



**CITY OF COACHELLA**  
Received

MAY 19 2026

City Clerk  
2:08 PM

*Dr. Frank Figueroa, Mayor*  
*Stephanie Virgen, Council Member*  
*Denise Delgado, Council Member*  
*Yadira Perez, Council Member*

## **Application Information and Instructions for Appointment to Coachella City Council**

Thank you for your interest in serving the community as an appointed member of the Coachella City Council.

### **The timeline for filling the City Council vacancy is as follows:**

- Tuesday, May 26, 2026 Applications due to the City Clerk's office no later than 5:00 p.m. •
- TBD: Interviews will be conducted at the City Council meeting.

To be considered, your application must be received and date stamped by the City Clerk's Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 26, 2026. Late applications or additional written information after this time and date will not be accepted.

Please submit your original application to the City Clerk's Office, 53990 Enterprise Way, Coachella, CA 92236 or via emailed to [cityclerk@coachella.org](mailto:cityclerk@coachella.org). **The City Council reserves the right in its discretion to decline to appoint any and all persons who apply and to extend the application period.**

### **To be eligible to be appointed to the City of Coachella City Council, you must**

- be:**
1. 18 years of age or older,
  2. A resident of the incorporated area of the City of Coachella,
  3. Registered to vote at their current place of residence in Coachella, and
  4. Able to certify that they meet the eligibility requirements and are willing to serve as a Councilmember of the City until November 2026.

### **Please note that:**

- The person appointed will hold office until someone is elected to the seat at the November 2026 General Municipal Election.
- Verification of voter registration will be confirmed upon submittal of an application. • Once an application is filed with the City, all information contained therein (except applicant's telephone number(s) and birthdate) is public record.
- If appointed, you will be required by state law to file a Statement of Economic Interests – Form 700 (assuming office) with the Fair Political Practices and annually thereafter.
- In addition, in compliance with AB 1234, you will be required to take mandatory Ethics Training (biennially) and abide by the Provisions of the Code of Fair Campaign Practices. • Applicants may be required to attend in-person interviews. Applicants will be notified in the future if an interview is requested. Please note that interviews may be televised.

**COMPLETED APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED AND DATE STAMPED BY THE  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE NO LATER THAN 5:00 P.M. ON MAY 26, 2026.**

**CITY OF COACHELLA  
APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT  
TO CITY COUNCIL VACANCY  
(Term begins upon appointment and ends November 2026)**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Complete this application and return to the City Clerk's Office, 53990 Enterprise Way, Coachella, CA 92236 or via email to [cityclerk@coachella.org](mailto:cityclerk@coachella.org). If you have any questions, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (760) 398-3502. Please TYPE or PRINT clearly in ink. If you wish to submit additional information, please attach to this application. **All information herein (except applicant's telephone number(s) and birthdate) is a public record.**

**APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY Tuesday, May 26, 2026, AT 5:00 P.M.**

**FIRST NAME: LAST NAME:** Dr. Sandra Luz Hernandez-Arellano

**PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR BIRTHDATE (MM/DD/YYYY)** [REDACTED] (VOTER REGISTRATION VERIFICATION ONLY)

**HOME ADDRESS:** [REDACTED]  
Street City Zip Code

**HOME PHONE:** ( ) N/A

**CELL PHONE:** [REDACTED]

**EMAIL:** [REDACTED]

**BUSINESS PHONE:** ( ) N/A

**BUSINESS NAME:** N/A

**OCCUPATION:** Teacher

**BUSINESS ADDRESS:** N/A  
Street City Zip Code

**ARE YOU CURRENTLY A RESIDENT OF COACHELLA?** Yes

**HOW MANY YEARS?** 58

**WHY DO YOU WISH TO SERVE THE CITY AS A CITY COUNCILMEMBER?** I wish to serve the city as a City Council Member because I care deeply about our community, its safety, and the future of generations to come. I have a lifelong connection to this city and a genuine understanding of the needs, values, and concerns of its residents. I want to be part of creating the positive changes before us and help ensure our city continues to grow in a way that benefits everyone. I believe in working collaboratively with residents, local businesses, and community leaders to strengthen services, support youth and families, and preserve the pride of the community. Serving as a City Council Member would allow me to give back to the city that has shaped me and help build a stronger future for all.

