



# County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors

## **SUPERVISOR JOHN JUDSON HAMILTON**

Term: 1915 - 1918  
District: First  
Date of Birth: Nov. 10, 1854  
Death: 1947

John Judson Hamilton served as county supervisor for one term. He assumed office in 1915, and later resigned in 1918. Prescott F. Cogswell was appointed to fill the seat on Dec. 2, 1918.

Hamilton was born in Harrisville, Pa. on Nov. 10, 1854. His father was a soldier in the Union army, and Hamilton had relatives who were affiliated with the Sons of the American Revolution. He attended the public schools in his hometown. In 1877 he graduated from the State University of Iowa, where he excelled in journalism. He was the publisher of the University Reporter newspaper and first assistant librarian for the University library.

After graduation, he worked as a schoolteacher in the Iowa City High School and tutored at his alma mater. He later became editor of the Bloomfield Republican newspaper in Iowa.

In 1881 he took a job as a reporter with the Des Moines Daily News. He eventually became editor and publisher of that paper. After 21 years in the news business, he quit to become assistant general manager of several farming publications and later as editor of a literary magazine.

It was during that year that he wrote his most notable and influential literary work, the "Dethronement of the City Boss," a three-volume civic lesson on the ideals of city government.

In 1911 Hamilton moved to Los Angeles. He soon was made secretary of the Los Angeles Charter Revision Commission and Board of Freeholders. He also wrote special articles on municipal government for the Los Angeles Tribune and Los Angeles Express. In 1912 he moved to Pasadena and for two years devoted his time to looking after his personal interests. He was then appointed to the Board of Education, and made a survey of the Pasadena school system. In November 1914, he was elected to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and was chosen chairman. He was selected as chairman again in January 1917.

Hamilton was married and had three children: George Chase, John Judson, Jr., and Catharine.

He died in 1947 at age 92.

Source: Who's Who in California, 1928-29; Los Angeles Express, December 1914; Los Angeles County Records.