

Santa Monica Democratic Club

2024 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. Only registered Democrats are eligible for our consideration. 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.

Please send the completed questionnaire to smdemocrats@gmail.com by 11:59 pm on May 18, 2024. Interview appointment times with our Executive Committee will be scheduled on a first come first served basis for the weekend of May 25/26 as the questionnaires are returned.

None of these questions shall be construed as litmus tests. There are no questions that must be answered a certain way to be considered for our endorsement.

General Information

Candidate Name: **Barry A. Snell**

Email Address: **Barry@barrysnell4council.com**

Candidate's Current Occupation: **Certified Public Accountant**

Candidate's Employer: **The Accounting Firm of Barry A. Snell CPA**

Campaign Contact Person (if other than candidate):

1. What qualifications do you bring to this office?

The qualifications I bring to this office are multifaceted and reflect my deep commitment to serving the community. With a decade of experience as a Santa Monica College Board of Trustees member, including serving as Chair, I have demonstrated leadership and dedication to higher education. Additionally, my roles on the State of California Community College Board of Trustees and the Los Angeles County Office of Education County Committee on School District Organization showcase my commitment to educational excellence at both local and statewide levels.

As a longtime Downtown Santa Monica Board Member, serving in various capacities including Treasurer and Past Chair, I have a comprehensive understanding of the economic and community development needs of our city. My previous tenure on the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School Board and involvement with the Santa Monica Pier Board further highlight my dedication to enhancing our community's institutions and public spaces.

Beyond my professional and civic engagements, I am a devoted husband and father to five wonderful children, which drives my passion for creating a safe, prosperous, and inclusive environment for families in Santa Monica. Additionally, my experience as a small business owner and forensic accountant equips me with valuable insights into fiscal responsibility and strategic planning.

Overall, my diverse background, leadership experience, and deep roots in the community position me well to effectively represent the interests of Santa Monica residents and advocate for positive change in our city.

2. Why are you running?

I am running for city council because I am deeply committed to serving my community and effecting positive change in the lives of its residents. I believe that my skills, experiences, and dedication uniquely qualify me to address the pressing issues facing our city and contribute to its continued growth and prosperity. Running for city council provides me with an opportunity to advocate for the interests of my fellow community members, promote transparency and accountability in local government, and work towards creating a more inclusive and equitable city for all. By seeking a seat on the city council, I hope to bring fresh perspectives, innovative ideas, and collaborative leadership to the decision-making process, ultimately striving to make our community a better place to live, work, and thrive.

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

- **An Affordable Community. Santa Monica is facing an affordable housing crisis. Long-time residents are being evicted, our first responders, teachers, and nurses can no longer live within the city they serve, and our children and grandchildren have limited housing options to stay in our city. Barry will fight to protect renters, invest in affordable housing, and cut red tape to build new housing for our community.**
- **Safe Neighborhoods. Our community deserves to feel safe, whether enjoying an evening on the 3rd Street Promenade, playing in our neighborhood parks, or walking along our beautiful beaches. I will work with our first responders to expand our unhoused outreach program to prevent crime and get our unhoused the help they need to make our community safe.**
- **Investing in Our Infrastructure. We need to invest in complete streets that ensure everyone is safe. I will work with our first responders, transportation planners, and our school district to build safer infrastructure that reduces traffic congestion and protects bikers and pedestrians.**

4. Please list all of your individual and/or organizational endorsements.

**Tony Vazquez - Member, California Board of Equalization
Gleam Davis - Councilmember, City of Santa Monica
Jesse Zwick- Councilmember, City of Santa Monica
Kevin Mckeown-Former Mayor, City of Santa Monica
Pam O'Connor- Former Mayor, City of Santa Monica
Mike Feinstein – Former Mayor, City of Santa Monica
Denny Zane - Co-Chair, Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights and former Mayor, City of Santa Monica
Nat Trives-Former Mayor, City of Santa Monica
Judy Abdo- Former Mayor, City of Santa Monica
Chelsea Lee Byers-Councilmember, City of West Hollywood
Dr. Sion Roy - Trustee, Santa Monica Community College District
Dr. Margaret Quinones-Perez - Board Chair, Santa Monica Community College District
Dr. Nancy Greenstein - Trustee, Santa Monica Community College District
Rob Rader - Trustee, Santa Monica Malibu Community College District
Susan Aminoff-Trustee, Santa Monica Community College District
Louise Jaffe-Former Trustee, Santa Monica Community College District**

