



NEVADA

# 2020 HEALTH CARE LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE GUIDE

Health care [access and cost](#) remains one of the [most important problems facing America](#).

- Nevada has the seventh-highest uninsured rate in the United States ([11% in 2018](#)).
- Nevada's [unemployment rate jumped from 6.9% in March to 30.1% in April](#) on a seasonally-adjusted basis. It was 15% in June, which likely has **severed tens of thousands of Nevadans from their employer sponsored insurance**.
- The COVID pandemic is drastically impacting insurance coverage for Nevada -- between March and May of 2020, [over 42,000 people enrolled in Nevada's Medicaid program](#); this is 42 times higher than enrollment between March and April of 2019.
- As of July 1, 2020, a [disproportionate number of those infected](#) (69%) and those dying (49%) in Nevada are **Black, Indigenous, and people of color** who make up only 50% of the state's population.
- **Seniors are at greatest risk**. As of July 1, 2020 [83% of COVID deaths](#) in Nevada were among patients aged 60 or older.
- Access to health care has only become more challenging during the pandemic and will likely have **lasting impacts on rural communities**. Communities in a [contiguous twelve-county region](#) in central Nevada lack a single ICU bed, requiring rural Nevadans who get sick with COVID to drive hours to the nearest hospital, sometimes out-of-state. In March 2020, it was [reported](#) that only 8 of 20 rural ICU beds in the state were available.
- In July 2020, Governor Sisolak released a COVID-19 Fiscal Report [projecting a \\$1.2 billion budget deficit](#) in the Fiscal Year 2021 budget.

The COVID-19 pandemic has illuminated the need for practical solutions that address both the immediate challenges and the long-term gaps in our health care systems to ensure Nevadans can access quality health care they can afford.

## KEY MESSAGES FOR CANDIDATES:

- Acknowledge the moment:** "Our country is at a pivotal moment. The pandemic, economic recession, and national discussion on race have created a renewed call for action. They have also magnified the critical problems that exist in our health care system."
- Take an active stance:** "It is long past time to examine our systems and address gaps that have existed for decades. We must find solutions and common ground to build a health care system that serves everyone."
- Commit to prioritize people's needs:** "I will put people's health care needs first and I'm already formalizing the ways I gather input and work with community and business leaders to put effective solutions in place."
- Commit to both addressing disparities and finding common ground:** "The health care system, as it's currently structured, isn't working for far too many. I will work to address the lack of fairness and shared needs to build a health care system that works for all of us."



Learn more about United States of Care at [unitedstatesofcare.org](https://unitedstatesofcare.org).  
For more information or to seek assistance, contact USofCare at [Help@USofCare.org](mailto:Help@USofCare.org).