

**NORTH LAS VEGAS** Shooting leaves two children injured in house **5B**

# Breaking down midterms

By **Bill Dentzer**  
Las Vegas Review-Journal

**CARSON CITY** — Last week's elections in Nevada were not the best turnout for a midterm year. In fact, despite an early surge in early voting and three-hour waits

## Numbers: Nevada now solidly blue

to vote in parts of the state on election night, turnout was pretty average.

But behind those numbers lie compelling data, borne out in voter surveys and the

outcome itself — a sweep for Democrats at virtually all levels.

More so than most other states, Nevada's election was a referendum on a man who

was everywhere — but nowhere on the ballot: President Trump. And the dominance by Democrats was the strongest sign yet that the state has moved decisively into the blue column of the blue-red divide.

See **TURNOUT** 14B



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People attending the Clark County's fall government auction Saturday at TNT Auction could make bids on more than 1,500 lots.

## 'A lot of opportunity out here'

By **Michael Scott Davidson**  
Las Vegas Review-Journal

There are no playing cards or clacking chips, but Mark White likens the Clark County government surplus auction to a casino poker room.

For one, there's profit to be made for those willing to gamble on an item they think they can resell. For another, White said, you need to bid the way a professional plays cards.

Stay calm, wear a straight face and keep your secrets to yourself. Otherwise, you could find yourself beaten by a high roller hiding in plain sight.

"Some of these guys don't look like they can tie their shoes, and they have \$100,000 in their pockets," said White, a

58-year-old Las Vegas stagehand who's a regular at the auctions. "This is a big boy's playground."

The county held its third and final surplus auction of the year Saturday. Hundreds of people attended, searching for deals in a smorgasbord of more than 1,500 lots spread across a gravel-covered storage property on the outskirts of east Las Vegas.

The event featured all the hallmarks of a government auction. Dozens of retired police vehicles shared space with used construction equipment and aging desktop computers.

But there were plenty of oddities too, including a Sea-Doo water scooter,

See **AUCTION** 14B



Auctioneer Kim Fowles takes bids for gift cards during Clark County's fall government auction at the TNT Auction lot.

## Good on ya: Vets led down workforce path



Goodwill of Southern Nevada

The TSA honor guard performs a demonstration Wednesday at the opening ceremony for the third Goodwill of Southern Nevada career center.

By **Briana Erickson**  
Las Vegas Review-Journal

When Sgt. George Martin was discharged from the Army in 2003, the difficulties of transitioning from military to civilian life quickly became evident.

"Everything is so structured in the military; everything is so by the book," he said. "You make your bed real tight, shine your shoes, do your job."

Civilian job hunting was an entirely different mission. Employers told him that he didn't have the right experience. Others told him he had too many skills.

"I had a wealth of experience and seeing the world and doing a job for eight years. Why was it so difficult for me to find something sustainable?" he asked himself. "I've commanded soldiers, with their lives on the line. I know how to lead."

Martin, 40, credits the interviewing and job-building workshops he attended through Goodwill of Southern Nevada's Veteran Integration Program with helping him land a job as an office manager for Just Quality LLC, a local cannabis company.

See **GOODWILL** 7B

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## ► AUCTION

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traffic cameras and several boxes of bright-orange slip-on shoes from the Clark County Detention Center.

“We always use the saying, ‘One man’s trash is another man’s treasure,’” said David Johnson, a county employee who oversees the auction. “We can always find a buyer.”

That was certainly true at the south end of the lot, where a crowd of more than 60 people formed before the auction began at 8 a.m. At tongue-twisting speed, auctioneer Jarod Edwards hawked hundreds of items lost at McCarran International Airport or seized by police. Gallon-sized sandwich bags full of watches and jewelry brought in a combined \$16,000 during the auction’s first 10 minutes.

“Just remember, if we can make money off it, so can you,” Edwards joked from the stage.

