



Application for City Council District 2 Vacancy

Important Information to Know:

Deadline to submit application is **November 21, 2025, by 5PM.**

Interviews and possible appointment will be held
December 2, 2025, at 6PM (Mandatory Attendance)

Applications can only be submitted to
cityclerk@cityofmerced.gov or at the Clerk's Office,
678 W. 18th St., First Floor

Pursuant to Merced City Charter Section 403C – “A vacancy in the office of a City Council Member, from whatever cause arising, shall be filled by appointment by the City Council from qualified electors in the City, and the appointee shall hold office until the first Tuesday following the next general municipal election and until his/her successor is elected and qualified.”



Application for City Council District 2 Vacancy

Profile

Casey Steed

First Name

Casey Steed Casey Steed

Middle
Initial

Last Name

Self

Employer

Electrical Contractor

Job Title

[REDACTED]
Email Address

[REDACTED]
Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Are you 18 years of age or older? (Required)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to City Council

Do you live in the City of Merced? (Required)

☒ Yes ☐ No

[REDACTED]
Street Address

Merced

City

Suite or Apt

Ca

State

95340

Postal Code

Question applies to City Council

Are you a registered voter in the City of Merced? (Required)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Communication

The City of Merced uses email as a preferred method of communication regarding your application. Is this acceptable to you?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If you selected no, please identify how you would like to be contacted:

Interests & Experiences

Tell us about yourself, and why you are applying for the City Council District 2 Seat:

I think that this interim Councilmember position would be best filled by someone from out of the district so as not to show a preference to any of the candidates who will vie for the district in the 2026 election for a permanent replacement.

I have knowledge of the current issues facing the City and the Council.

What would you bring in the way of perspective or experience to the City Council?

I am well informed on the current issues facing not only District 2 but the City as a whole.
I can work in a collaborative way with others to solve problems and work on finding the best solution.

What is your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a representative of Council District 2?

To listen to the concerns of constituents in the district and then work with City staff and the other council members to address those issues.

What do you perceive to be the primary issues facing District 2 and issues for the whole city?

Economic Development , Affordable housing and crime prevention

Any other comments you would like to add that may assist the City Council in their decision?

I would be sound voice on the council working with others to make this interim appointment a smooth transition to a permanent replacement.



Application for City Council District 2 Vacancy

Important Information to Know:

Deadline to submit application is **November 21, 2025, by 5PM.**

Interviews and possible appointment will be held
December 2, 2025, at 6PM (Mandatory Attendance)

Applications can only be submitted to
cityclerk@cityofmerced.gov or at the Clerk's Office,
678 W. 18th St., First Floor

Pursuant to Merced City Charter Section 403C – “A vacancy in the office of a City Council Member, from whatever cause arising, shall be filled by appointment by the City Council from qualified electors in the City, and the appointee shall hold office until the first Tuesday following the next general municipal election and until his/her successor is elected and qualified.”



Application for City Council District 2 Vacancy

Profile

Corey Brewer

First Name

Corey Brewer Corey Brewer

Middle
Initial

Last Name

MCOE

Employer

Network Analyst- Sr.

Job Title

[REDACTED]
Email Address

[REDACTED]
Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Are you 18 years of age or older? (Required)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to City Council

Do you live in the City of Merced? (Required)

☒ Yes ☐ No

[REDACTED]
Street Address

Merced

City

Suite or Apt

CA

State

95340

Postal Code

Question applies to City Council

Are you a registered voter in the City of Merced? (Required)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Communication

The City of Merced uses email as a preferred method of communication regarding your application. Is this acceptable to you?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If you selected no, please identify how you would like to be contacted:

Interests & Experiences

Tell us about yourself, and why you are applying for the City Council District 2 Seat:

I am 37 years old and have resided in Merced for the better part of 25 years. I currently work in I.T. for Merced County Office of Education. I have a 3 year old son which is my main motivation for wanting to join the City Council. My wife and I intend on raising him in Merced with all of our friends and their children so he will be attending Merced schools and joining Merced city sports teams etc. I want to do my best to make that experience for him and all Mercedians as positive as I can.

What would you bring in the way of perspective or experience to the City Council?

I consider myself highly analytical, detail-oriented, and goal-driven. I grew up in this city since moving here in the summer of 1999 and have witnessed its massive transformation firsthand. From the opening of the 'new' theatre downtown to the establishment of the UC campus, I have a deep appreciation for the great strides Merced has made in creating opportunity and promoting growth for its residents.

My professional background in Information Technology provides a unique and essential perspective for the City Council. In I.T., success relies on quickly diagnosing complex problems, understanding the interdependencies of various systems, and implementing efficient, scalable solutions.

I have also been a part of many of MCOEs new building purchases downtown so I am aware of the intricacies of large renovation projects including permitting, infrastructure, etc.

What is your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a representative of Council District 2?

I see three main roles of any council member:

Advocating and being the voice of their constituents, whether by means of direct communication with them or through town hall/neighborhood meetings, and ensuring local infrastructure improvements, resolving zoning issues, and neighborhood safety and quality of life are prioritized in city planning.

Legislative work with other council members to introduce and vote on local laws and ordinances while simultaneously contributing to the long term vision of the city.

Budgetary work to make sure the city budget is passed and tax dollars are spent efficiently and responsibly.

What do you perceive to be the primary issues facing District 2 and issues for the whole city?

As a non-resident of district 2 I can not speak directly on the primary issues facing those residents currently, but i believe the primary issues will be reflective across all Merced residents.

Affordable housing is few and far between, many residents find that they can not afford to own a home and the cost of rent is astronomical. My priority would be to support city initiatives that streamline permitting for diverse housing types not just single-family homes.

Bringing in more jobs. While UC Merced is a driver of growth, the city needs to do more to attract employers that offer high-wage jobs to reduce the current high unemployment rate and the number of residents commuting out of the city for work. I would also like to see tech sector companies and jobs come to Merced.

Public safety and QoL improvements. I would like to focus on basic infrastructure like sidewalks, lighting, and street repairs. I would also like to ensure a fully staffed police and firefighter department to further improve the quality of life for our residents.

Any other comments you would like to add that may assist the City Council in their decision?

While I may not possess prior experience as an elected official, I view this as an opportunity to bring a fresh, solutions-oriented perspective to the Council. My candidacy is built on a deep commitment to Merced and a skill set optimized for modern governance.

If selected, I promise to be a fair, accessible, and dedicated advocate for the residents of District 2 and the entire city. I will diligently fulfill duties of this critical office, working collaboratively to translate the Council' s vision into tangible, equitable improvements for all.



Application for City Council District 2 Vacancy

Important Information to Know:

Deadline to submit application is **November 21, 2025, by 5PM.**

Interviews and possible appointment will be held
December 2, 2025, at 6PM (Mandatory Attendance)

Applications can only be submitted to
cityclerk@cityofmerced.gov or at the Clerk's Office,
678 W. 18th St., First Floor

Pursuant to Merced City Charter Section 403C – “A vacancy in the office of a City Council Member, from whatever cause arising, shall be filled by appointment by the City Council from qualified electors in the City, and the appointee shall hold office until the first Tuesday following the next general municipal election and until his/her successor is elected and qualified.”



