

NEWS

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Biane elected Chairman, Ovitt tapped as Vice Chairman

The Board of Supervisors today unanimously selected Second District Supervisor Paul Biane to serve as Board Chairman during the next two years and Fourth District Supervisor Gary Ovitt to serve as Vice Chairman.

Chairman Biane thanked his colleagues for their vote of confidence and promised to serve them and the County well. "The trust and respect you have given to me will not be forgotten," he said.

"I look forward to serving with all of you as we move the county forward," Vice Chairman Ovitt said.

The voter-approved County Charter states that the Chairman serves as the Board's general executive agent and exercises general supervision over all County institutions, buildings, and property, and over the official conduct of all County officers.

In practice, the Chairman's most common duties include signing all County contracts, conducting meetings of the Board of Supervisors, and working with the County Administrative Officer to set the Board's agenda. The Chairman also may take immediate action on the Board's behalf, such as declaring states of emergency, and later seek ratification by the Board.

Chairman Biane said he looks forward to leading the County in its continuing efforts to maximize public safety, foster economic development and job creation, heighten the public's confidence in County government, and enhance the overall quality of life in San Bernardino County. He also pledged to work diligently toward improving relationships between Board members, healing political rifts, and keeping Board members focused on working together to move the County in a positive direction.

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"With the new leadership we have, I expect there to be a lot of respect and a lot of teamwork," said Fifth District Supervisor Josie Gonzales, who nominated both Biane and Ovitt for their respective leadership positions. "It's not about agreeing or disagreeing on items. It's about how we treat each other afterward. I am very proud to be part of this new team."

"Hopefully we can bring this organization together as a really good team," said Third District Supervisor Dennis Hansberger.

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 contiguous United States in terms of area and the fourth largest in California in terms of population. The County's 40 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, public health, parks, museums, elections, libraries, airports, economic development, job growth, and aid to children, the elderly, veterans, and the poor.