

## Candidate Statement for Stephanie Widmer

There is great truth in the saying, “When the student is ready, the teacher will come.” I have been looking for an opportunity to share my love and adoration for this neighborhood on a larger scale, and that occasion has finally arrived. I can confidently assert that I am qualified for and passionate about the prospect of serving our community in this respect.

What first brought me to Los Angeles was my placement with Teach for America. I worked at Florence Nightingale Middle School in Cypress Park for two years before budget cuts forced me to look elsewhere. I am now working at New Los Angeles Charter School near Hancock Park. Being a teacher as well as having experience in both the public and the charter sector gives me highly informed insight into what our students need and how best to serve them. If appointed, I would coordinate tutoring programs in which learners of different ages are teaching each other and learning together. A program like this would increase citizen-to-citizen engagement and increase our students’ success.

As a Los Angeles transplant, I would bring a unique perspective to the Council on many levels. I grew up in Oakland, but unlike many of my “NorCal” peers, I have come to love the Southland more than my native half of California. More specifically, I cannot think of a more wonderful area of Los Angeles than the part that this Council serves.

Let us pause here to consider and truly appreciate our part of this massive city. Los Feliz, Franklin Hills, and the surrounding areas possess natural beauty at a scale unparalleled by the rest of the city. I cannot think of another nook with such friendly, connected individuals and families. I am never at a loss for something to do here, especially considering the vast number of art and cultural venues. The Greater Griffith Park area can be truly magical when it is properly embraced.

Having the perspective, passion, and energy of a young professional is perhaps the most important contribution I can bring to the Council. While there is a great range of ages in the neighborhood, the average age is relatively older than that of the rest of the city, according to the *LA Times*’ impressive resource, Mapping LA. I believe in the power and potential of young adults, and if appointed, I would call on them to serve and participate to a greater degree with the rest of the community. My generation needs guidance and modeling from the rest of the community. We simply need to be shown opportunities and be empowered with ways to help.

I have also had the privilege of coaching cross-country and track at Immaculate Heart High School. Through this experience, I have brought my love of running in our area to an incredible group of young women. I have run all over Griffith Park, the Reservoir, and on most of the streets in our stunning slice of the city. If appointed to the Council, I would organize more community walks and running events to bring residents together and share the joy of being outside as well as contributing to improving the fitness and health level of the community.

Overall, I can assure you that I am one of the most passionate and deeply committed people in this community. I cannot imagine living anywhere else or sharing my energy and passion with any other community. Education and recreation at any level are most dear to me, and the chance to share my passion for them on a larger scale as well as the future of our community as a whole would be valuable for me and for the Greater Griffith Park Area.

Thank you for your consideration.

Stephanie Widmer