Coalition of Homeowner Associations-Council District 5: Newsletter #3A

Preserving and Protecting Neighborhoods

May 2022

Los Angeles Mayor

Each candidate was individually interviewed for two hours by the Coalition's 3-member Election Committee and reviewed his/her responses to the questions. The Coalition interviews candidates who have demonstrated the ability to wage a reasonable campaign. This newsletter is meant to be informative. It does not represent support for or opposition to any candidate or issue. This newsletter may be reprinted or emailed in its entirety. Portions may be reprinted only with written permission from a Coalition Election Committee member. For more information, go to the Coalition's website www.cd5hoas.org or email <a href="mailto:swelze:mailto:mailto:mailto:swelze:mailto:swelze:mailto:mailto:swelze:mailto:swe

Joe Buscaino has withdrawn from the Mayor's race.

Karen Bass Rick Caruso Mike Feuer Kevin de León **BASIC INFORMATION** How long have you lived in Los 68 years 63 years 25 years 37 years Angeles? 30 years ago helped establish Member Brentwood Park HOA, One-Stop Immigration & Describe your community service Community Coalition to tackle root hosted HOA events, Chairman of Educational Center: Teacher-Bet Tzedek- free legal services positions: causes of poverty, crime and Coliseum Commission, Chairman taught English as a second for those with low incomes violence in South LA neighborhood of USC Board of Trustees language, US history and civics Led effort to clean up scandal at the Coliseum. led effort to clean up the USC admissions scandal, Operation Progress in Watts, Para Los Ninos Measure R, gun violence Community service Bringing resources to Los Angeles from Middle School, Caruso Loan Helped thousands of immigrants to measures, reduce recidivism the State and Federal levels Forgiveness Fund covering school become US citizens accomplishments: among criminals loan payments for 10 years for lowincome/other underserved students, donates 20% of company's profits to underserved communities

	Karen Bass	Rick Caruso_	Kevin de León	Mike Feuer
Describe any government service prior to your current position:	State Assembly for 6 years, Speaker of the House	President of the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners (2001- 2005), member of the Board of DWP Commissioners(1985-89, 1997-2001), appointed Board president to address waste and financial mismanagement	State Assembly (2006 to 2010), State Senate (2010-2018) - elected by his peers to be President of State Senate	State Assembly (6 years), City Council (6 years)
In this office(s) what do you wish you could have done better:	Wish I had held out longer and not cut dental care	On those commissions, I would try to spend even more time out in the field, working directly with community leaders, listening to concerns since I have always truly enjoyed that component of civic duty	Provided more resources for	I initiated Charter Reform and wish I had reduced the influence of individual City Council members regarding how developments get approved in each area, wish I had promoted more neighborhood clean-up and beautification
Single greatest accomplishment on behalf of the people of Los Angeles:	Bringing resources to Los Angeles from the State and Federal levels	Led effort to reform LAPD after Rodney King incident, settled water dispute between Inyo and LA	Created CAL-Savers, a financial product that provides retirement plans for workers with no employer-sponsored plan	Sued Wells Fargo, gun violence and criminal justice reform, Measure R which funded public transportation
What is your current employment?	Member of Congress representing the 37th District	Developer	City Councilmember representing 14th District	City Attorney
What was your previous job?	State Assembly for 6 years, Speaker of the House	Attorney	Professor at UCLA teaching on climate change, Professor at USC teaching public policy	Representative in State Assembly
MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE				
A. What is the largest department or unit you have had management responsibility for? B. The budget for this unit? C. Final budget authority?	A. 200 (CA State Assembly) B. \$100 million C. Yes	A. 1,000 (Caruso Affiliated, a development company) B. Caruso is a privately held company C. Yes	A. 25 (One-Stop Immigration and Education Center) B. \$1 million C. Yes	A. 1,000 (30 offices under City Attorney) B. \$110 -\$125 million C. No
Strengths as a manager of people:	Collaborate and build consensus, goal- oriented, human relations	Honesty, integrity; good listener, thoughtful, being fair, able to be decisive	Empathy, good listener, execution of vision	Listener, articulate, have vision, roll up my sleeves and get hardest things done, can shake up the status quo
Most serious weakness/drawback as a manager of people:	Being too connected to the people being managed	Give people too much time to correct flaws or problems	Too much empathy	Want to know everything, work all the time

