

Levy picked to chair supervisors

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SANTA CRUZ — Second (Aptos) District Supervisor Robley Levy was selected as chairwoman of the Board of Supervisors this morning, but without the endorsement of two conservative members.

After a heated discussion that pitted the liberals against the conservatives, outgoing Chairman Joe Cucchiara's nomination of Levy was accepted. Voting for Levy were Fifth District (San Lorenzo-Scotts Valley) Supervisor Cucchiara, Third (Santa Cruz) District Supervisor Gary Patton and Levy.

Fourth (Watsonville) District E. Wayne Moore and First (Live Oak) District Supervisor Dan Forbus abstained.

Moore had been nominated chairman by Forbus in a letter to the board last week. However, Moore asked that his name be withdrawn.

"I want the vote to be on one individual, not two," said Moore.

Forbus questioned the selection of Levy as chairwoman, pointing out that she had headed the board in 1982-'83, just prior to Cucchiara's stint. He felt that if a liberal were to be named chairman, it should be Patton's turn.

He felt the selection smacked of politics, because Levy is facing re-election this year.

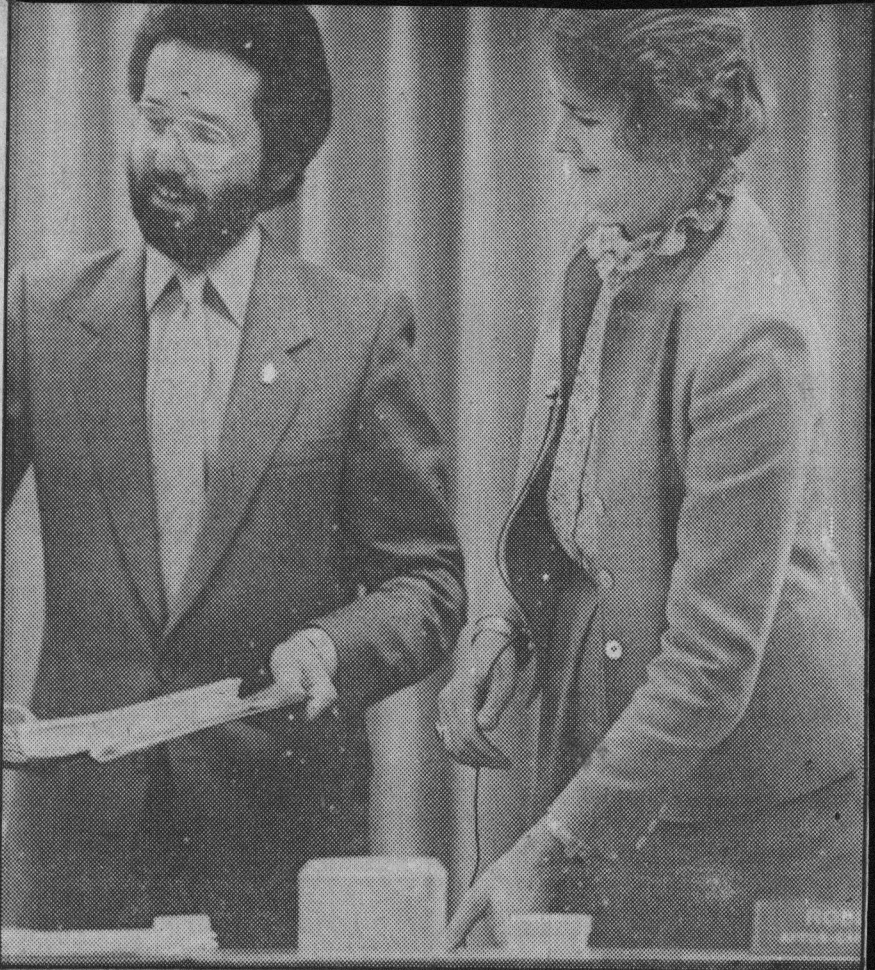
"It's an election year and he (Patton) might not be the kind of baggage she wants to carry," Forbus added. "This thing will be run by someone other than the chair anyway."

After the meeting, Forbus said he was referring to Patton in his statements.

Patton, whose name was kicked around as an alternative to either Levy or Moore, ultimately threw his support behind Levy.

Moore raised the most serious objections to Levy, wondering how somebody holding the chairman's position could also be a candidate in an election year. This drew an angry response from Cucchiara, who asked

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Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel

Robley Levy takes over chairmanship from Joe Cucchiara

Levy

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rhetorically, "Should the governor not be a governor in an election year?"

Levy faces strong opposition from Dave Tunno of Soquel and Beverly Moore of Rio del Mar.

After taking over the chairman's seat, Levy commented that it pleases her very much to be in the center. "I represent the center of the county and I hope to represent the moderate position on the board," she said.

"In fact, we are a practical, hard-working board," Levy added in rejecting the notion that her selection was based on political ideology.

The board chairman has the power to nominate persons to fill county commissions, answers 50 to 100 letters a week on behalf of the board and runs the meetings.