

West Adams Neighborhood Council 2021 Elections

Candidate Yearbook

www.westadamsnc.org/elections2021

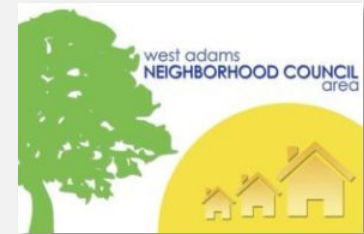


Table of Content

Candidate Profiles

- At-Large Representative
- Homeowner Representative
- Community Interest Representative
- Business Representative
- Youth Representative

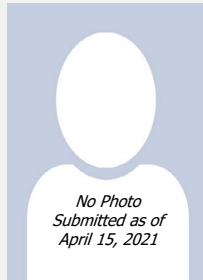
Election Information

- Key Dates
- Vote-By-Mail Ballot Application

*The contents of
this yearbook
was created
based on
information
available as of
April 15, 2021.*

At-Large Representative

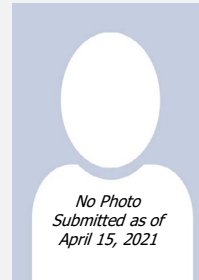
4 Total Seats | 8 Total Candidates



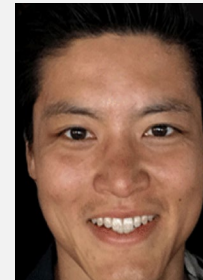
[Josh Beane](#)



[Dorsay Dujon](#)



[Bea Jett McGowen](#)



[John Ma](#)



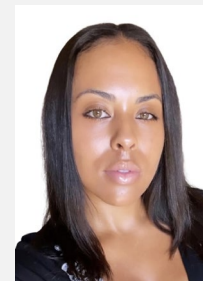
[Steven Meeks](#)



[Thomas M. Murray](#)



[Omid Shokoufandeh](#)



[Marie Thorne](#)

At-Large Representative

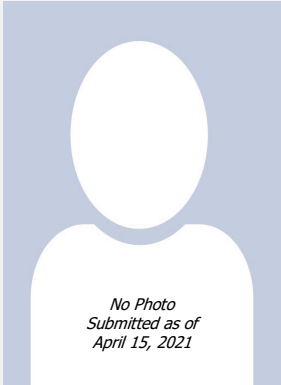
4 Total Seats | 8 Total Candidates

Qualifications to Run:

Stakeholders who live, work, or own property in the West Adams Neighborhood Council boundary area and who are 18 years or older.

Qualifications to Vote:

Stakeholders who live, work or own property in the West Adams Neighborhood Council area and who are 16 years or older at the time of the election.



Josh Beane

Candidate for At-Large Representative

Candidate Statement Submitted to City Clerk Office:

No statement submitted as of April 15, 2021.

Why are you running for a Board seat on the West Adams Neighborhood Council?

No response submitted.

What is your connection to West Adams?

No response submitted.

What are your areas of interest?

No response submitted.



Dorsay Dujon

Candidate for At-Large Representative

Candidate Statement Submitted to City Clerk Office:

I lived in the community of West Adams as a child and teenager. I moved back last year and have been delighted to serve in an appointed capacity as an At-Large member of the WANC Board. My background and areas of expertise have been developed through volunteerism and in the entertainment, music, fashion and trade show industries. I am an author, poet, producer and artist. As the founder of Make Music LA it has been important to advocate for arts education and cultural programming for all communities. I would be honored to have an opportunity to serve the community further by collaborating with strategic partnerships, stakeholders and area business to develop and nurture what they want and need in their neighborhood. Important issues such as homelessness, justice, health, safety, rent control and food challenges are all areas that are important to discuss and work to solve. You can learn more about me at www.MakeMusicLA.org I ask for your confidence, trust and vote.

Why are you running for a Board seat on the West Adams Neighborhood Council?

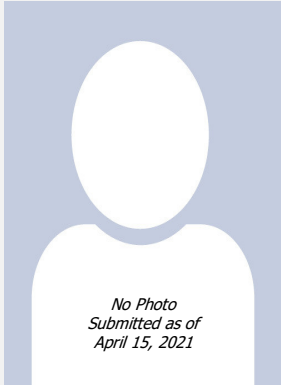
I believe I can make a difference. I spent my early childhood in West Adams attending 24th Street School. I love the history of the neighborhood and I'd like to be a part of creating memorable events through public arts and culture projects with my neighbors. Recognizing and utilizing local talent and honoring celebrated residents.

What is your connection to West Adams?

