LOS ANGELES COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT





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Parks and Trails in Los Angeles County

Well, I've been very fortunate and blessed and we've been able to expand the trails. I believe we have one of the largest trail systems in the United States, and we continue to expand upon those. I have an equestrian ride twice a year, which we have up to 150 riders, equestrians riding with us. And those who are watching, we encourage you to join our equestrian ride. And we ride at the various trails within the County of Los Angeles. When we do that we're able to maintain them, and also to create the support to expand those trails. And we've had a vast network, we want to continue on that, and just enhance the quality of life. If you're not an equestrian, you can use the trails to hike, to walk, and it's a good family experience and helps you to keep in shape.

Public Safety

Public safety remains a top priority. If you don't have safe streets, safe communities, then you have an exodus of people. In order to create jobs, we want to have an environment where people want to invest. And they will only invest if it's a safe community. So we're very proud that the Sheriff's Department, who is the local police for 44 of our cities—we are their police department, we are their mayor for the unincorporated areas—along with the unincorporated communities, provide a good quality public service, public safety to our citizens. So it's important we maintain a high priority of supporting law enforcement.

The Successes of the Board

Our Board of Supervisors, the five of us, have been able to work together. And one of the very serious defect of term limits is now we're going to be losing members from our Board. If we could get rid of term limits, we would maintain the ability and stability that our agency has, unlike other municipalities. As a result, we've been able to handle a \$28 billion dollar budget, we've been able to maintain a surplus, we've been able to maintain labor peace, and as a result, the services that we provide, those that receive those services, are better off because we have a County Board that's been able to cut costs. I mean, the Productivity Commission that I initiated has saved over \$4 billion dollars since 1981. And the Economy Efficiency Commission, and a motion with Supervisor Molina and myself, we've been able to reform civil service. And as a result, we've also been able to consolidate a lot of the various agencies, saving hundreds of millions of dollars. So this approach that we've had is now going to be jeopardized because of term limits. And I'm fearful that we may repeat what happened across the way at LA City, or some of the others that have deficits, and a very unstable future-unlike the County of Los Angeles. We're very stable, we have a good future, because of the foundation we've been able to impose with the five of us working together.