

## PLANNING COMMISSIONS

### **NRS 278.030 Creation by cities and counties; number of members.**

1. The governing body of each city whose population is 25,000 or more and of each county whose population is 40,000 or more shall create by ordinance a planning commission to consist of seven members.

2. Cities whose population is less than 25,000 and counties whose population is less than 40,000 may create by ordinance a planning commission to consist of seven members. If the governing body of any city whose population is less than 25,000 or of any county whose population is less than 40,000 deems the creation of a planning commission unnecessary or inadvisable, the governing body may, in lieu of creating a planning commission as provided in this subsection, perform all the functions and have all of the powers which would otherwise be granted to and be performed by the planning commission.

[Part 3:110:1941; A 1947, 834; 1943 NCL § 5063.02]—(NRS A 1973, 914; 1989, 1917; [2001, 1967](#))

### **NRS 278.040 Members: Appointment; qualifications; compensation and expenses; terms; removal; vacancies.**

1. The members of the planning commission are appointed by the chief executive officer of the city, or in the case of a county by the chair of the board of county commissioners, with the approval of the governing body. The members must not be members of the governing body of the city or county. The majority of the members of the county planning commission in any county whose population is 400,000 or more must reside within the unincorporated area of the county.

2. In Carson City, the members of the planning commission established as provided in [NRS 278.030](#) are appointed by the Mayor from the city at large, with the approval of the Board of Supervisors.

3. The governing body may provide for compensation to its planning commission in an amount of not more than \$80 per meeting of the commission, with a total of not more than \$400 per month, and may provide travel expenses and subsistence allowances for the members in the same amounts as are allowed for other officers and employees of the county or city.

4. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the term of each member is 4 years, or until his or her successor takes office. If applicable, the term of each member of a county or city planning commission in any county whose population is 400,000 or more is coterminous with the term of the member of the governing body who recommended the appointment to the appointing authority. If the recommending member resigns his or her office before the expiration of his or her term, the corresponding member of the planning commission may continue to serve until the office is next filled by election. If the office of the recommending member becomes vacant before the expiration of the term for any other reason, the corresponding member of the planning commission may continue to serve for the duration of the original term.

5. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, members of a county or city planning commission may be removed, after public hearing, by a majority vote of the governing body for just cause. In a county whose population is 400,000 or more, members of a county or city planning commission serve at the pleasure of their appointing authority.

6. Vacancies occurring otherwise than through the expiration of term must be filled for the unexpired term.

[Part 3:110:1941; A 1947, 834; 1943 NCL § 5063.02]—(NRS A 1959, 13; 1969, 328; 1971, 1115; 1973, 914; 1979, 529, 1385, 1386; 1983, 1246; 1985, 22; 1989, 1917; 1991, 248; 1995, 198; [2001, 2804](#); [2003, 1733](#))

### **NRS 278.050 Meetings; rules; records; continuances.**

1. The commission shall hold at least one regular meeting in each month.

2. The commission shall adopt rules for transaction of business and shall keep a record of its resolutions, transactions, findings and determinations, which record is a public record.

3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, in a county whose population is 400,000 or more, the commission shall not grant to an applicant or authorized representative thereof more than two continuances requested by the applicant or authorized representative on the same matter, unless the commission determines, upon good cause shown, that the granting of additional continuances is warranted. If the commission grants a continuance pursuant to this subsection for good cause shown, the person on whose behalf the continuance was granted must make a good faith effort to resolve the issues concerning which the continuance was requested.

4. An applicant or authorized representative thereof may request a continuance on a matter on behalf of an officer or employee of a city or county, a member of the commission or any owner of property that may be directly affected by the matter. If the commission grants the continuance, the continuance must not be counted toward the limitation on the granting of continuances set forth in subsection 3 relating to that matter.

5. As used in this section:

(a) "Applicant" means the person who owns the property to which the application pending before the commission pertains.

(b) "Good cause" includes, without limitation:

(1) The desire by the applicant or authorized representative thereof to:

(I) Revise plans, drawings or other documents relating to the matter;

(II) Engage in negotiations concerning the matter with any person or governmental entity; or

(III) Retain counsel to represent him or her in the matter.

(2) Circumstances relating to the matter that are beyond the control of the applicant or authorized representative thereof.

[Part 6:110:1941; 1931 NCL § 5063.05]—(NRS A [2003, 1734](#); [2005, 529](#))

**NRS 278.060 Chair: Election; term.** The commission shall elect its chair from among the appointed members. The term of chair shall be 1 year, with eligibility for reelection.

[Part 6:110:1941; 1931 NCL § 5063.05]

**NRS 278.070 Additional officers; employees; consultants.**

1. In addition to electing its chair, the commission shall create and fill such other of its offices as it may determine.
2. The commission may appoint such employees as it may deem necessary for its work, whose appointment, promotion, demotion and removal shall be subject to the same provisions of law as govern other corresponding civil employees of the municipality.
3. The commission may also contract with city planners, engineers, architects and other consultants for such services as it may require.

[Part 6:110:1941; 1931 NCL § 5063.05] + [Part 7:110:1941; 1931 NCL § 5063.06]

**NRS 278.080 Expenditures; operational needs.** The expenditures of the commission, exclusive of gifts, shall be within the amounts appropriated for the purpose by the governing body, which shall provide the funds, equipment and accommodations necessary for the commission's work.

[Part 7:110:1941; 1931 NCL § 5063.06]

**NRS 278.090 Regional planning commission: Creation; selection of representatives.**

1. Except in a county in which a regional planning commission is created pursuant to the provisions of [NRS 278.026](#) to [278.029](#), inclusive, the board of county commissioners of any county alone or in collaboration with the governing body of the incorporated cities in the county or any of them or in collaboration with the board or boards of county commissioners of any adjacent county or counties, or the governing bodies of adjacent cities may establish a regional planning commission to consist of representatives of the county or counties or cities or region within the county or counties where the local government bodies participate in the formation of the regional planning commission.

2. The commission may also contain representatives of the municipalities to be selected in a manner to be determined by ordinance adopted by the governing bodies of the municipalities, or municipalities and the county or counties concerned.

