

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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May 30, 2009

TO: Honorable Chair and Members of the Board

FR: Supervisors Ray Nutting, District II and Norma Santiago, District V 

RE: Supervisors' Salaries and Policy

In difficult economic times, the Board of Supervisors should take the lead in evaluating policy relative to their salaries so as to share in the responsibility of reducing overall costs to the county.

With the predictable failure of the state budget propositions, and further strategies by the state to balance their budget off the backs of counties, it is up to El Dorado County to take care of itself in the most expeditious and efficient fashion.

And, while the Chief Administrative Officer continues to work with all departments to trim wherever possible, it is the responsibility of the board of supervisors to keep public safety, services, programs and a balanced budget as their priority goals.

The board has already eliminated 200 county positions. Departments are scrambling to maintain effective service delivery. And, it is imperative to protect those remaining employees who are working diligently to provide the best possible service under the most difficult conditions.

It would be timely, fiscally prudent and symbolic that the members of the board of supervisors introduce a salary reduction amendment to Ordinance Number 4675, pursuant to the El Dorado County Charter (Article II, 204.), "compensation of supervisors shall be fixed by ordinance".

The last amendment to Ordinance Number 4675 (July, 2005) provided an increase in supervisors' salaries from \$4616.10 per month to the current \$6406.25. A 5% reduction, as recommended in item #37 (June 2, 2009), will amount to \$320.31 per month.

This reduction should not adversely affect the ability of each supervisor to dutifully represent his or her constituency, and should be joined in consideration with the return of mileage and expenses to allow supervisors better representation on committees and commissions.

We urge the board to vote for a 5% reduction in their salaries until such time as the county returns to a 'stabilized economy', traditionally measured by a 2% assessed property value standard, and to reconsider its decision to eliminate expenses and mileage.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Ray Nutting", written over a horizontal line.