

L.A. City Council: 2nd District

Questionnaires were distributed to candidates this month. Answers have been edited to fit the available space.

Improvements Needed

Q. *What departments do you think need substantial improvements?*

Lynch: Building and Safety, Public Works and City Planning.

Paterson: The Planning, and Building and Safety departments should be a top priority for audit and reorganization.

Wachs: Direct contact with the public needs to be improved in most departments.

Population Growth

Q. *In making decisions on land use, should it be the overall guiding policy of city government officials to discourage population growth in Los Angeles?*

Lynch: The city cannot limit population growth, but it can limit development unless the basic service systems are provided.

This includes water, sewer,

Paterson: No. Until the city establishes a policy "to discourage population growth," decisions on land uses in the 2nd District should be guided by the philosophies laid out in the Valley Village Specific Plan. The plan examines how a project fits into its surroundings, examines its burdens and benefits, and provides a forum through a neighborhood planning board to identify the problems, propose solutions and resolve conflicts by holding up the building permit.

Wachs: We should discourage growth where it adversely affects our quality of life. I'm proud of my record in limiting growth and protecting our neighborhoods long before it was fashionable. Studio City, Valley Village, Van Nuys, Sunland-Tujunga, Sun Valley, Lake View Terrace etc. do not have the kind of overdevelopment you see in Encino, Century City and Westwood.

Redevelopment Zone

Q. *Do you support the creation of a redevelopment zone, giving the city power to seize large parcels of land through eminent domain, as a way to stimulate development on Van Nuys Boulevard near the Civic Center?*

Lynch: Yes. As long as the redevelopment agency is under more strict control of the mayor/council.

Paterson: No, unless the community supports such an action, and I believe it was proposed some years ago and rejected. Downtown Van Nuys should regenerate on its own, using a new concept of redevelopment law, allowing for the creation of joint venture development with different treatment of tax increment money.

Wachs: No.

Aiding Contributors

Q. *In the past, the City Council has considered enacting an ordinance that would bar members for one year from voting on matters that would directly benefit campaign contributors of \$500 or more. Would you support the passage of such a law?*

Lynch: Yes! I thought this was always the policy that had a lot of merit.

Paterson: No. Other approaches should be examined. It's a loophole proposal. Everyone could contribute \$499 and be exempt. Why \$500? For example, in the 2nd District, many projects are on hold until after the election. It's conceivable that the project interests could contribute to a \$499 a plate fund-raiser and

raise over \$100,000 and the council office could vote claiming no conflict.

Wachs: Yes. I am the originator of this ordinance.