

General Information

Candidate Name: Michael Kirschbaum

Email Address: MichaelForSantaMonica@gmail.com

Candidate's Current Occupation: Writer

Candidate's Employer: Self

Campaign Contact Person (if other than candidate):

1. What qualifications do you bring to this office?

The greatest qualification I bring to this office is my experience living in Santa Monica the past 18 years. I bring experience as a parent, renter, and neighbor, navigating the city and all its complexities. I am pro-rent control laws. I am pro-public schools. I am pro-labor. I am pro-environment. I am pro-choice.

2. Why are you running?

I am running for Rent Control Board because I want to make sure we maintain all the rights the citizens of Santa Monica have fought hard for. I am running to protect my fellow tenants.

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

A top issue for my campaign is how newly constructed ADUs in rental unit buildings will remove renters' parking and storage spaces. This will cause aggravation and hardship. My plan is to protect seniors and other individuals who require their parking spaces due to health and safety reasons. Forcing a tenant to lose their contractual parking spot for a small rent reduction is not worth the many problems of trying to find parking away from your home.

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

Christina Allen, SMMPTA Council Treasurer*

(We are very early in the campaign season, I am working to secure several other organizational and individual endorsements and will announce them soon.)

*These are individual endorsements, not representative of their organizations

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

I have lived in Santa Monica for 18 years. I previously lived in Florida. Go Gators!

6. Will you pledge to serve on the Rent Control Board for your entire four-year term?

Yes, I pledge to serve my entire four years.

Campaign Finance

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

Currently my campaign has raised \$1,500

2. How much do you intend to raise by Election Day 2024?
Our fundraising goal is ten thousand dollars.

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?
I will decline donations from any organization or individual that represents corporate apartment ownership.
I will not accept money from any Republican organization.

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 turned 18. I have been a registered Democrat for thirty years. I'll let you do the math to figure out my age.

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 advocated for our public schools by addressing the School Board numerous times to increase funding for our teachers and staff, programs, and students. I have also volunteered on several Democratic presidential campaigns as a team texter.

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.

Up until recently, I enjoyed a quiet life as a Santa Monica parent, husband, and youth soccer coach. My endorsement was not sought. However, I have voted for a Democrat in every election.

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.

I have never signed a recall of a public official.

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

I served previously on the Board at Mishkon Tephilo. I also coached my children's AYSO soccer teams. I am currently a member of Santa Monica for Renter's Rights. I am also a member of Will Rogers PTSA, JAMS PTSA, and Santa Monica HS PTSA. I am currently a member of Ocean Park Association and SMDC.

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 the latest version of CDP Platform and support it fully.

Social Justice

1. Which group or groups of Santa Monicans currently face significant challenges in terms of housing discrimination?

Due to the high cost of living, many groups face significant challenges in terms of housing discrimination. Historically Santa Monica has discriminated against people of color and I support efforts to address those situations.

2. How would you use your position on the Rent Control Board to assist systematically disadvantaged groups of residents of Santa Monica?

I will protect anyone threatened with losing their home or amenities. Often times it is an individual renter versus a large rental corporation. In these David vs Goliath situations, I am here to help.

Rent Control

1. What do you see as the mission or purpose of the Rent Control Charter, both at its founding and in its present form?

The mission of the Rent Control Charter is to keep families in their homes. I will work hard to ensure that mission continues.

2. What are the biggest challenges to keeping tenants in their homes in Santa Monica?

The biggest challenge to keeping tenants in their homes is to make sure they can pay their rent. The POD program has been a lifeline to many seniors on a fixed income and I will increase the total number of tenants who receive this benefit.

Another big challenge to tenants is a landlord that harasses their tenants in order for them to vacate their home. There is also the problem of landlords removing rental units from housing stock.

3. Do you feel that Costa-Hawkins and/or the Ellis Act need reforms, and if so, what are some examples of those reforms?

Yes, they both need to be repealed. As housing costs rise, housing insecurity increases.

4. Are there any current trends in real estate speculation patterns that you see as an issue for the spirit of the Charter?

Yes, as mentioned above ADU's. Tenants are permanently losing their parking spaces and are forced to park blocks away. This is hard on seniors and other folks while landlords make big profits.

Ballot Measures

Do you support the Justice For Renters Act?
I fully support the Justice For Renters Act.

Do you support the repeal of Article 34?
I fully support the repeal of Article 34.

Do you support the initiative to require new local taxes to pass by a two-thirds vote?
I do not support the 2/3 vote to pass local taxes.

Do you support the potential measure to amend Prop 47?
I do not support the measure to amend Prop 47.

Do you support the proposed amendments to Measure GS to exempt multifamily housing?
I do not support the proposed amendments to Measure GS.

Additional Questions

1. Should the Rent Control Board be allowed to add ballot measures directly to the ballot without City Council's approval?

Yes.

2. Should the Rent Control Board's term limits be extended to three terms instead of two?

Yes.

3. What role do you believe the Santa Monica Democratic Club should have in our City?
SMDC should create a safe forum for discussion and debate of our issues.

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?

I will happily meet with members of SMDC and other organizations. I will do what I believe is best for Santa Monica and have an open-door policy when listening to other residents.

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

The most important topic that was left off the questionnaire is, "Do you support safer pedestrian/bicycling infrastructure?"

My response is that I am a daily walker and biker throughout the city. I have been in multiple situations where my life was in danger. We need safer infrastructure that keeps pedestrians and bicyclists protected.