

NEWS

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Board of Supervisors endorses Prop. 1A to protect local funds

At the urging of Second District Supervisor Paul Biane, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors today voted to support Proposition 1A on the November 2 ballot to protect vital local funding sources from future state budget raids.

Beginning in 1992, the state has raided county and city tax coffers to help erase deficits in the state budget. These funds were intended to pay for local law enforcement, fire protection, roads, parks, museums, and other vital community services.

“Counties and cities have been frugal and resourceful with taxpayer dollars only to see those funds taken away each time the state gets itself into a fiscal crisis,” said Supervisor Biane.

This year county and city leaders negotiated an agreement with Gov. Schwarzenegger in which local government will contribute \$1.3 billion to the state during the current and next fiscal year in exchange for state support for county and city funding protection in the future.

That protection, which must be approved by voters through the passage of Proposition 1A on November 2, includes:

- Prohibiting the state from reducing county and city property tax proceeds.
- Requiring that county and city sales tax revenues remain with local government.
- Requiring the state to pay for anything it requires counties and cities to do.
- Allowing the state to borrow local government revenues only under strict circumstances. The loan would have to be repaid in three years.

“This proposition brings much-needed sanity to the annual budget process. We need voters to join us in supporting Proposition 1A,” Supervisor Biane said.