



DIGEST

Around and About

NOMINATING PETITIONS can be filed until Oct. 13 for general-member seats on the board of retirement and board of investments. Both seats now are held by longtime incumbent Norman Shaffer. Nominating petitions are obtainable from the registrar-recorder's office, 808 North Spring street, room 100. County employees will get mail-in ballots in late November.

THE 13,000 employees having permittee status to drive their own cars on County business will get increased reimbursement under a memorandum of understanding approved by the Board of Supervisors (Sept. 19). The new rates, which average 15 percent higher than the old ones, are 17 cents per mile for the first 400 miles driven each month, 14 cents a mile for the next 450 miles, and 10 cents for each mile over 850 per month. The old provision guaranteeing every permittee \$10 a month regardless of how few miles he drove was eliminated. The new mileage rates are described as comparable with those paid by other pub-

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NEW BUDGET -- a Pinch but No Layoffs

THE COUNTY'S general fund departments began living this month with their first post-Jarvis budget—a 1978-79 spending program adopted by the Board of Supervisors (Aug. 31) and promising year-long austerity but no imminent layoffs.

General fund departments will have at least \$103 million less to operate with this year than they had in 1977-78, but their plight would have been far worse if the state legislature had not appropriated to them \$626 million in "bail out" funds, drawn from the state surplus.

The future of the flood control, library, and other special districts is more uncertain. The legislature, in a last-minute rush to adjourn Sept. 1, failed to approve sufficient bail-out funds for the districts. County officials hope for a quick rescue when the legislature reconvenes next January.

General Fund Breakdown

The general fund budget for 1978-79 totals \$3.5 billion, which is \$271 million higher than last year's general fund.

This figure, however, includes:

- \$183 million increase in reserves—\$105 million for possible refunds to property taxpayers in case the courts decide the unsecured roll should be assessed at only 1 percent of full cash value instead of 3 percent; \$50 million to give salary increases of about 4 percent to most County employees, if the courts decide that is permissible (the legislature attached as a string to its bail-out money that local government employees could receive no higher pay increases than state employees,

and state employees received no pay increase this year); and \$27 million in a "transitional reserve" to help County departments adjust to their reduced circumstances with minimum disruption and hardship.

- \$104 million in federal and state funds that must be spent for special purposes—CETA, housing and community development, home-maker chore services, and other social programs

- \$87.4 million for employee benefits, contingency appropriations, rent on lease-purchase buildings, and appropriation authority if additional fees for users of County services are established.

These needs total \$374 million, which exceeds the \$271 million appropriation increase by \$103 million—the amount that must come out of general fund departments' operating money.

Layoffs

When Proposition 13 went into effect July 1, it lopped \$692 million in property tax revenue from County general fund departments and cut the special districts' tax revenue back to 37 percent of what it had been in 1977-78.

These cutbacks led to layoff of 311 County workers in June and July—265 of them in the engineering-facilities department and 46 in the flood control district.

CAO Harry Hufford said he hopes to avoid any further layoffs by retaining an almost total hiring freeze; that is, by replacing only a few of the more than 4,000 employees expected to retire or resign during 1978-79. Critical needs may

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MAJOR PROPOSITIONS ON BALLOT

Around and About

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lic and private employers. County management negotiated the new mileage agreement with the Joint Council of Certified Employee Organizations.

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PROPHET FOODS, a subsidiary of the Greyhound corporation, has taken over operation of the Courthouse cafeteria from Leonard Glaser, forced by ill health to retire. Glaser had run the cafeteria since it opened 19 years ago. Prophet Foods also operates cafeterias at the Art Museum and the Museum of Natural History.

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INCIDENTALLY, the County now licenses 74 vending stands and cafeterias in County buildings as business enterprises for the blind. Stands doing more than \$3,000 in trade a month and cafeterias with more than \$4,000 business a month pay rent based on their gross. The total annual rent is around \$60,000. The network of blind enterprises began in 1949 with a stand in the Old Hall of Records.

