

NEWS

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Postmus, Hansberger, Ovitt and Gonzales take the oath of office

Four of the five members of the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors were sworn into office today, including two new members, promising to work hard to improve life in the county and maximize the effectiveness of county government.

More than 500 county residents, county employees, and invited guests attended today's swearing-in ceremony at the County Government Center in San Bernardino.

Supervisor Dennis Hansberger, who serves as Board Chairman, and Supervisor Bill Postmus today began the four-year terms to which they were re-elected in March. Supervisor Josie Gonzales, elected last month, began her first four-year term. Supervisor Gary Ovitt, also sworn in today, was elected last month to serve the final two years of former Supervisor Fred Aguiar's second four-year term. Almost one year ago, former Supervisor Aguiar accepted an appointment to serve in the Cabinet of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Supervisor Postmus represents the First District, which includes the cities of Adelanto, Apple Valley, Barstow, Hesperia, Needles, Twentynine Palms, and Victorville. Supervisor Hansberger represents the Third District, which includes the cities of Big Bear Lake, Grand Terrace, Highland, Loma Linda, Redlands, Yucca Valley, Yucaipa, and a portion of San Bernardino. Supervisor Ovitt represents the Fourth District, which includes the cities of Chino, Chino Hills, Montclair, and Ontario. Supervisor Gonzales represents the Fifth District, which includes the cities of Colton and Rialto, and portions of Fontana and San Bernardino.

Supervisor Paul Biane, who is mid-way through his first four-year term, represents the Second District, which includes the cities of Rancho Cucamonga and Upland, and a portion of Fontana.

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"I would like to say to those who have placed their trust in me that I'm humbled by their confidence in me, and I will continue to do all in my power to move our county forward," Supervisor Postmus said following his swearing-in. "I will not rest until San Bernardino County is regarded as a standard to which other large urban and rural counties aspire."

Supervisor Postmus said he will pay particular attention during his second term to improving public safety, including fire protection and emergency medical services. He also said he will work hard to further improve the county's transportation system and work to increase economic development efforts.

Supervisor Hansberger said his main priorities would be helping to build a stable county management team, putting a new General Plan into place, improving the county's juvenile justice system to emphasize gearing young people for success, and enhancing the county's cultural offerings.

"A community is not measured by its wealth but by its lasting accomplishments," Supervisor Hansberger said.

Supervisor Ovitt said his main priorities would be transportation, public safety, and honest government. Particularly, Supervisor Ovitt wants to make more information about sexual predators available to the public via the Internet in accordance with Megan's Law. He also wants the county to increase the number of prison beds, and implement ways to improve the monitoring of high-risk probationers.

"I am truly humbled the residents of the Fourth District chose me to represent them in San Bernardino," Supervisor Ovitt said. "I will work hard with my staff to prove to be worthy of such trust and respect."

Supervisor Gonzales said her emphasis will be on improving life in the Fifth District, which she said has been neglected in the recent past.

"I am not afraid to stand up for what ever the Fifth District needs," Supervisor Gonzales said. "This is the beginning of a new San Bernardino County. This is the beginning of a new image."

The newly configured Board will conduct business for the first time Tuesday morning, December 7. The Board will meet publicly at 10 a.m. in the Robert A. Covington Board of Supervisors Chambers, 385 N. Arrowhead Ave., first floor, San Bernardino.

The meeting agenda, additional information about members of the Board of Supervisors, and information about the county is available at www.sbcounty.gov.