

## **Filling the at-large Council seat: part circus, part daycare**

The decision to bypass voters to refill the at-large seat reflects poorly on Reno. The appointment process had the air of a job fair conducted for friends of the Council. While candidates idealistically claimed to represent new voices, other voices, all voices, council members sought a candidate who agreed with their agenda. This is the very bias that a democratic elective process seeks to avoid. Council members narrowed their choices to four finalists, but the mayor could not. How the clerk identified Mayor Schieve's top five was unclear.

What was clear was the strange tone of the event — part circus, part daycare — with the mayor coaching applicants like a helicopter mother, then rewarding them with effusive praise. The resounding cries of “good job!” should be used to train toddlers and dogs, not job applicants.

Also, hold the applause. It's government, not a class play. And, please, please, please ditch the wad of gum. This, too, reflects poorly on Reno.

*Tracy Figler, Reno*