

## **Who We Are**

The Democratic Socialists of America is a member-driven, member-funded organization committed to the vision of democratic socialism that has recently captured the imagination of millions across the US. Nationally, the organization has over 50,000 members, and we have elected dozens of our own members to office, most notably Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

The Los Angeles chapter, DSA-LA, has over 1500 dues-paying members that regularly join forces with labor and social justice groups across the county to push for change.

## **What We Do**

When DSA chapters across the country choose to engage with electoral campaigns, we work to make our endorsement more than just a name that a candidate lists on their website. Our members work alongside campaigns to gather signatures, knock on doors, make phone calls, and tap into our media skills to get the word out. Over the course of the recent Proposition 10 campaign, DSA-LA members turned out for over 1000 canvassing shifts and knocked nearly 30,000 doors—and precincts in which we canvassed voted Yes on 10 by some of the highest margins in the county.

In addition to the material support DSA-LA can provide, an endorsement signals to other community groups that the candidate has serious progressive bona fides. Many groups and unaffiliated community members respect our group's integrity and look to DSA-LA's lead to help them make their decisions. An endorsement would also go a long way to reach those traditionally uninvolved in local politics.

## **Endorsement Process**

We, the Electoral Politics Committee of DSA-LA are reaching out to candidates for the upcoming special election so that we may gather information for a potential endorsement.

If you would like to seek our endorsement, please return completed questionnaires to [electoralpolitics@dsa-la.org](mailto:electoralpolitics@dsa-la.org). We will be reviewing responses as they are returned.

Candidates will be invited to speak in front of our membership at our general meeting at the discretion of the Electoral Politics Committee, after which our general membership will vote on the endorsement.

## **Our organization**

1. Are you currently member of DSA or DSA Los Angeles? If so, what work have you done with our organization? If not, would you join?

**I am not officially a member of DSA Los Angeles. I have, however, attended meetings and actions organized by DSA LA, both before and after declaring my candidacy. I've attended meetings of the San Fernando Valley Branch, the Climate Justice Committee, and the Electoral Politics Committee.**

**I supported the DSA LA actions outside the offices of Congressmembers Jimmy Gomez and Adam Schiff by sending remarks to be read at the events, calling on Schiff and Gomez to step up or step aside on the issue of climate catastrophe, and I attended the action at Congressman Brad Sherman's office. These actions resulted in positive movement on several of our demands. Schiff and Sherman eventually supported the Ocasio-Cortez/Markey Green New Deal Resolution, while Gomez introduced his own legislation that was an improvement on previous drafts of his. Gomez also acceded to a key demand and came out against Paygo. These are significant wins for DSA LA.**

**Regardless of the nature of your decision, or the outcome of the election, I intend to continue to engage with DSA Los Angeles in our shared fight for justice.**

- 2. Do you publicly identify as a democratic socialist? If so, what does being a socialist mean to you?**

**I am running to help working people in my district and my city.**

**I identify as a progressive. I have a lot of respect for the policies of Bernie Sanders and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. I also admire Ocasio-Cortez's role in bringing climate catastrophe and the Green New Deal into the forefront of public discourse. I am running to bring a Green New Deal to LA, modeled in part on my experience as a sustainability professor and in part on Ocasio-Cortez's national plan.**

**Ocasio-Cortez took her lead from socialist grassroots activists in DSA and the Sunrise Movement. The socialist vision of bottom-up organizing is the best model for achieving social change. That's why some of my key staff and volunteers are socialists and members of DSA.**

**As an activist, I have proudly stood shoulder to shoulder with socialists at many actions and on many campaigns, including Measure B, Keep Families Together, the UTLA Teacher's Strike, Aliso Canyon, and Prop 10.**

**The socialists I know are dedicated to building a kinder, more just world, and I share that goal.**

Will you commit to holding events with DSA-LA members to educate us on how you are pursuing your political objectives as a member on the LA City Council?

