

FREE FREE CARBON MONOXIDE CHECK WITH HEATING TUNE-UP CANNOT COMBINE WITH OTHER OFFERS.

ELECTIONS

Continued from Page 1B

“a horrible result from Democrats.” Cortez Masto’s likely Republican challenger, Adam Laxalt, seized on the rating change to claim momentum amid signs that “the people of this country are hungry for change and Nevada is ready to deliver in 2022.”

‘Wake-up call’

The Sisolak campaign sent an early-morning appeal for contributions Wednesday, calling Youngkin’s win a “wake-up call” for Democrats and a reminder that former President Donald Trump “still has strongholds in battleground states across the country.”

Former U.S. Sen. Dean Heller, one of a half-dozen Republicans seeking the nomination to challenge Sisolak, saw a different kind of bellwether, tarring Sisolak together with McAuliffe and President Joe Biden for supporting the “far-left priorities of today’s Democrats.”

Another Republican strategist noted that where Biden won Virginia by 10 points in 2020, he won Nevada by less than three, making a reversal seemingly more within reach here next year.

There is plenty to suggest how Nevada could go the way of Virginia in 2022. But there is just as much or more to suggest otherwise. Here’s a look at what’s similar, what’s different, and what remains to be seen.

What’s the same?

The big picture, for one. National political winds blow the same direction across the entire country. The question is which way the winds will be blowing a year from now.

Exit polling in Virginia Tuesday by the Washington Post showed Youngkin’s win over McAuliffe driven by the state’s independent voters, Biden’s low approval ratings, and voter concern over the economy and education. A uniform rightward shift in all counties across the state, pollwatchers there said, pointed to general voter frustration with Democrats and the sluggish economic recovery more than to the impact of Youngkin’s main talking points, which included tapping into partisan fear-mongering over dubious issues such as teaching critical race theory in schools.

The current American electorate is precipitously divided as well as notoriously fickle. Back in July, before COVID-19 illnesses and deaths began to climb again, and Democrats in Washington descended into infighting over potentially era-defining policy shifts, Biden and Sisolak shared similarly positive approval ratings that were both in the low 50s.

Now, in less than four months, Biden’s approval has plunged into negative territory, the lowest of any president save Trump at this point in his presidency going back to the Dwight Eisenhower administration.



Las Vegas Review-Journal file
U.S. Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto and Gov. Steve Sisolak, both Democrats, face potentially contentious battles as they seek re-election.

There’s no equivalent recent polling on Sisolak’s rating, but it’s not unreasonable to assume it might have been similarly affected, as Democrats take lumps for inflation, infection, and a seeming inability to enact their priorities.

Democrats in Nevada hold a government trifecta — the governor’s office and both houses of the Legislature — and five of six statewide offices overall (with one currently vacant but subject to Sisolak’s appointment). Unhappy voters blame the party in power, so political and economic uncertainty in Nevada and nationally could land squarely on Democrats if it persists through 2022.

Where will Americans — and Nevadans — be next year with regard to jobs, the economy, education and the pandemic? What will the prevailing political mood be if Democrats enact, or fail to enact, their social policy and infrastructure plans? Predictions, especially on the economy, can be a fool’s errand. In Nevada, recent data suggest a strong if not uniform economic recovery from the darkest days of the pandemic last year, but unemployment, though half of what it was in 2020, is still twice its pre-pandemic levels.

Still, the same pollster who measured Sisolak’s favorable rating in July found 6 of 10 Nevadans satisfied with the state’s direction a month later. Much of what happens in Nevada next year will depend on events still to come.

Tactics, strategy portable

A consistent, one-size-fits-all election strategy also is emerging. In Youngkin’s candidacy, Republicans appear to have struck upon a winning formula to harness Trump’s dynamite without blowing themselves up with it. After winning Virginia’s unusual ranked-choice Republican convention in May, Youngkin in the general election largely kept the Trump genie in its bottle, releasing it only as needed and then in diluted

form. The so-called “Trump Lite” strategy was seen as successfully countering the flight of suburban voters, women in particular, to Biden in 2020 in Virginia and elsewhere.

Nevada’s Republican hopefuls are taking a similar tack, embracing themes that resonate with the party faithful, such as election integrity, but avoiding Trumpian histrionics.

The Democratic strategy of lashing Republicans to Trump at every turn also has been playing in Nevada, though Democrats might reassess the tactic given how little it appeared to help McAuliffe. Running against Trump, or really Trumpism, wasn’t enough for him to win over Virginia voters.