Andra Hoffman- Trustee LACCD Seat 1
Barbara Calhoun Trustee, Compton Community College
Nichelle Henderson, President LACCD Board Trustee Seat 5
Jennifer Smith - Board Chair, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified Board of Education
Maria Vasquez-Board Member, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified Board of Education
Jon Kean - Board Member, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified Board of Education
Laurie Lieberman - Board Member, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District
Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein - Board Member, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified Board of Education
Alicia Mignano- Board Member, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified Board of Education
Keith Coleman - Former Board Member, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified Board of Education
Ralph S. Mechur-Former Board Member, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified Board of Education
Kelly McMahon Pye- Former Board Member, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified Board of Education
Anastasia Foster - Vice-Chair, Santa Monica Rent Control Board
Dan Hall- Board Member, Santa Monica Pier Corporation
Ellis Raskin, Planning Commissioner, City of Santa Monica-Chair
Nina Fresco- Planning Commissioner, Conservancy Board Member-City of Santa Monica
Natalya Zernitskaya- Santa Monica Democratic Club Secretary
Shari Davis-Education Advocate
Abby Arnold - Former Co-Chair, Santa Monica Forward
Jonathan Gregory CEO RMX Resources , LLC

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

I have lived in Santa Monica for 22 years. I am originally from East Orange, New Jersey and spent four years in Atlanta Georgia.

6. Will you pledge to serve on the City Council for your entire four year term?

Yes, I pledge to serve on the City Council for my entire four year term.

Campaign Finance

1. How much money have you raised for your campaign to date?

\$10,500

2. How much do you intend to raise by Election Day 2024?

\$100,000

3. Candidates for local office often choose not to take campaign contributions from particular types of organizations or industries. Are there any such sources from which you would decline donations? If so, which?

As a candidate for local office, I believe it's essential to maintain transparency, integrity, and independence in campaign financing. While I am open to receiving support from a diverse range of individuals and organizations who share my commitment to the community's well-being, there are certain sources from which I would decline donations. Specifically, I would refuse contributions from industries or organizations whose interests conflict with the values and priorities of the community I aim to serve.

Party / Activism

1. How long have you been a registered Democrat? Have you ever been registered as a member of another political party, or as Decline To State? If so, which party and why?

**I have been a registered Democrat since I was able to vote at age 18.
I have never been registered as a member of another political party.**

2. 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?

I have marched for union rights for many years. I have been elected three times as a delegate for AD 50 and 51 regions and voiced my opinion on various issues for the democratic platform. I have worked on the campaign to elect our past state assembly member Richard Bloom and our current State Board of Equalization Member, Tony Vasquez

3. Which political candidates have you endorsed or supported publicly in the past? Please list as many as possible, *especially where you endorsed during a contested primary.*

I have endorsed the following political candidates:

- **President Biden**
- **Adam Schiff for California Senator**
- **Ben Allen California State Senator**
- **Sheila Kuehl Los Angeles County Supervisor**
- **Rick Chavez Zbur, State Assembly Member for Santa Monica**
- **Richard Bloom for California State Assembly**
- **Holly J. Mitchell Los Angeles County Supervisor**
- **Gleam Davis Santa Monica City Council**

4. Have you ever signed for or publicly supported efforts to recall a public official from office? If so, please list the name(s) of the officials and why you felt they should be recalled.

No, I have never signed or supported efforts to recall a public official from office.

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

**Chair of Santa Monica Black Empowerment Association (SMBEA)
Past Treasurer of Community for Excellent Public Schools (CEPS)
Member of the finance and audit committee for the Santa Monica Education Foundation**

6. Please confirm that you have read the latest version of the California Democratic Party Platform, as found below. List any items in the CDP Platform with which you disagree.

<https://cadem.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/FinalPlatform2024.pdf>

I have read and support the 2024 CDP Platform.

City Governance

1. What is your brief assessment of how the City Council has functioned over the past few years?

The City Council has demonstrated both strengths and areas for improvement over the past few years. On the positive side, the council has successfully navigated significant challenges facing our community, and has shown a commitment to addressing the diverse needs of our residents.