[Part 4:110:1941; A 1947, 834; 1943 NCL § 5063.03]—(NRS A 1989, 767)

**NRS 278.100 Regional planning commission: Members; terms; membership on city or county planning commission not public office; compensation; removal; vacancies.**

1. The ordinance must specify the membership of the commission, which must consist of not less than six members or more than 12 members.

2. The ordinance must provide that the term of each member is 4 years, or until his or her successor takes office, except that the terms of two of the members first appointed are 3 years, and the respective terms of two members first appointed are 1 and 2 years. No more than one-third of the members may hold any other public office. For the purposes of this subsection, membership on the planning commission of a county or city must not be considered holding a public office.

3. The governing body creating the commission shall, by resolution, provide what compensation, if any, each of the members shall receive for his or her services as a member, not to exceed \$40 per meeting or a total of \$200 per month.

4. Members may be removed, after public hearing, by a majority vote of the governing body, for inefficiency, neglect of duty or malfeasance of office.

5. All appointments to fill vacancies must be for the unexpired term.

[Part 4:110:1941; A 1947, 834; 1943 NCL § 5063.03]—(NRS A 1959, 14; 1979, 1386; 1987, 987)

**NRS 278.110 Regional planning commission: Chair; employees.**

1. Annually, each county or regional planning commission shall elect a chair from its own members.

2. It shall have power to employ experts, clerks and a secretary, and to pay for their services and such other expenses as may be necessary and proper, not exceeding, in all, the annual appropriation that may be made by the county or counties or municipalities for the commission, together with such other funds as may be made available through grant, gift or other means.

[Part 4:110:1941; A 1947, 834; 1943 NCL § 5063.03]—(NRS A 1959, 84)

**NRS 278.120 Regional planning commission: Appropriation of money for expenses.**

1. The governing body of each municipality and of each county included within a regional planning district is authorized independently or in collaboration with other governing bodies, in their discretion, to appropriate from the funds received by the county or municipality from general taxation or other source money for the expenses of the regional or county planning commission.

2. The county or counties or municipal corporations shall not be chargeable with any expense incurred by the planning commission except pursuant to such an appropriation.

[Part 4:110:1941; A 1947, 834; 1943 NCL § 5063.03]

**NRS 278.130 Regional planning commission: Performance of duties and functions of city or county planning commission; regional or intergovernmental decisions.**

1. If the governing body of a city or county collaborates in the creation of a regional planning commission and does not create a separate city or county planning commission, the regional planning commission shall perform for the city or county all the duties and functions delegated to a city or county planning commission by the terms of [NRS 278.010](#) to [278.630](#), inclusive.

2. If a regional planning commission has duties and functions pursuant to [NRS 278.010](#) to [278.630](#), inclusive, which parallel the duties and functions of a city or county planning commission, the city or county planning commission has the responsibility for

making decisions pertaining to planning which have a local effect, and the regional planning commission has the responsibility for making decisions pertaining to planning which have a regional or intergovernmental effect.

[Part 5:110:1941; A 1947, 834; 1943 NCL § 5063.04]—(NRS A 1987, 988)

**NRS 278.140 Regional planning districts: Formation and functions.**

1. The formation of regional planning districts is authorized and a regional planning commission may be created, in accordance with the provisions of [NRS 278.010](#) to [278.630](#), inclusive, in lieu of separate city or county planning commissions as may be required or authorized by [NRS 278.010](#) to [278.630](#), inclusive.

2. Regional planning districts shall consist of a portion of a political subdivision, two or more contiguous political subdivisions or contiguous portions of two or more political subdivisions.

3. All territory embraced within a regional planning district shall be contiguous, except where the regional district is composed of two or more municipalities such territories need not be contiguous.

4. In a regional planning district, a regional planning commission shall function in all respects in accordance with the provisions of [NRS 278.010](#) to [278.630](#), inclusive, except that the plans of the regional planning commission shall coordinate the plans of any city or county planning commission within the region.

5. Reports required by [NRS 278.010](#) to [278.630](#), inclusive, to be made to a governing body of a city or a county shall be made to the governing body of each city or county within the region, and the procedure set forth in [NRS 278.010](#) to [278.630](#), inclusive, for action with respect to maps or subdivisions shall not be followed by the regional planning commission for subdivisions which lie within any territory in which there exists a functioning county or city planning commission.

[Part 5:110:1941; A 1947, 834; 1943 NCL § 5063.04]

**NRS 278.145 Report of location of utility project.**

1. Each public utility which owns an interest in or is engaged in the construction or operation of a utility project, or on whose behalf the utility project is constructed, which is located in a region or county whose population is 100,000 or more shall, within 60 days after the utility project has been approved for construction, report the location of the utility project to the planning commission of each city, county or region in which it is located.

2. The planning commission of each city, county or region shall maintain a record of each report it receives from a public utility pursuant to subsection 1.

(Added to NRS by 1991, 952)

**NRS 278.147 Facilities for use, manufacture, processing, transfer or storage of explosives or certain other substances: Conditional use permit required; application for and issuance of conditional use permit.**

1. No person may commence operation in this State of a facility where an explosive, a highly hazardous substance designated pursuant to [NRS 459.3816](#) if present in a quantity equal to or greater than the amount designated pursuant to [NRS 459.3816](#), or a hazardous substance listed in the regulations adopted pursuant to [NRS 459.3833](#) will be used, manufactured, processed, transferred or stored without first obtaining a conditional use permit therefor from the governing body of the city or county in which the facility is to be located. Each governing body shall establish by local ordinance, in accordance with the provisions of this section, the procedures for obtaining such a permit.

2. An application for a conditional use permit must be filed with the planning commission of the city, county or region in which the facility is to be located. The planning commission shall, within 90 days after the filing of an application, hold a public hearing to consider the application. The planning commission shall, at least 30 days before the date of the hearing, cause notice of the time, date, place and purpose of the hearing to be:

(a) Sent by mail or, if requested by a party to whom notice must be provided pursuant to this paragraph, by electronic means if receipt of such an electronic notice can be verified, to:

(1) The applicant;

(2) Each owner or tenant of real property located within 1,000 feet of the property in question;

(3) The owner, as listed on the county assessor's records, of each of the 30 separately owned parcels nearest the property in question, to the extent this notice does not duplicate the notice given pursuant to subparagraph (2);

(4) If a mobile home park or multiple-unit residence is located within 1,000 feet of the property in question, each tenant of that mobile home park or multiple-unit residence;

(5) If a military installation is located within 3,000 feet of the property in question, the commander of that military installation;

(6) Any advisory board that has been established for the affected area by the governing body;

(7) The Administrator of the Division of Environmental Protection of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources;

(8) The State Fire Marshal; and

(9) The Administrator of the Division of Industrial Relations of the Department of Business and Industry; and

(b) Published in a newspaper of general circulation within the city or county in which the property in question is located.

