

# ***NEWS***

*From the Office of*

## **Brad Mitzelfelt**

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San Bernardino County

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### **Statement by Supervisor Mitzelfelt on Resignation of County Assessor**

SAN BERNARDINO – Under our representative form of government, elected officials have profound and sacred responsibilities – to the oath we take to uphold our laws, to our democracy, and to our own integrity and service.

Our most important responsibility is to the taxpayer who has bestowed this great responsibility on us. We have an obligation to work on the people's behalf in an honest and forthright manner.

Former San Bernardino County Assessor Bill Postmus failed in those responsibilities.

I am disappointed beyond words that Mr. Postmus has tarnished the reputation of San Bernardino County. A series of irresponsible decisions, in his capacity as assessor and in his personal life, embarrassed himself and every resident who calls San Bernardino County home.

The actions of one man cast a cloud over all 18,000 County employees who come to work every day and take great pride and satisfaction in providing important and necessary services to the public.

I am gratified, though, that Mr. Postmus decided to step down as county Assessor so that we may put this episode behind us and focus on the serious challenges we have before us.

Most of the recommendations made for the Assessor's office last year by the Grand Jury to ensure that senior staff is qualified and that political activities are absolutely segregated from the public's work have been implemented. It is important to note that it has always been illegal to engage in political activities from within a government office, and the County has moved to improve the safeguards to prevent violations.

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors is the only one in California with the power to remove a countywide elected official from office. This is a responsibility we take seriously and my colleagues and I were well on our way in that process when Mr. Postmus finally decided to spare the taxpayers the expense of a full removal proceeding, litigation and potentially a costly recall election.

It is also important to note that the District Attorney's investigations of Mr. Postmus and his office continue.

One positive outcome of this is proof that the internal county system worked in uncovering inappropriate and possibly illegal activities by one of our elected officials. It was our Grand Jury, our District Attorney and the Board of Supervisors who took action to clean our own house.

I am saddened that Mr. Postmus apparently continues to wrestle with the drug addiction. I hope that with the help of family, friends and faith he can overcome this problem and move on with his life.

I know from personal observation that the assessor's inappropriate behavior was of a recent nature and did not occur when he was county supervisor.

I am honored and humbled by the opportunity the voters have given me to serve and to help restore some of the lost trust in our county government.

I will continue to be vigilant in demanding and enforcing the highest ethical and moral standards from all county elected officials and employees.

Click below to view previous statements:

2/06/09: [Mitzelfelt Statement Regarding Assessor Resignation Letter](#)

1/15/09: [Mitzelfelt Statement Regarding Arrest of Assessor](#)

1/06/09: [Mitzelfelt Issues Statement Regarding County Assessor](#)

9/04/08: [Mitzelfelt Issues Statement Regarding County Assessor](#)