



## **City Council D3 Application – Christian Garcia**

**Name (as registered to vote):** Christian Garcia

**Address (as registered to vote):** [REDACTED]

**E-mail address:** [REDACTED]

**Home Phone:** [REDACTED]

**Work Phone:** [REDACTED]

**Years lived in Escondido:** 4.5

**Years lived in Escondido City Council District 3:** 4

**Employer:** Futures Academy

**Occupation:** Teacher

**Education Level:** Masters Degree

**Additional Languages Spoken:** Spanish, Khmer

**Prior or current civic experience (Include membership in professional, charitable or community organizations) Offices held (if any) and Dates of Membership -** United States Peace Corps; Teacher and community developer (2009 - 2011) - Latino American Political Association; Member (2019 - Present) - HOA President for Escondido condominium complex (2019 - Present) - Palomar College; Board Trustee (2020 - Present)

**Have you ever been convicted of any crime or violation of any law or statute other than minor traffic violations? If yes, please explain.** No

**Please describe your qualifications, education and work experience/training that you believe are relevant in your potential role as a Councilmember.** I have a bachelors degree in political science from UC Irvine and a masters degree in public policy from the University of Southern California. I served in the Peace Corps for two years where I learned about public service and was trained by the US government. I have served as HOA president for my complex from 2019 - Present. I have served as a trustee at Palomar College for two years from 2020 - Present.

**Why do you want to serve on the Escondido City Council?** The City of Escondido has become my home. I love the culture, the people, and the history. As much as I love the city, there is a lot of work to do to maximize our potential. I believe the city needs to reinforce policies that will grow the economy, welcome more investors, create more



jobs, improve policing and safety, and clean our streets. I want to be at the service of my neighbors, local business owners, local organizations and families.

**If appointed, would you consider running for the City Council District 3 seat during the November 5, 2024 Election?** Yes.

**What are your three top priorities for the City?** 1. Draw more housing development for median income families 2. Provide investment opportunities for new and developing industries to increase employment and raise wages. 3. Increase safety by funding the police, providing services to/shelter our current homeless population, and improve partnerships with anti-gang organizations.

**Have you reviewed the City's General Plan?** True

**Have you reviewed the City's budget?** True

**How would you address the City's structural budget deficit?** Similarly to how we addressed the deficit at Palomar College, I would recommend an outside auditor to provide recommendations of where we can become more lean, and where we can produce more revenue. There have been recommendations made already, which should be assessed. With increased housing development, we would increase our property taxes, while also generate more spending in the local economy. We should be evaluating which local businesses could use our industrial area to increase their businesses and provide tax incentives to draw them into the city. In 2024, the city could reintroduce something similar to prop E, which almost passed in 2022. City Departments could also re-evaluate their budget reductions. Based on the \$38 million received from ARPA, the city could do an evaluation to determine the optimal way to spend the money and improve our money multiplier.

**Do you have a plan for attracting businesses to Escondido?** Provide more flexibility for housing developers to increase capacity. Focus around transit centers to bring in workers from outside the city. Provide flexibility and tax incentives for high yielding investors to our industrial area. Increase policing to ensure a safe area for investors to develop. Partner with local colleges and businesses in a triangular effort to train, recruit and keep local students that will spend in our local economy, while serving our business partners. Analyze current city employees and re-evaluate different benefit programs.

**How would you define Smart Growth?** Smart growth is measurable, long-term, sustainable and resilient growth. It is growth that is not dependent on a single industry that could be susceptible to a recession that disproportionately affects a certain sector. It is long-term to ensure and sustainable, so that the city is looking to 5 to 10 years in the future. This allows opportunities to adjust when and where appropriately.. It also has measures, so that we could adjust different variables or components which either propel or hinder growth.

**What is your position on the development of more housing in Escondido?** We need to increase housing development and opportunities for investors. There should be



an increase in high-density housing, specifically around transit centers. Single-family or similar housing should be expanded into Eastern Escondido. Mixed use development around central Escondido will help commercial and residential areas. Housing for MEDIAN-income earners should be more readily-available. We should be providing housing opportunity for earners of \$60-80k (the city's and counties median income). New development should provide 10-15% of their units for median-income earners who qualify. Qualifications should ensure tenants are fully employed, tax-paying, and contributing.

