

THE CONSTITUENTS'

GUIDE TO CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

VOLUME 3 SUMMER 2018

con·stit·u·en·cy \kən-'stich-wən(t)-sē, -'sti-chə-\ *n*, *pl* -cies (1831) **1**
a : a body of citizens entitled to elect a representative (as to a legisla-
tive or executive position) **b** : the residents in an electoral district **c**
: an electoral district **2** **a** : a group or body that patronizes, sup-
ports, or offers representation <creating . . . a grass-roots ~ for con-
tinuing the project —Fred Reed> **b** : the people involved in or served
by an organization (as a business or institution) <regards its corporate
customers as its prime ~ —Andrew Hacker>

1**con·stit·u·ent** \-wənt\ *n* [F *constituant*, fr. MF, fr. prp. of *constituer* to
constitute, fr. L *constituere*] (1622) **1** : one who authorizes another to
act as agent : PRINCIPAL **2** : a member of a constituency **3** : an essen-
tial part : COMPONENT, ELEMENT **4** : a structural unit of a definable
syntactic, semantic, or phonological category that consists of one or
more linguistic elements (as words, morphemes, or features) and that
can occur as a component of a larger construction **syn** see ELEMENT

2**constituent** *adj* [L *constituent-*, *constituens*, prp. of *constituere*] (1660)
1 : serving to form, compose, or make up a unit or whole : COMPONENT
2 : having the power to create a government or frame or amend a con-
stitution <a ~ assembly> — **con·stit·u·ent·ly** *adv*

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Editor's Note: Volume 3 of our zine is dedicated to examining homelessness in the Los Angeles area. In this issue, we interview local organizations who tackle homelessness daily. We also take a look at Proposition HHH, which funds the construction of housing units for people experiencing homelessness. This is a critical issue in our communities and we hope our zine sheds some light on this crisis and points out some ways that you can help. There are many amazing people doing good things in our communities. We felt inspired by their work and hope you do, too.

IN THIS GUIDE:

- > Voter registration instructions and information
- > Original interviews with elected officials and other civic leaders in our community
- > District maps and contact info. for Los Angeles City Council, CA State Legislature, U.S. Congress
- > Explanations of our elected offices and what they do
- > Resources to get more involved in civic life and be more politically engaged on a regular basis



THE CONSTITUENTS' MANIFESTO

WE BELIEVE that democracy works when we do.

WE BELIEVE that the time is now for concerned citizens to raise their voices and organize to create positive change.

WE KNOW that American democracy has always been shaped by its citizens, and that participation in civic life year-round is an act of patriotism and love of country.

WE CARE about the future of our nation. We believe in civil rights, human rights, and equal rights for all.

WE BELIEVE in the freedom of the press, freedom of expression, and freedom of assembly. We believe in lifting the less fortunate, and that America is stronger when we help each other.

WE IMAGINE a country where civic participation is a regular way of life, and where that collective participation leads to a more thriving, inclusive democracy.

This is a critical time in America's history.

We believe taking action has never been more important.

These 10 California districts are heating up ahead of the November elections

1. **49th District - Open seat (incumbent Darrell Issa, retiring)**
Diane Harkey (R) vs. Mike Levin (D)
Southern Orange County and Northern San Diego
2. **25th District - Steve Knight (R) vs. Katie Hill (D)**
Northern LA County and Simi Valley
3. **48th District - Dana Rohrabacher (R) vs. Harley Rouda (D)**
Coastal Orange County
4. **39th District - Open seat (incumbent Ed Royce retiring)**
Young Kim (R) vs. Gil Cisneros (D)
Northeast Orange County, eastern LA County, part of San Bernardino County
5. **45th District - Mimi Walters (R) vs. Katie Porter (D)**
Inland Orange County including Irvine
6. **10th District - Jeff Denham (R) vs. Josh Harder (D)**
Central Valley including Modesto
7. **21st District - David Valadao (R) vs. TJ Cox (D)**
Central Valley, part of Bakersfield
8. **50th District - Duncan Hunter (R) vs. Ammar Campa-Najjar (D)**
Inland San Diego County
9. **22nd District - Devin Nunes (R) vs. Andrew Janz (D)**
Fresno and Tulare counties
10. **4th District - Tom McClintock (R) vs. Jessica Morse (D)**
East Sacramento suburbs, central Sierra mountains

<http://www.latimes.com/projects/la-pol-ca-california-congressional-race-rankings/>

You can get involved! Campaigns are largely supported by volunteers. Find a candidate who shares your values, call the campaign headquarters and ask them how you can help. Some things you can do:

- 1) Phone Bank - call voters to promote candidates and get out the vote.
- 2) Knock Doors - canvas neighborhoods and talk to voters in the candidate's district.
- 3) Donate - give \$\$ to the campaign. No amount is too small.
- 4) Fundraise - throw a house party or fundraiser and send \$\$ to your candidate.
- 5) Amplify the Signal - boost your candidates on your social media; follow their pages.



Downtown Women's Center

Located in Downtown Los Angeles near Skid Row, the Downtown Women's Center (DWC) is the only organization in L.A. focused exclusively on serving and empowering women experiencing homelessness and formerly homeless women.

DWC envisions a Los Angeles where every woman is housed and on a path to personal stability. Its mission is to end homelessness for women in greater Los Angeles through housing, wellness, and advocacy. Founded in 1978, it was the first permanent supportive housing provider for women in the United States. DWC also offers the only health clinic for women on Skid Row.

The DWC ethos is that homelessness is not inevitable, but a societal problem that bears especially hard on women. We recently spoke with Ana Velouse, Director of Communications and Policy at DWC, about L.A.'s current surge in homelessness and how Angelenos can help both DWC and others throughout L.A. who are experiencing homelessness.

Q: What are the primary driving factors to homelessness for women? Are there particular issues that women experiencing homelessness face?

DWC: The staggeringly high prevalence of gender-based violence is the most distinguishing difference between women and men experiencing homelessness. For many women, this violence is not just one instance, but rather an ongoing reality. Of the women surveyed for the 2016 Downtown Women's Needs Assessment, nearly 50% experienced violence at some point during the last 12 months and 25% had experienced violence at least four times within the last year. So, a history of trauma is a particular issue that women experiencing homelessness face. In addition to violence against women, high housing costs, job loss, and systemic racism and agism are all drivers of homelessness for women. Many of the women we serve became homeless as a result of increased rent and/or job loss.