**Absolutely. I have already attended two Committee meetings (Climate Justice and Electoral Politics) to discuss my platform with DSA LA members. I would be honored to do so again.**

Your campaign

3. How much have you raised to finance your campaign, and how many signatures did you turn in to qualify for the ballot?

**We have collected over \$105,000. With over 500 individual contributions, we have received a check from the LA City public financing system for another \$120,000 and are the only campaign to have so far qualified. We expect to soon receive the maximum of \$151,000 in City matching funds.**

**The City Clerk counted 1566 in-district addresses in our submission. No other left of center candidate turned in more than 1,000. Only one other candidate, John Lee, a Republican, turned in more than 1,000, and he did so a day later than we did. Our signatures were collected by nearly 70 different volunteers.**

**Since it is not possible to accurately conduct polls of local off-year special elections, petition signatures are one of the only ways we can measure in-district voter enthusiasm.**

4. Please list significant endorsements you have received for this position.

**National Union of Healthcare Workers (NUHW)**

**Our Revolution West San Fernando Valley**

**North Valley Democratic Club**

**Women's Alliance Los Angeles (WALA)**

**National Women's Political Caucus, San Fernando Valley Chapter**

**The Resistance Northridge / Indivisible**

**Stand Strong LA Indivisible**

**West Valley Resistance**

**Indivisible 30 / Keep Sherman Accountable**

**Indivisible CA-29**

**Indivisible CA-43**

**Indivisibles of Sherman Oaks**

**Assemblymember Laura Friedman**

**Assemblymember Christy Smith**

**Bill McKibben, Environmentalist, Author and Founder of 350.org**

**LA City Councilmember Bob Farrell (ret.)**

**RL Miller, California Democratic Party Environmental Caucus Chair**

**Alexandra Nagy, Senior Organizer, Food & Water Watch**

**Ankur Patel, recent Democratic Party candidate for State Assembly in District 45**

**Rodolfo Cortes Barragan, recent Green Party candidate for U.S. Congress in District 40**

**Angelica Dueñas, recent Green Party candidate for U.S. Congress in District 29**

**Trinity Tran & Phoenix Goodman, co-founders, Public Bank LA**

5. Have you pledged not to take any campaign contributions from corporations, real estate developers, or their PACs? Why/why not?

**I do not take corporate PAC money from any industry.**

**I will accept contributions from private businesses that have a demonstrated history of corporate social responsibility, so long as it is understood that their financial support will not impact the way I vote on the Council.**

**There are several industries that I would never solicit or accept campaign contributions from, including oil & gas, firearm manufacturers, tobacco, healthcare insurance companies, and drugmakers.**

**The vast supermajority of my contributions come from individuals making small-dollar donations.**

6. If elected, what are your top 3 priorities and how would you go about achieving them

- 1) **Bring a Green New Deal to Los Angeles.**

**As you'll see elsewhere in this questionnaire, my plan for a Green New Deal for LA has several components. The most obvious is the goal of carbon-free electricity by 2025, but these sorts of aspirational goals are only as useful as the tools we use to achieve them. Fortunately, we have a municipally-owned public power utility, LADWP, that would respond to a top-down shifting of priorities. But we need a bottom-up approach, too. I hope to rapidly decentralize and democratize electric generation through domestic power generation and community solar farms, making the benefits of the Green New Deal for LA accessible to all residents.**

**I am the only candidate in the race who has dedicated their life to averting climate catastrophe.**

**2) Housing is a human right. I will attack the housing crisis with all the tools available to the City.**

**We must be a City that sees people experiencing homelessness as our neighbors and should make clear policy that relies on the housing first model and promotes safety to those in the most need, whatever it is that led them into this predicament.**

**The United Way's Everyone In campaign has been keeping a running score of how many bridge housing and supportive housing units have been entitled in each council district, and Council District 12 rates dead last. It will be a priority for me to meet this goal of siting the minimum 222 locations in my district in my first term. It is neither fair, nor equitable, nor wise, to consolidate all supportive housing solutions in specific geographical areas, often likely to be more impoverished communities. It will be my responsibility to help educate our community on why we want these solutions that bring everyone indoors. I will also recommend more than just 1 or 2 location options in order to ensure community members are included in the siting process.**

