



County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors



SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

Term: 1996 - Present
District: Fourth
Date of Birth: Oct. 15, 1943

Don Knabe was elected to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in November 1996. He was re-elected again in 2000 and 2004.

Knabe was born Oct. 15, 1943, in Illinois. He earned a degree in business administration from Graceland University in Lamoni, Iowa, and enlisted in the U.S. Navy. After his honorable discharge, Don and his wife, Julie, settled in Cerritos.

Following a successful career as a small business owner, he was elected to the Cerritos City Council in 1980 and served for eight years, including two terms as mayor. He is credited with helping to lead the development and implementation of Cerritos' General Plan during a time of unprecedented economic growth.

Knabe joined County Supervisor Deane Dana's staff in 1982, soon becoming chief of staff. He remained in that position until Dana's retirement, at which time he was elected supervisor.

Since taking office in 1996, Knabe has worked to implement his Five Point Plan: Taking Back Our Streets, Streamlining County Government, Jobs, Protecting the Safety Net, and Improving Our Quality of Life. Credits include serving on the Board of Directors for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (Metrolink), and the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority (ACTA). He was appointed to the President's Homeland Security Advisory Council following the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

He is also a member of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), Aviation Task Force, Coliseum Commission, Urban County Caucus of the California State Association of Counties, California State Association of Counties, and Board of Governors for L.A. Care. In addition, he is the vice chairman of the Health Subcommittee for the National Association of Counties, trustee at the Aquarium of the Pacific located in Long Beach, and past chairman of First 5 Los Angeles. Knabe is a past president of the Cerritos Optimist Club and past governor of Optimist's Pacific Southwest District.

Knabe has a true passion for the arts and attributes much of his own personal success to an early involvement with music. His enthusiasm for the arts has resulted in the creation of several innovative youth programs throughout the Fourth District.

Knabe and his wife have two sons, Curt and Matt. The Knabes are active members of the New Life Community Church in Artesia.

Sources: Excerpted from Knabe's official biography.