

## 2022 Primary Election Candidate Questionnaire: Los Angeles City Council District 1

SCANPH shared the following questions with the campaigns of all candidates running for Los Angeles City Council District 1 in the June 7, 2022 primary election. We received the following responses from the campaign of Gil Cedillo. We did not receive a response from the campaign of Eunisses Hernandez. More information about voting in California is available at <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections>.

**Question #1:** Resistance to development in cities across California has provoked greater scrutiny of local land use planning. What future changes – if any – should be considered to improve affordable housing opportunities and change the status quo by evolving local control and state authority?

**Gil Cedillo:** When I first was elected to the City Council, I organized the House LA Conference to discuss solutions to housing crisis. About seven recommendations came out of that conference including expediting City approval process, ADU's, etc. I am very glad the Los Angeles City Planning Department has embraced most of the recommendations.

I also sponsored a policy initiative to promote the equitable distribution of affordable housing citywide. Council District 1 has generated 2,423 affordable units, 2009-2020, while Council District 12 only produced 40 units. A report was published identifying the barriers impacting equitable distribution, including: 76% of "Highest Resource Areas" are zoned for single-family residences; 18% of "High Segregation and Poverty Areas" are zoned for single-family residences.

An citywide inclusionary housing policy should be explored and a citywide feasibility study is in process.

The City of Los Angeles needs to create "Targeted Fair Share Zoning Allocations" by Community Plan Area to guide future Community Plan Updates. The City needs to eliminate barriers to prioritize affordable housing developments in higher resource areas.

The State of California could enact state legislation and require in Housing Elements elimination of zoning barriers to regional housing equity.

**Question #2:** Demand has long exceeded supply of affordable homes in California. That has never been more true than now. What is the #1 policy intervention you would advance to change this reality?

**GC:** There is no silver bullet to the housing issue. Adopting an Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance would help to advance the building of more affordable units in the City of Los Angeles. If we can remedy CEQA challenges and NIMBYism, this would go a long way to remedy the supply issue.

The City of Los Angeles needs to advance an equitable RHNA (Regional Housing Needs Allocation) rezoning program, including a citywide rezoning ordinance and an update to the local affordable housing incentive program ordinance (Density Bonus Ordinance).

Establishing zoning capacity for equitable housing production is necessary in which 76% of "Highest Resource Areas" are zoned for single-family residences, a legacy of Los Angeles' post-World War II suburban development model.

(Over)

# 2022 Primary Election Candidate Questionnaire: Los Angeles City Council District 1, continued

*Question #3: Policy solutions require division of finite financial resources. How would you prioritize division of limited resources among prevention, shelter and permanent housing to address homelessness? What are the tradeoffs of short-term vs. long-term solutions and your preferred approach?*

**GC:** I would focus half the attention on building permanent housing, then prevention, and smallest amount on shelter. Shelter is easier because not as demanding as building and have more flexibility. Prevention takes large upfront resources and the ability to maintain overtime to be effective. As we all know, permanent housing does not get built quickly and often times takes longer than expected. In the past, the City of Los Angeles didn't spend much effort on the permanent housing side. With HHH, it was a start but we need to keep building as much affordable housing as possible throughout the City.

For me, it is not an either/or proposition. We have to do everything we can. I tackled both the short-term and long-term issues head on in my district. This is why we are #1 in the building of affordable housing, market rate and workforce housing in my district. We also built short term housing like Casa Azul for women experiencing domestic violence, and found temporary shelter for over 250 people experiencing homelessness at MacArthur Park, without police intervention. There are plenty of other short-term housing solutions I have brought to my district. The hardest part is the building the long-term and affordable housing, so I tackled this problem first and with the most focus, then focused on short solutions.

*The mission of the Southern California Association of Non-Profit Housing (SCANPH) is to facilitate affordable housing development across Southern California by advancing effective public policies, sustainable financial resources, strong member organizations, and beneficial partnerships.*

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