



SENATOR HARRY REID, MAJORITY LEADER

SENATOR REID AND NEVADA'S AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY



Senator Reid has always been a friend to Nevada's African American Community. As Nevada families struggle in these difficult times his leadership is needed now more than ever. As Majority Leader, Senator Reid fought to bring relief to Nevada families affected by the economic crisis, easing tax burdens and helping families adjust or refinance their mortgages so they can stay in their homes. The nation's health care crisis has disproportionately impacted the African American community, which is one of the reasons Senator Reid worked to pass landmark health care reform, as well as legislation that led to a historic expansion of the State Children's Health Insurance Program and the extension of health benefits to low-income women. Senator Reid understands the importance of education and has secured funding that will help Nevada's youth afford a college education and rallied to end discriminatory practices in our schools and workplaces. Senator Reid has been working for Nevada's African American Community for decades; his highest priority is to bring equal opportunity and prosperity to all of Nevada's citizens.

Senator Reid Consistently Received "A" Ratings From the NAACP Over the Last Decade. According to their scorecards, Senator Reid has consistently stood with the NAACP for the last decade, receiving "A" ratings in each of the last 5 Congresses. Reid voted with the NAACP 100% of the time in the 106th Congress, 97% of the time in the 107th, 91% of the time in the 108th, 96% of the time in the 109th and 90% of the time in 110th. [NAACP 106th Congress Scorecard; NAACP 107th Congress Scorecard; NAACP, 108th Congress Scorecard; NAACP, 109th Congress Scorecard; NAACP, 110th Congress Scorecard]

Senator Reid Led the Passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) That Will Bring \$1.6 Billion in Federal Funding To Nevada and Has Already Created or Saved at Least 29,000 Jobs. The Recovery Act has also provided state fiscal relief to prevent further cutbacks in key services provided by public employees – keeping teachers in the classroom and cops on the beat. Elsie Scott, President and CEO of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation said, "CBCF fully supports [the Recovery Act] because it provides vital resources for improving the circumstances

HIGHLIGHTS OF SENATOR REID'S RECORD ON AFRICAN AMERICAN ISSUES

- ★ Senator Reid Consistently Received "A" Ratings from the NAACP Over the Last Decade
- ★ Senator Reid Led the Passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) That Will Bring \$1.6 Billion in Federal Funding To Nevada and Has Already Created or Saved at Least 29,000 Jobs
- ★ Senator Reid Understands the Important Role Education Plays Within Families and Communities and Has Supported Many Initiatives to Increase Educational Opportunities for African Americans
- ★ Senator Reid Has a Strong Record of Promoting Diversity and Equality in Our Schools and Workplaces
- ★ Senator Reid Led the Effort Against Wage Discrimination
- ★ Senator Reid Was Instrumental in Raising the Federal Minimum Wage
- ★ Senator Reid Worked Hard to Expand Health Coverage to All Nevadans, Including Children and Low-Income Families
- ★ Senator Reid Consistently Supported Federal Funding to Fight HIV and AIDS
- ★ Senator Reid is Fighting to Stop Foreclosures and Keep Nevadans in Their Homes
- ★ Senator Reid Has Consistently Lowered Taxes for Nevada's Working Families

of African Americans and all Americans who have been disproportionately affected by the current economic crisis.” [H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, P.L. 111-005; White House, Recovery.gov; CBCF Press Release, 05/12/09]

Senator Reid Understands the Important Role Education Plays Within Families and Communities and Has Supported Many Initiatives to Increase Educational Opportunities for African Americans.

Senator Reid has worked hard to strengthen early childhood education and help make college more affordable for all Nevadans.

