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Postmus plans to move: County insiders say that the move is not political, but ...

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May 18--Assessor Bill Postmus' Hesperia house is in escrow, but local officials say the move isn't politically motivated. Postmus, who spent most of his life in Wrightwood and the Victor Valley, spent six years as 1st District supervisor, being replaced by the appointment of his chief of staff Brad Mitzelfelt after winning the assessor's seat for San Bernardino County.

Sources inside the county say that Postmus is planning on moving to Rancho Cucamonga.

"He hasn't made a determination of where he is going to move," said Adam Aleman, assistant assessor. "He is committed to his job as assessor."

For years there has been talk of Postmus one day running for Congress, but Aleman said he is committed to running for re-election as assessor.

"You never know with Bill," said Assemblyman Anthony Adams, R-Hesperia. "He likes to keep his options open."

If Postmus does make Rancho Cucamonga his new home, he would be in Rep. David Dreier's 26th Congressional District.

Dreier is only 54 and has been in Congress since 1980. He shows no sign of stepping down anytime soon.

Rep. Jerry Lewis' future in Congress is unknown. Lewis has been under investigation by the FBI over his relationships with a lobbying firm.

"I suspect that if Mr. Lewis doesn't retire in the next couple of years, then it's not more than four to six years," said Adams.

Adams said that he has heard in conversations that San Bernardino County District Attorney Michael Ramos may be considering running for Lewis' seat and that Ramos has not discounted it.

"Either Postmus knows something about Dreier that no one else does, or he just thinks that there's too many people looking at the Lewis race for him to win that," said Douglas Johnson, a fellow at the **Rose Institute** of State and Local Government.

Johnson said he thinks Lewis would like to hang on to his congressional seat long enough to clear his name.

"I would assume that he (Postmus) is just ready to live somewhere else," said Mark Kirk, chief of staff for 4th District Supervisor Gary Ovitt. "Politically, I don't see how it helps him."

Things will change drastically for the Inland Empire in the 2011 redistricting, said Johnson. He said that because of all of the new growth, there is a good chance a new congressional seat will be added.

"Postmus certainly has time to wait around for 2012 if he did want to get into that seat," Johnson added.

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