When I was a child (living at 2808 S. Rimpau) West Adams was flourishing with businesses, Golden State Mutual Life, my church was St. Agatha's, and I rode my bicycle and walked the neighborhoods. Johnnies Pastrami, Abel Auction House, a Chinese restaurant was near Normandie, and Leo's Barbecue at Crenshaw. There was an orphanage at the corner of Arlington and Adams it was a large white Victorian Building). The Bard Theater was open, and Bank of America was at the corner of La Brea and Adams. Sam's record shop was near Redondo. Neighbor's had cookouts and shared food and conversation. We talked over the back fence and we used the incinerators to get rid of trash. The closest market was Boy's Market at Rodeo Road and Crenshaw. I remember shopping at May Company and the Broadway Department stores that were at Santa Barbara Boulevard and Crenshaw. (King Boulevard). I love the history and feeling I have being here and able to work on what the stakeholders want for their community. I look forward to meeting in person and working with my neighbors when it's safe.

What are your areas of interest?

- Arts, Parks, and Recreation
- Homelessness and Poverty
- Planning and Land Use Management



Bea Jett McGowens

Candidate for At-Large Representative

Candidate Statement Submitted to City Clerk Office:

No statement submitted as of April 15, 2021.

Why are you running for a Board seat on the West Adams Neighborhood Council?

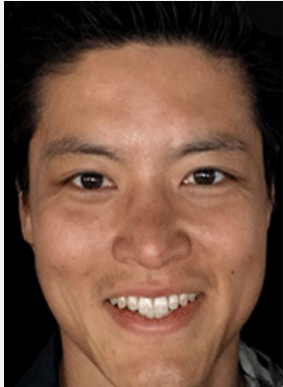
No statement submitted.

What is your connection to West Adams?

No statement submitted.

What are your areas of interest?

No statement submitted.



John Ma

Candidate for At-Large Representative

Candidate Statement Submitted to City Clerk Office:

I've lived & rented in the West Adams neighborhood for eight (8) years, and I'm currently an At-Large Representative of WANC. Since I won my seat last November, I've focused on: - Emergency Preparedness: Organized & launched the www.PrepareWestAdams.org six-month class series and neighborhood disaster planning project - Pedestrian Safety & Street Cleanup: Working with LA City Bureau of Street Services to keep our sidewalks & street corners well-maintained and free from abandoned hazards & construction clutter - Outreach to Our Unhoused Neighbors: Helping fund & promote our local Shower of Hope (Wed 10a-2p at Church of Christ on West View / Adams) and coordinating socially-distanced outreach visits to stay connected with our unhoused neighbors during COVID-19 I look forward to continuing to serve our community, to deepen these projects, and tackle new ones. Please vote & attend our meetings - let's work together!

Why are you running for a Board seat on the West Adams Neighborhood Council?

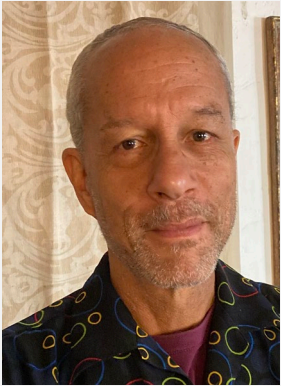
No response submitted.

What is your connection to West Adams?

Lived here since June 2012.

What are your areas of interest?

- Homelessness and Poverty
- Housing
- Economic Development and Jobs



Steven Meeks

Candidate for At-Large Representative

Candidate Statement Submitted to City Clerk Office:

Continuing to be of service to our community.

Why are you running for a Board seat on the West Adams Neighborhood Council?

No response submitted.

What is your connection to West Adams?

No response submitted.

What are your areas of interest?

No response submitted.



Thomas M. Murray

Candidate for At-Large Representative

Candidate Statement Submitted to City Clerk Office:

Hi, I'm Thomas and I'm a renter in the neighborhood and work as a construction cost estimator. I'm running for the West Adams Neighborhood Council At-Large Seat as a renter. I believe that in a community where a quarter of households live below the poverty line, and the average household income is \$60,000 per year, there is no need for new apartment buildings that charge \$4,000 per month rent. As a neighborhood, our priority should be helping our neighbors in need and ensuring that new developments don't displace existing residents. I live with my wife, Abbey, and our dog, Lupin. I'm originally from Cleveland, Ohio and graduated from the Ohio State University. Abbey & I relocated to Albuquerque, New Mexico for several years while she pursued her doctorate degree. We moved to Los Angeles in 2019 for work and have been renting in the neighborhood ever since. Thank you for your consideration!

Why are you running for a Board seat on the West Adams Neighborhood Council?

I'm running for the West Adams Neighborhood Council because I want to make sure that the resources allocated to our NC are used where they are most needed, such as neighborhood safety causes like new crosswalks or bike lanes, and support for our unhoused neighbors.