However, there have also been instances where the council's decision-making process could benefit from greater transparency and community engagement. While strides have been made in promoting inclusivity and diversity, there is always room for improvement in ensuring that all voices are heard and considered in the decision-making process. There also may be opportunities for the council to enhance its responsiveness to emerging issues and to streamline bureaucratic processes to better serve the needs of our community.

2. Do you believe we should keep the current system of seven at-large council seats? Why or why not? If not, how would you change this system?

Yes, keeping the current system of seven at-large council seats is appropriate, as any potential changes to this system would rightfully be decided by the voters through the democratic process outlined in Santa Monica's charter. Charter cities have the authority to establish their own systems of governance and can tailor their electoral processes to best suit the needs and preferences of their residents. In the case of Santa Monica, the decision to maintain the current system of at-large council seats ensures that any proposed changes to the city's governance structure would be subject to direct voter input and approval.

3. What other type of changes to our City Charter would you be interested in exploring to make the City government more democratic?

I am interested in exploring various changes to our Santa Monica City Charter to enhance the democratic principles and processes of our city government. I am particularly interested in bolstering ethics and accountability measures while promoting community empowerment initiatives. Strengthening ethics and accountability measures could involve establishing an independent ethics commission, fortifying conflict-of-interest rules, and enhancing transparency in lobbying activities. Additionally, I would explore initiatives to empower residents and community organizations to play a more active role in shaping local policies and priorities, such as participatory budgeting programs and community-driven decision-making processes. By reinforcing ethical standards and promoting community empowerment, we can ensure that our city government operates with integrity and remains responsive to the needs and aspirations of all residents.

4. Should each City Council member have their own paid staffer? Should Council be a full time job?

Yes. Each City Council member with their own paid staffer and making the council a full-time job have several potential benefits:

1. **Enhanced Constituent Services:** Staffers can improve responsiveness to residents' needs, while full-time council members can dedicate more time to governance and constituent engagement.
2. **Expertise and Professionalism:** Staffers can provide specialized skills and support, complementing the expertise of council members. Treating council membership as a full-time position can elevate professionalism and accountability.
3. **Commitment to Public Service:** Full-time council membership signals a strong commitment to public service and community leadership.
4. **Competitive Compensation:** Providing salaries for full-time council members can attract a diverse pool of candidates and ensure that representatives are not financially constrained from serving.

5. What changes, if any, should be made to the current structure of boards and commissions in terms of how they are empowered or how members are selected?

I believe that the current structure of boards and commissions adequately empowers these bodies and ensures a fair and effective selection process for members. I see no need for changes at this time.

Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

1. In what concrete ways would you support the City of Santa Monica following through on the promise of the Black Apology?

Supporting the City of Santa Monica in fulfilling the promise of the Black Apology requires concrete actions across several fronts. First and foremost, the city should actively engage with the Black community through forums, listening sessions, and outreach events to ensure their voices shape the city's efforts. A comprehensive review of city policies and practices should be conducted to identify and address systemic racism, with a focus on areas like policing, housing, education, and employment. Resources and investments should be directed towards addressing historical and ongoing disparities faced by Black communities, including initiatives to improve access to housing, education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. The city should also celebrate the contributions of Black residents to Santa Monica's cultural fabric and promote education and awareness about the history of racism. Establishing mechanisms for accountability and transparency will be crucial to ensuring that the city remains committed to its promise and continues to make progress in addressing racial injustice and inequality. Through these efforts, Santa Monica can work towards building a more equitable and inclusive community for all its residents.

2. In what form, if any, should reparations be considered for racist wrongs from our city's past? Are there specific examples in our city where you believe this would be an appropriate response?

When considering reparations for racist wrongs from our city's past, I believe it's essential to acknowledge the historical injustices that have occurred and take concrete steps to address them. One potential form of reparations could involve specific restitution efforts tailored to address the harms inflicted on communities affected by past racist policies and practices. For instance, in Santa Monica, we could explore the idea of providing restitution to families who were forcibly displaced from their homes due to projects like the construction of the I-10 freeway or the development of the civic center. This could take the form of returning city-owned land or providing financial compensation to these families to rectify the injustices they faced. By directly addressing these historical wrongs, we can work towards building a more equitable and inclusive community where all residents have the opportunity to thrive.

