

**RETIRED ASSESSOR HISTORICAL
QUESTIONNAIRE**

1. Describe your career before becoming Assessor

I was an Appraiser Specialist with the L.A. County Assessor's office.

2. Give the milestones of your Assessor career, year elected/appointed, reelection dates, date of retirement.

I was first elected in 1990 and reelected in 1994 and 1998. I retired in March of 2000.

3. Describe your career, if any after retiring.

After retiring I, cared for my ailing mother in a nursing home until she passed away. In 2004 I moved to the Big Island of Hawaii and became a grower of a tropical fruit, Rambutan, of which I have 200 trees on 12.5 acres.

4. What was your relationship with your predecessor?

The former Assessor, who I defeated in the General Election, and I had no relationship other than an intense dislike for one another. It was a contentious situation at best.

5. What was your relationship with your successor?

My successor, Rick Auerbach, was my Assistant Assessor and I lobbied the County Board of Supervisors to appoint him to Assessor when I retired in the middle of my term.

6. Why did you run for assessor?

I initially ran for Assessor to fragment the vote so that my predecessor, John Lynch, could be defeated. I was actually supporting Sid Delgado, a manager in the department. However, it was me who forced Lynch into the run-off. Which proves the point, "Be careful what you ask for!"

7. What do you consider your greatest accomplishments?

- I. Restoring the public's confidence in the office of Assessor.
- II. As named defendant in Nordlinger vs Hahn, a U.S. Supreme Court case challenging the constitutionality of Proposition 13, we won thereby protecting the safeguards of Proposition 13.

8. What did you wish you could have done differently?

I wouldn't change a thing with the possible exception of being harder on the Cable Television interests.

9. What do you remember most fondly about your time in office?

My first election night as I trailed my opponent all night and then ending up winning. That, and the incredibly positive relationship I had with my 1500 employees.

10. Were there any parts of your career that you wish had not happened?

Yes, I wish I had not written some childish letters to my predecessor just to irritate him.

11. What was your relationship with the CAA?

While I never held office within the Association, I was always supportive and because I had an excellent staff, I kept them involved in CAA in my stead.

12. What is your recollection of the "Assessor Scandals" of the 1960s?

I never knew of them and was not then a California resident.

13. Describe the pressure and stress of the Assessor's job prior to the passage of Proposition 13?

I have no first-hand knowledge of the workings of the job prior to my election in 1990.

- Did you actively oppose or support Proposition 13?

As mentioned earlier, I was the named defendant of Nordlinger vs Hahn so I actively supported it.

- How did you feel about Proposition 13 now?

Like most things that old, there is a need to update and re-evaluate Prop 13 to reflect today.

14. Were you involved in State or County politics, other than the Assessor's Office?

No

- Were there other offices you ran for while in office as Assessor?

No

15. What kind of person do you think it takes to make a good County Assessor?

Someone who is impartial and who has the public's interest in mind. He/She must not be concerned with raising revenue at the expense of the taxpayer if it is not justified and honorable.

- **Should an Assessor be required to have an appraisal or real estate background?**

Yes, the Assessor should have more than just a cursory knowledge of how the office is run.

16. Please add anything that we may have missed in the interview that you think would be interesting.

I can think of nothing more at this time.