Application for City Council District 2 Vacancy

Profile

Dina Gonzalez

First Name

Dina GonzalezDina Gonzalez

Middle
Initial

Last Name

Dinas daycare and Preschool

Employer

Director

Job Title

[REDACTED]
Email Address

[REDACTED]
Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Are you 18 years of age or older? (Required)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to City Council

Do you live in the City of Merced? (Required)

☒ Yes ☐ No

[REDACTED]
Street Address

Merced

City

Suite or Apt

California

State

95341

Postal Code

Question applies to City Council

Are you a registered voter in the City of Merced? (Required)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Communication

The City of Merced uses email as a preferred method of communication regarding your application. Is this acceptable to you?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If you selected no, please identify how you would like to be contacted:

Interests & Experiences

Tell us about yourself, and why you are applying for the City Council District 2 Seat:

My name is Dina Gonzalez I am applying for this position because I enjoy in helping our community and help others. I am working in the community for almost 20 years in making the difference in children lives. I am their voices and assist in their education. I been a teacher for almost 28 years since 1996. I believe I have a role in the community in help in my district.

What would you bring in the way of perspective or experience to the City Council?

I am willing to help families and community in case of emergencies and ability to help with any emergency supplies. Helping families is my priority. I am familiar with District 2. Needs and the people want in the community. I am a dual language and help are community.

What is your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a representative of Council District 2?

My responsibilities are to understand the needs of the areas. I understand what needs work and fix problems in the areas I live and drive daily around our jurisdiction. I talked to the people in the area, and I heard their needs and problems they would be like to fix in their community.

What do you perceive to be the primary issues facing District 2 and issues for the whole city?

I understand in the area I am in District 2 clean parks; alleys need to be clean. Road needs to be fix. Highway 59 people ask for cross light and Gerad Avenue and Mission. On child Ave needs light by Golden valley for children crossing the street. School cross guard needs light stops. Road needs to be fix due to water flood. and many more.

Any other comments you would like to add that may assist the City Council in their decision?

I am responsible in supporting people and persistent in a accomplish a goal. I listen to people need and be inform and influential in the community.



Application for City Council District 2 Vacancy

Important Information to Know:

Deadline to submit application is **November 21, 2025, by 5PM.**

Interviews and possible appointment will be held
December 2, 2025, at 6PM (Mandatory Attendance)

Applications can only be submitted to
cityclerk@cityofmerced.gov or at the Clerk's Office,
678 W. 18th St., First Floor

Pursuant to Merced City Charter Section 403C – “A vacancy in the office of a City Council Member, from whatever cause arising, shall be filled by appointment by the City Council from qualified electors in the City, and the appointee shall hold office until the first Tuesday following the next general municipal election and until his/her successor is elected and qualified.”



Application for City Council District 2 Vacancy

Profile

Ezekiel Oseguera

First Name

Ezekiel Oseguera

Middle
Initial

Ezekiel Oseguera

Last Name

N/A

Employer

N/A

Job Title

Email Address

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Are you 18 years of age or older? (Required)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to City Council

Do you live in the City of Merced? (Required)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Street Address

Merced

City

Suite or Apt

CA

State

95341

Postal Code

Question applies to City Council

Are you a registered voter in the City of Merced? (Required)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Communication

The City of Merced uses email as a preferred method of communication regarding your application. Is this acceptable to you?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If you selected no, please identify how you would like to be contacted:

Interests & Experiences

Tell us about yourself, and why you are applying for the City Council District 2 Seat:

My name is Ezekiel, but most people know me as Zeke. I have lived in District 2 since 2022, and my grandparents have been part of this community since 2018. I have seen firsthand the challenges we face — homelessness, limited business development, gang activity, and a lack of positive activities for our youth and families. As a young member of this community, I understand the importance of giving our youth opportunities and creating a safe, supportive environment where families can grow. District 2 is home to many hardworking, low-income, and migrant families who came here to build better lives. I want to be a voice for those families who often feel unheard. I believe in the potential of District 2. I want to change the narrative people use to describe our neighborhoods. We are not “dangerous,” “ghetto,” or “forgotten.” We are a strong, resilient community — and with the right support, we can flourish.

What would you bring in the way of perspective or experience to the City Council?

I bring the perspective of someone who has grown up and lives the everyday reality of District 2. I understand the challenges our families face because I see them directly — from housing struggles to safety concerns to the lack of activities and resources for young people. I have the perspective of someone who is not disconnected from the community, but truly part of it.

I also bring the experience of working with and listening to people in our neighborhood — students, parents, elders, and local workers. I know what it’s like to navigate life in a low-income community where opportunities don’t always come our way, and I’m committed to helping create those opportunities here.

While I may be younger than most candidates, I see that as a strength. I bring new energy, fresh ideas, and a long-term investment in the future of Merced. I’m not here to talk about what used to be — I’m here to focus on what can be. My goal is to make sure the voices of our youth, working families, and underrepresented communities are heard and included in the decisions that shape our district.

What is your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a representative of Council District 2?

A representative of Council District 2 is responsible for being the voice of the community and making sure our needs are heard in City Hall. That means listening to residents, understanding their concerns, and bringing those concerns forward in city decision-making. A councilmember works on policies that affect everyday life — including public safety, housing, local business development, parks, road improvements, and community programs. It is also the responsibility of a councilmember to stay connected with the people they represent. That means attending community meetings, being accessible, answering questions, and being transparent about what decisions are being made. A representative should work with city departments, non-profits, and local organizations to bring resources into the district, not just talk abo

What do you perceive to be the primary issues facing District 2 and issues for the whole city?

For District 2, the primary issues I see are the lack of economic opportunities, limited youth programs, and concerns around safety. Our community needs more local businesses, activities and safe spaces for young people, and stronger support systems for families. We also face challenges with homelessness and the need for mental health and addiction services. These issues aren't just statistics to me — they're visible every day in our streets and neighborhoods.

For the city as a whole, some of the broader issues include affordable housing, citywide homelessness, public safety, and ensuring equal investment across all districts. Merced is growing, and we need to make sure that growth benefits everyone — not just certain neighborhoods. We need more job opportunities, more support for small businesses, and continued improvement in city infrastructure like roads, parks, and community centers.

Any other comments you would like to add that may assist the City Council in their decision?

Yes. I want to emphasize that I am deeply committed to District 2, not just for today, but for the long future ahead. I'm not running for personal recognition — I'm running because this is my home, and I truly care about the people who live here. I believe our district deserves representation that listens, understands, and takes action.

I know I am young, but that is my strength. I represent the voices of the youth and families who are often overlooked. I bring new energy, new ideas, and a real connection to the daily experiences of our community. I'm ready to work alongside city leadership, community organizations, and residents to bring positive growth and opportunity to District 2.



Application for City Council District 2 Vacancy

Important Information to Know:

Deadline to submit application is **November 21, 2025**, by **5PM**.

