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Maria T. Pérez was elected to the City of McFarland Council in 2017. Raised in McFarland, Councilmember Perez graduated from McFarland High School before attending Bakersfield College, California State University Bakersfield, and the University of Laverne. Councilmember Pérez is employed by McFarland Unified School District (MUSD) where she has held several positions. Currently, Councilmember Pérez is excited to be teaching at Kern Avenue Elementary School, her alma mater, and also holds the position of Lead Educator for the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Migrant Program. During her career with MUSD, she also held the position of Vice-Principal at both McFarland Middle School and Kern Avenue Elementary School, and Coordinator of Special Projects.

Recognizing that civic and public service are the cornerstones of a strong community, Councilmember Pérez has devoted significant time and energy to a number of community organizations and activities. A strong believer that “everyone is capable of making a difference in our community,” she enthusiastically promotes community participation to improve our neighborhoods, quality of life, and a brighter future. In addition to serving on the City Council, she also serves on the McFarland Tri-Agency Committee, McFarland Police Activities League (PAL) Board, the McFarland Library Committee, McFarland Lion’s Club and volunteers many hours to events sponsored by the McFarland Police Department.

Furthermore, her goal as a councilmember is to continue protecting and promoting McFarland as an inclusive community that welcomes all, expand economic growth in a vibrant, active and safe community, and promote citizen trust in government.

Councilmember Pérez credits her students for being a constant reminder that keeping a positive and optimistic attitude is necessary for a dynamic and productive future.

Councilmember Pérez proudly lives with her husband and daughter in McFarland. Their support and the support of her extended family and friends enables Councilmember Pérez to easily balance her council duties with her family life.