

JANE TOLMACH

The central issue in this election is the need to send an experienced, proven, and effective representative to Sacramento. A representative who will be a strong voice for the people of Ventura County. As a result of my experience in local government, I know that empty promises and hollow rhetoric do not get the job done. Hard work, study, the courage to ask penetrating questions, and the ability to deal with difficult problems are what really count.

As a member of the Assembly I intend to examine every piece of proposed legislation to insure that its intent can be carried out by local governments effectively and at a minimum of cost to the taxpayer. I also intend to make certain that Ventura County gets its fair share of State revenues and services. We should be getting a return which is commensurate with the amount of taxes which we send to the State each year. Recently, for instance, our share of Cal-Trans money (for roads and highways) has been decreasing even though our revenue base has been steadily increasing. Not only is this unfair, it will ultimately hurt the economy of Ventura County.

It is evident that effective representation means that our system of taxation needs to be reformed and overhauled. The latest indication of this need has been the spectacular rise in property taxes that Ventura County taxpayers have suffered. The tax system as it exists today is not only basically unjust, but it causes people to lose confidence in government. We must stop the trend of the State shifting more and more of the tax burden onto the backs of local property owners. The State legislature must relieve the tax burden of the middle income homeowners and provide a more equitable system of taxation.

Another important issue facing the Californian today is the high cost of government bureaucracies. The State must take a comprehensive and critical look at the basic structure of State, regional, and local government to insure that necessary services are being delivered efficiently at a minimum cost to the taxpayer. I am especially concerned about regional government such as SCAG, the Southern California Association of Governments. Although its intent is to

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promote intergovernmental cooperation, in practice it tends to create costly and unnecessary layers of bureaucracy.

In the field of education it would be my firm intention to obtain for Ventura County a four-year State college. Ours is the only district with a large urban population which does not have such a college. It is a heavy and unfair burden upon the families of Ventura County youths to have to leave the county for a college education. With more Community College students than ever before in our history, the need for a full four-year college is acute, and I intend to use my experience in local and State government and my professional relationships with key members of the Legislature to zero in on such a project and make that college a reality.

The most serious economic problem that we face today is unemployment.

Not being able to find a job is an experience which destroys people and is intolerably wasteful in terms of lost production, lost wages, and lost taxes. The State Legislature must be continually sensitive to this problem. Every decision must be examined with respect to the impact on the employment situation. As a member of the Assembly, I will use every measure at my disposal to help put California back to work.