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THE LONG lines are gone from the Hall of Administration fourth floor on paydays. Treasurer H. B. Alvord last month discontinued the practice of cashing payroll and mileage warrants at his office—a custom that found some 2,000 employees queuing up at the fourth-floor cages each payday. Alvord explained that (a) the waiting employees lost about 12,000 man-hours a year in the lines, (b) the County lost \$40,000 in interest by keeping large sums on hand for cashing warrants, and (c) 97 percent of County employees already cash their warrants at banks and other financial institutions.

THE BOARD of Supervisors has placed 12 County propositions on the general election ballot Nov. 7. Several of them, if passed, will have profound effect on County government.

Proposition C would create the position of elected County executive, who would prepare the annual budget and appoint most department heads and all members of County boards, commissions, and committees. His appointments would be subject to confirmation by the Board of Supervisors. His jurisdiction would not include the elected Supervisors, sheriff, assessor, district attorney, or two Board employees—the Clerk of the Board and a newly created Legislative Auditor.

The elected executive's staff would include the present staff of the CAO, who would become the executive's Finance Deputy.

Under Proposition C, the Board of Supervisors would be a legislative and quasi-judicial body. It would review the executive's budget and pass ordinances and resolutions. These the executive might veto, or he could veto or reduce an appropriation voted by the Board; but the Supervisors could overrule his veto or reduction by a four-fifths vote.

Proposition C limits each Supervisor to four deputies (plus needed clerical help). It also states the combined budgets of the executive and Board may be no larger than the combined budgets of the Board and CAO in 1979-80, adjusted for inflation.

If Proposition C passes, the first County executive would be elected in November 1980 for a four-year term and would take office in December 1980.

Another proposed County charter amendment, PROPOSITION B, would transfer from the civil service commission to the Board of Supervisors the power to make civil service rules affecting recruitment, classification, performance evaluation, layoffs, transfers, promotions, and other civil service matters.

The civil service commission would remain as a hearing body where employees could take appeals

of unfair treatment under the civil service rules. The commission would be enlarged from three to five members, who would be appointed by the Board of Supervisors for four-year terms instead of the present six years.

Day-to-day administration of the civil service system would be handled by the Board-appointed director of personnel. If both Proposition B and Proposition C pass Nov. 7, the County executive would appoint the director of personnel.

Other County questions on the November ballot include:

PROPOSITION A—amends the charter to authorize the Board of Supervisors to retain private contractors, after competitive bidding, to perform work the Board believes can be done more economically or feasibly through contracting.

PROPOSITION E—authorizes the sheriff, assessor, and district attorney to have more non-civil-service senior administrators—approximately 13 for the D-A, 14 for the sheriff, and 9 for the assessor. Most would be promoted from existing civil service jobs.

PROPOSITION F—removes all future-hired Supervisors' deputies from civil service.

PROPOSITION G—says state law shall define the procedure for recalling elected County officers and deletes the Charter section detailing recall procedures.

PROPOSITION H—prohibits Los Angeles County employees from performing functions (presumably on a contract basis) for any new county formed from territory formerly a part of Los Angeles county.

PROPOSITION K—permits formation of a "break away" Canyon County in a northwest triangle of the county. A similar proposition in 1976 carried in the proposed county area but lost 2 to 1 in the remainder of Los Angeles county. To succeed, the new county formation must carry in both areas. In the June election, proposals to create a South Bay County and a Peninsula County lost by 3 to 1 margins in the whole county area.

PROPOSITION J—authorizes the
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BUDGET

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be met by transferring skilled employees from under-financed areas to functions having funds.

Welfare Gets Aid

The state bail-out will shrink the County's budgeted welfare costs from \$309 million in 1977-78 to \$69 million this year. The County still must pay \$50 million for general relief, \$3 million for a small share of foster child care and other aids, and \$16 million for other program administration costs. Said DPSS director Keith Comrie: "The state in effect bought all the traditional welfare programs except general relief."

