



## Candidate Questionnaire

### General Information

Candidate Name: Erin Darling

Office Sought: City Council District #11

Proposed Ballot Designation: Civil Rights Attorney  
(Or Occupation Listing)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

### Campaign Team\*

Provide the names and cell phone numbers for the following campaign team members:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

### Elected Office

Do you currently, or have you ever held public office?

Yes

If yes, which public office(s) have you held and when did you do so?

Venice Neighborhood Council 2014-2017

**Personal and Political Background**

Current Occupation: Attorney

Are you a registered Democrat? Yes

Have you ever been registered with another political party or selected “Decline to State” or “No Party Preference” for your voter registration party affiliation, and if so, for what period?

Green Party 2000-2004  
Democratic Party 2004 - Present

In less than 250 words, briefly summarize your personal background (work experience, education, community involvement, etc.).

I am a civil rights lawyer, a surfer, and a father of a three-year-old. I was born and raised in Venice. I attended California public schools from kindergarten through law school. I graduated UC Berkeley School of Law and returned home to Venice to begin work representing low-income tenants facing eviction and often homelessness. As a lawyer, I won tangible victories on behalf of regular people who were wronged by the powerful, but the problems we face as a community go beyond what any righteous lawsuit can solve.

What endorsements have you received from organizations and prominent individuals?  
(You may either use the space below or attach a separate list.)

LA County Democratic Party  
LA County Young Democrats  
Stonewall Democrats  
Ben Allen  
Richard Bloom  
Laura Friedman  
Holly Mitchell

Democrats for Israel Los Angeles  
Candidate Questionnaire

In the past five years, have you:

- belonged to an organization that has taken action or formally expressed a viewpoint on Israel or related issues;
- participated in an organized activity, including a forum, on Israel or related issues; or
- while holding office, introduced or co-sponsored legislation (other than purely ceremonial, supportive measures) on Israel or related issues?

No

**Policy Questions**

Please describe your positions on the following issues. Please limit your responses to 250 words for each response. If you wish, one response may include up to 500 words.

1. Please describe your last trip to Israel and the Middle East, including the year of the trip and any group that arranged or sponsored the trip. If you have not yet been to Israel, when and to where do you plan on going in Israel, and the region generally, for your trip?

I have never traveled to Israel but would be honored to travel to Israel in my first term as City Councilmember. I am so fortunate to be married to my amazing wife who is raising our child as a proud member of the Jewish community. She went on her birthright trip in 2015.

Tel Aviv is the Venice of Israel, and I would love to see the vibrant community there firsthand. Jerusalem is the holiest city in the world and I would be honored to travel to the Western Wall and leave a note for peace and prosperity in the wall.

2. Who do you speak with to develop your positions and views on Israel and the Middle East, including people overseas and local leaders in Southern California?

My Senior advisor is former DFI Board Member David Turkell. He is regularly in contact with leadership from major Jewish and Pro-Israel organizations including but not limited to local and international chapters of the American Jewish Committee, The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, Democratic Majority for Israel, Jewish Public Affairs Committee, and the embassy of the State of Israel in West LA which is housed within the district. He will help guide my Middle East Policy in City Hall.

Democrats for Israel Los Angeles  
Candidate Questionnaire

3. Please describe your relationship, if any, with the Israeli-American and Jewish community in Los Angeles.

At every single stage of my life, I have been so fortunate to be surrounded by a thriving Jewish community. As someone who is married to a proud member of the Jewish Community, I wanted to make sure my son is able to experience life as a Jewish American. That's why we took him to Yom Kippur Services at Kehillat Israel. During the service, my son Nemo was invited on stage with all of the children and participated in the service. It was amazing to watch my son continue the holy traditions. I can't wait to be at bar mitzvahs just like I did growing up in the district for so many weekends. LA has one of the largest and most diverse Jewish communities in the world, and I will always have their back as they had mine my entire life.

4. If elected, what committees and organizations would you try to be active in, and what policy areas would you try to affect that are relevant to Israel and the Middle East?

Tourism, housing, and personnel are committees I am striving to be a part of if I have the opportunity to serve the 11th District. Right now I am primarily focused on the Westside and I am not bringing an international focus into City Hall. My main goal is to address the homelessness crisis and lack of affordable housing across the Westside. With that said, tourism is central to our local economy, especially after years of the pandemic, and I would love to strengthen international ties to promote tourism to the Westside.

5. Over the past decade, there has been a small but growing movement around the country to divest from Israel. These groups often use anti-Semitic language in their efforts, some target Jewish students on campuses and instead of discussing how to engage the democratic-process to challenge Israeli policies that may be objectionable, they try to delegitimize Israel or question its right to exist. In short, these are frequently attempts to influence state and local governments and their universities and pension boards not to invest in Israeli companies or companies that do business anywhere in Israel.

What is your view on the Israel boycott and divestment movement and what will you do about it?

I do not agree with BDS. LA would benefit by investing in Israeli technology that can help the constituents of CD11. I'm excited for my son to claim his birthright and attend a trip to Israel.

Democrats for Israel Los Angeles  
Candidate Questionnaire

6. The FBI's Uniform Crime Report for 2014 showed that there were more than 609 anti-Jewish hate crimes in the United States that year and even today, Jews were the most persecuted and targeted religious group in the country.

What steps would you take (for example, in the education and law enforcement arenas) to help prevent current and future anti-Jewish hatred and anti-Semitic activity in your jurisdiction?

With Anti-Semitic hate crimes here in America at an all time high last year according to the ADL, I will do everything in my power to defend the Jewish community. I am already in constant communication with local leaders and it's important I take direction from some amazing legislators who's endorsement I was honored to earn, Senator Ben Allen, Assemblymember Richard Bloom, and Assemblymember Laura Friedman, to see how we can fight Anti-Semitism across the state and make Sacramento finally work for us.

My team is currently in conversations with Jewish civic and clergy leaders from all over Los Angeles and I invite everyone to come and talk to me about how I can best support the community. In light of the bigoted comments by three LA City Councilmembers, it is crucial that we have leadership that is focused on addressing bigotry and promoting multi-cultural understanding. I am committed to promoting educational opportunities for youth to learn about combatting racism, homophobia, sexism and anti-semitism.

7. As a Democrat, what steps can we take to help fight anti-Semitism on both the left and the right?

White supremacy is a cancer upon society and must be stopped. I will work closely with Jewish organizations and nonprofits to ensure that white supremacists and the alt-right have no place in the 11th District. I also want to note that I will work to educate leaders on the left to make sure that they aren't employing the same anti-semitic tropes used by bigots throughout history. When I see anti-semitism, I will call it out, no matter who it comes from. The more we can educate the people, the better we can be as a united community.

8. What other issues do you think are unique or important to the Jewish and pro-Israel community, and how do you propose to make a difference with these issues and keep in touch with the community?

Democrats for Israel Los Angeles  
Candidate Questionnaire

We all know firsthand how tough it is to survive in a drought, but in just under 75 years Israel turned a desert into an oasis. As an environmentalist, Israeli drip irrigation technology is a proven life saver and can help us maintain crops and plants while conserving water. We need to make sure we have the best resources at our disposal to combat the drastic effects of climate change and I'm confident that our friends in Israel can deliver the technology we need to survive.