



## Candidate Questionnaire

### General Information

Candidate Name: **Lindsey P. Horvath**

Office Sought: **Los Angeles County Supervisor, 3rd District**

Proposed Ballot Designation: **Councilmember/Business Owner**  
(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?

**West Hollywood City Councilmember (2009-2011, 2015-present)**

**West Hollywood Mayor (2015 - 2016, 2020 - 2021)**

**Personal and Political Background**

Current Occupation: **Entertainment Advertising Executive**

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?

**Yes. It is public record that in my first year in college, I had a brief affiliation with the Republican Party when I was 18. I am from a conservative Midwestern family and was raised to believe that the Republican Party cared most about the issues that were important to me. When I first got to college, I got involved with Republican student groups. I soon came to understand that my values were not that of the Republican Party. I not only registered as a Democrat, I became a Democratic activist, feeling a great responsibility to work hard and make sure other young people did not make the same mistake I did. I was very involved in John Kerry’s presidential campaign. I vowed that I would continue to do whatever I can to advance the values of the Democratic Party.**

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

**My career in public service has been dedicated to standing up for the people who need it most. I have scored victories for my community on advancing the rights of women and LGBTQ+ people, as well as creating age-friendly, sustainable neighborhoods, and I’m just getting started.**

**I was the longest, consecutively serving Mayor of West Hollywood, leading the city in 2020 and 2021. I was elected to the West Hollywood City Council in 2015, and previously served from 2009 to 2011. I serve the Los Angeles County region in a number of roles, including: Immediate Past President of the California Contract Cities Association (CCCA); Board Member for CalCities (formerly the League of California Cities); Board Member for the National League of Cities (NLC); Past President of Women in Municipal Government (WIMG) for the National League of Cities; Chair of the Liability Trust Fund Claims Board & Oversight Committee; and Executive Committee Member and Legislative & Regulatory Chair for Clean Power Alliance of Southern California.**

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

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**Labor**

**AFSCME Local 3339 (WeHoME)**  
**AFSCME Local 3061**  
**AFSCME Local 18**  
**AFSCME Local 4819**  
**Laborers Local 300**  
**Laborers Local 1309**  
**Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 398**  
**Plumbers & Fitters Local 761**  
**TCU/IAM Local 1315**  
**UNITE HERE! Local 11**

**Organizations**

**Planned Parenthood Advocacy Project Los Angeles County Action Fund**  
**Women's Political Committee of Los Angeles**  
**Hollywood NOW**  
**California Contract Cities Association PAC**

**Individuals**

**Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl**  
**Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn**  
**Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti**  
**Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia**

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**
- participated in an organized activity, including a forum, on Israel or related issues; or **Yes**
- while holding office, introduced or co-sponsored legislation (other than purely ceremonial, supportive measures) on Israel or related issues? **Yes**

**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?

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**I traveled to Israel in 2012 with a Community Leader Delegation with the Jewish Federation of Los Angeles. It was incredibly informative and eye-opening. Everyone must visit to truly have an understanding of the on-the-ground, everyday challenges Israel faces and why safety remains paramount.**

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?

**Jewish community leaders & Rabbis throughout the District, IAJC, Congregation Kol Ami, Russian Chabad, Jewish Federation of Los Angeles, AJC, ICAN, Combat Antisemitism, Beverly Hills Councilmembers, Assemblymember Richard Bloom, Truman National Security Project, Consulate General of Israel**

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

**I have strong relationships with the Jewish Federation of Los Angeles, Israel-American Civic Action Network, Democrats for Israel-LA, JQ International, and countless Jewish organizations & leaders (some mentioned above) throughout the region. I have not only been a dues-paying member & contributor, but an active participant in creating community, fighting antisemitism, and building bridges and coalitions to support and protect Jewish people and organizations.**

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?