	Karen Bass	Rick Caruso	Kevin de León	Mike Feuer
Experience that best prepared you to be LA City Mayor:	Speaker of the State House, Experience building Community Coalition	Have run two City departments (LAPD and LADWP), built a successful business from scratch	My mother's work ethic, knowing how to handle pressure	As City Attorney I'm in touch with every issue, member of City Council/chair of Budget Committee taught me how City works
GOALS FOR THE OFFICE OF MAY	OR			
Why are you running for this office?	Profound humanitarian, public health and economic crisis the City faces	Love the city, raised my family here, built business here, the city is in crisis and I have the know-how and experience to address and fix the city's problems	Can't go back to old normal. Many Angelinos can't feed children, need rent relief, need to put the City on a different course.	To bring experience and transformative leadership to our City which is in crisis: the pandemic, racial justice, homeless
What do you bring to this office that is unique from any of the other candidates?	My history of building coalitions across sectors and my local, State and Federal government experience	Only candidate with executive experience in government and private sectors, only candidate that has had to make a payroll and ensure well-managed operations	Lived experience of having barely being able to pay expenses. Have experience of taking big bold ideas and turning them into reality.	My record of big achievements, keep campaign promises
What are the top three issues facing the City and as Mayor, what action steps will you take to help address each one:	1) Homelessness-get people off the street, prevent people from being homeless and address root causes, make sure that affordable housing matches peoples' salaries, not sure tiny homes are the best solution, get people out of shelters into permanent housing 2) Public safety- stop smash and grab crime wave, hold people accountable, crime prevention 3) Profound income inequality-provide jobs, jobs, jobs (SEE CANDIDATE'S WEBSITE FOR SPECIFICS)	crime expand prevention programs	housing where City guarantees rent payments, LA County providing conservatorships and mental health programs 2) Housing Affordability-Inclusionary housing in downtown areas 3) Economy-Local City-based hiring, need transformative change to encourage existing businesses and	1) Homelessness-declare a state of emergency, put a top staffer in charge, install "strike" team, general managers' jobs contingent on jobs they do to contribute to solutions, bring in private equity funds, have mental health services provided by County, do prevention measures, 2) Public safety-bring resources and services to underserved communities, add 10,000 police, add crisis intervention teams, training on use of force, embed LAPD in communities 3) Jobs and economic recovery from pandemic-have a special cabinet on job recovery, support small and large businesses, cut red tape, create education innovation, collaborate on innovations (SEE CANDIDATE'S WEBSITE FOR SPECIFICS)

	Karen Bass	Rick Caruso	Kevin de León	Mike Feuer
What impediments would prevent you from accomplishing these goals?	Bureaucracy on every level	Career politicians who make decisions on their reelection aims, over-regulation, culture of City Hall	Bureaucracy, City Hall culture of "No"	People with no new ideas or new thinking, intransigence of City workers, insufficient resources
As Mayor, how would you overcome these impediments?	Look for red tape and cut it	I know how to change culture and have leadership experience working in large organizations, be data-driven, and use my "gut" based on experience to develop strategies and execute them	Hire new general managers for the departments if they don't subscribe to my vision for the City. Need general managers who are operational and can get things done	Have strong relationships at every level of government, galvanize general managers, give each general manager goals and focus, I'm very effective
Regarding the homeless issue, what have you done to alleviate this problem within the City?	Prevention for homeless, foster youth programs, jobs for parolees	For 30+ years, my family has helped prevent many at-risk families from becoming homeless by providing scholarships, mentorships and educational opportunities; with Operation Progress and Para Los Ninos we provided quality support services for families by addressing the root causes of poverty; during the pandemic, we provided monthly stipends for groceries and laptops so children would not fall behind due to the digital divide.	Found housing for more than 2,000 people who were living on the street by doing a Tiny Home Village at a lower cost. I also used the HomeKey program.	Took over City Court program, LA Door, intervened before offense committed, made Skid Row policy changes, opened hotels to use as homes for the homeless
As Mayor, what will you do differently from the current administration to resolve the homeless issue?	Will aggressively cut red tape	Everything	Provide more immediate and long- term housing	Declare state of emergency so mayor has more powers, expand public-private partnerships, empower strike team to expedite housing construction, expand immediate housing options, rethink outreach/services strategy, keep families housed, treat homelessness as an issue of joblessness & lack of income
Do you think the current administration has failed in solving the homeless issue?	Yes. There are 40,000 people living on the street	Yes	No. The issue of homelessness belongs to everyone.	Yes

