



Belmont Heights Community Association March 14, 2018 Candidate Meet & Greet

James "Henk" Conn
Mayoral Candidate
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Considering California's mandate to increase housing and density, how would you propose our district comply with that mandate?

I see the mandate and the LUE as wrong in so many ways. Ecologically, it ignores the impact. It gives developers the ability to ruin our neighborhoods. Density may bring us more neighbors and the bad neighbor will come and go. But a community is stuck with an eyesore. I believe the underlying goal of bringing housing for the working class through a trickle down housing system for the top earners, amounts to nothing more than a Red Herring.

How do you propose addressing the growing needs of the homeless population in the city of Long Beach?

I would focus my work on systems of Flexible Transitional Housing. Systems that would treat the individual, provide services to stabilize the individual so they can establish and maintain permanent housing. I would not support any codes or laws that detains individuals because of furtive behavior and not factual evidence.

What is your position on Rent Control in Long Beach?

I fully support Rent Control. I believe if we have a minimum wage, we can have a maximum rent. I believe that a colossal amount of money has left our community because our rents were raised. This means less community businesses making a profit, less taxes collected, to name a few. I commit that we can create rules that can uphold a landlord's right to a fair profit, while setting limits on rent increases.

How would you solve the problem of the unfunded pension liability of CALPERS?

I would work with the Unions and sensible economists.

What are your top three priorities that are within the scope of the office you are campaigning for and your perspective/philosophy/ for each of these priorities and how would you fund them?

- *My priorities include supporting, and eventually bring, the community together to establish citywide rent control.*
- *Also, end homelessness through treatment in conjunction with housing.*
- *I believe it is important to bring restrictions to coastal development that swaths our shoreline.*

What solutions do you envision for keeping an Emergency Room in the east side of the city?

I support converting Community Hospital into an outpatient medical center; A partnership of education and medical groups. I think having a city health department on the east side would benefit the city.

What is your position on the Long Beach Values Act of 2017 (Sanctuary City Act)?

I support the Values Act. I believe we should do everything we can to ensure the limited minds at the Federal level don't rob people of their homes in the name of a political party's agenda. It's not about side, it's about right or wrong.

Over the last couple of years, the City Auditor has identified a number of departments that have cost the city millions of dollars (in either costs or lost revenue). What have you done, or what would you do, to ensure the problems in these departments have been corrected?

I am a trained and educated statistician, and have advanced knowledge in economics. I love numbers. I will work closely with the city auditor and manager to work towards sensible spending. Ultimately, I stand by the fact that the most devastating impact to the city budget has been rent control increases in a city with an exceptionally high level of absentee owners.



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Robert Garcia
Mayoral Candidate
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Considering California's mandate to increase housing and density, how would you propose our district comply with that mandate?

I support building more homes in Long Beach for residents at all income levels – from affordable to market rate. The housing crisis will only be solved by building more homes. I believe that most of the new construction should be focus in downtown, midtown and North Long Beach close to public transportation.

How do you propose addressing the growing needs of the homeless population in the city of Long Beach?

I have called for the creation of a year-round homeless shelter in the City of Long Beach, supported the development of a facility to handle mental health emergencies, and actively supported the passage of Measure H in LA County to provide more services. I will continue to advocate for more affordable housing construction in Long Beach.

What is your position on Rent Control in Long Beach?

I do not support blanket rent control in the City of Long Beach because studies show that it has decreased the supply of housing in cities that have rent controlled units. Building more homes is the only real solution to the affordability crisis facing many cities in California.

How would you solve the problem of the unfunded pension liability of CALPERS?

As a councilmember, I approved contracts that reduced the City's pension liabilities by more than \$200 million and continue to making paying down the City's pension liability a part of every city budget.

What are your top three priorities that are within the scope of the office you are campaigning for and your perspective/philosophy/ for each of these priorities and how would you fund them?

My top three priorities as Mayor are:

- Public Safety – Some of the proudest achievements of my first term are the restorations to our Police and Fire Departments after more than a decade of reductions. The restoration of the South Division, creating dedicated academy staff to return officers to patrol, and restoring Engine 8 and Rescue 12 have improved response times and puts us near the top for large cities. Nothing is more important than ensuring the safety of residents and visitors; it will continue to be a top priority moving forward.*
- An Economy for All—I am proud our poverty rate has declined to 18.8% and our unemployment rate reached record lows during my first term. I helped recreate the City's Economic Development Department and led the creation of an Economic Blueprint to make sure economic growth and opportunity reaches every community in our city.*
- Protecting the Environment—Long Beach has been a leading city in sustainability by joining the Paris Climate Agreement, adopting a new CAAP with a goal for zero emissions by 2035 and pushing for adoption of electric buses and other vehicles.*

What solutions do you envision for keeping an Emergency Room in the east side of the city?