**DESCRIBE YOUR EXPERIENCE AND/OR EDUCATION THAT MAKES YOU A QUALIFIED CANDIDATE FOR THE CITY COUNCIL.** As a resident of this city for over 50 years, I have witnessed its growth and expansion firsthand. I worked for local businesses and organizations like food markets, hair salons, restaurants, and the Boys & Girls Club. I am currently employed as a teacher for the Coachella Valley Unified School District and the Adult School ESL evening program. I hold credentials in special education, art, bilingual education, a Master of Arts & Credential in School Counseling, an Administrative Credential, and an Education Doctorate in Organizational Leadership.

**IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES FACING THE CITY OF COACHELLA AND WHAT ARE YOUR SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO ADDRESS THOSE ISSUES?** Important issues facing Coachella include public safety, affordable housing, youth opportunities, economic development, and maintaining a strong sense of community as the city continues to grow. These issues can be addressed by expanding opportunities in these areas, promoting transparency, actively listening to residents' concerns, and engaging in careful planning for future development to help preserve the city's identity.

**WHAT VISION DO YOU HAVE FOR THE FUTURE OF THE CITY OF COACHELLA?** As a team player, my vision is to work collaboratively with all stakeholders to guide the city's growth while preserving its culture, identity, and sense of community.

**WHAT POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE YOU MADE TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY?** I have contributed to the community as a teacher supporting students' growth and learning, through my work in local businesses serving residents and supporting the local economy, and by raising three children who are attending Coachella Valley Unified District schools and are now professionals. These experiences reflect my commitment to education, service, and the long-term strength of the community.

**WHAT IS YOUR EXPERIENCE WORKING AS A TEAM MEMBER OR COLLABORATOR?** I have extensive experience working as a team member through my work as a teacher, where I continuously collaborate with colleagues and local businesses, collaborating with co-workers and families in support of shared goals to help serve the community effectively.

**PLEASE PROVIDE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS YOU FEEL WOULD ASSIST THE CITY COUNCIL IN CONSIDERING YOUR APPLICATION.** As a long-time resident, educator, and community member, I am committed to the continued growth and success of our city. My experience in education, local business, and raising a family has given me a strong understanding of community needs. I value collaboration, responsible growth, and preserving our city's values while expanding opportunities for all residents.

**LIST THREE (3) COACHELLA REFERENCES WHO SUPPORT THIS APPLICATION**

Name: Miriam Vela-Sanchez

Phone/Email

Name: Estela Razo

Phone/Email

Name: Gustavo Sandoval

Phone/Email

**WHAT COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS HAVE YOU SERVED ON?** I have supported my community through my work as a teacher, involvement in local school and family activities, and participation in community events and initiatives that support students and families.

City Council Meetings are typically held in the evening on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 6:00 p.m. Additionally, a flexible work schedule is required to attend day or evening meetings (i.e. subcommittee, outside agency, special meetings, study sessions, and public workshops, etc.) and City sponsored events (i.e. ribbon cutting or ground breaking events, holiday events, etc.)

Will you be able to attend all the types of meetings and/or events as listed above? Yes  No

Are you a registered voter (City of Coachella)? Yes  No

Are you willing to file a Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700), as required? Yes  No

Are you willing to complete the AB 1234 Ethics Training, as required? Yes  No

Are you willing to agree to abide by the Provisions of Code of Fair Campaign Practices? Yes  No

Are you willing to agree to abide by the City's Code of Conduct? Yes  No

If NO, to any of the above, please explain:

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**Note: All information contained herein is a public record.**

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:** 1) be 18 years of age or older; 2) be a resident of the incorporated area of the City of Coachella, 3) be a registered voter at the applicant's current place of residence in Coachella, and 4) be able to certify that they meet the eligibility requirements and (5) are willing to serve in the office for the remainder of the unexpired term.

By signing, I hereby certify that I meet all 5 eligibility requirements above. **Dated: May 18, 2026**

**PRINTED NAME: Dr. Sandra Luz Hernandez-Arellano**

*Applicants may be required to attend in-person interviews. Applicants will be notified in the future if an interview is requested. Please note that interviews may be televised.*

CITY CLERK ONLY  
Voter Registration Verified  
Date: 5/19/26 Initials: alg  
*Joseph Borjas*