

Santa Monica Democratic Club

2026 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 11:59pm on June 8, 2026. Interview appointment times with our Executive Committee will be scheduled on a first come first served basis for the weekend of June 20/21 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: Brett Morrow

Email Address: brettmorrow.campaign@gmail.com

Candidate's Current Occupation: Chief Communications Officer

Candidate's Employer: Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

Campaign Contact Person (if other than candidate): N/A

1. What qualifications do you bring to this office?

I've spent over 12 years of my career helping government communicate about, navigate, and solve complex problems. As Chief Communications Officer for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, I've worked on issues ranging from public health emergencies and wildfire response to disease prevention, economic development, housing stability, environmental hazards, and community engagement.

My job has never been just about communications. It's been about helping bring together residents, community organizations, subject matter experts, businesses, labor, and government agencies to build trust, solve problems, and deliver results. I've led large teams, managed budgets and contracts, implemented major public initiatives, and worked on challenges that affected millions of people, as well as issues impacting a single neighborhood, block, or family.

I am also the Chair of Santa Monica's Human Services Commission, where I've worked on issues affecting homelessness, immigrant communities, housing, families, and older adults. Most importantly, I understand how government actually works, and how to move ideas from discussion to implementation and how to deliver meaningful results that improve people's daily lives.

2. Why are you running?

I'm running because Santa Monica still has some challenges in front of us. It's still too expensive to live here for families, workers, students, and seniors. We need safer and cleaner streets, stronger support for our local businesses, more park space and recreation opportunities, and solutions that help families continue to afford to live here so our schools, neighborhoods, and local economy can thrive. Throughout my career, I've learned that good government has to improve people's daily lives while also addressing

the causes of the problems they're facing. Santa Monica doesn't need more political arguments about why problems exist. We need leaders who know how to bring people together, focus on implementation, and deliver results and I believe I am the best person to accomplish that.

3. **What are the top issues of your campaign, and how do they differ from other candidates in this race? How do you plan to address those issues once elected?**

I'm focused on the issues that affect people's daily lives: housing affordability, public safety, strong schools, thriving businesses, more parks and open space, and a government that is responsive, effective, and accountable. At the same time, I believe good government has to operate on two levels at once, solving the problems people experience every day while addressing the larger systems that create those problems in the first place.

What I believe distinguishes me from many of the other candidates is my experience working inside local government and helping turn ideas into real-world results. Throughout my career, I have worked on everything from public health emergencies and environmental hazards to housing stability, economic opportunity, and community outreach. I understand how government systems operate, how services are delivered, how to engage communities, and how to bring different stakeholders together around practical solutions. Solving problems in government is different from solving problems in the private sector. It requires navigating public processes, building consensus, coordinating across departments and agencies, and balancing competing community needs while still delivering results.

My focus has always been on outcomes, whether residents are getting the services they need, whether programs are actually working, and whether people's daily lives are improving. If elected, I would bring that same implementation-focused approach to City Hall, ensuring that we are not just adopting policies, but delivering measurable results for the people of Santa Monica.

4. **Please list all endorsements received to date (individual and organizational).**

Councilmember Dan Hall; Santa Monica College Board Trustee Anastasia Foster; Debbie Mulvaney (Community for Excellent Public Schools Steering Committee Member); Cynthia Rose (Community Advocate, Founder, Co-Chair, Santa Monica Safe Streets Alliance, Co-Founder and Director, SM Spoke, HRC Santa Monica Board Member, Santa Monica Forward Steering Committee Member); Former Rent Board Chair Todd Flora; and Santa Monica Democratic Club Executive Board Member Andrew Sprung.

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

My wife was born and raised in Santa Monica and lived in the city throughout her twenties and early thirties. We resided in West LA after we met and moved to the Wilmont neighborhood in Santa Monica a little over two years ago. Before moving to Santa Monica from West LA, I lived in Pasadena, Washington, DC, Glendale, Altadena, Highland Park, and Corona (where I grew up).

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

Yes.

7. **What is your history of watching, attending, or speaking at Santa Monica City Council meetings? (If incumbent, prior to your own service.)**

I have watched every City Council meeting for the last two years and began public commenting earlier this year on issues important to me, including worker's rights, good governance, environmental sustainability, and more.

Campaign Finance

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

Nearly \$35,000

2. **How much do you intend to raise by Election Day 2026?**

I hope to raise \$75,000 by Election Day.

3. **Candidates for local office often choose not to take campaign contributions from particular types of organizations or industries who are out of step with their own values. Are there any such sources from which you would decline donations? If so, which?**

Yes. I would not accept contributions from organizations whose business practices are fundamentally inconsistent with my values around public health, environmental sustainability, consumer protection, and good government. This includes, but is not limited to tobacco companies, fossil fuel and oil and gas interests, predatory lending operations, for-profit prisons, cryptocurrency and speculative financial schemes that undermine consumer protections, and organizations with a record of violating labor, environmental, or public health laws.

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 Democrat my entire life and registered as a Democrat when I turned 18 in 2000. I have never been registered with another political party or as Decline to State. My commitment to Democratic values extends beyond party registration and voting. I have worked for Democratic members of Congress, including Adam Schiff, Mark Takano, and Keith Ellison, and attended the 2016 Democratic National Convention to support the nomination of Hillary Clinton.