I have worked with the City Council and Manager to explore every option to keep an emergency room operating at the Community Hospital site.

What is your position on the Long Beach Values Act of 2017 (Sanctuary City Act)?

As an immigrant myself, I believe our community should support immigrants in our City.

Over the last couple of years, the City Auditor has identified a number of departments that have cost the city millions of dollars (in either costs or lost revenue). What have you done, or what would you do, to ensure the problems in these departments have been corrected?

I have partnered with the City Auditor to implement her recommendations especially regarding Animal Care Services and the Job Order Contract program.



Belmont Heights Community Association March 14, 2018 Candidate Meet & Greet

Gordana Kajer
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Considering California's mandate to increase housing and density, how would you propose our district comply with that mandate?

I strongly believe that Long Beach needs long-range planning and that housing – specifically, affordable housing – must be addressed. It's clear to me that 3rd District residents accept the challenge of fulfilling future housing and density goals. However, the recent Land Use Element (LUE) public process perpetuates the view that planning can be handled on a "district by district" basis, with lines on a map that are artificially defined by political district borders. Without a comprehensive citywide discussion, individual districts may unwittingly shift housing and density burdens to another district – unintentionally pitting one part of Long Beach against the interests of another. What is needed is a comprehensive discussion with residents and landowners citywide. Outreach efforts by city staff should not be based on pre-determined outcomes and unwillingness to changing draft plans. The LUE should be crafted with a process that is community-based and designed to gather input from residents that is included, through compromise and consensus, in the outcome.

One example of the current flawed process is the long-range plan for Long Beach's southeast area (Southeast Area Specific Plan – SEASP) approved by City Council in 2017, now being challenged in court for CEQA violations and which must also be approved by the California Coastal Commission. Many residents I know who participated in the SEASP process felt that the outcome was pre-determined and that staff were simply defending the draft plan, not seeking balanced public input from all the participants. Further, in the past the City's land use plans recognized the southeast area of Long Beach as unique - in large part because of the presence of the Los Cerritos Wetlands. The current citywide plan integrated and protected this special natural resource because of its unique environmental, recreational and educational values to all city residents. Excluding details about SEASP from the LUE maps, and from the general LUE discussion, further highlights the inadequacy of a fragmented "district by district" review of long-range planning. I believe the litigation and upcoming review by the Coastal Commission present an opportunity to reconsider the SEASP plan and integrate the Los Cerritos Wetlands, our unique environmental treasure, into the citywide LUE. Further, although the 3/6/18 City Council vote on the LUE will be a matter of record by the time this response is distributed by the BHCA, I believe that the LUE should be paused to better assess the impacts of recent state law (SB35) as well as proposed legislation (SB827) to encourage more housing by overriding local government controls for building heights and density. The LUE must be fully analyzed in view of the state mandates before any final decisions are made that could lead to unintended consequences in our neighborhoods. If the City can come together on a plan that meets affordable housing and density goals, we might avoid the impositions proposed in the state legislation.

How do you propose addressing the growing needs of the homeless population in the city of Long Beach?

I don't have all the answers to issues raised by homelessness, but I do believe we are morally obligated to help those most in need. The City of Long Beach has implemented successful solutions with services from our Health Department, the Fire Department (the H.E.A.R.T program) and Police Department in partnership with local non-profits to provide services and housing for homeless individuals who choose to seek assistance. A growing population of homeless individuals, however, continues to live on the streets, often suffering from drug or alcohol dependency or mental illness, and often benefiting from the results of petty crime. This element of the homeless population has become a health and safety issue for residents in many neighborhoods, and there's a growing need for substance abuse services to assist this population.

What is your position on Rent Control in Long Beach?

