

Opinion: Why Las Vegas should be part of Arizona

By John L. Smith, Las Vegas Review-Journal

Las Vegas, we need to talk.

We've known each other a long time. I'm a proud native Nevadan. My family has been kicking around the Sagebrush State since 1881.

But there comes a time when you have to set personal history aside and do what's best for the community. That moment has arrived.

It's time for Clark County to secede from Nevada and attach itself to Arizona. Call it a native son's modest proposal.

I know it sounds irrational, but hear me out. It's the only reasonable way for Southern Nevadans to ensure their future economic prosperity. And the relationship is not without historical precedent.

Much of what we call Clark County was once known as Pah-Ute County in the Arizona Territory.

Pah-Ute County was created in 1865 by the 2nd Arizona Territorial Legislature and existed until 1871, when it was clipped like a toenail and made part of the Nevada Territory.

So, you see, we wouldn't actually be joining Arizona, but rejoining it after 140 years.

An Arizona hookup has other benefits, too.

Unlike our Northern Nevada neighbors, Arizonans actually seem to like us. Las Vegas is the second most popular destination for airline travelers from Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport.

Just think: No more getting an earful from Renoites about how Las Vegans are ruining their Silver State.

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