



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release
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Joe Lara-Gardner for West Covina City Council

State Audit of West Covina Government *Candidate Statement*

West Covina, CA - 7/10/2015 -



By now, many have read about the [fiscal problems](#) in West Covina government. It is disturbing to learn these revelations about our city finances.

To be clear, the current Council, City staff and Assembly Member Roger Hernandez have been at the forefront of advocacy to complete this important state audit.

The aftermath of questionable financial decisions will negatively impact our city for years to come.

Now that the state audit is completed, the Council has a mandate to correct the systemic accounting and oversight deficiencies.

Our reputation as a municipality is at stake. We must support sound efforts to put our fiscal house in order. It will mean we will have to continue to tighten our belts and promote commerce to pay our debt, achieve a budget surplus and improve vital services.

We must assure there is oversight to prevent waste and misappropriation of city funds. Those in service to the community have the solemn obligation to protect every taxpayer dollar to assure it is used as it was intended.

There are significant decisions to be made. Getting it right the first time is crucial. We must anticipate the financial burdens that loom on the horizon such as pensions, storm water regulations and restrictions to name a few.

Even in light of the findings in the audit, I am committed to work in the best interest of the people of West Covina.

I will continue to advocate for a fiscal oversight committee to provide sound advice to the Council.

I will urge for transparency that includes posting this audit and annual budget reports on the

city's website for the viewing public.

I will urge focus be placed on resolving our fiscal problems above all other matters.

We do not live on an island. I believe it is important to work regionally to develop our local economy and create opportunities for industry and commerce.

I have stepped forward to serve...

Please help my campaign by contributing up to \$500.00

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Checks payable to "Campaign to Elect Joe Lara-Gardner-2015"

**Mail to
2648 E. Workman Ave. Suite 3001, #216
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