**I plan to continue to work with Israeli-American and Jewish community members in Los Angeles, including advocacy organizations, to strengthen our hate crime laws and invest in additional public safety resources for our Jewish institutions and places of worship. I would continue finding ways to engage the Jewish and Israeli-American communities throughout Los Angeles to fight antisemitism, and to build bridges with the State of Israel to exchange ideas and best practices for mutual benefit.**

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 am opposed to the Israel boycott and divestment movement. I led my City to be the first in California to formally take an opposition position & to support State legislation, authored by Assemblymember Bloom, to do the same at the State level. I will work with organizations like DFI-LA to fight back against dangerous rhetoric and actions and use my position to amplify your voices.**

**More specifically, the movement to boycott Israel, in general, has multiple sides that need to be considered carefully. On one side, there are individuals who participate in this movement who are genuinely concerned about the future of Israel and/or the Palestinian people. Some of these individuals may not be fully educated about the issues affecting different sides and get swept up in the cause without fully comprehending the implications of their participation, but at the very least these particular individuals should be respected for expressing legitimate passion and concern for an important issue. And, for those of us who do appreciate the nuance and broader scope of the issues surrounding Israel, it is incumbent upon us to help others more fully understand the serious negative implications of supporting boycotts against the Jewish State.**

**On the other hand, there are those who engage in anti-Israel boycott activity for purely antisemitic motivations. They're not pro-Palestinian, they hate Israel, they hate Israelis, they hate Israeli-Americans, and they do not believe in Jewish self-determination. Individuals and organizations that hold these views are dangerous, not just to the State of Israel, but to the Jewish people, and their rhetoric often leads to violent acts of hate.**

**The Arab boycott of Jews starting in the 1920s is the predecessor which gave rise to the modern incarnation of the boycott movement today. The deep history of the boycott, which began before rebirth of the modern State of Israel in 1948, is clearly rooted in systemic antisemitism. This is especially concerning for me, as someone who cares about the Jewish people with a population of around 15 million people out of a global population of nearly 8 billion, that's a 0.19% minority community roughly split between the United States and Israel.**

**That simple statistic bears an important truth: the Jewish people deserve a state of their own in their ancestral lands where they are indigenous, and they deserve the right to self-determination. The movement to boycott Israel promotes the opposite position and seeks to delegitimize Jewish**

**identity, erase the Jewish connection to their ancestral lands, and disenfranchise and dehumanize the Jewish people.**

**It is important to note that the average Palestinian living in the disputed territories of the West Bank does not support the boycott movement as it hurts them and undermines their economy and their ability to work and provide for their families. This is not acceptable, and in fact casts the movement to boycott Israel as an entirely neocolonial effort, seeking to impose policies externally while ignoring the reality on the ground.**

**Here in California support AB 2844 (2016) which provides that a business may not discriminate against anyone who is a member of a protected class as defined in California's Unruh Civil Rights Act, and use their First Amendment right to justify that discrimination. For example, a hotel owner that boycotts Israel may not prevent Jews or Israelis from staying at their hotel.**

**Importantly, I do believe that boycotts are a First Amendment protected activity, but when that protected activity crosses the line into discrimination and disenfranchisement of a protected class of individuals, that is not acceptable, and the provisions of AB 2844 must be implemented.**

**I think it is also critical to understand the proper role of different jurisdictions as it relates to policies to combat the movement to boycott Israel. Many states have implemented so-called "anti-BDS" laws that are entirely dissimilar to AB 2844's anti-discrimination model and instead attempt to illegally emulate state level Iran sanctions laws. These other states have had their laws struck down repeatedly by federal courts. For those of us who are concerned about how to deal with the boycott movement, these cases, and relevant legislation are important guides. As it relates to confronting and mitigating the threat of the boycott Israel movement, state and local jurisdictions should focus on preventing the discriminatory effects in business, public accommodations, and on campuses while allowing the federal government to properly leverage its authorities in international commerce, bearing in mind that President Obama was the last president to sign federal anti-boycott provisions protecting the State of Israel into law under the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015.**

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?