- ***Strengthening Head Start*** Senator Reid helped pass legislation, the *Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act*, which expands access and eligibility to comprehensive early childhood education through Head Start for tens of thousands of low-income children. [H.R. 1429, Senate Vote 409, 11/14/07]
- ***Helping to Make College Affordable*** Under Senator Reid’s leadership, the *College Cost Reduction and Access Act* was passed and signed into law. It provided over \$20 billion in new student aid and benefits—including increasing the maximum Pell Grant, cutting student loan rates in half, and expanding loan forgiveness options—for college students. The bill also provides \$200 million for Hispanic-serving institutions. In addition, the recently enacted *Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010* will make college more accessible by transforming student loan programs. The new law increases the maximum Pell Grant award; invests \$750 million in college access and other supports for students; makes federal loans more affordable for borrowers to repay; invests \$2.55 billion in Hispanic-serving and other minority-serving institutions; and, as of July 1, 2010, all new federal student lending will be originated through the stable, effective, and cost-efficient Direct Loan program. Senator Reid also worked to establish the American Opportunity Tax Credit through the Recovery Act, providing students and families with a tax credit up to \$2,500 for college tuition and other related expenses. [H.R. 2669, Senate Vote 326, 09/7/07; H.R. 4872, Senate Vote 105, 03/25/10; H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, 111-005]

Senator Reid Has a Strong Record of Promoting Diversity and Equality in Our Schools and Workplaces.

Senator Reid is a staunch advocate for furthering diversity in the workplace. Starting with his own aides, Senator Reid hopes to change the face of senior staff on Capitol Hill, and has established internship programs like the Harry Reid Howard University Leadership Internship to encourage college students to pursue careers in public service. Additionally, Senator Reid created a similar initiative in Nevada, called the Larry Bolden Scholars Program, where talented students in Nevada are selected by a council of community leaders including members of the academic and faith communities based on their leadership abilities and scholastic achievements.

Senator Reid also takes his support to the Senate floor and the press room, where he has voted against legislation barring affirmative action in federal contracting and spoke out against a Supreme Court ruling that threatened to turn the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling on its head, stymieing cities’ efforts to diversify their schools. He also fights to promote minority-owned businesses, and has voted against an effort to repeal the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program, which requires at least 10% of funds authorized for highway and transit financial assistance programs be awarded to small businesses owned by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals. [Roll Call, 02/25/05; S.Amdt. 1825 to H.R. 1854, Senate Vote 317, 07/20/95; Agence France Presse, 06/28/07; S.Amdt. 1708 to S. 1173, Senate Vote 23, 03/06/98]

Senator Reid Led the Effort Against Wage Discrimination. Senator Reid led the passage of the *Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act* in the Senate, which civil rights protections for workers who face discrimination based on age, race, gender, national origin, religion, or disability. This landmark legislation expands workers' rights to sue in response to discriminatory practices in the workplace. According to the New York Times, President Obama hailed the effort as a "clear message that making our economy work means making sure it works for everybody." After fighting to pass the bill in the face of resistance from an unsupportive Bush Administration, Senator Reid made passage a priority in 2009, clearing the *Fair Pay Act* for White House approval just a week after President Obama took office. Senator Reid is also an original co-sponsor of the *Paycheck Fairness Act*, which would revise and strengthen the *Equal Pay Act of 1963* and further target pay discrepancies in the workplace. He recently reintroduced this important legislation in the 110th Congress. [S. 181, Senate Vote 37, 01/27/09, P.L. 111-002; New York Times, 01/29/09; S. 182, Introduced 01/08/09; S. 3772, Introduced 09/13/10]

Senator Reid Was Instrumental in Raising the Federal Minimum Wage. In 2009, over 3.5 million people in the United States were paid at or below the minimum wage – 13.9% of whom were African American. After nearly a decade of struggle against Republican opposition, Senator Reid helped usher through the first increase to the federal minimum wage since 1997. Despite the efforts of those against the wage hike, the bill finally passed, along with an \$8.3 billion tax cuts for small businesses. The legislation raised minimum wage from \$5.15 per hour to \$7.25 an hour over two years, directly or indirectly benefiting 13 million hardworking Americans. [Bureau of Labor Statistics; H.R. 2206, Senate Vote 181, 05/24/07, P.L. 110-028; H.R. 2, Senate Vote 42, 02/01/07, P.L. 110-028]

Senator Reid Worked Hard to Expand Health Coverage to All Nevadans, Including Children and Low-Income Families. Senator Reid strengthened local and federal health care programs to ensure Nevadans receive quality care.