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 been involved in political activism for most of my life. As a child in the 1980s, I joined my father on picket lines while he was advocating for workers and opposing corporate mergers. Over the years, I participated in demonstrations related to the 2000 presidential election, the Iraq War, the Patriot Act, the illegal firing of U.S. attorneys, Proposition 8, the Affordable Care Act, Occupy Wall Street, increasing the minimum wage, fair scheduling, preserving social security, improving working conditions in warehouses, the Women's March, Black Lives Matter, and countless other issues. I volunteered and phone banked for John Kerry's presidential campaign in 2004 and Barack Obama's campaign in 2008. Professionally, I served as a communications consultant to Congressman Adam Schiff in 2010, volunteered on Congressman Mark Takano's campaign in 2014, and later served as Director of Communications for Congressman Keith Ellison's campaign for Democratic National Committee Chair in 2017.

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

Howard Dean (primary); John Kerry (general); Barack Obama (primary and general); Hillary Clinton (primary and general); Joe Biden (primary and general)

- 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.

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

Santa Monica Democratic Club
Santa Monica for Renter's Rights
Santa Monica Forward
Santa Monica Human Services Commission (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/2026/02/CDP-Platform-2026-FINAL-Platform-Adopted-2.22.26.pdf>

Yes. I have reviewed the California Democratic Party Platform. As a registered Democrat, I respect the Party's platform development process, which reflects the input and participation of delegates from across the state. While reasonable people may disagree on individual policy details, I do not have any specific objections to the platform at this time.

City Governance

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

I believe the current City Council has made meaningful progress in refocusing City Hall on the issues residents talk about every day: housing affordability, public safety, homelessness, mobility, and economic recovery. The Council specifically deserves credit for aggressively expanding programs like POD and for beginning the important work of restoring and repaying funds to the Housing Trust Fund after it was raided by previous councils and staff. Protecting and rebuilding those resources is critical if we are serious about creating and preserving affordable housing. While there is still a great deal of work to do, I think the Council has begun moving away from ideological debates and toward practical problem-solving. Where I believe we can continue to improve is in public engagement and communication, ensuring residents feel informed, heard, and involved before major decisions are made rather than after the fact.

- 2. What changes, if any, would you support to make Santa Monica's system of government more democratic, representative, transparent, or effective? Please discuss any structural or governance reforms you would be interested in exploring.**

I support creating a community-led process to examine potential governance reforms that would better serve residents. I also support reforms that make Council meetings and public participation more accessible, including expanded hybrid participation

opportunities consistent with state law, evaluating meeting schedules, and improving public comment procedures.

More broadly, I believe government works best when it actively seeks out voices that are often underrepresented in civic decision-making, including working families, renters, young people, immigrants, non-English speakers, and residents who may not have the time or flexibility to attend lengthy meetings. Public engagement should not be limited to those who can regularly show up at City Hall. It should include proactive outreach, clear communication, language access, and multiple pathways for participation so that the people most affected by decisions have a meaningful opportunity to help shape them.

3. How can Santa Monica better collaborate with neighboring cities and LA County on regional challenges such as homelessness, housing, and transportation?

Santa Monica cannot solve regional problems alone. Homelessness, housing affordability, transportation, public health, and workforce issues all cross city boundaries. Through my work in Los Angeles County government, I have experience working across departments and understanding how county systems, funding, and programs operate. That perspective can help Santa Monica better navigate regional partnerships, identify funding opportunities, and connect local priorities with county resources.

I also believe we should continue exploring regional approaches to shared challenges, including efforts such as a regional Housing Trust Fund through the Westside Cities Council of Governments and expanded regional homelessness resources that can better serve SPA 5 communities. At the same time, Santa Monica should remain a strong advocate for its residents while recognizing that lasting solutions require coordination, partnership, and shared responsibility across jurisdictions.

4. How do you assess Santa Monica's current approach to public input on legislative advocacy, and communication with residents on major policy decisions? What specific steps would you take to strengthen public trust, transparency, and accountability in City decision-making?

I think there have been instances where residents felt surprised by major policy discussions or legislative positions, not because anyone was acting in bad faith, but because communication did not reach people early enough or clearly enough. Public trust depends not only on making good decisions, but also on ensuring residents understand what is being considered, why it is being considered, and how they can participate. I would support clear public guidelines for how the City evaluates legislation, expanded use of plain-language summaries and issue briefings, earlier notice of major policy discussions, and more opportunities for community input before recommendations reach the Council.

At the same time, I believe public engagement and decision-making are not the same thing. Elected officials have a responsibility to listen to all perspectives, including those they may disagree with, and carefully consider public input. But leadership also requires making informed decisions based on facts, evidence, community values, and the long-term interests of the city, even when those decisions are difficult or unpopular. The goal should be meaningful engagement, not governance by whoever happens to show up the loudest.

5. City policies often succeed or fail at the implementation stage. Please describe a specific example from your own experience of how you would ensure a major City initiative is effectively executed once adopted.