	Karen Bass	Rick Caruso	Kevin de León	Mike Feuer
OFFICE OF MAYOR SPECIFICS				
What will be the first things you will do on Day 1 of your term?	Full-bore on homeless issue, identify it as the crisis it is, get State and Federal support	Declare state of emergency for homelessness and execute plan to resolve it, put into action plan to fight crime, prosecute misdemeanors fully	Bring everyone together including all the general managers and restate the new vision of the Mayor's office and deal with homelessness	Declare state of emergency on homelessness, contact State/Federal colleagues, identify "one-time" money available to City, analyze budget by priorities vs existing items, reform City's pension system, review City contracts
As Mayor, what would be the first things you would do to solve the City's financial crisis?	Examine spending	With an \$11 billion budget, spend it wisely, take out waste, require dept heads to develop plans in 30 days to be more efficient	Do an assessment of the budget, revenue and expenses, grow the economy, look at all the obligations, review the City's debt	Analyze the budget by priorities, contact Federal and State colleagues to obtain more money for City, reform the pension system, review contracts
As Mayor, what would you do for pension reform?	Examine pension system	Tough problem. Need more information before deciding how to tackle this issue	Support defined benefit plan	Support pension reform, look at new pension programs for new hires, review existing hires and their pension programs
What will you do to improve emergency and fire response times?	Investigate if 911 should be called for all calls	Increase budget for LAFD and LAFD, restaff LAFD, focus on safety and health	More personnel, synchronize street lights	Add to the 10,000 sworn officers we are supposed to have and re-fund LAPD, hire more firefighters and better staff fire stations
As Mayor, what is your realistic plan to secure more State money for addressing the homeless issue?	Use surplus State dollars to address homeless crisis, I have good relationships with leaders in Sacramento and am currently talking to the Governor about the 2022 budget	I know the Governor & many State officials, would work closely with them on the homeless issue & depend less on the County, which has failed in resolving the mental health issues in LA	Engage former colleagues in the State Assembly and continuously lobby them for more money. The City relies on State funds.	Contact colleagues at State government, identify programs where money is available to City, collaborate with Sacramento
What is your plan to resolve the traffic congestion in the City?	More public transportation, work with employers to coordinate athome work days and times	Appoint qualified people to seats on Metro Board, use bully pulpit regarding mass transit, apply "best of class" approaches to reduce traffic	Synchronize lights, more public transportation, have more MTA lines, invest in traffic mitigations	Reduce peak-time demand, more telecommuting, synchronize lights, use Measure R and subway funds wisely, build more housing along transit corridors

