



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

MARISSA ROY

Election Information

Election Date: June 2, 2026

Complete Name of Office Sought & District/Seat Number: LA City Attorney

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.


____ Marissa Roy

____ 2/26/26

Signature of Candidate Print Full Name Marissa Roy Date

Please provide written answers to the questions below:

1. Why are you running for this office? How are you uniquely qualified?

I'm running because I believe that the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office can be the most significant public interest law office in the city. My campaign is rooted in the belief that law can be a tool for justice when it's shaped by the people it's meant to protect.

I have spent my entire career in public interest impact litigation, standing up for vulnerable communities. My career in government started at the LA City Attorney's Office, where I built out landmark wage theft cases that put tens of thousands of dollars each back in the pocket of workers. I went on to represent LA County as outside counsel in all of their litigation against the first Trump Administration, representing them in over a dozen legal actions to protect immigrants and defend sanctuary jurisdictions. Now, I'm a consumer protection attorney at the California Department of Justice, where I am suing billion-dollar tech companies and investigating corporate landlords violating state housing law.

This is all the type of work the LA City Attorney should be leading on. The LA City Attorney's Office can sue any business for engaging in unlawful, unfair, or deceptive conduct—that means businesses engaging in wage theft, slumlords harassing tenants, and companies dumping toxic chemicals. The City Attorney's Office could be leading lawsuits against the federal government for its unlawful attacks on our city and unconstitutional targeting of our families. The City Attorney's Office should also be ensuring that liability is managed cost-effectively so that resources are not pulled from vital city services.

The potential of the City Attorney's Office is being largely unmet right now. Out of over 1000 attorneys, paralegals, investigators, legal secretaries, and staff, this City Attorney has devoted less than 5% of the office to public rights, and is grossly overspending on outside counsel and liability payouts.

I am running to ensure the Office works for the people. I plan to dramatically scale up the public interest litigation so that workers' rights, tenants' rights, climate justice, civil rights, and fighting the Trump Administration are all given the attention they deserve. This is the work I have done my entire career as a government attorney—including alongside public servants in the City Attorney's Office—and the work I know we can do for Los Angeles.

2. Many voters are unsure of the role of the City Attorney. What is your explanation of what the job entails and what constraints exist on what the CA can accomplish?

I often describe the City Attorney's Office as the most important, least understood position in our city government. The City Attorney's Office is a dual function office, meaning it represents both the City and the People. On the City side, the City Attorney represents the City and its departments in lawsuits; provides advice and counsel to the City and its departments; and approves contracts and bonds as to form. Though not specifically enumerated in the LA City Charter, the City Attorney is often directed by council to draft the enacting language for ordinances. On the People side, the LA Charter provides that the City Attorney has jurisdiction over municipal code enforcement and misdemeanors. Additionally, California's Unfair Competition Law empowers the LA City Attorney's Office to sue in the name of the People any business engaging in unlawful, unfair, or deceptive practices.

On the municipal side, the constraints on this position emanate from the California State Bar rules and the LA City Charter. Per the ethics rules of the California State Bar, the City Attorney has an obligation to be competent and communicative, following the direction of her client, not substitute her own policy judgment over her client. Additionally, the City Charter adds obligations under Section 272 that the City Attorney "shall manage all litigation of the City, *subject to client direction*" and that client decisions, including the

decision to initiate litigation in the City's name, must come from the direction of the Mayor, Council, or board or commissioners of proprietary departments in accordance with the Charter. The Charter also specifies in Section 273 how litigation is to be properly settled with client approval. On the People side, the City Attorney has to follow prosecutorial ethics, emanating from the U.S. and California Constitution and state laws.

3. What are your top 3 issues? Include the role that the CA can take in addressing those issues and the specific steps/plans you have.