3. The notice required by subsection 2 must:

(a) Be written in language that is easy to understand; and

(b) Include a physical description or map of the property in question and a description of all explosives, and all substances described in subsection 1, that will be located at the facility.

4. In considering the application, the planning commission shall:

- (a) Consult with:
- (1) Local emergency planning committees;
  - (2) The Administrator of the Division of Environmental Protection of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources;
  - (3) The State Fire Marshal;
  - (4) The Administrator of the Division of Industrial Relations of the Department of Business and Industry;
  - (5) The commander of any other military installation that may be affected by the operation of the facility; and
  - (6) The governing body of any other city or county that may be affected by the operation of the facility; and
- (b) Consider fully the effect the facility will have on:
- (1) The health and safety of the residents of the city, county or region.
  - (2) The safety and security of any military installation in the city, county or region.
5. The planning commission shall, within a reasonable time after the public hearing, submit to the governing body its recommendations for any actions to be taken on the application. If the planning commission recommends that a conditional use permit be granted to the applicant, the planning commission shall include in its recommendations such terms and conditions for the operation of the facility as it deems necessary for the protection of:
- (a) The health and safety of the residents of the city, county or region.
  - (b) The safety and security of any military installation in the city, county or region.
6. The governing body shall, within 30 days after the receipt of the recommendations of the planning commission, hold a public hearing to consider the application. The governing body shall:
- (a) Cause notice of the hearing to be given in the manner prescribed by subsection 2; and
  - (b) Grant or deny the conditional use permit within 30 days after the public hearing.
7. Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, the provisions of this section do not apply to the mining industry.
8. As used in this section, "explosive" means a material subject to regulation as an explosive pursuant to [NRS 459.3816](#).
- (Added to NRS by [1999, 1135](#); A [2001, 1444](#); [2003, 1611](#); [2007, 342](#))

**NRS 278.150 Master plan: Preparation and adoption by planning commission; adoption by governing body of city or county.**

1. The planning commission shall prepare and adopt a comprehensive, long-term general plan for the physical development of the city, county or region which in the commission's judgment bears relation to the planning thereof.
  2. The plan must be known as the master plan, and must be so prepared that all or portions thereof, except as otherwise provided in subsections 3 and 4, may be adopted by the governing body, as provided in [NRS 278.010](#) to [278.630](#), inclusive, as a basis for the development of the city, county or region for such reasonable period of time next ensuing after the adoption thereof as may practically be covered thereby.
  3. In counties whose population is 100,000 or more but less than 400,000, if the governing body of the city or county adopts only a portion of the master plan, it shall include in that portion a conservation plan, a housing plan and a population plan as provided in [NRS 278.160](#).
  4. In counties whose population is 400,000 or more, the governing body of the city or county shall adopt a master plan for all of the city or county that must address each of the subjects set forth in subsection 1 of [NRS 278.160](#).
- [Part 8:110:1941; A 1947, 834; 1943 NCL § 5063.07]—(NRS A 1973, 1241; 1979, 530; 1995, 2225; [2001, 1679](#))

**NRS 278.160 Subject matter of master plan.**

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4 of [NRS 278.150](#) and subsection 3 of [NRS 278.170](#), the master plan, with the accompanying charts, drawings, diagrams, schedules and reports, may include such of the following subject matter or portions thereof as are appropriate to the city, county or region, and as may be made the basis for the physical development thereof:
  - (a) Community design. Standards and principles governing the subdivision of land and suggestive patterns for community design and development.
  - (b) Conservation plan. For the conservation, development and utilization of natural resources, including, without limitation, water and its hydraulic force, underground water, water supply, solar or wind energy, forests, soils, rivers and other waters, harbors, fisheries, wildlife, minerals and other natural resources. The plan must also cover the reclamation of land and waters, flood control, prevention and control of the pollution of streams and other waters, regulation of the use of land in stream channels and other areas required for the accomplishment of the conservation plan, prevention, control and correction of the erosion of soils through proper clearing, grading and landscaping, beaches and shores, and protection of watersheds. The plan must also indicate the maximum tolerable level of air pollution.
  - (c) Economic plan. Showing recommended schedules for the allocation and expenditure of public money in order to provide for the economical and timely execution of the various components of the plan.
  - (d) Historic neighborhood preservation plan. The plan:
    - (1) Must include, without limitation:
      - (I) A plan to inventory historic neighborhoods.
      - (II) A statement of goals and methods to encourage the preservation of historic neighborhoods.
    - (2) Must include, without limitation, the creation of a commission to monitor and promote the preservation of historic neighborhoods.

(e) Historical properties preservation plan. An inventory of significant historical, archaeological, paleontological and architectural properties as defined by a city, county or region, and a statement of methods to encourage the preservation of those properties.

(f) Housing plan. The housing plan must include, without limitation:

(1) An inventory of housing conditions, needs and plans and procedures for improving housing standards and for providing adequate housing to individuals and families in the community, regardless of income level.

(2) An inventory of existing affordable housing in the community, including, without limitation, housing that is available to rent or own, housing that is subsidized either directly or indirectly by this State, an agency or political subdivision of this State, or the Federal Government or an agency of the Federal Government, and housing that is accessible to persons with disabilities.

(3) An analysis of projected growth and the demographic characteristics of the community.

(4) A determination of the present and prospective need for affordable housing in the community.

(5) An analysis of any impediments to the development of affordable housing and the development of policies to mitigate those impediments.

(6) An analysis of the characteristics of the land that is suitable for residential development. The analysis must include, without limitation:

(I) A determination of whether the existing infrastructure is sufficient to sustain the current needs and projected growth of the community; and

(II) An inventory of available parcels that are suitable for residential development and any zoning, environmental and other land-use planning restrictions that affect such parcels.

(7) An analysis of the needs and appropriate methods for the construction of affordable housing or the conversion or rehabilitation of existing housing to affordable housing.

(8) A plan for maintaining and developing affordable housing to meet the housing needs of the community for a period of at least 5 years.

(g) Land use plan. An inventory and classification of types of natural land and of existing land cover and uses, and comprehensive plans for the most desirable utilization of land. The land use plan:

(1) Must address, if applicable:

(I) Mixed-use development, transit-oriented development, master-planned communities and gaming enterprise districts; and

(II) The coordination and compatibility of land uses with any military installation in the city, county or region, taking into account the location, purpose and stated mission of the military installation.

(2) May include a provision concerning the acquisition and use of land that is under federal management within the city, county or region, including, without limitation, a plan or statement of policy prepared pursuant to [NRS 321.7355](#).

(h) Population plan. An estimate of the total population which the natural resources of the city, county or region will support on a continuing basis without unreasonable impairment.

(i) Public buildings. Showing locations and arrangement of civic centers and all other public buildings, including the architecture thereof and the landscape treatment of the grounds thereof.

(j) Public services and facilities. Showing general plans for sewage, drainage and utilities, and rights-of-way, easements and facilities therefor, including, without limitation, any utility projects required to be reported pursuant to [NRS 278.145](#).

(k) Recreation plan. Showing a comprehensive system of recreation areas, including, without limitation, natural reservations, parks, parkways, trails, reserved riverbank strips, beaches, playgrounds and other recreation areas, including, when practicable, the locations and proposed development thereof.

(l) Rural neighborhoods preservation plan. In any county whose population is 400,000 or more, showing general plans to preserve the character and density of rural neighborhoods.

(m) Safety plan. In any county whose population is 400,000 or more, identifying potential types of natural and man-made hazards, including, without limitation, hazards from floods, landslides or fires, or resulting from the manufacture, storage, transfer or use of bulk quantities of hazardous materials. The plan may set forth policies for avoiding or minimizing the risks from those hazards.

(n) School facilities plan. Showing the general locations of current and future school facilities based upon information furnished by the appropriate local school district.

(o) Seismic safety plan. Consisting of an identification and appraisal of seismic hazards such as susceptibility to surface ruptures from faulting, to ground shaking or to ground failures.

(p) Solid waste disposal plan. Showing general plans for the disposal of solid waste.

(q) Streets and highways plan. Showing the general locations and widths of a comprehensive system of major traffic thoroughfares and other traffic ways and of streets and the recommended treatment thereof, building line setbacks, and a system of naming or numbering streets and numbering houses, with recommendations concerning proposed changes.

(r) Transit plan. Showing a proposed multimodal system of transit lines, including mass transit, streetcar, motorcoach and trolley coach lines, paths for bicycles and pedestrians, satellite parking and related facilities.

(s) Transportation plan. Showing a comprehensive transportation system, including, without limitation, locations of rights-of-way, terminals, viaducts and grade separations. The plan may also include port, harbor, aviation and related facilities.

2. The commission may prepare and adopt, as part of the master plan, other and additional plans and reports dealing with such other subjects as may in its judgment relate to the physical development of the city, county or region, and nothing contained in [NRS 278.010](#) to [278.630](#), inclusive, prohibits the preparation and adoption of any such subject as a part of the master plan.

[Part 8:110:1941; A 1947, 834; 1943 NCL § 5063.07]—(NRS A 1973, 141, 1242, 1825; 1989, 149; 1991, 954, 1402; 1995, 2226; 1997, 3249; [1999, 2471, 3367](#); [2001, 742, 1680](#); [2005, 1589, 1820](#); [2007, 343, 1518](#); [2009, 379, 2761](#))

**NRS 278.170 Coordination of master plans; adoption of all or parts.**

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsections 2 and 3, the commission may prepare and adopt all or any part of the master plan or any subject thereof for all or any part of the city, county or region. Master regional plans must be coordinated with similar plans of adjoining regions, and master county and city plans within each region must be coordinated so as to fit properly into the master plan for the region.

2. In counties whose population is 100,000 or more but less than 400,000, if the commission prepares and adopts less than all subjects of the master plan, as outlined in [NRS 278.160](#), it shall include, in its preparation and adoption, the conservation, housing and population plans described in that section.

3. In counties whose population is 400,000 or more, the commission shall prepare and adopt a master plan for all of the city or county that must address each of the subjects set forth in subsection 1 of [NRS 278.160](#).

[Part 8:110:1941; A 1947, 834; 1943 NCL § 5063.07]—(NRS A 1973, 1243; 1979, 530; 1995, 2228; [2001, 1682](#))

**NRS 278.180 School sites: Commission to notify school boards of preparation of plans for community and public buildings.** The county and city planning commission shall, during the formulation of plans for community design and public buildings, notify the governing boards of school districts having jurisdiction of the areas considered of the preparation of such plans to the end that adequate and properly located school sites may be provided for.

[Part 8:110:1941; A 1947, 834; 1943 NCL § 5063.07]

**NRS 278.185 Notice of plan for future construction of school.** When the board of trustees of a school district develops a plan for the future construction of one or more schools, it shall notify each city, county or regional planning commission any part of whose territory will be served by a proposed school. The notice must include the grades to be taught, the number of pupils to be accommodated, and the area to be served. The board shall notify each commission of any change in or abandonment of its plan.

(Added to NRS by 1977, 1498; A 1979, 705; 1981, 1707; 1987, 659; 1989, 499; 1993, 2564)—(Substituted in revision for part of NRS 278.349)

**NRS 278.190 Promotion of plans and regulations; consultations and advice; entry upon land; general powers.**

1. The commission shall endeavor to promote public interest in and understanding of the master plan and of official plans and regulations relating thereto. As a means of furthering the purpose of a master plan, the commission shall annually make recommendations to the governing body for the implementation of the plan.

2. It also shall consult and advise with public officials and agencies, public utility companies, civic, educational, professional and other organizations, and with citizens generally with relation to the carrying out of such plans.

3. The commission, and its members, officers and employees, in the performance of their functions, may enter upon any land and make examinations and surveys and place and maintain necessary monuments and marks thereon.

4. In general, the commission shall have such power as may be necessary to enable it to fulfill its functions and carry out the provisions of [NRS 278.010](#) to [278.630](#), inclusive.