Q: Managing donated goods and clothing seems like it could be challenging. What are the items the DWC needs the most? What are the things people donate that aren't helpful? What would you like to tell the public about your donated goods program?

DWC: We keep an updated wish list of items we currently need on our website. It includes an Amazon list and a variety of other items! We're always in need of gift cards, new socks, and new bras. In terms of items that aren't helpful to us, we don't need women's sanitary products (because the majority of women we serve are older) or children's items.

Q: Many Angelenos are very concerned about the steep rise in homelessness in the last few years. What is the number one thing that you want L.A. constituents to know about homelessness?

DWC: The number one thing we would want Angelenos to know is that people experiencing homelessness are our neighbors and human beings. Particularly for women, they are experiencing homelessness for reasons that are not personal failings, but failures on the part of safety nets which are supposed to help in times of need. Also, it costs less to house people than to have them living on the streets of our city, so solving the homelessness crisis is both the right thing to do from a moral and from a fiscal standpoint.

Q: How can the average Angeleno help DWC? How can local government help now?

DWC: There is a proven solution to ending homelessness, and that is permanent supportive housing. In order to build more affordable housing and permanent supportive housing, we need Angelenos to attend their neighborhood councils and contact their City Councilmembers to voice support for these projects in their neighborhoods. You can also help the homelessness crisis by having conversations about it with your friends, family, and neighbors. There are many myths about people experiencing homelessness that are helpful to debunk and discuss, and the more we gather and discuss solutions as a community, the greater the likelihood that we house all our homeless neighbors.

Good Things:

- > Kate Johnston & Sarah Williams: Co-founders of **WOMEN'S CENTER FOR CREATIVE WORK** // 2425 Glover Place, Frogtown // WCCW, is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to cultivate LA's feminist creative communities and practices. Combining a co-workspace, project incubation facilities, residency programs, a rapidly growing network of over 20,000 followers, and a full calendar of artistic and professional development programming, WCCW advocates for feminist-led creative businesses and projects in Los Angeles.
 - > Sam Rypinski & Lake Sharp: co-founders of **EVERYBODY GYM** // 1845 N San Fernando Road, Cypress Park // These two set out to create a radically inclusive gym where literally everybody felt comfortable to pursue health and wellness, regardless of their gender, race, age, size, or ability. Spoiler alert: they did it! The 8,000 square foot spaces offers a wide range of classes, an indoor/outdoor gym floor, a healing & wellness center, non-gendered changing facilities, a variety of membership options, including day/class passes, and the most aesthetically pleasing waiting areas one could imagine. PS: Everybody's first visit to the gym floor is free!
 - > Virginia Bauman & Iris Bainum-Houle: co-founders of **CUTIES Coffee Shop** // 710 N Heliotrope, East Hollywood // These organizers of a popular monthly pop-up called *Queers, Coffee & Donuts* have opened a brick and mortar shop. Not only does the cafe serve excellent artisan-roasted coffee and vegan pastries, they also provide an inclusive space, centered around the LGBTQIA+ community.
 - > Julianna "JP" Parr: artist, host of **CRAFT NIGHT @ AKBAR** // Every Wednesday 9pm - midnight // 4356 W Sunset Blvd, Silverlake // It would be impossible to list all the fantastic things JP brings to life Thursday through Tuesday... on Wednesdays, though, you can find her in the back room at Akbar overseeing the longest running (16 years!) craft night in Los Angeles (probably the world). Everyone (21+) is invited to unleash their creativity on different crafts each week, while getting to know your neighbors.
 - > Photographer Eric V. Ibarra, **LAS FOTOS** // A community-based nonprofit organization that inspires teenage girls through photography, mentorship, and self-expression. Offering year-round programming, they provide girls with access to professional cameras, quality instruction and workshops that encourage them to explore their identity, learn about new cultures, build leadership and advocacy skills, and strengthen their social and emotional well-being. They mentor hundreds of girls from communities across Los Angeles, focusing on Central, South, and East Los Angeles.
- 5 To volunteer or donate go to www.lasfotosproject.org.

These local organizations are focused on our homeless neighbors:

- > **THE BURRITO PROJECT** & the people who show up to make it happen // Actually, there are 7 "Burrito Projects" running right now in Los Angeles – each with a set day of the month where friends gather to make vegan burritos, and distribute them, along with water, and basic necessity packs to our homeless neighbors, and those in need. Their tagline sums it up – "...because your mom told you to share." Visit www.theburritoproject.org to find a meetup in your area.
- > Charlotte Marie, founder of **ANGEL BAGS** // Angel Bags is a an organization based in L.A. that creates care packages for homeless people. The care packages include: snacks, vitamin C, a comb, toothbrush, toothpaste, other hygiene products, emergency drinking water, and more. The idea is to give people experiencing homelessness goods that they need and a connection to others. Visit: www.angelbags.net to find out more and to buy Angel Bags for your local community.
- > Mark Horvath, founder of **INVISIBLE PEOPLE** // Invisible People started as a YouTube channel that tells the story of homelessness through documentary-style stories from homeless people in various cities. Mark began the organization in Los Angeles (he was once homeless in L.A. himself), but has now interviewed countless homeless people all over the United States. The channel and organization does an excellent job at showing the humanity in everyone and underscoring that everyone wants to be heard, seen, and understood. The goal of the organization is to educate people about what homelessness is, what causes it, and how we can end it. The power of storytelling with heart. www.invisiblepeople.tv
- > Reverend Andy Bales, CEO at **UNION RESCUE MISSION** // Andy is perhaps the largest public voice for the homeless who live in DTLA. He is a boots-on-the-ground advocate in daily service to those in need on Skid Row. URM is a nonprofit that was established in 1891, and is the oldest in L.A. of its kind. They aid men, women, and children experiencing homelessness. Among many other services, they serve 3,000 meals a day, three times a day, every day of the year. They house about 925 people. For more: www.urm.org Andy Bales on Twitter: @abales
- > **MIDNIGHT MISSION** // 601 South San Pedro Street, Los Angeles, California 90014 Phone: (213) 624-9258 // Founded in 1914, The Midnight offers support to people experiencing homelessness through recovery services, counseling, education, training, workforce development and continued care services. Emphasizing treatment for addiction, they also provide food, shelter, access to legal and medical services to help people rebuild a safety net and transition to self-sufficiency. They offer a large mental health program including support for victims of human trafficking. They also provide a daily meal service, a mail room, and a barbershop that's open three days a week. www.midnightmission.org

q&a

Democratic Candidate Katie Hill, CA Congressional District 25

Seeking election to the U.S. House of Representatives' 25th Congressional District of California — an area that spans from Santa Clarita to Antelope Valley — is Katie Hill, a California native who grew up in the area she seeks to represent.

