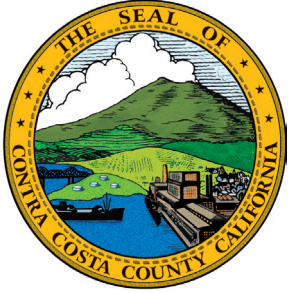


Contra Costa County Supervisor



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2009 Year in Review



Dear Friend:

This has been a year of change, cooperation, and opportunity. I believe the residents of Contra Costa County have not only persevered through this hardship but have succeed in laying the foundation for a new era. Our local government is smaller and performing as best it can to deliver vital services to the many people in need of training and a job. While our state government is continuing to face challenges amidst an escalating budget deficit, I believe the solutions lie in doing what is best for our community, making government more efficient and responsive, and helping our constituents go back to school, receive training, and find jobs.

In 2007, when I first started my term on the Board of Supervisors, I encountered a system of government in need of reform, innovation, and responsiveness. This year, the Board of Supervisors approved my recommended action of shifting to a two-year budget cycle to better prepare for impending cuts and to inform our constituents and employees what to expect in terms of available resources. In addition the Board of Supervisors approved to annually adopt budget balancing principles and having a conversation with constituents to identify our top funding priorities.

Finally, the Board of Supervisors adopted my recommendation of performing a sustainability audit of our county hospital. It is my belief that by working more efficiently, we can perform at a level that meets or exceeds our constituents' needs' while saving taxpayer money. Working together with employees, managers, and my colleagues on the Board of Supervisors we were able to agree on a unprecedented contract agreement based on shared sacrifice. This contract agreement effectively eliminated the substantial retiree health care liability of \$2.6 billion the County would have owed over the next 30 years. Furthermore, the Board of Supervisors approved my action of reducing our salaries in conjunction with our employees, as I believe that leaders should never ask those around them to do more than they would themselves.

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Supervisor Susan Bonilla and the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisor's presented Dr. Brian O'Neill, Director of the VA Northern California Health Care System, with a resolution during the 2009 Veterans ceremony.

United States[®] Census 2010

CENSUS 2010:

It's a Community Effort and We Need You

The federally mandated census occurs every 10 years and the next one is scheduled for April 2010. The census aims to count every person living in the United States. Data collected from the census is then used to distribute Congressional seats to states, apportion more than \$400 billion in federal grants to tribal, state and local government, and help guide decisions at every level of government that will impact our communities – for example, where to put more schools, libraries, hospital, senior services, etc. With the economic challenges everyone is faced with today, there is so much at stake for us not to take the census seriously.

We in Contra Costa County are committed to making the census a top priority. We need to reach out to every resident in the county and send a very strong and loud message that they each must be counted to make a difference. Special efforts will be made to reach out to the undercounted population, especially those that are linguistically isolated and living in low-income households. As part of our census efforts, a Complete Count Committee will be created which will have regional sub-committees made up of local and respected experts in the community – community agencies, faith-based organizations, business and city leaders, local school representatives, media – all working together collaboratively in the community to raise awareness of the importance of the census and achieving an accurate count. The county will be relying on you - our community partners - to play a big role in the local census outreach. Our success will depend on building a strong partnership with our community; after all, the census is a community-wide effort. We invite you to join Contra Costa County in our census campaign. Make a difference and help shape the future of our communities! More information will follow in the weeks ahead. Please contact Kristine Solseng at (925) 313-4371 for any questions.

Contra Costa County Quick Facts and Figures 2007

CITY	POPULATION	CITY	POPULATION
Antioch	100,150	Oakley	31,906
Brentwood	48,907	Orinda	17,517
Clayton	10,781	Pinole	19,234
Concord	123,519	Pittsburg	63,004
Danville	42,601	Pleasant Hill	33,117
El Cerrito	23,194	Richmond	103,828
Hercules	23,975	San Pablo	30,965
Lafayette	23,953	San Ramon	58,035
Martinez	36,179	Walnut Creek	65,384
Moraga	16,165	County Total	1,042,341

District IV Spotlight on: Contra Costa Commission for Women *Working on Behalf of Women and Girls in Contra Costa County*

By Carlyn Obringer

The Contra Costa County Commission for Women has been busy!

Comprised of 15 energetic women, the Commission is currently focusing on two big projects. Recognizing that there is a proliferation of girl-on-girl violence within schools throughout the country, the Commission is currently surveying all of the high school, middle school and elementary school principals in the County about the number and nature of incidents of girl-on-girl violence at their schools. Once this research is complete, the Commission will compile a report, to be presented to the Board of Supervisors and made available to all participating schools and interested parties. The Commission will then facilitate community workshops to educate parents and teachers about the rise in girl-on-girl violence and how to prevent and deal with this issue.