Board Revisions

The Board of Supervisors in its closing days of budget deliberations, transferred funds from various reserves to meet high priority needs, including

—Nearly \$10 million to health services, including money to keep open 195-bed Long Beach General hospital and its alcoholic detoxification clinic, to open the East Los Angeles and John Wesley comprehensive health centers, and a dozen local health clinics; also money for drug and alcohol abuse programs, prevention and treatment of tuberculosis and venereal disease, and other public health services

—\$2.9 million to the mental health department

—\$4 million to the probation department

Open Enrollment Ends Oct. 13

AN OPEN enrollment period in County health plans, which began Oct. 2, will continue until next Friday (Oct. 13). During the period any permanent, full-time employee who wants to join a County-administered health plan or who wants to change his present coverage may do so.

The plans include Kaiser, Ross-Loos, Blue Cross, Blue Shield, and Hospital Only coverage. Another plan also may be available—Maxi-Care, a prepaid group plan similar to Kaiser and Ross-Loos. It has facilities in Hawthorne, Redondo Beach, and Northridge.

For workers now eligible for a County plan but not yet enrolled in one, the open period offers an opportunity to sign up in the plan of their choice.

For the 70,774 employees already enrolled in a plan, the open period means a chance to add dependents to their present coverage, or to switch from one plan to another.

The new coverage for first-time enrollees or those making changes will begin next Jan. 1.

Employees who wish to continue their present coverage without

—\$2.7 million to make court-ordered improvements in County jail

—\$242,000 to restore eleven positions in Community Development's gang-control section

—\$226,000 to restore 16 security officers to the parks department.

change need take no action.

Robert Fischer, County insurance manager, said another open-enrollment period will not be scheduled for at least a year.

Fischer said enrollment information and materials are available in each department's personnel or payroll office.

The County-administered life insurance and dental plans are not involved in the open-enrollment period.

Managers Will Confer

THE COUNTY Management Council at its 23rd annual fall management conference will hear numerous speakers on the theme "Managing: Expectations versus Limitations."

The meeting will take place Oct. 26 and 27 at Griswold's Inn, Claremont.

Scheduled speakers include Robert Best, former Council president, now data systems manager for Toyota in Southern California; educator Jim Tunney, who hobbies as an NFL referee; Supervisor Kenneth Hahn; state senators William Campbell and Paul Carpenter, with state assemblyman William Lancaster; CAO Harry Hufford and his division chief, Charles Norris, speaking on departmental self-audit; civil service commissioner Frank Work and Herbert Kaplan, chief deputy director of personnel.

Taxes Shrink, State Steps In

THE SHARP shift that has taken place in County revenue sources under Proposition 13 is shown in the table below, listing major sources last year and those for 1978-79. Figures are for County general and special subvention funds, but exclude special districts and special funds.

	1977-78	1978-79
Property taxes	40 percent	17 percent
State revenue	21 percent	40 percent
Federal revenue	30 percent	29 percent
Other revenue and surplus	9 percent	14 percent

SOURCE: Chief Administrative Office

PROPOSITIONS

(Continued from page 2)

County Housing Authority to erect up to 5,000 units of low-rent housing on scattered sites in unincorporated area throughout the county, no site to include more than 20 units.

The November ballot also will carry two advisory questions:

PROPOSITION D—Should the County executive, if created, work toward merger of County and City services?

PROPOSITION I—three questions asking voters to indicate a preference among rail transit routes.

VETERAN EMPLOYEES SAY GOODBYE

THE RETIREMENT board in recent months has approved the retirement of more than 100 longtime County employees.

The list includes two with more than 40 years service—Robert May of Harbor General hospital and Lazarus Cohen of County-USC Medical Center.

