



**Candidate Questionnaire**

**General Information**

**Candidate Name:** Daniel Hertzberg

**Office Sought:** State Senate District 20

**Proposed Ballot Designation:** Businessman

[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.

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

N/A

**Personal and Political Background**

**Current Occupation:**

Business Development Manager at DoubleTree by Hilton

**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.).**

A product of local Valley schools, I come from a family whose roots in the San Fernando Valley go back three generations. The son of California State Senate Majority Leader and former Assembly Speaker Bob Hertzberg, I have had a firsthand view of what fighting for the Valley’s fair share looks like.

As a businessman, activist, organizer and someone who is deeply committed to the progressive values embodied by the Democratic Party, my grassroots efforts started when I was young. In high school, I volunteered as an activist on Barack Obama’s 2008 campaign for President.

After working in government at the local, state and federal levels where I fought to create positive change on behalf of the people, the daily dysfunction of our political system left me disillusioned -- like so many in my generation, and I left politics and government to join the private sector. I started as a minimum wage worker, cleaning hotel rooms and scrubbing toilets -- quickly forcing me to learn about the dignity of work outside of government, while I lived paycheck-to-paycheck.

This is what drove me to launch a campaign for State Senate — because I am deeply committed to fighting tirelessly for the working families of the San Fernando Valley. I’ll fight for a California civilian climate corps to address the wildfires ravaging our backyards, fight for updated infrastructure to improve our roads and freeways, create more union-jobs, and build affordable housing that even large families can afford.

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

- California Legislative Jewish Caucus
- Equality California
- Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters
- International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council 36

Democrats for Israel Los Angeles  
Candidate Questionnaire

- Laborers Local 300
- U.S. Congressman Tony Cardenas
- California State Treasurer Fiona Ma
- California Assembly Speaker Emeritus and University of California (UC) Regent John A. Pérez
- California Assembly Speaker Emeritus Fabian Núñez
- State Senator Melissa Hurtado
- State Senator Bill Dodd
- State Senator Bob Wieckowski
- State Senator Dave Cortese
- State Senator Mike McGuire
- State Senator Tom Umberg
- State Senator Steve Glazer
- State Senator Steven Bradford
- State Senator Bob Archuleta
- State Senator Ben Allen
- State Senator Josh Becker
- State Senator Anna Caballero
- State Senator Ben Hueso
- State Senator Richard Roth
- State Senator Bob Hertzberg
- State Senator Josh Newman
- State Senator Anthony Portantino
- State Senator Henry Stern
- State Senator Dave Min
- State Senator Sydney Kamlager
- State Senator Susan Rubio
- State Assembly Speaker Pro Tempore Kevin Mullin
- State Assemblymember Robert Rivas
- State Assemblymember Lisa Calderon
- State Assemblymember Phil Ting
- State Assemblymember Adam Gray
- Former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa
- Former California Governor Gray Davis
- Former California State Senate President pro Tempore and current Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg
- Former Congressman Mel Levine
- Former California Congressman and State Senate President pro Tempore and past California Democratic Party Chair John Burton
- Former California State Senate President pro Tempore and past California Attorney General Bill Lockyer
- Former California State Senate President pro Tempore Don Perata
- Former California Assembly Majority Leader Ian Calderon
- Former California Assembly Majority Leader Dario Frommer
- Former California Assembly Majority Leader Kevin Shelley

Democrats for Israel Los Angeles  
Candidate Questionnaire

- Former California Assembly Majority Leader Charles Calderon
- Former Assembly Speaker Pro Tem Fred Keeley, former Executive Director of Planning and Conservation League\*
- Former California Assemblymember Richard Katz
- Former Los Angeles City Controller Wendy Greuel
- Former Mayor of West Hollywood Alan Viterbi
- And dozens of community leaders, the full list is available via my website:  
<https://www.hertzbergforsenate.com/our-coalition>

**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 have stood allied with Israeli Americans and the Jewish community against anti semitism and hate.
- **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?**
  - N/A

**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?**

While I have never been to Israel I am hoping to go in the near future. I have been told by countless friends and family that Tel Aviv is a really amazing city. I have also heard that the Red Canyon is a must, as well as the Dead Sea.

- 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?**

Having been raised in a Jewish household, and my father being a local representative as well, I feel strongly about seeking counsel on issues affecting

Democrats for Israel Los Angeles  
Candidate Questionnaire

those here in Southern California. For more global issues, I am always open to hearing from leaders within our embassy and will be constantly seeking relationships with leaders from Israel. I also have many family members who live in Israel who know what it is like in the middle east. I also seek the council of Rabbi Lee Bycel who was the Rabbi at my Bar Mitzvah and the former dean of Hebrew College.

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

I have a lifelong, generational connection to the Israeli-American and Jewish community in Los Angeles. I started my school years going to Stephen S Wise, where I was Bar Mitzvahed. I have attended many services at both Stephen S Wise and Temple Beth Hillel. I have continued to attend High Holy Day services in the Valley.

**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 have already been honored with the endorsement of the California Legislative Jewish Caucus, and when elected, I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Caucus on future issues. I also hope to collaborate with your club and members, the Israeli-American Council, the Embassy, and other Israeli-American and Jewish advocacy groups and leaders.

**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, at my core, a Zionist. I know firsthand what happens when the Jewish people do not have a safe space. My grandfather escaped the Nazi regime by hiding his family's papers in his school textbooks, while escaping the border of the country he was born in. I know how important it is for the Jewish people to have a safe haven. As a result, I can't support any boycott and divestment movement towards Israel. I believe that we absolutely must advocate for changes to some right-wing government policies in Israel, but that the hateful BDS movement is not the way to accomplish that.

- 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?**

Safety and security of our synagogues and places of worship across California is an urgent must. It is deeply upsetting to walk around town, and see that in 2022, these synagogues have gone through so much terror, fear, and harassment that money must be prioritized for security guards instead of repairing the world. I fully intend on passing legislation at the state level which protects safe worship for Jewish communities, and policies against antisemitism and hate. I look forward to working with fellow Legislative Jewish Caucus members, Jewish interest groups, and advocacy groups like Democrats for Israel to prioritize these areas of legislation.

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

Being a Democrat, it's important to collaborate whenever possible and stand with other groups in calling out acts of anti-Semitism, and any other attacks on religion and culture. People along the political spectrum practice and observe their respective faiths, and it's important to come together in protecting those freedoms. Better education is necessary in our schools, especially surrounding the hate crimes committed against Jewish people today, specifically on school campuses and in synagogues.

- 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?**

The Jewish and pro-Israel community just want what all communities want: safety, security, autonomy, and access to economic mobility and opportunities. My top policy priorities in Sacramento cover all of these things and more. I want to finally tackle climate change and accelerate our transition to renewable energies to protect all our future generations, increase access to affordable resources that address our growing mental health crisis, and fight to expand home loans to those in lower income brackets so working families can more easily start the process of accumulating family savings. Judaism has taught me to live life with Compassion for others. I am hoping to take those values into the State Senate.