

Neal Kelley

Orange County, Calif.

Registrar of Voters



Job Function(s): Chief election official for Orange County, Calif. - responsible for conducting elections, verifying petitions and maintaining voter records.

How long I've been doing this job: seven years

Professional/Work Background: Prior to joining Orange County, I developed and grew several companies of my own, employing hundreds of people from 1989 to 2004. I was also an adjunct professor with Riverside Community College's Business Administration Department, and served as a police officer in Southern California during the mid 1980's.

The best part about my job is that every day is a challenge and the opportunity to improve every day is the most exciting part of the job.

The most challenging thing about my job is dealing with the intense political issues and serving as the "referee" of these issues.

I am most proud of the turnaround of this department during the past six years.

I have never visited Germany during Oktoberfest (on my bucket list).

I admire Teddy Roosevelt.

My advice to others is to be resilient, a good listener and support others.

I am a member of NACRC because I feel strongly about belonging to a national, diverse organization, which has a focus on elections.

My favorite...

leadership inspiration: Pat Tillman leaving the NFL to join the Army and paying the ultimate sacrifice.

advice to new members: Get involved as much as you can

place to visit: Hawaii

quote: "Before the word is spoken, you must govern it. After it is spoken it will govern you." - Unknown author (to me anyway)