

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

June 16, 2015

Senate Constitutional Amendment (SCA) 8 (Mendoza) would increase the size of the LA County Board of Supervisors from five members to seven members. It would have to receive a 2/3rds vote of the Legislature in order to be put to the voters on the 2016 ballot.

As a region, Los Angeles County is well-represented by elected officials. Each of the 88 cities has a city council ranging in size from 5 to 15 members; in addition, there are 15 State Senators, 24 State Assemblymembers, and 18 members of Congress, all of whom endeavor to represent the almost 11 million residents of the County. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors serve as the elected representatives of the unincorporated areas of the County, which total just over 1 million residents.

However, unlike state or federal legislators, this Board also serves a very important role as an executive body, making budgetary and policy decisions on a weekly basis, and are responsible with administration of safety net services mandated by state and federal governments. In fact, 80 percent of the County's \$24 billion budget is dedicated to these services. Such a function demands day to day involvement in diverse issues ranging from health care to public safety to child welfare. And the decisions are not driven by political agendas, rather by what state or federal law requires and what is best for the people for which these services are intended.

- M O R E -

MOTION

SOLIS _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

KUEHL _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

Adding more elected officials to an executive body such as the Board would bog decisions down and make it more difficult for the County to deliver the safety net services millions of people count on us for. SCA 8 is an overly simplistic attempt to add more representation to the Board of Supervisors without a serious, nuanced look at the purpose of the Board.

I, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors oppose SCA 8 (Mendoza).

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