

# SUPERVISORS VOTE 3-2 TO GIVE THEMSELVES RAISES

Salary increase to total 10.3 percent over next three years

*Board of Supervisors*  
**NO**

BRUCE MCPHERSON

**NO**

GREG CAPUT

**YES**

NEAL COONERTY

**YES**

ZACH FRIEND

*11-6-13*  
**YES**

JOHN LEOPOLD



DAN COYRO/SENTINEL

Pay increase will be first for board of supervisors in five years

By JASON HOPPIN

jhoppin@santacruzsentinel.com

SANTA CRUZ — A divided Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday voted to give itself a 10.3 percent pay raise through 2017, its first raise in five years.

The 3-2 vote means the board's pay eventually would rise to \$123,238, putting it in the top half of Bay Area county supervisor compensation. After years of county austerity, board members said the raise is commensurate with pay packages being handed out to rank-and-file county staff.

"The proposal that's before us is not anything different from

what we're offering the rest of our employees," said Supervisor John Leopold, the only member of the majority to comment on the issue.

Supervisors Bruce McPherson and Greg Caput voted against the proposal. Caput especially has been a long-standing critic of supervisor pay, offering a variety of failed proposals to cap compensation and even donating a portion of his check to charity.

"I didn't run for county supervisor for the paycheck. I ran for the honor and the privilege of representing all residents of South County," Caput said. "There is a clear way to get out of this uncomfortable situation, and that's by vot-

ing 'no' on this proposal and showing leadership by example."

There was no bulwark of opposition to show up at Tuesday's board meeting, though Caput's comments drew a smattering of applause. The board also unanimously approved several deals with public employee unions that offer similar compensation packages.

When furloughs and total compensation, including car allowances and other perks, are factored in, the county board currently takes home some of the smallest checks of any county supervisors in the Bay Area. Only supervisors in San

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percent raise the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors voted to give itself? Vote online at [santacruzsentinel.com](http://santacruzsentinel.com).

## RAISE

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Francisco make less.

This board also froze planned raises in 2009 and 2010 and since then have taken a pay cut, along with

other county employees, through furloughs.

One reason compensation here ranks so low is that Santa Cruz is one of two counties in the Bay Area that doesn't offer car allowances or similar supplemental pay. Supervisors in Santa Clara and Alameda counties top

the salary list with more than \$143,000 in pay, and get added perks to boot.

When it comes to salary, however, supervisors in several counties currently make less than those in Santa Cruz.

They include Solano (\$94,758), Contra Costa (\$97,483), Marin (\$97,739)

and San Francisco (\$101,468). In all but San Francisco, however, other compensation pushed supervisors' total pay packages above Santa Cruz County.

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