



PUBLIC SERVICE APPLICATION FORM

City government depends on residents who volunteer their time and expertise to participate as members of boards, commissions and committees. The citizen involvement is important in setting the direction for Castroville's future.

In compliance with the Open Records Act information provided on this form may be available to the public. Public Service opportunities are offered by the City of Castroville without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, or disability.

Name: Bertha Benedetti Email: benedetti.bertha@gmail.com

Home Address: 4176 C.B. 271 Mailing Address: Same

City: Mico Zip: 78056 City: _____ Zip: _____

Home Telephone: 830-931-3868 Cell/Business Telephone: 210-459-3269

Resident of Castroville for _____ years Voter District: _____ Resident of Texas for 68 years

Reside within the city limits of City of Castroville: Yes _____ No X

Reside in Medina County: Yes ✓ No _____ Other: _____

***Please note some boards and commissions require the members to reside in the corporate city limits.**

Please indicate Board, Commission or Committee preference:

1st Choice: Library Board 2nd Choice: _____

If you have prior service on a board, please provide the name of the board and the date of service.

Are you currently holding any public office or board appointment? No If so, what? _____

Please list any special knowledge, education or experience that you feel qualifies you to serve in the areas you have indicated as a preference. Also, list any business or personal relationship with the City of Castroville that might create a conflict of interest or that would affect your ability to serve.

Retired 6th grade ELAR teacher with a Masters degree
in curriculum + instruction with an emphasis on
Bilingual Ed.



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Name: MICHELLE M ESTRADA Email: yelleghs52@gmail.com

Home Address: 2111 GENEVA CT Mailing Address: SAME

City: CASTROVILLE Zip: 78009 City: _____ Zip: _____

Home Telephone: _____ Cell/Business Telephone: 210-722-8156

Resident of Castroville for 17 years Voter District: _____ Resident of Texas for 19 years

Reside within the city limits of City of Castroville: Yes ☒ No ☐

Reside in Medina County: Yes ☒ No ☐ Other: _____

***Please note some boards and commissions require the members to reside in the corporate city limits.**

Please indicate Board, Commission or Committee preference:

1st Choice: Library 2nd Choice: _____

If you have prior service on a board, please provide the name of the board and the date of service.

Are you currently holding any public office or board appointment? NO If so, what? _____

Please list any special knowledge, education or experience that you feel qualifies you to serve in the areas you have indicated as a preference. Also, list any business or personal relationship with the City of Castroville that might create a conflict of interest or that would affect your ability to serve.

I'm retired Air Force and would be able to help any of those who are now in our community and military families.



Saturday, February 15, 2025

Castroville City Council
City of Castroville
1209 Fiorella St.
Castroville, TX 78009

Subject: Recommendation for Bertha Benedetti and Michelle M. Estrada – Library Advisory Board

Dear Honorable Members of the Castroville City Council,

As Chairwoman of the Library Advisory Board, I am pleased to recommend Bertha Benedetti and Michelle M. Estrada for appointment to the board. Their backgrounds, expertise, and commitment to community enrichment make them invaluable candidates who will strengthen our library's mission and impact.

Bertha Benedetti, a retired 6th-grade English Language Arts teacher from Medina Valley Independent School District, holds a Master's in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in Bilingual Education. Her deep understanding of literacy development and curriculum design would enhance the library's role as a vital educational resource. With her experience in bilingual education, Mrs. Benedetti is well-equipped to support inclusive programming that meets the diverse needs of our residents.

Michelle M. Estrada, a U.S. Air Force Retiree, and is passionate about serving veterans, active-duty personnel, and military families. With Castroville's proximity to numerous military installations and its strong military ties, Ms. Estrada's leadership would ensure that our library continues to be an accessible and supportive resource for military-affiliated individuals. Her experience in advocacy and resource navigation will enhance outreach efforts and improve accessibility to educational and career development materials for this community.

Both candidates bring unique and complementary perspectives that align with the Library Advisory Board's mission. Mrs. Benedetti's educational background and Ms. Estrada's dedication to military families will help advance initiatives that promote literacy, lifelong learning, and equitable access to resources. Their leadership and expertise will greatly benefit our library and the broader community.

