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MAYOR JESSICA ANCONA ANNOUNCES RE-ELECTION BID AND MAJOR ENDORSEMENT TO CONTINUE LEADING AS MAYOR OF EL MONTE

Endorsed by **Congresswoman Grace Napolitano**, Mayor Jessica Ancona Seeks Re-election to Further Her Vision for a Safer, Stronger and Healthy City.

El Monte, CA – Mayor Jessica Ancona has officially announced her candidacy for re-election as Mayor of El Monte, launching her campaign with a promise to continue the progress she has championed during her time in office. With a strong focus on public safety, economic development, and community well-being, Mayor Ancona is committed to leading El Monte toward a brighter future.

Congresswoman Grace Napolitano, who has represented this community for years, endorsed Mayor Ancona, saying, " I support Mayor Jessica Ancona and her reelection bid and encourage all residents of El Monte to vote for her as she continues to lead our city with compassion, integrity, and strength.

Mayor Jessica Ancona expressed her dedication to continuing her work for the community, stating, "Together, we've made significant strides in building a stronger, safer, and more vibrant El Monte. But our work is not done. My mission is to ensure that every resident has the opportunity to thrive in a city that is safe, inclusive, and prosperous. I am honored to serve as your Mayor, and I look forward to continuing this important work with your support. Let's keep moving El Monte forward together."

During her tenure as Mayor, Jessica Ancona has led El Monte through numerous challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the revitalization of local infrastructure, and efforts to reduce homelessness. Her leadership has resulted in a safer community, a growing local economy, and a more connected and supportive city.

Mayor Ancona's re-election campaign emphasizes her commitment to public safety, environmental sustainability, and the economic well-being of El Monte's residents. As the campaign season kicks off, Mayor Ancona invites the community to join her in continuing the journey toward a better future for all.

To join the growing list of supporters visit <u>bit.ly/EndorseAncona</u> or for more information visit <u>www.jessicaancona.com</u>

Bio attached



Mayor Jessica Ancona is a proud, lifelong resident of the City of El Monte and a daughter of hardworking immigrants from Mexico. She was born and raised in this great city of El Monte, and has dedicated her adult life to public service as an educator and elected official.

Jessica attended public schools in El Monte, and graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles. In addition to obtaining her bachelor's degree from UCLA, she has earned a Teaching Credential and Master's in Education from Azusa Pacific University and an Administrative Services Credential from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

Mayor Ancona, a former high school assistant principal at Lynwood Unified School District has been an educator for over 20 years. Prior to becoming a school administrator she was a high school teacher for 10 years. For over two decades, Jessica has been an advocate for our children, their education, families, and their quality of life.

In 2013, Mayor Ancona was first elected to the El Monte City School District Governing Board, where she served as the President in 2016 and 2017 and Vice President in 2018. Jessica also served as a Delegate Assembly Member for the California School Board Association (CSBA) in 2017 and 2018 with 300 other members from throughout the State of California. She was elected to serve on CSBA by local school boards within Region 23.

As an elected El Monte City School District Governing Board Member for five years, Mayor Ancona supported building state of the art facilities; re-implemented music programs for all students; opened the Jeff Seymour Family Center housing over 30 community service providers for our families; increased wages and improved healthcare benefits for the district's workforce and maintained a fiscally sound budget. While Jessica was President of the school board, she advocated to establish a Project Labor Agreement with the Building Trades for the final project of a series of school and facility improvements scheduled to begin late Winter of 2018.

In 2018, Mayor Ancona was elected to the El Monte City Council as the only independent candidate in the race. Her independence has proven valuable to the community as she has been able to focus on the needs of the residents of El Monte. During the first 2 years on the council, she took on the tobacco and vape industry protecting the youth of this community. Jessica also advocated for a joint use agreement with the school district, opening up more greenspace for recreational and passive uses for her community. She supports smart conscious development and welcomes progress that considers community first.

In 2020, Jessica was elected Mayor to bring about new bold ideas to the City. She garnered over 11,000 votes, the highest for any Mayoral candidate in El Monte's history. She entered into the role as Mayor at the height of the pandemic and worked tirelessly to secure more COVID testing and vaccination resources for the seniors, families and children in the community. With an increase in hate crimes, Mayor Ancona championed to establish a Human Relations Ad Hoc, championed a Walk Against API Hate with her colleagues and brought forth the first Proclamation in El Monte's history that proclaimed June as Pride Month and subsequently held a Pride night at El Monte's weekly Farmers' Market.

Jessica has been a dedicated public servant and an ally to working families and was re-elected in 2022 as Mayor. She has fought tirelessly to bring forth Energy Efficiency Projects, a Sewer replacement and Street repair project, as well as union arborists to maintain her city's trees amongst other projects. Her work with local law enforcement and the fire department during some of the City's most difficult times, has made her a strong advocate for public safety and ensuring El Monte families can live safe and healthy in their beloved city.

Mayor Ancona also previously served as Commissioner for LA County Libraries, Director for the LA County Sanitation District, Director for the Metro San Gabriel Valley Service Council and a Governing Board Member for Foothill Transit.

Jessica is a proud mother of two college students who live with her in El Monte. Her parents still live in the City along with many other family members and friends.

Mayor Jessica Ancona is available for interviews. For more information log onto our website at <u>www.JessicaAncona.com</u>