

Zach Sokoloff for City Controller – Biography

Zach Sokoloff is a lifelong public servant who has spent his career working to strengthen Los Angeles communities. He started as a math teacher in Boyle Heights and Watts, using education to empower his students. He served on a rent stabilization board, fighting for tenants' rights. And he founded a mentorship and jobs training program to provide young people and marginalized communities with access to union membership and career pathways. With deep experience building coalitions and standing up for working families, Zach is prepared to address the affordability crisis, protect important services for vulnerable communities, and work collaboratively to solve problems and deliver results.

He is also a builder and financial accounting executive who has led economic development projects to invest in our struggling entertainment industry, supporting efforts to bring filming back to Los Angeles, uplift small businesses that rely on a strong production market, and create thousands of jobs for Angelenos who work in Hollywood. As LA builds for its future – constructing affordable housing for working families and our unhoused neighbors, preparing for the Olympics, and modernizing its convention center – Zach will produce results. He will audit initiatives that fund affordable housing construction, hold City partners accountable, and help Los Angeles deliver large capital projects faster and cheaper. He brings the discipline and shrewd financial judgment necessary to tackle the city's budget deficit, ensure taxpayer dollars are spent wisely, and make government work for all Angelenos.

Nowhere is that more urgent than in addressing homelessness. Los Angeles has spent billions of dollars with little to show for it. Zach believes the city cannot meaningfully improve homelessness without confronting its root causes. As Controller, he will prioritize a "Recovery First" approach – requiring people struggling with drug addiction to get treatment and holding service providers and programs accountable to clear performance metrics. Zach is ready to challenge the status quo because it is not improving the homelessness crisis, wastes taxpayer dollars, and degrades other critical city services by depriving them of a fair share of our budget.

Zach's leadership comes at a defining political moment. He was a sophomore in college when Barack Obama inspired Americans with the audacity of hope—a time when the country was divided and craved change. Today, LA finds itself in another one of those moments. Washington is invading our streets, cutting funding for services that support our most vulnerable communities, and attacking our values. In this moment of need, Kenneth Mejia left the Democratic Party and rejoined the Green Party. Zach is the only Democrat running for City Controller and the Party is united in supporting his candidacy. He is endorsed by the LA County Democratic Party, U.S. Senator Adam Schiff, and a broad coalition of labor unions. Zach is the only choice for Democrats – because when we fight, we win.

Ultimately, Zach believes that Los Angeles should set ambitious goals and knows we can only accomplish those goals when we put the grandstanding aside and focus on getting things done. For too long, partisan fights and self-promotion have distracted City Hall from making the hard decisions to improve Angelenos' lives, leaving residents paying more and getting less. Zach is a problem solver who will balance accountability with partnership. He has the honesty and integrity to call out issues on behalf of the people of LA and the collaborative spirit to work with other city officials to deliver real results. His mission is simple: bring change to City Hall and make government work for Los Angeles.