



DIGEST

Proposition 36 and Los Angeles County

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has unanimously voted to oppose Proposition 36, Howard Jarvis' new tax reduction initiative. Besides the Board of Supervisors, a broad range of organizations are also opposed to Proposition 36. These include the California Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, the California Chamber of Commerce, the California Taxpayers Association, the Regents of the University of California, the County Supervisors Association of California, the League of California Cities, the League of Women Voters, the California P.T.A. and the American Association of Retired People.

What is Proposition 36 and what does it do?

Proposition 36 reverses several court interpretations of Proposition 13 by:

- reducing the assessed value of property bought before March 1, 1977;
- prohibiting additional property taxes to pay for employee pension costs;
- requiring a two-thirds vote of the Legislature for any new or increased state tax, even if offset by

a tax reduction elsewhere, and a two-thirds vote of the people for **any** new or increased local tax.

BUT

Proposition 36 goes beyond Proposition 13 by:

- requiring property tax refunds, with 13% interest, for properties bought before March 1, 1977 (which already have the lowest level of taxes under Proposition 13);
- requiring property tax increases for all other properties;
- prohibiting additional property taxes to pay for local law enforcement, fire and school improvements even if they have been approved by a two-thirds vote of the people;
- limiting fees to direct cost of services provided; pension and indirect costs of service would be shifted from those who use the services to all taxpayers;
- requiring a two-thirds vote of the people for all new fees or fee increases above the consumer price index (for example, library fines, bus fares, parking meter charges, airport landing fees, parks and recreation program fees, etc.);
- limiting benefit assessments to capital construction costs, providing no funding for operations and maintenance (Examples: the Flood Control District could build — but not repair or clean out — storm drains; a lighting maintenance district could build — but not light — street lights; a landscape maintenance district could build — but not operate — sprinkler systems);

and

- requiring a two-thirds vote of the Legislature for a State tax decrease.

What is the impact of Proposition 36 on Los Angeles County?

The California State Legislative Analyst estimates that in 1985/86 the statewide revenue loss would be \$3.6 billion.

Without state assistance, the Los Angeles County general fund would lose \$280.1 million the first year. With the loss of an additional \$102.3 million in Federal and State matching funds, a reduction of 8,833 County jobs would be required. State-mandated health and welfare programs would be impacted to a lesser degree than police, fire and public health services, which are financed largely through property taxes. The impact on County Special Districts (Flood Control, Fire Protection, the Public Library) would be even more damaging because of their reliance on property taxes, fees and benefit assessments.

Who Benefits from Proposition 36's Tax Refund?

Proposition 36 gives a one-time property tax refund to a select group of property owners — who purchased before March 1, 1977 and still held the property as of March 1, 1978. All other owners will actually have a property tax increase.

Let's look at the 7.7 million people who live in Los Angeles County to see how they may or may not be affected:

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Non-Contributory Plan E Opens Again \$11.7 Million Refund to Employees During First Window

Proposition 36

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- 45% (or 3.5 million) of these people rent, and will see no property tax refund on their home and no other tax relief.
- 22% (or 1.7 million) of these people live in their own home bought after March 1, 1977 and will receive no property tax refund on their homes and no other tax relief.
- Only 33% (or 2.5 million) of Los Angeles County's residents live in homes purchased before March 1, 1977 and will receive a refund.

In summary, Proposition 36 gives a \$1.7 billion tax refund to only that small group of taxpayers who bought their property before March 1, 1977. It will increase the property taxes on property purchased after March 1, 1977. Growth in California's economy will be hampered because counties and cities will have no alternative financing available for local property-related services. Los Angeles County officials would again have to go to Sacramento for "bail out" money to pay the property tax refunds. Any state surplus which is used to pay property tax refunds would not be available for programs — such as education on child abuse — or for a state sales or income tax reduction.

Last Spring employees had their first opportunity in two years to review their retirement planning and then choose the available Retirement Plan which best meets their future needs. More than 1900 employees, who are general members of the Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association (LACERA), chose to transfer from Plans A, B, C and D to Plan E while only 200 elected to transfer from Plan E to Plan D.

On September 28, LACERA mailed a total of \$11.7 million in refunds of employee retirement contributions to employees who decided to transfer to Plan E. At the same time, those who chose to transfer to Plan D received statements from LACERA showing the amounts that will be required to buy back their prior service in order to complete their transfers.