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

To safeguard its undocumented residents, the City of Santa Monica can implement various strategies. Embracing sanctuary city policies can signal a commitment to limiting cooperation with federal immigration agencies, protecting residents' privacy and security. Providing access to legal support services, including know-your-rights workshops and immigration legal clinics, ensures that undocumented residents understand their rights and have resources available for assistance. Language access initiatives help overcome barriers to essential information and services by offering materials and support in languages commonly spoken in the community. Building trust between law enforcement

agencies and undocumented residents through community policing approaches fosters cooperation in addressing public safety concerns. Additionally, ensuring undocumented residents' access to city services, including healthcare and education, regardless of immigration status, promotes their well-being and integration. Including undocumented residents in emergency preparedness plans and advocating for immigration reform at all levels of government further demonstrates the city's commitment to protecting and supporting its undocumented population. Through these efforts, Santa Monica can create a welcoming and inclusive environment for all residents, irrespective of their immigration status.

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

In Santa Monica, critical environmental justice issues revolve around ensuring clean air, promoting home electrification, and reducing carbon emissions from vehicles. Clean air is essential for the health and well-being of residents. Promoting home electrification can significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality by transitioning away from fossil fuel-based heating systems. Additionally, decreasing carbon emissions from cars is crucial for mitigating climate change and reducing the environmental burden on communities. By addressing these issues through targeted policies and initiatives, Santa Monica can create a healthier and more sustainable environment for all its residents.

5. What specific initiatives to increase diversity and promote inclusion among City staff are you interested in pursuing, and how will you work with the City Manager to implement these policies?

As a member of the City Council, my commitment to increasing diversity and promoting inclusion among City staff is paramount. I am eager to pursue specific initiatives aimed at achieving these goals. This includes implementing diverse hiring practices to ensure equitable representation across all levels of the workforce. Additionally, I would advocate for comprehensive diversity training programs to foster cultural competency and mitigate unconscious biases within our organization. Establishing employee resource groups will provide invaluable support networks and avenues for advocacy for employees from underrepresented backgrounds. To measure progress, I support the implementation of diversity and inclusion metrics to track our efforts and hold ourselves accountable. Collaborating closely with the City Manager, I will work to ensure these initiatives are aligned with organizational priorities and effectively executed. By fostering a workplace culture that values diversity and inclusion, we can create a stronger, more representative City staff that better serves the needs of our diverse community.

Housing / Development

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

Addressing the homelessness crisis in Santa Monica requires a comprehensive approach that addresses both the immediate needs of unhoused individuals and the underlying factors contributing to homelessness. Here are some steps and solutions I would propose:

- **Housing First Approach:** Prioritize the implementation of a Housing First approach, which focuses on providing stable housing as the primary solution to homelessness. This involves rapidly rehousing individuals experiencing homelessness and providing the necessary support services to help them maintain housing stability.

- **Affordable Housing Development:** Increase the supply of affordable housing in Santa Monica through the development of new affordable housing units and the preservation of existing affordable housing stock. This could involve leveraging public-private partnerships, incentivizing affordable housing development, and streamlining the approval process for affordable housing projects.
- **Supportive Services:** Invest in supportive services such as mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment, job training, and case management to address the complex needs of individuals experiencing homelessness. Collaborate with local service providers and nonprofit organizations to ensure that unhoused individuals have access to the support services they need to stabilize their lives and transition out of homelessness.
- **Prevention and Diversion Programs:** Implement prevention and diversion programs to intervene early and prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless. This could include providing emergency financial assistance, rental subsidies, and mediation services to help individuals maintain housing stability and avoid homelessness.
- **Community Engagement and Outreach:** Engage with the community to build support for homeless services and housing solutions. Conduct outreach and education efforts to raise awareness about homelessness, reduce stigma, and foster compassion and understanding within the community.
- **Coordination and Collaboration:** Foster collaboration among government agencies, nonprofit organizations, faith-based groups, and other stakeholders to coordinate efforts and maximize resources in addressing homelessness. Establish a centralized system for coordinating services and referrals to ensure that unhoused individuals receive the support they need in a timely and efficient manner.
- **Addressing Root Causes:** Address the root causes of homelessness, including poverty, lack of affordable housing, systemic racism, mental illness, and substance abuse. Advocate for policies and initiatives at the local, state, and federal levels that address these underlying factors and promote economic equity and social justice.