- ***Strengthening Nevada Check Up*** Senator Reid was instrumental in the passage of the *Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act* (CHIP), known in Nevada as Nevada Check Up. CHIP was created to target low-income families who do not qualify for Medicaid, but are unable to afford private insurance. Under CHIP, an additional \$35 billion was invested over 5 years to strengthen the program's financing. There are currently over 8 million uninsured children in the United States, including 10,300 African American children in Nevada. This legislation extends health insurance to 4 million children who would otherwise lack coverage, including as many as 121,000 in Nevada. [H.R. 2, Senate Vote 31, 01/29/09, P.L. 111-003; Kaiser Family Foundation]
- ***Championing Comprehensive Health Insurance Reform*** Senator Reid led the charge for major health care reform, resulting in the passage of the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*. Nearly 7 million African Americans are uninsured nationwide, including over 35,000 in Nevada. African Americans in Nevada will enjoy quality, affordable health care. The new law lowers costs; eliminates insurance companies' discriminatory practices; expands Medicaid eligibility; has a strong focus on minority health; prohibits denial of coverage based on pre-existing conditions; and encourages businesses to provide health care benefits. [H.R. 3590, Senate Vote 396, 12/24/09, P.L. 111-148; H.R. 4872, Senate Vote 105, 03/25/10, P.L. 111-152; Kaiser Family Foundation]

Senator Reid Consistently Supported Federal Funding to Fight HIV and AIDS. Senator Reid has repeatedly supported funding to fight HIV and AIDS and provide treatment for those living with the disease. He supported the creation of the *Ryan White CARE Act* in 1990 and for its reauthorizations in 1996, 2000, 2006, and 2009. Most recently, he led the Senate in passing the *Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership*

Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act, which will help fight HIV/AIDS and other diseases in Africa and around the globe. [S. 2240, Senate Vote 97, 05/16/90, P.L. 101-381; S. 641, Unanimous Consent, 05/02/96, P.L. 104-146; S. 2311, Unanimous Consent, 06/06/00, P.L. 106-345; H.R. 6143, Unanimous Consent, 12/06/06, P.L. 109-415; S. 1793, Unanimous Consent, 10/19/09, P.L. 111-087; H.R. 5501, Senate Vote 182, 07/16/08, P.L. 110-293]

Senator Reid is Fighting to Stop Foreclosures and Keep Nevadans in Their Homes. Nevada remains among the hardest hit states by the housing downturn and continues to lead the nation among foreclosure rates, which is why Senator Reid made foreclosure prevention a priority and has worked hard to keep this problem from growing. Senator Reid has called on the Obama Administration to establish more aggressive housing programs, helped create incentives for investment in the housing market, provided billions of dollars in resources to housing counselors and local communities to help keep families in homes and stabilize neighborhoods, and is working hard to reform the financial services industry to prevent fraud and unnecessary foreclosure in the future.

- ***Senator Reid Demands Real Help for Nevada.*** Hearing firsthand many complaints from Nevadans about Bank of America’s responsiveness to struggling homeowners, Senator Reid urged the CEO of Bank of America to allocate more resources to Nevada. In response, Bank of America agreed to set up a 1-800 hotline exclusively for Nevada homeowners who have a mortgage with Bank of America, open three homeownership resource centers in Henderson, Las Vegas, and Reno for customers struggling with their mortgage, and devote a team of Bank of America loan specialists to work alongside Senator Reid’s staff on housing casework.
- ***Senator Reid Fought for Foreclosure Mitigation Initiatives to Help Distressed Homeowners.*** Senator Reid urged the Obama Administration to provide additional resources to states hardest hit by the housing crisis, which resulted in the creation of the Housing Finance Agency Innovation Fund for the Hardest Hit Housing Markets (“HFA Hardest Hit Fund”). In the first round of the program, the Administration allocated \$1.5 billion to five states, including Nevada, where the housing prices have fallen more than 20%. The Nevada Housing Division will receive \$102.8 million to design and fund programs to assist unemployed home owners as well as borrowers who owe more than their home is now worth. [Letter to Secretaries Geithner and Donovan, 12/18/2009]
- ***Senator Reid Helped Homeowners Facing Negative Equity.*** The Hope for Homeowners (H4H) Program is the first federal initiative addressing the negative equity that so many Nevadans face and several experts consider a driving force behind foreclosures. In 2009, Senator Reid supported broadening the H4H Program and providing legal safe harbor for all servicers to modify loans without facing frivolous lawsuits in the *Helping Families Save Their Homes Act*. [H.R. 3221, Senate Vote 186, 07/26/08, P.L. 110-289; S. 896, Senate Vote 271, 05/19/09, P.L. 111-022]
- ***Senator Reid Fought for Homeowners in Bankruptcy.*** To help distressed homeowners that turn to bankruptcy as a last resort, Senator Reid voted to include provisions in important housing legislation that would permit bankruptcy judges to modify mortgages on primary residences. [S.Amdt.4388, Senate Vote 88, 04/03/08; S.Amdt.1014, Senate Vote 174, 04/30/09]
- ***Senator Reid Stood Up for Main Street.*** When the Bush Administration requested that Congress pass the *Emergency Economic Stabilization Act* to bail out Wall Street, Senator Reid fought to include foreclosure relief provisions to help homeowners on Main Street. These provisions paved the way for the Obama Administration to initiate the Making Home Affordable Program and the HFA Hardest Hit Fund. [S.Amdt.5685, Senate Vote 212, 10/01/08; H.R.1424, Senate Vote 213, 10/01/08, P.L. 110-343]

- ***Senator Reid Provided Aid to Homeowners Seeking Short Sales.*** Senator Reid also garnered support to provide homeowners seeking a short-sale resolution an income tax exemption for mortgage debt forgiveness discharged between January 1, 2007, and December 31, 2012. [H.R. 3648, Unanimous Consent, 12/14/07, P.L. 110-142; H.R. 1424, Senate Vote 213, 10/01/08, P.L. 110-343]
- ***Senator Reid Repeatedly Increased Funding for Housing Counseling Services.*** In an effort to help distressed homeowners to better withstand the housing crisis, Senator Reid has fought to increase funding to housing counseling agencies. In 2008, Senator Reid voted in support of increasing housing counseling resources by \$100 million. In 2009, Senator Reid helped direct \$50 million for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Housing Counseling Assistance Program, and \$20 million for other additional resources and counseling agencies. He insisted that up to \$5 million of the latter sum be used for advertisements that will bring greater awareness to the mortgage crisis in non-English speaking communities, and \$5 million be used for additional personnel in the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. [S.Amdt. 4397, Senate Vote 89, 04/03/08; S. 896, Senate Vote 185, 05/06/2009, P.L. 111-022]
- ***Senator Reid Fought for Neighborhood Stabilization Funds.*** Senator Reid urged HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan to allocate additional Neighborhood Stabilization resources to southern Nevada after the community failed to secure a second round of funds. This effort resulted in a commitment of up to \$1.3 million in emergency technical assistance to Las Vegas and Clark County in order to ensure the effectiveness of their neighborhood stabilization programs. Senator Reid also worked with Secretary Donovan to get additional Neighborhood Stabilization funds redirected from other locations to Nevada, resulting in a commitment of an additional \$60 million in needed resources. [Letter to Secretary Donovan, 01/14/2010]
- ***Senator Reid is Committed to Reforming the Financial Services Industry to Prevent Fraud and Unnecessary Foreclosures.*** In an effort to strengthen the federal criminal laws to prosecute those involved in the financial and mortgage fraud that contributed to the global financial crisis, Senator Reid shepherded passage of the *Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act*. He also increased resources for law enforcement personnel to combat these crimes. To help understand the causes of the financial crisis and prevent it from occurring again in the future, Senator Reid supported establishing the Financial Markets Commission to examine all causes, domestic and global, of the current financial and economic crisis in the United States. [S. 386, Senate Vote 171, 04/28/09, P.L. 111-021; S.Amdt. 995, Senate Vote 161, 04/22/09]

Senator Reid Has Consistently Lowered Taxes for Nevada's Working Families. Nevadans and Americans are paying less in taxes thanks to Senator Reid's work in Congress. Senator Reid has led the way in easing Nevada's tax burden and providing tax relief for Nevada's families.

- ***Senator Reid Provided Tax Relief for Working Americans through the Making Work Pay Tax Credit.*** The Making Work Pay tax credit, enacted as part of the Recovery Act, lowered the tax bills for 95 percent of Nevada workers by as much as \$400 for individuals and \$800 for a married couple. The credit increased the take-home pay for 120 million American households for 2009 and 2010. [H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, P.L. 111-005]
- ***Senator Reid Fought to Make the Tax Code Fairer for Nevada Taxpayers.*** In 2004, Senator Reid fought to reinstate the deduction for state and local sales taxes as a matter of fairness for states like Nevada that choose not to impose an income tax. The deduction was reinstated on a temporary basis,

and through the efforts of Senator Reid, has been extended for each year thereafter. [H.R. 4520, Senate Vote 211, 10/11/04, P.L. 108-357; H.R. 6111, Senate Vote 279, 12/09/06, P.L. 109-432; H.R. 1424, Senate Vote 213, 10/1/08, P.L. 110-343]

- ***Senator Reid Made the Child Tax Credit Available to More Families.*** The Recovery Act made the full Child Tax Credit available to more families for 2009 and 2010 by lowering the earnings threshold from \$8,500 to \$3,000. [H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, 111-005]
- ***Senator Reid Expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit to Help Working Families.*** The Recovery Act provided tax relief for working families by making improvements to the Earned Income Tax Credit. The Act increased the credit to 45% for families with three or more children and provided relief from the “marriage penalty” by increasing the income level at which married couples begin to lose the credit. [H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, P.L. 111-005]
- ***Senator Reid Was Instrumental in Ensuring Tip Tax Agreements for Nevada Workers.*** These are voluntary agreements between the IRS, the employer, and tipped employees that make it easier for employees to comply with the law and avoid time-consuming and burdensome IRS audits. [Las Vegas Review Journal, 04/11/03]
- ***Senator Reid Supports Relief from the Alternative Minimum Tax.*** The Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) was originally enacted in response to reports that some wealthy individuals paid no federal income tax. However, the AMT was not indexed for inflation and an increasing number of middle-income families will be subject to this tax if no action is taken to provide relief. The Recovery Act protected the nearly 95,000 Nevada taxpayers who would otherwise have been subject to for the AMT in 2009. In addition, the budget passed by the 111th Congress extends AMT relief for an additional three years. [H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, 111-005; S. 896, Senate Vote 185, 05/6/09, P.L. 111-022]
- ***Senator Reid Advocated for Marriage Penalty Relief.*** Many families are affected by the marriage penalty. In certain situations, married couples pay higher taxes than they would if they were two individuals filing separately. This “marriage penalty” was substantially reduced for most taxpayers in 2001, but that relief expires at the end of 2010. The budget passed by the 111th Congress extends marriage penalty relief permanently. [S.Con.Res. 13, Senate Vote 173, 04/29/09]

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