



News Release

County of Riverside

02/09/2011, 10:59 AM

Contact: Raymond Smith
(951) 955-1130

Former Riverside County elections official returns as Registrar of Voters

A former chief deputy registrar in Riverside County who now holds the top elections post in San Bernardino County has been named registrar in Riverside County.

Kari Verjil left the Riverside County Registrar of Voters Office in 2005 after working there for 13 years.

"Kari's knowledge about Riverside County's operations is a major advantage," county Executive Office Bill Luna said in making the appointment. "That background, coupled with her experience leading the registrar's office in San Bernardino County, made Kari a clear choice."

She will begin her duties in Riverside County on Feb. 24.

"I am excited to return to Riverside County, where I began my career with the Registrar of Voters," Verjil said. "My priorities include a top-to-bottom review of the department, improving communication and continuing to conduct successful, accurate elections for Riverside County voters."

As registrar in San Bernardino County, Verjil directed statewide and local elections for over 800,000 voters and implemented an education program to increase voter participation. Under her direction, San Bernardino County transitioned from an electronic voting system to the state-mandated paper ballot system. She adopted procedures to reduce the department's budget through improved work flow that reduced overtime, and the office conducted quarterly election update seminars with city clerks across the county.

Verjil succeeds Barbara Dunmore, who was terminated in November after concerns were raised in the community about recent elections operations.

As chief deputy registrar in Riverside County, Verjil directed the verification and filing of all nomination papers for elective offices, initiatives, referendums, and other petitions. She was the primary media spokesperson on issues involving candidate services, voter registration, recalls and absentee voting. Before leaving Riverside County in 2005, Verjil had been an elections coordinator/Assistant since 1992.

She received a bachelor's degree in social science from Chapman University and is continuing her pursuit of a master's degree in education. Verjil sits on the board of the California Association of Clerks and Elections Officials and is chairperson of the California Professional Election Administration credential program.

She lives in Moreno Valley and in her spare time runs marathons with the Loma Linda Lopers, plays golf and loves to be outdoors.

- 30 -

