

News

Neighborhoods

Sports

Business

Entertainment

Local Life

Voices

Obits

Help

Sign up

Log in

FEATURED: Metromix MomsLikeMe Find It Now GoToRenoTahoe.com

Find what you are looking for ...

SEARCH

50-90% off local dining, shopping and more every day

Sign up now at DealChicken.com



NevaData

This is a forum for discussing data that affect our lives or is simply interesting. With an emphasis on Northern Nevada. Other topics of interest may stray onto the blog if they don't have a home elsewhere. Find this blog at RGJ.com/NevaData. Email me at datadesk@rgj.com.

Comments are welcome, but please be courteous. Aggressive or disrespectful (towards anyone) comments will not be published. Ad hominem, profane and off-topic comments will also be rejected. Comments are approved/rejected when I'm in the office and not otherwise occupied. No posts or comment moderation Fridays-Sundays, generally.



Nevada ranks 6th best in nation in new study on individual freedom in the states

Posted by [MarkRobison](#) at 6/7/2011 3:29 PM PDT on rgj.com

A new study out today puts Nevada 6th in the nation overall for freedom, ranking 3rd for personal freedom and 16th for economic freedom.

The rankings are by the Mercatus Center at George Mason University in a study titled "Freedom in the 50 States: An Index of Personal and Economic Freedom." The report says:

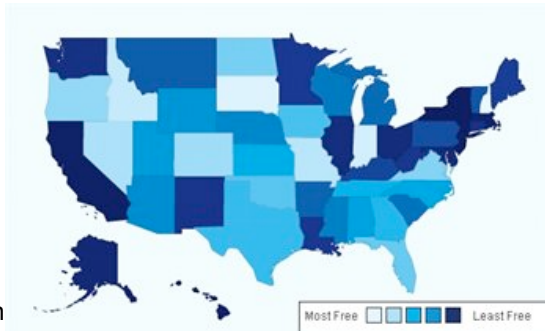
Our approach to measuring freedom in the states is unique in three respects: (1) it includes measures of social and personal freedoms such as peaceable citizens' rights to educate their own children, to own and carry firearms, and to be free from unreasonable search and seizure; (2) it incorporates more than 150 distinct public policies; and (3) it is particularly careful to measure fiscal policies in a way that reflects the true cost of government to the citizen.

We find that the overall freest states in the country are New Hampshire and South Dakota, which together achieve a virtual tie for first place, while New York is the least free by a considerable margin. On personal freedom alone, Oregon now comes first, with Vermont and Nevada not too far behind, and Maryland brings up the rear. On economic freedom alone, South Dakota easily takes first, and New York is a distant last. The most improved states since the last edition of our study are Oregon, Nevada, Maine, and Washington, while Wyoming, California, Arizona, and Massachusetts have fallen the furthest. Two of the most intriguing findings of our statistical analysis are that Americans are voting with their feet and moving to states with more economic and personal freedom and that economic freedom correlates with income growth.

Here is the report's analysis and recommendations for Nevada:

Analysis

Nevada has a reputation as a libertarian state, mostly because of legal prostitution and gambling but reality is only beginning to catch up to perception. Nevada starts out with the obvious advantages of the most liberal gaming regime in the country (but an Internet-gaming ban) and local-option prostitution. On fiscal policy the state is better than average, but in less visible ways, since spending and taxation are only slightly better than average. Debt is rising, but the state is more than two standard deviations better than average on fiscal decentralization and almost two standard deviations better than average on government employment. Gun and alcohol laws are fairly relaxed, and marijuana laws are better than average, except



Recent Entries

- [U.S. funding for future promises lags by trillions](#)
- [Study: Yosemite toad decline in Sierra Nevada not the fault of cattle](#)
- [Nevada ranks 6th best in nation in new study on individual freedom in the states](#)
- [Why the John Edwards affair is a criminal case and not just another example of philandering politicians](#)
- [Fact Checker: Has the misery index under President Obama never been higher?](#)

Archives

- [Older](#)
- [July 2010 \(35\)](#)
- [August 2010 \(49\)](#)
- [September 2010 \(26\)](#)
- [October 2010 \(31\)](#)
- [November 2010 \(16\)](#)
- [December 2010 \(18\)](#)
- [January \(27\)](#)
- [February \(14\)](#)
- [March \(37\)](#)
- [April \(25\)](#)
- [May \(28\)](#)
- [June \(9\)](#)

Most Recent Tags

- [debt-national](#)
- [economy](#)
- [elections](#)
- [traffic-transportation](#)
- [travel-transportation](#)
- [recalls](#)
- [factchecker](#)
- [prostitution](#)
- [military](#)
- [veterans](#)

Blog Roll

- [FiveThirtyEight](#)
- [Pew Research Center](#)
- [PolitiFact](#)
- [FactCheck.org](#)
- [Skeptical Science](#)
- [Snopes](#)
- [Smart Politics](#)
- [WaPo Fact Checker](#)
- [Science Daily](#)
- [ProPublica](#)

[Subscribe via RSS](#)

for the possibility of life imprisonment. The state imposes the strictest private-school regulations in the country: mandatory state approval of all schools, mandatory state licensure of all teachers, and detailed curriculum control. Homeschool laws are far less restrictive and have been further liberalized recently. The state recently enacted a minimum wage. Smoking bans are complete in restaurants and workplaces, but bars are partially exempted. Health-insurance coverage mandates are more than a standard deviation worse than average. Telecom and cable were recently deregulated and a significant eminent-domain reform enacted. Same-sex civil unions were passed in 2008.

Policy Recommendations

- * Repeal health-insurance coverage mandates such as coverage for TMJ treatment, prostate screening, mammograms, the HPV vaccine, hospice care, home health care, dental anesthesia, and seeing social workers, opticians, and osteopaths.

- * Deregulate private schools.

- * Allow the minimum wage to revert to the federal standard.

Read the full report [here](#), see the website overview [here](#) and take a test to see how your policy choices would affect Nevada [here](#). Finally, here's a video explaining the report:

[Comments \(7\)](#) | [Permanent Link](#)

Tags:

[Email this post](#)

[Recommend](#)



mtdweller wrote:

Strange that with all the Libertarian and Tea Party people who post here, that this has received zero comments.
6/7/2011 9:23 PM PDT on rgj.com

[Recommend](#)

[Permalink](#)



Sentient Being wrote:

Yay Nevada!
6/8/2011 8:53 AM PDT on rgj.com

[Recommend](#)

[Permalink](#)



AverageSoldier wrote:

WHY? HOW?
This "discovery" (click) by the investigators had to go a long way toward Nevada's "freedom" ranking in America.
<http://www.youtube.com/profile?user=samsawrah#g/u>
PS

That's not to say Nevada is not without a lot of sins when it comes to "freedom". Especially when you consider the massive vote stealing treachery that permeates the dastardly Sequoia video game vote stealing machines.

cc: Mercatus Center at George Mason University
(<http://mercatus.org/publication/freedom-50-states-index-personal-and-economic-freedom?id=26154>)

* <http://mercatus.org/william-ruger>

* <http://mercatus.org/iason-sorens>

6/8/2011 10:25 AM PDT on rgj.com

[Recommend](#)

[Permalink](#)



alpastor wrote:

Same sex civil unions were passed in 2008? Must have slipped under my radar, but then, a lot does.