

NEWS

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Supervisors appoint Mitzelfelt to serve First District

The Board of Supervisors this afternoon selected Brad Mitzelfelt to serve the final two years of former Supervisor Bill Postmus' term as the Board's representative from the First District. Supervisor Mitzelfelt was sworn into office immediately following his selection.

The First District seat on the Board became vacant just after noon on Monday when Postmus was sworn in as County Assessor. The voter-approved County Charter requires the remaining Board members to fill a supervisorial vacancy by appointing a registered voter from the vacant district until the next general election, which in this case will occur in 2008.

Supervisor Mitzelfelt was one of 13 First District residents to apply for the appointment under a process adopted by the Board on November 28 following then-Supervisor Postmus' election as Assessor. His appointment followed more than two hours of public testimony on Monday, during which more than 40 of approximately 50 speakers endorsed Mitzelfelt's selection, followed more than three hours of presentations by the applicants also on Monday. The Board met again this afternoon and selected Mitzelfelt.

"I am in public service because of my passion for public service and because of my desire to help others," Supervisor Mitzelfelt said after being sworn in as the 32nd person to represent the First District on the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors since the County was created in 1853.

Supervisor Mitzelfelt said public safety would be his highest priority, stating that nothing government does is more important than protecting citizens from crime and responding promptly to requests for emergency medical attention.

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"I believe in my whole heart that there's a commitment to teamwork here and doing what's best for the whole county," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Paul Biane, who represents the Second District. He said Supervisor Mitzelfelt held an edge over the other applicants by being very familiar with county government and therefore able to be effective immediately.

Supervisor Mitzelfelt is a resident of Wrightwood and had served as Chief of Staff to Postmus since Postmus was first sworn in as supervisor in 2000, giving him a great deal of first-hand exposure to County issues and the challenges of serving as a supervisor.

He has more than 20 years of public affairs experience at the federal, state, and local levels, and holds a bachelor's degree in Business and Management from the University of Redlands and a certificate in Economic Development Management from the University of California Riverside Extension.

Supervisor Mitzelfelt served in the U.S. Marine Corps in the Middle East in operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He also served as Chairman of the Victor Valley Transit Authority, and in the private sector as an executive and governmental/legislative policy analyst and advocate for the Building Industry Association of Southern California.

The 17,000-square-mile First District includes roughly one-fifth of the County's 2 million residents. It also takes in most of the County's vast desert region, including the cities of Victorville, Hesperia, Adelanto, Barstow, Needles, and Twentynine Palms, the Town of Apple Valley, and many unincorporated communities, including Wrightwood, Phelan, Piñon Hills, Oak Hills, Helendale, Oro Grande, Lucerne Valley, Hinkley, Newberry Springs, and Baker.