



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

SAM YEBRI

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.

Sam Yebri

Signature of Candidate

Sam Yebri
Print Full Name

02/23/22
Date

Name of Candidate: Sam Yebri _____ Name of Office Sought / District/Seat Number: Los Angeles City Council 5th District

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

First, my personal story – which is the Los Angeles version of the American Dream – distinguishes me from every other candidate running. I went from being a one-year-old refugee bouncing around apartments and attending three local public schools to graduating from Yale and USC Law School and starting a successful law firm. When elected, I will be the first Iranian-American, first refugee, and first Middle Easterner ever elected to office in the history of Los Angeles, and the first ever POC to represent the 5th District. Iranian-Americans comprise approximately 10% of the residents of the 5th District. We have leveraged and will continue to leverage our community to break records in fundraising, recruit an army of volunteers who are knocking on doors already, and turn out an unprecedented number of new voters.

Second, I have the deepest roots and the strongest record of leadership in the 5th District. Unlike the other candidates, some of whom moved into CD5 in 2020, I have lived virtually my entire life in the 5th District. My wife and I are raising our four young kids a few blocks from where I was raised. I have served on ten different non-profit boards and commissions in and throughout the 5th District, including on our Westwood library board and our homeowner association board. I have currency that no sum of money and no amount of institutional support or family connections can acquire: the trust and support of thousands of 5th District residents I have worked with on issues ranging from protecting our parks and libraries, to public safety initiatives, to building housing for adults with special needs in the 5th District.

Finally, the residents of the 5th District are fed up with the musical chairs of career politicians, their staffers, and their family members. Electing these people over and over again and expecting a different result is the definition of insanity. The residents of the 5th District are fed up with ideologues and fed up with candidates controlled by special interests and insiders. I am the only candidate who knows what it means to start and run a small business (which I have done for the last 12 years): pay payroll, commercial rent, worker's comp, and our city's gross-receipts tax every February 28th. I am the only candidate not accepting money from any special interests of any kind, including PACs. I am the only candidate willing to call out the City and County for failing us on public safety, homelessness, corruption, and our declining quality of life. I am speaking to these issues soberly and substantively, which are the issues on the minds of the residents of the 5th District. That's why we have overwhelming support throughout the 5th District, including more than 1,200 business, non-profit, neighborhood, and faith leaders in the district. And that's why we will win.

2. What are your top issues?

1) Transforming our communities by tackling our homelessness crisis, building more affordable and workforce housing, and creating more parks and green space. All Angelenos deserve to live in a safe environment and afford quality housing near their

work. Thus, it is imperative that Los Angeles build more affordable and workforce housing. In the 5th District, housing should be prioritized on our commercial corridors and near public transportation, especially near the six Purple Line stations that are in or near the district. I am committed to making it simpler, faster, and cheaper to build affordable and workforce housing in Los Angeles.

2) COVID-19 response and recovery: We are not out of the woods when it comes to COVID-19. We have to prioritize the health and safety of our residents and healthcare workers to ensure we do not have another surge that shuts down Los Angeles. We need to help our small businesses recover from the economic devastation of the pandemic so they can fuel our local economy. We need to help workers and their families as they continue to struggle to find jobs with quality wages and to afford their rent. We have an opportunity to build a more equitable Los Angeles if we choose to reject the status quo.

3) Protecting essential city services and investing equitably in our communities, including health care, municipal operations, infrastructure, public safety, housing, and economic development. Los Angeles needs to prioritize providing core services to its residents and businesses if we are going to improve the quality of life for our residents, businesses, and visitors.

4) Improving how our city is policed, while making sure that our families, neighborhoods, and small businesses are safe and thriving. I support adding mental health professionals to respond to non-violent mental health calls. I support exploring, and if successful scaling, pilot programs for non-sworn City personnel to take on certain LAPD responsibilities so that sworn police officers can focus on core police work to keep our neighborhoods safe, especially the 140,000 annual phone calls related to homelessness made to LAPD every year.

5) Rooting out City Hall's culture of corruption and cronyism: The status quo is broken and toxic. It's time for Angelenos to stand up, elect new leaders, and reject the corruption that has allowed our great city to fall deeper and deeper into decline. Fighting corruption has been a cornerstone of my campaign for LA City Council. I refuse to accept money from real estate developers, corporations, oil and gas companies, PACS, and special interests of any kind. And I have consistently called for long-overdue reforms to root out this culture of corruption, including an independently funded and appointed City Ethics Commission with robust subpoena power; far-reaching campaign finance reforms; and land use reforms empowering stakeholders in neighborhoods not lobbyists in backrooms.

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?

I have set an ambitious goal for myself to raise \$1.2 million for my campaign. We have already raised over \$715,000 - outpacing all others in my race and all other city council candidates across Los Angeles, including incumbents. We will have the resources to fully communicate with voters.

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

There are several candidates in the race, including Molly Basler, Jimmy Bibrarz, Scott Epstein, and Katy Young Yaroslavsky.

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

I will be laser focused on homelessness, and will have objective metrics for success. I will focus on (i) reducing the number of unhoused Angelenos who die every day on our streets (currently approximately 5 per day); (ii) increase the number and reduce the costs of new interim housing and permanent supportive housing units in the 5th District; and (iii) reverse the unacceptable ratio between the number of Angelenos who fall into homelessness versus the number who are housed every year. I will also work to build new pocket parks in every neighborhood of the 5th District.

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

- Los Angeles County Supervisor Holly Mitchell
- Congressman (Ret.) Henry Waxman
- Congresswoman Nanette Barragán
- International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT)
- Armenian National Committee of America - Western Region

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 since I was able to vote.

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.

Avance - since 2021

Democrats for Israel - for nearly a decade

Miracle Mile Democratic Club - since 2019

Heart of LA - since 2019

Stonewall - since 2020

West LA Democratic Club - since 2021

Westside Young Dems - since 2020

(among many other organizations)

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.

Over the last 15 years, I have served the Los Angeles community as an active board member of more than ten different non-profit organizations, including Bend the Arc (Progressive Jewish Alliance), Friends of Westwood Library, Bet Tzedek Legal Services, the Jewish Community Foundation, and ETTA (an organization that provides housing and supportive services to adults with disabilities).

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

I am incredibly proud that our campaign is leveraging grassroots community support in a way that no other candidate in this race can. I will be the first Iranian-American, first Middle Easterner, and (we believe) the first refugee elected to office in the history of Los Angeles, to represent a district where Iranian-Americans comprise approximately 10% of the residents. We are also incredibly proud of the broad unprecedented coalition we have built supporting our grassroots campaign: progressives and moderates, labor and business, democratic clubs, nearly 2,100 individual donors, and more than 1,200 community, non-profit, and neighborhood leaders in the 5th District.