



**Candidate Questionnaire**

**General Information**

Candidate Name: **Jordan Cockeram**

Office Sought: **West Hollywood City Council**

Proposed Ballot Designation: **Finance Director**  
(Or Occupation Listing)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

**Campaign Team\***

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

**Elected Office**

Do you currently, or have you ever held public office?

**I don't currently, and I have never held a position in public office.**

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

**N/A**

### **Personal and Political Background**

Current Occupation: **Finance Director for a Temporary Staffing Agency**

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?

**I have always been a registered Democrat.**

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

**I studied Finance at the University of Minnesota, but decided last minute not to take the job offer at the Investment Bank I was interning with. I wanted to work in an industry/field doing something I was passionate about, and at the time I loved TV/movies, so I moved to LA (turned out to be West Hollywood) to pursue a career in entertainment. I worked in TV for two years, then transitioned to music for five years up until the pandemic. I’ve been involved in government and civics my whole life, but only in a volunteer capacity. After the pandemic, I thought it might be something I wanted to do as a career, so I worked in a temporary position for a consulting firm that advises governments on how to properly manage their budgets. The prospect of that being a permanent position ended up being pushed until 2023, and now I am a Finance Director for a Temporary Staffing Agency.**

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

**I’ve been endorsed by business owners like the owner of Awakening Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Center, elected officials from neighboring cities, and heads of non-profits like the executive director of ORAM. But the endorsements that matter most to me are that of my neighbors and fellow residents of West Hollywood, who know that I’m running for the right reasons and that I’m going to do what’s best for the city. We’ve seen recently that certain organizations have been run and controlled by the same groups of people who rig the system to make sure their preferred candidates get the endorsement. While I appreciate the endorsements I’ve gotten from those prominent individuals, the endorsements of**

**the people who live in West Hollywood and trust me to represent them are the ones that I care about the most.**

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?

**I've only spoken on issues relating to Israel on my own behalf, never with an official organization.**

### **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?

**The last time I was in Israel was in 2013 when I went with Birthright. I was a sophomore in college at the time. We were planning to go as a family (grandfather, grandmother, uncle, mom, brother, me) in 2016 but we ran into issues with the Israeli Embassy in Chicago. My grandfather was born in Israel (at the time it was Palestine) and when the government of Israel found out that we were planning to visit, and that my grandfather had two children but didn't tell them, their information was flagged. The government said they were citizens but didn't properly register, and we had to go through a process to sort that out. Unfortunately, it took a very long time, and we weren't able to go on the trip.**

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 talk to my grandparents to develop my opinions, positions, and views on Israel and the Middle East. My grandfather was born there, and my grandmother was born in the United States and converted to Judaism when she married my grandfather. They are both supporters of Israel, but they take different "stances", per se, on what**

laws, issues, politicians, etc, take place in Israel and the surrounding area. I like hearing both of their opinions and rationales for why they believe what they do, and why they think Israel should/shouldn't do what Israel does, and I form my own opinions based on that. I listen to local leaders and experts in Los Angeles and around the world that are pro-Israel, but I do most of my discussion with my grandparents.

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

**My relationship with the Jewish/Israeli-American community in Los Angeles has so far been mostly social. I've celebrated holidays, gathered for celebrations, and gotten to meet more people in the community. Minnesota (where I'm from) does have a large Jewish community, but being in Los Angeles has given me the opportunity to meet even more people with diverse backgrounds. I've been able to celebrate holidays with larger groups of friends and go to more Jewish-owned shops and restaurants (although I still haven't found a matzo ball soup or challah bread as good as my grandma's!).**

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 love to join any committee or organization where I as a city council member could be helpful. Relative to the rest of our government, city council is small, and while we don't have the ability to make large-scale decisions, having elected leaders as part of committees and organizations brings awareness and expanded education to them, and that's incredibly important.**

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 vehemently against the movement to divest from Israel. Israel has been an ally with the United States since they were officially formed, and are integral to any hope we have for peace in the Middle East. My family and I have been strong supporters of Israel for as long as I can remember, and I intend to make sure that we support Israel and Israeli companies in every way that we can.**

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 think hosting forums like the West Hollywood Combating Antisemitism Summit that was held at Kol Ami in August is a great way to educate people on the rise in anti-Jewish hate crimes, and to bring attention to a problem that we as a Jewish community have seem too many times before. I am also in favor of passing ordinances that require rehabilitation education for those who commit anti-Jewish hate crimes. It's imperative to stop these instances of hate crimes before they continue to grow even larger in numbers.**

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

**Education and shedding light on what's happening is the first step to fighting anti-Semitism on both sides of the aisle. One of the things we need to work to educate the public about is what I will call "subtle racism". Things that people don't think, or maybe don't know are anti-Semitic. Phrases like "the jews control the media" might seem to someone like all that means is "there are a lot of Jewish people in Hollywood", when in reality anti-Semitic groups use that to build hate towards Jewish people. Talking about this with our friends, neighbors, elected officials, law enforcement, etc will be extremely effective in fighting anti-Semitism.**

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 plan on always being available to listen to the concerns of the Jewish and pro-Israel community. I understand that having elected officials who listen to the residents and community members is imperative to successfully making a difference in the issues that matter most. Our elected officials are too often focused on their own goals and agendas that they don't make themselves available to the people who elected them. I will always be in touch and available for anyone who has a problem or issue that I can help them with.**