Implementation is where many good ideas succeed or fail, and it is one of the areas where my professional experience is most relevant. Throughout my career at the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, I have worked on hundreds of initiatives, ranging from COVID-19 vaccination efforts and emergency response to lead remediation, maternal health programs, and small business permitting and training. In each case, success was not measured by simply whether a policy was adopted or a program was launched. Success was measured by whether people actually received services, accessed resources, and experienced better outcomes.

Because much of my work sits at the intersection of policy, operations, communications, and community engagement, I have seen firsthand what helps implementation succeed and where it often breaks down. The most successful initiatives are clear about their goals, identify who they are trying to reach, establish ways to measure progress, communicate effectively with the public, and remain flexible enough to adjust when challenges arise. Just as importantly, they require coordination across departments and stakeholders that do not always naturally work together.

One thing I know is that governing is different from campaigning, advocating, running a business, or simply adopting a policy. Making a decision or passing an initiative is often the easiest part. The harder work is making sure residents can actually access services, understand programs, navigate government systems, and see real improvements in their daily lives. That perspective is something I would bring to the City Council.

Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

- 1. In light of increasing federal threats to democratic institutions and civil liberties, what role should local governments like Santa Monica play in protecting democratic norms and residents' rights?**

Local governments play an important role in protecting residents' rights, ensuring equal access to services, and maintaining public trust in democratic institutions. While cities cannot control federal policy, they can ensure their own actions reflect principles of fairness, transparency, due process, and equal treatment under the law. In recent years, the Santa Monica City Council has adopted numerous 16-Items focused on protecting vulnerable residents, immigrant communities, and LGBTQ+ individuals to ensure residents can continue to access services and participate fully in civic life. Santa Monica should continue protecting civil rights, promoting civic engagement, supporting vulnerable communities, and ensuring residents can access government services without fear or discrimination.

- 2. What role should the City play in supporting and uplifting Black communities in Santa Monica, addressing past inequities, and ensuring that Black residents continue to have a meaningful presence and voice in the City's future?**

Santa Monica has a responsibility to acknowledge and learn from its history while also creating opportunity and belonging today and in the future. That begins with recognizing the legacy of places like Belmar, the importance of the Pico Neighborhood as the historic center of Black life in Santa Monica, and the need to ensure long-time Black residents and families are not displaced from the community.

I support continued investments in housing stability, educational opportunity, small business development, cultural preservation, and community-led initiatives that strengthen the Pico Neighborhood and corridors such as Broadway. I have also been encouraged by recent progress, including the restoration of the Ebony Beach Club's

legacy and the establishment of the Restorative Justice Commission through RAND. These efforts recognize that preserving history is important, but so is creating pathways for Black residents to continue shaping Santa Monica's future. The goal should be not only to remember the contributions of Black communities, but to ensure they continue to have a meaningful voice, presence, and stake in the city for generations to come.

3. **In what ways can/should the City of Santa Monica protect its immigrant communities from federal enforcement raids in our community?**

Santa Monica should continue ensuring that all residents can access city services, public safety resources, schools, parks, and community programs regardless of immigration status. The City should protect resident privacy where legally permitted and work closely with trusted community organizations to provide legal resources, know-your-rights information, and support for families affected by immigration enforcement actions. During these illegal ICE raids, the City should communicate clearly and quickly with residents about available resources and ensure community members know where to turn for accurate information and assistance. Public safety is strongest when residents feel comfortable accessing services, participating in community life, and engaging with local government without fear.

4. **What role should the City Council play in addressing historical inequities and ongoing concerns about displacement, economic opportunity, and community investment in the Pico Neighborhood?**

The Pico Neighborhood has a unique history and remains one of Santa Monica's most important communities. The City should continue investing in housing stability, small business support, youth opportunities, public spaces, infrastructure, economic development, and community-serving programs while ensuring residents have a meaningful voice in decisions affecting the neighborhood. Preventing displacement and expanding economic opportunity should remain central priorities. At the same time, the goal should be to improve quality of life and opportunity for current residents while preserving the community connections and history that make Pico special.

5. **What role should the City of Santa Monica play in protecting and supporting LGBTQ+ residents, particularly at a time of increasing political and legal attacks on LGBTQ+ rights nationally?**

Santa Monica should continue being a welcoming and inclusive city where LGBTQ+ residents feel safe, respected, and supported. While many of the legal debates are occurring at the state and federal levels, local government still has an important role to play in ensuring equal access to services, supporting LGBTQ+ youth and families, preventing discrimination, promoting public health, and fostering an inclusive community. Every resident deserves the opportunity to live, work, and participate in our city free from harassment or discrimination.

6. **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?**

I believe the City's workforce should strive to reflect the diversity of the community it serves. The Council's role is to establish priorities, review outcomes, and support recruitment, retention, professional development, and advancement opportunities that help attract talented employees from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences, which can lead to better outcomes across the organization. I would work collaboratively with the City Manager to review workforce data, identify barriers to recruitment or promotion, and support programs that strengthen inclusion and opportunity throughout

the organization. I would also like to see more City employees living in Santa Monica and would be interested in exploring recruitment strategies or incentives that encourage local residents to pursue careers with the City, including consideration of a local resident hiring band or similar approaches. Ultimately, the goal is to attract and retain the best talent while building a workforce that reflects and understands the community it serves.

Economic Development

1. Beyond housing, what should the City do to address cost of living and support a sustainable local economy, including small businesses and workers?

