

New chairman in town?

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The current debate over Assessor Bill Postmus' residency has raised the question of whether or not he can remain chairman of the San Bernardino County Republican Central Committee.

According to California Election code, if Postmus moves to Rancho Cucamonga — in the 2nd District — then he will have to resign from the committee that he was elected to while living in the 1st District.

“At this point he hasn't moved out of the desert yet,” said Assistant Assessor Adam Aleman. He said that they were aware of the elections code, and when Postmus does move there are a few different ways that he can retain his position as chairman.

Others disagree.

“Technically he has already resigned his position,” said Matt Brown, treasurer of the committee.

Brown said that it's no secret that Postmus moved to Rancho Cucamonga on the weekend of May 25, and since then 2nd District Supervisor and Committee Vice Chairman Paul Biane is acting as the chairman of the Republican Committee.

Brown said that Postmus has been talking about his move for more than a year.

Sources inside the county say that escrow should close this week on Postmus' Hesperia home.

“Matt Brown is unaware and uninformed of Postmus' current residency and it's unfortunate that he would make comments that are untrue about Bill Postmus' current residency,” said Aleman. “He is currently a resident of the 1st District.”

Postmus could be re-appointed to the committee as an alternate to an ex-officio member, which are elected officials and nominees that have run for state assembly, senate of U.S. Congress.

Those people are automatically part of the central committee. According to the committee's Web site only Assemblyman Bob Huff, R-Walnut, and Senator Bob Margett, R-Glendora. They can elect alternates who live anywhere in the county.

“I've heard rumors that somehow he's going to retain residency in the 1st District,” said Assemblyman Anthony Adams, R-Hesperia.

Postmus could also be re-appointed if someone from the second district caucus of the committee steps down.

“Given his network of allies and people he's helped, I'm sure there's people willing to help him,” said Doug Johnson, a fellow with the Rose Institute of State and Local Government.

Johnson said that it does present an opportunity for anyone wishing to oppose Postmus because he would have to officially resign before being re-appointed to the committee in the 2nd District.

Brown said that the committee will discuss who may be the next chairman at its meeting on June 21.

"I've heard rumors all weekend long of a chairmanship fight," said Adams. "This is something for the county to decide, not to be manipulated by the committee."

Aleman said whether or not Postmus does move out of the 1st District, which encompasses the entire Victor Valley, he plans on remaining chairman of the committee and building on the successes of the party.

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