Into her congressional race, she carries with her a wealth of social services expertise and community commitment. As the former Executive Director of the nonprofit PATH (People Assisting the Homeless), she has spent much of her career supporting healthier communities. She also worked to pass Los Angeles ballot initiatives Measure H and Proposition HHH to decrease homelessness in L.A. County. She holds a Master of Public Administration degree from California State University Northridge, and currently lives in Agua Dulce (in the 25th District) on a small farm with her husband.

In a closely watched race, wherein she is running against a Republican incumbent, we asked Hill what made her want to run for Congress in the first place and if she thinks she can help flip the House.

Q: What compelled you to run for public office?

Hill: I worked at PATH, the largest homeless services organization in California, for almost eight years. I've always been committed to serving vulnerable communities, spending my career addressing some of the toughest issues we face, in particular, access to housing and healthcare. When Donald Trump won in 2016, I understood the devastating impact his administration's policies would have on the communities and programs I had worked on. Several women who are community leaders asked me to consider jumping into the race in the 25th District. I was surprised at first, but after discussing it over with some close friends and my family, I decided to run.

Q: What have you found challenging, if anything, about running for office as a woman in the Trump era?

Hill: The most surprising part of my primary was the sexism I experienced, but it was especially surprising coming from within my own party. I was told many times that "a woman can't beat Steve Knight" — even though our fundraising numbers, polling, and grassroots support showed that I was, in fact, the strongest candidate to flip our district. I still believe that 2018 is going to be another year of the woman, but it is clear that there is still work to be done.

Q: How can or will you amplify other women's voices as an elected official?

Hill: The first step we have to take to amplify the voices of women is simple: We must elect more women at every level of government. I will fight for reproductive freedom, childcare, and workplace standards that empower women to do their jobs without being subject to discrimination. I've lived these very issues and I will be a voice for women in Congress.

`The first step we have to take to
amplify the voices of women is simple:
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Q: If you are elected to Congress, what will your goals and objectives be? What are the biggest changes you'd like to make?

Hill: We have to ensure all people have access to affordable healthcare. We also need to restructure the tax system and ensure the wealthiest people in our country, and big corporations, pay their fair share, so we don't burden families working so hard every day just to get by. We have a quickly disappearing middle class in this country and we have to make that a top priority.

Q: Tell us about your background in homeless services. How has your career at PATH (as former executive director) informed how you will serve the public?

Hill: I know what it takes to work with multiple parties with competing interests to create policies that benefit our most vulnerable. I understand the needs of federal programs and I have the experience to make sure we are properly allocating funds. I will bring that experience to Washington, where I will focus on forward-thinking policies that actually help the people of our district.

No one can be everything to everyone,
but I want everyone to feel heard.
Our district can serve as a model for
the rest of the country. We are a
purple district full of a diverse range
of opinions, and I know that we are still
capable of treating others with respect
and working together to find solutions...

Q: As Los Angeles County continues to struggle with homelessness, what solutions do you propose prioritizing to help people off the streets and into housing?

Hill: The growing homelessness crisis is a direct result of the shortage of affordable housing and skyrocketing rents in our communities.

Homelessness disproportionately affects people of color, survivors of domestic violence, single-parent households, and veterans — all populations we must do better in serving. One of the steps we should take is to address our nation's housing crisis at the federal level. It is estimated that California has one million units of housing less than it needs. It is important to have an effective state-federal-local partnership to ensure that there is adequate funding and that the resources available are maximized.

Q: What have you found most exciting about running for public office in a closely watched race?

Hill: We're seeing so much grassroots energy and such high turnout in these competitive districts across the country. The engagement from people of all ages taking initiative and getting involved is incredible. When we first launched our canvassing program, we were happy to see a dozen volunteers show up. Now, we are sending out hundreds of people across the district each weekend. The enthusiasm and hard work of our volunteers is really the backbone of this campaign and I am incredibly proud of their dedication and support.

Q: Your race is rated a toss-up by all the political rating agencies, meaning the district is evenly split between Democrats and Republicans. How do you navigate that divide as a candidate? Are you finding it possible to bring people together, or are the battle lines drawn too deep?

Hill: I am running to be the Representative for my entire district. If elected, my job will be to do what is best for the community that I grew up in and have spent my entire life fighting for. No one can be everything to everyone, but I want everyone to feel heard. Our district can serve as a model for the rest of the country. We are a purple district full of a diverse range of opinions, and I know that we are still capable of treating others with respect and working together to find solutions, rather than further dividing ourselves.

Q: What is your best advice for constituents at present for getting involved in their communities? Many people feel they want to do something, but they don't know how. What would you tell those who are looking for ways to get engaged and create change?

Hill: There are so many opportunities to get involved right now, and grassroots organizations are making it easier than ever to start. I'd love to see more people get involved in their own communities, at any level. Find out who is running in your area, see who you want to help and walk into their office. One of their volunteers will help you find what best suits what you are looking to do. Do you want to knock on doors? Make some phone calls? Maybe write postcards? There are so many ways to engage today. Find your local political clubs, Indivisible groups, and Swing Left chapters — these are great places to start!



THE BASICS :

United States Congress

- > U.S. Senate - 2 Senators per state, 100 total Senators
- > U.S. House of Representatives - 53 districts in CA, 1 Rep. per district, 435 total Representatives in the House

County Board of Supervisors

- > 5 Supervisor Districts per County, 58 Counties in CA
- > 5 Supervisors in L.A. County

CA State Legislature

- > CA State Senate - 40 total state districts
- > CA State Assembly - 80 total state districts

Los Angeles City Council

- > 15 City Districts

Find your Reps and fill them in below
-----> neighborhoodinfo.lacity.org

Each of us in L.A. County is represented by:

2 U.S. Senators:

SEN. DIANNE FEINSTEIN 202-224-3841
SEN. KAMALA HARRIS 202-224-3553

1 U.S. Representative:

1 CA Senator:

1 County Supervisor:

1 CA Assemblymember:

1 City Councilmember:



U.S. SENATE

The United States Senate is one of two bodies of elected officials that pass and repeal federal (nationwide) legislation. Each state is represented by two US Senators; there are 100 Senators total. They serve six-year terms and elections are staggered, so that approximately one third of the seats are up for election every two years.