[Part 8:110:1941; A 1947, 834; 1943 NCL § 5063.07]—(NRS A 1973, 1826)

**NRS 278.200 Form of master plan.** The master plan shall be a map, together with such charts, drawings, diagrams, schedules, reports, ordinances, or other printed or published material, or any one or a combination of any of the foregoing as may be considered essential to the purposes of [NRS 278.010](#) to [278.630](#), inclusive.

[9:110:1941; 1931 NCL § 5063.08]—(NRS A 1973, 1827)

**NRS 278.210 Adoption of master plan and amendments by commission: Notice; hearing; neighborhood meeting; resolution; frequency of certain amendments; attested copies; certification by electronic means.**

1. Before adopting the master plan or any part of it in accordance with [NRS 278.170](#), or any substantial amendment thereof, the commission shall hold at least one public hearing thereon, notice of the time and place of which must be given at least by one publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the city or county, or in the case of a regional planning commission, by one publication in a newspaper in each county within the regional district, at least 10 days before the day of the hearing.

2. Before a public hearing may be held pursuant to subsection 1 in a county whose population is 100,000 or more on an amendment to a master plan, including, without limitation, a gaming enterprise district, if applicable, the person who requested the proposed amendment must hold a neighborhood meeting to provide an explanation of the proposed amendment. Notice of such a meeting must be given by the person requesting the proposed amendment to:

(a) Each owner, as listed on the county assessor's records, of real property located within a radius of 750 feet of the area to which the proposed amendment pertains;

(b) The owner, as listed on the county assessor's records, of each of the 30 separately owned parcels nearest to the area to which the proposed amendment pertains, to the extent this notice does not duplicate the notice given pursuant to paragraph (a);

(c) Each tenant of a mobile home park if that park is located within a radius of 750 feet of the area to which the proposed amendment pertains; and

(d) If a military installation is located within 3,000 feet of the area to which the proposed amendment pertains, the commander of the military installation.

➤ The notice must be sent by mail at least 10 days before the neighborhood meeting and include the date, time, place and purpose of the neighborhood meeting.

3. Except as otherwise provided in [NRS 278.225](#), the adoption of the master plan, or of any amendment, extension or addition thereof, must be by resolution of the commission carried by the affirmative votes of not less than two-thirds of the total membership of the commission. The resolution must refer expressly to the maps, descriptive matter and other matter intended by the commission to constitute the plan or any amendment, addition or extension thereof, and the action taken must be recorded on the map and plan and descriptive matter by the identifying signatures of the secretary and chair of the commission.

4. Except as otherwise provided in [NRS 278.225](#), no plan or map, hereafter, may have indicated thereon that it is a part of the master plan until it has been adopted as part of the master plan by the commission as herein provided for the adoption thereof, whenever changed conditions or further studies by the commission require such amendments, extension or addition.

5. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the commission shall not amend the land use plan of the master plan set forth in paragraph (g) of subsection 1 of [NRS 278.160](#), or any portion of such a land use plan, more than four times in a calendar year. The provisions of this subsection do not apply to:

- (a) A change in the land use designated for a particular area if the change does not affect more than 25 percent of the area; or
- (b) A minor amendment adopted pursuant to [NRS 278.225](#).

6. An attested copy of any part, amendment, extension of or addition to the master plan adopted by the planning commission of any city, county or region in accordance with [NRS 278.170](#) must be certified to the governing body of the city, county or region. The governing body of the city, county or region may authorize such certification by electronic means.

7. An attested copy of any part, amendment, extension of or addition to the master plan adopted by any regional planning commission must be certified to the county planning commission and to the board of county commissioners of each county within the regional district. The county planning commission and board of county commissioners may authorize such certification by electronic means.

[10:110:1941; 1931 NCL § 5063.09]—(NRS A [2001, 1682, 2805, 2816; 2005, 185, 1591; 2007, 346; 2009, 2763](#))

**NRS 278.220 Adoption of master plan or part thereof by governing body; change to plan adopted by commission.** Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4 of [NRS 278.150](#) and [NRS 278.225](#):

1. Upon receipt of a certified copy of the master plan, or of any part thereof, as adopted by the planning commission, the governing body may adopt such parts thereof as may practicably be applied to the development of the city, county or region for a reasonable period of time next ensuing.

2. The parts must thereupon be endorsed and certified as master plans thus adopted for the territory covered, and are hereby declared to be established to conserve and promote the public health, safety and general welfare.

3. Before adopting any plan or part thereof, the governing body shall hold at least one public hearing thereon, notice of the time and place of which must be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the city or counties at least 10 days before the day of hearing.

4. No change in or addition to the master plan or any part thereof, as adopted by the planning commission, may be made by the governing body in adopting the same until the proposed change or addition has been referred to the planning commission for a report thereon and an attested copy of the report has been filed with the governing body. Failure of the planning commission so to report within 40 days, or such longer period as may be designated by the governing body, after such reference shall be deemed to be approval of the proposed change or addition.

[Part 11:110:1941; A 1947, 834; 1943 NCL § 5063.10]—(NRS A [2001, 1683; 2005, 186](#))

**NRS 278.225 Governing body may establish by ordinance procedure for adopting minor amendments to master plan; public hearing and notice required before adoption of ordinance.**

1. A governing body may establish by ordinance a procedure by which the governing body may adopt minor amendments to the master plan, or any part thereof, without action by the planning commission.

2. Before adopting an ordinance or a minor amendment pursuant to subsection 1, the governing body shall hold a public hearing and give notice of the hearing in the manner required by subsection 3 of [NRS 278.220](#).

3. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires, “minor amendment” means:

(a) A change in a boundary that is based on a geographical feature, including, without limitation, topography, slopes, hydrographic features, wetland delineation and floodplains, when evidence is produced that the mapped location of the geographical feature is in error;

(b) A change made to reflect the alteration of the name of a jurisdiction, agency, department or district by the governing body, governing board or other governing authority of the jurisdiction, agency, department or district, as applicable, or by another entity authorized by law to make such an alteration; and

(c) An update of statistical information that is based on a new or revised study.

