

2001-02 GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT
Ventura County Board of Supervisors Stipends & Commissions

Respondent: Board of Supervisors

Recommendation R-1: The amendment to Ordinance 4191 should be removed.

Response: The Grand Jury reports that due to the amendment of Ordinance 4191 future members of the Board of Supervisors will be able to collect compensation for service on the Board of Retirement and the Assessment Appeals Board. This is correct.

It should be noted that pursuant to Revenue and Taxation Code section 1622.2 a Board member could only serve on the Assessment Appeals Board if that Board member had previously "served as a member of a county board of equalization." Supervisor Flynn is the only Board member who qualifies to be appointed at this time. The "county board of equalization" has not been in existence for over 18 years and so it is highly unlikely that any future Board of Supervisor member would qualify to serve concurrently as a Supervisor and an Assessment Appeals Board member by virtue of having served on the "county board of equalization." With the resignation of Supervisor Flynn from the Assessment Appeals Board the issue of Board of Supervisor members receiving a stipend for service on that Board is virtually moot.

Recommendation R-2: If attendance at these exempted boards is so onerous, it would be better to alternate membership on the two boards among all Supervisors on an annual basis.

Response: Annually alternating membership among all Supervisors is one option the Board could consider for the Board of Retirement. There is a need to balance the long learning curve with the desire to alternate representation. An annual change may not provide adequate time for a Board member to become sufficiently knowledgeable in this complex arena. As to the Assessment Appeals Board, the criteria mentioned in the response to Recommendation R-1 above precludes alternating membership.