**The City plays a critical role in affordable housing and improved transportation, which are intrinsically linked to climate change and the environment. First, the City must expand rent control and seek to repeal Costa Hawkins and the Ellis Act, which has destabilized the market, caused mass evictions and created huge levels of displacement. Second, until these measures are repealed, we can preserve existing rent-controlled housing and create incentives for building affordable housing and disincentives for replacing affordable units with less affordable units.**

**We cannot continue to sustainably grow without addressing development and parking minimums in the City. San Diego recently passed ordinances to remove parking minimums and, in some cases, create parking maximums. This is meant**

to make it easier and less expensive to build affordable housing but to also encourage transit usage because when parking is priced separately from housing then people don't have the same incentives to purchase and drive a car. This means we can actually reduce vehicle miles traveled, creating healthier communities and improving our air quality, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and addressing climate change.

As a member of the City Council, I will defend Measure JJJ not just because it was supported by voters but because it ensures that development projects go to workers who earn a good living and are paid Union wages. It also incentivizes affordable housing near transit with reductions in parking requirements.

Beyond that, the City must continue to expand public and alternative transportation options. With hundreds of millions of Measure R and M and SB 1 funds flowing to the City, we must aggressively expand public transit and make it cleaner and focused on providing first/last mile service to the regional Metro system. This is particularly important as our population ages and we see millions of people reach retirement and require ADA accessible services. The City had a responsibility to ensure its residents can age in place which will ensure that service workers in those industries continue to have employment locally and access to critical services, job and cultural opportunities.

As the co-chair of my Neighborhood Council's Homelessness Committee, and a founding member of the West Valley Neighborhood Alliance on Homelessness, I am proud of my track record of fighting for housing justice.

3) **Deliver exceptional city services.**

The City has fallen behind on its basic obligations to the residents of District 12. We must streamline existing city services so that our parks are clean, our roads are smooth, our sidewalks are walkable, and our trees are healthy and trimmed. CD12 lost 15% of its tree cover in the first decade of the 21st century. (USC).

LA City will spend more than \$1.4 billion repairing sidewalks in the next 30 years (LA City)

Three of the five most dangerous intersections in the entire state of California are in CD12 (CBS)

When people picture Los Angeles, they often think of smog and traffic. But it doesn't have to be this way. Strategic investments in transportation, parks, green spaces, and community resources like libraries will connect Angelenos with one another and build a more cohesive community. The City has systems for many of

**these services in place, but we need to focus on streamlining the existing services so that they truly work for our residents.**

**The delivery of basic city services is often the first and only way people in the community interact directly with government. If we cannot demonstrate that we can do the basic things well, it is much more difficult to build coalitions to take on the larger issues of our time.**

#### City-Wide Issues

7. A coalition of working-class community organizations is advancing a plan called STAND LA: Stand Together Against Neighborhood Drilling. The plan would require that oil wells in LA be situated at least 2500 feet away from residences. The plan would effectively shut down a majority of oil drilling in Los Angeles. Do you support STAND LA? Would STAND LA be a priority for you in your first year in office?

**I have strongly supported the STAND LA coalition since its creation. In my role as board member of the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance, I advocated that the NCSA take up the STAND-LA platform as one of its issues, and I helped get multiple neighborhood councils to file Community Impact Statements in support of the council file motion. I would also like the City to go further, and simply ban carbon extraction in Los Angeles.**

**I joined with Save Porter Ranch to stand in solidarity with the community affected by the Exide disaster, and a group of us canvassed in Boyle Heights to encourage residents to get their soil and blood tested for lead contamination. I organized a session on the impact of oil and gas extraction on frontline communities in Los Angeles at last year's Congress of Neighborhoods.**

**Likewise, I stood alongside Food & Water Watch and Sunrise in the fight to close down three obsolete gas plants, and support FWW's overall goal to get Los Angeles to 100% renewable energy.**