With 35 to 40 years service:

COUNTY ENGINEER—Byron Meline, Maurice Lloyd, Andrew Musso, Albert Schulte, Frederick Wood, R. B. Hobson, Donald Sappell, Linus Brown, Harold Stock.

DPSS—Miriam Rufener, Maudie Cummings, Phillip Pitts.

PROBATION—Arthur Morse, Sylvia Sarto, John Doyle.

OTHER DEPARTMENTS—jury commissioner William Goodwin and Murray Mehlman, superior court; Charles Zervantian and Floyd Benton, mechanical; James Burton and Gerrit Van Hulzen, road; Eugene Zimmer and Wesley Van Eaton, fire department; Gerald Miller, assistant assessor; William Flory, data processing; Edward Jackson, County clerk; Helen Mitchell, personnel; Esper Day, health services.

With 30 to 35 years service:

SHERIFF—George Gentzvein, Harry Martin, James Piper, Audrey Lehre, Davidson Turner, William Solberg, William Watterson, Kenneth Jones, Theodore Taylor, William Weston, Gary Wiens.

FIRE—George Collins, Raymond Wirick, Dwight Cooley, Clete Hinton, John Mulder, Don Rowell, Richard Haag.

ENGINEER—Arnold Albertson, Ira Alexander, Robert Johnson, Eugene Binder, Joseph Painter, Irving Bowles, Edward English, Harry Cagan, Robert Dale, John Stump, Armando Guizado.

ROAD—John Carraher, Eugene Heckman, Leroy Daniel, Jr., Givant Featherson, Donald Schoenfeld, Joseph Dottore.

PARKS—Leonard Fox, Patrick Patterson, Roscoe Wiley, Roy Wyneken, Douglas Chappel, Frank Jimenez, William Helmer, Eugene Campbell, Andrew Rodarte, Herman Blackburn, Sam Brown.

HEALTH SERVICES—Dorothy Gabrick, W. T. Jones, Juanita Reid, Joseph Venaglia, James Caton, Josephine Frias, Alice Miller, Paul Scherl, Dorrice Shepherd, Leo Tepper, Evelyn Smith, Helen Summers, Theodore Potter, James Northern, Marcella Valentine, Nino Aguilar, Hattie Brown, Joe Sutalo, Dorothy Greeley, Juanita John-

son, Edwin Nowak, Douglas Wilson, Oddie Davis.

FLOOD CONTROL—Charles Hallstrom, George Lobnow, Robert Smith, Johnnie Uyeki, James Wallace, Louis Vita, W. A. McGreevy, Hans Rauch, Ivan Shinkle, William Thompson.

PURCHASING—Willis Jones, Alvin Tidwell, Eric Tronowsky.

MECHANICAL—A. J. Millush, Richard Jones, James Stewart, Chester Baker.

ASSESSOR—Samuel McCorkle, Salas Ely, Leonard Morgan, Charles Peet, Porter Swayne, Buford Finley.

DPSS—Mary Hodges, Freddie Pinson, Melvin Howard, Delores Taylor.

PROBATION—Chester Avery, Winston Smith, Jeanette Muhlbach, Peter Tearse.

OTHER DEPARTMENTS—Max DeCamp, superior court; Jim Higgins and LeRoy Wickland, facilities; John Mills, air quality management; Wayne Stewart and James Clayton, regional planning; Carl Norell, communications; Evelyn Guerrero and Elizabeth Kimbro, adoptions; Charline Swayne, registrar-recorder; Wendell Smith and Joseph Mastrobattisto, district attorney; Edward Perry and Michael O'Brien, beaches; Gus Arroyo, community development; Ben Bailey, library; Charles Deming and William Wood, municipal court; Remigio Rubio and Albert Stiller, coroner; Nick Miletich and Raymond Nixon, marshal; Robert Wade, Museum of Natural History; Frances Smiley, Board of Supervisors; Michiko Yukawa, auditor-controller; Willie Jackson, building services.

County of Los Angeles

DIGEST

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