

Jessee Espinosa.

Organizer, elected official, and budget & legislative analyst

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Eight years across every layer of California public governance: organizing voters in the field, winning and holding elected office, and analyzing the budgets and legislation that decide what governments do. Won citywide office at 21, carried an **\$80 million** school-facilities bond to 65.7% approval, and published more fiscal analyses than anyone on the team advising the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Credible from the agricultural Central Valley to the Bay Area, and on both sides of the dais.

◇ EXPERIENCE

Budget and legislative analyst, Board of Supervisors

Aug 2024 – Jan 2026

Harvey M. Rose Associates · City and County of San Francisco

- Published **85+** legislative analyses and policy briefs, the highest volume on the team (85 against the next analyst's 42), each closing with a decision-ready recommendation on a hard hearing deadline.
- Made the case for **\$1B+** in legislative funding by researching high-stakes items (contracts of \$10M and up) and briefing elected decision-makers directly.
- Found **\$500K+** in annual savings adopted into the Mayor's 2025–2027 budget by building spending models in R and SQL that tested proposals against real allocation.
- Reviewed \$10M+ contracts, including SFPUC energy and infrastructure projects, and flagged compliance gaps and fiscal risk before they reached the Board.
- Built the firm's internal AI operation from scratch and advised the senior partners on adoption and risk; wrote the **D.A.T.E.** governance model (data privacy, accountability, transparency, equity) for responsible municipal AI use.

Trustee, Board of Education (Area 2), elected official

Nov 2020 – Sep 2024

Merced City School District · Merced, California

- Won citywide office at **21** with 63% of the vote against an incumbent, then raised the largest trustee war chest in district history (\$10,000+ in three months) through direct donor cultivation.
- Governed a PK–8 district of **11,000** students, 1,300 staff, and 19 campuses, with fiduciary oversight of a **\$200M** operating budget and a three-year outcomes roadmap.
- Built the coalition and public case for **Measure O**, an \$80M school-facilities bond approved at 65.7%, then oversaw capital planning and bond issuance.
- Authored the evidence-based Science of Reading resolution (passed 5–0), overhauling the district's literacy curriculum on John Hattie's effect-size research.
- Won a dedicated mental-health aide for every campus, previously shared across sites, doubling student access to on-site support.
- Represented Merced County as CSBA Region 8 delegate and moved personalized learning onto the association's top legislative priorities; directed a nationwide superintendent search under Brown Act and FPPC rules.

Policy consultant

Aug 2022 – Jun 2023

A-MARK Foundation; Glendale Police Department (30x30: Women in Policing) · Los Angeles, California

- Ran program-evaluation and equity research on veteran nutrition and on recruiting women into policing, synthesizing 50+ studies with original survey data from 100+ participants.
- Cleaned and analyzed survey data in R (factor analysis, descriptive statistics) and delivered dashboards and recommendations that shaped policy for government partners.

Lead community organizer

Jun 2021 – Sep 2021

Power California · Merced, California

- Directed a field campaign against the 2021 Newsom recall across a 100,000-voter region, part of the first defeat of a recall against a sitting Democratic governor.
- Supervised a six-person canvass and phone-bank team, assigning by performance data to raise voter contact and lower cost per outcome.

Project coordinator

Dec 2019 – May 2021

UC Merced Community Engagement Center · Merced, California

- Built the "Lift While You Lead" youth mentorship program, training UC students as mentors and raising participants' average GPA from 2.8 to 3.26.
- Created and moderated 11 candidate forums and a county Board of Supervisors debate (100+ attendees), and drove a 177% year-over-year rise in service-project recruitment.

◇ EXPERIENCE, CONTINUED

Earlier roles

2017 – 2020

- **Field organizer, Measure J community-college bond** · Merced College · Dec 2019 – Mar 2020. Recruited and trained 30+ volunteers across a 100,000-voter region and rebuilt outreach around deep-canvassing to lower cost per persuasion.
- **Founder and president, Speech and Debate** · Merced College · 2017–2019. Built the college's first nationally ranked forensics program from scratch, wrote its curriculum, and raised its operating funds; National Round Robin, top 8 of 800 teams.
- **Congressional intern, Office of Rep. Jim Costa (CA-16)** · Aug–Dec 2018. Handled constituent casework and federal policy research for a Central Valley district office.

◇ EDUCATION

University of California, Los Angeles

2023

Master of Public Policy, Luskin School of Public Affairs · Certificate in data analytics
Luskin Fellowship (merit) · Bruin Guardian Scholars Scholarship (former foster youth)

University of California, Merced

2021

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, minor in education
Dean's Honor Roll · Guardian Scholars (foster youth) program

Merced College

2019

Associate of Arts for Transfer, social and behavioral sciences
Merced County Youth Citizen of the Year · founder and president, Speech and Debate

◇ LEADERSHIP & RECOGNITION

- **GovAI Coalition** — member, readiness & adoption and use-cases committees; contributor to public-sector AI procurement playbooks (2024–present).
- **Merced County Rotary Community Corps** — founding board member, cross-sector work on education, economic development, and food security (2019–present).
- **Lions International, Merced LEO Club** — service program coordinator training high-school students to lead community projects (2018–2022).
- **Leadership Merced, Class 34** — graduate; applied study of county and city government.
- **Certificate of Senate Recognition** — U.S. Senator Kamala D. Harris (2018).
- **Merced County Youth Citizen of the Year** (2019).
- **Special Congressional Recognition for leadership** — Rep. Jim Costa, CA-16 (2018).
- **1st place overall debate speaker**, University of the Pacific; Phi Rho Pi national honors (2017–2019).

◇ WRITING & RESEARCH

- **Universal Basic Capital / sovereign AI ownership** — independent research adapting Alaska's Permanent Fund Dividend model to make citizens shareholders in AI systems.
- **"Bold Step to Brighter Future"** — published op-ed, written as trustee, on the district's move to competency-based education.
- **GovAI Conference, San Jose (2025)** — worked with frontier AI researchers and government practitioners on public-sector governance; game-theoretic breakdowns of advocacy campaigns available as work samples.

◇ SKILLS & TOOLS

DATA & ANALYTICS	R · SQL · Stata · Python · Excel modeling · survey design · factor analysis · statistical modeling and forecasting · data visualization
POLICY & GOVERNANCE	Public-budget development and fiduciary oversight · legislative and fiscal analysis · ordinance and resolution drafting · contract review · Brown Act, FPPC, and ethics compliance
CAMPAIGNS & ORGANIZING	Ballot measures · campaign strategy · field and grassroots organizing · coalition and stakeholder building · VAN/NGP voter file · public speaking and candidate forums
AI & PLATFORMS	Public-sector AI governance and adoption · Claude · Salesforce · CRM systems · Adobe Photoshop · Canva