

## **CITY OF LOS ANGELES, MEMBER OF THE CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT NO. 2, CANDIDATE FORUM**

Our mission is to provide a factual, objective, and balanced candidate forum with all certified candidates and that they've been provided with a fair and equal opportunity.

Tuesday, February 6 at 6:30pm via Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86760535719> (view only)

Candidates may not seek any contributions or circulate promotional materials during the meeting. Please be mindful of any virtual backgrounds.

Only the candidate should use the Zoom invite link (provided under separate email), as this provides direct panelist access.

Candidates may login to the meeting as early as 6pm PT to test their setup, including video and audio.

**Candidates are responsible for unmuting themselves when it is their time to speak.**

A timer will be shown in Zoom and will countdown for each speaker. The moderator will start the timer once the candidate begins speaking. There will be an audible alarm when the time is up. At that point you should stop talking as you will be muted by the moderator.

We cannot give any extra time to any candidates, so please stick to the time limits.

### **Show Flow**

NOTE: The moderator cannot intervene, directly or indirectly, on behalf of a particular candidate during the forum.

Moderator (Greg Wright, President, North Hollywood West NC) will introduce himself and provide an overview of how the candidate forum will operate, as well as key election dates.

The topics and questions for this candidate forum were sourced from stakeholders within participating Neighborhood Councils that make up council district no. 2. No questions or comments will be permitted beyond the outline below.

- I. **OPENING STATEMENT:** Each candidate will have 3 minutes to issue an opening statement, introducing themselves.
  - i. Jillian Burgos
  - ii. Sam Kbushyan
  - iii. Rudy Melendez
  - iv. Jon-Paul Bird
  - v. Adrin Nazarian
  - vi. Manny Gonez
- II. **ISSUE STATEMENTS:** Each candidate will have 2 minutes to share how they will address each issue specific to council district no. 2 and the City of Los Angeles as a whole.

- a. **Homelessness:** The 2023 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count results estimated 46,260 people experience homelessness on any given night in the City of Los Angeles. The issue of homelessness and its associated challenges have been on the minds of the city and our stakeholders for years. So, it is no surprise that the most submitted questions for tonight's forum centered on homelessness, with concerns raised specifically about encampments, people living in cars or RVs, and the need for clean parks and sidewalks. *What is your plan to address homelessness and the additional concerns cited?*
- i. Adrin Nazarian
  - ii. Jillian Burgos
  - iii. Manny Gonez
  - iv. Rudy Melendez
  - v. Sam Kbushyan
  - vi. Jon-Paul Bird
- b. **City Services and Enforcement:** An overarching theme to the topics and questions submitted focused on diminished city services and some were specific to cite an overall lack of enforcement of our existing laws and regulations, including traffic, law enforcement, building safety, and noise violations. Some diminished city services, including enforcement roles, can be attributed to city personnel vacancies. *What strategies will you implement to restore city services and address concerns about the need for greater enforcement in the areas mentioned?*
- i. Jillian Burgos
  - ii. Manny Gonez
  - iii. Rudy Melendez
  - iv. Sam Kbushyan
  - v. Jon-Paul Bird
  - vi. Adrin Nazarian
- c. **Public Safety and Crime:** Concerns about crime, including violent and property crime, are prevalent in the questions submitted. There's a demand for faster police response and for addressing specific issues like reckless driving. *How do you plan to enhance law enforcement effectiveness and community trust?*
- i. Manny Gonez
  - ii. Rudy Melendez
  - iii. Sam Kbushyan
  - iv. Jon-Paul Bird
  - v. Adrin Nazarian
  - vi. Jillian Burgos
- d. **Economic Development and Business Support:** Several other questions focused on concerns specific to supporting local businesses and the need for economic development in this part of the valley. *How will you foster an environment conducive to economic growth and resilience, particularly supporting local businesses and workers, to ensure the local economy thrives?*
- i. Rudy Melendez
  - ii. Sam Kbushyan

- iii. Jon-Paul Bird
  - iv. Adrin Nazarian
  - v. Jillian Burgos
  - vi. Manny Gonez
- e. **Ethics and Governance:** There's a clear concern about corruption and ethical standards, as well as the effectiveness of the city government from the questions submitted. This includes concerns such as empowering independent bodies like the Ethics Commission, ensuring the fair distribution of resources, and the role of neighborhood councils. *What measures will you implement to restore and maintain high ethical standards, transparency, and active community engagement in our city's governance to rebuild public trust and ensure fair and effective administration?*
- i. Sam Kbushyan
  - ii. Jon-Paul Bird
  - iii. Adrin Nazarian
  - iv. Jillian Burgos
  - v. Manny Gonez
  - vi. Rudy Melendez
- f. **Environmental and Quality of Life Issues:** Noise from planes and helicopters, traffic from expanding airports, the need for more parks and greenspace, and other quality of life issues round out some of the remaining questions submitted. *How do you plan to address environmental and quality of life issues such as noise, pollution, and the need for more greenspaces, to ensure our city is not only sustainable but also offers a high standard of living for all?*
- i. Jon-Paul Bird
  - ii. Adrin Nazarian
  - iii. Jillian Burgos
  - iv. Manny Gonez
  - v. Rudy Melendez
  - vi. Sam Kbushyan

**III. CLOSING STATEMENT:** Each candidate will have 3 minutes to issue a closing statement.

- i. Manny Gonez
- ii. Adrin Nazarian
- iii. Jon-Paul Bird
- iv. Rudy Melendez
- v. Sam Kbushyan
- vi. Jillian Burgos

## Guidelines

A neighborhood council member who is involved in a campaign should not be involved in any way in planning or participating in the candidate forum.

A neighborhood council may not mail (via U.S. mail) more than 200 invitations or flyers referencing any candidate. A neighborhood council may mail a meeting agenda to individuals on its mailing list for agendas, however.

The format of a candidate forum plays a significant role in ensuring that it remains non-partisan and that candidates are treated fairly and equally.

The neighborhood councils cannot do anything that would show preference for one candidate over another.

All certified candidates have been invited with sufficient notice to this candidate forum.

If requested, interpreters will be provided. Closed captioning will also be enabled.

The order of speaking has been determined randomly and will shift each round.

Each candidate is permitted to have video and audio enabled for the Zoom forum.

Be clear about time limits with candidates before the event starts and stick strictly to the limits so no one gets shortchanged.

The chosen moderator is unbiased and will ask the same question to all candidates, using the same wording for each candidate.

Each candidate will be asked the same number of questions and given the same amount of time to respond.

Questions have been provided in advance.