

# Jesse Loren

## Education and Early life

Jesse grew up in Southern California, has a BA. in English Literature from U.C. Irvine, an MFA from University of New Orleans, and a California Teaching Credential from Chapman University. She was a teacher for nearly 20 years and enjoys teaching, learning, art, and music. Jesse is married, and has lived in Winters for 28 years, raised her three children in Winters, and has two grandchildren who also live in Winters. Jesse was part of the parent cohort that brought Spanish Immersion to Winters Joint Unified School District in the mid 1990s.

## Professional Experience and values

2023

Elected City Council Member in 2016 and re-elected in 2020, Jesse Loren is committed to being a service oriented public official. As such, she advocates for equity, inclusion, and dignity for rural and under-represented communities, especially in reaching underserved populations, and in helping ensure transparency in local government decision-making. She advocates for improved infrastructure and housing opportunities for all community members. She is deeply caring about her community and her region.

## Jesse's Council Member Priorities

- Promote inclusive and equitable decision-making practices in local government
- Enhance youth and senior services, recreation opportunities, and bilingual staffing
- Promote sustainable and resilient future planning
- Increase access to affordable housing
- Protect agricultural land, Winters historic identity and natural resources

## In local, regional, state governance

- For the last six years, Jesse has served on the **Yolo Water Resource Agency**. During this time, she has served as Vice Chair, including through the creation of Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency (YSGA), which is mandated by the State of California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. This collaborative subbasin planning will serve the region groundwater needs for generations.
- She serves on **Yolo Transportation District**. She served as Chair in 2021 through the district's reorganization and restructuring process, as well as the hiring of new Executive leadership. Under her tenure, the Board and District expanded its role as a Multimodal Transportation Authority.

- As **Hispanic Advisory Committee Liaison**, she has worked to strengthen the committee, and assisted in the creation of Winters Community Corazón, a new 501(c)3, to directly serve the Winters Latinx community.
- Jesse also serves on **Valley Clean Energy's** Board of Directors. As its current Chair, she has worked hard to bring clean energy projects to Winters, as well as to all of Yolo that address Yolo's Energy Goals for future generations.
- During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Jesse was elected to be **Cal Cities Sacramento Valley Region President** and helped Winters and other Sacramento Valley cities in creating pandemic responses to help residents cope with the difficulties and uncertainties that came with it. In addition, Jesse served 2 years as an At-Large Board Member for the **Cal Cities** and served 3 years as **Cal Cities Women's Caucus Board** as Secretary. Jesse served 5 years on the **Cal Cities Environmental Policy Committee** defending rural values and local control, while fighting against unrealistic State mandates.
- From 2018-2020 She Chaired the **Rural Working Group Formation Committee** made up of over 80 cities in California. As Chair, she has worked collaboratively in organizing and submitting formation documents and proposing content for the League's Annual Conference. **Cal Cities** now has a **Rural Cities Working Group** for Rural issues that are unique to rural towns in California.
- On behalf of the City Council, Jesse has served collaboratively on **Winters School District 2x2** Committee on joint City and School District issues for 6 years.
- As a **Winters City Council** member 2016-2022, she specifically championed resolutions that created the Climate Action Commission, Natural Resources Commission, Winters Senior Commission on Aging; as well as the Resolution protecting the **Carter Ranch Oak Grove**, and the Resolution creating **Winters Affirmation of Community Values**.

#### In service and nonprofit leadership

- Jesse serves as Chair of the newly created nonprofit organization, **Winters Open Mic**, and is committed to bringing the community asset of live performance, such as music and poetry performance into Winters.
- **Winters Community Corazón** (WCC) planned and hosted the best party in Winters, the 2022 *Festival de la Comunidad, aka Carnitas Festival* had an estimated 3000 in attendance. WCC also hosted Heat and Safety events for farmworkers in 2022.
- Jesse was selected to participate in **American Leadership Forum's** (ALF) extensive leadership training and was honored to become an ALF Fellow following the graduation of class XXV in August 2022.
- Jesse, along with other women in the community sewed hundreds of face masks for vulnerable populations and essential workers at the height of the Covid 19 pandemic.
- Jesse has been a volunteer, donor and employee at **Yolo Food Bank** and continues to commit to serve Yolo County Residents via YFB.
- As a Board member for **Rotary Club of Winters**, she spearheaded a 2-year College Promise Program for the City of Winters.