(Added to NRS by [2005, 185](#))

**NRS 278.230 Governing body to put adopted master plan into effect.**

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4 of [NRS 278.150](#), whenever the governing body of any city or county has adopted a master plan or part thereof for the city or county, or for any major section or district thereof, the governing body shall, upon recommendation of the planning commission, determine upon reasonable and practical means for putting into effect the master plan or part thereof, in order that the same will serve as:

(a) A pattern and guide for that kind of orderly physical growth and development of the city or county which will cause the least amount of natural resource impairment and will conform to the adopted population plan, where required, and ensure an adequate supply of housing, including affordable housing; and

- (b) A basis for the efficient expenditure of funds thereof relating to the subjects of the master plan.
2. The governing body may adopt and use such procedure as may be necessary for this purpose.  
[Part 11:110:1941; A 1947, 834; 1943 NCL § 5063.10]—(NRS A 1973, 1243; 1995, 2228; [2001, 1683](#))

**NRS 278.235 Adoption of measures to maintain and develop affordable housing to carry out housing plan required in master plan; annual reports.**

1. If the governing body of a city or county is required to include a housing plan in its master plan pursuant to [NRS 278.150](#), the governing body, in carrying out the plan for maintaining and developing affordable housing to meet the housing needs of the community, which is required to be included in the housing plan pursuant to subparagraph (8) of paragraph (f) of subsection 1 of [NRS 278.160](#), shall adopt at least six of the following measures:

(a) At the expense of the city or county, as applicable, subsidizing in whole or in part impact fees and fees for the issuance of building permits collected pursuant to [NRS 278.580](#).

(b) Selling land owned by the city or county, as applicable, to developers exclusively for the development of affordable housing at not more than 10 percent of the appraised value of the land, and requiring that any such savings, subsidy or reduction in price be passed on to the purchaser of housing in such a development. Nothing in this paragraph authorizes a city or county to obtain land pursuant to the power of eminent domain for the purposes set forth in this paragraph.

(c) Donating land owned by the city or county to a nonprofit organization to be used for affordable housing.

(d) Leasing land by the city or county to be used for affordable housing.

(e) Requesting to purchase land owned by the Federal Government at a discounted price for the creation of affordable housing pursuant to the provisions of section 7(b) of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998, Public Law 105-263.

(f) Establishing a trust fund for affordable housing that must be used for the acquisition, construction or rehabilitation of affordable housing.

(g) Establishing a process that expedites the approval of plans and specifications relating to maintaining and developing affordable housing.

(h) Providing money, support or density bonuses for affordable housing developments that are financed, wholly or in part, with low-income housing tax credits, private activity bonds or money from a governmental entity for affordable housing, including, without limitation, money received pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 1701q and 42 U.S.C. § 8013.

(i) Providing financial incentives or density bonuses to promote appropriate transit-oriented housing developments that would include an affordable housing component.

(j) Offering density bonuses or other incentives to encourage the development of affordable housing.

(k) Providing direct financial assistance to qualified applicants for the purchase or rental of affordable housing.

(l) Providing money for supportive services necessary to enable persons with supportive housing needs to reside in affordable housing in accordance with a need for supportive housing identified in the 5-year consolidated plan adopted by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for the city or county pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12705 and described in 24 C.F.R. Part 91.

2. On or before January 15 of each year, the governing body shall submit to the Housing Division of the Department of Business and Industry a report, in the form prescribed by the Division, of how the measures adopted pursuant to subsection 1 assisted the city or county in maintaining and developing affordable housing to meet the needs of the community for the preceding year. The report must include an analysis of the need for affordable housing within the city or county that exists at the end of the reporting period.

3. On or before February 15 of each year, the Housing Division shall compile the reports submitted pursuant to subsection 2 and transmit the compilation to the Legislature, or the Legislative Commission if the Legislature is not in regular session.

(Added to NRS by [2007, 1517](#); A [2009, 2764](#))

**NRS 278.240 Approval required for certain dedications, closures, abandonments, construction or authorizations.**

Whenever the governing body of a city, county or region has adopted a master plan, or one or more subject matters thereof, for the city, county or region, or for a major section or district thereof, no street, square, park, or other public way, ground, or open space may be acquired by dedication or otherwise, except by bequest, and no street or public way may be closed or abandoned, and no public building or structure may be constructed or authorized in the area for which the master plan or one or more subject matters thereof has been adopted by the governing body unless the dedication, closure, abandonment, construction or authorization is approved in a manner consistent with the requirements of the governing body, board or commission having jurisdiction over such a matter.

[12:110:1941; 1931 NCL § 5063.11]—(NRS A 1997, 2419)

**NRS 278.243 City or county authorized to represent own interests in certain matters if governing body has adopted master plan.** A city or county whose governing body has adopted a master plan pursuant to [NRS 278.220](#) may represent its own interests with respect to land and appurtenant resources that are located within the city or county and are affected by policies and activities involving the use of federal land.

(Added to NRS by [1999, 1421](#))

**NRS 278.246 City or county authorized to enter into certain actions if governing body has adopted master plan.**

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, a city or county whose governing body has adopted a master plan pursuant to [NRS 278.220](#) may:

(a) On its own initiative bring and maintain an action in its own name and on its own behalf; or

(b) Intervene on behalf of or bring and maintain an action on the relation of, any person in any meritorious case,

↳ in any court or before any federal agency, if an action or proposed action by a federal agency or instrumentality with respect to the lands, appurtenant resources or streets that are located within the city or county impairs or tends to impair the traditional functions of the city or county or the carrying out of the master plan.

2. A city or county may not:

(a) Bring and maintain an action pursuant to subsection 1 that would request a court to grant relief that would violate a state statute;

(b) Participate in any proceeding of a federal agency pursuant to subsection 1 to request the federal agency to take any action that would violate a state statute; or

(c) Bring or maintain an action pursuant to subsection 1 on behalf of this State or as representative of the interests of this State or any of its agencies.

(Added to NRS by [1999, 1421](#))

### **NRS 278.250 Zoning districts and regulations.**

1. For the purposes of [NRS 278.010](#) to [278.630](#), inclusive, the governing body may divide the city, county or region into zoning districts of such number, shape and area as are best suited to carry out the purposes of [NRS 278.010](#) to [278.630](#), inclusive. Within the zoning district, it may regulate and restrict the erection, construction, reconstruction, alteration, repair or use of buildings, structures or land.

2. The zoning regulations must be adopted in accordance with the master plan for land use and be designed:

(a) To preserve the quality of air and water resources.