While housing affordability remains the largest cost-of-living challenge facing residents, the City should also focus on reducing the financial pressures that make it difficult for families and workers to remain in Santa Monica. That includes exploring ways to support childcare affordability, improving transit access through programs like MODE and other mobility options that reduce transportation expenses, and strengthening workforce development partnerships that connect residents to good-paying jobs.

On the economic side, supporting businesses requires more than permitting reform. We need to bring customers back. That means continuing investments in economic activation, arts and cultural programming, events, storefront improvements, and efforts such as the City's new business attraction fund designed to fill vacancies and bring new businesses to the Promenade. I also support expanding façade improvement grants, adaptive reuse opportunities, and public space activations that increase foot traffic and economic activity. A sustainable local economy is one where workers can afford to live here, entrepreneurs can succeed, businesses can thrive, and families can continue putting down roots in the community.

2. What specific strategies would you pursue in the next four years to address commercial vacancies and support the long-term vitality of Downtown Santa Monica?

The City has made important progress on permit reform and reducing barriers for businesses, and I support continuing that work. But permits alone do not create customers. We need a broader strategy focused on bringing people back to Downtown Santa Monica and increasing foot traffic, activity, and energy throughout our commercial districts. I support creating a dedicated storefront activation team focused on recruiting businesses, coordinating with brokers and landlords, helping entrepreneurs navigate city processes, and proactively filling vacant spaces.

I would also expand façade improvement grants, storefront activation grants, adaptive reuse incentives, and programs that help businesses improve signage, lighting, accessibility, outdoor spaces, and the overall customer experience. In addition, I support expanding pop-up retail opportunities, arts and cultural programming, community events, and public space activations that encourage residents and visitors to spend more time downtown. Ultimately, the goal is not simply to reduce vacancies. The goal is to create a downtown that people want to visit, spend time in, and return to regularly.

3. What is your assessment of Santa Monica's Entertainment Zone program thus far? Has it been successful in supporting economic activity and Downtown vitality, and would you support expanding the program to additional areas of the City? If so, where? Why or why not?

I believe the Entertainment Zone has been a positive addition to Downtown Santa Monica. It has created a more vibrant atmosphere, encouraged people to spend time

downtown, and demonstrated that we can support economic activity while maintaining public safety and quality of life. The concerns some people initially raised about widespread disorder or negative impacts have largely not materialized. I support carefully expanding the program to other appropriate areas, including Main Street, Montana Avenue, and portions of Palisades Park, particularly during events, festivals, and community activations where the concept appears most successful. Any expansion should be data-driven, include community input, and be evaluated based on economic activity, public safety outcomes, and overall visitor experience.

Housing / Development

1. **How would you describe the housing affordability crisis (or crises) facing Santa Monica and the region, and what do you see as their primary causes?**

Santa Monica's housing affordability crisis is really several overlapping crises occurring at the same time. We are facing a housing supply shortage, a family affordability crisis, increasing displacement pressures, and growing challenges for workers, seniors, and young people trying to remain in the community. The primary causes include the erosion of long-term affordability through laws like Costa-Hawkins, decades of underproduction relative to demand, rising construction costs, and broader economic pressures that have caused housing costs to grow faster than incomes. The result is that too many residents are spending unsustainable portions of their income on housing, families are leaving the city, and many workers and seniors are unable to live here or remain here long term.

2. **In what specific ways has Santa Monica succeeded or fallen short in addressing housing affordability and homelessness, and what policy approaches would you prioritize to address these challenges?**

Santa Monica has made important progress by rejecting efforts to weaken rent control, supporting affordable housing production, adopting stronger tenant protections, investing in innovative programs like SaMo Bridge, expanding housing stability efforts through POD, and launching new rental assistance programs for residents facing financial hardship. I have also been encouraged by the City's adoption of a right-to-counsel program for tenants facing eviction.

At the same time, we have not produced enough housing at a range of income levels, there are still significant gaps between outreach, shelter, behavioral health services, and permanent housing, and we have not yet fully restored resources that were previously taken from the Housing Trust Fund.

My priorities would be expanding housing stability programs such as rental assistance and POD, closely evaluating and strengthening the right-to-counsel program, rebuilding the Housing Trust Fund, and increasing housing production in places where it makes the most sense, including downtown, transit corridors, major boulevards, commercial districts, adaptive reuse sites, and publicly owned land suitable for housing. Success requires both compassion and accountability, with equal attention paid to helping people today and addressing the underlying causes of housing instability and homelessness over the long term.

3. **Which state or regional policies or legislative approaches do you view as most relevant to addressing housing affordability and housing production in Santa Monica, and why?**

I believe the most important policies are those that increase housing opportunities while also protecting the people who already live here. That includes affordable housing

funding, preservation of existing affordable and rent-controlled housing, adaptive reuse of underutilized commercial properties, reasonable streamlining of housing production, and strong tenant protections that prevent displacement. I am also interested in pursuing state and regional partnerships that unlock publicly owned land for affordable housing, including advocating for legislation that would allow redevelopment of sites such as the Santa Monica DMV property.

Housing affordability is not simply about producing more units. It is also about maintaining economic diversity, helping families and seniors remain in their homes, and ensuring that growth benefits both current and future residents. The most effective approach combines housing production, affordability, and housing stability.

