

Santa Monica Democratic Club

2020 City Council Candidate Questionnaire

Thank you for your interest in the Santa Monica Democratic Club endorsement. Candidates seeking the endorsement of our Club must complete and return the following questionnaire. Note that only registered Democrats are eligible for our consideration.

Please send the completed questionnaire to smdemocrats@gmail.com by August 16, 2020.

Interview appointment times will be scheduled for August 23 on a first come first served basis as the questionnaires are returned.

Submitting this questionnaire constitutes acknowledgment that its contents are now part of the public record and may be reproduced and distributed by the Santa Monica Democratic Club.

General Information

Candidate Name:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Candidate's Current Occupation:

Candidate's Employer:

Campaign Contact Person (if other than candidate):

What qualifications do you bring to this office?

Why are you running?

What are the top issues of your campaign? How do you plan to address those issues once elected?

Please list your top individual and/or organizational endorsements.

How long have you lived in Santa Monica? Where else have you lived?

Party / Activism

How long have you been a registered Democrat? Have you ever been registered as a member of another political party? If so, which party and why?

What is your experience with political activism? Have you ever volunteered or worked for a political campaign other than your own, and if so, in what capacity were you involved?

Which political candidates have you endorsed or supported publicly in the past? Please list as many as possible.

Please list any organizations with which you are a member, including any leadership position you have held in each organization.

Please confirm that you have read the latest version of the California Democratic Party Platform, as found here: <https://cadem.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Final-CDP-Platform-2020-2.pdf>

List any items in the CDP Platform with which you disagree. (This is in no way a litmus test for our endorsement; however, because the party delegates have worked so hard on every word of this platform document, we believe it will be a helpful guide to comprehend the policy differences between each candidate.)

Campaign Finance

Please indicate Yes or No to the following statements:

1. I pledge not to take contributions from oil, gas, and coal industry executives, lobbyists, and PACs.
2. I pledge not to take contributions from police or law enforcement unions, lobbyists, and PACs.
3. I pledge not to take contributions from development firms, lobbyists, and PACs.

If you answered No to any of the above contribution questions, please explain here:

City Governance

Do you support the elimination of the City Manager position and the creation of an empowered, directly elected Mayor of Santa Monica?

Do you believe Santa Monica's current Council-Manager system of government is working well, or would you push for changes to the City Charter? If so, what changes would make the city government more democratic?

Do you believe we should keep the current system of seven at-large council districts? What other type of representation would you be interested in exploring?

Are top city staffers' salaries too high, and is this a potential source for balancing the City budget?

What impact does the City's unfunded pension liability have on City finances, and how has this been affected by the Covid-19 crisis?

COVID-19 Response

What is your assessment of the City's response to the COVID-19 pandemic? If there was room for improvement, what should have been handled differently?

Do you support the mandatory mask requirement, enforced by fine? Does the current requirement go too far, or not far enough?

What role should the City play in assisting small businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic?

Given the extreme budget shortfall due to covid-19, what are some of the serious cuts that the City should explore?

Given the extreme budget shortfall due to covid-19, what are some new revenue sources that the City should explore to make up for lost income?

Social Justice

What is your assessment of the City and SMPD response to the events that occurred on May 31, 2020? If there was room for improvement, what should have been handled differently?

What steps do you think need to be taken in the next two years to reduce crime in the City? If this requires additional funding, how should it be funded?

What is your opinion of the "Defund The Police" movement? If you agree with its underlying principle, into which departments should that money be reallocated?

In what ways can the City of Santa Monica ensure that, in a real, practical sense, Black Lives Matter in our community?

In what ways can the City of Santa Monica better protect its undocumented residents?

Housing / Development

What steps would you propose to address the homelessness crisis in the City of Santa Monica?

What is your philosophy on the appropriate scope of development that should be approved in Santa Monica?

In what specific ways has Santa Monica failed to address the affordable housing crisis? What concrete steps would you take on Council to better address the crisis?

How can the City of Santa Monica meet its next RHNA cycle goal of 6,153 new deed restricted affordable housing units for low and moderate income households?

How can the City of Santa Monica meet its next RHNA cycle goal of 2,721 new market rate housing units?

Mobility

Should the overall amount of street parking in Santa Monica be reduced in order to encourage a shift away from cars toward other modes of transportation?

Should Santa Monica encourage more pedestrian-only streets like the Third Street Promenade? If so, on which streets would you consider this?

Do you support making Main Street Al Fresco and other parklet expansions permanent?

Do you support additional Metro rail lines being built in Santa Monica, and if so, which potential projects do you support? Which regions of the City would you like to see serviced?

What is your assessment of the City's pilot micro-mobility scooter program? Should shared mobility apps be encouraged or discouraged in Santa Monica?

Ballot Measures

Do you support California Proposition 15?

Do you support California Proposition 16?

Do you support California Proposition 21?

Do you support the Reimagine LA County ballot measure?

Do you support the Santa Monica transfer tax ballot measure?

Federal Legislation

Do you support the federal Green New Deal legislation (H.Res 109)?

What steps must Santa Monica take to enact a Green New Deal in our own city, if any?

What are the most significant environmental justice issues in Santa Monica, and how will you address them?

Do you support the federal Medicare For All legislation (HR 1384)?

Whether you support that bill or not, how can we ensure universal, single payer health care coverage for all Santa Monicans?

Additional Questions

Do you believe that SMMUSD should go to all virtual education for the 2020-2021 school year, or should there be some effort made to resume in-person classes? If we go to all virtual instruction, what new challenges does this present, and what solutions do you suggest?

Although marijuana is legal in California for recreational use, there are currently no dispensaries operating in Santa Monica. Why is this the case, and should that be changed? If dispensaries are allowed in Santa Monica, what processes would govern the business approval process to ensure equity?

What role do you believe the Santa Monica Democratic Club should have in our City?