

SUPERVISOR SIMÓN SALINAS BIOGRAPHY

Supervisor Simón Salinas was born in Slayton, Texas--one of twelve children of migrant farmworkers. He graduated from Watsonville High School and attended Claremont McKenna College where he received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Latin American Studies. Supervisor Salinas earned his Bilingual Teaching Credential from San Jose State University and his Juris Doctorate from Santa Clara University School of Law.

Having taught sixth grade in California's public classrooms, Supervisor Salinas obtained hands-on experience of the State's educational system. Following his years of teaching elementary school, he became a professor at Hartnell Community College.

Supervisor Salinas began his public service career in June 1989 when he was elected as the first Mexican-American to serve on the Salinas City Council. During his tenure with the City Council, Supervisor Salinas served as Mayor Pro-Tem. In 1993, Supervisor Salinas was elected to represent District One on the Monterey County Board of Supervisors and became the first Mexican-American to serve on the board in over 100 years. He was re-elected in 1997 and served as Chair of the Board of Supervisors in 1998.

In 2000, Supervisor Salinas was elected to the California State Assembly as the representative of the 28th District. He served six years in the State Assembly before the mandatory term limits took effect. While in Sacramento, Supervisor Salinas served as the Chair of the Local Government Committee, as well as Chairing the Select Committee on Rural Economic Development. His impressive record in the Assembly included passing legislation that addressed the issues of public safety, affordable housing, agriculture, healthcare, government transparency, education, transportation, and local government. For his leadership on these and many other issues, he was named "Legislator of the Year" by numerous organizations, including Skills USA-VICA, California Transit Association, the League of California Cities, and the American Planning Association. Supervisor Salinas' leadership has also been honored by the California Migrant Education Program, Community Action Partnership, and the Association of California Healthcare Districts.

On January 9, 2007 Supervisor Salinas once again took the oath of office and rejoined the Monterey County Board of Supervisors; this time representing the Third District. Reflecting the most pressing needs of the Third District, Supervisor Salinas has concentrated his efforts on community safety, economic development, health care, affordable housing, transportation, and agricultural viability. He served as Chair of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors in 2010 and began a new four-year term on January 11, 2011.

Supervisor Salinas currently represents the County Board of Supervisors on the following County committees: Alternative Energy Committee; Capital Improvement Committee; Equal Opportunity Committee, Health and Human Services Committee; Urban/County Community Development Block Grant Committee, and the Water Resources Joint Boards Leadership Committee. Furthermore, Supervisor Salinas represents the County of Monterey on the following agency boards: Natividad Medical Center Board of Trustees, Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG);

Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC); Emergency Communications Policy Advisory Council; Emergency Medical Services Committee; Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District; President of Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority; Chair of Monterey County Children and Families Commission also known as First 5 Monterey County; and Local Agency Formation Commission of Monterey County (LAFCO).

Supervisor Salinas was raised in this beautiful state, he spent much of his childhood following the available work in the agricultural fields with his family. He understands the intricacies that define the unique challenges we face, as a Central Coast region. Supervisor Salinas has one son who is a graduate of Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. Like many parents, Supervisor Salinas wants to make sure his son, and all of California's children have access to a first-class public education, from kindergarten through college, and that they are encouraged to reach their full potential.