



EMANUEL PLEITEZ
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Emanuel Pleitez on City Issues

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EMANUEL PLEITEZ ON THE EDUCATION:

LA's high school dropout rate is among the worst in the nation. By addressing all aspects of a student's educational life we can ensure our students graduate with the skills needed to succeed in whatever they choose to do. As mayor, I will:

- **Improve literacy.** We must teach our students to effectively recognize, understand, and communicate in competitive settings. This can be done with a commitment to early childhood education, exposure to a range of educational resources, and an emphasis on critical thinking.
- **Increase learning opportunities.** Learning does not end when the school bell rings. Instead it is a continuous experience, one in which city government needs to work with the school system to build an integrated learning agenda. Expanding after-school and community programs will help ensure students are constantly engaged.
- **Ensure skill building.** We need to be sure that children and adults have opportunities to develop skills suitable for today's workplace. Internships, skill development programs, and business partnerships can help provide essential training. Career counseling and mentorship can also make students aware of what skills they need to succeed.

EMANUEL PLEITEZ ON INFRASTRUCTURE:

Solving a city's infrastructure problems requires vision, innovation, and planning. We need to prioritize projects that promote economic, social, and sustainable development across the city. As mayor, I will:

- **Explore new financing methods.** Infrastructure investments are expensive and require long-term planning and commitment. An infrastructure bank and public-private partnerships can help provide the long-term capital needed to modernize LA's infrastructure and set the stage for future investment and growth.
- **Increase transportation options.** All Angelenos need safe, reliable, and affordable access to methods of transportation. Improving the city's mobility and connectivity will allow residents to pursue opportunities across the city.
- **Improve energy infrastructure.** We need to generate, move, and use power in a more efficient manner to keep up with demand. We can make Los Angeles attractive for clean energy investments that create jobs, preserve the environment, and lower costs.



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EMANUEL PLEITEZ ON PUBLIC SAFETY:

Public safety issues do not occur in isolation. Lack of jobs and education can lead to crime, which consequently hinders economic and social development. As a result, addressing public safety requires an integrated approach. As mayor, I will:

- **Build community.** Community building, not incarceration, increases public safety. We can reduce criminal activity with awareness, recognition of risk factors and by empowering individuals to help those in need. This will build respect, community, and hope in our neighborhoods.
- **Promote police-neighborhood partnerships.** Police and neighborhoods must work together to prevent crime. Police can inform residents of prevention and intervention techniques, while residents use these tools to build an open and safe environment.
- **Provide outlets.** Knowledge and access to prevention, intervention, and reentry programs play an important role in any public safety strategy. Summer Night Lights, gang reduction zones, and other successful initiatives should be expanded so more youth can reap benefits.

EMANUEL PLEITEZ ON THE ECONOMY:

LA's unemployment rate, especially for Latinos and African Americans, is among the highest in the nation. To put Los Angeles back to work, we need to lay the foundation for long-term growth and job creation. As mayor, I will:

- **Support growth.** We must make Los Angeles a more competitive place to do business if we want to create jobs. Better infrastructure, simpler regulation, and a workforce with the right skills can reduce the costs of doing business. Policies that support innovation can also ensure long-term growth and job creation.
- **Attract capital.** With the right investment, many LA neighborhoods can reach their full potential. But too often investors underestimate the economic and social benefits. By bringing communities and investors together, we can make investments that spur growth in neighborhoods starved of opportunity.
- **Improve the city's finances.** The budgets we pass focus too much on short-term fixes and too little on long-term sustainability. We need to re-evaluate our obligations as well as rethink how we tax and spend--only then can we be sure our children get the services and benefits they need.



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Top-line priorities for fixing Los Angeles' struggling economy are:

1) Reforming the City's pension system: Without reform, the City's pension bill for retirees—including fire, police, and the Department of Water and Power (DWP)—could increase to half the City's budget in 5 years. This would leave little money for public safety, sanitation, or other essential services, and would result in layoffs for city workers. Any solution to the City's budget problems must start with reforming our pension system.

Unfortunately, because of our elected officials' poorly-timed and ill-advised decisions (including a massive 2007 pay increase other Mayoral candidates say they "regret"), we likely won't be able to provide all the benefits we've promised our workers. We must find a way to reform our benefit system for both new hires and current employees. This could be accomplished with increases in the retirement age, adjustments to the benefits formula (such as the COLA), a move towards a 401(k)-like plan, and buyouts.

2) Finding new sources of revenue: The City's revenue stream continues to be depressed following the 2008 financial crisis. We must find new sources of revenue so we can provide essential services to all City residents. Arbitrary tax increases, like a regressive sales tax increase, that skew incentives are not the answer.

Instead, we must increase the tax base, which in LA means ensuring that residents are working. There's untapped potential in places like South LA, where people are hungry to work. Unfortunately, due to lack of investment and lack of the right skills, unemployment is high in these areas. With the right investment incentives and skills training that matches the needs of employers, we can put LA back to work and increase revenue.

3) Spending efficiently: We must make sure that every dollar the City spends is a dollar well spent. A number of City audits have revealed the City wastes too much money across a number of departments. And there are a number of stories—see the recent coverage of the Los Angeles Fire Department—that show there's much room for improvement in our service delivery. Good use of data can help us be more efficient, effective, and targeted with our money.

4) Partnerships with private investors: Los Angeles should consider privatizing services that the private sector can provide in a fair and cost-effective way. There are also many investment projects the City should undertake but can't afford with our current budget. We should consider public-private partnerships, infrastructure banks, and other financing mechanisms that could increase the City's total infrastructure investment.

To learn more about Emanuel Pleitez visit www.pleitezforla.com.