U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein

D.C. Office: 331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510 // (202) 224-3841
Los Angeles Office: 11111 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 915
Los Angeles, CA 90025 // (310) 914-7300

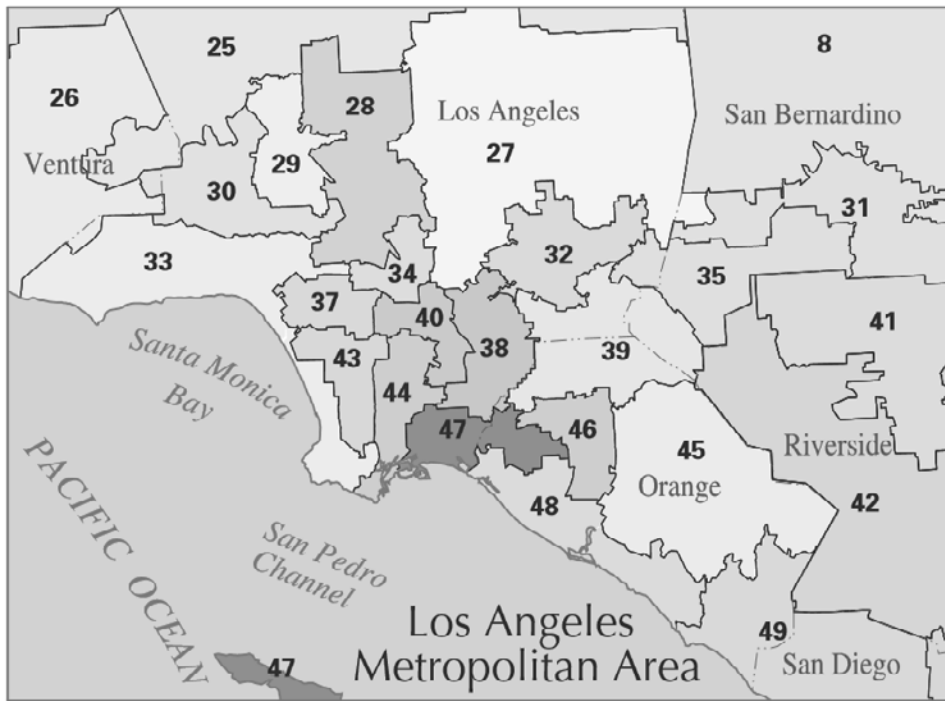
U.S. Senator Kamala Harris

D.C. Office: 112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510 // (202) 224-3553
Los Angeles Office: 312 N. Spring St. Suite 1748
Los Angeles, CA 90012 // (213) 894 - 5000

Talk to your Senator about: *the environment, energy policy, immigration, trade policy, labor, women's rights, LGBTQ rights, drug policy, campaign finance reform, social security, veteran's affairs, health care, disaster response, gun safety, banking, agriculture, education, student loans, infrastructure, foreign affairs, diplomacy.*

Find out about legislation currently before the U.S. Senate and let your Senator know what you think: www.congress.gov

U.S. SENATE



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The United States House of Representatives is one of two bodies of elected officials that pass and repeal federal (nationwide) legislation, along with the U.S. Senate. Each state is represented by a number of U.S. Representatives based on the population of that state. There are 435 total Representatives, with 53 of them coming from California. They serve two-year terms and elections are held in all districts every two years.

U.S. Rep. Judy Chu – 27th District
2423 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 // (202) 225-5464

U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff – 28th District
2372 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 // (202) 225-4176

U.S. Rep. Tony Cárdenas – 29th District
1510 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 // (202) 225-6131

U.S. Rep. Brad Sherman – 30th District
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 // (202) 225-5911

U.S. Rep. Grace Napolitano – 32nd District
1610 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 // (202) 225-5256

U.S. Rep. Ted Lieu – 33rd District
236 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 // (202) 225-3976

U.S. Rep. Jimmy Gomez – 34th District
1226 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 // (202) 225-6235

U.S. Rep. Norma Torres – 35th District
1713 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 // (202) 225-6161

US Rep. Karen Bass – 37th District
2241 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 // (202) 225-7084

U.S. Rep. Ed Royce – 39th District
2310 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 // (202) 225-4111

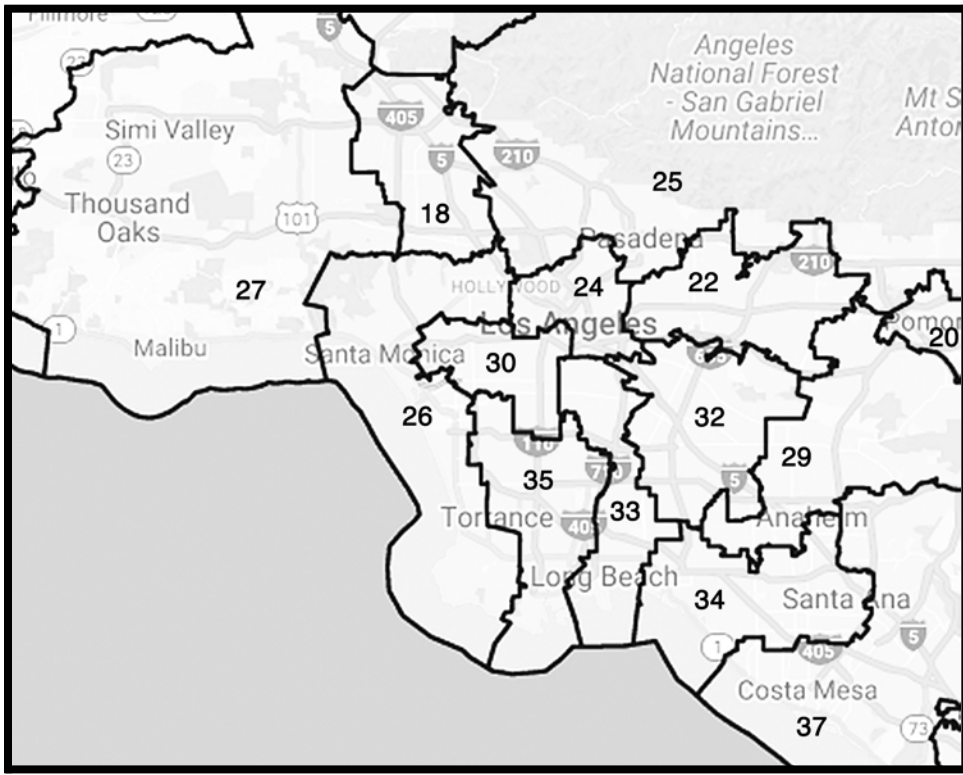
U.S. Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard – 40th District
2083 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 // (202) 225-1766

