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RENO GAZETTE JOURNAL

ONLINE AT RGJ.COM | TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2025

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



President Donald Trump in July signed the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which gives companies a range of credits and tax breaks. CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Experts expect economy to grow

Weakened labor market, inflation potential pitfalls

Ann Saphir

A seesaw year for the U.S. economy in 2025 looks set to give way to a stronger 2026 thanks to tailwinds from President Donald Trump's tax cuts, less uncertainty around tariffs, the ongoing artificial intelligence boom and a late-year run of interest-rate reductions from the Federal Reserve.

Among the biggest drivers of a pickup in growth, economists say, are fatter tax refunds and smaller tax withholdings on paychecks that are expected to provide a lift to consumer spending, the backbone of the American economy.

Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Act also gives companies a range of credits and tax breaks, including the ability to

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Tax changes for individuals

- President Donald Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Act makes permanent the lower individual and business income tax rates from 2017 that were due to expire. It also extends the standard deduction, extends and expands the alternative minimum tax exemption, and raises the estate tax exemption from \$14 million to \$15 million.
- Exempts taxes on up to \$25,000 in tipped income until 2029. This phases out for people who earn more than \$150,000 and does not apply to all tips.
- Exempts taxes on up to \$12,500 in overtime pay until 2029. This phases out for people who earn more than \$150,000.
- Creates a new deduction of up to \$6,000 for people age 65 and older until 2029.
- Creates a tax break for up to \$10,000 in interest payments on auto loans until 2029. This only applies to personal vehicles assembled in the United States.
- Expands the deduction for state and local tax payments from \$10,000 to \$40,000 until 2029. This tends to benefit affluent homeowners in high-tax states like New York and New Jersey.

Reuters

Nevada touts progress in 988 hotline performance

April Corbin Girnus

Nevada Current

Nevada's 988 call centers are helping tens of thousands of people each year, and state administrators are already eyeing ways to improve the system in the upcoming years.

Shannon Bennett, a bureau chief within the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health, told lawmakers that since the nation switched to 988 from a 10-digit suicide crisis hotline, there has been an "almost 100% increase" in utilization.

Nearly 42,000 people in Nevada were served by 988 in 2024, according to a state memo. In 2025, Nevada's 988 call centers had already exceeded that number by the end of November.

"We have seen tremendous growth," added Bennett, "and we have a lot more to bring to the table as we move forward into 2026."

Nevada has made significant progress in raising its in-state answer rate and reducing the amount it takes callers to reach a person, according to Nevada Current. In 2023, Nevada's hotline had among the lowest answer rates in the country.

That's no longer the case.

According to 988 data reports, in November 2025, 4,070 calls were routed to Nevada call centers and 3,525 were answered, resulting in an 87% answer rate. (Calls not answered in state are routed to national call centers.) It took 31.9 seconds on average for the calls to be answered, and conversations lasted an average of 20 minutes.

The state's monthly average answer rate has ranged from 73% to 89% in 2025.

Nevada supports its 988 call centers through a 35-cent monthly surcharge on phone lines billed in the state. That fee is set in statute and was approved by state lawmakers in 2023.

Assemblymember Joe Dalia, a Democrat from Las Vegas, asked whether the revenue from that fee is sufficient to cover the hotline's operating expenses.

Bennett responded that the state's current 988 contract costs \$1 to \$2 million a year more than what the 35-cent fee brings in annually. However, the hotline has funding and reserves to

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First measles case since 2018 reported in county

Jeffrey Meehan

Reno Gazette Journal USA TODAY NETWORK

Northern Nevada Public Health reported Washoe County's first measles case since 2018 on Friday involving an unvaccinated man. The patient was hospitalized, officials said.

The man tested positive on Friday, Dec. 26. NNPH said it is following up with close contacts and that its investigation is ongoing. Initial information indicated he remained home while infectious. It's unknown where he contracted the virus.

"Our staff is working to gather more details to help minimize any spread," said Dr. Chad Kingsley, district health officer for NNPH.

"In the meantime, we advise that people monitor any symptoms for measles, check their vaccine status, and, if necessary, contact any medical provider before visiting with any medical-related questions."

Nevada case adds to national measles spread

The Washoe County case follows a Clark County infant's measles infection

confirmed earlier this fall — Nevada's first case in a resident since 2018. That child, who was too young to receive the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine, was hospitalized and later discharged.

The last reported measles case in Washoe County prior to this month was identified in April 2018 and involved a University of Nevada, Reno student, NNPH said.

The cases in Washoe and Clark counties coincide with increased measles activity nationwide.

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