

FEATURED

Former Councilwoman Jan Perry Enters Supervisor's Race

By Jon Regardie Jan 22, 2019 Updated Jan 22, 2019



Former Downtown councilwoman Jan Perry announced her candidacy for the Second District County Board of Supervisor's Race today
photo by Gary Leonard

DTLA—Former City Councilwoman Jan Perry, who played a key role in both driving the Downtown Los Angeles renaissance and in guiding the community's response to homelessness, is hoping to return to elected office. This morning she announced her candidacy for a County Board of Supervisor's seat.

Perry is seeking to fill the Second District seat that will be vacated when Mark Ridley-Thomas is termed out in 2020. In entering the race, Perry is running against City Council President Herb Wesson, whom she had a notable confrontation with during her tenure on the council.

Perry represented the Ninth District on the City Council from 2001-2013, when she left office due to term limits. For much of her tenure the district included a large portion of Downtown, and she helped spark numerous projects that led to the residential upswing and cultural revival in the Central City. According to a statement announcing her candidacy, she helped bring \$52 million in net new tax revenue to the community. She has also launched a website, janperry2020.com.

The End of the Era of Jan

Perry was also known in Downtown for her efforts to address homelessness, including working to foment the creation of low-income housing projects and other services facilities, among them an expansion of the Downtown Women's Center. She helped create 1,000 affordable units in the Ninth District — a territory that includes South Los Angeles — according to the statement.

Other projects Perry worked on include the South L.A. Wetlands, a nine-acre park at 5413 Avalon Blvd. funded in part by a voter-approved water bond that Perry authored. The park opened in 2012.

"I am running because I believe every family in the 2nd District should have a pathway to economic prosperity," Perry said in the statement. "I see tremendous potential in our communities, if we are creative and tenacious, we can attract good-paying jobs, build affordable housing, ensure every child in the district receives a quality education and has access to social services that can help them meet their full potential."

Perry ran for mayor in 2013, but finished fourth in the primary. She then endorsed Eric Garcetti, and after Garcetti became mayor, he appointed Perry to serve as general manager of the city's new Economic and Workforce Development Department. The department focuses on job and business development efforts.

Jan Perry Reflects on Her Years Representing Downtown

Perry stepped down from her EWDD role at the end of last year and now serves as executive director of the Infrastructure Funding Alliance, a statewide group that seeks to propel different levels of government to create environmentally and fiscally responsible infrastructure projects.

Perry enters the race nearly two months after Wesson announced his candidacy. The two had a contentious battle in 2012, as the 15 council territories were shifted in a process known as redistricting. Wesson oversaw the process that resulted in Downtown neighborhoods including Bunker Hill, South Park and Little Tokyo being pulled from the Ninth and instead inserted into José Huizar's 14th District.

At a luncheon hosted by the Los Angeles Current Affairs Forum on Jan. 14, Wesson said that he has no current plans to step down from the council presidency while he runs for the County Supervisor seat.

"I intend on serving as president until I can't give that job the attention that it deserves," he said at the event at The Palm restaurant.

He went on to say that former Council President John Ferraro stayed in the council leadership post while he ran for mayor. That was in 1985.

The primary is next March, and if no one wins a majority of the vote, the top two finishers will advance to a November runoff.

The Second District encompasses a 162-square-mile swath of Los Angeles and has about 2 million residents. It contains portions of Skid Row, and also encompasses Culver City, Inglewood, Lawndale, Compton, Carson and other areas.

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