	Karen Bass	Rick Caruso	Kevin de León	Mike Feuer
What actions will you take to addre	ess each of the following issues:			
◆Climate change	City is doing well on climate change, I would view whatever is done in the future as opportunities for business and jobs	Have sustainability plan as a priority, institute DWP programs that work, apply economic sense to climate change initiatives	Decarbonize the electricity grid, use more renewable energy, have more charging stations	By 2035, 100% renewable energy sources and local water sources, recycle potable water like Orange County does
♦Solar power	Expand solar panel locations and put them in strategic places, use solar as means for business and job opportunities	DWP has to put a plan in place that is economically viable	Scale solar power and create photo-voltaic power and solar islands	Big fan of solar. Have to do more, bigger and faster
◆Electric vehicles (EV)	Expand number of EV charging stations and see if they can be installed and run on a cheaper basis, use as opportunities for business and more jobs	More charging stations, incentives, team up with electric car providers	Build out infrastructure for charging EVs like gas stations are and work with State to give incentives for purchasing EV cars, build a culture of using EVs	More, bigger, faster
◆Disposal of batteries from electric vehicles	Don't know	Don't know	Dispose in a safe manner with disposal stations, avoid toxic nightmares	Don't know
◆Driverless vehicles	Oppose driverless vehicles	If they work, test them out. Use them for rapid transit so operating costs will go down	I'm not sold on autonomous vehicles. Takes away jobs and there's no evidence that driverless vehicles are safer than humans driving	Wary of this right now. Need more safety testing
♦Waste disposal	Don't know. Will look at all sole source contracts	Waste management programs and contracts need to be unbundled and re-vamped	Issue RFPs and have contracts transparent to the public	Contract for more recycle of goods, tremendous dissatisfaction with current contracts, have to have competition, will re-evaluate
◆The Wetlands within City limits	Protect them	Protect the wetlands	Preserve them	Ballona is our primary wetland, have to sustain & preserve what's left, have to remove homeless encampments
♦ Gun control	Focus on ghost guns, try to figure this out and have more enforcement	Want gun control. Change rules to be fair, but not limit LAPD to make stops as necessary, too many guns on the streets, have programs to remove guns from street to reduce crime		Create gun violence enforcement unit, programs for gang reduction, more after- school programs, sue against non-identifiable guns, work with faith-based leaders

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◆Systemic racism	Review and evaluate contracts so as to not exclude people, give more business opportunities and jobs to people who haven't had contracts previously, eliminate the "same old, same old" system where there is no diversity	Zero tolerance, we have a diverse city and have to celebrate it, need to properly train LAPD	Invest in empowering communities, ensure that all communities have trees & grass, disrupt school-to-prison pipelines, build a strong South LA	Eliminate any vestiges of racism in government, as City Attorney I hired special assistant on diversity and working groups, address gentrification versus progress versus heritage of neighborhoods
◆Anti-Asian and antisemitism within the City	Investigate and aggressively pursue perpetrators, enforce the law to the fullest	Culture of intolerance needs to be changed, with every employee of the City, non-English languages have to be respected	Punish perpetrators who spread antisemitism and anti-Asian hate	Hold virtual town halls, stand in support of Asian community, support African-American lives matter, support "anti-prejudice" platforms, speak out against BDS (Boycott of Israel)
Do you support or oppose the proposed hotel to be developed in Benedict Canyon?	Oppose	Oppose	Oppose	Oppose
Do you support or oppose the proposed Berggruen project in the Santa Monica Mountains?	Oppose	Oppose	Oppose	Oppose
City department general managers are appointed by the Mayor. What will you do to ensure that these department heads actually perform their duties in the best interests of the citizens of Los Angeles?	Have very clear evaluations and systems of accountability	Reorganize Mayor's office to have more executive managers who do close oversight on dept heads, have dept managers write plans that have to be adhered to, have accountability and replace those who do not perform to plan	Must be in sync with Mayor's vision, have to know how to get things done and execute Mayor's vision, be accountable for the job they do	I'm accountable to the voters, I will hire and fire based on qualifications and results, I will support general managers to help them achieve my objectives
Do you support or oppose the General Manager of the Planning Department in his plan to reduce public comments on planning issues?	Oppose	Oppose. I would encourage public comments.	Oppose	Don't know
Will you commit to replacing the current general manager of Planning with a GM who supports public comments?	Will consider replacing everyone, will evaluate everyone, will verify if current mayor has an evaluation process and will evaluate people in a qualitative and quantitative process, would look for outside help to do evaluations and not change everything right away	follow my directives	Will investigate	Don't know. I support public comments