(b) To promote the conservation of open space and the protection of other natural and scenic resources from unreasonable impairment.

(c) To consider existing views and access to solar resources by studying the height of new buildings which will cast shadows on surrounding residential and commercial developments.

(d) To reduce the consumption of energy by encouraging the use of products and materials which maximize energy efficiency in the construction of buildings.

(e) To provide for recreational needs.

(f) To protect life and property in areas subject to floods, landslides and other natural disasters.

(g) To conform to the adopted population plan, if required by [NRS 278.170](#).

(h) To develop a timely, orderly and efficient arrangement of transportation and public facilities and services, including public access and sidewalks for pedestrians, and facilities and services for bicycles.

(i) To ensure that the development on land is commensurate with the character and the physical limitations of the land.

(j) To take into account the immediate and long-range financial impact of the application of particular land to particular kinds of development, and the relative suitability of the land for development.

(k) To promote health and the general welfare.

(l) To ensure the development of an adequate supply of housing for the community, including the development of affordable housing.

(m) To ensure the protection of existing neighborhoods and communities, including the protection of rural preservation neighborhoods and, in counties whose population is 400,000 or more, the protection of historic neighborhoods.

(n) To promote systems which use solar or wind energy.

(o) To foster the coordination and compatibility of land uses with any military installation in the city, county or region, taking into account the location, purpose and stated mission of the military installation.

3. The zoning regulations must be adopted with reasonable consideration, among other things, to the character of the area and its peculiar suitability for particular uses, and with a view to conserving the value of buildings and encouraging the most appropriate use of land throughout the city, county or region.

4. In exercising the powers granted in this section, the governing body may use any controls relating to land use or principles of zoning that the governing body determines to be appropriate, including, without limitation, density bonuses, inclusionary zoning and minimum density zoning.

5. As used in this section:

(a) “Density bonus” means an incentive granted by a governing body to a developer of real property that authorizes the developer to build at a greater density than would otherwise be allowed under the master plan, in exchange for an agreement by the developer to perform certain functions that the governing body determines to be socially desirable, including, without limitation, developing an area to include a certain proportion of affordable housing.

(b) “Inclusionary zoning” means a type of zoning pursuant to which a governing body requires or provides incentives to a developer who builds residential dwellings to build a certain percentage of those dwellings as affordable housing.

(c) “Minimum density zoning” means a type of zoning pursuant to which development must be carried out at or above a certain density to maintain conformance with the master plan.

[13:110:1941; 1931 NCL § 5063.12]—(NRS A 1973, 1244, 1828; 1977, 1016; 1991, 2232; 1995, 2228; [1999, 2128, 3369; 2005, 1592, 1822; 2007, 347; 2009, 2766](#))

**NRS 278.260 Determination, establishment, enforcement and amendment of zoning regulations, restrictions and boundaries: Procedure and prerequisites; notice and hearing; signs; additional fee for certain applications.**

1. The governing body shall provide for the manner in which zoning regulations and restrictions and the boundaries of zoning districts are determined, established, enforced and amended.

2. A zoning regulation, restriction or boundary, or an amendment thereto, must not become effective until after transmittal of a copy of the relevant application to the town board, citizens' advisory council or town advisory board pursuant to subsection 5, if applicable, and after a public hearing at which parties in interest and other persons have an opportunity to be heard. The governing body shall cause notice of the time and place of the hearing to be:

(a) Published in an official newspaper, or a newspaper of general circulation, in the city, county or region;

(b) Mailed to each tenant of a mobile home park if that park is located within 300 feet of the property in question; and

(c) If a military installation is located within 3,000 feet of the property in question, mailed to the commander of that military installation,

↳ at least 10 days before the hearing.

3. If a proposed amendment involves a change in the boundary of a zoning district in a county whose population is less than 100,000, the governing body shall, to the extent this notice does not duplicate the notice required by subsection 2, cause a notice of the hearing to be sent at least 10 days before the hearing to:

(a) The applicant;

(b) Each owner, as listed on the county assessor's records, of real property located within 300 feet of the portion of the boundary being changed;

(c) The owner, as listed on the county assessor's records, of each of the 30 separately owned parcels nearest to the portion of the boundary being changed, to the extent this notice does not duplicate the notice given pursuant to paragraph (b); and

(d) Any advisory board which has been established for the affected area by the governing body.

↳ The notice must be sent by mail or, if requested by a party to whom notice must be provided pursuant to paragraphs (a) to (d), inclusive, by electronic means if receipt of such an electronic notice can be verified, and must be written in language which is easy to understand. The notice must set forth the time, place and purpose of the hearing and a physical description of or a map detailing the proposed change, must indicate the existing zoning designation and the proposed zoning designation of the property in question, and must contain a brief summary of the intent of the proposed change. If the proposed amendment involves a change in the boundary of the zoning district that would reduce the density or intensity with which a parcel of land may be used, the notice must include a section that an owner of property may complete and return to the governing body to indicate his or her approval of or opposition to the proposed amendment.

4. If a proposed amendment involves a change in the boundary of a zoning district in a county whose population is 100,000 or more, the governing body shall, to the extent this notice does not duplicate the notice required by subsection 2, cause a notice of the hearing to be sent at least 10 days before the hearing to:

(a) The applicant;

(b) Each owner, as listed on the county assessor's records, of real property located within 750 feet of the portion of the boundary being changed;

(c) The owner, as listed on the county assessor's records, of each of the 30 separately owned parcels nearest to the portion of the boundary being changed, to the extent this notice does not duplicate the notice given pursuant to paragraph (b);

(d) Each tenant of a mobile home park if that park is located within 750 feet of the property in question; and

(e) Any advisory board which has been established for the affected area by the governing body.

↳ The notice must be sent by mail or, if requested by a party to whom notice must be provided pursuant to paragraphs (a) to (e), inclusive, by electronic means if receipt of such an electronic notice can be verified, and must be written in language which is easy to understand. The notice must set forth the time, place and purpose of the hearing and a physical description of or a map detailing the proposed change, must indicate the existing zoning designation and the proposed zoning designation of the property in question, and must contain a brief summary of the intent of the proposed change. If the proposed amendment involves a change in the boundary of the zoning district that would reduce the density or intensity with which a parcel of land may be used, the notice must include a section that an owner of property may complete and return to the governing body to indicate his or her approval of or opposition to the proposed amendment.