- a. **Fighting Trump:** The number one priority I would have as City Attorney is making sure that LA is at the forefront of litigation against the Trump Administration. Los Angeles is under attack: workers kidnapped, families torn apart, and our city under constant threat. A key strategy that has hindered the Trump Administration has been the hundreds of lawsuits filed against their actions by nonprofits as well as state and local governments. The State of California has sued Trump over 50 times—winning positive outcomes in over 75% of cases—and San Francisco and Santa Clara County have led coalition lawsuits throughout California. As outside counsel for LA County, I was part of over a dozen legal actions against the first Trump Administration, and as City Attorney, and I would make sure LA is leading, not just joining, litigation against the Trump Administration to stand up for our communities, especially those most targeted by the Administration. Following the guidance of the California Attorney General—who just recently confirmed that local City Attorneys and District Attorneys can prosecute ICE—I would use the misdemeanor authority to hold rogue ICE agents accountable. I would also sue the corporations that are enabling and profiting off of ICE's illegal terror—from Palantir providing the technology to facilitate mass surveillance to GEO Group and Core Civic running private detention centers, like Adelanto, in blatant violation of human rights. I know what it takes to vigorously and aggressively fight the Trump Administration in court, and I'd bring that fight on day one.
- b. **Increasing Public Interest Litigation:** The City Attorney's Office can use its authority under the Unfair Competition Law to protect the public interest, and especially protect workers and tenants rights. Right now, according to the City Attorney's re-election website, out of 1000 legal professionals only 42 (less than 5%) are devoted to public rights work. This is out of step with not only the State of California, but similarly situated municipal law offices. Los Angeles needs a City Attorney fighting for the public interest: every year, \$2.5 billion is stolen from workers, and since the passage of the Tenant AntiHarassment Ordinance, 23,000 complaints of harassment by landlords have been filed, but the City Attorney has only cited one. Throughout my career, I have represented local governments and now the state to bring groundbreaking impact litigation to protect workers, tenants, the environment, voting rights, reproductive rights, and civil rights. As City Attorney, I will dramatically scale up our public interest litigation so that

20% of the Office is devoted to this work. My overarching goal is for the LA City Attorney's Office to be the fiercest advocate for working families.

- c. **Responsible Liability Management:** Liability payouts have ballooned under the current City Attorney administration— making up one third of the City's deficit and risking the City's ability to provide municipal services. In just three years, the current City Attorney has blown past the budget for handling lawsuits by \$100 million in 2023, then \$200 million in 2024, and now nearly \$250 million—far beyond past levels—even though the office is resolving roughly the same number of cases. This overspending comes at the cost of essential services that our communities rely on. Costs have also surged because the City Attorney increasingly outsources to private firms with expensive hourly billing that incentivizes drawn-out litigation, and because the City Attorney refuses reasonable settlements, leading to "nuclear verdicts." As City Attorney, I would adopt proven risk-management practices, such as case valuation panels used by the D.C. Attorney General's Office, to make smarter settlement decisions, and invest in compliance so that we prevent lawsuits before they arise. I would additionally cut reliance on outside counsel and reinvest in Deputy City Attorneys who resolve cases at a quarter of the cost.

4. 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?

My goal is to raise \$1.3 million, \$750k from personal fundraising and \$566k in matching funds. I have currently raised over \$500k and am eligible for \$466k in matching funds. I do not accept money from corporations so I will fundraise from individuals, grassroots advocacy organizations, unions, and democratic clubs.

5. Who do you see as your main opponent in this election?

Hydee Feldstein Soto

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

LA County Federation of Labor, SEIU 2015, LA County Young Democrats, Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, Assemblymember Tina McKinnor

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 my 18th birthday and have never been registered as a member of another political party.

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 am an active member of LA County Young Democrats (member for 9 years), Asian Democrats of LA County (member for 5 years, on the board for 2 years), and East Area Progressive Democrats (member for 3 years). Through sponsorship of events over the past nine years, I have intermittently qualified as a member at several additional clubs, such as Stonewall Democratic Club (Club 50 member), Stonewall Young Dems, Westside Young Dems, Black Los Angeles Young Dems, Pilipino American LA Dems, San Fernando Valley Young Dems.

Though not a democratic club, I was the President of California Women's List between 2021-2024 and had been the Endorsements Chair from 2018-2021. California Women's List supports pro-choice Democratic women running for state and local office and particularly under my tenure worked on projects and a bill with the California Democratic Party and LA County Democratic Party.

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

South Asian Bar Association (board member for 2 years), LA Forward (board member for 1 year, member for 5 years), DSA-LA (member for 3 years), Working Families Party (member representative for 2 years), Ready to Launch (board member for 3 years), Kids Enjoy Exercise Now (board member for 2 years)

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

I look forward to answering any questions at the forum.