U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters – 43th District
2221 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 // (202) 225-2201

U.S. Rep. Nanette Barragán – 44th District
1320 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 // 202-225-8220

Talk to your Rep about: *the environment, energy policy, immigration, trade policy, labor, social security, veteran’s affairs, health care, women’s rights, LGBTQ rights, drug policy, campaign finance reform, disaster response, gun safety, banking, agriculture, education, student loans, infrastructure, foreign affairs, diplomacy.*

Find out about legislation currently before the House and let your Rep know what you think: www.congress.gov



CA STATE SENATE

The State Senate is one of the two bodies of elected officials that pass and repeal statewide legislation, along with the California State Assembly.

There are 40 state senators who each represent a district in the state. The Senate meets in the California State Capitol, in Sacramento.

State Senators serve four-year terms, and elections are held every two years, with one third up for re-election per election cycle.

Find out about bills currently before the CA State Senate and let your Senator know what you think: www.openstates.org

Sen. Robert Hertzberg – 18th District
State Capitol, Room 4038
Sacramento, CA 95814 // (916) 651-4018

Sen. Kevin de León – 24th District
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814 // (916) 651-4024

Sen. Anthony Portantino – 25th District
State Capitol, Room 3086
Sacramento, CA 95814 // (916) 651-4025

Sen. Ben Allen – 26th District
State Capitol, Room 5072
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900 // (916) 651-4026

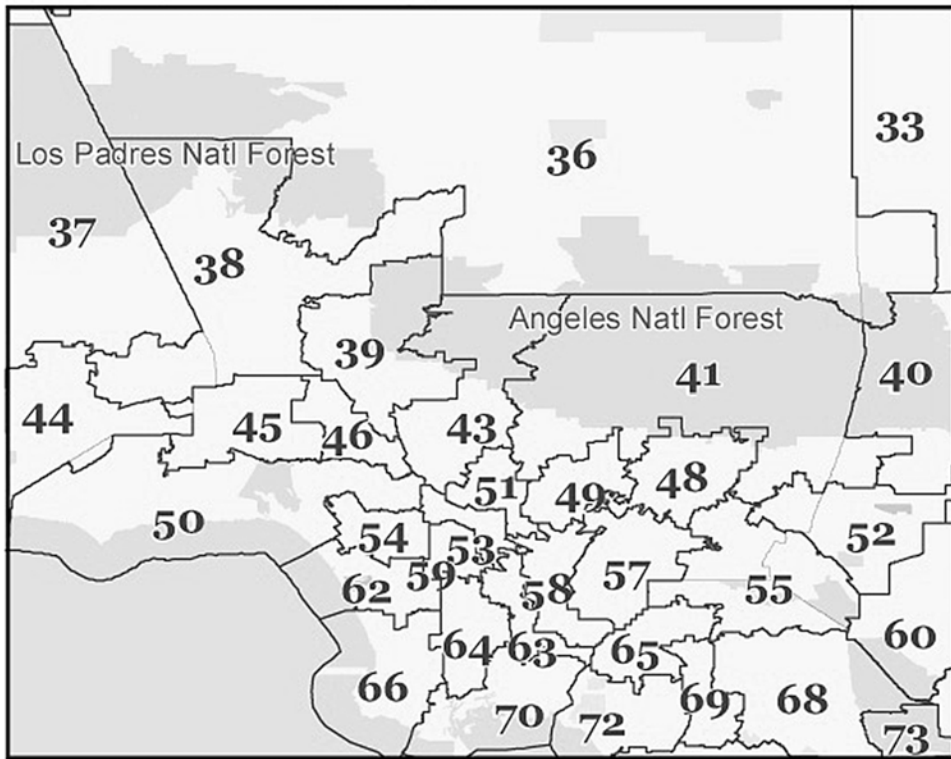
Sen. Henry I. Stern – 27th District
State Capitol, Room 3070
Sacramento, CA 95814 // (916) 651-4027

Sen. Holly Mitchell – 30th District
State Capitol, Room 5080
Sacramento, CA 95814 // (916) 651-4030

Sen. Ricardo Lara – 33rd District
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814 // (916) 651-4033

Sen. Steven Bradford – 35th District
State Capitol, Room 2062
Sacramento, CA 95814 // (916) 651-4035

Talk to your State Senator about: *state laws, the use of state funds, state parks, coasts, highways, state cooperation with federal policy, immigration policy, state-run schools, combating climate change, environmental protections, health care policy, gun control.*



CA STATE ASSEMBLY

The California State Assembly is one of two bodies of elected officials that pass and repeal statewide legislation along with the CA State Senate. It consists of 80 Assemblymembers who each represent a district in the state. Assemblymembers serve two-year terms, so elections for this position are held every two years.

Assemblymember Luz Rivas - 39th District
 P.O. Box 942849
 Sacramento, CA 94249-0039 // (916) 319-2039

Assemblymember Chris Holden - 41st District
 P.O. Box 942849
 Sacramento, CA 94249-0041 // (916) 319-2041

Find out about bills currently before the Assembly and let your Assemblymember know what you think: www.openstates.org

Assemblymember Laura Friedman - 43rd District
 P.O. Box 942849
 Sacramento, CA 94249-0043 // (916) 319-2043

Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel - 45th District
 P.O. Box 942849
 Sacramento, CA 94249-0045 // (916) 319-2045

Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian - 46th District
 P.O. Box 942849
 Sacramento, CA 94249-0046 // (916) 319-2046

Assemblymember Richard Bloom - 50th District
 P.O. Box 942849
 Sacramento, CA 94249-0050 // (916) 319-2050

Assemblymember Wendy Carrillo - 51st District
 P.O. Box 942849
 Sacramento, CA 94249-0051 // (916) 319-2051

