

The League of Women Voters of Los Angeles
and participating Neighborhood Councils present
THE

2018 CANDIDATE FORUM

FOR
California's
39th State Assembly District



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2018

Saticoy Elementary School • Main Auditorium
7850 Ethel Ave, North Hollywood, CA 91605

2018 CANDIDATE FORUM PROGRAM

6:30 PM

Official Greetings & Call to Order

Freddy Cupen-Ames, MPA

Board Member,

North Hollywood West Neighborhood Council

Presenting of the Flag & Pledge of Allegiance

6:45 PM

Moderator & Event Introduction

Marilú Guevara

Executive Director,

League of Women Voters of Los Angeles

7:00 PM

39th State Assembly District Candidates

Yolie Anguiano

Ricardo Antonio Benitez

Patty Lopez

Patrea Patrick

Luz Maria Rivas

Antonio Sanchez

9:00 PM

Program Concludes

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS



Freddy Cupen-Ames, MPA

Board Member,

North Hollywood West Neighborhood Council

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

LA native Freddy Cupen-Ames received his B.A. in Philosophy from Loyola Marymount University and his Master of Public Administration with a Graduate Certificate in City/County Management from USC's Sol Price School of Public Policy. Freddy serves as an elected At-Large Representative Board Member for the North Hollywood West Neighborhood Council. He is also currently working as a Customer Service Representative for the Rent Stabilization Program in the City of Beverly Hills, where he helps landlords comply with the local ordinance and assists tenants with questions about their rent. He's also on the Board of Directors for the Alumni Association at LMU, an LMU Latino Alumni Ambassador, and USC Young Alumni Committee Member. Previously, Freddy worked for the Los Angeles City Controller's Office for Ron Galperin.



Marilú Guevara

Executive Director,

League of Women Voters of Los Angeles

MODERATOR

Marilú Guevara received a Bachelors of Arts from the University of California Irvine and a Masters of Arts from California State University Long Beach, both degrees in Political Science. Marilú was born and raised in Compton, California, where she still resides. Prior to working at the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles (LWVLA), Marilu worked in preparing students for higher education in Compton high schools and as a Financial Aid Director. She is approved by the Department of Education to administer Title IV funding. Marilú has worked with Mayoral and Senate level campaigns and Get Out the Vote grassroots efforts. In 2016, she became the Executive Director for the LWVLA and is responsible for promoting the organizational vision of the League, donor development, strategic planning, civic engagement programs, communications, community leadership and public relations. Marilú is a former College Bound mentor, currently serves on the Action Civics L.A. Partners Board and is a member of the Los Angeles County Community & Voter Outreach Committee.

CALIFORNIA'S STATE ASSEMBLY

California's Legislature is composed of an Assembly and a Senate, consisting of 80 and 40 Members, respectively. Members of the Assembly are elected for two-year terms, while Senators are elected for four-year terms. Prior to their election, the Members of the Legislature must be at least 18 years of age, United States citizens, registered voters, and otherwise qualified to vote for that office.

Assembly and Senate districts are apportioned on the basis of population. Out of 39+ million Californians, each Member of the Assembly represents approximately 490,000 people.

State Issues

- Jobs, Trade & Economic Development
- Climate Change & Environment
- Public Safety & Criminal Justice
- Emergency Response
- Budget & Fiscal Responsibility
- Government Reform
- Economic Mobility
- Water Rights
- Civil Rights
- Transportation & Infrastructure
- Veterans & Military
- Immigration
- Agriculture
- Education
- Health Care
- Tribal Affairs

39th Assembly District

Communities:

- Agua Dulce
- Arleta
- Canyon Country
- Lake View Terrace
- Mission Hills
- Newhall
- Northeast Granada Hills
- North Hollywood
- Pacoima
- San Fernando City
- Santa Clarita
- Shadow Hills
- Sunland-Tujunga
- Sun Valley
- Sylmar

CANDIDATES



Yolie Anguiano (D)

Public Administrator

Yolie, is a proven leader in the community. Born in Panorama City, grew up in Mission Hills, and now live in San Fernando. She has a deep commitment to our neighborhoods. She holds a B.A. in Sociology & Psychology from California State University Northridge and a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Southern California.

Community Service. She has served the communities in State Assembly In Pacoima, developed and managed a job-training program at M.E.N.D. In Mission Hills, she was part of the Neighborhood Council where she volunteered to create green space to enhance the well being of all. In the City of San Fernando, she helped the local Community Health Center qualify for federal funding. In Sylmar, she helped approve the zoning for new businesses while serving on the LA City North Valley Area Planning Commission. **Public Service.** She worked with Homeboy Industries, forming partnerships to expand e-recycling and create job opportunities. Worked with MEND, providing job counseling and job connections for local residents and local employers. Worked with California Food Policy Advocates to improve health and nutrition in our schools, child care and neighborhoods. **Volunteer Service.** She continues to manage & maintain beautification community service projects at the Nature Parkway. Served on the boards of Comision Femenil and Pacifica KPFK 90.7fm Her entire life has been about giving back. She looks forward to working together to put us first. Remember, you have the right to ask what my opponents have done for you.



Ricardo Antonio Benitez (R)

Business Owner

Ricardo Benitez is a small business owner and advocates for upward mobility and grassroots causes. He ran for California Senate and won the primary in June 2012.

