

Daniel Ortiz

Director at Large

With more than 17 years of local government experience, including 12 in city management roles, Daniel has held several leadership roles for cities in several states. He presently serves as the Assistant City Manager for the City of Ennis. Ennis is a growing community with over 24,000 residents located on the southeastern edge of the Dallas/Fort Worth region. His service in Ennis began in January 2024 and includes serving as the Interim City Manager from August through November. He has helped to promote ethical leadership, enhanced transparency, and encouraged employee development and interdepartmental collaboration during a crucial period in the City's history.

Daniel's entry into city management began as a Management Analyst in the City Manager's Office with the City of Casa Grande, Arizona (2009 – 2013). He supported the City Manager's Office, the Executive Leadership Team, and the City Council on a wide array of initiatives, services, and special projects. After Casa Grande, he served as the City Administrator for Kimball, Nebraska (2013 – 2016). He went on to serve two tenures as City Manager for Webster City, Iowa (2016 – 2018 & 2021 – 2023). Webster City holds a special place in his career, as he was asked to return after his first tenure. In between his two tenures in Webster City, Daniel served as the City Manager in Wasco, California (2018 – 2021).

Early in his public service career, Daniel had the privilege of serving in various roles that reinforced his passion for public service. While pursuing his bachelor's degree, he served as a Teaching Assistant with LAUSD supporting high-risk youth and students referred by the school district's Student Discipline and Expulsion Support Unit. He would subsequently go on to serve as a JusticeCorps/AmeriCorps volunteer assisting individuals and families representing themselves in civil cases at the Los Angeles County Van Nuys Courthouse Self-Help Center. He also served a brief period as a Section 8 Advisor helping low-income families navigate their housing needs. While pursuing his MPA he served as a Research Assistant for the Alliance for Innovation and ASU's Center for Urban Innovation.

Daniel's passion for public service was cultivated early in life through opportunities to volunteer in his community. Throughout middle school and high school, he served as a school volunteer, found opportunities to serve as a youth soccer coach and referee, and assisted with martial arts programs at the City of Los Angeles Valley Plaza and Ritchie Valens Recreation Centers. Daniel has a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from California State University, Northridge, and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Arizona State University. He has also completed the Southwest Leadership Program at the University of Arizona and the Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program at Harvard. He is a Credentialed City Manager (ICMA-CM) and a member of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), the Texas City Manager's Association (TCMA), the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), and the Local Government Hispanic Network (LGHN). He presently served on the TxLTAP Advisory Board and the Ennis ISD Career and Technology Education (CTE) Department Advisory Board.