I've been a landlord for over 20 years and I have, over time, kept my rents affordable and below market rates. I started that practice as a moral obligation to my tenants. I have learned that the loyalty in response has resulted in a real benefit - my experience has been that my tenants take better care of the property and stay longer. And while I recognize many

landlords don't manage their rentals like I do, I lean toward opposition to a rent control ordinance. I haven't seen any data that supports the notion that rent control results in affordable housing – it has not been a “silver bullet” in other cities with affordable housing issues - but I want to hear more discussion from all sides before taking a firm position. I think it's important to note that Long Beach is a city with over 60% of our residents who are renters. A broad coalition of housing advocates, renters' rights organizations and social justice groups have recently organized a signature campaign to bring a Rent Control initiative to the ballot in Long Beach, in all likelihood later this year. Long Beach residents who rent will be motivated to vote, viewing this initiative as a lifeline against unjust evictions, gentrification and with legal protections that could keep their rents at an affordable level.

How would you solve the problem of the unfunded pension liability of CALPERS?

It's complex and I cannot pretend to have a solution. The unfunded pension liability is a financial dilemma with more than enough blame to go around – from inadequate planning by state and local government to lax Federal regulation of financial markets resulting in the collapse of investments intended to fund the pension plans. And these pension budgets are only compounded by the inability to resolve affordable health care issues. I believe government has a moral obligation to meet the promises made to retirees, and I believe retirees have a similar moral obligation to the community to help. Unfunded pension liability is a financial problem that has to be guided by political, social and economic policies from the local to state level to find a lasting solution.

What are your top three priorities that are within the scope of the office you are campaigning for and your perspective/philosophy/ for each of these priorities and how would you fund them?

- I would take the initiative and request that City staff and the City Council stop the entitlement process for the Belmont Beach Aquatics Center (now estimated at over \$10 million, with a construction estimate of \$103 million). I would request City Staff to conduct a new EIR which identifies legitimate alternative locations for this facility that do not include construction at sea-level, on the beach, against the advice of the California Coastal Commission and ignoring the City's own Climate Resiliency reports. We need more municipal pools in our City, built in areas that are easily accessible to Long Beach residents and which are designed with a cost that reflects municipal pool amenities that are needed by residents - not Olympic or NCAA athletes. The \$60 million currently set aside in Tidelands Funds for this aquatics facility could be re-directed to other important coastal infrastructure (like Naples seawall repairs or the Belmont Pier rebuild). I would request that the current temporary pool at the pier be converted into a permanent facility with support buildings and visitor amenities.
- I would that request City staff immediately begin studying the water-quality issues in Alamitos Bay, to request a study of the soon-to-be decommissioned AES Alamitos Bay power plant pumps and their impact on water-quality in the bay. Alamitos Bay is an important asset for our residents and City staff should start looking now at feasible alternatives to keep the water safe and healthy for recreation. The City of Long Beach can no longer rely on the AES pumps, implicated in unacceptable levels of marine life mortality associated with the power plant's once-thru-cooling technology, to manage recreational water quality in the bay starting in May 2020. Water quality improvement in Alamitos Bay must include better enforcement of established TMDLs (Total Maximum Daily Loads) for pollutants originating throughout the watershed. Tidelands Funds can be prioritized for this project to benefit residents citywide.
- We must adopt a budget process in Long Beach that is open, transparent and realistic. I believe that the budget should be equitable, ensuring investments are prioritized for the greatest needs citywide and it must reflect realistic, conservative spending as well as funding estimates. For example, I believe that Tidelands Funds are a financial resource to be used for infrastructure and services that benefit all residents, not just folks who live in the coastal areas of Long Beach where this money may only, under State law, be used. The budget for this fund has been effectively controlled only by the Council members representing those districts – District 2 and District 3. I would recommend that a city-wide Tidelands Funds Commission be organized, with community leaders representing all parts of our city, who will determine the best use of these funds on behalf of residents for our citywide asset - our coastal zone. Decisions regarding the use of Tidelands Funds should not be controlled simply on the basis of arbitrary geographic or political boundaries.

What solutions do you envision for keeping an Emergency Room in the east side of the city?

It's not going to be simple. I see the only viable solution coming from what is happening right now -the concerted efforts generated from community outreach, the Task Force recently organized with Community Hospital Long Beach Foundation, coupled with political will, on the local and state level, working together. Assemblyman Patrick O'Donnell's recently introduced legislation (AB3591) will extend the seismic compliance deadline for Community Hospital, gaining more time for stakeholders to identify and study potential options for medical services, if not an emergency room, to continue on the site.

What is your position on the Long Beach Values Act of 2017 (Sanctuary City Act)?