4. **In considering state-mandated housing requirements, what is your philosophy on how and where new housing should be constructed, and how should authority be balanced between state and local control? Do you believe Santa Monica should accommodate substantially more housing growth over the next decade? Why or why not?**

Yes. I believe Santa Monica should accommodate substantially more housing growth over the next decade because the alternative is continued displacement, rising costs, longer commutes, and fewer opportunities for future generations to live here. New housing should primarily be focused in areas with existing infrastructure, including downtown, major boulevards, transit corridors, and commercial districts that have strong access to transit, jobs, schools, and commercial activity. I believe local governments should retain as much planning authority as possible, and the challenge is not whether we grow, but how we grow in a way that supports both new residents and existing communities and, above all, to prevent displacement in naturally occurring affordable housing.

5. **Did you support SB 79 before it included any protections for existing rent-controlled housing and its tenants? Why or why not? Do you believe the anti-displacement provisions of SB 79 as adopted go far enough? Why or why not? Do you believe Santa Monica ought to implement greater protections for existing rent-controlled units and their tenants than SB 79 provides? Why or why not?**

I support the goal of increasing housing near transit, but I was concerned from the beginning about the potential impact on rent-controlled housing and existing renters. I do not believe new housing should come at the expense of displacing long-term residents, seniors, working families, or vulnerable renters. The anti-displacement amendments definitely improved the bill. More broadly, I support Santa Monica pursuing its own transit-oriented housing strategy that accommodates additional housing growth while eliminating or minimizing displacement risks. I believe we can achieve much of the housing production SB 79 is intended to encourage by focusing growth in downtown, commercial corridors, transit-rich areas, and other appropriate locations rather than placing existing rent-controlled units at risk. That is why I supported the City's efforts to explore an alternative plan that seeks to achieve both housing production and tenant protection goals. Housing production and anti-displacement efforts should not be competing priorities. We need both.

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

I have been a renter for my entire adult life, and my family currently lives in a rent-controlled apartment in Santa Monica. Quite frankly, we are able to remain in Santa Monica only because of rent control. Rent Control is one of the most important tools the

city has for maintaining housing stability, economic diversity, and community continuity. It helps seniors age in place, allows working families to remain in the city, and protects long-term residents from displacement as housing costs rise around them. Protecting Rent Control is a top priority for me, and I would strongly oppose efforts to weaken, undermine, or eliminate it.

7. **What role should tenant protections, such as eviction protections for nonpayment of rent or right to counsel for tenants facing eviction, play in the city's overall housing strategy? Do you favor expansion of the newly adopted right to counsel program, and if so, how would you fund such an expansion?**

Tenant protections should be a central part of Santa Monica's housing strategy because preventing displacement is often more effective and less costly than trying to address housing instability after it occurs. I support strong eviction protections, anti-harassment enforcement, right-to-counsel programs, and efforts to preserve existing affordable and rent-controlled housing. I support expansion of the newly adopted right-to-counsel program if early results demonstrate it is helping residents remain housed and navigate the legal system more fairly. Funding could come from Measure GS revenues, housing-related funding sources, grants, and other resources dedicated to homelessness prevention and housing stability.

8. **Based on results from the first few years of implementation, do you believe that 2022's Measure GS should be amended? If so, how and why?**

At this time, I do not support changes to Measure GS. The measure generates important revenue for schools, homelessness prevention, affordable housing, and other community priorities while the City's off-site affordable housing program appears to be helping encourage housing production without requiring permanent changes to the tax itself. I believe the City should continue monitoring outcomes and making decisions based on evidence, but I do not currently see a compelling reason to amend Measure GS.

9. **Are you committed to using the public land identified in the existing Housing Element to generate the number of deed-restricted affordable housing units identified? How else do you believe the City should create below market-rate housing in Santa Monica?**

Yes. Public land is one of the most powerful tools available for creating affordable housing because it reduces development costs and allows the City to shape outcomes more directly. In addition to utilizing Housing Element sites, Santa Monica should continue pursuing partnerships with nonprofit developers, preserving existing affordable housing, expanding adaptive reuse opportunities, leveraging state and federal funding programs, and encouraging inclusionary housing production.

10. **Do you support an expansion of Santa Monica's ongoing financial assistance program to additional severely rent-burdened and/or rent-burdened households? If so, to whom would you expand the program and how would you finance the expansion?**

Yes. I support expanding housing stability assistance programs to additional severely rent-burdened households, particularly working families, seniors, and residents facing temporary financial hardship. We could also evaluate eligibility criteria to ensure assistance reaches families with school-aged children, essential workers, and other residents who are at risk of displacement but may not qualify under existing programs.

Preventing displacement is often far less expensive than responding after a family loses housing or is forced to leave the community. I would prioritize Measure GS revenues as a funding source, alongside other housing and homelessness prevention resources, to help keep residents housed and maintain Santa Monica's economic and social diversity. I also believe the City should continue exploring ways to support families facing housing and childcare costs, which for many households represent their two largest monthly expenses and have increasingly reached unsustainable levels. If we want families to remain in Santa Monica, we need to recognize the financial pressures they are facing and develop strategies that help them stay rooted in the community.

