

FOR THE OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER, CITY OF LANCASTER

ROCIO CASTELLANOS

Deputy Mayor/ Community Center Manager/ Board Member

Rocio Castellanos has called Lancaster home for 23 years. I have raised my family here and dedicated 17 years to serving this community. I am running for City Council not as a politician, but as a neighbor and a proven leader.

Since 2023, I have had the honor of serving as your Deputy Mayor of Community Engagement. In this role, and as a Community Center Manager, I don't just manage programs or budgets; I manage the well-being of our community. I have seen firsthand how accessible resources and strong neighborhood connections transform lives. My commitment to Lancaster goes beyond my professional titles. I currently serve as a Board Member for a local non-profit and have served on various committees dedicated to bringing vital resources to our city. My work has been rooted in advocacy from supporting our small business owners to ensuring that expectant mothers, veterans, and seniors have access to the specialized care they deserve.

My career is defined by results. In leadership roles, I have collaborated with diverse stakeholders to move the needle on affordable housing, healthcare access, and economic opportunity. With a Bachelor's degree in Sociology I bring a unique, data-driven perspective to the Council. I understand the social dynamics of our city and have the professional experience to make rational, high-stakes decisions based on the actual needs of our community.

If elected, my vision for Lancaster is built on five non-negotiable pillars:

- **Public Safety:** Ensuring neighborhoods are safe for every family and business.
- **Housing Innovation:** Leveraging Lancaster's "Prohousing" designation for smart workforce and senior solutions.
- **Economic Growth:** Supporting small businesses and attracting high-tech industries to create quality local jobs.
- **Youth & Family Services:** Investing in our children through educational and recreational support.
- **Radical Transparency:** Governing with integrity to ensure every tax dollar is accounted for.

I am a leader who listens, a neighbor who cares, and a professional who delivers. I respectfully ask for your vote on April 14th. Together, we can build a vibrant, equitable Lancaster for everyone.

FOR MEMBER OF THE CITY COUNCIL

NICOLLE BLACKWOOD

AGE:

44

Occupation: Community Strategist

I am a Lancaster resident of 19 years, a community strategist, nonprofit leader, and the CEO of *Built to Build Studio, LLC*, a consulting firm that supports workforce development, small businesses, and community-based organizations. I am also the founder of *Generations Coffee*, a youth workforce training nonprofit serving young people ages 15–24 in the Antelope Valley.

I hold a doctoral degree and have more than two decades of experience serving humanity, leading programs, managing public-facing initiatives, and collaborating with City departments, schools, nonprofits, and residents to solve complex local challenges. My work has included workforce readiness, youth development, homelessness and public safety collaboration, and community engagement.

I am running for City Council because I believe local government works best when it listens, collaborates, plans and executes with intention. My focus is on strengthening community trust through transparency, expanding economic opportunity, prioritizing public safety with intention, and ensuring real solutions reach every neighborhood. I am committed to advancing together, building tomorrow, and collaborating for a stronger Lancaster. Please visit www.Blackwood.vote to learn more, and partner in this movement for change.

/s/ Nicolle Blackwood

For the Office of Council Member, City of Lancaster

RAJ MALHI

Age: 50

Business Owner/Councilman

Raj Malhi is a longtime Antelope Valley resident and local business owner who has spent decades investing in Lancaster—supporting families, strengthening public safety, and building opportunity.

He works hard to ensure our kids can achieve the American Dream because, as a first-generation American, Raj is deeply grateful for the opportunities America and our community have given him.

Raj Malhi and his wife have been married over 25 years, and their children attend local schools. After graduating from Palmdale High School and Quartz Hill High School, Raj studied at Antelope Valley College and earned his degree from UC Irvine—then returned home to build businesses and serve the community.

Public Service That Delivers

Raj Malhi has a record of stepping up—not just showing up.

- Longtime board member and volunteer with **Kids' Charities of the Antelope Valley**.
- Serves on the **Friends of the Fair Board** and **Antelope Valley Boosters Board**, raising funds for **first responders**.
- Previously served on the **Planning Commission** and **Antelope Valley Fair Board**.
- Focused on responsible budgets while supporting **veterans, seniors, and youth programs**—and protecting Lancaster's rural heritage.

Affordability & Quality of Life

Families are getting squeezed by inflation and rising costs. Raj Malhi is focused on practical solutions that keep Lancaster affordable.

- Supports local businesses and services that help keep costs down.
- Worked with manufacturers to bring **thousands of new, high-paying jobs** to Lancaster.
- Prioritizes cost-of-living relief without burdening working families.

Public Safety: Backing Those Who Protect Us

Safety isn't optional. Raj Malhi has pushed real support for the people who keep Lancaster safe.

- Helped raise **hundreds of thousands of dollars** for law enforcement and first responders.
- Worked alongside police and sheriffs on strategies to strengthen public safety, including support tied to the **new Lancaster Police Department**.

Homelessness: Compassion + Accountability + Faith-Based Partnerships

Raj Malhi knows we won't solve homelessness without a comprehensive approach. It takes **compassion**, real **services**, and **faith-based partnerships** that meet people where they are.

- Partner with faith-based and community organizations already doing frontline work.
- Focus on outreach that connects people to treatment, stability, and long-term support.
- Protect neighborhoods while delivering humane solutions that restore dignity and order.
- Hold accountable those who refuse assistance and create problems in the community.

Lancaster Values. Lancaster Results.

Raj Malhi helped expand **free rides for seniors and veterans through AVTA**, increased resources for local public safety, and supported job growth.

This April 14th, vote Raj Malhi for Lancaster City Council.

For safer neighborhoods, greater affordability, and real solutions with compassion.

For the Office of Council Member,
City of Lancaster

Renage Garrison
Management Analyst, Edwards AFB

My name is Renage Garrison and I am running for Lancaster City Council because working families deserve a city government that protects their hardearned dollars and strengthens trust in how public money is managed.

I was born and raised in the Antelope Valley, and I've proudly called Lancaster home for the past 14 years. This community shaped me, supported me, and gave me the opportunities that led to my career as a management analyst at Edwards Air Force Base. Before that, I spent 16 years working in a faithbased nonprofit, where I learned the importance of service, stewardship, and integrity. I'm also a committed mentalhealth advocate, working to reduce stigma and ensure that people in our community feel seen, supported, and valued.

I'm not a career politician — I'm a regular citizen who works a fulltime 9–5 and feels the same financial pressures many Lancaster residents face. Rising taxes and the growing cost of living affect all of us, and I believe affordability must be a top priority.

When voters approve a tax increase for a specific project, they deserve transparency, accountability, and a guarantee that the increase won't become permanent. I'm committed to requiring sunset clauses for any special project that raises taxes. If a tax is increased to fund a particular initiative, it should automatically return to its previous rate once the project is completed.

To ensure that happens, I'm proposing an independent oversight committee dedicated to monitoring project deadlines, budgets, and spending. This committee would provide clear public updates and ensure that taxpayer dollars are used exactly as voters intended.

I want to be clear: I am not attacking or accusing the current council of dishonesty or doing a poor job. I respect anyone who steps up to serve their community. My goal is simply to bring new ideas, fresh perspectives, and a renewed focus on affordability and accountability to the council. Lancaster is growing, and with growth comes the need for innovative approaches to fiscal responsibility and public trust.

I'm running because I believe in this community and in the power of honest, transparent leadership. With your support, we can build a city government that

listens, acts responsibly, and puts residents first — because I believe, we are better together.

I would be honored to earn your vote.