Eligible employees now have a new chance to transfer to Plan D or E, if they wish, beginning November 1. For those employees who are unaware of the Retirement Transfer Program, State legislation enacted early this year enables the County to open a transfer period for those employees who wish to transfer from their current retirement plan whenever the Board of Supervisors and employee organizations jointly agree to do so. The current Fringe Benefit Agreement with employee organizations provides two opportunities for employees who are members of the General Retirement System to transfer from their current retirement plan. The first transfer period closed on June 30; the next will open on NOVEMBER 1 and close DECEMBER 31, 1984.

The opening of the new transfer period affords many employees an opportunity to review their retirement planning to ensure that both current and future personal and family needs and goals are met. However, LACERA cautions that there are many factors to consider before deciding to transfer to Plan D or Plan E.

LACERA urges that each employee

obtain all of the information possible before making a decision. Employees may obtain election forms and detailed information and disclosure material at their departmental payroll offices. Those who have questions concerning technical retirement matters that are not addressed in the disclosure material may call the Retirement Hotline at 974-2080 beginning November 1. Those who have questions concerning the long-term disability program offered in connection with Plan E should direct their questions to the Department of Personnel at 744-3080 between the hours of 2 and 4 p.m.

Meanwhile, here are some considerations which employees may want to think about while they await the new transfer period:

- **Plan D:** Both the County and the employee contribute to this plan on a monthly basis. Employees transferring to Plan D from Plan E must purchase their prior service including interest, and pay in full within 21 months after electing to transfer. Purchase of prior non-County public service is optional. Employees should refer to LACERA's annual report and disclosure materials for details on available benefits.
 - **Plan E:** The County, not the employee, provides 100% of the contributions, including credit for qualified prior non-County public service. Employees should refer to LACERA's annual report and disclosure material for details on available benefits.
 - While considering transfer, employees should be aware that all of our retirement plans have some characteristics in common. They are: a guaranteed benefit paid to employees upon retirement, a reduced benefit for early retirement, a further reduced benefit - determined by formula - for all of those members who contributed to Social Security while the County was a
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County of Los Angeles

DIGEST

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RECOGNITION — For its contributions to the cause of strong and efficient County Government, the County of Los Angeles has been honored by the National Association of Counties. Department heads received NACO Achievement Awards during a meeting of the Board of Supervisors. Participating are from left, Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, Supervisor Michael Antonovich, Jason Williams, Director, Building Services, Harry L. Hufford, Chief Administrative Officer, Supervisor Deane Dana, Stephanie Klopfleisch, Chief Deputy Director, Community Services, James C. Hankla, Executive Director, Community Development Commission, Stephen J. Koonce, County Engineer, Supervisor Peter F. Schabarum and Supervisor Edmund Edelman.

County Receives NACO Awards

At a recent meeting of the Board of Supervisors, several Los Angeles Departments were presented National Association of Counties Achievement Awards in recognition of their distinguished and continuing contributions to the strong and efficient County Government throughout the nation.

Among the County Departments receiving awards are:

Department	Title of Winning Programs
• Adoptions	Adoption Day in Court
• Animal Care and Control	Veterinary Licensing Program
• Building Services	Quality Circles Program Retraining and Referral/Placement Program
• Chief Administrative Office/Personnel	Alternate Defense Counsel Contracting Out Hospital Dietary Services A Comprehensive Approach to Productivity LACERA Refinancing Employee Retirement "Pick-Up" Data Base on Pending State Legislation Retraining/Referral Program
• Community Development Commission	A Study in Efficiently Centralized Responsibilities
• Community Services	Shelter for the Homeless
• Data Processing	Animal Care and Control Online Inquiry System Maintenance Management Reporting System Medi-Cal Revenue Recovery System
• Engineer-Facilities	Land Development Coordinating Centers (Submitted Jointly with Regional Planning)

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Charitable Giving Awards Program Ceremony Set

The Fourth Annual Charitable Giving Awards Ceremony will be held on October 23 at 11:30 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors Hearing Room. The recently concluded Charitable Giving Campaign resulted in pledges from County employees in excess of \$2.2 million. This amount put Los Angeles County on top as the number one giver throughout the County in both the public and private sector.

Board of Supervisors Chairman Deane Dana, 1984 Charitable Giving Campaign Chairman, will express appreciation for all departmental efforts in the campaign and lead the award presentations to departments which attained notable achievement. Supervisor Dana will be joined in the awards presentations by Les Robbins, Co-Chairman for the 1984 Campaign and President of the Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs (ALADS), representing Labor and Brian Berger, Director of Animal Care and Control and President of the County's Management Council, representing Management. Also expected to attend the ceremony are Francis X. McNamara, President of United Way; Bill Branch, Vice President of United Way; Danny Bakewell, Sr., President of Brotherhood Crusade; Douglas Cambern, Vice President of Pacific Bell and Jim Dickason, President/Chairman, Newhall Land & Farming Company, United Way Volunteer Leaders.

Supervisor Dana will also present the coveted "Department of Distinction Award" to the Department that best exemplifies the objectives of the County's Charitable Giving Program. He will also recognize the special efforts of the Civic Center Prayer Group for its organization of the April 1984 Clothing Drive for the Downtown Needy.

All Charitable Giving Department Coordinators and other participants in the campaign are cordially invited to attend the Awards Ceremony.

County Host Committee Honored

At a recent meeting of the Board of Supervisors, the Board honored members of the Los Angeles County Host Committee for the outstanding contributions, voluntary service and exceptional hospitality program they created to welcome to Los Angeles the many foreign, national and local governmental and business dignitaries who visited during the 1984 Summer Olympic Games.

The volunteer Los Angeles County Host Committee, a joint public/private venture, was organized under the auspices of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. The Host Committee program was a series of unique hospitality events designed to highlight for the visitors Southern California's finest sites and friendliest hosts. The events arranged by the Host Committee were financed by the private individual hosts and host companies.

Host Committee members commended by the Board were the original Steering Committee Members:

John C. Argue, senior partner of the law firm of Argue, Freston, Pearson, Harbison & Myers, has long been active in the Olympic movement in Southern California and is regarded by many as "Mr. Olympics" in Los Angeles; Margaret Paterson Carr conceived the idea of the Host Committee, is a well-known community volunteer, a past foreman of the County Grand Jury, and currently is the County Chief of Protocol; George N. Gibbs, Jr., president of Stewart Smith West, Inc., chairman of the Steering Committee; Harry L. Hufford, Los Angeles County Chief Administrative Officer; William T. Huston, president, Watson Land Company and chairman of the Economic Development Corporation of Los Angeles County; Phillip Williams, Senior Vice President, Newspapers and Television of Times Mirror Company, oversaw that company's and the Los Angeles Times' participation as corporate sponsor and chronicler respectively of the 1984 Summer Olympic Games.

Also honored were the Host Committee Executive Committee which



HONORED — The Board of Supervisors present commendations to members of the Los Angeles County Host Committee, a joint public/private venture that provided special hospitality to distinguished guests visiting Los Angeles during the 1984 Summer Olympic Games. Participating are from left, Christopher Gibbs, representing his father, George Gibbs, Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, John Argue, Supervisor Edmund Edelman, Sandy Ausman, Yolanda Sanchez, Supervisor Deane Dana, John Welborne, Sally Stewart, Bob Sutton, Esther Wachtell, Supervisor Michael Antonovich, Supervisor Peter Schabaram, Harry L. Hufford, William T. Huston, and Jane Pisano representing Phillip L. Williams.

managed and created the hospitality events:

John H. Welborne, an attorney with the firm of Adams, Duque & Hazeltine, agreed to serve as president of the County Host Committee. He oversaw the creation and production of all of the Host Committee's events for the entire period of the Olympics. Mr. Welborne worked full time on the Host Committee for over four months; Sandra Ausman, a noted community volunteer served as chairman of the sub-committee that arranged individual events. She designed and managed the Hospitality Center at the County Museum of Natural History which became a welcome haven for distinguished visitors from around the world, and from which, she coordinated for the guests, a program that included tours of museums and cultural and entertainment facilities; Yolanda Sanchez, for 37 years an employee of the County of Los Angeles, served as Special Assistant to the Host Committee and provided invaluable insight and resources, working closely with the Committee's president, its Steering Committee and its Executive Committee members as liaison with the many County departments involved; Sally Stewart, a community leader, served as chairman of medium sized events, coordinated

