

blahs. The party's turnout at the polls was so weak that Republicans gained a whopping nine U.S. Senate seats and 13 U.S. House seats. Within Nevada, the GOP swept everything in sight, winning both houses of the legislature and all state offices elected state-wide, a win that had not been experienced by Republicans since 1890.

Even at that, the measure would have passed if there had been anything approaching normal Democratic turnout. Ballot Question Two won in Clark County. Everywhere else it lost. In small counties where the mining industry held sway, the ballot measure was trounced. In Elko County, home of the Carlin Trend workforce, the vote was 1,450 yes to 8,684 no.

During the campaign the industry actually argued that the ballot measure would lower mining taxes! It still angers Leslie.

"In 2014, the industry put forth absurd arguments that mining could actually be taxed less if the tax protections were taken out of the constitution, trying to obfuscate

the issue when anyone could plainly see how Nevada was being ripped off by multinational corporations who happily took their profits out of Nevada while tossing a few charitable contributions and lots of campaign cash to stall any thoughts of serious tax reform," she said. "Meanwhile the environmental degradation has continued unabated and, in fact, aided by a state regulatory system that is clearly in mining's back pocket."

At the 2015 legislature, with Republicans in control of everything, there naturally was no effort to revive the measure and get it back on the ballot (though in fact, Republican support for Leslie's measure, particularly in Senate, had helped her get it passed). But once Democrats re-took control of the legislature, at both the 2017 and 2019 legislatures, lawmakers ignored any effort at bringing the resolution back to life. So instead, they are bogged down in court on another tax matter. □

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Sculpture



The first four public art installations in the new Jacobs Entertainment-backed "Neon Line District" have been erected along Fourth Street. The installations feature several large, mostly steel sculptures that were originally designed for Burning Man. Jacobs Entertainment has said that the pieces are part of the one billion dollar investment they've made in the surrounding area, and plan to change the sculptures every two years. This one, "Squared," by artist Charles Gadeken, illuminates the northeast corner of the Sands Regency Casino Hotel lot, which was purchased by Jacobs in 2017 for \$30 million.

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