Public Safety

- 1. How would you assess public safety and quality of life in Santa Monica today? What specific trends concern you most, and where do you see progress?**

Overall, I believe Santa Monica has made meaningful progress on public safety over the past couple of years. Crime has declined in many categories, arrests and enforcement activity have increased, and the Police Department under Chief Jacobs has taken a more proactive and visible approach to addressing public safety concerns. I have also been encouraged by innovative programs such as SaMo Bridge, which has helped connect vulnerable people to services and support while reducing unnecessary interactions with the criminal justice system. I also support efforts such as the new Downtown police substation and the restructuring of the Downtown Services Unit, which should improve visibility, coordination, and response times in the part of the city that experiences the greatest concentration of crime and public safety challenges.

That said, public safety is not measured solely by crime statistics. Residents need to feel safe in their neighborhoods, parks, business districts, and public spaces. My greatest concern is maintaining public confidence in our ability to respond effectively to serious incidents, address behavioral health and homelessness-related challenges, and ensure that public spaces remain clean, safe, and welcoming. While we have made progress, there is still important work to do in balancing compassion, accountability, prevention, and public safety.

- 2. What specific steps should be taken in the next two years to improve public safety in Santa Monica? If additional funding is required, how should it be allocated across policing, unarmed response, and prevention programs? What metrics should the City use to evaluate success?**

Over the next two years, I believe Santa Monica should focus on three priorities: maintaining an effective Police Department, expanding proven prevention and behavioral health programs, and improving coordination across the entire public safety and human services system. That includes continuing efforts to recruit and retain sworn officers, maintaining visible patrols in business districts, parks, transit areas, and neighborhoods, and ensuring officers can focus on public safety issues that truly require a law enforcement response. At the same time, we should continue investing in programs such as SaMo Bridge, behavioral health response teams, homelessness prevention efforts, outreach services, and other initiatives that help address problems before they become crises. If additional funding is needed, I would prioritize investments based on evidence and results rather than ideology. The goal should be to fund the programs that are most effective at improving safety, reducing repeat calls for service, connecting people to treatment and housing, and improving quality of life for residents. Success should be measured through a combination of traditional public safety metrics and community outcomes, including crime rates, response times, repeat calls for

service, resident perceptions of safety, behavioral health connections, shelter and housing placements, recidivism, and the cleanliness and usability of parks, public spaces, and commercial districts.

Environment & Climate

1. What steps should Santa Monica take in the next four years to prepare for climate impacts such as extreme heat, wildfire smoke, and sea level rise?

Climate change is already affecting Santa Monica through extreme heat, wildfire smoke, and coastal impacts, so we need to focus on practical resilience measures. Over the next four years, I would prioritize expanding safe walking and biking infrastructure, increasing tree canopy and shade, continuing investments in water conservation and water infrastructure, and advancing coastal resilience efforts. I also support dune restoration and other nature-based solutions that help protect our coastline. As we plan the future Great Park at the airport site, we should incorporate sustainable water infrastructure and climate resilience features. Finally, we should continue focusing housing growth in transit-rich areas such as Downtown and Bergamot to reduce vehicle trips and support a more sustainable city.

2. What specific ideas do you envision for the future of the Santa Monica Airport land after its closure, and how can the City more broadly preserve and expand its green spaces?

I support a Great Park and a park-only future for the airport site. The airport closure presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create significant new park space, recreation opportunities, habitat restoration, sports fields, trails, community gathering spaces, and environmental benefits for current and future generations. Beyond the airport, Santa Monica should continue identifying opportunities to expand neighborhood green space, improve park access in underserved areas, increase urban tree canopy, and incorporate green infrastructure into streets, public facilities, and redevelopment projects. As one of the most park-poor cities in the region, preserving and expanding open space should remain a long-term priority.

3. Do you support the [Club's resolution](#) calling for a citywide ban of artificial turf on locally owned public land?

Yes. I support the Club's resolution. While artificial turf can accommodate heavy use, I believe natural grass is generally the better long-term choice for public health, environmental sustainability, and quality of life. Artificial turf contributes to higher surface temperatures, creates disposal and microplastic concerns, and can contain materials that raise environmental and health questions. The City's own analysis found that turf does not necessarily provide meaningful long-term cost savings when installation, maintenance, and replacement costs are considered. Wherever feasible, I believe Santa Monica should prioritize natural grass fields that are cooler, safer, and work with the environment rather than against it.

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

Environmental justice is fundamentally about whether all residents have equal access to healthy and safe living conditions. In Santa Monica, some of the most significant environmental justice issues include exposure to traffic-related air pollution near major corridors, disparities in access to parks and open space, extreme heat impacts, housing conditions that affect health and safety, and ensuring lower-income residents are not disproportionately burdened by environmental hazards. These challenges have

historically affected neighborhoods such as Pico more heavily than other parts of the city and deserve particular attention.

Addressing these issues requires incorporating public health considerations into housing, transportation, climate, and land-use decisions while prioritizing investments in neighborhoods and populations facing the greatest risks. That includes expanding tree canopy and shade, improving access to parks and open space, reducing exposure to pollution, investing in healthy housing, and ensuring residents have a meaningful voice in environmental decisions that affect their communities. I believe environmental policy should be measured not only by environmental outcomes but also by whether it improves health, quality of life, and opportunity for all residents.