**Via my place on the board of the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance, I organized an event to help Neighborhood Councils in park-poor areas advocate for multi-benefit parks (including ones with water capture features) in their neighborhoods through leveraging of Measure A and Prop 68 funds. Lastly, I serve on the mapping committee for the Climate Emergency Department and LEAP effort that is endeavoring to map the environmental justice efforts along with the impacts faced by these communities in LA in order to better connect and assist frontline communities through the Climate Emergency Department.**

8. Do you support the creation of a Public Bank in Los Angeles, to prevent city tax money from funding fossil fuels, private prisons, and weapons manufacturing? If so, what would

you hope the bank's charter would stipulate that it fund instead? Do you support putting another ballot initiative on the Los Angeles City ballot in 2020, similar to 2018's Measure B? And if not, do you have an alternate strategy for realizing a Public Bank in LA?

**I was a part of the Measure B coalition. I used my platform as Board Member of the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance to spread awareness of the measure, what it meant, and what its ramifications were for climate and housing justice. I was also instrumental in getting the Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley's endorsement committee recommendation against Measure B overturned, which avoided the spectre of having a "no on B" position in a slate mailer from that organization sent to thousands of Democratic voters in the valley.**

**The Public Bank LA plan calls for an independent body to manage a potential Public Bank of LA, so City Council would not directly control how a future LA public bank would invest public funds. However, I can tell you that I would like to see our future public bank have a mandate to invest in projects that directly benefit working people in our communities. That includes projects like solar farms, community farms, affordable housing, bridge housing, etc. The public bank should be used to build things that address community needs that private developers have refused to meet.**

**I support current and ongoing efforts to introduce a state-level bill removing hurdles for creating public banks in California. This was the first step in the route to victory we originally envisioned with our Public Bank LA coalition, before Herb Wesson surprised us with a relatively last-minute ballot measure. Some of the opposition to the plan from both the LA Times and the Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley was that the plan for the bank was not outlined. For this reason, I suspect the coalition will opt to put a different style of public banking measure on the ballot for 2020 than Measure B, but I would certainly support a public bank measure on the ballot in 2020.**

9. What was your stance on Proposition 10? Do you support universal rent control in LA? What role do you see development playing in the future of housing affordability in LA? It is common practice for city council members to defer to their colleagues when voting on developments in their district. Do you plan on continuing this practice?

**I supported Proposition 10 and joined the downtown Prop 10/Measure B rally and protest downtown. I support universal rent control. I am also supporting AB36, which would weaken Costa-Hawkins and enable rent control on buildings 10 years or older.**

**In principle, I strongly support transit-oriented development, building affordable housing, and preserving existing rent-controlled and affordable units. We need to be careful to ensure the development we do brings rents down rather than up and decreases vehicle miles traveled rather than increasing. There have been some "transit-oriented**



**developments” that have displaced low-income renters more likely to take transit and replaced them with luxury condos occupied largely by frequent drivers.**

**I am also in favor of a city-run rent subsidy program using in-lieu fees as a source of revenue. This would also allow us to subsidize rents on a sliding scale, create more “affordable housing” from existing housing stock rather than having to wait for new stock to be built, and widen the choice of available housing for those who need it. It would allow us to subsidize workforce housing for middle income workers who need help paying higher rents. For example, a family making \$50K in LA would not currently qualify for “affordable” housing but also can’t afford to live in LA. Receiving a few hundred dollars per month towards a \$2K or more rent would go a long way towards helping a family like this be able to live closer to where they work or be less likely to become homeless after a job loss or other serious obstacle.**

**I believe there are some issues with the way LA City Council manages district-specific projects. For example, each District has obligations to build a certain number of A Bridge Home housing units, and almost all Districts are well under these goals. CD12, my district, has built 0 units.**

**There are many contributing factors. Local NIMBY opposition is often a problem. And if a single City Councilmember is making a decision on whether bridge housing gets built, it is comparatively easy for NIMBY activists to power map a plan that targets that Councilmember, which makes it easier for them to block housing projects.**

**There has to be some kind of balance between acknowledging that each Councilmember has been elected by the people of their district, and holding each District accountable for the progress they must achieve. I hope to use my platform in City Hall to pressure my fellow Councilmembers to live up to their obligations on supportive housing, as well as fulfilling my own obligations. I look forward to meeting those goals.**

#### CD 12 Issues

10. What plan would you advance to keep infrastructure in your district, and city-wide, maintained, up to code, and earthquake resilient? What is your view on spending public funds on street repairs, as opposed to focusing on bolstering public transportation?