Interviews and possible appointment will be held **December 2, 2025**, at **6PM (Mandatory Attendance)**

Applications can only be submitted to cityclerk@cityofmerced.gov or at the Clerk's Office, 678 W. 18th St., First Floor

Merced City Charter Section 403C – "A vacancy in the office of a City Council Member, from whatever cause arising, shall be filled by appointment by the City Council from qualified electors in the City, and the appointee shall hold office until the first Tuesday following the next general municipal election and until his/her successor is elected and qualified."



Application for City Council District 2 Vacancy

Profile

FERNANDO

First Name

Middle
Initial

ECHIVARRIA

Last Name

Employer

Job Title

Email Address

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Are you 18 years of age or older? (Required)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to City Council

Do you live in the City of Merced? (Required)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Street Address

Suite or Apt

MERCED

City

CA

State

95341

Postal Code

Question applies to City Council

Are you a registered voter in the City of Merced? (Required)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Communication

The City of Merced uses email as a preferred method of communication regarding your application. Is this acceptable to you?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If you selected no, please identify how you would like to be contacted:

Interests & Experiences

Tell us about yourself, and why you are applying for the City Council District 2 Seat:

I am highly involved in all aspects of District 2 community issues. My outlook for being a member of the council is to work as a team.

What would you bring in the way of perspective or experience to the City Council?

As a former City of Merced District 2 Council member I am in constant communication with District 2 community members and am still involved in political issues. We as a community have many issues that are not being addressed as a Latino community.

What is your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a representative of

AS A APPOINTED MEMBER OF THE CITY COUNCIL I WANT TO ALL OF THE COUNCIL MEMBERS WORK AS A TEAM. I WILL STRIVE FOR ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS TO BECOME UNITED FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR GREAT CITY OF MERCED.

What do you perceive to be the primary issues facing District 2 and issues for the whole city?

THERE ARE MANY ISSUES OF COMPLEX NATURE THAT NEED TO BE SOLVED. THE LATINO COMMUNITY HAS VERY LITTLE REPRESENTATION AND SPANISH SPEAKING COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE NOT BEING ABLE TO COMMUNICATE IN A EFFECTIVE MANNER. THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE IS THE COMMUNICATION ASPECT.

Any other comments you would like to add that may assist the City Council in their decision?

I HAVE BEEN ENDORSED BY 20 MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT 2 COMMUNITY AS WELL AS OVER 300 VOTES IN MY FAVOR. I HAVE BEEN ENDORSED BY THE MERCED SUN-STAR. IMPROVING SOUTH MERCED. HOMELESS PEOPLE CONGREGATING IN PUBLIC PARKS AND NOT ALLOWING CHILDREN A SAFE PLACE TO USE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT. THE COMMUNITY NEEDS A WATCH PERSON TO BRING FORTH ALL INFORMATION FOR A SAFE DISTRICT 2.



Application for City Council District 2 Vacancy

Important Information to Know:

Deadline to submit application is **November 21, 2025, by 5PM.**

Interviews and possible appointment will be held
December 2, 2025, at 6PM (Mandatory Attendance)

Applications can only be submitted to
cityclerk@cityofmerced.gov or at the Clerk's Office,
678 W. 18th St., First Floor

Pursuant to Merced City Charter Section 403C – “A vacancy in the office of a City Council Member, from whatever cause arising, shall be filled by appointment by the City Council from qualified electors in the City, and the appointee shall hold office until the first Tuesday following the next general municipal election and until his/her successor is elected and qualified.”



Application for City Council District 2 Vacancy

Profile

Gloria Keene

First Name

Gloria KeeneGloria Keene

Middle
Initial

Last Name

retired

Employer

retired

Job Title

Email Address

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Are you 18 years of age or older? (Required)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to City Council

Do you live in the City of Merced? (Required)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Street Address

Merced

City

Suite or Apt

CA

State

95341

Postal Code

Question applies to City Council

Are you a registered voter in the City of Merced? (Required)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Communication

The City of Merced uses email as a preferred method of communication regarding your application. Is this acceptable to you?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If you selected no, please identify how you would like to be contacted:

Interests & Experiences

Tell us about yourself, and why you are applying for the City Council District 2 Seat:

Am applying for this position because I feel that there is so much to be done. District 2 is a vast area of Merced that is in need of land infill as well as adding business that would define the neighborhoods adding value to the current property owner as well as bringing the infrastructure it needs.

Merced has been growing disproportionately and even though District 2 encompasses a very large segment of Merced, it continues to lag.

I realize that this is a limited term position but am willing to work hard to do it justice in the time allowed. I am used to hard work and not afraid to do what is needed.

What would you bring in the way of perspective or experience to the City Council?

I bring the energy, the love of my community, and the willingness to devote what time is allowed to work towards a planned goal. But what is more important, I bring the experience of having done this job before and not waste anybody's valuable time in learning. Many things are important in life. Time and Opportunity are two of them.

thank you.

What is your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a representative of Council District 2?

My understanding of being representative and the responsibilities of any district is to be responsive to your constituents . No one can do anything alone. Many are involved in any given project . Therefore, another important responsibility is to learn to create trust and good fellowship among the Council members and work as a team. Not against each other. I truly believe that the voter is worthy of the best that we can be.

What do you perceive to be the primary issues facing District 2 and issues for the whole city?

The issue right now, is the lack of leadership. Detailed problems are hard to assess at this given time. One being obvious problem that lingers in this district (and other)districts is homelessness. I am interested in how other communities are dealing with this. . Lack of housing and redevelopment for this area are two issues that come to mind.

Any other comments you would like to add that may assist the City Council in their decision?

None, other than to wish the Council the best in their endeavors in their selection for this position. Thank you.



Application for City Council District 2 Vacancy

Important Information to Know:

Deadline to submit application is **November 21, 2025, by 5PM.**

Interviews and possible appointment will be held
December 2, 2025, at 6PM (Mandatory Attendance)

Applications can only be submitted to
cityclerk@cityofmerced.gov or at the Clerk's Office,
678 W. 18th St., First Floor

Pursuant to Merced City Charter Section 403C – “A vacancy in the office of a City Council Member, from whatever cause arising, shall be filled by appointment by the City Council from qualified electors in the City, and the appointee shall hold office until the first Tuesday following the next general municipal election and until his/her successor is elected and qualified.”



Application for City Council District 2 Vacancy

Profile

Jelili Apalara, MD

First Name

Jelili Apalara, MD

Middle
Initial

Last Name

Golden Valley Health Centers/Central Valley Direct (PAE Executive) – CVPAGE (Merced)

Employer

Job Title

Email Address

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Are you 18 years of age or older? (Required)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to City Council

Do you live in the City of Merced? (Required)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Street Address

Merced

City

Suite or Apt

CA

State

95340

Postal Code

Question applies to City Council

Are you a registered voter in the City of Merced? (Required)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Communication

The City of Merced uses email as a preferred method of communication regarding your application. Is this acceptable to you?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If you selected no, please identify how you would like to be contacted:

Interests & Experiences

Tell us about yourself, and why you are applying for the City Council District 2 Seat:

I am a Baldrige Ambassador, Healthcare Management cum Physician Executive with over 25 years of cumulative Clinical Experience, and nearly 20 years of progressive American Healthcare Management and Physicians Practice Management experience. I am highly focused on Organizational Performance Excellence, Quality Patient Care, Prudent Fiscal Management and Resources Utilization, as well as Patients and Employees satisfaction. I have demonstrated skills and leadership in the areas of Physicians Practice Management; Population Health; Systems Redesign; Clinical Analytics; Performance Improvement and Quality Assurance; Risk Management and Mitigation; Access and Capacity Improvement; and Advocacy for Patients' and Staff Needs. I have been in the Executive Career Field as far back as 2009 at the Federal and County levels and provided Consultant services to the State of California over the years. I previously served as an Appointed Member to the City of San Jose' Senior Citizens Commission (2019-2022) and have served on multiple National and Regional Boards focused on Organizational and Governmental Performance.

