

Opinion: Laxalt, Sandoval remain frosty

By Glenn Cook, Las Vegas Review-Journal

The nasty Republican divisions in Washington appear to have nothing on the party's infighting in Nevada.

The split between fiscally moderate and fiscally conservative Nevada Republicans, exacerbated by this year's GOP-supported tax increases and an incompetent state party organization that's incapable of raising money or registering voters, is as wide as ever. But the big story now is the chill between Republican Gov. Brian Sandoval and GOP Attorney General Adam Laxalt – and that amid last week's exceptionally public rift over Laxalt joining a lawsuit that challenges new federal land-use restrictions across Nevada, the state's four Republican members of Congress leapt to Laxalt's side, not Sandoval's.

Sandoval, long the unquestioned leader of Nevada Republicans, hasn't been happy with Laxalt since shortly after the attorney general took office in January. In one of his first acts as the state's top law enforcement officer, Laxalt joined 25 other states in suing to block President Barack Obama's "executive amnesty" for undocumented immigrants. Sandoval didn't support the move, and he let Laxalt know as much, saying immigration policy was a federal matter.

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