



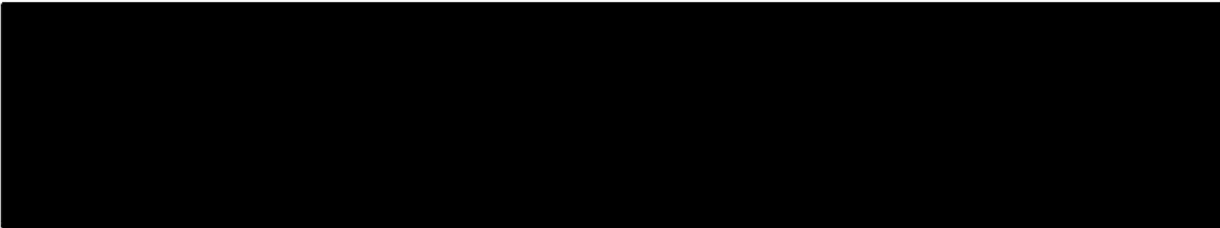
Candidate Questionnaire

General Information

Candidate Name: STEVE MARTIN

Office Sought: WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY COUNCIL

Proposed Ballot Designation:
(Or Occupation Listing) Attorney



Campaign Team*

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



Elected Office

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

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

West Hollywood City Council, 1994 to 2003

Personal and Political Background

In 1984 I walked precincts during the campaign to incorporate West Hollywood. During the AIDS pandemic, I served as a two-term president of Stonewall Democratic Club and later was president of the West Hollywood Democratic Club. I led successful efforts to block the City from building a civic center in West Hollywood Park.

During my two terms as a City Council member, I had a reputation as an independent thinker who focused improving our quality of life. Under my leadership, we took control of Santa Monica Boulevard from Cal-Trans and transformed it into a beautiful throughfare. I created the Eastside Re-Development Agency which revitalized the area and built hundreds of units of affordable housing. I helped find funding for the Plummer Park Community Center. I worked with residents to create Kings Road Park and served on the Budget Sub-Committee for eight consecutive years.

After serving on the City Council, I served on the board of directors of Marriage Equality California. I authored the successful 2013 Term Limits initiative and served on the Eastside Advisory Task Force. I worked to help pass our recent increase in the minimum wage to \$17.64 an hour, supported stronger on job protections for hotel workers and fought to preserve historic Plummer Park.

I have provided pro-bono services to tenants being harassed by their landlords and advocate providing tenants with personalized legal representation. I am pushing for a "guaranteed income" for seniors on limited income to insure they are not forced from their homes.

Endorsements

My endorsements are mostly from neighborhood leaders and small businesses. The Unite Here slate has swept up most of the Democratic endorsements even though one of their members has a history with BDS. I am not taking money from developers, my campaign is grassroots as people don't want a return to the era of "play to play politics", which is why two incumbents lost in 2020.

In the past five years I have attended Holocaust memorial services in Plummer Park, and I spoke in support of the City adopting a definition for antisemitism that was loudly opposed by anti-Zionist activists. Although my husband and I are not Jewish, our wedding ceremony was presided over by rabbi Denise Eger as she is our favorite person of the cloth.

8. Things have changed dramatically since I was last on City Council and the rise in antisemitic language and attitudes has become widespread. I am committed to be part of an ongoing effort to combat antisemitism, starting with programs in our elementary schools, which the City could fund. West Hollywood can do more to celebrate Jewish culture within our community.

Steve Martin

POLICY

1. I have not been to Israel but if I went I would definitely want to spend time in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, (I enjoyed Simon Montefiore's book on the history of Jerusalem).

2. I took several classes on Middle East history while attending UCLA. I have many Jewish friends but in casual conversation it has been mostly with my Israeli next-door neighbors who have invited us to multiple Shabas dinners and Passover. They often discuss their views on the political situation in the Middle East.

3. My office is on Pico and Beverly Blvd. So, for the last 30 years I have been part of a very orthodox/conservative community. I have also had a number of Jewish clients.

4. Obviously Democrats for Israel and AIPAC.

5. I have opposed BDS movement as both anti-Semitic and counterproductive. At this point re-fighting the Balfour declaration seems a bit pointless. Israel is a legitimate

member of the world community and attempts to de-legitimize it do not foster an atmosphere for rational engagement and constructive dialogue.

6. During my time as president of Stonewall Democratic Club we were very involved in lobby for and even drafting hate crime legislation. The recent events at Charlottesville and on January 6th are shocking and should be a wake-up call to the dangers of festering anti-Semitism that is being fostered on the right. Unfortunately the left has also developed a problem in that often people can express anti-Zionist views without engaging in antisemitic language or actions.

7. I believe we need to advocate zero tolerance of all hate crimes. But encouraging Holocaust remembrances are essential to a new generation that is getting so much of its' history off the internet.

Thank you for your consideration.

Steve Martin
Martin4WeHo.com