What would you bring in the way of perspective or experience to the City Council?

Continuing from the last question above, I am applying for the District Council District 2 Seat to be able to use my wealth of experience to facilitate rapid development of District 2 and, indeed, the City of Merced, and address the needs of the residents of the district. My main work office and location are situated in the District 2, and I am conversant with the needs and struggles of the residents of the various communities within the district.

As far as the perspectives and experience I would bring to the City Council are concerned, there a good number of them that readily come to mind that the allotted space here may not allow me to dwell in, but I would highlight some of them briefly.

As a Physician and Healthcare Executive involved in the running of large healthcare systems at the County and Federal level, and as Medical Schools Faculty, my experience will provide the City internal subject matter expertise that could help reposition the healthcare services to the City of Merced Residents in ways that better meet their needs at more reasonable cost. Additionally, as a County of Santa Clara Executive for 8 years, and a Federal Executive for another 8 years running large interacting with vendors, labor unions and other external and internal stakeholders, I've got a great deal of perspective and experience that can strengthen and support all the other members of the City Council to meet the needs of their district residents and the City. More importantly, my network within the Country can be tapped into to alleviate the current difficult professionals and workforce recruitment challenges in the City.

What is your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a representative of Council District 2?

My understanding of the Roles and Responsibilities of the Representative of Council District 2, or any District Representative for that matter, goes beyond being just the face of the District in the City Council Chamber. Other responsibilities include being the voice and ears of the District 2 Residents in the Council; making oneself available to the Residents on periodic, and on as needed, basis to hear their concerns, address their needs and keep them abreast of the activities and the goals and works of the City council.

The District 2 Representative is also expected to work alongside other City Council members to facilitate developments to the District and elsewhere in the City of Merced. District 2 Representative is also expected to be fiscally and ethically responsible and collaborate in sustaining existing City resources and Infrastructures in the district, including those in the pipelines. Education, Housing, Health Care needs, Public Transportation, good roads, Senior Citizens Support, Food Security and Job Creations/Skill acquisition for District 2 Residents are also key focus of the representative.

What do you perceive to be the primary issues facing District 2 and issues for the whole city?

The Primary Issues I understood to be the most challenging for District 2 and the City of Merced are the following:

- * Poverty or Low income earning, especially in District 2.
- * Housing Security and Homelessness.
- * Difficulty in Attracting Talented Professionals to the City and District 2.
- * Drug Abuse and Addiction.
- * High cost of Living when Compared to Income earned by most City Residents.
- * High Cost of New Home Acquisition through Artificial creation of New Homes Scarcity by Developers.
- * Very limited in-patient and Emergency beds/hospital in the City.
- * Long wait periods for health care services.
- * Protection of Water Resources and waterbeds.

Any other comments you would like to add that may assist the City Council in their decision?

None.

Certificate Of Completion

Envelope Id: 2487EF4C-CD59-4992-A280-8878A7018ADA

Status: Completed

Subject: Application for Dist. 2 Council

Tyler Contract Number:

Source Envelope:

Document Pages: 4

Signatures: 0

Envelope Originator:

Certificate Pages: 5

Initials: 0

Jennifer Parsley

AutoNav: Enabled

678 W 18th Street

Envelopeld Stamping: Enabled

Merced, CA 95340

Time Zone: (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)

parsleyj@cityofmerced.gov

IP Address: 172.56.15.140

Record Tracking

Status: Original

Holder: Jennifer Parsley

Location: DocuSign

11/8/2025 1:26:46 PM

parsleyj@cityofmerced.gov

Security Appliance Status: Connected

Pool: StateLocal

Storage Appliance Status: Connected

Pool: City of Merced

Location: Docusign

Signer Events

Jelili Apalara, MD

Signature

Completed

Timestamp

Sent: 11/8/2025 1:26:48 PM

Viewed: 11/8/2025 1:26:56 PM

Signed: 11/8/2025 2:41:22 PM

Security Level:

DocuSign.email

ID: 1

11/8/2025 1:26:49 PM

Using IP Address: 172.56.15.140

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:

Accepted: 11/8/2025 1:26:56 PM

ID: e273d46c-f244-41ee-82a2-3bc42ac9712d

In Person Signer Events

Signature

Timestamp

Editor Delivery Events

Status

Timestamp

Agent Delivery Events

Status

Timestamp

Intermediary Delivery Events

Status

Timestamp

Certified Delivery Events

Status

Timestamp

Carbon Copy Events

Status

Timestamp

City Clerk

cityclerk@cityofmerced.gov

Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (Optional)

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:

Not Offered via Docusign

COPIED

Sent: 11/8/2025 2:41:23 PM

Witness Events

Signature

Timestamp

Notary Events

Signature

Timestamp

Envelope Summary Events

Status

Timestamps

Envelope Sent

Hashed/Encrypted

11/8/2025 1:26:48 PM

Certified Delivered

Security Checked

11/8/2025 1:26:56 PM

Signing Complete

Security Checked

11/8/2025 2:41:22 PM

Completed

Security Checked

11/8/2025 2:41:23 PM

Payment Events	Status	Timestamps
Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure		

ELECTRONIC RECORD AND SIGNATURE DISCLOSURE

From time to time, City of Merced (we, us or Company) may be required by law to provide to you certain written notices or disclosures. Described below are the terms and conditions for providing to you such notices and disclosures electronically through the DocuSign system. Please read the information below carefully and thoroughly, and if you can access this information electronically to your satisfaction and agree to this Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure (ERSD), please confirm your agreement by selecting the check-box next to 'I agree to use electronic records and signatures' before clicking 'CONTINUE' within the DocuSign system.

Getting paper copies

At any time, you may request from us a paper copy of any record provided or made available electronically to you by us. You will have the ability to download and print documents we send to you through the DocuSign system during and immediately after the signing session and, if you elect to create a DocuSign account, you may access the documents for a limited period of time (usually 30 days) after such documents are first sent to you. After such time, if you wish for us to send you paper copies of any such documents from our office to you, you will be charged a \$0.00 per-page fee. You may request delivery of such paper copies from us by following the procedure described below.

Withdrawing your consent

If you decide to receive notices and disclosures from us electronically, you may at any time change your mind and tell us that thereafter you want to receive required notices and disclosures only in paper format. How you must inform us of your decision to receive future notices and disclosure in paper format and withdraw your consent to receive notices and disclosures electronically is described below.

Consequences of changing your mind

If you elect to receive required notices and disclosures only in paper format, it will slow the speed at which we can complete certain steps in transactions with you and delivering services to you because we will need first to send the required notices or disclosures to you in paper format, and then wait until we receive back from you your acknowledgment of your receipt of such paper notices or disclosures. Further, you will no longer be able to use the DocuSign system to receive required notices and consents electronically from us or to sign electronically documents from us.

All notices and disclosures will be sent to you electronically

Unless you tell us otherwise in accordance with the procedures described herein, we will provide electronically to you through the DocuSign system all required notices, disclosures, authorizations, acknowledgements, and other documents that are required to be provided or made available to you during the course of our relationship with you. To reduce the chance of you inadvertently not receiving any notice or disclosure, we prefer to provide all of the required notices and disclosures to you by the same method and to the same address that you have given us. Thus, you can receive all the disclosures and notices electronically or in paper format through the paper mail delivery system. If you do not agree with this process, please let us know as described below. Please also see the paragraph immediately above that describes the consequences of your electing not to receive delivery of the notices and disclosures electronically from us.

How to contact City of Merced:

You may contact us to let us know of your changes as to how we may contact you electronically, to request paper copies of certain information from us, and to withdraw your prior consent to receive notices and disclosures electronically as follows:

To contact us by email send messages to: cityclerk@cityofmerced.org

To advise City of Merced of your new email address

To let us know of a change in your email address where we should send notices and disclosures electronically to you, you must send an email message to us at cityclerk@cityofmerced.org and in the body of such request you must state: your previous email address, your new email address. We do not require any other information from you to change your email address.

If you created a DocuSign account, you may update it with your new email address through your account preferences.

To request paper copies from City of Merced

To request delivery from us of paper copies of the notices and disclosures previously provided by us to you electronically, you must send us an email to cityclerk@cityofmerced.org and in the body of such request you must state your email address, full name, mailing address, and telephone number. We will bill you for any fees at that time, if any.

To withdraw your consent with City of Merced

To inform us that you no longer wish to receive future notices and disclosures in electronic format you may:

- i. decline to sign a document from within your signing session, and on the subsequent page, select the check-box indicating you wish to withdraw your consent, or you may;
- ii. send us an email to cityclerk@cityofmerced.org and in the body of such request you must state your email, full name, mailing address, and telephone number. We do not need any other information from you to withdraw consent.. The consequences of your withdrawing consent for online documents will be that transactions may take a longer time to process..

Required hardware and software

The minimum system requirements for using the DocuSign system may change over time. The current system requirements are found here: <https://support.docusign.com/guides/signer-guide-signing-system-requirements>.

Acknowledging your access and consent to receive and sign documents electronically

To confirm to us that you can access this information electronically, which will be similar to other electronic notices and disclosures that we will provide to you, please confirm that you have read this ERSD, and (i) that you are able to print on paper or electronically save this ERSD for your future reference and access; or (ii) that you are able to email this ERSD to an email address where you will be able to print on paper or save it for your future reference and access. Further, if you consent to receiving notices and disclosures exclusively in electronic format as described herein, then select the check-box next to 'I agree to use electronic records and signatures' before clicking 'CONTINUE' within the DocuSign system.

By selecting the check-box next to 'I agree to use electronic records and signatures', you confirm that:

- You can access and read this Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure; and
- You can print on paper this Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure, or save or send this Electronic Record and Disclosure to a location where you can print it, for future reference and access; and
- Until or unless you notify City of Merced as described above, you consent to receive exclusively through electronic means all notices, disclosures, authorizations, acknowledgements, and other documents that are required to be provided or made available to you by City of Merced during the course of your relationship with City of Merced.



Application for City Council District 2 Vacancy

Important Information to Know:

Deadline to submit application is **November 21, 2025, by 5PM.**

Interviews and possible appointment will be held
December 2, 2025, at 6PM (Mandatory Attendance)

Applications can only be submitted to
cityclerk@cityofmerced.gov or at the Clerk's Office,
678 W. 18th St., First Floor

Pursuant to Merced City Charter Section 403C – “A vacancy in the office of a City Council Member, from whatever cause arising, shall be filled by appointment by the City Council from qualified electors in the City, and the appointee shall hold office until the first Tuesday following the next general municipal election and until his/her successor is elected and qualified.”



Application for City Council District 2 Vacancy

Profile

Jeremy Jenkins

First Name

Jeremy Jenkins

Middle
Initial

Last Name

4Life Church

Employer

Administrative Assistant

Job Title

[REDACTED]
Email Address

[REDACTED]
Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Are you 18 years of age or older? (Required)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to City Council

Do you live in the City of Merced? (Required)

☒ Yes ☐ No

[REDACTED]
Street Address

Merced

City

Suite or Apt

CA

State

95348

Postal Code

Question applies to City Council

Are you a registered voter in the City of Merced? (Required)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Communication

The City of Merced uses email as a preferred method of communication regarding your application. Is this acceptable to you?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If you selected no, please identify how you would like to be contacted:

Interests & Experiences

Tell us about yourself, and why you are applying for the City Council District 2 Seat:

I' ve been involved in the community since high school I' ve been giving back in every other way. I' ve been involved several nonprofit organizations doing different events doing different outreaches, I' m respected in the community. I would love to make a difference in a different way by sitting in the seat.

What would you bring in the way of perspective or experience to the City Council?

I will be able to bring a younger perspective about our community. I would be able to reach a younger audience and bring my expertise to the table.

What is your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a representative of Council District 2?

My understanding is to fill a seat that you' re able to be the voice of the people and to be able to make envelope on decisions. I will impact our community in a positive or negative way. These are very difficult decisions that sometimes you need to do what' s best for the community.

What do you perceive to be the primary issues facing District 2 and issues for the whole city?

I would say for district 2 it' s environmental issues and structures and streets and a lot of homelessness and gangs.

Any other comments you would like to add that may assist the City Council in their decision?

I just feel like I would be a great candidate for the seat. I' ve done a lot in the community. I' ve done a lot to give back and I wanna give back in a different way. Thank you.



Application for City Council District 2 Vacancy

Important Information to Know:

Deadline to submit application is **November 21, 2025**, by **5PM**.

Interviews and possible appointment will be held
December 2, 2025, at **6PM (Mandatory Attendance)**

Applications can only be submitted to
cityclerk@cityofmerced.gov or at the Clerk's Office,
678 W. 18th St., First Floor

Merced City Charter Section 403C – "A vacancy in the office of a City Council Member, from whatever cause arising, shall be filled by appointment by the City Council from qualified electors in the City, and the appointee shall hold office until the first Tuesday following the next general municipal election and until his/her successor is elected and qualified."