The Commission is also conducting outreach to Contra Costa County's female Hispanic population regarding the U.S. 2010 Census. The idea is to build trust among undocumented Latinas amid growing concern that those individuals in the county illegally will be afraid to be counted. Since Census information affects the numbers of seats California occupies in the U.S. House of Representatives, and what portion of federal funding will be spent on infrastructure and public services in California each year, the Commissioners know that it is important to connect with the County's Latina population and alleviate any fears they might have about participating in the 2010 Census.

Want to learn more about the work of the Commission?
Please visit the Contra Costa Women's Commission's web site at www.WomensCommission.com or e-mail WomensCommission@gmail.com.

JOIN US FOR:
The 10th Annual Women's Hall
of Fame Awards Dinner

When:
Thursday, March 18, 2010

Where:
Crowne Plaza Hotel in Concord

Women displaying leadership in
the following categories will be
honored:

Women Demonstrating Leadership
Women Creating Community
Women Working for Justice
Women Preserving the Environment
Women Improving Health Care
Women Contributing to the Arts
Women Innovating in
Science/Technology

Proceeds will benefit
Community Violence Solutions

Please contact
Teresa Inman at
(925) 351-6988
for information.

A Message From Susan....

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The core purpose of the Board of Supervisors is to further policy that will protect and improve the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods, and diverse communities of Contra Costa County. I am proud of the partnerships my office has created and strengthened to help our neighbors stay the course in this difficult time. The Assistance League of Diablo Valley, the Blue Star Moms, the Monument Crisis Center, the Michael Chavez Center for Economic Opportunity, Foster A Dream, and many other organizations are providing incredible programs and services thereby filling the gaps created by the county's cuts in services. The construction of the Contra Costa Centre Transit Village and the arrival of the northern headquarters of the California State Automobile Association (CSAA) have brought much needed jobs to our community. Their work is commendable and I honor our partnerships and know they will continue in the spirit of making our community stronger.

My tenure as Chair of the Board has been inspiring and challenging. It is my hope that I leave the position as Chair in a much better place for my colleagues and constituents. I look forward to continuing to serve Contra Costa County and I am always encouraged by the dedication and perseverance that I see in many of our outstanding employees who have dedicated their lives to public service. This coming year will require continued perseverance and strong leadership among all of our partners in government, non-profits, and businesses. As we continue to work together, we will see a new era of growth and opportunity emerge in Contra Costa County.

Best Regards,



Susan Bonilla

Supervisor Susan Bonilla Celebrates Grand Opening and Dedication of the Michael Chavez Center for Economic Opportunity

The Grand Opening and Dedication of the Michael Chavez Center for Economic Opportunity in Concord's Monument Corridor area provided a chance for community leaders and supporters of the Chavez Center to see the finished transformation of the center and to learn about the many valuable programs offered to community residents.

"The Michael Chavez Center provides an invaluable service to residents of the Monument Community, the City of Concord and Contra Costa County. The programs and services offered through the Chavez Center are essential to our community and are excellent examples of the power of public and private partnerships," Chair of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, Susan Bonilla said.

Executive Director of the Michael Chavez Center for Economic Opportunity since February 2009, Mike Van Hofwegen said, "coming alongside men and women of our community and supporting them in recognizing, developing and utilizing their abilities is incredibly gratifying. The Michael Chavez Center does this in a way that helps people to both take specific steps out of poverty and at the same time give back to their community."



The Michael Chavez Center's mission is to transform the community through economic opportunities and to train and develop skills in technology and literacy as well as business development. These programs develop the human, social and economic capital that enables individuals to become self-sufficient and contribute to their families and the community in meaningful ways.

Esperanza Flores is a member of the recently launched Green and Clean Professional House-cleaning Services which is a women-owned cooperative, dedicated to making homes safe, clean, and healthy. "The Michael Chavez Center gave me the tools and support to rise to another level and become independent. It is a center that is open to those who have a desire to learn and to improve their lives," said Flores.

Michael Chavez, a 27-year Concord resident and business owner, was elected to the City Council in November 2006. His wife, Vikki, continues to operate Charisma Salon on Clayton Road in Concord, the business they co-founded in 1979.



Councilmember Chavez chaired the Concord City Council Housing & Economic Development Committee and served on the Neighborhood & Community Services Committee. Chavez was a pioneer in making inroads for the underprivileged people of Concord. The Michael Chavez Center, formerly known as Monument Futures, desires to continue the work he began and carry out his vision.

**Questions? Comments?
Concerns?
We Want to Hear from You**

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