**Year after year, the Jewish community continues to be the number one target of hate crimes in the United States, according to the annual FBI UCR. It is important to note that Los Angeles County has the highest populations of Jews compared to any other county in the United States, and I believe that societies are judged by how we treat our minority communities. As a member of the Board of Supervisors representing the Third District, I would understand that I will bear special responsibility to care for my Jewish constituents.**

**I'm proud that as a member of the West Hollywood City Council, I authored and my colleagues unanimously supported, one of the most comprehensive Jewish community security policies passed by a local government. Specifically, this set of policies includes:**

- **Create a planned calendar of Jewish holidays/community events and preplan public safety enhancements in advance of those holidays/events**
- **Increase patrols around community centers – LASD & Security Ambassadors & decoy vehicles – especially on Friday evening/Saturday/high holy days**
- **Remain aware of international activity that could correlate to local actions/demonstrations**
- **Utilize the site security survey assessment tool created by the Joint Regional Intelligence Center to gather critical information from community centers and places of worship to assist law enforcement and first responders in the case of an emergency**
- **Include antisemitism in the City's DEI training**
- **Provide information and videos from LASD and other Public Safety organizations on resources & tactics for increased safety**
- **Share info on government grants and available funding for Jewish centers/buildings**

**These are just some of the policy recommendations that can be used as a blueprint to enhance the security of the Jewish community countywide. In addition, I will explore ways to use County expertise and best practices to ensure more efficient use of nonprofit security grant resources.**

**A significant factor which mitigates hate crimes is the reduction of perceived "otherness" between communities. Here in Los Angeles, a sprawling county, our diversity is too often separated by distance and geography, which can cause negative stereotypes to metastasize into hate, and even violence. The County's Human Relations Commission is an important body which periodically brings together representatives from across Los Angeles, and across law enforcement jurisdictions including the LAPD, LASD, and FBI to discuss incidents of hate, violence, credible threats, and other trends affecting the County, including the Jewish community. Representatives from the Jewish and Israeli-American community regularly participate in these meetings, including and especially the**

**ADL which tracks hate crimes. I believe this County commission can and must be strengthened in practical ways. As a member of the West Hollywood City Council, I was proud to lead local support for AB 1126, authored by my Assemblymember, Richard Bloom, and which established the State's first-ever Commission on the State of Hate. As Supervisor, I will encourage the County and State Commission to collaborate closely, share best practices, and support the development of policies to strengthen Jewish community security. With my background in municipal government and connections with local leaders, I will also encourage cities within Los Angeles County to better integrate local Human Relations Commissions with the County and the State commissions, establishing a cohesive network designed to protect and promote community interests at all levels of government.**

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

**We need to do a better job of educating our fellow Democrats about the true threat of antisemitism. Too often Jews are incorrectly seen as "White" and contributors to structural racism, when facts and history clearly show that the Jewish community is a victim of this oppression, not a participant. We should also promote bipartisan collaboration where possible and not allow combating antisemitism to become a partisan issue. Here, we can learn from our colleagues in the U.S. House and Senate Bipartisan Task Forces to Combat Antisemitism.**

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 am very aware of and sensitive to the issue of preserving Jewish continuity for the next generation. All of the issues referenced above, Jewish community security, the movement to boycott Israel, and combating systemic antisemitism all relate to Jewish identity and affect Jewish continuity. When considering policies that affect the Jewish community, as Supervisor, I will prioritize Jewish continuity, and ensure that the County acts to create an environment where Jewish identity can thrive and Jewish continuity can be preserved.**

**Also, I believe that our Jewish immigrant communities need to have their unique concerns addressed. Israeli, Persian, and Former Soviet Union Jews have particular needs as immigrant communities compared to their American counterparts. To increase the strength of L.A. County's diversity, we should seek to improve the level of civic integration amongst these communities, and respect their unique backgrounds and identities as members of the wider Jewish community.**