He has been a longtime activist for non-partisan politics and independent candidates, as a Republican, determined to restore Republican principles and processes to the Republican Party and to our State. He is the only major candidate that publicly denounces and actively fights to defeat the High-Speed Rail, [H S R]. The only candidate that strongly Support Sound walls on 210 freeway, and the only grassroots independent Republican running to reform the Republican Party in California. He has been a California Contractor license and Business Owner in Los Angeles since 1989. He also worked in the tech sector as an Educator. As a businessperson, he is a champion of free enterprise. But he will stand up to corporations who use the influence of money to gain one unfair advantage after another at the expense of the Californian people. We all want a government we can trust, where laws are fairly and equally applied. He will make it a priority to overturn Citizens United and institute meaningful campaign finance reform. He is concerned that California is losing our values, moral and principal compass. He is the candidate who will stand up for those Values.

Ricardo humbly asks for your vote to serve as your Assemblymen Sacramento, California. With your voice and your vote, We the People will take back control. We want Our California back!

CANDIDATES



Patty Lopez (D)
Community Volunteer

As your former Assembly Member I served our community from 2014-16 in the Assembly, passed 11 bills into law, aided over 200 individuals with housing services, and worked to open a new satellite college campus. I am ready to go back to work for you and represent you while working on the priorities that community members have shared with me, such as

- 1) Improving Wages and Economic Opportunity,
- 2) Expanding Access to Education,
- 3) Solving the Affordable Housing Crisis and 4) Access to affordable Healthcare.

I will continue to be the voice and advocate for all our hardworking families, and NOT the voice of special interest groups. I will NOT ignore you like many local past career politicians that are controlled by their political networks. I have lived in this district since 1980. I am a proud American Citizen, former Assembly Member, community activist, mother, and grandmother and I would be honored to have your vote.



Patrea Patrick (D)
Documentary Producer/Author

I am passionate and concerned with the non-Transparent agendas infecting us at the State level. I was graduated from Cal State Northridge. I've spent years in documentary journalism. My films explore the environment, politics, the Federal Reserve, banking schemes, the security and vulnerability of the power grid that the utilities have hidden from the public. It has given me dedication to protect us, the little guy. I have exposed pollution of our water, toxins in our Agribusiness, GMOs and Patents on our food crops. I didn't wait for more stalling. I did tests on The Rocketdyne Nuclear disaster that revealed a 20 mile radius spread of radiation contamination in the valley! I marched for the cleanup of the Aliso Canyon GAS disaster. I will focus on protecting the National Forest from the High Speed Rails environmental degradation and Economic consequences of up keep. I care that Education in our district is falling behind state level. We have homeless, veterans, seniors, housing, healthcare, infrastructure, transportation, and our local water security to address immediately. My life has been dedicated to the betterment of our state, our Environment, and our citizens.

CANDIDATES



Luz Maria Rivas (D)

Science Educator/Commissioner

Luz was raised in the San Fernando Valley by a single mother. As a 5th grader at Telfair Elementary School in Pacoima, Luz became interested in technology and engineering when her teacher taught her class how to program a computer.

At Pacoima Middle School, she continued learning about computer science, and at San Fernando High School, she enrolled in a state program that helped students excel in math and science and go on to college in these fields.

After working as an electrical engineer at Motorola, Luz's passion to get kids interested in science and technology led her to earn a Masters of Education from Harvard University. After graduating, she returned to the Valley, and in 2012, Luz founded DIY Girls, a nonprofit based in the Valley that encourages girls to become interested in science and technology. Since 2012, the program has served over 2500 girls in grades 4-12, helping them develop skills and capabilities as engineers and designers. DIY Girls also works with partner schools throughout the Valley to create new science and technology programs.

Most recently, Luz served as a City of Los Angeles Public Works Commissioner, where she was the liaison to the Bureau of Street Lighting and she continued her gender equity work. Luz Rivas has dedicated her professional career fighting to ensure that every Californian has the opportunity to learn, prosper, and succeed.



Antonio Sanchez (D)

Workforce Development Director

I grew up in the San Fernando Valley and now I'm raising my own family here. As a workforce development director, I'm helping local veterans and students in our neighborhoods get the training they need for good-paying jobs that are growing our middle class.

I'm running for State Assembly to put my Valley roots and experience to work for our community and create more opportunities for all people to succeed in today's economy. I'm the only candidate in this race endorsed by our local teachers, nurses, firefighters, and Democratic clubs.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS

There are 97 Neighborhood Councils that are city-certified local groups made up of people who live, work, own property or have some other connection to a neighborhood. Board Members are elected or selected to their positions by the neighborhoods themselves.

Board size varies across the City from 7 to over 30 individuals depending on what the neighborhood believes will meet its needs. They hold regular meetings - at least once every three months.

Neighborhood Councils receive public funds of \$47,000 each year to support their activities. This may include creating events and programs that respond to the unique needs of their community or advocating on behalf of the issues they care about such as crime, roads and streets, the creation of safe spaces for children, gangs, and economic development.

THANKS TO OUR PARTICIPATING NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS



Pacoima
Neighborhood
Council



NoHo
NEIGHBORHOOD
COUNCIL



SUNLAND-TUJUNGA
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL