Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Koretz took the oath of office to begin his first term representing the 5th District in 2009. He was re-elected in 2013 with support from 74.69% of the voters in the city’s primary election. Born in the San Fernando Valley, Councilmember Koretz was raised and schooled in the 5th District, attending Canfield Elementary School, Palms Middle School, Hamilton High School, and UCLA, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in history.

Councilmember Koretz’s father Erich escaped Nazi Germany in late 1939, emigrating first to Argentina and then settling in Los Angeles. He became a waiter and a dedicated member of the hotel and restaurant employees union. Councilmember Koretz often joined his father on picket lines and in other efforts aimed at improving the life of working people. His mother, Doris, grew up in Everett, Massachusetts, during the Great Depression after her family fled the pogroms in Russia and emigrated to the U.S. It was the lessons learned from his parent’s experiences that shaped Councilmember Koretz’s philosophy on service and social justice.

Councilmember Koretz lives with his wife Gail, daughter Rachel, and their two rescue cats, Chagall and Samantha, in the Beverly Grove neighborhood. A devoted husband and father, Councilmember Koretz strives to balance his council duties with his family life and apply the responsibilities of parenthood as a guide to inform his service to the public.

Councilmember Koretz helped lead the effort to incorporate the new City of West Hollywood in 1984, establishing greater local accountability, constituent service, and control over planning. He served on the West Hollywood City Council from 1988-2000, leading key efforts that boosted the city’s efficiency and accountability, promoted jobs and the local economy, protected renters and homeowners, championed human, animal and civil rights, fought for environmental protection, and made West Hollywood a regional model for providing quality city services and city management.

In 2000, he was elected to the California State Assembly, representing the 42nd Assembly District that included much of the City of L.A.’s 5th District. While serving in the State Assembly, he authored over 70 bills to protect workers and their families, fought for LGBTQ equality, and for live-saving public safety and health care measures including legislation to reduce gun violence.

Councilmember Koretz currently serves on the L.A. City Council, where he champions environmental protection including fighting climate change, conserving water, and protecting our natural resources. Councilmember Koretz is leading the fight against mansionization and working hard to solve our city’s long-time homelessness problem. He also created a program for greater enforcement of quality of life issues and authored several laws to protect animals from cruel practices. He has worked hard to pave our streets, trim our trees, and improve our parks. During his years of elected service, Councilmember Koretz has always delivered on his commitment to governmental efficiency, transparency, accountability, and accessibility – principles that have guided his life of activism, service, and leadership.
COMMITTEES
1. Chair, Personnel & Animal Welfare
2. Vice Chair, Housing
3. Vice Chair, Transportation
4. Member, Energy & Environment
5. Member, Arts, Parks, & River
6. Member, Executive Employee Relations

GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION

NEIGHBORHOODS:
- Bel Air
- Beverly Crest
- Beverlywood
- California Country Club
- Carthay Circle
- Century City
- Cheviot Hills
- Comstock Hills
- Fairfax
- Melrose
- Palms
- Pico-Robertson
- Roscomare
- Tract 7260
- West of Westwood
- Westside Village
- Westwood
- Westwood Gardens
- Westwood (South of Santa Monica)
TOP PRIORITY ISSUES

• Environment
  o BiodiversifyLA
  o Drought and Water
  o GMO’s
  o Native Plants
  o Plastic Bags and Marine Health
  o Personal Rapid Transit
  o Zero Waste

• Animal Welfare
  In 2001 the City of Los Angeles made a commitment to work toward “no kill,” an approach to managing animal shelters that ultimately seeks to ensure that no healthy, adoptable animals are euthanized while in the City’s care. This philosophy has endured through the terms of three consecutive mayors and, Councilmember Paul Koretz, a dedicated champion on the City Council.
  As a life-long animal lover and supporter of the “no kill” goal, Councilmember Koretz has made the welfare of both domestic and wild animals a key concern during his time in public office. In 2011, he became the chair of the Council’s Personnel and Animal Welfare Committee which handles legislative and policy matters relating to animals and the Department of Animal Services. In that role he has taken responsibility for proposing and shepherding several of the City’s most important animal welfare measures through to passage, helping Los Angeles to become a national trendsetter in animal welfare policy and practice.
  Councilmember Koretz is committed to working with the City’s animal experts, the humane community, and the animal-loving public to make the Los Angeles a place where all animals are happy and safe, and where animals and humans live in greater harmony.

• Emergency Preparedness
  With accumulating problems from our City’s aging infrastructure, frequent predictions of a large, overdue earthquake, the security of our power grid, a dry, over-stressed and diseased urban forest due to nearly a decade of drought, the increase across the globe of extreme weather events and the spread of diseases -- both likely exacerbated by climate change -- Councilmember Koretz is focused on ensuring our neighborhoods, businesses and the City departments are all prepared for the myriad of challenges facing us.
  Toward that end, he has launched several initiatives and introduced a number of motions which are intended to strengthen the City’s overall emergency preparedness and help create a more resilient and sustainable future for all Angelenos.

• Homelessness
  There’s no doubt about it, homelessness, in the City, has reached disheartening proportions. With more than 45,000 homeless persons counted in the most recent countywide homeless count – nearly 30,000 of them within the city limits – both the City and the County of Los Angeles have made new commitments to finding solutions to homelessness, to reforming long-standing practices of treating homeless persons and
their possessions in a punitive manner, and to reducing any negative impacts of homelessness on our communities. Homelessness amongst our armed forces veterans is particularly galling and we must take our responsibility very seriously to improve the lives of those who have served our country so honorably. Having the West Los Angeles Veteran’s Administration Hospital grounds situated beside Council District 5 gives me, as a City Councilmember, a particular duty to help wherever I can. I have been actively involved in the effort to reduce homelessness in our region since I was a member of the West Hollywood City Council back in the 1990s and I will continue to be committed to developing policies, programs and long last strategies which provide solutions towards ending homelessness.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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