



Hilda Zacarías
City Council Member
City of Santa Maria



*H*ilda Zacarías was elected to the Santa Maria City Council in 2006. Her previous public office experience included the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District Board of Trustees, 1993-1998; Santa Barbara County Commissioner: Affirmative Action, 1991-1993 and the Women's Commission, 1999-2000; and she served on the Santa Barbara County Children & Families Commission Leadership Team.

Ms. Zacarías was born in McAllen, Texas; her family came to Santa Maria in the early 1960's when she was a toddler. She attended local elementary schools and graduated from Santa Maria High School, Allan Hancock College and Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo in Business with an emphasis in accounting. Ms. Zacarías recently completed her Masters in Public Administration at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, which she attended as a Harvard Presidential Scholar Fellow. Upon graduation she received the prestigious Littauer Fellow Award for academic excellence and service to the Kennedy School Community.

Hilda Vela Zacarías owned and operated an accounting and tax firm for 12 years in Santa Maria, as well as worked as an auditor of non-profits for a Santa Barbara-based CPA firm. She has been an educator, teaching taxation and accounting at Cal Poly, "The Business of Family Day Care" at Allan Hancock College, and self-employment training for women through Women's Economic Ventures. She served on the Board of the Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and was recognized as the Hispanic Businessperson of the Year.

Since 1999, Ms. Zacarías has limited her practice to non-profits, governments, and other community based organizations and has expanded from her financial and accounting services into other areas of management, including fund development, organizational analysis, program design, civic engagement and accountability systems.