



Candidate Questionnaire

General Information

Candidate Name: JOHN DURAN

Office Sought: WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY COUNCIL

Proposed Ballot Designation: CIVIL RIGHTS ATTORNEY
(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. WEST HOLLYWOOD COUNCILMEMBER FOR 20 YEARS FROM 2001 - 2020

If yes, which public office(s) have you held and when did you do so? WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY COUNCIL FROM 2001 - 2020

Personal and Political Background

Current Occupation: ATTORNEY

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. REPUBLICAN FROM 1978 – 1979 (ONE YEAR)

In less than 250 words, briefly summarize your personal background (work experience, education, community involvement, etc.). BS DEGREE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION FROM CSU LONG BEACH. JURIS DOCTORATE IN LAW FROM WESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY. LICENSED ATTORNEY SINCE 1987. CO-FOUNDER OF NUMEROUS ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDING LIFE AIDS LOBBY, EQUALITY CALIFORNIA, ELEANOR ROOSEVELT DEMOCRATIC CLUB, ANGLE (ACCESS NOW FOR GAY AND LESBIAN EQUALITY). SERVED ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF NUMEROUS NON PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDING AIDS PROJECT LOS ANGELES, NATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN TASK FORCE, ACLU FOUNDATION BOARD, NATIONAL CHAIRMAN OF NALEO – NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LATINO ELECTED OFFICIALS.

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

ALADS – SHERIFF DEPUTIES UNION
FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 1014
WEST HOLLYWOOD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PAC

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

YES. AUTHOR OF ANTI-BDS POLICY IN WEST HOLLYWOOD CALIFORNIA.
SPEAKER AT AIPAC NATIONAL CONFERENCES
PARTICIPANT IN AIPAC TRIP TO ISRAEL ABOUT 9 YEARS AGO.

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? AIPAC SPONSORED TRIP IN 2013 WITH LATINO ELECTED OFFICIALS. ONE OF THE MOST REMARKABLE JOURNEYS IN MY LIFETIME.

Democrats for Israel Los Angeles
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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?
DILLON HOSIER – CEO AT ICAN ISRAELI AMERICAN CIVIC ACTION NETWORK. CLIFF GOLDSTEIN AT AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS. RABBI DENISE EGER AT TEMPLE KOL AMI.

3. Please describe your relationship, if any, with the Israeli-American and Jewish community in Los Angeles. I WAS RAISED IN EAST LA AT A TIME WHEN MY NEIGHBORHOOD WAS JEWISH AND LATINO. THE KIDS NEXT DOOR WERE JEWISH. SO SEDER AND HANUKKAH WERE COMMON EVENTS IN MY LIFE EACH YEAR. MY CITY IS 40% JEWISH. SO I HAVE NUMEROUS FRIENDS THAT I CONSIDER TO BE “FAMILY” WHO ARE JEWISH. I STILL LIGHT MY MENORAH IN DECEMBER AND ATTEND SEDER DINNER EVERY YEAR. MY DNA TEST SHOWED I AM 1% ASHKENAZY JEW. I KNOW IT’S ONLY 1% - BUT MEMBER OF THE TRIBE!

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 WILL CONTINUE WITH MY CURRENT RELATIONSHIPS WITH JEWISH LEADERS IN MY COMMUNITY. I AM STILL AVAILABLE TO SPEAK AT AIPAC CONFERENCES IF THE WANT ME TO RETURN AGAIN.

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? YES I AM AWARE. AND I WAS THE AUTHOR OF THE ANTI – BDS POLICY IN WEST HOLLYWOOD.

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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? IT'S RARE WHEN IT HAPPENS IN WEST HOLLYWOOD SINCE MY CITY IS 40% JEWISH. JEWISH CULTURE IS WOVEN INTO THE FABRIC OF WEST HOLLYWOOD'S CULTURE. LARGE POPULATION OF RUSSIAN SPEAKING JEWRY FROM THE UKRAINE MIGRATED INTO WEST HOLLYWOOD. WHENEVER WE SEE INCIDENTS OF HATE CRIMES ON RELIGION, RACE OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION/GENDER IDENTITY – WE CALL IT OUT.

7. As a Democrat, what steps can we take to help fight anti-Semitism on both the left and the right? CURRENTLY – I AM FIGHTING IT FROM MY LEFT. I CONSIDER MYSELF A TRADITIONAL LIBERAL DEMOCRAT. BUT THE POLITICAL ELEMENTS TO MY LEFT IN WEST HOLLYWOOD ARE DEVELOPING AND PROMOTING A VERY ANTI SEMITIC MENTALITY. I AM CURRENTLY DOING WHAT I CAN TO PREVENT CANDIDATES WITH ANTI ISRAEL VIEWPOINTS FROM JOINING THE CITY COUNCIL OF WEST HOLLYWOOD.

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 WAS NATIONAL CHAIRMAN OF NALEO FOR MANY YEARS. I SERVED ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF NALEO FOR 12 YEARS. DURING ALL THAT TIME, I BELIEVED IT WAS CRITICAL TO STRENGTHEN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE JEWISH AND LATINO COMMUNITIES. IT REALLY IS SO IMPORTANT TO THE CULTURE/VALUES/TRADITIONS OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES. IT HAS ACTUALLY BEEN AN HONOR AND A PRIVILEGE TO DO THIS WORK WITH SO MANY OTHERS.