**Earthquake resilience and climate resilience are two different problems, but they often share solutions. If we are implementing a Green New Deal in Los Angeles, many of our reforms will end up hardening seismic weak spots.**

**I recently wrote an op-ed with my husband, Matt d’Alessio, a professor of Geological Sciences at CSUN, about this issue. The full op-ed can be read here:**

<https://www.dailynews.com/2019/01/18/the-key-to-earthquake-safety-is-combating-climate-change/> Here are some excerpts:

**“The same fossil fuels that change our climate make us vulnerable to fires after earthquakes. City firefighters battled 110 fires in 1994 triggered by broken natural gas pipes. None of these fires would have happened if we used green, alternative energy sources for heating, cooking, and electricity generation. Twenty-five years later, we have new alternatives like heat pumps, induction stoves, solar, and batteries. We also now recognize the true risks from natural gas after the Aliso Canyon blowout, one of the worst climate disasters ever. Earthquakes increase the risk from gas storage facilities exponentially. At Aliso Canyon, all 100+ wells are cut by the active Santa Susana fault. In 2015, we saw the effect of a single blowout. Imagine the devastation of 100 wells simultaneously rupturing during an earthquake along that fault. No amount of city resources and crisis response would sufficiently address such a wide scale problem. Yes, retrofitting pipelines and storage facilities where they cross hazardous faults and liquefaction zones is helpful, but that’s a band-aid solution to a tumor-sized problem. The more responsible option is to eliminate our dependence on natural gas and remove it from lurking underneath our city.”**

**“Second, long-term water sustainability and disaster preparedness go hand-in-hand. We import about 85 percent of our water through a network of pipes and aqueducts that all cross the San Andreas fault. In 1994, some areas lost water for up to seven days, but a large quake on the San Andreas will completely interrupt imported water supplies for 2 months and will take at least six months to fully restore capacity. This disruption could end up causing nearly \$25 billion in economic losses. The solution is to store more water locally and to use less of it every day – efforts the city is already undertaking as part of its sustainability goal to reduce imported water 50 percent by 2025. Yet again, the science says we need to do more. We need to accelerate programs to conserve and capture water on existing properties covering the vast majority of our city’s landscape and pioneer new strategies for reusing water in our buildings.”**

**As for street repairs, I am in favor of repairing potholes in a timely manner. I am also in favor of increasing the quality of public transportation. I do not see them as mutually exclusive.**

**Public transportation should be frequent, fast, and free.**

11. The Aliso Canyon Gas Storage facility is notorious for leaks that have affected the health of thousands of nearby residents - along with contributing to carbon emissions that threaten society. Do you support shuttering Aliso Canyon Gas Storage Facility? If so, do you have a plan for a just transition for its workers?

**Before the Aliso Canyon blowout even occurred, I was attending meetings with Save Porter Ranch who was organizing against fracking in the Aliso Canyon area. When the**

**blowout hit, and tens of thousands of families as well as my students at CSUN were affected, I spent the next three years marching with them. This catastrophe, the largest climate disaster in US history, helped crystallize for me what, and who, I'm fighting for.**

**I was also invited to Sacramento to give expert testimony on SB 801 to provide expedited clean energy storage to help replace Aliso. My husband, Matt d'Alessio, has provided expert consultation on the seismic risks of the facility; all 114 gas wells that are all crossed by an active earthquake faultline.**

