



County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors



SUPERVISOR JAMES A. HAYES

Term: 1972 - 1979
District: Third
Date of Birth: Dec. 5, 1921
Death: Aug. 10, 2000

James A. Hayes was appointed supervisor of the Fourth Supervisorial District by Gov. Ronald Reagan on Aug. 29, 1972. He replaced Burton W. Chace, who died in a car accident. Hayes was elected to the office on Nov. 7, 1972 and re-elected in 1976. On June 1, 1979, Hayes resigned during his second term as county supervisor. The governor appointed Yvonne B. Burke to replace him two weeks later.

Hayes was born in Fowler, Calif., on Dec. 5, 1921. He joined the Navy during World War II. After returning home from service, Hayes studied law at the University of California (Hastings College of Law), and received his law degree in 1949.

Hayes was elected as a member of the California Legislature in 1966, and was reelected in 1968 and 1970. Prior to that service, he was a member of the Long Beach City Council, and was vice mayor of that city from 1963 to 1966.

During his time in the Assembly he served as chairman of the Assembly Committee on Employment and Public Employees, and was on numerous other committees, including the Governmental Organization Committee, the Judiciary Committee, Ways and Means, Consumer Advisory Council, and the Select Committee on Administration of Justice.

He was principal author of the Family Law Act (California's first divorce reform in a century), which was enacted in 1969; and author of Consumers Legal Remedies Act, the first class action lawsuit legislation in the nation. In addition, Hayes authored numerous smog bills which brought about major changes in the clean air laws during the 1968 and 1969 sessions of the Legislature.

Credits include being named "Best All Around Assemblyman" and "Most Effective Assemblyman" by the Sacramento press corps in 1969; "Assemblyman of the Year" by the California Trial Lawyers Association and "Leading Family Law Legislator" by the California State Marriage Counseling Association in 1970.

Hayes was married to wife Claudia. He died Aug. 10, 2000, at age 88.

Sources: L.A County Records, The Political Graveyard.