FOR THE OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER, CITY OF LANCASTER

CYNTHIA R. HERNANDEZ

Businesswoman • School Board Trustee

Cynthia Hernandez is a wife, mom, and grandmother who believes Lancaster should be the kind of city where families can build a life—and stay for generations—because opportunity should be local, not something you have to move away to find. She’s spent her career listening to residents’ real concerns at kitchen tables, in classrooms, and in the community—and she’s learned an important truth: people don’t need more talk; they need a City Hall that performs, because everyday life is already hard enough.

As CEO and Founder of Family Tax Inc., Cynthia built a multi-million-dollar firm that serves thousands of local residents each year. She has also been a licensed Real Estate Broker since 2005, helping families build wealth through homeownership and investment. Cynthia serves as an AVUHS School Board Trustee and on Lancaster’s Planning Commission and Criminal Justice Commission—because she believes public service requires accountability, not excuses.

Cynthia is running for Lancaster City Council to deliver five priority outcomes—and to fight for Lancaster to receive our fair share of state and county resources, because we shouldn’t be paying in while getting shorted on the way back.

Jobs: Expand local job creation because Lancaster families deserve career-path wages close to home. Support small businesses, accelerate permits, attract employers, and secure state and county funding that strengthens workforce training and local economic development.

Health Care: Improve access because no one should delay care due to confusion, cost, or distance. Strengthen partnerships with providers, expand outreach for working families and seniors, simplify navigation to programs, and pursue county and state resources to grow services locally.

Education: Raise standards because every child deserves a real shot. Strengthen fundamentals, protect safe campuses, expand CTE, trades, college readiness, and entrepreneurship—and advocate for equitable funding and support.

Public Safety: Deliver safety you can see because nothing works without it. Focus on faster response, smarter deployment, youth prevention, and clear performance metrics—while demanding Lancaster’s fair share of county and state public-safety resources.

Homelessness: Drive measurable reduction because compassion without structure becomes chaos. Coordinate mental health and addiction support, connect people to stabilization services, and prioritize those who want help. Protect neighborhood quality of life with clear standards and consequences for repeat troublemakers—because accountability is part of compassion—and insist county and state partners fund solutions at the scale of the problem.

Vote Cynthia Hernandez for Lancaster City Council.

**FOR THE OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBER,
CITY OF LANCASTER**

CEDRIC WHITE

LA COUNTY PROBATION OFFICER, RETIRED

My name is Cedric White, and I'm running for City Council because Lancaster deserves leadership that invests in people before crisis, not after harm is done.

I am a longtime community leader with more than 25 years of public service dedicated to strengthening families and neighborhoods in the Antelope Valley. I was born in Los Angeles and raised in Compton, where I saw firsthand how lack of opportunity, unstable housing, and trauma can shape lives but also how communities thrive when people are supported instead of abandoned. Those experiences shaped my lifelong commitment to public safety, youth development, and community stability.

As a former NFL athlete with the St. Louis Rams and Miami Dolphins, and a college athlete at the University of Washington and North Carolina A&T State University, I learned discipline, teamwork, and accountability. After football, I dedicated over 20 years to public service with the Los Angeles County Probation Department, working on high-risk gang, domestic violence and sex offender (SRG) caseloads with a focus on community safety, victim protection, and preventing repeat harm.

I am a proud retired member of AFSCME Local 685 and served as a union steward, and a current member of AFSCME Local 36 retired chapter, advocating for safe working conditions, fair treatment, and accountability. I later served as Executive Director of the Antelope Valley Community Uplift Foundation, leading urban and rural initiatives focused on youth empowerment, home support services, and gang and gun violence prevention. I also served three years as a Lancaster City Commissioner, gaining hands-on experience in local governance and public oversight.

Cedric White believes effective local leadership requires a deep understanding of the challenges residents face, as well as a willingness to take action. His approach emphasizes community engagement, practical problem-solving, collaboration, and accountability to address issues impacting Lancaster's neighborhoods.

As a City Council candidate, Cedric White brings experience in public service, nonprofit leadership, and community-based work, with a focus on enhancing public safety, supporting youth, and improving quality of life for Lancaster residents.