Application for City Council District 2 Vacancy

Profile

Jody K. George
First Name Middle Initial Last Name

Retired CalPERS
Employer Job Title

[REDACTED]
Email Address

[REDACTED]
Primary Phone

[REDACTED]
Alternate Phone

Are you 18 years of age or older? (Required)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to City Council

Do you live in the City of Merced? (Required)

☒ Yes ☐ No

[REDACTED]
Street Address

[REDACTED]
Suite or Apt

Merced
City

CA
State

95340-2905
Postal Code

Question applies to City Council

Are you a registered voter in the City of Merced? (Required)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Communication

The City of Merced uses email as a preferred method of communication regarding your application. Is this acceptable to you?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If you selected no, please identify how you would like to be contacted:

Interests & Experiences

Tell us about yourself, and why you are applying for the City Council District 2 Seat:

- Born [REDACTED] in Detroit Michigan
- USAF veteran Castle AFB 1974 - 1978
 - Born-again Christian 10 August 1975
 - Attend Christian Life Center 1976 - regular
 - I do not like complaining about condition(s) 1998 - present of the City of Merced without I do more than just complain. I hope to learn how things work in order to effect positive change(s). Hopefully, I may enjoy this opportunity.
- What would you bring in the way of perspective or experience to the City Council? Job

- I'm 70 years old, lived in Merced since the USAF brought me here 8 October 1974.
- I enjoy Feng Shui when visualizing a task to accomplish; e.g., how to obtain funds for road repair(s), how to get agreement(s) together for date(s) when project(s) will be completed and what the expected end will be to the same

What is your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a representative of

- Road repair & clean-up of debris & education of our youngsters to feel & experience pride in where we live.

What do you perceive to be the primary issues facing District 2 and issues for the whole city?

Please help me fit in to assist our city of Merced be a model other cities want to emulate. Thank you.

Any other comments you would like to add that may assist the City Council in their decision?



Application for City Council District 2 Vacancy

Important Information to Know:

Deadline to submit application is **November 21, 2025, by 5PM.**

Interviews and possible appointment will be held
December 2, 2025, at 6PM (Mandatory Attendance)

Applications can only be submitted to
cityclerk@cityofmerced.gov or at the Clerk's Office,
678 W. 18th St., First Floor

Pursuant to Merced City Charter Section 403C – “A vacancy in the office of a City Council Member, from whatever cause arising, shall be filled by appointment by the City Council from qualified electors in the City, and the appointee shall hold office until the first Tuesday following the next general municipal election and until his/her successor is elected and qualified.”



Application for City Council District 2 Vacancy

Profile

Katherine Irene Escobar

First Name

Katherine Irene Escobar

Middle
Initial

Last Name

SEP United

Employer

Job Coach

Job Title

Email Address

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Are you 18 years of age or older? (Required)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to City Council

Do you live in the City of Merced? (Required)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Street Address

Merced

City

Suite or Apt

CA

State

95348

Postal Code

Question applies to City Council

Are you a registered voter in the City of Merced? (Required)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Communication

The City of Merced uses email as a preferred method of communication regarding your application. Is this acceptable to you?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If you selected no, please identify how you would like to be contacted:

Interests & Experiences

Tell us about yourself, and why you are applying for the City Council District 2 Seat:

My name is Katherine Escobar. I am 24 years old and I hold a bachelor of arts degree in psychology. I am applying for the District 2 City Council seat because I care deeply about the future of our community and I am ready to step into a leadership role. Even though I am young, I see that as a strength. I bring a fresh perspective, strong energy, and a real understanding of the challenges that people face today.

I am Puerto Rican and Hispanic and I was born and raised in New York City before moving to California. Growing up in a diverse and very fast paced environment shaped how I communicate, how I solve problems, and how I support others. My background in psychology also taught me how to understand people, listen fully, and work with empathy, which I believe are important qualities for a public leader. I learned early in life how important representation is, especially for communities that do not always feel seen or heard. That is one of the biggest reasons I am running. I want people in this district to feel that their voices matter and to see themselves reflected in their leadership.

What would you bring in the way of perspective or experience to the City Council?

I would bring a perspective grounded in real community experience, cultural understanding, and hands on work with youth and families. As a 24 year old Puerto Rican and Hispanic woman who grew up in New York City and now lives in California, I understand what it feels like to move between different communities, adapt to change, and speak up when representation is missing. My personal background taught me how important it is for people to feel seen, supported, and included in decisions that impact their lives. I also bring professional experience that comes from years of working directly with young people. I hold a bachelor of arts degree in psychology, and I used to work at a high school where I supported students and families every day. I also worked as an after school director, a role that required patience, organization, leadership, and a deep understanding of what students need to feel safe and supported. Through these experiences, I learned how to listen with intention, how to handle stressful situations, and how to advocate for people who often feel unheard.

What is your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a representative of Council District 2?

My understanding is that a representative for Council District 2 is responsible for speaking on behalf of the people who live in that district and making sure their needs and concerns are brought forward in every city decision. The role includes listening to residents, staying connected with the community, and being someone people can reach out to when they need help or want their voices heard. A Council Member also helps create and approve city policies, votes on the city budget, and works with city staff to make sure public services, new projects, and community programs are handled in a responsible manner.

What do you perceive to be the primary issues facing District 2 and issues for the whole city?

I believe District 2 is facing many of the same challenges that the rest of Merced is dealing with, but some of them feel even more urgent for families and residents in this area. One of the biggest issues is the rising cost of housing. Many people in District 2 are struggling to afford rent, find stable housing, or stay in the neighborhoods they grew up in. This creates stress for families, young adults, and seniors, and it affects everything from school stability to mental health. Homelessness is another major concern. It is something the whole city sees and feels, and District 2 has areas where people who are struggling do not have enough support or access to services. I believe our community wants solutions that are compassionate but also focused on safety and real long term support. District 2 also deals with challenges related to infrastructure, like streets that need repair, limited public transportation, and neighborhoods that could benefit from more lighting, cleaner public spaces, and safer walkways. These are everyday things that make a big difference in people's quality of life. For the whole city of Merced, I see housing, homelessness, economic opportunity, and mental health support as the main issues that we need to address together. Families want more stable jobs, safer n

Any other comments you would like to add that may assist the City Council in their decision?

I would like to share that my passion for serving others comes from both my personal experiences and my professional work. Growing up Puerto Rican and Hispanic in New York City, I learned the importance of community, representation, and standing up for what is right. Moving to California and working in education, including my time at a high school and as an after school director, gave me hands on experience supporting students, families, and young people navigating real challenges. I believe these experiences give me a unique perspective and a strong commitment to listening, learning, and advocating for the needs of District 2 residents. I am ready to bring energy, empathy, and a fresh perspective to the City Council, and I am committed to working collaboratively to create solutions that benefit everyone in our community. I want to be a voice for residents who are often overlooked and not heard in their community.



Application for City Council District 2 Vacancy

Important Information to Know:

Deadline to submit application is **November 21, 2025, by 5PM.**

Interviews and possible appointment will be held
December 2, 2025, at 6PM (Mandatory Attendance)

Applications can only be submitted to
cityclerk@cityofmerced.gov or at the Clerk's Office,
678 W. 18th St., First Floor

Pursuant to Merced City Charter Section 403C – “A vacancy in the office of a City Council Member, from whatever cause arising, shall be filled by appointment by the City Council from qualified electors in the City, and the appointee shall hold office until the first Tuesday following the next general municipal election and until his/her successor is elected and qualified.”