5. If an application is filed with the governing body and the application involves a change in the boundary of a zoning district within an unincorporated town that is located more than 10 miles from an incorporated city, the governing body shall, at least 10 days before the hearing on the application is held pursuant to subsection 2, transmit a copy of any information pertinent to the application to the town board, citizens' advisory council or town advisory board, whichever is applicable, of the unincorporated town. The town board, citizens' advisory council or town advisory board may make recommendations regarding the application and submit its recommendations before the hearing on the application is held pursuant to subsection 2. The governing body or other authorized person or entity conducting the hearing shall consider any recommendations submitted by the town board, citizens' advisory council or town advisory board regarding the application and, within 10 days after making its decision on the application, shall transmit a copy of its decision to the town board, citizens' advisory council or town advisory board.

6. In a county whose population is 400,000 or more, if a notice is required to be sent pursuant to subsection 4:

(a) The exterior of a notice sent by mail; or

(b) The cover sheet, heading or subject line of a notice sent by electronic means,

↳ must bear a statement, in at least 10-point bold type or font, in substantially the following form

## OFFICIAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

7. In addition to sending the notice required pursuant to subsection 4, in a county whose population is 400,000 or more, the governing body shall, not later than 10 days before the hearing, erect or cause to be erected on the property at least one sign not less than 2 feet high and 2 feet wide. The sign must be made of material reasonably calculated to withstand the elements for 40 days. The governing body must be consistent in its use of colors for the background and lettering of the sign. The sign must include the following information:

- (a) The existing zoning designation of the property in question;
- (b) The proposed zoning designation of the property in question;
- (c) The date, time and place of the public hearing;
- (d) A telephone number which may be used by interested persons to obtain additional information; and
- (e) A statement which indicates whether the proposed zoning designation of the property in question complies with the requirements of the master plan of the city or county in which the property is located.

8. A sign required pursuant to subsection 7 is for informational purposes only and must be erected regardless of any local ordinance regarding the size, placement or composition of signs to the contrary.

9. A governing body may charge an additional fee for each application to amend an existing zoning regulation, restriction or boundary to cover the actual costs resulting from the mailed notice required by this section and the erection of not more than one of the signs required by subsection 7, if any. The additional fee is not subject to the limitation imposed by [NRS 354.5989](#).

10. The governing body shall remove or cause to be removed any sign required by subsection 7 within 5 days after the final hearing for the application for which the sign was erected. There must be no additional charge to the applicant for such removal.

11. If a proposed amendment involves a change in the boundary of a zoning district in a county whose population is 400,000 or more that would reduce the density or intensity with which a parcel of land may be used and at least 20 percent of the property owners to whom notices were sent pursuant to subsection 4 indicate in their responses opposition to the proposed amendment, the governing body shall not approve the proposed amendment unless the governing body:

- (a) Considers separately the merits of each aspect of the proposed amendment to which the owners expressed opposition; and
- (b) Makes a written finding that the public interest and necessity will be promoted by approval of the proposed amendment.

12. The governing body of a county whose population is 400,000 or more shall not approve a zoning regulation, restriction or boundary, or an amendment thereof, that affects any unincorporated area of the county that is surrounded completely by the territory of an incorporated city without sending a notice to the governing body of the city. The governing body of the city, or its designee, must submit any recommendations to the governing body of the county within 15 days after receiving the notice. The governing body of the county shall consider any such recommendations. If the governing body of the county does not accept a recommendation, the governing body of the county, or its authorized agent, shall specify for the record the reasons for its action.

[14:110:1941; 1931 NCL § 5063.13]—(NRS A 1973, 1828; 1977, 1017; 1989, 962; 1991, 370; 1993, 2204; 1997, 2420; [1999, 785, 911, 2078, 2080; 2001, 1446, 1683; 2003, 70, 2338; 2007, 348](#))

**NRS 278.262 Hearing examiners: Power of governing body to appoint.** The governing body of any county or city may appoint as many full-time or part-time hearing examiners as are necessary or appropriate to assist the planning commission and the governing body in acting upon proposals for changes in zoning classification, zoning districts, special use permits, variances and other matters affecting zoning.

(Added to NRS by 1973, 337; A 1977, 1017; 1979, 371)

**NRS 278.263 Hearing examiners: Compensation; qualifications; removal.**

1. Hearing examiners appointed under the authority of [NRS 278.262](#) are entitled to receive such compensation as is considered necessary by the governing body and shall possess qualifications similar to those of a licensed architect, attorney, engineer or a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners.

2. Hearing examiners serve at the pleasure of the governing body in accordance with any appropriate personnel ordinance or regulation.

(Added to NRS by 1973, 337; A 1995, 453)

**NRS 278.264 Hearing examiners: Rules of procedure.** Upon the determination of any governing body that a hearing examiner is to be employed and before any hearings are conducted utilizing his or her services, an ordinance shall be enacted setting forth rules of procedure for the processing and hearing of applications which are to be considered by a hearing examiner.

(Added to NRS by 1973, 338)

**NRS 278.265 Hearing examiners: Notice and hearing; duties and powers; final action on certain matters; appeal of final action.**

1. Any ordinance enacted pursuant to the provisions of [NRS 278.264](#) must provide, in substance, the same notice of hearing and conduct of hearing safeguards required by [NRS 278.315](#) or [278.480](#), whichever is applicable.

2. The governing body shall, by ordinance, set forth the duties and powers of the hearing examiner, including a statement of whether the hearing examiner may take final action on any matter assigned to the hearing examiner by the governing body.

3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, the governing body may authorize the hearing examiner to take final action on matters relating to a variance, vacation, abandonment, special use permit, conditional use permit and other special exception or application specified in the ordinance.

4. The governing body shall not authorize the hearing examiner to take final action on:

(a) Matters relating to a zoning classification, zoning district or an amendment to a zoning boundary.

(b) An application for a conditional use permit that is filed pursuant to [NRS 278.147](#).

5. An applicant or protestant may appeal any final action taken by the hearing examiner in accordance with the ordinance adopted pursuant to [NRS 278.3195](#).

(Added to NRS by 1973, 338; A 1995, 453; 1997, 2422; [1999, 1137](#); [2001, 2805](#))