



Candidate Questionnaire

General Information

Candidate Name: Jan Perry

Office Sought: House of Representatives District 37

Proposed Ballot Designation: Non-Profit Executive Director
(Or Occupation Listing)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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

[Redacted]

[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?
I served as a Los Angeles City Councilmember from 2001-2013

Personal and Political Background

Current Occupation: Non-Profit Executive Director

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? No

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

I am the Executive Director of a nonprofit organization that has distributed millions of dollars of non-perishable goods to organizations that serve the unhoused. The organization also serves as a leading consultant on homeless programs and policy, supporting entities like the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), as well as state and local government.

I concurrently serve as Executive Director of a non-profit focused on infrastructure and economic development, where I recently led formation of critical union alliances (IBEW, Teamsters) for a renewable energy goods movement project out of the Port of Long Beach.

From 2001-2013, I served as a Los Angeles City Councilperson in District 9. I oversaw projects that dramatically re-shaped the Downtown area. And I shepherded the development of nearly 6,000 units of affordable and supportive housing. Over a period of 12 years my efforts brought in \$15B in private investment, \$25M in new tax revenue for the City of Los Angeles, and 90,000 full-time jobs.

In 2013 I was appointed to serve as General Manager of the Los Angeles Economic & Workforce Development Department (EWDD). EWDD provides a broad range of programs aiding businesses, job seekers and disconnected youth. I graduated from the University of Southern California with an AB Cum Laude and MPA.

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

ELECTED OFFICIAL (CURRENT AND FORMER)

Hon. Diane Watson, (Ret.) Congresswoman, Ambassador, View Park resident
Hon. Richard Polanco (Ret.) California State Senator
Hon. Jeffrey Prang, Los Angeles County Assessor, Baldwin Hills resident
Hon. George McKenna, LAUSD Board Member
Hon. Andra Hoffman, Los Angeles Community College Board of Trustees
Hon. Trish Murakawa, El Camino Community College Board of Trustees
Hon. Genethia Hudley Hayes (Ret.) Los Angeles Unified School District School Board Member, South Los Angeles
Hon. Bernard C. Parks (Ret.) Los Angeles City Councilmember, Baldwin Hills Resident
Hon. Jim B. Clarke (Ret.) Mayor of Culver City, Culver City Resident
Hon. Valerie Shaw (Ret.) City of Los Angeles Public Works Commissioner, South Los Angeles resident
Hon. Barbara Calhoun, Trustee, Compton Community College Board
Hon. Mike Hernandez (Ret.) Los Angeles City Council

FAITH-BASED LEADERS

Bishop Craig Worsham
Reverend, Dr. William S. Epps
Reverend Oliver Buie
Reverend James I. Jones, Jr. (Rev. JJ)
Reverend Joe Hardwick

COMMUNITY ADVOCATES AND LEADERS

Wanda Love, Small Business Owner, South Bay resident
Mark Wilson, Workforce Development, Community Advocate, South Los Angeles resident
Estela Lopez – Skid Row Non-Profit Executive
Carmelita Pittman, Community Advocate
Hans Johnson, Community Advocate
Dianne Lawrence, Publisher, Community Advocate, West Adams resident
Gerald Riberio, Community Advocate, Ladera resident
Jo Carroll, Community Advocate, Ladera resident
Van Scott, Urban Planner, South Los Angeles
Irma Munoz, Community Advocate, Baldwin Hills resident
Charles B. Stewart III, Community Advocate, Culver City resident
Rodney Scott, Community Advocate and Small Business Owner, LGBTQ Plus, Activist
Bonnie Levin, Advocate for Women’s Issues, Longwood Heights Resident
Daphne Brogdon, Community Advocate and Neighborhood Leader
Kimlin Johnson, STEM Advocate, Non-Profit Executive, resident of View Park
Hydee Feldstein – Soto, Neighborhood Council member, Community Advocate, Candidate for LA City Attorney, Mid City Resident

Democrats for Israel Los Angeles
Candidate Questionnaire

Jacqueline Hawthorne – Community Advocate, City Commissioner and Baldwin Hills resident
Celestine Palmer, Community Advocate, and View Park resident
Jonathon Weedman and Raymundo Vizcarro, Community and Culture Advocates
Dr. Nadine Diaz, University of Southern California
Mark R. Edwards, Workforce Development Executive
Leonard Delpit, Board Member, Empowerment Congress Central Neighborhood Council
Brena Robinson Rowe, Community Advocate, Jefferson Park
Vera Markowitz, Council Candidate, Beverly Hills
Anthony Hoover, Business Owner

ORGANIZATIONS

*East Area Progressive Democrats

*Most other organizations are holding endorsement processes now.