What’s completely different

Youngkin was a first-time candidate, a political outsider, whose freshness and business background as former co-head of a major private equity firm found appeal with wealthier professionals in suburban northern Virginia. Nevada’s Republicans as of yet don’t have an equivalent in the governor’s race — it depends who wins next June’s primary.

McAuliffe, a Democratic fundraiser who was Virginia’s governor from 2014-18, was an insider with a track record and somewhat scrambled campaign messaging. Sisolak is an incumbent whose handling of the pandemic overall has won more praise than condemnation.

With a net worth of \$480 million, Youngkin was also rich, loaning his campaign \$20 million and slightly outspending McAuliffe overall, according to data through late October. No candidate in Nevada flashes that kind of cash.

Nor are Virginia’s demographics much similar to Nevada’s. The overall population distribution, along with urban-rural and partisan divides, differ in the two states. Virginia doesn’t track party affiliation among registered voters, but exit polls Tuesday showed a 50-50 split in turnout between Democrats and Republicans. Nevada’s registration numbers are 34 percent Democrat to 30 percent Republican, with 27 percent of voters nonpartisan.

In the latest census data, Nevada ranked as the third most diverse state, with a white population that shrank from two-thirds to about half the state total between 2010 and 2020. Virginia was 14th most diverse with a population that is 60 percent white, down from 69 percent a decade ago.

Finally, in the Nevada governor’s race, Republicans will pick their candidate in a closed primary. In that matchup, candidates typically aim their message at the party’s most active and partisan faithful, shifting back to the middle afterward if they win. Youngkin was chosen in an “unassembled” ranked-choice election via a party convention, winning on the sixth round.

The different methods, involving different constituencies, can produce similarly different outcomes — a candidate with Youngkin’s background might not have fared well in a traditional primary. To win the nomination for governor, Nevada’s Republicans are now trying to outflank each other on the right. Where the victor of that contest goes afterward depends on factors neither party can now predict, nor control.

Besides incumbency, Sisolak has one additional advantage: no primary opponent. He can use the months between now and June to raise money and immediately launch a barrage of attack ads once the GOP primary is over, before the bruised winner has time to regroup and respond.

Contact Capital Bureau reporter Bill Dentzer at bdentzer@reviewjournal.com. Follow @DentzerNews on Twitter.

PAYING TOP DOLLAR FOR CARS
RUNNING OR NOT WITH OR WITHOUT TITLE
Prompt and Professional • Will Pick Up From Anywhere
CALL (702) 980-2222

SILVER BAR POURING DEMO!
COME JOIN US AND LEARN ABOUT THE CENTURIES OLD WAY SILVER BARS WERE MADE, WITH A MODERN ARTISTIC TWIST!
JOIN US ON: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH, 2021
DEMONSTRATION TIMES: 10:00AM, 12:00PM, 2:00PM AND 4:00PM
DONE BY: Michael of “Pit Bullion” AND Ross of “Silver Will Prosper”
DEMONSTRATION AT
ARCHANGEL COINS
594 S. DECATUR BLVD
LAS VEGAS, NV 89107
pitbullion silverwillprosper archangelcoins
More information at [702] 683-2196 ArchangelCoins.com

NEWSPAPER CARRIERS WANTED
LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL New Contractors Earn \$1,000
7-day home delivery routes in all areas are now available.
A great business opportunity to earn extra money!
To be considered for a route you must be 18 years or older and you must have:
• Valid driver’s license
• Valid vehicle insurance
• Current DMV printout
• Social Security card
• Reliable vehicle
Las Vegas Review-Journal
visit mylvrvj.com/route
located at 1111 W. Bonanza Road (Bonanza and Martin Luther King) between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm Monday to Friday
Please contact Dennis Serra at 702-383-4640 / dserra@reviewjournal.com

WINDOW TINT
Lifetime Warranty **BEST of LAS VEGAS**
Auto Glass
AUTO TINT from \$50
DESERT TINT **WINDSHIELD** Replacement or Rock Chip & Crack Repair
4750 W. Lake Mead Blvd. Las Vegas, NV 89108 232-2419
4200 Griffis Ave. Nellis AFB Bldg 428 773-TINT
4600 W. Craig Rd. Las Vegas, NV 89032 488-0099
DesertTintLasVegas.com