	Karen Bass	Rick Caruso	Kevin de León	Mike Feuer
The City Charter requires infrastructure improvements for traffic, sanitation and other quality of life measures before additional population density development can be added to various areas of the city. Would you support or oppose developments that create population density without infrastructure improvements?	Oppose	Oppose	Oppose	There is a lawsuit pending on this so I can't say
As Mayor, will you require the Department of Planning to conduct an infrastructure review every year as required by the Charter?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
What restrictions would you place on population density developments?	Don't know	Infrastructure must support development. I won't allow development that is out of line with infrastructure	Inclusionary and affordability, parking requirements depending on the proposed units/apartments for the development	Depends on development, the site, if it's a transit corridor and other factors
As Mayor, what actions will you take to counteract SB 9 and SB 10?	Support SB 9. I don't know about SB 10	Go to the State and have SB 9 changed. We don't have to implement SB 9 & SB 10, must preserve single-family homes and neighborhoods	Oppose SB 9 and SB 10. Would not allow enabling vote. Will instruct Building & Safety to deny permits	I support local zoning. Won't sue the State. Have to have some discretion in housing near transit stops, SB9 and SB 10 are State rules, SB 9 is not relevant
What is your position on Specific Plans regarding the granting of excessive variances and adjustments?	Have to be careful with variances, otherwise what's the point of having a specific plan	There should be less discretion on variances and adjustments, have to conform to specific plans	Have to take away subjectivity from decision-making	Need more plans, community plans are in place, as Mayor I'll listen to communities and have the Planning Dept do the same
The Planning Department allows developers of both residential and commercial buildings to reduce the number of parking spaces in a project by allowing more bicycle spots. Given the shortage of parking in already dense population areas (Beverly Grove, Westwood, etc) what would you do to stop this?	Parking is a problem, we need more parking. Have to check this out.	When developing a property have to have adequate parking, have to hold the Planning Dept accountable	Would assess the development as to what the community wants	Decide on a case-by-case basis

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Will you pledge to implement recommendations from past and future audits conducted by the City Controller's office?	Yes	Yes	Will review	Depends on the recommendations
Do you support or oppose "gentrification"?	Have to address gentrification as a problem, can't eliminate people from their neighborhoods, I would stop corporate takeovers of neighborhoods	Can't always control it. I'm for preserving neighborhoods	Oppose	Oppose
Crime is on an up-tick. What can you as mayor do about it?	Hold people accountable for the crimes they commit	Properly fund LAPD, increase number of sworn officers and patrols, have more training, prosecute offenders	Have more patrols, improve economy to create more jobs, hope and opportunity	Have crisis-response teams, for traffic incident do not need sworn officers, reorganize the deployment of officers
A. Do you support or oppose "defunding the police" and transferring those funds elsewhere?	Oppose	Oppose	Oppose	Oppose
What is your position on the cross-mountain Metro project?	No position	Oppose	Support monorail	Support, but have to examine routes
At the end of your tenure as Mayor, what would you like your one most important accomplishment to be?	That I have moved people off the streets	Changing the trajectory of the City so we have safe communities	Homeless folks housed and off the streets	Eliminated street homelessness
INTERACTION WITH CONSTITUEN	TS			
Will you pledge to adopt and operate according to the Coalition's Constituents Bill of Rights? (See last page of this Newsletter)	Yes. Signed pledge.	Yes. Signed pledge	Yes. Signed pledge.	Yes. Signed pledge.
Will you commit to meeting with the Coalition of HOAs-Council District 5 at least one time per year?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Will you organize a Community Advisory Group for two-way dialogue with HOA leaders throughout the City?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
If disputes arise, do you pledge to give equal access to homeowners?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

	Karen Bass	Rick Caruso	Kevin de León	Mike Feuer
CAMPAIGN METHODS				
Will you pledge to the Coalition to provide its Election Committee with evidence/back-up material within 24 hours when you make accusations against another candidate?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
If you had a previous campaign, did you receive any contributions that were later shown to be laundered funds? If yes, what did you do?	No	No previous campaign	No	No
Did you ever refuse to accept/keep any campaign contributions? From who?	Yes. If the contribution was out of compliance, if the contribution was from oil, tobacco, firearms, alcohol companies	No money taken from special interest, corporations, or developers with projects pending before the City	Yes. From tobacco and fossil fuel companies	Yes. From lawyers who have adversarial lawsuits against the City, no tobacco or gun manufacturers, no oil or gas
Did you ever have ethics violations in a previous campaign? How were they resolved?	Not against me	No previous campaign	No	Yes. No ethics violations found. Dismissed.
CAMPAIGN FUNDING				
Information is as of 4/23/2022 as redata.	eported on the Los Angeles City Eth	nics website: <http: ethics.lacity.<="" td=""><td>org>. Best efforts were made to</td><td>accurately report contribution</td></http:>	org>. Best efforts were made to	accurately report contribution
Amount raised to date:	\$3,040,587	\$23,071,511	\$1,807,437	\$1,186,430
Loans to campaign:	None	\$22,500,000.00	None	\$100,000
	SIBLE SPECIAL INTEREST FAVOR BEST EFFORTS WERE MADE TO P			
Percentage of money as of 4/23/22	from:			
	Karen Bass*	Rick Caruso*	Kevin de León*	Mike Feuer**
◆ Developers, construction industry, real estate interest, building suppliers, any real estate connection or interests, etc.	4%	23% (Won't take developer's contribution if a developer has a project pending before the City, however the Coalition thinks this is disingenuous because eventually most all developers have projects before the City)	12%	9%

