Jesse Salinas received his bachelor’s degree from U.C. Santa Cruz with a major in Psychology and a minor in Computer Science. After spending a year interning for County Supervisor Gary Patton in Santa Cruz County, Jesse attended the Goldman School of Public Policy at U.C. Berkeley where he received his Master’s degree.

After graduation, Jesse worked for the California School Boards Association as its first research analyst, providing in-depth and comprehensive analysis on key issues that were shaping the state’s education policy discussion at the time, such as the 1992 Voucher Initiative. Because of this work, the State Senate’s President Pro Tem hired Jesse to be his senior consultant on all Kindergarten through higher education issues. Jesse spent three years working in the Capitol, where he helped balance California’s education budget and, at the request of education committee leadership, led efforts to develop and process emergency education legislation after the Northridge earthquake; this legislation became law in less than three weeks. After his time in the Capitol, Jesse spent the next eight years working in the nonprofit sector, where he served three years as an Executive Director of a statewide organization. However, his strong passion for public policy and public service drew him back to government.

For ten years, Jesse served Yolo County as a principal management analyst in both the County Administrator’s Office and Department of Financial Services. His scope of responsibilities have included overseeing as many as 10 different departments, including 55% of the county budget, forecasting and monitoring all the county’s major revenues, the entire master fee schedule, and leading efforts to bring national best practice supervisory and leadership trainings to Yolo County.

In addition to his professional work, Jesse coached youth soccer for twenty years prior to his recent retirement. During his coaching tenure, Jesse received the rare distinction of being selected Who’s Who of America’s Teachers four times by his players.

On April 5, 2016, the Yolo County Board of Supervisors appointed Jesse Salinas as its new Assessor/Clerk-Recorder/Registrar of Voters. His official first day in office was May 2, 2016. After his 2016, Mr. Salinas was elected into office in 2018. Jesse has successfully closed five Yolo County’s Assessment Rolls on time and overseen five elections. He currently serves as Chair of the Assessor Association Legislative Committee and was also appointed to the Election and Recorder Associations Legislative Committees, which gives Yolo County a strong voice in shaping California’s public policy. More recently, Jesse was appointed onto the California Association Clerk and Elections Officials (CACEO) Board of Directors.

Jesse’s innovative outreach efforts to underrepresented communities have gotten the attention of California’s leadership and his work with youth was recognized in 2019 by the National Association of Election Officials as a Guardian Award recipient. His success and commitment to collaboration and partnership has resulted in invitations to speak on state and national election panels. His commitment to transparency and work with youth have been highlighted by the local media and recognized as a new best idea strategy by state election officials. More recently, the U.S. Election Assistance Commission awarded Yolo County a 2019 Clearie Award for Outstanding Innovations in Elections. This award highlighted the county’s GIS Systems and Mapping program, along with a new poll worker app that helped streamline election night reporting and improve voter participation.

On a personal note, Jesse has been married for 35 years to his college sweetheart and is the proud parent of three wonderful adult children, all of which live in California. He also has two grandsons, who he describes as a joyful blessing.