



DIGEST

Around and About

GIVE COUNTIES, cities, and special districts another 2 cents of the state sales tax, with no strings attached, to help them through the post-Proposition 13 era—that idea offered by four state legislators to 150 County executives at their annual Management Council fall conference at Claremont (Oct. 27). CAO Harry Hufford called the proposal, backed by senators William Campbell and Paul Carpenter and assemblymen William Lancaster and Mel Levine, a “fine idea” provided the distribution formula assures counties a fair share of the new revenue.

BRIEFLY: Mechanical director Mathew Jacobs will retire Jan. 27. A search for a successor is under way . . . Don't call it Harbor General hospital any more. The new official name is “Los Angeles County Harbor-UCLA Medical Center.” . . . Anyone who fears winter rains may send mud, rocks, etc. cascading down fire-stripped hillsides onto his property can get the 28-page *Homeowner's Guide for Debris and Erosion Control* by phoning the flood control district, 226-4327. It's free . . . The annual Courthouse Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast will be held next Wednesday (Nov. 22) in the Courthouse cafeteria.

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A and B Win, C Bites the Dust

No COUNTY “mayor” will be elected in November 1980. Proposition C, amending the County charter to provide for an elected chief executive, died at the polls Nov. 7. It received a “yes” vote of 46½ percent.

Two other major charter amendments, Propositions A and B, passed handily.

Proposition A authorizes the Board of Supervisors to retain private contractors, after competitive bidding, to perform work the Board believes can be done more economically or more feasibly through contracting. Two-thirds of the voters said “yes.”

CAO Harry Hufford, when asked by the Board last spring to give examples of County services that might be contracted, mentioned as possibilities—medical services in areas where the County has no clinics; food, laundry, and maintenance services in hospitals; parks maintenance; collection of delinquent bills; some auditor-controller functions; coroner's autopsies, embalming, and transportation; servicing of communications equipment; security guard services in museums; some building maintenance and parking lot operations. Hufford said contracting could reduce the County's dependence on temporary and recurrent employees.

Almost 60 percent of the voters approved Proposition B, which removes from the civil service commission the power to make rules affecting recruitment, classification, performance evaluation, layoffs,

transfers, promotions, and other civil service matters. The rule-making power is transferred to the Board of Supervisors.

The civil service commission remains as a hearing body where employees may take appeals of unfair treatment under civil service rules.

The commission also will be enlarged from three to five members, appointed by the Board of Supervisors for four-year terms instead of the present six years.

More than 70 percent of the voters passed three other County charter amendments—Proposition E authorizing the sheriff, assessor, and district attorney to shift certain senior administrators to non-civil service status; Proposition F removing all future-hired Supervisors' deputies from civil service; and Proposition G providing that state law, rather than present charter sections, shall set the method of recalling elected County officials.

Proposition K to permit formation of a new Canyon County by breaking away a northwest section of L. A. County lost almost 2 to 1 county-wide, as a similar plan did two years ago.

An allied question, Proposition H, passed with a 63 percent “yes” vote. This prohibits L. A. County from using its employees to perform services for any break-away county that formerly was a part of Los Angeles county.

Only one elective County office was on the ballot. In this, incumbent assessor Alexander Pope defeated Frank Hill with 700,823 votes to 626,749.

Holidays for 1979

COUNTY EMPLOYEES will have eight three-day weekends in 1979, according to the holiday schedule announced by the department of personnel.

County holidays are those designated in state Government Code sections 6700 and 6701. Those sections provide that whenever a holiday falls on a Sunday, as do Admission Day and Veterans Day in 1979, the following Monday will be observed as a holiday.

The 1979 holidays will be:

NEW YEAR'S DAY	Monday, Jan. 1
LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY	Monday, Feb. 12
WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY	Monday, Feb. 19 (<i>always the third Monday in February</i>)
MEMORIAL DAY	Monday, May 28 (<i>always the last Monday in May</i>)
INDEPENDENCE DAY	Wednesday, July 4
LABOR DAY	Monday, Sept. 3 (<i>always the first Monday in September</i>)
ADMISSION DAY	Monday, Sept. 10
COLUMBUS DAY	Monday, Oct. 8 (<i>always the second Monday in October</i>)
VETERANS DAY	Monday, Nov. 12
THANKSGIVING DAY	Thursday, Nov. 22 (<i>always the fourth Thursday in November</i>)
CHRISTMAS DAY	Tuesday, Dec. 25

Ballots Going Out

DISTRIBUTION STARTS today (Nov. 17) of ballots bearing the names of eight candidates for the general-member seats on the County board of retirement and board of investments.

Six of the candidates are seeking both seats—Jason Williams (building services), Anthony Martini (communications), Charlotte Haskell (regional planning), Aaron Thomas (collections), Michael Ishikawa, Jr., (affirmative action), and incumbent Norman Shaffer (air quality management).

Sol Levin (treasurer-tax collector) has filed only for the board of investments, and William Felder (mechanical) only for the board of retirement.

The registrar-recorder's office will count the returned ballots Dec. 8. Final results will be certified by the Board of Supervisors Dec. 19.

Retirees--

THE BOARD of retirement has announced the departure of the following employees with more than 30 years County service:

Ruben Ortiz, Robert Pullee and Gerald

DeMars, flood control district; Larry Wright and Edward Shoemaker, County engineer; James Jennings and Leslie Jackson, parks; Lee Bellefontaine, Ralph Welch, and Kathryn Spampinato, sheriff; Frederick Naranjo and Robert McGill, fire; Howard Rainey, mechanical; Mildred George, communications; Betty Krieger, adoptions; Martha Emery, DPSS.

Comp Plan Now Open

ANY PERMANENT, fulltime employee who wishes to join the County's deferred compensation plan for 1979 has until Dec. 29 to file the required forms.

The plan, which began three years ago, permits an employee to have 5 to 20 percent of his salary impounded in a "tax shelter" reserve. When he leaves County service, he begins withdrawing the deferred compensation along with any interest it has earned. As it is withdrawn, the money becomes subject to income taxes.

Employees already enrolled in the plan may change the percentage of their deferred pay during this period ending Dec. 29.

Forms and information about the plan are available at the County treasurer's office, room 434 Hall of Administration, telephone 974-2082.

AD&D Premiums Drop

IN THESE inflationary days, something went down—the premiums 17,000 County employees pay for Pacific Mutual accidental death and dismemberment insurance. The drop showed up in their Nov. 9 paychecks.

A person having an employee-only policy for \$100,000 found his monthly premium decreased from \$5 to \$3. If he has an employee-plus-dependents policy for \$100,000, the premium dropped from \$6 to \$4 a month. The decreases for other policies, with face values ranging from \$10,000 to \$250,000, were proportional.

The changes are included in a revised contract between the County and Pacific Mutual insurance company. The company guaranteed the lower rates through November 1983.

The revised agreement makes no changes in the premiums that approximately 20,000 County employees pay for optional term life insurance.

A Job Fair for Nurses

A JOB FAIR, designed to attract nurses, nursing students, and nursing instructors who do not presently work for the County, will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday (Dec. 3) at the Music Center.

All County hospitals will have booths in the El Dorado and Blue Ribbon rooms, fifth floor, Dorothy Chandler pavilion, portraying the advantages of County nursing jobs, including the chance to specialize in internal medicine, pediatric, psychiatric, chest, renal, women's diseases, surgery, emergency medicine, critical care, and other nursing fields.

County of Los Angeles

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