

Joe Paul Gonzalez

Auditor-Controller

County of San Benito



Joe Paul Gonzalez was born and raised in San Benito County. After graduating from San Benito Joint Union High School, Mr. Gonzalez attended Gavilan Community College located in Santa Clara County, earning his Associates of Arts degree in 1977. In that year, Mr. Gonzalez began employment with Leiber & Riksheim LLP, a small CPA firm in Oakland, while attending the University of California, Berkeley and the California State University, East Bay (CSUEB).

In 1979, Mr. Gonzalez earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from CSUEB School of Business. In 1986, he was elected to the City Council of the City of Hollister and served as mayor of Hollister in 1988. During this period, Mr. Gonzalez continued his formal education at San Jose State University, earning a Master of Business Administration degree in 1990.

After working with San Benito County Auditor's Office for several years in various accounting positions, he was first elected Clerk, Auditor and Recorder in 2006 and served four terms. In 2021, the Office of Auditor-Controller was established as a stand-alone office. In 2022, as the incumbent Auditor-Controller, he was elected to his fifth term as Auditor-Controller.

Joe Paul has served on the California State Association of County Auditors (CaISACA) Accounting Standards and Procedures, Policy and Interpretation, and Legislative Committees. In April 2024, he was elected to serve a term as President of CaISACA.

Currently, Mr. Gonzalez serves as a member of the Finance Committee of the Community Foundation for San Benito County. He served for many years on the San Benito County District Board of the Boy Scouts of America, as well as Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 400.

He is married to his wife of 47 years Irma (Garza). Together they have four children and two grandchildren.