His words appeared to resonate with the crowd. A framed portrait of filmmaker Woody Allen fetched \$35. Someone else threw down \$100 for a binder of baseball cards, and an assortment of 14 gift cards, their value unknown, sold for \$300.

In a display fitting of Black Friday, bidders battled for more than 100 laptops, 130 tablets and 180 e-readers.

White watched from the back of the crowd while he waited for the auction to turn toward machinery and work equipment. He said he’s wary about paying for secondhand electronics that he can’t inspect first.

“Why would you pay \$200 for a laptop you don’t even know will turn on?” he asked.

White said he hasn’t missed a county surplus auction in the past five years. He’s spent the time figuring out what will sell and what



Auctioneers Kim Fowles, left, and Jarod Edwards take bids for an electronic tablet Saturday during Clark County’s fall government auction at the TNT Auction lot.

Erik Verduzco Las Vegas Review-Journal @Erik\_Verduzco

won’t.

He knows a backhoe bucket doesn’t look like much but has a lot of resale potential. Once he paid under \$300 for a hunting bow that sold for \$1,800 online.

“I like to try to find something that’s misplaced, that’s at the wrong auction, so people walk by it,” White said. “There’s a lot of opportunity out here. I’m just not telling anybody what it is.”

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Safety gear was part of the items available. Others included a Sea-Doo water scooter and several boxes of slip-on shoes from the Clark County Detention Center.

## ► TURNOUT

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Democrats, who won all but one of the statewide races, took the U.S. Senate race and three of four U.S. House races, and added to their majorities in the Legislature. Fred Lokken, chairman of the political science department at Truckee Meadows Community College in Reno, said they “seemed to tie every major issue to the Trump administration.”

“This is the election where we solidified a move to the blue,” he said. “I can’t expect us ever to come back.”

Nevada’s official canvass of results happens Nov. 27. Even then, the state does not measure demographic trends and differences in how the electorate here votes. But this year The Associated Press, in conjunction with the University of Chicago’s NORC research center, surveyed more than 120,000 voters nationally, and more than 3,400 in Nevada. The state results have a margin of error of 2 percentage points. Some of the findings:

— White voters favored the top of the Republican ticket — here the U.S. Senate race between Republican Sen. Dean Heller and the winning challenger, Democratic U.S. Rep. Jacky Rosen, by about 11 points, 54-43. But Hispanics voted for Democrats by 2 to 1 or better, and black voters favored Democrats by 7 to 1. Whites still comprise two-thirds of the total electorate, blacks 10 percent, and Hispanics 14 percent.

— Voters between 18 and 44 comprise about the same size voting block as 45 to 64-year-olds, about 36 percent. Between 56 and 62 percent of the younger cohort, depending on age, voted for the Democrat, while the older group slightly favored the Republican, 49-48. Those 65 or older, formidable for their consistency in turning out to vote as well as for their numbers — they are 28 percent of the total — went for the Republican by 10 points over the Democrat.

Most voters here saw health care as their top issue — another factor that helped Democrats.

And more than two-thirds said Trump was a factor in how they voted. Forty percent said their vote was to show their opposition, 27 percent to show their support, and 31 percent said he was not a factor.

Look at six other states on that question — Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Missouri, North Dakota and Texas — and nowhere was opposition to Trump higher, support for or indifference toward him lower. Some additional takeaways based on state results:

### Turnout

In 10 midterm elections dating to 1982, this year’s 62.4 percent turnout rate runs in the middle of the pack, at No. 5. Going back through the



Volunteer Leah Barney, middle, directs voters to open machines Nov. 6 at the voting station at 7881 W. Tropical Pkwy. The midterm election turned the state solidly blue.

Benjamin Hager Las Vegas Review-Journal

1980s, 1982’s midterm turnout was highest, at 75 percent.

The turnout figures are a little misleading, though. Nevada measures turnout against the number of “active registered voters,” which is smaller than the category of “total voters.” And the state’s number of total voters, in turn, is smaller than “eligible voters,” which would include almost every adult 18 or over.