**It is unacceptable that there is still no long-term plan for shutting down this facility. I have made shutting down Aliso Canyon one of the core issues of my campaign. I want to transition the workers to a) our city workforce, which is currently about to experience a loss of many employees who are aging out, and b) a workforce training program for the new green economy that will include green energy systems, efficiency upgrades, water capture (which will require a significant labor force in the valley that doesn't yet exist), and urban agriculture.**

**Many of my volunteers were directly affected by this blowout. These actions and these communities built the foundation of my current campaign, and I will continue to be involved in them and advocate on their behalf regardless of whether I win this office.**

**I believe all carbon extraction must end as soon as possible, and I would work to ban it at the City level completely. We have the largest urban oilfield in the country, and as recently as this month, people have been injured and homes have been lost to blowouts. Furthermore, the**

**The Green New Deal for Los Angeles must ensure that every Angeleno who currently relies on the fossil fuel industry has access to a well-paid, preferably unionized, job in green energy. That's what I mean when I talk about a just transition: the future should be accessible to everyone.**

**In addition to the energy sector, some key sectors in which we need a large number workers in to accomplish our Green New Deal goals include water capture and urban agriculture. WaterLA and other groups have shown that "urban acupuncture" -- i.e., residential-scale urban water capture in the form of rain gardens, curb cuts and parkway infiltration systems, infiltration trenches across paved surfaces such as driveways or sidewalks, cisterns, permeable pavement, and greywater systems. These are highly cost-effective ways to increase our local water supply (more cost effective than almost any other water procurement solution), but they also require substantial workforce training and labor. Furthermore, because of the water-energy nexus and the drastic amount of energy we use to pump water around California, statewide water conservation programs have saved more total kWh than all investor-owned utility energy conservation programs combined. The San Fernando Valley's exceptional aquifer and large**

**square-footage of single-family residential land makes it the ideal place to be pursuing these kind of water capture programs.**

**Likewise, the potential for front-lawn urban agriculture in the valley is enormous both in terms of the potential to reduce the carbon footprint of industrial agriculture and to employ people around Los Angeles. Many of my students and other young people I've interacted with have an interest in farming but have no land. Other residential landowners have front or back lawns they wouldn't mind being farmed, particularly if they received a cut of the yield. CD12 is ripe for this style of urban agriculture partnerships that benefit the economy, our health, and our climate.**

**When we call for ending carbon extraction, that decision would impact thousands of workers. Job retraining programs will be necessary, but not sufficient.**

**To help the working-class people who would be impacted by such a shutdown, I would like to see the City direct all its departments, including LADWP, to preferentially hire former fossil fuel industry workers. That would include former workers in industries that supported fossil fuels (eg, payroll companies with fossil fuel industry clients, that have to close operations because of a shutdown).**

12. Former Councilmember Mitchell Englander supported projects such as large-scale floating solar panels on LA reservoirs as a means of improving the transition to renewable energies. What sorts of projects do you intend to propose to improve this transition?

**These projects are a good start, and I support them. But they do not offer solutions on the scale necessary to transition us off of fossil fuels. We need a World War II-scale mobilization to avert climate change, and Los Angeles must recognize the responsibility that comes from being at the leading edge. We also need to couple utility-scale construction, like these projects, with a distributed grid and distributed agriculture, which are more sustainable and cheaper than the alternative.**

**The City of Los Angeles has begun to study a transition to 100% renewable energy, but the current model projections are much too late to avoid the consequences of climate catastrophe. As a member of City Council, I will make it a priority to recognize that we are in a climate emergency, and speed up Los Angeles's deadline for 100% carbon-neutral electricity to 2025, 20 years earlier than our obligation under California's current target.**

**My Green New Deal for Los Angeles platform calls for working rapidly toward Hal Harvey's four zeroes: zero net energy buildings, zero waste manufacturing, zero carbon electric grid, and zero emissions transportation. We also need to radically transform the way we view water stewardship and our agricultural systems so that we grow our food in a sustainable way.**

**Marginalized communities are usually the first to bear the burden of climate catastrophe. Here in LA, thousands of operational oil and gas wells are concentrated in working class communities of color, impacting the health of residents. The costs of climate change disasters are borne disproportionately by those with the least means to recover from them, and with the least role in creating them.**