I fully support the Long Beach Values Act of 2017. I am deeply disturbed by the Federal administration's shift in immigration policy. I am the child of immigrant parents and I believe immigrants are a critical piece of our country's values, economic success and cultural wealth. I agree that immigration reform is needed to ensure fairness and sustainability in our immigration programs; however, I feel very strongly that the changes being proposed, or currently enforced, by the Federal government are mean-spirited and counter-productive to our American values and quality of life.

Over the last couple of years, the City Auditor has identified a number of departments that have cost the city millions of dollars (in either costs or lost revenue). What have you done, or what would you do, to ensure the problems in these departments have been corrected?

I believe the City Auditor, Laura Dowd, is to be commended for her work on behalf of the residents of Long Beach. The City Auditor is an independently elected position, and while the City Council may direct the operations of the Auditor, the position does not report to the Mayor or the City Manager. I've had many years of professional experience as a Customs and Import compliance auditor. Simply put, operational or financial problems identified in the course of an audit are outlined in an Audit Report Action Plan for management following the audit. The Action Plan ranks the problems identified in the audit report, outlines management's solutions and defines the timelines and resources needed to address and resolve any issues (or findings) from an audit. No audit is considered complete until there's an appropriate Action Plan, prepared by the responsible managers, that offers solutions and remedies to the audit's findings.

The City Manager should be directed by the Mayor and City Council to respond to an audit with an Action Plan that identifies the financial or operational findings from an audit conducted by the City Auditor, with timelines and resources required to remedy the audit findings. Every Action Plan should require timely follow-up from the City Auditor's staff, and a commitment from the City Manager and his staff, to resolve issues identified in an audit report in a timely fashion and to the satisfaction of the City Auditor.



Belmont Heights Community Association March 14, 2018 Candidate Meet & Greet

Suzie Price
City Council Candidate, District 3
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Considering California's mandate to increase housing and density, how would you propose our district comply with that mandate?

Population growth is inevitable and the availability of housing has become a serious problem throughout the state. There are several causes of population growth; it is not simply as a result of people moving to our community, but also as a result of Long Beach families growing. As a city, we must work to plan for the effects of a growing population, which include creating opportunities to increase our housing stock. As a District, it is imperative that we collaborate with the city to address the housing needs of our students, our local workforce, our seniors, and our young families looking for their first home. The character of the Third District is unique and there are few opportunities for major development in the District. There are responsible and prudent opportunities, however, to allow property owners to reinvest in their properties and create housing in limited areas. It is crucial that we, as a District, work to identify where there are opportunities for increases in housing and density in our communities. During my first term, I have been involved in many efforts to find suitable opportunities to create housing in the Third District and comply with the State's mandate to increase housing stock.

Southeast Area Specific Plan (SEASP) I supported updating the Southeast Area Specific Plan (SEASP). This plan made several needed changes to the area, including: allowing for the development of additional housing units over the next 40 years requiring that development be done in environmentally sustainable ways, such as: requiring bird safe glass, reducing heights in proximity to the wetlands, adding open space requirements, landscaping only with native plants, contributing to a wetlands fund to help the continuing restoration of the Los Cerritos Wetlands, protecting the Wetlands from any development and requiring case-by-case consultation with LCWA and LCWLT to ensure adequate buffers are in place for all future developments. Although increased housing will be possible here, it will be with significant benefits to the community and none of the development can occur on our natural environment. Additional housing is important, but it is important to keep the character of the District in mind, which is why I did not accept heights over five stories in that area. The previous plan provided no protections for the wetlands and I am proud that the SEASP had a strong focus on preservation. The SEASP reaffirms a commitment to complying with the need to increase housing stock and density while balancing the needs of the community and the need to preserve natural resources.

Land Use Element (LUE) I will be voting to support an update to the city's Land Use Element (LUE) but will be asking for a number of specific changes that reduce height and density at certain locations throughout the Third District. The LUE will allow for our city to accommodate and plan for population growth. There are a few important things to note about the LUE: This citywide plan sets limitations for important variables in terms of what types of buildings and land uses are appropriate for each particular area of the city, There are no changes in single-family residential neighborhoods in the Third District. This plan is meant to spur reinvestment in areas that have stagnated and not seen improvements by giving property owners an incentive to revitalize their properties and Property owners along major corridors will likely choose to reinvest in their dilapidated buildings and rebuild their properties, creating new housing and commercial opportunities Updating this plan is an important responsibility for local elected officials. It is essential to plan for and accommodate the changes we know are coming in the future. I have worked with my residents for nearly 4 years holding meetings, taking input, offering solutions, and I believe they have had a great impact on where this plan is going to end up. It is important that a leader does not hide their heads in the sand when a topic is complicated or contentious. This District needs a leader who takes the responsibility of creating a smart plan for the future seriously.

Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) are more commonly known as Granny Flats and have been a topic of conversation since 2017 when a state law required cities to allow the construction of ADUs. This state law is another push on a statewide level to address a need for increased housing and density. California cities have the ability to draft their own ordinances on how ADUs can be built, and Long Beach has made every effort to draft an

ordinance that best fits our city. As a District, it is important that we work to comply with the state mandate while creating an ordinance that takes the interest of our communities into account. I made a request to change a few significant aspects of staff's proposed recommendations for the new ordinance. I worked alongside my community to come up with recommendations that allowed for increased housing while taking into account the unique character of the District. Those changes included: Increasing the necessary lot size someone must have in order to be allowed to construct an ADU on their property, Increasing the percentage of the lot that must remain open space after an ADU is constructed on a property, Reducing the maximum square footage that would be allowable for an ADU. Moving forward my role will be to ensure these policies are applied strategically, and sparingly in a way that minimizes any negative impact on our communities while contributing to the efforts to increase housing stock and addressing population growth.

How do you propose addressing the growing needs of the homeless population in the city of Long Beach?

Homelessness has been a major focus for me throughout my time in office. I am proud to be the leading voice on the City Council in addressing the growing concern of homelessness and the unintended impacts on quality of life issues in our communities. It is imperative that we explore long-term solutions for the challenges that the homeless population faces, as well as the challenges that the communities face. During my first term, I voted in support of increased funding for the Health and Human Services Department, maintaining structural funding for our HEART teams that respond to rapid emergency homelessness needs, and allocating funds for the construction of a year round homeless shelter.

In addition to my commitments during the budget cycle, I have brought a series of items to Council that confronts homelessness from a number of different angles. Those items include:

Comprehensive Approach to Homelessness and Quality of Life Issues - Direct staff across multiple departments to develop ways of addressing homelessness from their individual department perspective. Led to a 31-page Staff Report.

Neighborhood Impact Prosecutor Third District specific - Prosecutor to better address crime and quality of life issues by working directly with police and judges to have the biggest impact for the community.

Median Safety - Develop new policies for traffic and pedestrian safety at high speed and volume intersections.

RV Parking Restrictions - Limit on-street parking for oversized vehicles to improve traffic safety where large vehicles create view obstructions.

Homeless Work Program - New program where homeless can work for pay with Public Works or Parks Departments on general maintenance jobs on a day-to-day basis.

Opioid Detailing Program - Health Department work with doctors to reduce the likelihood of patients becoming addicted. Goal is to address addiction by reducing numbers who become addicted not just helping those who are already addicted.

Bike Chop Shop Ordinance - Give police ability to cite someone for selling, disassembling, reassembling, or storing MULTIPLE bikes or bike parts in parks, beaches, and other public spaces. And confiscate bike materials when violations are cited.

Police Carry Naloxone to Stop Overdoses - Allow LBPD to carry Naloxone, a chemical nasal spray that saves someone's life when they are experiencing an overdose.

Free Online Bike Registration - Stop bike thefts, and return lost bikes with a free online bike registration program where police can prove ownership of bikes they come across.

The efforts together are designed to address the very complex issues presented by the complex statewide issue of homelessness. Yesterday, the League of California Cities published a report outlining several "out-of-the-box" ideas used by communities throughout the state. I intend to work with our city staff to implement some of those programs, as well as the homeless work team program that I brought to council, in the coming years.

What is your position on Rent Control in Long Beach?

It is important to find affordable housing solutions in our communities in Long Beach to provide housing options for our local workforce, recent college graduates, and senior citizens. I do not believe that rent control is that solution. This is the perfect example of planning responsibly and finding a responsible way to ensure that the growing community has access to affordable housing. Rent Control has not been proven to be a solution to the affordable housing crisis in California. Rent control leads to disengaged landlords who have no interest in investing in their properties or the community. There is no evidence to show that rent control has caused any increase to the affordable housing stock anywhere in the state.

How would you solve the problem of the unfunded pension liability of CALPERS?