I strongly encourage the Castroville City Council to approve the appointment of Bertha Benedetti and Michelle M. Estrada to the Library Advisory Board. Their contributions will support our ongoing efforts to enhance library services and expand community engagement.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Lauren Cortez, MS, MPH, DrPHc
Chairwoman, Library Advisory Board
lcortez1@tulane.edu
210-612-5640

Handwritten
RECEIVED
MAR 3
3:54PM



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In compliance with the Open Records Act information provided on this form may be available to the public. Public Service opportunities are offered by the City of Castroville without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, or disability.

Name: Julieanna G. Renner - Ramirez Email: 1946JGR872@gmail.com

Home Address: 321 C.R. 4614 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1626

City: Castroville Tx Zip: 78009 City: Castroville Tx Zip: 78009

Home Telephone: _____ Cell/Business Telephone: (406) 240-6516

Resident of Castroville for 2 years Voter District: _____ Resident of Texas for 4 years

Reside within the city limits of City of Castroville: Yes _____ No X

Reside in Medina County: Yes X No _____ Other: Dunley

***Please note some boards and commissions require the members to reside in the corporate city limits.**

Please indicate Board, Commission or Committee preference:

1st Choice: Library 2nd Choice: Zoning Board

If you have prior service on a board, please provide the name of the board and the date of service.

School board Poway Unified School District 1989-1994 (moved)

Are you currently holding any public office or board appointment? No If so, what? _____

Please list any special knowledge, education or experience that you feel qualifies you to serve in the areas you have indicated as a preference. Also, list any business or personal relationship with the City of Castroville that might create a conflict of interest or that would affect your ability to serve.

I am a clinical Psychologist / Educator, I have a law degree and
am a certified mediator in Ca, Mt and Tx as well as an MBA from Howard

Letter of Recommendation for Dr. Julieanna Renner Ramirez

March 3, 2025

To whom It May Concern,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Dr. Julieanna Renner Ramirez. I have had the privilege of working closely with Dr. Ramirez for several years at Wisdoms Ark and as a close colleague, where she has demonstrated exceptional talent, dedication, and professionalism in her field.

Dr. Ramirez is an outstanding Clinical Psychologist, Academic, Attorney and Author, her attention to getting projects done is impressive. Her ability to think critically has consistently produced high-quality outcomes. She has a remarkable ability to analyze complex problems and devise effective solutions, often surpassing our expectations.

Her life experiences have given her a worldly perspective. In addition to her professional accomplishments, Dr. Ramirez is a person of high integrity and strong ethical values. She approaches her work with humility and a genuine passion for making a difference. She has dedication to improving the lives of others.

I have no doubt that Dr. Julieanna Renner Ramirez will continue to excel and make significant contributions in her future endeavors. She has my highest recommendation, and I am confident that she will be an asset to any organization fortunate enough to have her.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information or clarification regarding Dr. Ramirez's qualifications and accomplishments.

Sincerely,

Her Husband, Dr. Rey Ramirez PhD

rey@imagolfboss.com, 210-347-6367

LIBRARY BOARD

July 2025 - 2026

Position #	Member/Address	Appointed	Phone #	Email Address	Term Expiration
1.	Kelly Hoog 274 Private Rd. 4731 Castroville, Texas 78009	July 2024	830-931-4649	iustri@ymail.com	2026
2.	OPEN				2026
3.	Lauren Cortez, MS 227 PR 4703 Castroville, Texas 78009	July 2023	(c) 210-612-5640	lcortez1@tulane.edu	2025
2.	Isabella Cortez 227 PR 4703 Castroville, Texas 78009	July 2023	(c) 210-387-0175	cortezgisabella@gmail.com	2025
5.	Crystal Stutes 816 Lafayette Castroville, Texas 78009	October 2023	(c) 210-378-2966	crystal.stutes@gmail.com	2026

Alternates:

1. Vacant
2. Vacant

Student Rep: Open

Council Liaison:

Updated 01-27-2025



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Name: Melanie Knous Email: melknous@gmail.com
Home Address: 2202 Geneva Street Mailing Address: 2202 Geneva Street
City: Castroville Zip: 78009 City: Castroville Zip: 78009
Home Telephone: none Cell/Business Telephone: (541) 207-6077
Resident of Castroville for 4.5 years Voter District: #1 Resident of Texas for 28 years
Reside within the city limits of City of Castroville: Yes X No _____
Reside in Medina County: Yes X No _____ Other: _____

***Please note some boards and commissions require the members to reside in the corporate city limits.**

Please indicate Board, Commission or Committee preference:

1st Choice: Planning & Zoning 2nd Choice: Planning & Zoning

If you have prior service on a board, please provide the name of the board and the date of service.

