



Ron Knecht, MS, JD & PE

Nevada State Controller

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Ron Knecht, an economist, financial and policy analyst, Professional Mechanical Engineer (registered in California), and law-school graduate, became Controller January 5, 2015. As Controller, he also serves on Nevada's Board of Finance, Executive Branch Audit Committee and Department of Transportation Board of Directors.

Before being elected Controller, he divided 44 working years between public service and entrepreneurial small business, all in managerial and senior professional positions. He's been a founder, executive or director for 12 firms, charities, community-service and public-interest groups.

In previous jobs, he testified extensively as an expert witness. In 2012-14, 1986-2001 and 1976-78, he was a consultant and business executive. In 2001-12, he was a senior economist at Nevada's Public Utilities Commission. He held principal economics, finance, technology and policy positions in 1978-86 at California's Energy and Public Utilities Commissions.

In 2009-13 he co-taught about ten two-day seminars for SNL Financial on utility finance, cost of capital, and economic and policy issues for regulators, professionals, managers and securities analysts. In 1973-77, he was a Research Associate and Research Engineer at the University of Illinois. In 1972-73 he was Assistant City Engineer in Urbana, Illinois.

Ron was elected to the Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education in 2006 and re-elected in 2012. For two years, he chaired the Budget & Finance Committee and was Vice-chair another year; he chaired the Audit Committee for two years; and for seven years he was very active on the Investment and Major Projects Committee, which oversees \$1-billion of endowment and operating funds. He served on four other committees and on institutional presidential selection and performance-review committees, chairing two of them. Ron was elected to the Nevada Assembly for 2002-04, representing Carson City and Washoe City.

With some scholarship support, he worked his way through undergraduate and early graduate studies at Illinois (BA, Liberal Arts & Sciences; mathematics major; physics & chemistry minor; 1971). Spending most of his working career in San Francisco and Silicon Valley, he paid his way at Stanford (MS, Engineering Economic Systems; 1989) and the University of San Francisco (JD; 1995) by working full time. He's been a columnist for various print and on-line papers, and has taught part-time at two colleges.

The most important things in Ron's life are his wife, Kathy, their teenage daughter, Karyn, and Ron and Kathy's mothers and families. Raised in a small Midwestern town, he's always been active in a wide range of athletics and outdoor activities -- a competitive distance runner in high school and college. He enjoys ballet, modern dance, symphony, opera, rock & roll, country & western, theater and film, and he collects baseball cards and pursues other hobbies.