The current situation with public pensions is not unique to Long Beach. In fact, in Long Beach our pension liability is funded at over 60%, which is higher than many other public entities. In 2012, the city began to renegotiate pension packages with its employee groups. This was even before the statewide pension reform, PEPRRA, went into effect. As a result of this negotiation, the employee pickup went up to 6% and has saved the city \$13 Million per year. At one point, the City was in a position to significantly pay down its pension liability by 2021; however, CalPERS readjusted its costs and the variable to represent a more conservative and prudent outlook. This adjustment and the result of the smoothing process caused the city's costs to go up. CalPERS is constantly changing their investment assumptions, and investment options to reduce the risks, which has and may continue to increase our costs. At this point, we expect the costs to go up until 2031, when they will stabilize and then reduce until 2050.

The City Council over the past few years created a CalPERS stabilization fund to address some of the unfunded liability. Due to the recent CalPERS changes, however, this fund would cease to remain funded. The City Council also set aside 5% of surpluses for unfunded liabilities. We have had to use that funding to pay for specific large-scale litigation but the priority is there for future surpluses. Every year the city comes up with new projections, and looks to see if CalPERS is changing its policy. We look to the future, and we base our budget on those projections. As the Vice Chair of the Budget Oversight Committee I believe we need to look for ways to use operating revenues to pay down liabilities, which would allow us to have relief in the future. Other cities have done this and it has the potential to save several years in unfunded obligations. As we continue to increase our revenues, we should be looking to pay down this unfunded obligation. It's not always the most exciting way to spend our money, but then again, I have the reputation on council of doing what is right, not necessarily what causes the most cheers in the room on a Tuesday night. We have to think long term about this and take some sacrifices now to save for the generations to come.

What are your top three priorities that are within the scope of the office you are campaigning for and your perspective/philosophy/ for each of these priorities and how would you fund them?

The main issues that impact my community and serve as major priorities for me are:

- Increasing our Public Safety resources so that we can address quality of life issues and crimes that are impacting neighborhoods,*
- Staying consistent with our Infrastructure priorities and plans to ensure no deferred maintenance on major facilities improvements for the years ahead, and*
- Protecting the Wetlands/Environment through the implementation of projects, such as the Colorado Lagoon Open Channel project.*

I have demonstrated, during my first term in office, that I am able to effectively serve my community in those issue areas and so much more. Today, we have more police officers on the streets of Long Beach than we have had since the recession almost a decade ago! We restored the engine at Fire Station 8, funded numerous training academies for the police and fire departments, and brought a Neighborhood Impact Prosecutor to Belmont Shore.

By the end of my first term, we will have repaved 32 miles of new streets, hundreds of blocks of new sidewalks, and improved parking and traffic safety in the congested areas of our community. This all represents a significant increase from what has been invested in the past.

As Chair of the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (LCWA), my main priority has been to preserve and restore the Los Cerritos Wetlands. The LCWA successfully negotiated a momentous land swap deal of Steam Shovel Slough, which

protects a key portion of the wetlands. I also lead the charge to pass the Southeast Area Specific Plan, which updated zoning plans in and around the wetlands habitat to protect the Los Cerritos Wetlands from development and ensure its restoration. Since 1977 several developments have been built on the wetlands, because there was no provision to protect them in the old plan. During my tenure, we also opened up a portion of the wetlands for public use and an outdoor classroom. If re-elected, I will continue to make progress in those issue areas and many more.

What solutions do you envision for keeping an Emergency Room in the east side of the city?

I will do everything in my power to keep the acute care facility at Community Hospital open. I am already actively engaged in the discussion, serving on committees, meeting with residents and experts and working with city staff to identify possible solutions to the potential closure of the ER. Currently, the ER sees approximately 30,000 patients per year. Many of these patients are residents of the 3rd, 4th and 5th districts. I have been actively engaged in this discussion with my colleague Councilman Supernaw to urge Long Beach Memorial to facilitate the license transfer and we have worked with Assembly Member O'Donnell to support his efforts to extend the deadline provided by the state regulatory agency in terms of the closure date for a facility that is deemed seismically unsafe. We will pursue all possible partnerships to retrofit or redesign the existing facility in order to keep the core services that are needed to coincide with the ER open so that we can accommodate acute care on the east side of Long Beach.

What is your position on the Long Beach Values Act of 2017 (Sanctuary City Act)?

