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Gloria Molina

Supervisor, First District

(213) 974-4111
 (213) 613-1739
 molina@bos.lacounty.gov
 www.molina.lacounty.gov
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“It’s not just providing services, but managing the money of Los Angeles County. Everybody works hard for their paycheck, and having to pay taxes is not what they appreciate. But they know that the County has to be there with all of its services.”

Grand Park

Grand Park has turned out to be exactly what we dreamed it would be. A go-to location here in Downtown Los Angeles, a green space, that has an unbelievable amount of programming. From very passive programming: you can go there to read a book, take a walk; to wonderful programs. We celebrated New Year’s here, we had Fourth of July, we did election coverage here—we’ve been doing all kinds of things.

Financial Success of Los Angeles County

Los Angeles County has been successful financially because there’s been good leadership at the top. Collectively, my colleagues, all the Supervisors, have put in place a series of restraints, let’s say, during the tough times, or even in the good times. So we’ve always set money aside, we treat our money like it’s our own pocketbook, like it’s our very own money, and use common sense. So that consequently, during the recession, we didn’t have to lay anyone off. We did limit some programs, but for the most part we made it through, everybody continued working for us.

And now that the economy is getting stronger, we’ve been doing even better. We’ve gotten great rating from our bond agencies, we’re in a good fiscal place, and it really is an important part of what we do. It’s not just providing services, but managing the money of Los Angeles County. Everybody works hard for their paycheck, and having to pay taxes is not what they appreciate. But they know that the County has to be there and all of its services. So I’m proud of the leadership that we all provided to make sure that Los Angeles County is as fiscally strong as it ever will be.

Plastic Bag Ban

I was very proud that LA County kind of led the way in eliminating the plastic bags. It’s an environmental nuisance, we see them flying around everywhere, so we needed to eliminate that. And plus we need to green our communities and green our cities. So now the city followed. I’m so glad, and now we have the statewide ban. So we’re on our way. So hopefully it’s going to be a big step in the direction of greening all of the state of California and certainly Los Angeles County. But we supplemented as well, by taking care of our parks and trying to find those environmental opportunities, like planting more trees, doing what we can in order to green our city. Besides the fact that we have all of these responsibilities in LA County, we really have to take advantage of the opportunities we have to make the future better for our children. And of course, greening all of LA County is a big part of what’s going to make the future stronger for our children.

Final Thoughts

I hope that they will see me as someone who was a truly honest representative on their behalf. That I represented their interests here at the County Board of Supervisors, the city or the State legislature, in a way that if they had been sitting here themselves and looking at those issues, I was making the kinds of decisions that were supporting them and their interests. So I do hope that constituents remember me in that way, that’s what I would be proudest of. I think Constituent Services was one of the most important things that I did. And I think all of us are very proud of the work we do on behalf of all of the people we represent.