B. Taxation.


The City of San Jose is operated under a charter which became effective July 1, 1916 and provides for a city management form of government. This charter provides for a mandatory budget which must be strictly adhered to throughout the fiscal year and seeks to take politics out of appointments by means of Civil Service examinations. It also provides for a zoning ordinance which is administered by a City Planning Commission.

While much better than the average city charter, there are many provisions which, it is believed, could be improved upon.

The city makes its own levy for municipal purposes, but assessments are made by the County Assessor, and all taxes are paid through the County Treasurer. Limitations are imposed upon increases in yearly expenditures of counties and cities and other political subdivisions in the State of California. Section 20 of Article XI, Constitution of the State of California, as amended, provides that:

"Expenditures in any county, city and county, municipality, district, or other political subdivision of this State shall not in any year exceed by more than 5% the expenditures of such a county, city and county, municipality, district, or other political subdivision for the preceding year, unless previously authorized by vote or by the (State) Board of Equalization."

The fiscal year of the cities and counties for the State of California extends from July 1st to June 30th; taxes are levied each year on or before September 15th on the assessed property as of the first Monday in March preceding. Taxes may be paid in two installments; first installment becomes delinquent on December 5th, and the second installment on April 20th of each year. Ordinarily, an 8% penalty is added to taxes delinquent on the first installment, and an additional penalty of 3% is added to all taxes delinquent after April 20th. A charge of fifty cents per parcel is placed on all taxes delinquent after the latter date. Interest at the rate of 1% per month is charged on the original amount of the taxes after July 1st for a period of five years, after which the property, if not redeemed, is sold. State emergency legislation, designed as a relief to taxpayers, temporarily permits the payment of delinquent taxes without penalty in ten annual installments, subject to a prompt payment of current taxes. This emergency legislation has recently been extended for a term of two years.