It’s a big numerical difference. For example, the U.S. Census in November 2016 put Nevada’s voting age population at 1.94 million. The state “total voter” number for same month was 1.69 million, about 13 percent less. Nevada’s turnout rate, by the eligible voter measure, routinely lands it in the bottom 10 among U.S. states, and sometimes in the bottom five.

A ballot question approved by voters last week might help that. Question 5, which passed by a 60-40 margin, provides for automatic voter registration through the Department of Motor Vehicles.

### Better than last time

The 972,048 voters who cast ballots this year blew the 2014 turnout (552,369) out of the water. But it’s not a great comparison, because 2014’s anemic 45.6 percent turnout was the lowest for a midterm in at least four decades.

Why was 2014 so low? For one, every third midterm in the state has no U.S. Senate race, and 2014 was one such year. Also in 2014, the quadrennial governor’s race was a sleeper, with Gov. Brian Sandoval coasting to a second term.

Four years earlier, in 2010, the U.S. Senate race between Harry Reid and Sharron Angle helped drive turnout to 64.6 percent, third highest for a midterm since 1982.

### Early voting

It started out strong but fizzled, ending at 57 percent of all ballots cast, and about one-third of all

active voters. As a percentage of the total vote, it was high for a midterm but not for a presidential year.

“It’s started strong, but it really did seem to taper off,” Lokken said. “A lot of our surge came on Election Day. But the Democratic surge began early in the election cycle.”

### Total vote

Though the turnout rate was lower than 2010, 250,000 more people voted in 2018 compared with 2010. Almost all of that could be measured Clark and Washoe counties, which accounted for more than 92 percent of the overall increase.

It’s a further sign that the state’s densely populated urban and suburban pockets — more diverse, wealthier and better educated — are overwhelming the state’s far larger, and more conservative rural ramports. Fewer than 400 people voted in Esmeralda County — 372 to be exact. But only 850 people live there, according to 2017 census data, so that was nearly 63 percent of its 591 active voters.

The second smallest voting county, Eureka, also had the highest turnout rate, 74.6 percent, or 761 of its 1,020 voters.

### Voting age

If you think that time is taking its toll on older Nevada voters, you would be wrong. Voters 65 or older represent the largest bloc of voters in the state record, 24 percent of the total. The next largest group are 25-34 year-olds, at 17.3 percent. Those 18-24 still make up the smallest portion, 10.6 percent.

But the 18-24-year-old group has also grown the fastest since 2010, more than 63 percent. Next fastest growing are 25-34-year-olds at 58 percent. Almost as fast-growing: those oldsters, at nearly 56 percent.

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## Snapshot of voters in the 2018 Nevada U.S. Senate election

HELLER ■ ROSEN

### SEX

SHARE OF VOTERS  
50% Women 50% Men

HOW THEY VOTED  
Women 38% 57%  
Men 53 44

### EDUCATION

BY RACE

SHARE OF VOTERS HOW THEY VOTED

27%	52%	45%	White/College grad
40%	56	41	White/Non-college
9%	38	58	Non-white/College grad
24%	24	70	Non-white/Non-college

### AGE

SHARE OF VOTERS  
28% 65+ 13% 18-29  
36% 45-64 23% 30-44

HOW THEY VOTED

18-29	30%	62%
30-44	39	56
45-64	49	48
65+	54	44

### RACE

SHARE OF VOTERS  
14% Latino 3% Asian  
67% White 10% Black

HOW THEY VOTED

White	54%	43%
Black	83	
Latino	29	66
Asian	36	57

AP VoteCast is a survey of the American electorate in all 50 states conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago. The survey of 3,400 voters and 557 nonvoters in Nevada was conducted Oct. 29 to Nov. 6, concluding as polls closed on Election Day. The margin of error is estimated to be plus or minus 2 percentage points.

The Associated Press