



"Enriching Lives"

Responsibilities of the Board of Supervisors

The governmental powers of the County of Los Angeles are exercised through a Board of Supervisors, through agents and officers acting under authority of the Board or by authority conferred by law.

Provisions of the Los Angeles County Charter call for a five-member Board of Supervisors, each of whom must be an elector of the district represented, must reside therein during incumbency, must have been such an elector for at least one year immediately preceding election and be elected by the district.

The Board of Supervisors fulfills three major powers in County government: executive, legislative and quasijudicial.

In an executive capacity, the responsibilities of a county supervisor to constituents who reside in unincorporated areas are similar to those of a mayor of an incorporated city. The supervisor is required to administer all local governmental services.

In its legislative role, the Board may adopt ordinances and rules, both to control the administration of County government and to regulate public conduct within the unincorporated areas of the County.

Acting in a quasijudicial capacity, the Board acts as an appeals board on zone exception cases of the Regional Planning Commission. It sits for hearings on county improvement districts and on appeals in licensing matters.

The Board of Supervisors is responsible for the adoption of an annual budget outlining the expenditures of all branches of the County on a fiscal-year basis. It also serves as the governing body of many special districts, including Flood Control and Fire Protection Districts. The Board supervises the activities of the chief executive officer and all County departments, determines County and special district policies and sets salaries of County personnel.

Each supervisor has the responsibility of selecting citizens to serve on the various County commissions and committees.

In addition to the duties specifically assigned to the Board of Supervisors by law, each Board office acts as a liaison between the public and the many branches of government.