Assemblymember Miguel Santiago - 53rd District
 P.O. Box 942849
 Sacramento, CA 94249-0053 // (916) 319-2053

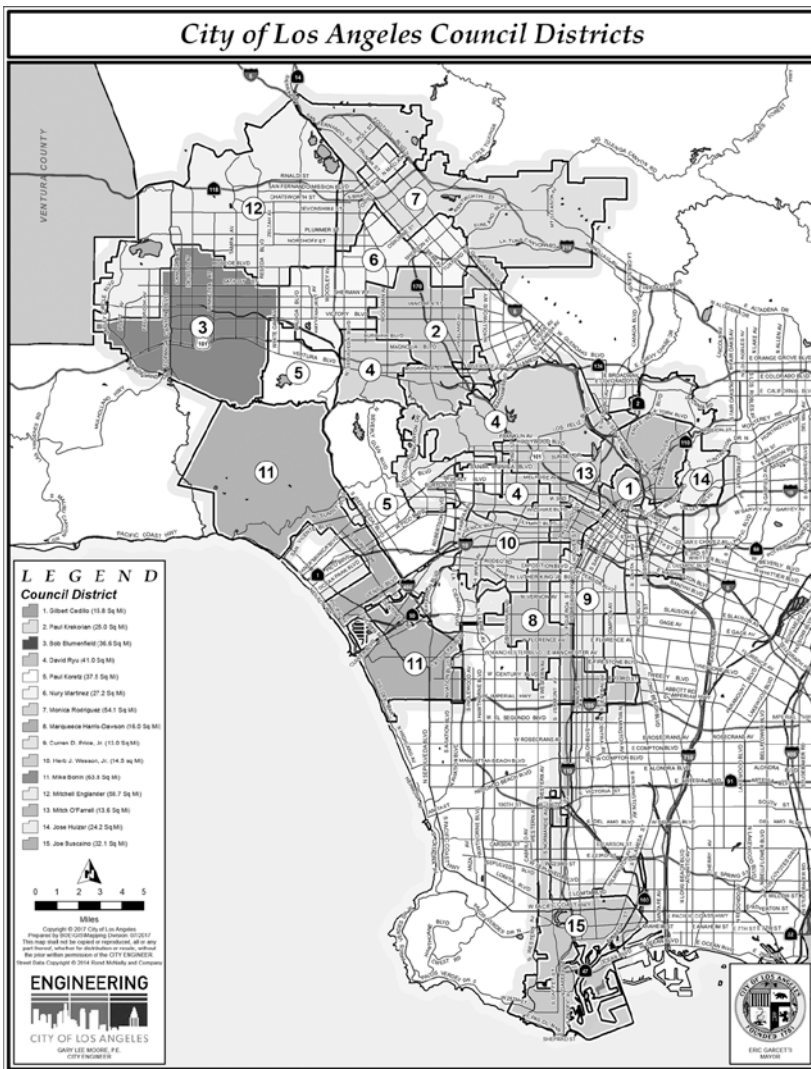
Assemblymember Sydney K. Kamlager-Dove - 54th District
 P.O. Box 942849
 Sacramento, CA 94249-0054 // (916) 319-2054

Assemblymember Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr. - 59th District
 P.O. Box 942849
 Sacramento, CA 94249-0059 // (916) 319-2059

Assemblymember Autumn Burke - 62nd District
 P.O. Box 942849
 Sacramento, CA 94249-0062 // (916) 319-2062

Assemblymember Mike Gipson - 64th District
 P.O. Box 942849
 Sacramento, CA 94249-0064 // (916) 319-2064

Talk to your Assemblymember about: *state laws, the use of state funds, state parks, coasts, highways, state cooperation with federal policy, immigration policy, state-run schools, combating climate change, environmental protections, health care policy, gun control.*



LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

The Los Angeles City Council is the governing body that passes and repeals laws that apply to Los Angeles. Councilmembers also order elections, taxes and infrastructure, and create the budget for the city. It is made up of 15 elected members who each serve four-year terms. If you live in a city other than Los Angeles, look up your city council directory to find your representative.

Talk to your councilmember about: city development plans, public transportation, roads, bike lanes, affordable housing, homeless services and initiatives, policing, city jails, parks, community centers, traffic, parking, schools, small business support. City Council meets regularly on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday in the John Ferraro Council Chamber, Room 340, City Hall at 10:00am. Meetings are open to the public. Listen live: (213) 621-CITY

Councilmember Gil Cedillo - District 1
200 N. Spring Street, Room 460
Los Angeles, CA 90012 // (213)473-7001*
* see note about address format -->

Councilmember Paul Krekorian - District 2
Room 435 // (818) 755-7676

Councilmember Bob Blumenfeld - District 3
Room 415 // (213) 473-7003

Councilmember David Ryu - District 4
Room 425 // (323) 957-6415

Councilmember Paul Koretz - District 5
Room 440 // (213) 473-7005

Councilmember Nury Martinez - District 6
Room 470 // (213) 473-7006

Councilmember Monica Rodriguez - District 7
Room 455 // (213) 473-7007

Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson - District 8
Room 450 // (213) 473-7008

Councilmember Curren D. Price, Jr. - District 9
Room 420 // (213) 473-7009

Councilmember Herb J. Wesson, Jr. - District 10
City Council President
Room 430 // (213) 473-7010

Councilmember Mike Bonin - District 11
Room 475 // (213)-473-7011

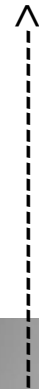
Councilmember Mitchell Englander - District 12
Room 405 // (213) 473-7012

Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell - District 13
Room 480 // (213) 473-7013

Councilmember José Huizar - District 14
Room 465 // (213) 473-7014

Councilmember Joe Buscaino - District 15
Room 410 // (213)-473-7015

* All Councilmembers' mailing addresses are at 200 N. Spring and follow the format 200 N. Spring St. Room # _____ Los Angeles, CA 90012



LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

MORE ELECTED OFFICIALS:

The Governor is the highest elected official in the state. Like the President at the national level, the Governor either signs or vetoes the bills that pass both houses of the State Legislature (i.e. the State Senate and State Assembly). The Governor is commander-in-chief of the CA National Guard and CA State Military Reserve, submits the state budget and is responsible for ensuring that state laws are followed. Governors serve four-year terms, with a maximum of two terms.

Governor Jerry Brown
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173 Sacramento, CA 9581 // (916) 445-2841

The Lieutenant Governor is elected by popular vote independently of the Governor, not as a running mate. Technically, when the Governor is out of the state, he or she has the right to perform all of the Governor’s duties, including signing bills into law. Normally, though, they stick with an informal agreement to simply perform basic duties while the Governor is away. The Lieutenant Governor is also the President of the State Senate. 26 of the last 31 years in California, the Lieutenant has been of a different party than the Governor.

Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom
State Capitol, Suite 1114 Sacramento, CA 95814 // (916) 445-8994

The Mayor of the City of Los Angeles is the official head and chief executive officer of Los Angeles, California. The mayor is elected for a four-year term and limited to serving no more than two terms. Under the California Constitution, all judicial, school, county, and city offices, including those of chartered cities, are nonpartisan.

Mayor Eric Garcetti
200 N. Spring St. Los Angeles, CA 90012 // (213) 978-0600

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors passes and repeals laws that apply to Los Angeles County. Each County in California has five districts, with one Supervisor per district. Supervisors serve four-year terms. To listen to live Board meetings by phone, call (877) 873-8017. Learn more and livestream meetings visit: <http://bos.lacounty.gov/>

- District 1 - Supervisor Hilda Solis // (213) 974-4111
- District 2 - Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas // (213) 974-2222
- District 3 - Supervisor Sheila Kuehl // (213) 974-3333
- District 4 - Supervisor Janice Hahn // (213) 974-4444
- District 5 - Supervisor Kathryn Barger // (213) 974-5555

The Los Angeles Unified School District is governed by a seven-member Board of Education, which appoints a superintendent, who runs the daily operations of the district. Members of the board are elected directly by voters from separate districts that encompass communities that the LAUSD serves. The district’s current superintendent is Michelle King. Find your Board Member: <http://neighborhoodinfo.lacity.org/>

BOARD OF EDUCATION
333 S. Beaudry Avenue, 24th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017 // 213-241-6389

SPOTLIGHT ON PROP HHH

In the November 2016 election, Los Angeles voters passed Prop HHH with 77% of the vote.

What is Prop HHH?

HHH is a \$1.2 billion dollar loan program funded by a property tax to build Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) for individuals and families experiencing temporary or permanent homelessness. PSH housing is combined with mental health and health services, drug and alcohol treatment and education and job training but the emphasis is on “brick and mortar” projects, meaning housing. The goal is to build 10,000 units over 10 years. These projects include PSH units as well as affordable housing units.

What is happening with HHH?

According to the Housing and Community Investment Department LA updated April 2018:

Total Prop HHH Projects in Predevelopment	24
Total Prop HHH Loans Closed	3
Total Units	1,793
Total Permanent Supportive Housing Units	1,291
Total Prop HHH Funds Requested	\$260,097,162
Total HCIDLA Funds Requested	\$270,699,054
Total Development Cost	\$868,819,984
Amount Leveraged*	\$598,120,930

*Every \$1 of HCIDLA funds allowed \$2.30 to be generated from non-city sources.

Three buildings are under construction:
PATH Metro Villas II, Silver Lake (60 PSH units, 30 Affordable Units)
Six Four Nine Lofts, Downtown LA (28 PSH units, 26 Affordable units)
88th and Vermont, South LA (46 PSH units, 14 Affordable units)

Who runs the program and how can folks stay informed?

The program is administered by the Housing and Community Investment Department (HCID) along with the Mayor’s Office and City Council. There is also a Citizen Oversight Committee made up of 4 people appointed by the Mayor, and 3 appointed by the City Council. The HCID publishes updates, and upcoming public comment meeting info:

www.hcidla.lacity.org/prop-hhh-developments-summary

The Mayor also tracks the progress of the program:
www.lamayor.org/HomelessnessTrackingHHH

Our take:

In May, the LA Times reported that the program is already struggling due to skyrocketing building costs and lack of state and federal subsidies. At this rate, the measure may fall short of the 10,000 unit goal by 4,000 units. They have broken ground on a few projects, though and Mayor Garcetti is lobbying for more state funding to help. Getting land and projects approved is a slow process and has frustrated some who are anxious for solutions to the crisis. Staying informed and holding our representatives accountable is key. Let your City Councilmember know what you think.



Safe Place for Youth

Based in Venice, California, Safe Place for Youth (otherwise known as S.P.Y.) was established in 2011 by a group of dedicated volunteers and founder Alison Hurst.

From their cars, Hurst and several volunteers were offering hot food, clean socks and other clothing to homeless youth around Venice Beach. What began as a humble volunteer effort has become an official nonprofit organization with nearly 30 staff members, specifically aimed at helping homeless youth, ages 12 to 25.

They offer drop-in services (such as sleeping bags, bus tokens, food, clothing, Internet, housing referrals, and much more), case management, street outreach, health services, as well as arts, education and employment programs.

According to the Los Angeles Housing Services 2017 Youth Count report, there are nearly 6,000 homeless youth on the streets of L.A. on any given night. When asked how they became homeless, nearly 60% had either been kicked out by a parent or caregiver or runaway from unbearable home environments that include physical and/or sexual abuse, homophobia or transphobia, or parental mental illness or substance abuse. 23% reported previous involvement in the foster care system.

We spoke with Cody Metzger, Development Officer at Safe Place for Youth, about what the organization is doing to aid L.A.'s youth experiencing homelessness.

Q: Can we solve homelessness? Or to what degree are we just controlling it?

SPY: Yes, we can [solve it]. But it will take the community at large stepping up and doing its part. Homelessness is a result of systemic problems, many of them deep-rooted in our country's culture. But we can solve it. This is why SPY was founded, to address the problem amongst our youth to prevent individuals from becoming chronically homeless.

Q: What are the primary driving factors that perpetuate homelessness?

SPY: There are many factors that perpetuate homelessness, but some of the main ones are lack of affordable housing, lack of proper mental health care, flaws in our educational system (individuals who have not completed high school are more likely to wind up homeless, in jail or both), income inequality, and just a general lack of resources for our society's most vulnerable.

Q: How does domestic violence impact the number of teens seeking shelter?

Or what other issues are youth facing before they become homeless?

SPY: Domestic violence can play a substantial role on teens becoming homelessness. Almost all of the youth we serve at SPY have faced some form trauma.