**Because of these injustices, the transition away from fossil fuels needs to be complete, and it must begin immediately. But such a large change in our economy must be done with care, to make sure that workers and their families are not left behind. That's why we have to focus on creating more jobs at the solar farms than we cut in the gas plants.**

**There will be plenty of work to do. Of course there are windmills to build and solar panels to install, but it does not stop there. To replace coal and gas-fired power plants, we will also need to build massive energy reservoirs, like utility-scale batteries and pumped-water storage, which harnesses the potential of lakes and dams. The City should be building and incentivizing the construction of community farms and community solar farms. We should investigate better ways to use our coastline, from vertical, restorative kelp and mollusc farms to offshore wind and tidal energy generation. And we will need to reinvent the way we navigate our city, giving right of way to buses, trading parking for bike lanes, and replacing parking minimums with parking maximums.**

**As a member of City Council, the Green New Deal for LA will be my top priority.**

**Los Angeles City is home to 4.1 million people. With its municipally-owned electric utility, and its reliance on cars as a mode of transport, there are obvious and meaningful reductions in carbon emissions we can make in both the short and long term. With such a large population, these would not be mere symbolic reductions; they would directly affect the global climate.**

**Furthermore, with LA at the leading edge of responding to climate catastrophe, the example we set is likely to be followed elsewhere. New Mexico is in the news right now for pledging to take its electric grid 100% carbon neutral. Their bill is a near-copy of California's bill last year. Both States need to go much further, of course, but this is exactly the point: the goal we set in LA, if substantially more ambitious, will be repeated in cities and states across the nation and the world.**

**And with London pledging to go carbon-neutral on electricity by 2030, there should be no excuse for LA lagging behind. We have a head start over London on renewable market penetration, and London is one of the cloudiest cities on Earth. LA is not. LA must lead.**

13. On March 20, 2018, all LA City Council members pledged to support a minimum of 222 units of supportive housing in each of their districts by 2020. With less than 2 years left to go, City Council District 12 is far behind this minimum target goal. Is supportive

housing on your agenda? If so, how do you plan to facilitate the creation of such housing in the district?

**This issue is central to my campaign. As for the housing target, I have addressed this specific shortcoming above, as part of my response to housing crisis.**

**One of the most difficult problems siting these locations in the valley is NIMBY voices. One of the possible ways around this is to offer lots of possible locations instead of just a couple. This makes it harder for folks to find things wrong with all the possibilities offered.**

14. As the housing crisis has reached a fever pitch, many of our unhoused neighbors have taken shelter in their vehicles, particularly in their RVs. Los Angeles Municipal Code 85.02 allows overnight sleeping in vehicles in commercially zoned areas. This creates "green zones," criminalizing the unhoused for existing outside of these areas. As a result, many Angelenos who live in their RVs station themselves in the industrial parts of Northridge & Chatsworth in CD12. Former Councilmember Mitchell Englander took the approach of putting up no-parking signs in his district to shuffle people and their RVs away from these industrial areas, further criminalizing them. Do you agree with this approach?

**I do not believe criminalizing the unhoused is a valid or humane long term solution to the housing crisis. Because of the public costs of unnecessary interactions with the criminal justice system, it costs us three times as much to keep people in the streets than it would to simply house them. And creating "no parking" areas just moves people from one place to another.**

**I also do NOT believe the root cause of the homelessness issue is that wealthy homeowners are inconvenienced by having to witness it. The issue is poverty. It cannot be fixed by shuffling people from neighborhood to neighborhood, stealing or damaging their few belongings, removing them from what few support structures they have, until they are, in turn, evicted from the next neighborhood.**

**The only long-term solution is housing, and in the short term, we must decriminalize the visual signifiers of poverty.**

The Homeless Outreach and Proactive Engagement (HOPE) team is a Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) project that was piloted in the San Fernando Valley and eventually rolled out throughout the City. What is your position on police involvement in the homelessness crisis in the district?