Application for City Council District 2 Vacancy

Profile

RoseMarie Campagna

First Name

RoseMarie Campagna

Middle
Initial

Last Name

Buzz's Perfection Glass

Employer

Estimator/ Project Manager

Job Title

Email Address

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Are you 18 years of age or older? (Required)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to City Council

Do you live in the City of Merced? (Required)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Street Address

Merced

City

Suite or Apt

CA

State

95348

Postal Code

Question applies to City Council

Are you a registered voter in the City of Merced? (Required)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Communication

The City of Merced uses email as a preferred method of communication regarding your application. Is this acceptable to you?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If you selected no, please identify how you would like to be contacted:

Interests & Experiences

Tell us about yourself, and why you are applying for the City Council District 2 Seat:

My name is RoseMarie “Rosie” Campagna, and I’ve lived in Merced long enough to see both its challenges and its potential. I am applying for the District 2 seat because I believe this is a city with huge heart, and I want to help that heart grow even stronger through accountability, collaboration, and care for the people who live here.

I have worked in different roles over the years, from hospitality to project management, and I’ve learned what it means to serve others, to listen, and to solve problems calmly under pressure. I am also an active participant in local arts, education, and neighborhood efforts, always trying to make a positive difference in the spaces I belong.

What would you bring in the way of perspective or experience to the City Council?

To the City Council I would bring a grounded, people-first perspective shaped by years of working in local project management and community settings where communication, safety, and follow-through matter. Having seen how issues like housing availability, public safety, and youth opportunities affect our neighborhoods, I understand how city decisions shape quality of life. I offer a steady, compassionate voice focused on collaboration, transparency, and practical solutions that genuinely support residents.

What is your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a representative of Council District 2?

A representative of District 2 serves as a liaison between residents and city government. The role involves listening to community concerns, helping shape policy decisions, and ensuring that the district's needs are heard in every discussion about Merced's growth, safety, and quality of life.

What do you perceive to be the primary issues facing District 2 and issues for the whole city?

In District 2, I believe the key issues include neighborhood safety, street and sidewalk maintenance, and creating more spaces where families and youth can gather and feel connected. Clean, well-kept streets, better lighting, and accessible parks or activity programs can make daily life safer and more vibrant for residents. Strengthening public communication and rebuilding trust between residents and local government are also essential to ensuring progress that includes everyone.

Any other comments you would like to add that may assist the City Council in their decision?

I care deeply about Merced and the people who call it home. I bring a calm, thoughtful approach to problem-solving and a genuine desire to lead with integrity. I am seeking this seat because I believe I can make a meaningful difference— not just by listening, but by acting with fairness, consistency, and heart. My goal is to help strengthen trust in local government and ensure that every resident of District 2 feels represented. Thank you for considering my application.



Application for City Council District 2 Vacancy

Important Information to Know:

Deadline to submit application is **November 21, 2025, by 5PM.**

Interviews and possible appointment will be held **December 2, 2025, at 6PM (Mandatory Attendance)**

Applications can only be submitted to cityclerk@cityofmerced.gov or at the Clerk's Office, 678 W. 18th St., First Floor

Pursuant to Merced City Charter Section 403C – “A vacancy in the office of a City Council Member, from whatever cause arising, shall be filled by appointment by the City Council from qualified electors in the City, and the appointee shall hold office until the first Tuesday following the next general municipal election and until his/her successor is elected and qualified.”



Application for City Council District 2 Vacancy

Profile

Tommy Tran

First Name

Tommy Tran

Middle
Initial

Tommy Tran

Last Name

UC Merced

Employer

Lecturer

Job Title

[REDACTED]

Email Address

[REDACTED]

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Are you 18 years of age or older? (Required)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to City Council

Do you live in the City of Merced? (Required)

☒ Yes ☐ No

[REDACTED]

Street Address

Merced

City

[REDACTED]

Suite or Apt

CA

State

95348

Postal Code

Question applies to City Council

Are you a registered voter in the City of Merced? (Required)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Communication

The City of Merced uses email as a preferred method of communication regarding your application. Is this acceptable to you?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If you selected no, please identify how you would like to be contacted:

Interests & Experiences

Tell us about yourself, and why you are applying for the City Council District 2 Seat:

I am a lecturer at the University of California at Merced and have made this city my home since 2018. I strongly believe that wherever I live, I must be responsible to my immediate community, hence my choice to serve as a Culture and Arts Commissioner even though I may not have Merced roots. Although I do not live in District 2, I am very well acquainted with the socioeconomic data of this area and its present challenges. The cultural richness of this area is also remarkable in spite of its many issues and relative underdevelopment. I know that this area has some of the city's highest poverty rates and lacks substantial access to grocery stores and commercial services while it bears the brunt of industrial development. While the rest of Merced has been experiencing a building boom and drastic changes that improve overall quality of life, it seems that District 2 is as yet left out and continues to be wrongfully ignored.

What would you bring in the way of perspective or experience to the City Council?

I will be upfront that I am a bit of an outsider, even though I have lived here since 2018. I understand that Merced's distinctive local culture and sense of self-identity tends to emphasize local roots, but perhaps I can offer a fresh perspective to the city. Furthermore, as I do not have as much stake in the various competing interests in the city, perhaps I might be able to speak on behalf of a district that has long been marginalized. Furthermore, I have some ability in Geographic Information Systems analysis so I may be able to leverage actual data for decision making and policy discussions.

What is your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a representative of Council District 2?

I understand that I must be both a listener and a voice and that I must weigh often-contradictory needs and desires in order to make the best possible decision for the residents that a councilor represents. Given District 2's socioeconomic character, this would be an extraordinarily complicated responsibility.

What do you perceive to be the primary issues facing District 2 and issues for the whole city?

District 2 continues to lag behind the city in terms of development, investment, and quality of life. As Merced diversifies economic functions, it seems that District 2 bears the brunt of industrial development's consequences. While more jobs are absolutely necessary for this city, I think we need an honest discussion about how to make these decisions fairer for District 2 residents.

Any other comments you would like to add that may assist the City Council in their decision?

I intend to serve to the best of my ability as an interim councilor even though I may not be specifically a resident of District 2. I understand that tensions can get a bit high as council meetings can bring out passions. My long experience as an educator (especially prior elementary and middle school teaching experience!) has enabled me to hone my patience.



Application for City Council District 2 Vacancy

Important Information to Know:

Deadline to submit application is **November 21, 2025**, by **5PM**.

Interviews and possible appointment will be held **December 2, 2025**, at **6PM (Mandatory Attendance)**

Applications can only be submitted to cityclerk@cityofmerced.gov or at the Clerk's Office, 678 W. 18th St., First Floor

Merced City Charter Section 403C – "A vacancy in the office of a City Council Member, from whatever cause arising, shall be filled by appointment by the City Council from qualified electors in the City, and the appointee shall hold office until the first Tuesday following the next general municipal election and until his/her successor is elected and qualified."



Application for City Council District 2 Vacancy

Profile

Yang Pao Thao
First Name Middle Initial Last Name

Vantage Financial Alliance National Marketing Director
Employer Job Title

[REDACTED]
Email Address

[REDACTED]
Primary Phone Alternate Phone

Are you 18 years of age or older? (Required)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to City Council

Do you live in the City of Merced? (Required)

☒ Yes ☐ No

[REDACTED]
Street Address Suite or Apt

Merced CA 95341
City State Postal Code

Question applies to City Council

Are you a registered voter in the City of Merced? (Required)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Communication

The City of Merced uses email as a preferred method of communication regarding your application. Is this acceptable to you?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If you selected no, please identify how you would like to be contacted:

Interests & Experiences

Tell us about yourself, and why you are applying for the City Council District 2 Seat:

What would you bring in the way of perspective or experience to the City Council?