23% of the youth we serve have indicated experiencing some form of domestic violence. 26% of our members indicate being current or former foster youth. We see many youth who were literally kicked out by their foster family on their 21st birthday. Additionally, many of the youth we serve have parents who are also homeless or have severe mental health and addiction issues.

Our youth have so much potential and so much hope. We need our community to step up and take care of them because the system and oftentimes their own families have failed them. When did it become okay for an 18-year-old to sleep under the freeway?

Q: Are there particular issues that teens experiencing homelessness face? How does SPY focus on or address these specific needs?

SPY: Young people find themselves homeless or at-risk of homelessness through no fault of their own, and they are among the marginalized and underserved youth in our community.

Youth experiencing homelessness deal with a complex set of issues related to disconnection from family and community, abuse and neglect, significant past trauma, grief and loss, mental illness, and criminalization. This typically translates into few prospects for education, employment, or social participation and can manifest into psychological distress and trauma.

As one of the fastest growing homeless populations, youth require unique housing and support services that are responsive to their developmental needs as young adults as they learn to care for themselves, gain life experience, and transition to adulthood.

Q: What are the items that SPY needs the most? What would you like to tell people about your donated goods program?

SPY: We are always in need of new underwear, socks, and T-shirts. Ideally, we would like to find a company to commit to donating these goods on a recurring basis, so we never run out.

Q: Many Angelenos are very concerned about the steep rise in homelessness in the few years. What is the number one thing that you want L.A. to know about homelessness?

SPY: There is hope and you can make a difference more than you know!

It doesn't have to be as black and white as serving a meal or writing a check. People can incorporate their own unique skills into how they give back. One example that comes to mind: We recently had a volunteer come to us and let us know that he is a freelance filmmaker. Sure enough, our Volunteer Appreciation Week rolled around and we decided we wanted to make a video. We asked this volunteer if he would donate his time and equipment to make a short video and he did! The video turned out beautifully and this volunteer is now in talks to teach a filmmaking workshop at SPY. Sure, he could have written a check (and we need that too!), but by being creative we found a way for him to give back in such a personalized way.

Our youth have so much potential and so much hope. We need our community to step up and take care of them because the system and often times their own families have failed them. When did it become okay for an 18 year old to sleep under the freeway?

For more information, visit: www.safeplaceforyouth.org

To get involved and / or volunteer, email: codym@safeplaceforyouth.org

passive --> active

--> **The first step to becoming an active constituent is to make sure you are registered to vote if you are eligible** <--

Check your voter status here: www.voterstatus.sos.ca.gov

REGISTER BY MAIL

You can pick up a paper voter registration application at:

- > Your county elections office --> 12400 Imperial Hwy. Norwalk, CA 90650 // Hours M-F 8-5pm
- > Department of Motor Vehicles offices, public libraries and post offices.
- > Request an application by calling 1-800-345--VOTE (8663)

REGISTER ONLINE:

www.registertovote.ca.gov

To register online you will need:

- > Your California driver license or California identification card number
- > The last four digits of your Social Security Number
- > Your date of birth

If you move, you should update your address by re-registering online or by submitting a paper voter registration application. Changing your address with the DMV will also update your voter registration, but it's always a good idea to double-check: <https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov/> It's important to update your address to make sure you're on the voter rolls in your precinct!

--> **DID YOU KNOW** that teens can pre-register to vote?

To pre-register to vote in California, you must:

- > Be 16 or 17 years old, and
- > Meet all of the other eligibility requirements to vote
- > Once pre-registered, you will automatically be registered to vote on your 18th birthday

--> **ALSO** Courts have ruled that a homeless person may register to vote at a location they state is the place where they spend most of their time. The person must provide a description of the location that is clear enough for the elections official to establish that person's right to vote in a particular precinct; for instance, an intersection of two streets.

10 ways to stay engaged (besides voting):

1. Find the campaign headquarters for any candidate running for office who shares your values, show up or call and tell them you're ready to volunteer.
2. Find an organization focused on an issue you care about and volunteer, donate money or other goods.
3. Visit www.indivisible.org and download the Indivisible Guide. Join or start a small group to help hold our elected officials accountable on the issues we care about.
4. Follow your elected officials on social media to stay informed about what they're working on in your district.
5. Show up at your representatives' Town Hall meetings and get them on the record answering your questions.
Visit www.townhallproject.com to find events in your area.
6. Help flip local congressional districts blue with Swing Left - find your local group and how to get involved: www.swingleft.org.
7. Find your local Sister District team and volunteer on state-level races around the country www.sisterdistrict.com.
8. Go to your local neighborhood council meeting - find yours at www.empowerla.org.
9. Become a poll worker - anyone can apply to work their local polling place on election day:
www.lavote.net/home/voting-elections/pollworker-information/
10. Encourage your friends and family to register to vote, and remind them to vote on election day.

**Learn more about us,
our projects and how to get involved:
www.theconstituentsla.com**

ABOUT US

We are a group of concerned women who met and came together after the November 2016 U.S. presidential election.

We felt that it was a critical time to take action. Beyond voting, we wanted to be involved in civic life and politics year-round. So, we formed our group, The Constituents, to create civic-minded projects that are meant to be accessible and helpful to residents of Los Angeles.

We realize that democracy is a living, breathing thing. It depends on each of us participating to make it work and to create change.

Lori Kozlowski is a writer, editor, producer, and media exec. She produced Project Empathy, a virtual reality series, backed by Google, about human rights issues in the United States. She co-founded Smashd, a publication about music, technology, and startups, was previously an editor and columnist at Forbes, and also served as a senior editor at the Los Angeles Times. She lives and works in Los Angeles.

Meghann McCrory, originally from New Mexico, is an artist based in Los Angeles. She earned her MFA from The School of Art at CalArts and her BA from Wellesley College. She works across multiple media including photography, sculpture, performance and installation.

Frances Yasmeeen Motiwalla is a Chicago native and ex-New Yorker living in Los Angeles. She is a full-time organizer with Peace Action, the nation's oldest, largest grassroots advocacy organization devoted to creating a more peaceful foreign policy. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking with her sous chef (and wife) May, spending time with their parrot, Ginseng LaBeija, traveling, listening to podcasts and watching documentary films.

Gabriella Ricketts is a Colombian-American artist born and raised in Los Angeles, California. After graduating from Bard College with a BA in Languages and Literature, she moved back to LA where she works in documentary film.