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## ***The Joni Gray Record:***

- ***Runaway county spending***
- ***Higher taxes and fees***
- ***Higher debt***
- ***Massive budget deficits***
- ***Fallure to support funding the North County Jail***
- ***Discouraging the creation of new jobs in local industries, like tourism and oil***
- ***Wasteful spending on building projects, foreclosed homeless shelters, pay raises, Golden Handshake retirement giveaways***

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# **Supervisor Joni Gray: Fiscal Conservative? Or just another Tax and Spend Politician?**





Supervisor Joni Gray has served as 4th District Supervisor for fourteen years. *That's a long time.*

She has consistently **portrayed herself as a fiscal conservative**, a taxpayers' watchdog guarding the public treasury from the tax-and-spend South Coast Supervisors.

***Is this really true?***

Over the last decade, county spending has increased by more than 41% or over \$200 million. Tax revenues increased by less than 30%, meaning potential deficits as high as \$55 million in 2011. *(Santa Maria Times, 2/15/2011)*

Joni Gray blames the South Coast Supervisors for runaway spending. But, she served on the Board of Supervisors for four years while there was a 3 to 2 "fiscal conservative" majority.

***Yet, the spendathon just continued.***

On Joni Gray's watch over the last decade, county administration spending jumped almost 60% while spending for salaries and benefits rose another 40%. And, just since 2006, our long-term debt rose 20%.

***Is this fiscal responsibility in action?***

**Joni says she tries to stop the spending.** How's that, Joni? By voting for expensive new county buildings and remodeling projects costing \$18 million? By voting for a Golden Handshake retirement program costing us another \$13 million? By spending \$6 million to purchase homeless shelters which were totally mismanaged and foreclosed on? By abstaining on a vote to save money by consolidating some county departments? And, by voting to increase the salaries of top county officials while asking lower-level employees to take cuts?


Joni Gray gives lip service to keeping our taxes low, but her votes show a pattern of voting for higher fees, higher hotel taxes and higher sales taxes. She was a prime mover behind Measure S, the November 2010 ballot initiative to increase your sales tax, supposedly to fund the North County Jail. Yet, in her votes, Joni Gray has voted against funding the Jail. Apparently, she only wants to fund the Jail through new taxes, not existing funds.

**And, how about jobs?** Joni Gray couldn't get her colleagues to support the La Purisima Golf Course Project and opposed oil drilling off Vandenberg Air Force Base which could have generated \$74 million for county coffers. However, she did vote to bring Parolee Day Reporting Centers to the county to provide services to dangerous criminals on parole.


Joni Gray always wants to BLAME the South Coast Supervisors for Santa Barbara County's woes, but REAL LEADERSHIP isn't about blaming others. It's about taking tough stands, making tough choices, and sometimes saying things people don't want to hear.




**On Joni Gray's Watch!**




Between 1999 and January 2012, the number of **unemployed workers in Santa Barbara County** climbed **159.74%**, from **7,700 to 20,000**. The County's unemployment rate rose 130% from 3.90% to 9.0%. (California Employment Development Department, Labor Force Data, comparing 1999 to January 2012)




**County expenses grew by 41.24%** between Fiscal year 2001-2002 and 2010-2011, **from \$531 million to \$750 million**.




Between 2002 and 2010 the number of **foreclosures in Santa Barbara County** rose **9332%**, from **13 to 1,212**. The number of foreclosures for 2008 was the highest during that time frame at 1,695. (RAND California)




**County Administration expenditures grew 59.05%**, from \$6.96 million to \$11.07 million.




Between 2001 and 2010 the number of **bankruptcy filings increased 51.42%**, from 4,909 to 7,433.



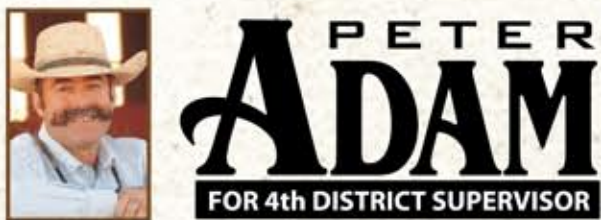
**The County's expenditures for salaries and benefits also grew during these years, rising 40.22%**, from \$16.968 million to \$23.793 million.



**Total county revenues grew 29.55%** between Fiscal Year 2001-2002 and 2010-2011, from \$582 million to \$754 million.



**Overall the County's long-term debt also increased** between Fiscal year 2001-2002 and 2010-2011, **rising 14.10% from \$80.771 million to \$92.161 million**. There have been fluctuations in the size of the debt in the last decade. However, since Fiscal Year 2005-2006 the County's long-term debt grew 20.53% from \$76.472 to \$92.161 million.



**REAL LEADERSHIP FOR THE 4<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT**