

February 10, 2009

Board President Church and Vice President Gordon to Attend Constitutional Summit in Sacramento

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. – The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors today cancelled its February 24 meeting to allow Board President Mark Church and Vice President Richard S. Gordon the opportunity to attend the California Constitution Convention Summit in Sacramento.

The summit, organized by the Bay Area Council, League of Women Voters and other groups, aims to bring together the state’s leaders to review research, discuss processes and begin building a coalition to support a possible convention. The organizers maintain California’s system of state government has led to budget stalemates and policy gridlock that only a complete overhaul will remedy.

“We are at a critical juncture in our State’s history. Because of this, I applaud and support the effort by the Bay Area Council to convene a serious discussion about the need for a new California Constitution,” Church said.

“The budget debacle of the past year has shown that our current system is incapable of solving this problem,” he continued. “Apparently, structural change has to come from the people. We must find a change that provides a permanent revenue stream to cities and counties and school districts. I feel that the February 24 meeting to discuss how to promote a new constitutional convention is an important first step.”

The five-member Board of Supervisors today endorsed the concept of a constitutional convention.

“The problems in Sacramento impact us in county courthouses, city halls and schools,” Gordon said. “I grow increasingly convinced that the only way to fix the problems in Sacramento is through some dramatic action. A constitutional convention would certainly be dramatic. I look forward to discussing with others from across the state the impacts and issues related to such action.”

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