various events held in the Hollywood Bowl, Music Center, private residences, historic houses, cultural and community centers and museums; Robert M. Sutton, president, Ahremess Inc., an independent motion picture production company, is active in local charitable causes. He served as chairman of the sub-committee that planned large-scale events including a luncheon at the Natural History Museum for over 800 guests immediately preceding the Opening Ceremonies, the "Hollywood Salute to the Wild West" barbecue at Universal Studios for 600 guests, and the "Fiesta Alfresco" dinner for 250 guests at Lawry's California Center; Esther Wachtell, a well-known community leader and prominent member of the volunteer leadership of the Music Center, also served as a sub-committee chairman, coordinated a reception with the Performing Arts Council at the Music Center, a tour and reception at the Banning Residence Museum in Wilmington and brought the Olympics visitors into personal contact with local citizens through private dinner parties and business luncheons.

In appreciation of their leadership and dedicated service, the members of the Los Angeles County Host Committee received five signature scrolls from the Board of Supervisors.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH CHOSEN

The Board of Supervisors has chosen Debbie Hoffman, Supervising Surgery Nurse I, Department of Health Services, as the Employee of the Month for September.

"I'm absolutely thrilled to be selected as the Employee of the Month. I enjoy being a part of the County workforce. I care and love what I do and I'm motivated by a top-notch medical staff whose teamwork and dedication helps inspire me. I'm very happy to be given this great honor," Hoffman said.

Hoffman has worked at the County/ USC Medical Center since July 1981. She was promoted to her current position in December 1983 and is assigned to the Medical Center's Pediatric Operating Unit.

In her supervising role, Hoffman teaches and works with her staff in the hospital operation room. She displays an outstanding attitude toward her job, contributes her best skills and encourages her staff to submit ideas which may benefit the patients, medical staff and hospital management. She assisted in organizing the Day Surgery Center which reduced hospital patient stay and increased revenue for the County.

Hoffman is actively involved in community activities, serves on various public service committees and takes part in patient teaching projects. She is a member of the Pasadena Christian Business Women's Association, Recruitment and Retention Committee for the Medical Center's Pediatric Pavillion; she is preceptor for the California State University, Los Angeles Leadership Classes, Facilitator for nursing workshops at the Medical Center, Representative, American Operating Room Nurses, assisted in organizing the Pediatric Pavillion, and as chairperson, coordinated the 10-kilometer run for the nurses during Nurses Recognition week.

Hoffman was graduated from the University of Southern California, receiving a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology and the University of California School of Nursing, earning high

honors.

She is married to Mike Hoffman, a transportation director and they have two sons, Alleson, 6, and Drew, 2. In her leisure time, Hoffman enjoys skiing, jogging, swimming and ballet dancing.



DEBBIE HOFFMAN
Employee of the Month

Is the Good Life Killing You?

For 70 years, medical scientists have known that a substance called cholesterol could plug a person's arteries and cause heart disease or stroke if an excessive amount is carried in the blood for a prolonged period. The question was whether reducing the amount of cholesterol in the body by changing the diet would help avoid heart disease. The American Heart Association says the answer is yes, and the diet changes are easy to make.

In 1983, The National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute completed a ten year study of 3,806 men between the ages of 35 and 59. The study concluded that heart disease is linked to the level of cholesterol in the blood and that reducing cholesterol will reduce the incidence of fatal heart attacks. In the study, half of the men took active steps to reduce their cholesterol level and as a result this group experienced 19 percent fewer heart attacks.

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RTD Bus Passes To Be Sold At Two County Facilities

Beginning October 25, 1984, County employees and the general public will be able to purchase Rapid Transit District (RTD) bus passes at two County facilities, announced Richard B. Dixon, Treasurer and Tax Collector.

The RTD bus passes will be available for purchase at the Treasurer-Tax Collector cashier windows on the first floor of the Department of Social Services Building, 2615 So. Grand Avenue, and at the Treasurer-Tax Collector cashier windows on the first floor of the Hall of Administration, 500 W. Temple Street. The cashier windows are open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. weekdays. The bus passes will be sold each month only during the period between the 25th of the month and the 10th of the following month.

Bus passes which will be sold are as follows:

- \$20.00 Regular monthly RTD bus pass
- \$ 7.00 Express Bus Stamps #1
- \$14.00 Express Bus Stamps #2
- \$21.00 Express Bus Stamps #3
- \$28.00 Express Bus Stamps #4
- \$35.00 Express Bus Stamps #5

Also available is the reduced fare RTD monthly Bus Pass:

- \$ 4.00 Senior Citizens
- \$ 4.00 College and Vocational students (ages 19 years and over)
- \$ 4.00 Students (ages 18 years and under)
- \$ 4.00 Handicapped

DID YOU KNOW?

If you are buying U.S. Savings Bonds, and you move, you need to submit a Change Authorization Form to have the bonds sent to your new address. Your Savings Bond Coordinator can assist you.

County Receives NACO Awards

(Continued from page 3)

Department (cont'd)	Title of Winning Programs (cont'd)
● Executive- Office - Board of Supervisors	Hearing Officer Program
● Flood Control	Return to Work Program Automated Cost Accounting System
● Health Services	Weingart Medical Center - County's Contribution to Skid Row Redevelopment Vertical Integration Referral System at LA County Medical Center
● Human Relations Commission	Racial and Religious Violence Reduction
● Library	Reading Aloud to Children Program Library Information for Employment (L.I.F.E.) Black History Month Program Information Express-Bookmobile
● Mechanical	Methanol Fleet Test Program Telephone Reduction Program
● Mental Health	San Gabriel Valley Therapeutic Residential Center
● Probation	Court Referral Community Service Program Arraignment, Report, Adjudication, Disposition (ARAD) Developing Scholar Athletes Through Parenting Public Defender Paralegal Program
● Public Defender	Welfare Caseload Actuarial Table: A Management Tool for Assessing Cost-Effectiveness
● Public Social Services	Fraud Operations Caseload Update and Reporting System Workflow Information System for District Operational Management Contact Effectiveness Training
● Regional Planning	West Hollywood Zoning Consistency Center Santa Catalina Island Local Coastal Plan
● Road Department	Pedestrian Signal Conversion Program Automated Curb Painting Program
● Sheriff	Office of Special Programs

The National Association of Counties awards those counties throughout the United States that are innovative in finding ways to increase productivity, cut operating costs, increase efficiency and improve employee morale.

Plan E Opens Again (Continued from page 2)

member of the Social Security System, and specified benefits for survivors and dependents when the member dies or is disabled in service or dies after retirement. For Plan E, pre-retirement survivor and disability benefits are provided through a special long-term disability (LTD) program.

- Employees who decide to transfer to Plan E should also be aware that refunds of contributions made since August 1, 1983 and all interest on

contributions re-funded to employees are taxable in the year in which they are received. While refunds of contributions which employees made before August 1, 1983 are not taxable, interest earned on these employee contributions is taxable.

Employees may offset their Federal and State tax liability by several means. Employees should explore these means with a tax expert or call the IRS at (213) 629-1040.

Cholesterol

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Most Americans ingest more than twice as much cholesterol as they should. Over a period of years, a constant surplus of cholesterol in the bloodstream begins to form a coating on the inside of the artery walls. Deposits grow into spots of rubbery wax called plaque. The plaque thickens and chokes off the blood flow. When the arteries feeding to the heart are clogged, the result is frequently a heart attack or stroke. The condition is called atherosclerosis, more commonly known as hardening of the arteries.

There are no symptoms associated with plaque buildup, but physicians can check cholesterol levels in the blood. The reading should be 180 for persons under age 25; 200 for persons 25 to 45, and 220 for persons over 45 years old.

Certain diet tips recommended by the Food and Drug Administration to reduce cholesterol include the following:

- Choose lean meat, fish, poultry, dry beans, and peas as protein sources.
- Limit intake of butter, cream, hydrogenated margarines, shortenings, coconut oil and foods made from such products.
- Trim excess fat off meats.
- Broil, bake, or boil rather than fry foods.
- Read labels carefully to determine both amount and types of fat contained in foods.

These tips suggest that a person should learn to be thrifty with high cholesterol and high animal fats. Look for the "bargains" when choosing foods and the result will be better health.

In addition, on a motion by Supervisor Hahn, the Board of Supervisors ordered that the pamphlet provided and developed as a cooperative effort between United Way, Inc., KCBS-TV and the American Heart Association on this subject be made available to County employees. The pamphlet will be distributed within the next two weeks.