By implementing these steps and solutions in a coordinated and holistic manner, Santa Monica can make meaningful progress in addressing the homelessness crisis and improving the lives of unhoused individuals and families in our community.

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

Santa Monica faces significant challenges in addressing its housing affordability crisis, marked by insufficient affordable housing production, soaring housing costs, and a lack of diversity in the housing stock. To better tackle this issue, I propose concrete steps for the Council. Firstly, streamlining the development process could expedite the construction of new housing, with a focus on affordable and mixed-income developments. Secondly, implementing inclusionary zoning policies would ensure that new residential projects include affordable units, thereby contributing to the city's affordability goals. Thirdly, strategies to preserve existing affordable housing stock are crucial, which could involve tenant protections, rent stabilization policies, and partnerships with nonprofit organizations. Moreover, fostering public-private partnerships and community engagement can stimulate affordable housing development while garnering support and input from residents. Lastly, expanding access to housing voucher programs and rental

assistance can provide immediate relief to low-income residents. Through these concerted efforts, Santa Monica can make strides towards addressing its housing affordability crisis, ensuring that all residents have access to safe and stable housing options in the city.

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

My philosophy on the appropriate scope of development in Santa Monica centers on balance and sustainability. While recognizing the need for responsible growth to accommodate the city's evolving needs, it's essential to prioritize development that aligns with the community's values, preserves its character, and enhances overall quality of life. This involves considering factors such as environmental impact, infrastructure capacity, affordability, and social equity in all development decisions.

4. What should the balance be between state and local control of zoning?

The balance between state and local control of zoning should prioritize local autonomy to address community-specific needs and characteristics, while also providing state oversight to ensure consistency, equity, and alignment with broader policy objectives. Collaboration and dialogue between state and local authorities are crucial to strike a balance that respects local decision-making while addressing regional or statewide challenges and promoting equitable development.

5. What do you see as the mission or purpose of Rent Control in a city where 70% of the population are renters?

In our city where 70% of the population are renters, the mission or purpose of rent control is to provide stability, affordability, and protection for tenants in the face of rising housing costs and market pressures. Rent control serves as a tool to mitigate displacement, prevent arbitrary rent increases, and preserve affordable housing options for low and moderate-income residents. It aims to balance the interests of landlords and tenants, ensuring that tenants have access to safe, decent, and affordable housing while also allowing landlords to earn a fair return on their investment.

6. How would you enhance or change tenant protections for renters?

To enhance tenant protections for renters, I propose several measures aimed at promoting housing stability, affordability, and tenant rights. Strengthening existing rent control regulations is crucial, including stricter limits on rent increases and broader coverage for rental units. Just cause eviction protections would prevent landlords from evicting tenants without valid reasons, ensuring housing security. Implementing measures to protect tenants from harassment and retaliation, coupled with a tenant right to counsel program, would provide legal recourse and support for tenants facing housing-related disputes. Additionally, creating a rent registry for transparency and increasing tenant education and outreach efforts would empower tenants with knowledge and resources to defend their rights. Finally, policies to preserve and rehabilitate existing affordable housing stock would ensure the availability of safe and affordable housing options for all residents. Through these measures, we can strengthen tenant protections, promote housing stability, and uphold the rights of renters in our community.

7. What is your history of involvement with 2022 Santa Monica Measure GS?

As an individual who is dedicated to community advocacy and engagement, I have a history of involvement with Measure GS in Santa Monica. I spoke out in support of this measure, recognizing its significance in addressing critical issues such as housing affordability, and providing funding for our public schools.

Public Safety

1. 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?

Over the next two years, I believe that implementing strategies to support the police department in addressing the needs of our unhoused population will be essential to reducing crime in the city. One approach could involve deploying caseworkers to work collaboratively with the police to provide support and assistance to unhoused individuals, addressing underlying issues such as mental health challenges, substance abuse, and access to social services. By relieving some of the burden on law enforcement and providing specialized support to vulnerable populations, the police can focus more resources on addressing serious criminal activities. Securing funding for this initiative will be crucial, and I would explore various avenues, including reallocating existing resources, seeking grants, and potentially increasing funding through budget adjustments.

2. Is the Santa Monica Police Department presently well funded? Should more or less of the City budget be allocated to hiring SMPD officers?

