

Washoe County Freedom Coalition Meeting Summary July 24, 2025

Overview

This document summarizes a meeting of the Washoe County Freedom Coalition, attended by local conservative activists, elected officials, and community leaders. The meeting included prayers, announcements, updates from various organizations, and discussions on local government, education, and activism strategies.

Opening and Announcements

- Began with a prayer expressing gratitude for the country and community, seeking unity and inspiration.
- Emphasis on supporting Republican candidates, especially in down-ballot races, and plans for a slate mailer for the upcoming primary.

Key Speakers and Topics

Chris Sarman – Washoe County Assessor

Background: 16 years in the Assessor's office, plans to run for re-election.

- Office Role: Manages property assessments, which generate 52% of the county's general fund.

Challenges:

- Budget concerns due to redevelopment agencies diverting funds.
- Stressed the importance of Republican leadership in local government.

Partisanship:

- Although the assessor is a nonpartisan role, Sarman argued Republican values influence resistance to tax increases and fiscal responsibility.
- Office Efficiency: Despite county growth, staff remains below pre-recession levels due to technology and efficiency improvements.

Mike Leonard – Reno Reporter (Substack)

- Investigative journalism on local government corruption and financial mismanagement.

Highlights:

- Exposed issues with tax increment financing and city debt.
- Critiqued local politicians for conflicts of interest and lack of transparency.
- Uses AI tools to analyze city/county meetings and documents for reporting.
- Encouraged attendees to subscribe to his free Substack newsletter for updates.

Paul White – Library and Homelessness Issues

- Criticized public libraries as underused and costly, suggesting consolidation with school libraries to save money.
- Argued that local government and social services are corrupt and inefficient, especially concerning the homeless population and CARES Campus.
- Advocated for transferring homeless services to nonprofit organizations and churches.

Bruce Foster – School Book Challenges• Collaborates with Capital Resource Institute to challenge sexually explicit books in Washoe County schools.

- Outlined a process for submitting reconsideration forms and FOIA requests to hold school administrators accountable.
- Sought volunteers to assist with book challenges.

Maurice Washington & Cesar Minara Jr.– Candidate Academy & Activism

- Announced a hands-on Candidate Academy for those interested in running for office, focusing on practical campaign skills.
 - Encouraged attendees to get involved via a QR code sign-up for activism, canvassing, and legislative testimony.
 - Stressed the importance of building a bench of conservative candidates and preparing for upcoming redistricting.
- Education Alternatives & Parental Engagement
- Advocacy for parental responsibility in education and promoting alternatives to public schools.
 - Announcement of Calvary Christian Academy, a private classical Christian school opening in September, offering scholarships and aiming for leadership development.

Organizational Updates & Calls to Action

- Washoe County Republican Assembly: Invited members to upcoming meetings; discussed potential new meeting locations.
- Fundraising Committee: Sought volunteers to help build a donor contact list and refine fundraising letters.
- PAC Formation: Efforts underway to formalize the coalition as a political action committee, with elected officers and bylaws.
- Washoe Freedom Coalition Website: Promoted as a hub for conservative events, candidate information, and organizational coordination.

Community Engagement and Next Steps

- Encouraged members to attend library board meetings and support conservative trustees.
- Emphasized the importance of local activism, including voter registration drives and attendance at public meetings.
- Plans for legislative updates and continued collaboration with other conservative groups.

Closing Notes

- Meeting concluded with additional announcements and a reminder to check the coalition website for events and updates.
- Emphasis on unity, strategic activism, and building infrastructure for conservative success in Washoe County.

For further involvement:

- Subscribe to local newsletters (e.g., Mike Leonard's Reno Report, Education Crusade).
- Attend upcoming meetings and consider volunteering for committees or activism efforts.
- Visit WashoeFreedomCoalition.com for calendar and contact information.