



County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors



SUPERVISOR KENNETH HAHN

Term: 1952 - 1992
District: Second
Date of Birth: Aug. 19, 1920
Death: Oct. 12, 1997

Kenneth Hahn was elected to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in November 1952. At age 32, he was the youngest person ever to be elected to the Board. He was re-elected again in 1956, 1960, 1964, 1968, 1972, 1976, 1980, 1984, and 1988.

Born Aug. 19, 1920, in Los Angeles, Hahn grew up in his hometown and attended public schools. He graduated with a B.A. in Political Science from Pepperdine University, and a Masters Degree in Education from USC.

With the outbreak of World War II, Hahn enlisted in the United States Navy and went on to attain the rank of Lieutenant after serving in the South Pacific. He was discharged in 1946.

In 1947, at age 26, Hahn became the youngest man ever to serve on the Los Angeles City Council. He was re-elected to the Council in 1949 and 1951. The following year Hahn began 40 years of service as a board supervisor, longer than any person in the history of the County. Among his major accomplishments as county supervisor:

- Spearheaded the creation of the paramedic and the freeway emergency call box program.
- Authored the Proposition A transit measure, which provided funding for lower bus fares and construction of a regional rail rapid transit system to reduce dependency on the automobile.
- Initiated construction of the Sports Arena and King-Drew Medical Center.
- Played major role in bringing the Dodgers baseball team to Los Angeles from Brooklyn.
- Helped enact the statewide "Rob A Home, Go To Jail" law.
- Created two major regional parks -- Willowbrook Recreation Area and the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, which covers almost 1,000 acres in the heart of Los Angeles County.

Hahn was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion, and recipient of honorary Doctor of Law degrees from Pepperdine University and West Los Angeles College of Law, and an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Southwestern Christian College.

On Oct. 12, 1997, Hahn died. He was 77, and was survived by his wife Ramona, and two children, James, the former mayor of Los Angeles, and Janice, a councilwoman for the City of Los Angeles.