Ensuring adequate funding for the police department is crucial for maintaining public safety in our city. Police departments play a vital role in crime prevention, emergency response, and community policing efforts. However, it's also important to recognize that budget allocations should be based on current needs, which can evolve over time. This means that funding priorities may need to be periodically reassessed to address emerging challenges, changes in crime patterns, and shifting community priorities. By ensuring that our police department has the resources they need while also being responsive to changing circumstances, SMPD can better meet the needs of our residents and promote a safe and secure environment for our community.

3. Do you support the LA County Department of Health's needle exchange program as it is currently constructed? What changes, if any, would you suggest for this program?

Yes, I support the LA County Department of Health's needle exchange program in its current form, except for its operation in local parks. While I recognize the importance of providing access to clean needles for public health reasons, I believe we need to implement a more secure process for administering the program. Specifically, I propose establishing a dedicated and controlled location for the needle exchange program, separate from our local parks. By doing so, we can ensure the program's effectiveness while minimizing any potential disruptions to our recreational spaces and communities.

4. Do you support or oppose the re-election of District Attorney George Gascón? Do you support DA Gascón's special directives on restorative justice? If not, what approach should be taken?

Yes, I support the re-election of District Attorney George Gascon' and his special directives on restorative justice.

5. Do you support the Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission's proposal to adopt the same policy on pretextual stops as the LAPD in Santa Monica? Why or why not?

Yes, I support the Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission’s proposal to adopt the same policy on pretextual stops as the LAPD in Santa Monica. While our Police Department has undertaken extensive implicit bias training, I believe this policy is essential for setting the standard of policing that our city requires both presently and in the future. By embracing this policy, we affirm our dedication to fair and equitable policing practices, fostering trust and safety within our community.

6. Four years after the start of the pandemic, what is your assessment of the health of the Third Street Promenade? Do you support DTSM Inc S decision to replace the downtown ambassadors with private security? If not, how would you change the current agreement?

Four years after the start of the pandemic, I assess the health of the Third Street Promenade as gradually improving, although challenges remain, such as the prevalence of empty stores and buildings. To address this, I believe it's imperative for the City Council, DTSM, and property owners to collaborate on initiatives that encourage business activations. Initially, I was hesitant about DTSM Inc.'s decision to replace downtown ambassadors with private security. However, observing the continued presence of both ambassadors and unarmed security personnel has supported improvements. Moving forward, I would advocate for ongoing assessment and potential adjustments to the current agreement to ensure that the needs of the community and businesses are effectively met while maintaining a safe and welcoming environment on the Third Street Promenade.

Mobility

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

The Third Street Promenade is a Santa Monica success story. By closing off the street to cars, it has been transformed into a space where kids and families can play and relax, people can shop, and music and entertainment can thrive. Over the years, it has earned several awards for excellence in attracting tourism and economic development. The success of the Third Street Promenade has contributed significantly to revitalizing the downtown neighborhood and brings in millions in revenue for the city's general fund each year.

Given this success, it is worth carefully exploring if this model can be thoughtfully expanded to other select areas. While not appropriate for every street, strategic pedestrian-only zones can be a powerful tool to support our local small businesses. The Montana business district's successful use of temporary street closures demonstrates the potential. I believe we should explore additional opportunities to leverage car-free zones to enhance the business, entertainment, and pedestrian experience in Santa Monica.

2. What changes should be made to promote safety for bike riders, pedestrians, and other alternate modes of transportation?

Keeping all of our residents safe is an essential duty of our local government. Sadly, serious accidents on our streets are still too common, and safety has declined with the rise of distracted behaviors like cellphone use. I am committed to working with the city to address these distractions through education, collaboration with tech companies on innovative solutions, and enforcement.

This must go hand-in-hand with smart infrastructure. The widely praised 17th Street bike lane, which serves as a model in our region and separates cyclists from car traffic,

exemplifies how we can promote eco-friendly transportation while enhancing safety. Proven traffic calming measures like speed humps, car diverters, and curb extensions at crosswalks are also key to addressing speeding, reducing cut-through traffic, and keeping neighborhood streets quiet and safe.

Accountability is crucial. I believe in holding all roadway users—residents, drivers, cyclists, scooter riders, and mobility companies—responsible for contributing to a safer, greener, more pleasant Santa Monica.

