



If I could do anything, I would convince people to do more reading, more investigation, on the people they elect before they elect them.

Elections is a nonpolitical office. Thank goodness, in California our [local] offices are *supposed to be* nonpolitical—we're nonpartisan offices. Other parts of the country are not, and that's what the furor back east is.

**Many people know your successor from notoriety surrounding his sister. What can you convey about him?**

Keaton is a very bright young man. He's an attorney; he passed the bar. He is very astute on election law; if he doesn't know [something], he looks it up. And he will run this office adhering to election law—I have no doubt about it. He interprets it very well.

He's going to be running the election for the Tuscan Water District that's being formed. For this [primary] election, he's hands off of any vote count. I'm hoping in the future, he'll go out to vote centers and make himself known to people. He's very interested in the recorder's side, and his rapport with the other management staff is very good. He has gone through the national election center certification [as a certified elections registration administrator] and he enjoys elections.

That's what it takes: It takes a person who enjoys elections, doesn't look at it as just a job. It's a passion.

**The issue with his sister has raised questions.**

I have full faith in him, that he will

**The Hall of Records, opened in 2016.**

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REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

carry on elections with utmost integrity. I really do. If I didn't, I wouldn't support him.

**Legacy seems a cliched word; what are you most proud about when you look back?**

I think two things. When I came into office, I didn't know any better, so I went out and automated my offices—and we got computers in the courtroom. My work with the court those first nine years, I'm really proud of that.

And then it took me a long time, though several CAOs [county administrative officers] to finally get to a CAO, [Paul Hahn], who could fathom my vision [for the Hall of Records]. Of course, I think I owe a lot to Mike Ramsey: He wanted me out of the [old] building so he could take over my space! But I had this vision for a long time.

I want this to be a building that people use—that they come to look up history, as many people do who are writing books, researching property rights, water rights—and [where] people will come to see how elections are handled.

Some registrars are extremely beat up by people. I hope that never happens here. But I think it's how you approach people, how you handle people. If you notice when you come into this office, though we haven't taken down the [COVID-safety] plexiglass yet, we don't have barriers. This is the people's building. □

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