

# **Opinion: Sandoval not following Republican script**

**By John L. Smith, Las Vegas Review-Journal**

At least we now know why the Democrats didn't recruit a substantial candidate against Gov. Brian Sandoval in the last election.

It would have been hard to find anyone capable of running to the left of our popular Republican. But given the sorry state of Nevada's public education system, that might actually be a good thing.

The state possesses few viable Democrats with politics more progressive than those espoused Thursday by Sandoval in his State of the State, in which he called for a \$7.3 billion two-year budget. That includes \$1.5 billion in additional revenue: \$580 million in the "endless sunset" tax extension, \$80 million in increased cigarette taxes, and \$440 million from a new fee on business licenses.

A Republican suggesting a big bump in a business tax?

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