



County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors



SUPERVISOR ROBERT E. WIRSCHING

Term: 1897 - 1901
District: Second
Date of Birth: Feb. 15, 1846
Death: 1912

Robert E. Wirsching served as county supervisor for one term. He was elected in November 1896 and assumed office on Jan. 4, 1897.

Wirsching was born Feb. 15, 1846 in Saxe-Meiningen, Germany. When he was six, the family immigrated to America and settled in Connecticut, where he grew up and went to public schools.

In 1875 Wirsching moved to Los Angeles to seek his fortune. He partnered with a friend and formed the firm of Rees & Wirsching, selling farm equipment and wagons. The duo made a name for themselves by breaking away from the dominating influence then held by San Francisco over the Southern California trade. The two began buying their goods wholesale from the East, and cutting out the middleman suppliers from San Francisco. Rees & Wirsching are considered the pioneers in the trade movement that culminated in making Los Angeles the wholesale center it is today.

In 1889 Wirsching's business success and civic-mindedness as a member of the Republican Party led to his election to the Los Angeles City Council as a member of the ninth ward. He later served as fire commissioner as well as police commissioner, and then was elected to the Board of Supervisors. He later served as president of the Board of Public Utilities before retiring from public life after 20 years in politics.

Credits include membership in the Masons, the Odd Fellows, the Foresters and the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

In 1912 Wirsching died. He was 76, and was survived by his wife, Carlotta, and their four children: Rose, Robert, Carl and Ernest.

Sources: Los Angeles Times, 1912; Historical and Biographical Record of Los Angeles County, 1901.