**How would you address homelessness in Escondido?** By increasing policing, we should have a no-squatting policy in the city. Homeless individuals who have been in the area should be provided non-profit, religious-based, or city services. The city should ensure that any homeless individual who receives city-services needs to be sheltered. We should study which organizations are the most effective in providing rehabilitation programs, and fund those while improving the deficient ones. We should also welcome non-profits who specialize in these services to the city. Lastly, we should ensure none of our policies are invitations to bring in more homelessness from surrounding areas.

**What is your 10-year vision for the City of Escondido?** The city should be a haven for growing industries. It should attract new, lucrative businesses that are thriving in our local economy. Developers should be looking at Escondido as a prime location for housing. We should be increasing safety significantly.

**What are the key issues you see facing our community? Why do you think these are the key issues and what might be the solutions?** 1. Housing. 2. Homelessness. 3. Crime. These are the biggest concerns facing the state, and Escondido faces similar issues. The solutions have been discussed in the above sections.

**What do you bring to the position that is missing from the current City Council?** I'm relatively young, while still having service experience. I have fresh perspective, while also having more traditional views. I believe this is an important balance. I have served our country, our community and my complex. So, I understand the needs of a variety of people. I'm also an educator, So, I understand what the perspective of the younger generation and what will draw and keep talent in the area.

**Have you ever held a public office? If yes, name the office title, dates of service and describe the duties.** Yes. Palomar College Board Trustee. (2020 - present).  
• Voting responsibilities for budgeting, contracts, partnerships, leases, benefits and more  
• Community outreach: Developing partnerships, meeting with community members, and local policy makers  
• Meeting with state and county officials to propose college interests

**What would you do to make Escondido a place where people want to live, work, and visit?** 1. Safety 2. Employment opportunities 3. Thriving, welcoming culture 4. Celebration of talent and culture (such as what we have on Grand)



**The Escondido City Council regularly meets on the first four Wednesdays of each month at 4:00 p.m. (Closed Session) and 5:00 p.m. (Open Session) and periodically has additional special meetings and workshops. Councilmembers also serve on a number of subcommittees, commissions and outside agency boards. Please describe any time constraints or obligations that might limit your availability.** I will make the appropriate adjustments to my schedule. There are currently no conflicts with my schedule, but I plan to make more changes soon.

**Is there anything else you would like to share with the Council?** I have come to love the city and its people. Not only do I have education and experience in policy, but I have a deep passion for it as well.

# Christian Garcia

## SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

- Passionate about education, skilled in curriculum development, teaching, orating and presentation
- Skilled in community development, networking and program initiation
- Specialized in research, data collection, analysis and evaluation
- Demonstrated fluency in Spanish (reading, writing and speaking), proficient in Khmer (speaking and listening)

## EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

**University of Southern California** **June 2011-December 2012**

- Masters in Public Policy and Managements
- Dean's Merit Award 2012- 3.7GPA

**University of California, Irvine** **September 2005- June 2009**

- Political science and International Studies

## WORK EXPERIENCE

**Palomar College; Governing Board Trustee** **December 2020 - Present**

- Voting responsibilities for budgeting, contracts, partnerships, leases, benefits and more  
San Marcos, CA
- Community outreach: Developing partnerships, meeting with community members, and local policy makers
- Meeting with state and county officials to propose college interests

**Futures Academy; Instructor** **September 2017 - Present**

- Curriculum development and instructor of 10+ subjects  
San Diego, CA
- Provide lectures and proctor exams for grades 7-12

**C2 Education; Head Teacher** **May 2016 – December 2020**

- Focus on curriculum creation, college entrance exams, essays and job interviews  
San Diego, CA
- Increase standardized test results by an average of +20%
- Consult 15-20 upperclassman per year on applications and college plans

**Logru Services; Sole Proprietor** **November 2015 - Present**

- Plan and direct all aspects of companies' supply chain policies  
San Diego, CA
- Prepare budget for logistics department
- Supply chain analytics and route optimization. Saving +300K annually

**United States Peace Corps (Cambodia); Teacher and CDO** **July 2009- June 2011**

- Taught at local high school, NGO, private school and local university  
Pursat, Cambodia
- Educational and development work at a local NGO- 40 to 50 students and coworkers
- Managed and coached locals in community projects and community development initiatives

## SPECIAL SKILLS

- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Able to work independently through complex material
- Very adaptable and resourceful, experienced in working in diverse environments
- Excellent written and oral skills proven through career work and academics