

Nicole J. Cannizzaro, Majority Leader, Nevada State Senate

Nevada State Senator Nicole J. Cannizzaro has dedicated her career to advancing gender equity, protecting reproductive rights, and uplifting women and families through bold, effective leadership. Representing District 6 since 2016, she made history in 2019 as the first woman elected Majority Leader of the Nevada State Senate, marking a turning point for female representation in state leadership. Early in her tenure, Senator Cannizzaro joined forces with her colleague Senator Pat Spearman to author and pass Nevada's resolution to ratify the federal Equal Rights Amendment. Their leadership played a pivotal role in revitalizing the national ERA movement, encouraging other states like Illinois and Virginia to act, ultimately leading to full ratification by 38 states in 2020.

A steadfast defender of reproductive freedom, Senator Cannizzaro sponsored Senate Joint Resolution 7, a landmark initiative to enshrine abortion access as a constitutional right in Nevada. In the face of growing national threats to reproductive healthcare, she has also worked to protect access to contraception, in vitro fertilization, and other fertility treatments, ensuring every person can make their own choices about if and when to grow their families. Her advocacy goes far beyond reproductive rights. She authored and passed the Sexual Assault Survivors' Bill of Rights, expanded protections for domestic violence victims, safeguarded seniors from abuse, and worked to eliminate healthcare barriers for disabled veterans. In 2022, she led the successful effort to pass Senate Joint Resolution 8, amending Nevada's Constitution to include explicit protections against discrimination based on gender identity and expression, cementing equality as a core value of the state.

As a working mother and a barrier-breaking leader, Cannizzaro brings personal insight into the challenges women face. Her legislative agenda reflects the lived experiences of Nevadans and her belief that policies must serve the most vulnerable among us. Through her visionary leadership, she has helped transform Nevada into a national model for gender equity and justice.