

SISKIYOU COUNTY

<i>Name</i>	<i>Elected</i>	<i>Oath of Office</i>	<i>CAA President</i>	<i>Retired</i>	<i>Deceased</i>
Richard Dugan	05/03/1852	05/12/1852		Resigned 12/07/1852	
Jehu Berry	12/07/1852				
Samuel P. Fair	09/07/1853				
John W. Thomas	09/07/1855				
John S. Dudley	09/02/1857	10/05/1857			
Austin Hawkins	09/07/1859	10/03/1859			
Thomas O' Rourke	09/04/1861	10/07/1861			
DeWitt C. Stevens	09/02/1863				
Samuel Magoffey	09/06/1865				
Oliver P. Welker	09/04/1867				
William J. Root	10/04/1869				
George Durand	09/06/1871				
Edward W. Conner	09/01/1875				
Elisha DeWitt	09/03/1879				
Samuel Magoffey	11/02/1886 11/04/1890				
John F. McBride	11/06/1894				
James S. Nalley	11/08/1898				
John F. Fairchild	11/06/1906				
Stuart Taylor	11/03/1914				
Robert Smith	01/03/1927			02/29/1952	10/11/1953
Ray S. Smith	03/01/1952			11/01/1953	05/30/1967
Lester Dudley "Babe" Taylor	10/20/1953**	11/01/1953	1966	12/29/1978	12/15/1981
Donald Carey	11/07/1978	01/08/1979		12/30/1990	01/01/2014

Carl A. Bontrager	06/05/1990	01/07/1991		04/12/2002	08/15/2002
Gary W. Anderson	05/07/2002**			01/06/2003	
Mike Mallory	11/05/2002	01/06/2003		<i>01/07/2019</i>	<i>Tentative retire date</i>

Siskiyou County was created on March 22, 1852. The word Siskiyou has never been authentically determined. It has generally been assumed that this is the name of a tribe of Indians inhabiting this region, but there are several stories regarding its derivation and meaning. Senator Jacob R. Snyder of San Francisco, who advocated the formation of this county, in an argument delivered April 14, 1852, in the Senate of the State of California, stated that the French name "Six Callieux" was given to a ford on the Umpqua River, at which place Michel La Frambeau, who led a party of Hudson Bay Company trappers, crossed in the year 1832. Six large stones or rocks lay in the river where they crossed and they gave it the name of "Six Callieux" or "Six Stone Ford", and from this the mountain or butte derived its name, which was subsequently given to the county when it was created. *

* H.M. Moreno, Moreno's Dictionary of Spanish-Named California Cities and Towns, (San Luis Obispo, CA, 1916)

* Appointed

Jehu Berry was appointed to the position of Assessor and Superintendent of Schools on December 7, 1852. He was a Whig and a Democrat, and a packer and attorney.

Samuel P. Fair was elected to the position of Assessor and Superintendent of Schools on September 7, 1853. He was elected Sheriff on September 5, 1855. He left the county on March 10, 1859 for unknown reasons.

Robert Smith and Ray S. Smith were brothers.

Babe Taylor served one more day than Robert Smith.

The County Assessor was an elective official pursuant to the 1849 Constitution of the State of California. The Assessor was excluded from the new 1879 Constitution as an elected officer and included again in 1888 by Proposition 66, ratified by the voters on June 7, 1988.

The Act of March 27, 1850, Laws of California, created the office of County Assessor.

The Act of May 18, 1853 made the Assessor the Superintendent of common schools until the Act of May 3, 1855 created a separate elected position for the Superintendent, effective October 1, 1855.

TERMS OF OFFICE FOR ASSESSOR:

The Act of March 27, 1850, Laws of California, established a one year term.

The Act of March 22, 1852, creating the County of Siskiyou, established a two year term of office, from May 12, 1852 to May 12, 1854. The election of September 5, 1855, effective October 1, 1855, created the continuation of two year terms until the Act of December 22, 1873 established four year terms.

The 1879 State Constitution and Act of March 7, 1881:72 created a one-time three year term from March 1, 1880 to January 8, 1883 then returned to the four year terms.

The assessment scandals of 1965 created the Property Tax Assessment Reform Law (Assembly Bill 80) by the 1966 Legislature and other legislation to control future unethical and undesirable practice by county assessors and state officials.

Proposition 13, as ratified by the voters on June 6, 1978, added Article XIII A to the California Constitution. It changed the system of real property taxation by restricting the maximum ad valorem tax to 1 percent of full cash value, permitting a maximum 2 percent annual increase in the fair market value base to reflect inflation.

Proposition 8 adopted November 7, 1978 amended Article XIII A to allow reduction of full cash value base of real property to reflect substantial damage, destruction, or other factors which cause the value to decline.

LONGEST TERM OF OFFICE BY AN ASSESSOR IN SISKIYOU COUNTY:

Robert Rowe Smith and Lester Dudley Babe Taylor served 25 years 2 months or Smith 9,188 days, Taylor 9,189 days.

THE ORIGIN OF THE WORD ASSESSOR:

by Nathan Raitt, CAE, IAAO member from Manassas, Virginia.

"It is derived from the Latin assessus, a past participle of assidere (to sit near), used regarding a specialist in certain fields acting as a judge's assistant or advisor. It is understood that this practice still prevails in some foreign countries, and possibly is still in use in British Admiralty Law. So far, so good. Unfortunately, however, as we dig deeper into our word's origin, we find that assidere derives from a compound of the Latin grandfather of the word asinine, asinus (belonging to an ass: the donkey) and the Latin sidere (to sit down). Thus our word can be interpreted in a couple of ways, depending on your imagination or any subconscious guilt complex you might have. In either usage, the resulting implication which you might draw is yours alone; the writer assumes no responsibility."

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