

Salinas named Yolo's clerk-recorder/assessor

By **Anne Ternus-Bellamy** From page A1 | April 06, 2016

WOODLAND — Jesse Salinas, a longtime principal management analyst in the County Administrator's Office, will be Yolo County's next clerk-recorder/assessor/registrars of voters.

Salinas was appointed to the position by a unanimous vote of the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday and will assume his new duties effective May 2.



Jesse Salinas is Yolo County's new clerk-recorder/assessor. Fred Gladdis/Enterprise photo

"I'm excited. ... I'm on Cloud 9," Salinas said after the vote. "I'm just excited that the board has put their trust in me."

Salinas was one of three candidates who made the final cut in the board's search for a replacement for longtime Clerk-Recorder Freddie Oakley, who resigned in December to take a position with Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign.

Legally unable to call a special election to replace Oakley, supervisors conducted public outreach and recruitment, and a total of 10 people applied for the job.

Committees composed of supervisors, department heads and employees of the three departments interviewed candidates and whittled the field down to three over the past

month: Salinas; Jeffrey Barry, current interim clerk-recorder/assessor/registrar of voters; and Gary Sandy, former Woodland mayor and current project manager in the UC Davis chancellor's office.

On Tuesday, the three candidates appeared before the Board of Supervisors to present their cases on why they should be appointed, and to answer questions. When the session concluded, supervisors took turns naming their top choice for the job.

Supervisors Jim Provenza and Don Saylor of Davis, Oscar Villegas of West Sacramento and Duane Chamberlain of the rural 5th District all named Salinas, while Supervisor Matt Rexroad of Woodland named Sandy.

Following a motion to appoint Salinas as clerk-recorder/assessor/registrar of voters, all five supervisors voted to do so.

Salinas will serve out the remainder of Oakley's term — which ends on Jan. 7, 2019 — though he also said Tuesday he plans to run for election.

Salinas is a very familiar face to county supervisors and staff, having served as principal management analyst in the County Administrator's Office and Department of Financial Services since 2005.

He is currently the most senior member of the finance department, overseeing a huge portion of the county budget.

His responsibilities also have included overseeing multiple department budgets, reviewing and evaluating new hiring requests and staffing changes, drafting and editing county policies, redesigning and streamlining the countywide master fee process, and forecasting and monitoring the county's sales tax, public safety and realignment and property tax revenues.

"My experience in the County Administrator's Office assisting departments with their goals and objectives, adherence to countywide policies and ensuring alignment with the county's strategic plan initiatives as part of the budget and board letter review is ideal for this position," Salinas wrote in his application for the position.

Moreover, he wrote, "(t)he professional and personal relationships I have established with co-workers while working in the county for 10 years will enable me to navigate promptly any perceived or actual obstacles that may be affecting staff morale or efforts to provide excellent customer service."

Among his priorities in taking over the office will be to conduct voter registration outreach, particularly among more diverse and underserved communities and young people, he said, as well as becoming a certified assessor — a requirement for the office.

Barry, meanwhile, who has served as chief deputy clerk-recorder since 2009, said he was satisfied with the outcome and looking forward to working with Salinas.

“Jesse and I have a terrific relationship,” he said.

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