

## General Information

Candidate Name: [Ericka Lesley](#)

Email Address: [ErickaLesley2024@gmail.com](mailto:ErickaLesley2024@gmail.com)

Candidate's Current Occupation: [Assistant Director](#)

Candidate's Employer: [CURELA](#)

Campaign Contact Person (if other than candidate):

1. What qualifications do you bring to this office?

[Over ten years of community advocacy, involvement experience. A trained background in public policy from the esteemed Santa Monica College Public Policy Institute. Experience in leadership across organizations from the school district to our local community organizations and the NAACP.](#)

Why are you running?

[I am running at the behest of the community and City staff. To be able to better serve my beloved community and staff.](#)

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

[Homelessness](#)

[Inclusionary Practices](#)

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

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

[Since 2009. I am a military brat. I have lived in many places but, Santa Monica is the first place that I have discovered community and that I have called home.](#)

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

[I pledge to serve out my full term to be of service to my community, City staff, and labor that keep our city going .](#)

## Campaign Finance

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

[Decline to state](#)

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

[\\$100,000.00](#)

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?

[Given my position on affordable housing, I don't think that it would be appropriate to accept money from developers.](#)

## 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 my entire life.](#)

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 worked for the Obama campaign as a volunteer. I worked for the NAACP get out the vote campaign registering thousands of voters with my team at the college and throughout the city.

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.*  
Caroline Torosis

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 not voted for a recall of a candidate. An elected official is the representative of those that voted them into office .

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

SMRR, The Santa Monica Democratic Club, The Santa Monica Area Interfaith Council, The Westside Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Coalition (Chair of the Community Light Award Committee), NAACP, Downtown Santa Monica, PTA(Parliamentarian), IEEDAC (Chair), BAAPAC (Vice-Chair ), AASSSPG (Vice-Chair), LCAP, The Congressional Black Caucus, The Frontier Democratic Club, The African American Chamber of Commerce, The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, The Santa Monica Black Agenda (Chair)

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>

## City Governance

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

There has been a disconnect between the city council and the City at large and staff. The needs and voices of our communities have been discarded.

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?

It is my belief that we should keep our current system of seven at-large council seats due to the size of our city. We are only 8.3 square miles and the implementation of a district voting system will cost an additional cost of \$100,000 approximately per election cycle.

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

I would not touch the city charter.

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

I think that every city council member should have a paid student (externship) to give back to the next generation. Giving students an opportunity to provide insight to government affairs. If city Council were a full-time job it would give councilpersons the opportunity to find more solutions.

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?

Our boards and commissions need to be reevaluated to determine more ways of efficiency & effectiveness. The boards and commissions should be more inclusive and diverse.

## 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?  
Applying all changes with a structured time-line. For land that was taken by eminent domain if it is a business a portion of the proceeds should be paid to the original owner in monthly payments until fair market value is obtained. Offer grant writing services & education. Make concrete guarantees that the wrong doings of the past will never happen again.
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?  
For land that was taken by eminent domain if it is a business a portion of the proceeds should be paid to the original owner in monthly payments until fair market value is obtained
3. In what ways can the City of Santa Monica protect its undocumented residents?  
Declare the city a safe haven. Educate undocumented residents of their rights. Provide resources to immigration attorneys and support groups.
4. What are the most significant environmental justice issues in Santa Monica, and how will you address them?  
The air pollution from the freeway.
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?  
Diversify all boards and commissions. Make sustainable cultural competency policies.

## Housing / Development

1. What steps or solutions would you propose to address the homelessness crisis in the City of Santa Monica?  
Revamp the homelessness intake system according to current homelessness crisis.
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?  
The market rate housing development should be 70% to a 30% affordable housing units to obtain our RHNA goals in self sufficient manner.
3. What is your philosophy on the appropriate scope of development that should be approved in Santa Monica?  
The Scope of development should be a 70% market rate to 30% affordable housing that are the same size as the market rate units.
4. What should the balance be between state and local control of zoning?  
Local zoning control should be 80% to the city 20% of the state. Local government knows how to zone their municipalities without state oversight.

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

To maintain affordability for residents to age in place while ensuring a fair return for landlords.

5. How would you enhance or change tenant protections for renters?  
By implementing a mold policy and expanding code enforcement.
6. What is your history of involvement with 2022 Santa Monica Measure GS?
7. I spoke publicly in favor for measure GS and distributed the literature and encouraged others to vote for it.

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

we need communities to know each other. We need the officers to know the communities that they serve. Fund community based violence intervention. Fund after school programs.

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?  
The needle exchange program should be revamped to include rehabilitation treatment and placed in an environment conducive of disease reduction.
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?  
I support Gascón reelection . Justice reform takes time.
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?

The police should stop people that are displaying suspicious behavior, as long as they have their body cameras on to ensure community & officer safety.

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?

The Promenade is in a state of incremental recovery. We didn't get here overnight and it will take just as long to recover. I support the ambassadors. However, the security work well with or police department. Our security is not fiscally sustainable.

## **Mobility**

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

I encourage pedestrian-only pathways throughout the city.

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

Utilize intelligent transportation systems and improve lighting to ensure visibility.

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?

I would only support this with enhanced security measures.

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

Shared mobility devices should be encouraged with increased user accountability, tracking, & safety standards.

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

All modes of transportation should be included in the planning of a city for the freedom of the residents to live in a manner suitable for their way of life.

## **Ballot Measures**

Do you support the Justice For Renters Act?

I support this ballot measure. I have publicly supported efforts for its approval.

Do you support the repeal of Article 34?

It is essential that article 34 is overturned to ensure the production of more affordable housing.

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

No, the Democratic process works well with the voices of the voters.

Do you support the potential measure to amend Prop 47?

No,

This disrupts the Justice reform efforts.

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

No, The GS measure should be kept as it was originally intended.

## **Additional Questions**

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

Yes, this will reduce healthcare disparities.

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

I have walked the picket lines with them and spoken out on their behalf.

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

Mixed use of housing and parks

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

The club should continue to be an open forum of diverse Democratic minds and leaders that help our community digest policy with impactful input.

4. 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?

Ask for input in public forum with the Democratic Club.

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

N/a