



MUNICIPAL REFERENCE LIBRARY  
300 CITY HALL

CITY OFFICIALS

NAME Baumgartner, John Walter

PUBLIC OFFICES HELD

(DATE)

CITY: Water and Power Commission  
March 14, 1932-June 29, 1933  
President-  
March 30, 1932-June 29, 1933  
~~CITY~~ City Council  
July 1, 1933-July 1, 1941

STATE:

FEDERAL:

CIVIC ACTIVITIES:

Westlake Chamber of Commerce  
Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce  
Municipal Defense League  
Los Angeles Realty Board  
Labor Council  
Democratic party activities  
Presidential elector,  
Roosevelt-Garner ticket, 1936

**BUSINESS OR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

Civil engineer  
Lobbyist  
Democratic party official  
City official

**PORTRAIT:** none

**ATTACHED OR ENCLOSED IN ENVELOPE:**

**PORTRAITS APPEARING ELSEWHERE (DATES)**

Newspaper prints, attached

192  
B348  
VF

The Los Angeles Public Library  
**Local History Collection**  
Biography

NAME Baumgartner, John Walter

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Occupation Civil Engineer

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Address 1010 South Burlington Avenue

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Birth (Date and Place) May 17, 1890, Los Angeles,  
California

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FATHER

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Birth (Date and Place)

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If Deceased, When

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MOTHER

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Birth (Date and Place)

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If Deceased, When

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IF MARRIED, TO WHOM

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Birth of Same (Date and Place)

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If Deceased, When

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When Married April, 1914

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CHILDREN (Married Names of Daughters)

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Helen: Mrs. Kenneth Kritser

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**TITLES OF BOOKS, ARTICLES, MUSIC, OR OTHER CREATIVE  
WORK**

(In the case of printed matter, please give date and publisher; of periodical publica-  
tions also name of magazine and date.)

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**REVIEWS, CRITICISMS, AND OTHER BIOGRAPHICAL  
NOTICES**

(Please note printed matter concerning yourself or your work. We would appreciate  
any such material you may send, clippings, reviews, portrait.)

Campaign literature, attached

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# ANCESTORS OF DISTINCTION OR LOCAL INTEREST

(Please include names of local interest as "forty-niners," or any one connected with the affairs or development of the state or city, as officials, professional men, merchants, etc.)

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EDUCATION (Schools, Colleges, Degrees, Etc.)

St. Vincent's College, Los Angeles

CLUBS, LEARNED SOCIETIES, ETC.

Elk; Native Sons of the Golden West

RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION Roman Catholic

POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS Life long Democrat

RESIDENCE IN CALIFORNIA SINCE Birth

## SKETCH

(Please make this as full as possible, giving business affiliations, positions of honor or trust with dates if possible.)

On what was then a ranch and is now the intersection of Beverly and Rampart Boulevards, John W. Baumgartner was born May 17, 1890. He was reared and educated in Los Angeles, finishing at old St. Vincent's College, now Loyola University.

After fifteen years in the practice of civil engineering he retired from the profession to engage in special assessments activities.

Since 1923 Mr. Baumgartner has been an uncompromising foe of tax assessments. He served as chairman of various organizations opposing the levying of assessments against property in connection with the opening and widening of city streets, and materially aided the state legislation to amend the existing Public Improvement Procedure laws to prevent the confiscation of property through levying of special assessments.

Mayor Porter appointed Mr. Baumgartner to the Water and Power Commission March 14, 1932; the commission elected him president of the body March 30. During his incumbency the purchase of the Eaton Ranch and other large properties was accomplished by the city.

Then as now, Mr. Baumgartner championed municipal ownership of essential public utilities, and has been in sympathy with the New Deal administration of President Roosevelt and his program of public ownership.

(continued)

**ANECDOTES AND PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS:**

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

BOOKS:

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS:

Los Angeles Times

PERSONAL INTERVIEW: none, Replies to question no.

1978

INTERVIEWED BY:

DATE OF INTERVIEW:

WORKING BY: Diane Bellis  
June 9, 1988

**SOURCES OF INFORMATION:**

**BOOKS:**

**NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS:**

Los Angeles Times

**PERSONAL INTERVIEW:** none. Replies to Questionnaire,  
1935

**INTERVIEWED BY:**

**DATE OF INTERVIEW:**

**WRITTEN BY:** Clare Wallace  
June 9, 1939



Baumgartner, John Walter  
SKETCH .....part 2

Elected to the City Council from the 12th district the first time in 1933 he has been returned to office every two years since then by the twelfth electorate.

In the council he enjoys the reputation of being a hard worker, thoroughly versed in municipal government, a level headed, even minded official who wastes no time on crack-pot schemes.

Throughout his incumbency he has served as chairman of the council's Water and Power Committee.

Mr. Baumgartner's residence in the city is in the general neighborhood of the site of his birthplace.





# Daughter of City

~~L. A. TIMES~~

# Councilman to

SEP 3 1937

# Marry Tonight

Miss Helen Baumgartner, daughter of Councilman and Mrs. John W. Baumgartner, will be married at 8:30 this evening to Kenneth Kritser, son of Mr. and Mrs. Luther M. Kritser of 1160 South Bronson avenue, at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Ninth and Green streets.

Mrs. Mildred Mitchell, sister of the groom, will be matron of honor, and Melvin Mitchell, brother-in-law of the groom, will be best man.

The couple will motor to Yucca Loma for a short honeymoon, after which they will return and reside in this city.

JOHN W. BAUMGARTNER

Mr. Baumgartner was born in the City of Los Angeles 47 years ago. He is by trade a Civil Engineer and received his education in local schools. Upon retiring from the Engineering profession in 1923 he devoted several years as Chairman of various organizations opposing the practice of levying confiscatory assessments against property in connection with the opening and widening of major arteries. He also took an active interest in the passage of State Legislation which served to amend the existing Public Improvement Proceedure Laws to prevent the confiscation of property through the levying of special assessments.

On March 14, 1932, Mr. Baumgartner accepted the appointment as a Member of the Board of Water and Power Commissioners and was elected President of the Board on March 30 of the same year. He filled this position for a period of fifteen months, resigning as President and Member of the Board on June 29, 1933.

Mr. Baumgartner is now serving his second term as a Member of the City Council and was recently reelected for a third term without opposition. During his entire incumbency he has acted as Chairman of the Council's Water and Power Committee. He is recognized as one of the most ardent supporters of our municipally owned Water and Power system. He is a life long Democrat and is acknowledged as a Progressive because of his political views and inclinations. Mr. Baumgartner had the honor to serve as an Elector on the Roosevelt-Garner ticket at the last Presidential Election.

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May 18, 1937.

Born May 17, 1890.

*OK*