What is your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a representative of

Council District 2?

What do you perceive to be the primary issues facing District 2 and issues for the whole city?

Any other comments you would like to add that may assist the City Council in their decision?

Interests & Experiences

1. Tell us about yourself, and why you are applying for the City Council District 2 Seat:

I was born in Laos and came to the United States in 1991 when I was seven years old. My family made Merced our home, and I have lived in District 2 for nearly my entire life. I attended Merced schools and later earned a Bachelor of Science in Community Health from Fresno State. After college, I returned home because this community raised me, and I wanted to build my life here.

Over the past twenty years, I have worked in public service, nonprofit leadership, and financial services. During the H1N1 emergency response, I educated residents, health educators, and nurses on prevention and vaccination practices, and helped prepare emergency evacuation and mass-care sites. Later, in the Small Claims Court system, I guided residents through filing requirements, evidence preparation, and court procedures.

I have also managed nonprofit programs that support families and youth through budgeting, cultural preservation, mentorship, and community outreach. In the financial sector, I train and mentor agents and help families strengthen their financial stability.

For the past two years, I have served on the Merced Planning Commission, reviewing zoning amendments, subdivisions, conditional use permits, and development proposals. This experience strengthened my ability to evaluate staff reports, consider neighborhood impacts, and make decisions aligned with city policy and long-term planning goals.

I am applying for the District 2 seat because this district shaped who I am. Many of the oldest neighborhoods—particularly those south of Childs Avenue and west of MLK—are long overdue for reinvestment in lighting, sidewalks, alleys, and drainage. I want to help modernize how repairs are prioritized so areas with aging infrastructure and high foot traffic are addressed more efficiently. District 2 deserves a dependable voice that understands its history and its needs.

My role, if appointed, is to serve District 2 while also supporting policies that move the entire City of Merced forward. Strong districts create a strong city, and both responsibilities go hand in hand.

2. What would you bring in the way of perspective or experience to the City Council?

I bring the perspective of someone who grew up in District 2 and understands the daily challenges facing families in the historic core of the district, especially in the neighborhoods near Childs Avenue, V Street, and MLK. These areas reflect both the struggles and the potential of our community.

My career has been rooted in service. During the H1N1 response, I worked in public health supporting emergency preparedness and community education. In Small Claims Court, I helped residents navigate complex legal procedures. These roles strengthened my communication skills and my ability to guide people through government systems.

As a nonprofit program manager, I oversaw budgets, coordinated volunteers, prepared grant reports, and supported youth and family programs. In the financial sector, I train and support agents, lead workshops, and help families plan long-term financial strategies.

My Planning Commission experience is one of my biggest strengths. I have reviewed residential and commercial proposals and balanced resident concerns with staff recommendations. This experience has prepared me to evaluate development, infrastructure impacts, and zoning decisions with fairness and practicality.

I also support balanced and responsible housing growth. My vision includes more affordable and mixed-density housing options that fit the character of the neighborhoods along Childs, Canal Street, and MLK, while ensuring infrastructure improvements keep pace with development.

Together, my public service background, community involvement, and Planning Commission experience give me a grounded, thoughtful perspective I will bring to the City Council.

3. What is your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a representative of Council District 2?

A council representative must balance district needs with citywide responsibilities, ensuring that policies support both the residents they represent and the long-term health of the entire City of Merced. A representative must listen to residents, respond to concerns, and ensure community voices guide city decisions.

The role requires reviewing budgets, development proposals, capital improvement plans, and policy updates with a focus on safety, infrastructure, fiscal responsibility, and long-term impacts. A councilmember must communicate clearly, work collaboratively with staff and fellow councilmembers, and ask informed questions. They should evaluate each issue on its merits, using facts, staff analysis, and community input.

My Planning Commission service has prepared me to read and interpret staff reports, zoning proposals, and infrastructure impacts. I understand how land-use decisions affect neighborhoods along Childs, Canal, MLK, and V Street, where many of the district's infrastructure and safety concerns require close attention.

If appointed, my first 90 days would focus on walking the neighborhoods in the central part of the district, meeting with residents and city staff, reviewing ongoing infrastructure projects, and identifying urgent priorities.

4. What do you perceive to be the primary issues facing District 2 and issues for the whole city?

Much of the aging infrastructure and reinvestment needs in District 2 are concentrated in the central neighborhoods south of Childs Avenue and west of MLK. These areas face several longstanding challenges:

- Public safety issues — including speeding, insufficient lighting, and inconsistent visibility at key intersections

- Illegal dumping and blight — especially in older alleyways near Canal Street, T Street, and the MLK corridor
- Aging infrastructure — drainage problems, sidewalk gaps, poor pavement, and alleys that have not been modernized in decades
- Limited youth programs and safe community spaces
- Underinvestment in parks and small strip parks, including areas surrounding McNamara Park and the Childs corridor

Another priority for me is the condition of our neighborhood parks. In these older neighborhoods, families rely on several small strip parks for daily play and outdoor activity. I would like to work with the City to establish a scheduled maintenance cycle to ensure these parks remain clean, safe, and welcoming. Regular upkeep strengthens community pride, supports youth, and improves quality of life.

I also want to work with City staff and engineering to help create safe cycling corridors that connect the neighborhood streets of District 2 to the larger bicycle and pedestrian network in Central and North Merced. Families should have safe, reliable routes for recreation, school commuting, and accessing community amenities. Better cycling connections will strengthen safety, mobility, and neighborhood connectivity.

Citywide, Merced faces broader issues that directly affect District 2:

- Access to affordable housing and responsible growth
- Supporting local businesses and job creation
- Long-term planning for traffic, streets, and infrastructure
- Maintaining strong levels of public safety staffing
- Building trust and communication between residents and the City

My approach to the budget is to prioritize essential services first—public safety, clean neighborhoods, and infrastructure maintenance. I also believe in transparency and support providing residents with simple and accessible information about how city funds are allocated.

District 2 must be included in Merced's long-term planning, and the city must reinvest in its oldest neighborhoods to ensure equitable growth.

5. Any other comments you would like to add that may assist the City Council in their decision?

My connection to District 2 is lifelong. I grew up in the neighborhoods south of Childs Avenue and west of MLK, and these communities shaped who I am. I understand the challenges and strengths of this area because I lived them firsthand.

I bring experience in public service, nonprofit management, financial literacy, and land-use decision-making. I will approach the budget responsibly, support essential services, and advocate for reinvestment in the district's aging neighborhoods. I also believe strongly in transparency—residents should easily understand how their tax dollars are used.

If appointed, I will work collaboratively with residents, city staff, and the council. I am ready to serve with integrity, respect, and a commitment to improving the quality of life for every resident of District 2 and strengthening the city as a whole.

I am prepared to begin this work on day one.