	Karen Bass	Rick Caruso	Kevin de León	Mike Feuer
◆ Finance, banking, accounting, investing, money management, etc.	6%	8%	6%	6%
♦ Lawyers, attorneys, associates in/of the legal profession	9%	5%	7%	28%
♦Other special interest groups of SERIOUS concern:	8 contributions from Unions that have members who work for the city (including DWP Managers Union), 16 contributions from special interest Political Action Committees (PACS), contribution from the Coalition for Cannabis Policy (lobbyist on behalf of the cannabis industry), almost 500 contributions from members of the entertainment industry who may want special consideration for street filming or construction on their lots. These are of high concern because Karen Bass declined to pledge to not advocate for or be involved with any project or issue that might involve a campaign contributor or clients thereof.	None	9 contributions from large unions whose members have City contracts, 2 lobbyists	None
Out-of-state contributions if excessive may indicate potential of special interests	10%	2%	5%	3%

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Do you pledge to NOT advocate for, or be involved in any way with any project or issue that involves a campaign contributor or client thereof, or give special treatment in any way to a campaign contributor or the contributor's client?	No, cannot commit. Declined to pledge to not advocate for or be involved with any project or issue that might involve a campaign contributor or clients thereof. Yes, can commit to not giving special treatment in any way to a campaign contributor or to a contributor's client.	Yes	Yes	Yes
CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENTS, WE	BSITE AND MARKETING MATERIA	LS		
	<mark>IG INDICATOR OF POSSIBLE CONI</mark> D FROM EACH CANDIDATE'S WEB			
Endorsement(s) of concern that might inhibit job performance:	Abundant Housing (a YIMBY organization), 3 labor unions which could be problematic if negotiating City contracts	No endorsements listed on website	2 labor unions which could be problematic if negotiating City contracts	None of concern
For more information about the candidates, please go to their websites:	www.karenbass.com	www.carusocan.com	www.kevindeleon.com	www.mikeforla.com

On December 1, 2007, the Coalition adopted a basic <i>Constituents Bill of Rights.</i> Each candidate was asked to read and accept the
standards set forth in this document. All Mayoral candidates interviewed by the Coalition signed and agreed to abide by this document.
The Constituents Bill of Rights for the office of Mayor includes the following:

Rick Caruso

Kevin de León

- The right to prompt, professional and efficient service.
- ii. The right to be treated with dignity and respect by friendly, courteous and attentive City employees and our elected official without arrogance or stone-walling.
- iii. The right to ask questions and receive accurate and useful answers.
- iv. The right to prompt return and follow-up calls concerning complaints or requests.

Karen Bass

- v. The right to be educated about the services provided by the Mayor's Office and how these services are used to support the needs of the City.
- vi. The right to expect frequent communication of the City Mayor's office regarding audits, on-going issues/their process of resolution and information about what is going on in your office.
- vii. The right to have department general managers and staff who constituent-centric and not beholden or biased in favor of any special interest group.
- viii. The right to inclusive and transparent processes.
- ix. The right to have a Mayor's Office that is not bloated with staff or political appointees.
- x. The right to zero tolerance for corruption, waste and special treatment for any constituency group or campaign contributor.
- xi. The right to have recommendations resulting from audits/investigations conducted by the Controller's office implemented to remove corruption, waste and special treatment for a constituency group or campaign contributor.
- xii. The right to have a City Mayor who keeps and executes campaign promises.
- xiii. A promise from you to meet with the Coalition not less than one time per year.

Mike Feuer