I supported this item when it came to council and am pleased with the amendments that were made to SB 54 prior to the Governor signing it into law. I wanted to make sure that the law didn't preclude local law enforcement from collaborating with the Federal authorities on matters UNRELATED to immigration. The initial version of SB 54 was very unclear on that point, which is why most police chiefs, the LA County Sheriff and the Governor were concerned with the initial version. In the final version, the law is very clear in terms of the collaborations that are allowable. As a prosecutor I know how important it is for local law enforcement to be able to collaborate with the FBI and other authorities on crime investigations. I have personally handled several homicide cases where the FBI worked with the local police agency on a joint task force. These collaborations had nothing to do with immigration, but rather were important public safety efforts designed to take some very dangerous people off the streets. I am the daughter of an immigrant and understand first hand what it means to pursue the American Dream. I do believe that those individuals who are here illegally and who commit violent crimes in our country should be deported.

Over the last couple of years, the City Auditor has identified a number of departments that have cost the city millions of dollars (in either costs or lost revenue). What have you done, or what would you do, to ensure the problems in these departments have been corrected?

The role of the City Auditor is crucial in identifying where the city is operating with inefficiencies and how best to address those inefficiencies. Throughout my time in office, I have worked with the City Auditor to support her efforts. I have brought forward agenda items to ask the City Auditor's office to evaluate various topics. After allegations were brought against our newly contracted parking lot operator, I brought forward an agenda item asking the City Auditor's office to conduct research to determine whether there were inefficiencies or improprieties in the decision to go with a new parking lot operator. I co-sponsored an item asking for a review of the city's Business Improvement Districts, which led to a recent report with a number of recommendations for improvements. In addition, I requested an audit of the awarding of a waste management contract. I will continue to work alongside the City Auditor's office to ensure we are finding ways to increase efficiencies and strengthen our city.



Belmont Heights Community Association March 14, 2018 Candidate Meet & Greet

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Considering California's mandate to increase housing and density, how would you propose our district comply with that mandate?

People in District 3 are opposed to the LUE. I have not found one that wants it.

How do you propose addressing the growing needs of the homeless population in the city of Long Beach?

This is at the top of my list. I too, live here in the Third District. Just yesterday, my wife came home in tears after seeing a young woman on the floor with trash all around her. My wife stopped and talked to her, got her story, and had the police assist the young woman. Yesterday was a hard day to say the least. My plan, well at least I am formulating one. There was a man by the name of Jack Smith who spoke to City Council in October of 2016. He had a 3 level plan. 1. Behavior (following the laws). 2. Status (is not an excuse for breaking the law). 3. Political Will (the city and community). Mr. Smith used these 3 concepts to combat homelessness in his area. In October of 2016, City council promised to follow up on the work of Mr. Jack Smith who was successful in cleaning up the 14th Street Park in Long Beach. On December 16, 2016, Mr. Smith was found dead in his apartment after a downtown Christmas party. The work and promise of the 100-day plan died with him. I wish to continue his work. I meet non-profits, and people in the community who want to help everyday. This homeless situation needs to be taken seriously by City Council.

What is your position on Rent Control in Long Beach?

Residents of District 3 have not posed questions either way. I am open to hearing both sides of this argument.

How would you solve the problem of the unfunded pension liability of CALPERS?

I need to look into this further.

What are your top three priorities that are within the scope of the office you are campaigning for and your perspective/philosophy/ for each of these priorities and how would you fund them?

- Homelessness, actually there are many resources available. Out in the community there are many hands willing to help. There are non-profits waiting to get to work. We need a follow through on the issue and Police and Fire Station support.*
- Build the Pool in Belmont Shore, where it was promised and funded. Where did the funding go? And why does it need to cost 110 million?*
- Government Transparency. Where are Measure A dollars going?*

What solutions do you envision for keeping an Emergency Room in the east side of the city?

Don't tear down the historic community hospital. Retrofit it. We seem to have a lot of property tax, and sales tax, that could keep an emergency room on the eastside, don't you think?

What is your position on the Long Beach Values Act of 2017 (Sanctuary City Act)?

This was already established by the Council in 2017. I hope this issue is cleared up at the Federal level soon.

Over the last couple of years, the City Auditor has identified a number of departments that have cost the city millions of dollars (in either costs or lost revenue). What have you done, or what would you do, to ensure the problems in these departments have been corrected?

Government Transparency would correct this issue. Many residents are asking for government transparency.