

NEWS

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SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 8, 2013

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Rutherford elected Board Chair; Ovitt chosen Vice Chair

The Board of Supervisors today unanimously elected Supervisor Janice Rutherford to serve as Board Chair and Supervisor Gary Ovitt to serve as Vice Chair for the next two years.

"It is a privilege to be selected to serve as Chair," Chair Rutherford said. "The Board has made tremendous strides over the past two years to focus on the County Vision and to restore public faith in County Government. I pledge to continue those efforts with the help and support of my colleagues on the Board of Supervisors. I also look forward to reaching out to County employees and listening to their ideas for further progress in the services we provide to residents and taxpayers."

"I am honored in the trust my colleagues have placed in me, and I look forward to assisting Chair Rutherford and working with my colleagues on the Board, our county staff, and the public to achieve our goals and continue to make the county a great place to live, work, and play," Vice Chair Ovitt said.

The Board, led by Chair Rutherford, also commended outgoing Chair Josie Gonzales for her two years of service at the Board's helm. "You have been an outstanding leader and an outstanding mentor," Chair Rutherford said to Supervisor Gonzales. "It will be impossible to bring the kind of heart and poignancy to the chairmanship that you did."

The voter-approved County Charter requires the Board to elect a Chair at its first meeting in January following an election of supervisors. The Chair serves as the Board's general executive agent by presiding over meetings of the Board, signing contracts approved by the Board, working with the Chief Executive Officer to set the Board's agenda, taking action on the Board's behalf when action is necessary prior to a scheduled Board meeting, and fulfilling any other duties as assigned by the Board.

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Covering more than 20,000 square miles and serving more than 2 million residents, the County of San Bernardino is the largest county in the United States in terms of area and the fifth largest in California in terms of population. The County's 39 departments provide a wide range of vital public services to residents, visitors, and businesses in the areas of law and justice, fire protection, health care, land planning, recreation and culture, elections, airports, economic development, and aid to children, the elderly, veterans, and the poor.

County Government worked closely with San Bernardino Associated Governments, the county's 24 cities and towns, residents, and community leaders to create a Countywide Vision, www.sbcounty.gov/vision. The County and SANBAG are now focused on continuing to work with various stakeholders to achieve the Vision by facilitating discussions where goals are set and achieved.

County Government is also focused on stabilizing the County's ongoing fiscal health through the current economic downturn by achieving sustainable budget solutions, including making allowances for all potential liabilities and working with employees to reach compensation agreements that are fair to workers while ensuring long-term fiscal stability.