



## Candidate Questionnaire

### General Information

Candidate Name: **Caroline Menjivar**

Office Sought: **State Senate 20**

Proposed Ballot Designation: **Non-profit Program Director**  
(Or Occupation Listing)

Campaign [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?

**No, this is my first campaign for public office.**

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

**NA**

**Personal and Political Background**

Current Occupation: **Director of New Program Initiatives, MEND (Meet Each Need with Dignity)**

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 began working at 15 to help release some financial burden from my single mom. I worked as a cashier at Sharkeys and The Habit while in high school. I worked as a security guard at the mall until I enlisted in the Marine Corps. I served from 2009 – 2016 as a Radio Operator and got out as a Communications Platoon Sergeant. I worked as an EMT while earning my BA from CSUN. I continued my education at UCLA and worked as a domestic violence therapist. I earned the David Bohnett Fellowship, and worked with Mayor Garcetti’s Gender Equity Office. I worked as a Field Deputy for Councilmember Nury Martinez and returned to the Mayor’s office as his East Valley Area Representative and Citywide LGBTQ+ Liaison. I currently work as a Director at a non-profit overseeing COVID-19 initiatives across the San Fernando Valley.**

**I organized the first-ever San Fernando Valley LGBTQ+ Pride Car Parade. I joined GLSEN Los Angeles Board, ensuring K-12 schools are safe and affirming for LGBTQ+ youth. I was certified to provide professional development to teachers on creating safe spaces in their schools. I sit on the Advisory Board for a San Fernando Valley-based mental health organization, The Help Group's Kaleidoscope, where I help identify needed mental health services and support for their LGBTQ+ clients.**

**I am involved with our Veterans' community as a San Fernando Valley Marine Corps League Board member and also sit on the board for the San Fernando Valley Young Democrats.**

Democrats for Israel Los Angeles  
Candidate Questionnaire

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

**Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley**  
**California Latino Legislative Caucus**  
**CA Democratic Legislative Women's Caucus**  
**FundHer**  
**NARAL Pro-Choice California Privacy PAC**  
**Equality California**  
**Stonewall Democratic Club**  
**North Valley Democratic Club**  
**East Valley Indivisibles**  
**Northridge Indivisible**  
**Heart of LA Democratic Club**  
**Avance Democratic Club**  
**VoteVets**  
**LPAC**  
**California Women's List**  
**Feminists in Action Los Angeles**  
**Project ID Action Fund**  
**Courage Campaign**  
**California Working Families Party**  
**State Senator Connie Leyva**  
**State Senator Henry Stern**  
**Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón**  
**Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl**  
**Board of Equalization Member Tony Vazquez**  
**Burbank City Councilmember Konstantine Anthony**  
**Ventura County Supervisor Carmen Ramirez**  
**West Hollywood Mayor Pro Tem Sepi Shyne**  
**Culver City Councilmember Alex Fisch**  
**California Democratic Party Women's Caucus Chair Carolyn Fowler\***  
**California Democratic Party Veterans Caucus Chair M Ronald Cohen\***  
**California Democratic Party Chicano Latino Caucus Chair Carlos Alcalá\***  
**Los Angeles City Commissioner Dr. Loraine Lundquist\***  
**City of San Fernando Commissioner Nicole Mohr\***  
**LA LGBT Center Previous Executive Director Torie Osborn\***

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;
  - **Yes, when I worked for the Mayor's Office I was on his Public Engagement Team that led the Interfaith Collective across the City.**
- participated in an organized activity, including a forum, on Israel or related issues;  
or
  - **I have participated in a forum that talked about the intersection of faith, including Judaism and the LGBTQ+ community. During the recent anti-semitism hate crimes in LA, I was working for the Mayor's Office and I helped organize faith leaders and community leaders to stand by for any support needed.**
- while holding office, introduced or co-sponsored legislation (other than purely ceremonial, supportive measures) on Israel or related issues?
  - **I have never held office and have not had this opportunity.**

### **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 not traveled to Israel and the Middle East. When I served in the Marine Corps, I had prepared to deploy to Bahrain but the deployment ended up not happening. I would love to visit the Holy Land and participate in a guided trip so I can learn about the history, culture, and issues.**

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?

**I don't have any relationships with anyone overseas. I have predominantly turned to faith leaders for guidance and support with views on Israel and the Middle East. Throughout my work in local government I maintained relationships with community leaders across the East Valley which included leaders from synagogues. I look forward to working with more organizations and groups to build a stronger bench to turn to for support and guidance to be well educated in all matters.**

Democrats for Israel Los Angeles  
Candidate Questionnaire

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

**My relationships with this community have been through both my personal and professional experiences. I've mentioned above my work being an area representative that coordinated with interfaith coalitions. I have partnered with temples in the East Valley on forums, community drives, and other resources for the community. In the early stages of my campaign I turned to my mentor and supporter, my undergrad professor, Terry Hatkoff, for guidance and a proper layout of this district and the connections to this community. I have stood with the Jewish community when they led an action of peace in North Hollywood during the civil unrest of 2020 and am connected to the community through personal friendships.**

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 would seek to serve on the Health, Human Services, Housing, Environmental Quality, Military and Veterans Affairs, Education, Public Safety committees. I would certainly ensure we focus on curriculum and protection of faith communities in both the education and public safety committees. I look forward to educating myself on how issues before us in committees impact our relationship with Israel and the Middle East.**

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 oppose an Israel boycott and the BDS movement. I will speak out in opposition of these efforts and ensure we mobilize against these efforts whether it be at a Democratic convention or in the legislature.**

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?

**I have experience putting on forums regarding anti hate and bringing various experts together to provide greater awareness on these matters. We need to ramp up our cultural competency training to ensure all our frontline workers are able to treat and address the unique needs of all types of people. We need to ensure that we are encompassing culture awareness in our schools activities to start conversations on acceptance at a young age. I will ensure that we are firm with our consequences for hate crimes and increase our benefits for victims of crime. I will be proud to partner with community leaders to bring community events and activities to the public that will allow for the blending of backgrounds and the breaking of bread.**

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

**As Democrats, we need to focus on allyship and education. I will commit to educating myself on how the issues we are voting on in the state legislature affect the Jewish community and ensure members in our community can practice their faith freely and without harassment motivated by hate. I will ensure I seek advisors from the faith community and increase engagement with our office. I support efforts to include a curriculum on history in our schools and ensure Jewish traditions are celebrated in our community. We have seen too many instances of hate crimes committed against the Jewish community in recent years and we need to ensure law enforcement is responding to these concerns. I will be an advocate for tougher laws on hate speech and hate crimes.**

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?

**We need to rewrite the rules to promote equity and justice for every person, no matter the race, age, gender or sexual identity. As a State Senator, I'll focus on policy making with an intersectional lens. I'll advocate to use data to ensure resources are meeting the greatest need, and not just the areas who are the most**

**vocal or have the most influence. I'll focus on allyship and speak up for Black Lives, for welcoming immigrants, against Asian hate, and against anti-Semitism. I'll ensure that our diverse Latinx voices and perspectives are represented. I believe issues related to liveable wages, housing security, access to healthcare, and religious liberty are topics of importance to the Jewish community. I believe the pro-Israel community is looking for a peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian-Arab conflict. I am running as the candidate that has a robust background working with all types of individuals. I know the importance of forming coalitions and bringing all types of people to the table to create greater change. I am committing to provide the same attention and care I did to the community as a staffer and through my previous roles once I get elected. Through ongoing and consistent community connections in the forms of town halls, events, and organization visits I will keep in touch with my constituents.**