Mobility

1. **Which methods of transportation do you personally use to get around Santa Monica, and how do your transportation habits inform your policy positions?**

I regularly walk throughout Santa Monica, drive an electric vehicle, and occasionally use bicycles and e-scooters. Like many residents, I use different modes of transportation depending on where I'm going and what I'm doing. Those experiences have reinforced my belief that streets are not just transportation corridors, they are public spaces that should be safe, accessible, and welcoming for everyone, whether they are walking, biking, taking transit, driving, or using mobility devices. My goal is not to prioritize one mode over another, but to create a transportation system that gives people safe and practical choices while reducing injuries and improving quality of life.

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

Potentially, but I think pedestrianization should be driven by local conditions, community support, and clear goals rather than applied everywhere. Santa Monica previously experimented with a temporary pedestrianized Main Street during the COVID era, and while that moment presented unique challenges and opportunities, our city is in a different place today. As we focus on economic recovery, activation, and bringing more people into our commercial districts, I support the city continuing to explore temporary pilots during special events and activations on Main Street, portions of Montana Avenue, or other appropriate locations. The key is testing ideas, gathering data, and evaluating whether they improve foot traffic, support local businesses, enhance the public realm, and create the kind of vibrant community spaces people want to spend time in.

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

Santa Monica should focus on proven safety improvements that reduce injuries and save lives. That includes expanding pedestrian-activated HAWK crossings, installing more raised crosswalks, daylighting intersections to improve visibility, narrowing travel lanes where appropriate to slow traffic, and building physically protected bike infrastructure using concrete barriers or landscaped separation rather than paint alone whenever feasible. I also support expanding school safety zones, reducing dangerous turning conflicts at high-injury intersections, implementing leading pedestrian intervals at signals, improving lighting and shade along walking routes, upgrading bus stops and transit access, and expanding traffic calming measures on neighborhood streets.

Santa Monica already benefits from Measure K funding for transportation improvements, but I believe we should also identify additional local funding sources to accelerate

implementation of Vision Zero projects and reduce reliance on competitive grants that can delay projects for years. I have proposed dedicating a portion of new parking revenue toward street safety improvements so proven projects can move from planning to construction more quickly. We should also publicly track progress through a mobility dashboard that monitors injuries, project delivery, and safety outcomes. The goal should be to design streets that naturally encourage safe behavior rather than relying solely on enforcement.

4. Do you support additional Metro rail lines being built in Santa Monica, and if so, which potential projects would you support?

I am supportive of expanding high-quality public transit, but I believe each proposal should be evaluated on its specific benefits and tradeoffs. I would be open to projects such as a future D (Purple) Line extension, but I would want to better understand potential impacts on existing rent-controlled housing, displacement risks, and how any proposal fits with Santa Monica's existing zoning and housing plans. I also believe Metro needs to demonstrate it can be a strong partner on safety and operations. Before supporting additional rail expansion into Santa Monica, I would want to see continued improvements on the E Line, successful implementation of the City's Metro public safety partnership, and stronger fare enforcement measures, including physical fare gates that reduce fare evasion and improve the rider experience.

5. Should shared mobility devices (e.g., scooters, e-bikes, self-driving cars) be encouraged or discouraged in Santa Monica?

I generally support shared mobility because it gives residents and visitors additional transportation options that can reduce vehicle trips and help connect people to transit, businesses, and destinations throughout the city. However, these systems need to be managed responsibly. The City should continue enforcing parking requirements, improving rider education, collecting data, and holding operators accountable for maintaining safe and orderly systems. The goal should be to encourage innovation while ensuring shared mobility devices remain safe, accessible, and well-integrated into the public realm.

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

In some locations, yes, but these decisions should be thoughtful, data-driven, and tied to clear public benefits. In certain corridors, converting parking to protected bike lanes, transit improvements, loading zones, parklets, or pedestrian safety infrastructure may make sense. However, parking remains important for residents, businesses, employees, visitors, and people with disabilities who rely on accessible parking to access services and participate fully in community life. Any changes should be implemented with careful evaluation of impacts and with accessibility considerations built into the planning process. The goal should not be reducing parking for its own sake, but creating a transportation system that better balances safety, access, economic activity, and mobility options.

Ballot Measures

1. Do you support the California Billionaire Tax Act, which would impose a one-time emergency 5% tax on those worth more than \$1B? Why or why not?

I strongly support asking the wealthiest individuals to contribute more toward the public investments and services that make our communities stronger. Throughout my career, I have supported efforts to make the tax system fairer, and I have worked for progressive

members of Congress who advocated for policies that asked the wealthiest Americans to pay a greater share. California needs stable, sustainable revenue sources that can support housing, education, healthcare, and other public priorities over the long term. I generally favor permanent and systemic approaches to tax fairness that create predictable funding for public services and investments.

While I agree with the goals of this measure, I have concerns about relying on a one-time tax as a solution to ongoing challenges and about whether the broad coalition necessary for long-term success was built around the proposal. For those reasons, I do not support this particular measure.

