



Candidate Questionnaire

General Information

Candidate Name: Bob Hertzberg

Office Sought: Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors District 3

Proposed Ballot Designation: TBD

Campaign Mailing Address: 1787 Tribute Road, Suite K, Sacramento, CA 95815

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Campaign Team*

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

[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?

- **California State Senate (elected 2014 - Present)**
 - Served as Senate Majority Leader
- **California State Assembly (elected 1996 - 2002)**
 - Served as Speaker of the Assembly

Personal and Political Background

Current Occupation: **State Senate Majority Leader Emeritus**

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?

I have been a tried and true Democrat since I first registered to vote on my 18th birthday. Long before that, as a teenager I have been active and engaged in Democratic political campaigns, my first in the 9th grade working to build a local youth center for the community. I’m proud to say I’ve worked on well over hundred campaigns before I was ever elected to office, many in South LA and in East Los Angeles.

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

I have a B.A. from the University of Redlands in English and History. I earned my law degree from the University of California, Hastings. Since I was a teenager, I have been deeply involved in politics, starting as a driver for Merv Dymally. I went on to work as a volunteer on dozens of campaigns in East LA and South LA, many of them alongside Labor.

I was first elected to the California State Assembly in 1996. I served as the 64th Speaker of the California State Assembly, unanimously elected by both parties in 2000 and 2001. During that time, I worked side by side with labor including negotiating a series of more than \$70 billion in school construction bonds, which helped employ thousands of workers in good union jobs during a recession.

After my tenure as Speaker, I set out to the private sector as a clean energy entrepreneur and in 2014, I returned to state government when I was again elected to represent nearly 1 million people in the San Fernando Valley in the California State Senate. In the Senate, I’ve had the privilege of serving as Majority Leader. In that position, I have been responsible for negotiating and securing passages of every major piece of legislation coming through the Senate.

I’ve taken on the biggest and most challenging issues facing California, and have brokered some of the toughest negotiations. From battling the unfair and unjust cash bail system in California, to negotiating the 2018 passage of the California Consumer Privacy Act, the eviction moratorium, and much more. I approach every problem through a lens of governing for the next generation, not the next election.

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

**My full list of endorsements can be found here:
www.hertzbergforsupervisor.com/endorsements**

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; - **Yes, I am a member of the California Legislative Jewish Caucus, and we deeply support Israel. I have previously served as Vice President of the LA Chapter of the American Jewish Committee, Vice President of the National Association of Jewish Legislators, Chairman of the Dean's Council of Hebrew Union College, Los Angeles Campus, and on the Board of the Jewish Federation of Los Angeles.**
- participated in an organized activity, including a forum, on Israel or related issues; or **As a member of the Legislative Jewish Caucus, I have participated and helped organize a number of events. I have also participated at events at the Skirball Center, Holocaust Museum, and more. I also organized and hosted a Sukkot event in the sukkah at my home with a discussion on housing and homelessness with Rabbi Noah Farkas.**
- while holding office, introduced or co-sponsored legislation (other than purely ceremonial, supportive measures) on Israel or related issues? **I've cosponsored numerous measures supporting Israel during my time in public office. Recently, one of the most significant ones that was signed by the Governor provides security grant funding for nonprofits.**

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? **Over the years I have been to Israel a number of times both in my capacity as an elected official and independently for business. In the early 1990s, I was among ten leaders selected out of 300**

nationally by the American Jewish Committee to participate in a 19 day trip to Israel. My first trip was in 1981 to Gaza.

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?

Through all of the Jewish community organizations I have had the privilege to be a part of, I have had a chance to develop deep relationships with numerous policy experts on Israel and the middle east. I have a wide network of friends, Rabbis, government leaders in Israel, and community leaders here at home that I consult on a regular basis. These have included leaders at The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, The American Jewish Committee, JPAC, Rabbi David Baron and Rabbi Sarah Hronsky.

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

I am proud to have been an active participant in and leader of the Jewish community in Los Angeles for decades. I've served in leadership positions in numerous Jewish organizations, from the Jewish Federation of Los Angeles, to Hebrew Union College, to the American Jewish Committee, to the National Association of Jewish Legislators. I won the Guardian of Justice Award from the New Israel Fund, the Jerry Samspon Memorial Award from the Jewish Public Affairs Committee of California, and numerous other distinctions for my work in the Jewish community. My district in the San Fernando Valley has a significant Israeli population, as well as an Orthodox population, and I cultivate strong relationships with these communities.

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?

Due to the LA County Board of Supervisors having only 5 members, committees dictate much less of the structure of how legislation gets passed than they do at the state or federal level. While there are fewer things the Board of Supervisors can do on Israel policy than other legislative bodies, I would strongly oppose any and all divestment policies, and work to strengthen the County of Los Angeles' economic ties to Israel - as we are similarly sized economies with much in common. I would also work with law enforcement agencies across L.A. County to ensure the community's protection against hate crimes. And, I will use the bully pulpit to boldly speak out against antisemitism of all kinds.

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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 frequent 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 strongly oppose the BDS movement. It is offensive and frequently rooted in anti-semitism, and uses tools that mostly serve to divide people and create dissension, rather than bringing people together for dialogue.

I will continue to be a strong defender of Israel and will actively oppose the BDS movement on the Board of Supervisors, as I have throughout my time in the Legislature.

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?

We have seen the rise in inhumane crimes and attacks against the Jewish people here in Los Angeles County very recently. We must bring together our law enforcement agencies from all levels to help share information about anti-Semitic activity and work to solve unsolved hate crimes. It's important to have this cooperation and collaboration if we are to make headway against stemming the influence of these hate groups and preventing future hate crimes against Jewish people. As Speaker of the Assembly, and together with Gov. Gray Davis, I established the Hertzberg-Davis Crime Lab at Cal State Los Angeles. There is much work to be done in serving the people of L.A. County to reduce hate crimes, and the Crime Lab can help address this issue. And recently, as mentioned above, the Legislative Jewish Caucus secured \$60 million to provide security grants to nonprofits across the state, and I have assisted many nonprofits here in L.A. in the efforts to apply for this funding.

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

I don't care which party it comes from, anti-semitism is wrong, full stop. I'll call out anti-semites if they're Democrats, Republicans, left, right, hate is hate and we must stand up to it. Coming together and showing bipartisan support for Israel and affirming our commitment to keeping Jewish communities safe would go a long way in combating anti-Semitism. Additionally, we must do a better job of creating a public square where the most extreme views are not the ones that are amplified - which includes working with social media companies to stop amplifying hateful voices. Finally, it is especially imperative that we, as Democrats, stand up and speak out against antisemitism, because far too often Democrats are presumed empathetic with BDS, and it is our responsibility to condemn antisemitism of all kinds.

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?

I believe that one of the most important things for the Jewish Community from a political standpoint has been our ability to build coalitions collaboratively with other groups that face some of the same threats that we do - from hate crimes to discrimination. I've spent my career building coalitions, and I believe that we need to continue to build diverse coalitions that advance the interests of the Jewish Community.