**I believe that minimizing unnecessary police interactions is the safest policy for the unhoused. The City's interactions with the unhoused should be led by social workers and service providers. Many people living in the streets are wary of people in uniform,**

**which is understandable, given the way past interactions have typically gone for them. I also approve of and participate in initiatives like Homeless Connect days, where civilians talk with their unhoused neighbors about what services are available to them.**

**I would also like to use my district office to coordinate service provision for the unhoused within CD12. Many of the LA unhoused service providers are located downtown, and do not have easy access to the Valley. I would dedicate office resources and office space to assisting these service providers.**

**Societally, we need to shift how we interact with the unhoused so our focus is on housing them.**

15. What is your position on the San Fernando Mission/Woodley Project in Granada Hills?

**I wasn't involved in this particular project. My understanding is that the current project is a compromise. I probably would not relitigate this particular compromise, but here are some things I would think about as future projects come across my desk.**

**We, as a district and a city, have obligations to our neighbors, both housed and unhoused.**

**Since we have more vacant luxury condos and apartments than unhoused people, creative solutions, like vacancy taxes, can be a big part of the solution. But, since incentives are unlikely to solve the problem alone, we are likely to need new affordable housing construction.**

**I believe housing is a human right.**

**I also believe in representative democracy, which means that individual land use projects need to incorporate community feedback. Balancing these concerns can be challenging. I will use an open door approach to hear from community members, regardless of their housing status, about how specific projects would impact them, their families, and their neighborhoods.**

16. In 2017, the Los Angeles City Council voted to provide \$2 million in public funds to a nonprofit legal defense fund for immigrants facing deportation. Former District 12 Councilmember Mitchell Englander opposed this move saying that public funding should not be provided to the fund. Do you agree with this position? If you do not, would you support efforts to improve immigrant rights, such as this one?

**I support using public funds to defend immigrants facing deportation. I am a strong supporter of immigrant rights. I think the current attitude of the Federal government toward immigrants is toxic, cruel, and unacceptable, and I support using City resources to do what we can to minimize the damage.**

17. Mitchell Englander, who previously, served as representative for this district presented a resolution in 2013 to explicitly affirm that the City of Los Angeles takes an anti-BDS position on awarding contracts. That resolution expired in 2015. What is your position on the City of Los Angeles awarding contracts to Israeli companies that are complicit in the violation of Palestinian rights? Would you oppose resolutions such as this one in the future?

**I don't currently have plans to introduce a resolution along those lines.**

**However, I am concerned about some aspects of the BDS movement, which at times, I find to be problematic. I believe there are many countries - including our own - that are actively involved in the denial of human rights to their citizens. I would be more receptive if BDS were a global movement to place sanctions on any regime involved in such actions. But I am uncomfortable with the fact that BDS currently focuses on Israel alone.**

**This is not an issue on which I am actively campaigning. I believe, if elected to City Council, my obligation would be to improve the status of human rights in Los Angeles and in CD12.**

**My dedication to human rights is more than just words. While I was serving on the Northridge East Neighborhood Council, I introduced a motion to become one of the pilot 10 neighborhood councils to partner with Miry's List to actively welcome newly-arrived refugee families in our neighborhood.**

**And in response to the militarization of the border, I spoke to the Valley Grassroots for Democracy Club about the need to Keep Families Together. In City Council, I would support LA's continued status as a sanctuary city.**

**One of the ways I could contribute to human rights advances that have an impact beyond Los Angeles is by reducing LA's carbon footprint. Beyond LA, climate change has contributed to the desertification of Syrian farmland, which exacerbated civil unrest, and worsened the refugee crisis. Climate change is also implicated in the Honduran exodus.**

**While we in LA cannot always directly stop tragedies and injustices abroad, we can improve how we respond to their victims.**

**In closing this questionnaire, I would like to thank you for taking the time and diligence to engage with this race and this campaign.**

**I stand in solidarity with you regardless of your decision, and will fight alongside you for justice no matter the outcome of the election.**



Loraine L. Ludwig