2. **Do you support the state ballot measure which would require voters to present government-issued identification when casting ballots? Why or why not?**

No. The measure would create unnecessary barriers to voting and will disproportionately impact communities that already face challenges accessing government-issued identification, including low-income residents, students, seniors, and communities of color.

3. **Do you support the proposed state taxpayer initiative which would limit the ability of local governments to raise revenue through certain taxes and fees including real estate transfer taxes? Why or why not?**

No. I believe local communities should retain the ability to make decisions about how to fund local priorities. While taxpayers deserve accountability and transparency, blanket state restrictions can limit a city's ability to invest in critical needs such as affordable housing, homelessness prevention, public safety, parks, libraries, schools, and infrastructure.

I am particularly concerned that measures like this could undermine local voter-approved funding sources such as Measure GS, which supports affordable housing, homelessness prevention, and other important community priorities in Santa Monica. Local voters and elected officials are generally best positioned to determine what funding mechanisms make sense for their communities, and I do not support Sacramento overriding those decisions through broad restrictions on local revenue authority.

4. **Do you support the proposed parcel tax to fund SMMUSD? Why or why not?**

Yes. Santa Monica's public schools are among the strongest in the state and remain one of the primary reasons many families choose to live here. Maintaining a stable and reliable funding source is critical to preserving educational quality, supporting students, attracting families, and strengthening the long-term health of our community.

5. **Do you support the proposed ballot measure which would set aside 25% of the airport land for 3000 units of affordable housing, in addition to the remainder which would become a Great Park? Why or why not?**

No. I support a park-only future for the airport site.

Additional Questions

1. **Do you support Medicare For All single-payer healthcare? If so, do you support AB1900 (Kalra) specifically?**

Yes. I support the goal of universal healthcare and believe healthcare should be treated as a right rather than a privilege tied to employment, income, or geography. Working in

public health, I have seen firsthand how lack of access to care contributes to poorer health outcomes, financial instability, and avoidable suffering. I support single-payer approaches that expand coverage, reduce administrative costs, and improve access to care. With respect to AB 1900 specifically, I support the bill's goals and would defer to healthcare financing and implementation experts on the specific funding and operational details.

2. Do you support closure of Santa Monica Airport as scheduled, or are you open to continued aviation use beyond 2028?

I support closing Santa Monica Airport as scheduled. The airport site represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create a Great Park that provides much-needed open space, recreation opportunities, and environmental benefits for Santa Monica residents.

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

Supporting workers is not something I will ever waver on or apologize for. I grew up in a union household and have spent my life advocating for workers' rights. Professionally, I worked for progressive members of Congress during a period when we were fighting to raise the minimum wage, expand overtime protections, support fair scheduling practices, strengthen workplace safety, protect collective bargaining rights, oppose anti-union legislation, and address wage theft. Those experiences reinforced my belief that workers deserve dignity, fair compensation, safe working conditions, and a meaningful voice on the job.

Unions are also deeply personal to me. My father was a member of the Communications Workers of America, my stepfather is a member of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, my oldest brother is a member of Ironworkers Local 416, my sister-in-law is a member of the International Association of Fire Fighters, and my wife is a member of Teamsters Local 399.

I understand that strong unions built the middle class and remain one of the most effective tools for ensuring workers share in economic prosperity. Union workers in Santa Monica can trust that I will stand with them because I have spent both my personal and professional life doing exactly that.

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 already regularly engage with many of these organizations and attend meetings, forums, and community discussions. If elected, I would continue maintaining open lines of communication with advocacy organizations, political clubs, community groups, labor partners, neighborhood organizations, and business stakeholders to better understand concerns, gather feedback, and identify potential solutions. While elected officials ultimately have a responsibility to make decisions, I believe better decisions are made when people are engaged early and often rather than after proposals are already developed.

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

How do you believe government should operate, and what is the appropriate role of government in solving community challenges?

I believe good government has to operate on two levels at the same time. It has to improve people's daily lives while also addressing the larger forces that create the problems they are experiencing. For example, if a family is struggling with housing costs, government should help address the immediate challenge through housing stability programs and tenant protections, while also working on the long-term issue of housing supply and affordability. If residents are concerned about homelessness, government should keep public spaces clean, safe, and welcoming while also investing in behavioral health services, homelessness prevention, and housing solutions that reduce homelessness over time.

I also believe effective government requires humility and self-awareness. Government should know when to lead and use its resources, authority, and convening power, and when to partner with nonprofits, schools, labor organizations, faith communities, businesses, and residents who may be better positioned to deliver results. Sometimes government's role is direct action. Sometimes it is bringing people together, removing barriers, providing support, or getting out of the way.

That is a lesson I have learned throughout my career in public health. The goal is not for government to get credit. The goal is to solve problems and improve people's lives. The strongest communities are built when government understands its role, focuses on outcomes, and works collaboratively with others toward shared goals.

6. **Please describe whether and how you used generative AI tools in preparing your responses. If elected, how would you use these tools in governance, if at all?**

Yes. I used generative AI tools for initial research on subjects like AB1900 and Measure K, improving sentence flow, and reviewing responses for spelling and grammar. Any information generated through these tools was independently reviewed and verified before being included in my responses.

If elected, I would view generative AI as a tool, not a substitute for judgment, expertise, community engagement, or professional staff.