

**ELECT JOE**  
**Lara-Gardner**  
**West Covina CITY COUNCIL**

April 4, 2015

Application for election by the voters to the West Covina City Council.

As a point of clarification, I am not seeking a temporary appointment to the West Covina Council. Although I would be honored to be considered by sitting Council Members, I prefer to earn the votes and support of the citizens in my community.

I am seeking to serve as a West Covina City Council Member because I am a concerned citizen. Our city is at an important point in its history and facing major decisions and challenges that have changed and will continue change the character of our city. These are some of the issues as I see them:

- Do we continue to allow high-density development?
- The ranks of our police department are shrinking due to budget cuts and attrition at the same time that our population is growing and crime is increasing.
- City Infrastructure is deteriorating.
- The city is suffering from fiscal shortfalls and debt which is compounded by unfunded mandates imposed by the state.
- We lack a significant budget surplus to address our growing debt.
- We must wisely generate additional revenue and save money to address the issues above.
- We must resolve instability in administrative leadership and personnel, which has affected services to the community.
- There needs to be restoration of trust in the Council and city government.

I have been recognized as one who has the qualifications to be a Council Member. I have been urged to run to help our city overcome the challenges I've outlined. I have decided to be a candidate because I love my city. I came here over two decades ago to live the American dream of raising a family in a wholesome and safe environment. I am committed help restore a bright future for West Covina.

Most importantly, I have the character of integrity. I am also dedicated to duty and will work in the greater interest of my community.

My education consists of earning an advanced training certificate from the State of California Peace Officers Standards and Training. I have approximately four years of college in the field of criminal justice and administration of justice. I have been certified in a variety of law enforcement skills and training from community-oriented policing to gang suppression operations. I am a retired 27 year veteran peace officer.

I am currently a Commissioner for the Los Angeles County Probation Department.

**ELECT JOE**  
**Lara-Gardner**  
**West Covina CITY COUNCIL**

I am also a volunteer in my community. I am president of Meals on Wheels, Industry which is affiliated with Queen of the Valley, Citrus Valley Health Partners in West Covina. Our organization delivers approximately 1,200 meals a month serves approximately 90 recipients, 22 of which are residents of West Covina.

I am a member of the West Covina Downtown Task Force.

I am also a member of the Barn Boys based at the Hurst Ranch in West Covina.

I believe my occupation, education and experience has prepared me to be a Council Member. I was nominated twice as a candidate for the state assembly. I acquired knowledge about government and legislative issues that impacted West Covina and 17 other communities in the East San Gabriel Valley.

During my career in law enforcement, I helped manage a departmental budget and was involved in the government procurement and budget process.

I collaborated with city staff and school administrators to resolve issues such as homelessness, gangs, graffiti and youth intervention.

As a sergeant, I had oversight of two dozen employees and worked routinely as shift commander and field supervisor.

Prior to my law enforcement career, I worked in the aircraft industry and manufacturing, I also worked in a vehicle assembly facility and retail automotive management. I have had to make payroll, manage production and sales inventories and meet production timelines. I have earned promotions to management throughout my job history.

I have been researching the city's budget for several months and have strived to be on the pulse of issues in the City. I am a reflection of our community.

I hereby certify that the foregoing information is correct to the best of my knowledge. This letter of Interest is respectfully submitted to the voters of West Covina.

Sincerely,

Joe Lara-Gardner