



**WEST LA DEMOCRATIC CLUB  
APPLICATION FOR CONSIDERATION OF ENDORSEMENT  
AND CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

**SCOTT EPSTEIN**

**I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that I am a registered Democrat and that the statements in this document and those in any attachments are true and correct. If any part of this application or any information provided during the endorsement process is found to be false, it may be cause for an immediate revocation of any endorsement. I understand that my application is available to any WLADC member upon request.**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Scott Epstein'.

Signature of Candidate

Scott Epstein

Print Full Name

02/23/2022

Date

**Name of Candidate:** Scott Epstein **Name of Office Sought / District/Seat Number:** Los Angeles City Council, District 5

**Candidate Questionnaire**

**In order to focus on specific questions pertaining to the office you are seeking, please provide written answers to the questions below (please use a separate page if necessary):**

1. Statement of Viability – 250 words or less

I have the progressive vision to imagine a better future for the city and the district, and the experience in working with communities to build change. Our message is strong and resonating with voters in CD5, which after redistricting is more progressive than ever before.

Through our public engagement efforts, we have built a strong volunteer base that is ready to go for us. We also have a strong base at UCLA, where student supporters have founded their own sanctioned club to organize for the campaign on campus. We have started to - and we are confident that we will continue to - receive the endorsements of a number of progressive organizations and Democratic clubs, which will help us expand our fundraising and volunteer bases further. We are the first campaign to receive an endorsement from a Democratic club in the district, the Bruin Democrats at UCLA, and have received the endorsements of housing and mobility advocacy organizations Abundant Housing LA and Streets for All respectively.

Given all these assets, we are well positioned to advance to the runoff, and believe that we will receive the endorsements of the other progressive candidates in the race at that time. That emerging coalition for the runoff will be a very powerful one, but it's essential that the progressive movement invest now in a candidate who is expanding the electorate and creating new voters. I am that candidate.

2. What are your top issues?

My campaign is running on a platform to make Los Angeles a more affordable city, where we end homelessness the right way, invest in sustainable transportation, take decisive climate action, reimagine public safety, support the creative dreams of small business owners and artists, and promote civic engagement through city hall reform. I am the candidate to bring this platform to reality for two reasons: I understand that our failure to embrace systemic change is a crisis of political will, and I have the experience to build the coalitions to make change happen.

3. How much do you expect your campaign to cost? How much money have you raised? How do you plan to fund the rest of your budget?

Currently, we have raised \$59,172, with an average campaign contribution of \$78. I am running a 100% clean money campaign with only individual contributions accepted. No business, corporate, PAC, or union contributions are being accepted.

We are running a lean campaign. We are on track to claim the maximum public matching funds of \$161,000. In total, between public and private funds, we anticipate raising between \$250,000 and \$350,000.

4. Who do you see as your main opponents in this election?

Sam Yebri, Katy Young Yaroslavsky, and Jimmy Biblarz

5. What are the top three (3) items you expect to accomplish at the completion of your first term of office, if elected?

My top three priorities are making housing more affordable, ending homelessness, and getting the City of Los Angeles to lead on climate/mobility promises. I intend to make significant strides in the four years I am in office on these crucial issues.

Over the past four decades, LA has become less and less affordable as the region has failed to provide sufficient housing for people of all incomes and family types. The costs of city hall's inaction have been enormous. Angelenos in search of affordable housing have had to endure longer commutes or overcrowded conditions, and the most vulnerable among us have fallen into homelessness.

To tackle housing affordability, by the end of my first term, I will have introduced and passed ordinances that strengthen renter protections, reduce the cost of new housing construction, and add more public investment in the housing market via social housing. By the end of my first term I will have instituted a housing first strategy that works with unhoused Angelenos - not against them - in CD5. I am strongly opposed to the anti-camping ordinance currently in use by certain councilmembers - it's a solution to move an encampment from one block to another, not to solve the problem. Rather, my office will employ coordinated and properly resourced outreach to connect unhoused neighbors to services and a range of temporary to permanent housing options (tiny homes, safe parking, safe camping, lease-up PSH). Importantly, at City Hall I will stress that the housing affordability and homelessness crises are deeply linked and that we must address affordability and increase tenant protections to prevent evictions.

Transportation is the highest emitting sector in the California economy, and as such, I view it as a key avenue to reduce our carbon-intensive lifestyles and promote a more sustainable way of getting around our city. Yet, Los Angeles has some of the most dangerous streets in the country with traffic collisions ranking as the leading cause of death for young people. In addition to cars' effect on the climate, their noise and air pollution in LA constitute a major public health epidemic. Finally, the cost of purchasing, maintaining, and insuring a car is a barrier to economic mobility and investment in the local economy.

By the end of my first term, we will have made measurable progress on building a world-class transportation system that connects CD5 to the rest of the city. As a councilmember, I will fight to reinstate fare-free transit. I will work with communities to implement a low-stress bikeway network safe for Angelenos from age 8 to 80. I will embrace low-cost and high-impact transit improvements such as all door boarding, better bus stops, and dedicated bus lanes. And I will always put Angelenos' safety first when making decisions about transportation.

6. Please list your top five (5) individual and organizational endorsements.

**Top 5 Individual Endorsements**

- Daniel Lee, Mayor of Culver City
- Pam O'Connor, Former Mayor of Santa Monica

- Yasmine-Imani McMorrin, Councilmember, Culver City
- Gleam Davis, Councilmember, Santa Monica
- Alex Fisch, Councilmember, Culver City

**Top 5 Organizational Endorsements**

- Bruin Democrats at UCLA
- Abundant Housing Los Angeles
- Streets For All
- Westside For Everyone
- [More to come soon!]

7. How long have you been a registered Democrat? Have you been registered as a member of another political party? If so, which party and why?

I have been a registered Democrat for 25 years - ever since I first registered to vote at age 18 in 1997.

8. Please list any Democratic clubs and/or organizations with which you are a member, including the length of your membership and any leadership position you have held in each Democratic club and/or organization.

I was previously an appointed Board Member of the Miracle Mile Democratic Club. Other clubs I am a member of include Stonewall, Heart of LA, and Democrats for Israel. I am currently serving as an elected delegate to the California Democratic Party from Assembly District 50.

9. Please list any organizations with which you are a member, including the length of your membership and any leadership position you have held in each organization.

Current: Elected Delegate to the California Democratic Party from Assembly District 50; Board Member, Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance.

Prior: Mid City West Neighborhood Council Chair 2014-2021; Mid City West Neighborhood Council Board Member 2012-2021; Board Member, Miracle Mile Democratic Club, 2020-2021.

10. Please feel free to include any other information you would like us to know about you.

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