

NEVADA SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

- Reflects multiple course themes
- Nevada is “conservative” on these issues
- But it is not necessarily partisan as neither party has really taken the lead in expanding such efforts (note that Democrats dominates the state for years and it remained at the bottom of social spending.

Social Policy

- Fraught with social choices
- Often redistributive in nature and thus tends to generate conflict
- Environmental policy runs into the long-time dominance of extractive industries in the state

Themes

Individualism and the Frontier Ethos

Yet much of social and environmental policy is dictated by the feds

Extractive industries make environmental policy harder

Weak governing institutions have a hard time redistributing money for such policies from major industries.

Fiscally conservative state

Social Liberals often “sell” their policy needs on weak evidence (education funding)

Conservatives often don’t buy into the underlying social call for “need”

Nevada's Policies

- Generally are at the bottom end
- Generally have weak environmental policies (which makes Yucca Mountain stand out)
- Yet recent politics show little willingness by voters to expand