3. 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? Metro rail lines are an efficient mode of transportation, which is healthier for our environment and makes our air cleaner for residents. Metro rail is also an affordable transportation option, which promotes equity and inclusion in our city. Metro rail also brings in more business for our local economy. I support metro rail and our rail connection with the larger region.

I am pleased to see that Metro is expanding rail in the region, though I note that nothing at this time is planned to extend in Santa Monica. The D-line extension, in particular, ends at Westwood. If an opportunity becomes available to extend or expand rail in Santa Monica, I would commit to working with regional leaders to ensure that I advocate as strongly as possible for Santa Monica's interests. While rail has many benefits for our city and region, it must be carefully planned to ensure no displacement locally, or disruption to our city's visions and plans. Importantly, we would need to ensure that there is enough funding for such a project to take place. I will proactively work with regional and federal leaders to ensure that resources are going to Santa Monica for infrastructure improvements.

4. Should shared mobility devices and apps (eg, scooters, e-bikes) be encouraged or discouraged in Santa Monica?

Shared mobility apps and micro-mobility options offer many community benefits, including addressing last-mile gaps and enabling eco-friendly transportation choices. However, the companies providing these services must be held accountable for user safety and preventing blocked sidewalks and access ramps. A successful approach will holistically integrate these modes into our transportation network, with dedicated infrastructure like separated bike lanes and scooter parking, rather than forcing competition for limited road space. I believe micro-mobility has an important role to play, but providers must work as responsible partners in creating a better, safer Santa Monica for all.

5. Should the overall amount of street parking in Santa Monica be reduced in order to encourage other modes of transportation?

As a national leader in alternative transportation, Santa Monica is seeing many residents opt for mobility options beyond personal cars. Evolving technology is also gradually reducing parking demand. We must provide sufficient parking to meet all needs, comply with Coastal Commission requirements, and strongly support our local businesses. But I believe we should take an adaptable approach, converting select parking spaces to other uses only if circumstances allow. While dramatic reductions would be unwise, strategically repurposing some parking to support the ongoing transportation shift could be a net positive, enabling more sustainable mobility choices and freeing up valuable urban space for people-focused amenities. This must be done carefully and in close consultation with stakeholders.

Do you support the Justice For Renters Act?

Yes I do! Remove this ban on rent control!

Do you support the repeal of Article 34?

Yes I do! We should be able to build low-rent housing, funded with public funds without voter approval!

Do you support the initiative to require new local taxes to pass by a two-thirds vote?

No, I do not support an initiative to require a new local tax to pass by a two-thirds vote!

Do you support the potential measure to amend Prop 47?

I do support amending Prop 47 as it is currently proposed except that I would add exemptions for minors and any previous convictions by an individual prior to the enactment of the Proposition. We must give our businesses the protection against minor crimes from people who continue to have no respect for other folks' property.

Do you support the proposed amendments to Measure GS to exempt multifamily housing?

No Measure GS provides funds for our school district and for much needed housing. Any changes now would be premature.

Additional Questions

1. Do you support Medicare For All single-payer healthcare?

Yes I do support medicare for all single payer healthcare.

2. Why should union workers in Santa Monica, especially those in the hospitality industry, trust that you will fight for their jobs?

I have been a consistent advocate for the hotel workers in our city. I have marched and spoke out against the labor practices of some of our hotels and will always be a strong voice on the council for labor.

3. What do you envision for the future of the Santa Monica Airport?

I support the airport becoming a park; however, maintaining a park is costly. So we must have solutions to generate revenue to support the park. I also believe that we should allow the residents to have an opportunity to have an input as to the future of the land.

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

The Santa Monica Democratic Club should use their platform to evaluate issues that promote progressive value as determined by the Club. The Club should advocate and meet consistently with councilmembers to help guide direction towards implementation as needed.

5. If elected, how would you attempt to interact with the Santa Monica Democratic Club and other political organizations to ensure community buy-in on new proposals?

Yes I would prioritize engagement with the Santa Monica Democratic Club and other political organizations to foster and ensure community buy-in on new proposals.

6. What is the most important topic that was left off of this questionnaire?

The City Council of Santa Monica must work together with the Santa Monica Malibu School District as well as Santa Monica College on issues affecting the residents, such as housing, transportation and safety to ensure that the Santa Monica community at large lives, work and play in an environment that is inclusive and equitable. The three agencies must strongly jointly promote shared values voiced by the residents of Santa Monica.