



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 ELA 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 ~~main~~ 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

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 | justri@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 | 2026 |
| 2. | Vacant | 2025 |

Student Rep: Open

Council Liaison:

Updated 01-27-2025