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; No
 - participated in an organized activity, including a forum, on Israel or related issues; I've attended town halls hosted by the Israeli Consulate, AIPAC.
- or
- while holding office, introduced or co-sponsored legislation (other than purely ceremonial, supportive measures) on Israel or related issues? I was a City Councilmember and did not have the jurisdiction to introduce anything but support motions for State and Federal legislation.

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 would like to travel to Israel with an experienced group to learn more about energy and water management, workforce development and skills training, and the programs' impact on the de-escalation of violence in communities with high levels of conflict.

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?

Democrats for Israel Los Angeles
Candidate Questionnaire

Former US Congressman Howard L Berman
Attorney Erik Kingsley
Vera Markowitz, Board Member, AIPAC
Greg Smith, Westwood Kehilla, Lawyer, Journalist

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

I am a black woman who is Jewish by Choice. I studied with Rabbi Chaim Seidler Feller, former UCLA Hillel Rabbi and maintain my relationship with the community at the Wilshire Boulevard Temple, I participate in regular programs at the Westwood Kehilla, and a weekly women's Torah study group. I also regularly attend events hosted by a variety of organizations having to do with Judaism, Israel, and inter-faith relationships.

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?

Transportation and Infrastructure, Select Committee on Economic Disparity and Fairness in Growth, Foreign Affairs

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?

The BDS or Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement that seeks to ostracize Israel is plain and simple a mask for anti-Semitism. Obviously, like any country, people have the right to criticize Israel, but the pernicious activity on college campuses and in institutions throughout the United States seeks to isolate Israel from the rest of the world without justification. The movement seeks to portray Israel as the oppressor and the Palestinians as the victims and then concludes that U.S. institutions should boycott Israeli goods, or in some cases do not allow academics to travel to the United States and give speeches or teach classes. This sort of anti-First Amendment activity is counterproductive and foolish. The facts are that Israel is the only democracy in the region, Israelis want to make peace with the Palestinians, and the conflict is complex

Democrats for Israel Los Angeles
Candidate Questionnaire

and “nuanced.” The goals of BDS do not further the peace process but rather inflame passions and focus on the wrong things. In many cases, the protests go beyond being anti-Israel, delve into anti-Semitic stereotypes, and are dangerous to Jews on campus. I stand firmly against the BDS movement.

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?

Today, eighty years after the most horrendous crime against humanity, Jews find themselves in the most precarious position since our darkest hour. Leaders, the media, and educational institutions must cut off the oxygen given those who seek to perpetuate attacks and spread their hate of the Jewish people. There should be zero-tolerance for antisemitism and all forms of hate. Freedom of expression is a vital and essential to our democracy but the right to life, safety and security is paramount. Crimes committed in the name of hate should be treated as acts of terrorism because they erode the very fabricate of our communities and those convicted of hate crimes should be treated accordingly.

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

There must be continued education and mutual investment in technology.. Israel is a place of innovation and success. Due to the arid climate, Israelis have been experts at water issues. In California, desalinization projects have utilized Israeli companies who have been using this technology for decades. In addition, technology companies have flocked to Israel and startups such as Waze were created in Israel and migrated to the United States. All the major technology companies (including IBM, Google, Apple, Facebook) have made major investments in Israel. The unique cultural and military expertise that exist in Israel (Israelis have to serve 2-3 years in the military after high school), has created a hub and a center for innovation and ideas that change the world. The United States should continue to encourage investment in Israel and nurture this Silicon Valley of the Middle East.

Democrats for Israel Los Angeles
Candidate Questionnaire

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?

As a Jewish, African American member of Congress I believe strongly that I can play an important role in the Middle East peace process. I am steadfast in my commitment and believe my participation and its symbolism will bridge divides here at home. The United States has an important role to play in ending the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. In order for Israel to maintain its Jewish character, a two state solution is in Israel's interest. Any peace agreement must be premised upon the fact that security and logistical issues can only be resolved amongst the parties. The United States because of its many friendships and alliances in the Arab world, can assist in this process. There are many complex questions about Jerusalem, security, borders, settlements and equitable resettlement of refugees that will be necessary to confront in order to find a lasting peace. I will be committed with this administration to tackle these problems to find an end to the conflict. This will not be easy, but we must continue to have sensible dialogue on this critical issue.