The Heart of Scottsville - 1/2017 - 8/2020

Are you currently holding any public office or board appointment? X yes If so, what? I currently reside on the board for Medina County Women for Good.

Please list any special knowledge, education or experience that you feel qualifies you to serve in the areas you have indicated as a preference. Also, list any business or personal relationship with the City of Castroville that might create a conflict of interest or that would affect your ability to serve.

Serving on the Heart of Scottsville Board taught me a lot about working with the city, Historic Commission, & accomplish the overall city plans → over →

7 I also have experience writing grants at State & federal levels to obtain funds to be able to better the city when local funds are not available.

Members of each board will be appointed on an equitable basis so as to represent all segments and geographical areas of the city. All applicants will be notified of appointments by phone, mail or email. Applicants not appointed will be reconsidered as vacancies occur. Applications will be maintained on file for one year.

A brief resume and letters of recommendations are welcomed when submitting an application. Please submit this form to the City Secretary's Office, 1209 Fiorella, Castroville, Texas 78009. Or Email to debra.howe@castrovilletx.gov or by fax to 830-931-6373.

Qualifications for city boards, commissions and committees

- A resident of Castroville for six months
- A qualified Castroville voter at the time of appointment
- Shall not have been convicted of a crime of moral turpitude
- Not be an adversary party to pending litigation against the city except for eminent domain proceedings
- Not be in arrears on water, electric/gas service charges, or other city obligations
- Have a creditable record of attendance and performance in any previous board service

Boards, Commissions and Committees (* allow non-residents)

Planning and Zoning Commission

- Meets 2nd Wednesday at 6:30p.m. at City Hall
- Five members plus two alternates
- Assists with development & implementation of City's master plan
- Reviews development proposals, rezoning cases, subdivision plats, Re-plats & site plans
- Updates & revises land use assumptions
- Conducts public hearings for said matters when appropriate & make recommendations to Council

* Library Board (non-residents allowed)

- Meets on the 2nd Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at Library
- Five members plus two alternates
- Advises City Council on the development & improvement of library services
- Review & recommend library equipment & facilities requirements & formulate recommendations for submission to the city council

Zoning Board of Adjustment

- Meets 2nd Monday at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall (as needed)
- Five members plus two alternates
- Consider requests for special exceptions to the terms of the zoning ordinance
- Hears variances to the city's zoning ordinance & appeals of administrative decision; interprets & enforce the Zoning ordinance with the building official as appropriate

* Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (2 non-residents)

- Meets 3rd Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall
- Five members plus two alternates
- Review & recommendation long range plans
- Develop improvement plans to meet future requirements of park equipment & facilities
- Coordinate building plans & project proposals

Historic Landmark Commission

- Meets 3rd Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall
- Seven members plus two alternates
- Primary purpose is to advise the Council on building permits involving historic homes & buildings within the City
- The HLC Board assumed the duties of dissolved DRB

* Airport Board (non-residents allowed)

- Meets 1st Monday at 5:00 p.m. at the Airport Conference Room
- Five members plus two alternates
- Review & develop long range plans
- Develop plans for future improvements & facilities
- Coordinates plans & recommendations with City Administrator prior to formal submission to Council

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

July 2025 - 2026

Position #	Member/Address	Appointed	Phone #	Email Address	Term Expiration
1.	Priscilla Garrett 702 Florence Castroville, Texas 78009	July 2022	(h) 830-931-2262	prismon@aol.com	2026
2.	Houston Marchman 1616 San Jacinto Castroville, Texas 78009	July 2024	(c) 512-773-9761	marchmanhv@pg.com	2026
3.	Jim Welch 704 Lisbon Street Castroville, Texas 78009	June 2023	(c) 210-260-2844	jimcodywelch@gmail.com	2025
4.	Kyle McVay 307 Madrid Castroville, Texas 78009	June 2023	(h) 830-538-2630 (c) 830-931-2525	klmevay@hotmail.com	2025
5.	Bruce Alexander 516 Vienna Street Castroville, Texas 78009	March 2024	(h) 830-931-1442	bruce-tammy@sbcglobal.net	2026
Alternates:					
1.	OPEN				2025
2.	Eduardo Esquivel Jr. 201 Paris Castroville, Texas 78009	April 2024	(c) 210-983-3885	sector40@protonmail.com	2026

Council Liaison: Councilmember Paul Carey

Updated 01-27-2025