What is your connection to West Adams?

"My connection to West Adams is simple: this is the only neighborhood I've lived in since my family moved to Los Angeles a few years ago. After spending several years moving around the country, we were lucky to find a home to rent in the neighborhood and look forward to settling down and living in West Adams for many years to come. I'm proud to call our neighborhood home."

What are your areas of interest?

- Planning and Land Use Management
- Transportation
- Environment and Climate Change



Omid Shokoufandeh

Candidate for At-Large Representative

Candidate Statement Submitted to City Clerk Office:

Hello everyone, I have been an Angeleno my whole life and a property owner in the West Adams neighborhood for over 5 years. Getting more involved in the communities I care about has always been important to me, and West Adams is currently going through a lot of significant changes. Top priorities for me include reducing crime, increasing safety for the neighborhood, and keeping our community and streets clean from trash and debris. I am also interested in creating jobs through smart community growth that balances adding more housing (including affordable housing) and local services while maintaining all of the reasons we currently love West Adams. In addition, I believe maintaining and enhancing our open space, parks and community centers are important and essential for the community!

Why are you running for a Board seat on the West Adams Neighborhood Council?

Getting more involved in the communities I care about has always been important to me, and West Adams is currently going through a lot of significant changes. Top priorities for me include reducing crime, increasing safety for the neighborhood, and keeping our community and streets clean.

What is your connection to West Adams?

Property owner.

What are your areas of interest?

- Public Safety
- Homelessness and Poverty
- Economic Development and Jobs



Marie Thorne

Candidate for At-Large Representative

Candidate Statement Submitted to City Clerk Office:

Community Reform Advocate.

Why are you running for a Board seat on the West Adams Neighborhood Council?

Uniting, progressing and serving the community that I was born, raised and have lived in for over three decades will always be my primary focus. As we move into a phase of heightened transition, I would like to ensure that we create an inclusive environment for both existing and new community members to feel safe, acknowledged and succeed economically.

What is your connection to West Adams?

I was born in West Adams and have lived in the community my entire life. This community also has generational ties to both my family, friends and I dating back to the 1950's. We have attended school, purchased properties and owned businesses within this community for decades. Additionally, I have also worked diligently to maintain a grassroots imprint with the youth in the area by, developing and instituting a nonprofit organization at local high schools to provide financial support and resources to the community's underserved youth.

What are your areas of interest?

- Economic Development and Jobs
- Youth and Education
- Public Safety

Homeowner Representative

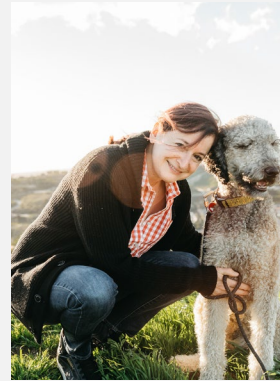
1 Total Seat | 3 Total Candidates



[Eva Aubry](#)



[Brian Piatek](#)



[Ramey Ward](#)

Homeowner Representative

1 Total Seat | 3 Total Candidates

Qualifications to Run:

Any stakeholder who owns residential property and lives within the West Adams Neighborhood Council area and who is 18 years or older.

Qualifications to Vote:

Stakeholders who live, work or own property within the West Adams Neighborhood Council area and who are at least 16 years old at the time of the election.



Eva Aubry
Candidate for Homeowner Representative

Candidate Statement Submitted to City Clerk Office:

No statement submitted as of April 15, 2021.

Why are you running for a Board seat on the West Adams Neighborhood Council?

No response submitted.

What is your connection to West Adams?

No response submitted.

What are your areas of interest?

No response submitted.



Brian Piatek

Candidate for Homeowner Representative

Candidate Statement Submitted to City Clerk Office:

I'm Brian. I am running for the West Adams NC Board in order to help our fellow area residents. There are so many needs in our Council area which require leadership to address. My wife, Tracy, and I have been Homeowners / Stakeholders in West Adams for 20 years. We have seen the area improve but also suffer from the economy. I stepped up late last year to join the Board & I assumed the Treasurer position to get the NC's books in order. I have a BFA & an MBA plus 31 years of IT consulting to businesses large and small. As former New Mexicans, we chose to live in multi-ethnic West Adams as it felt like home. We strive to be good neighbors. We have made many friends and we patronize our local merchants. To make West Adams stronger, we need to reinvest both time and money. A little hard work goes a long way. I am not afraid of investing time and energy into making West Adams a stronger community. Please re-elect me to the Homeowner Board seat.

Why are you running for a Board seat on the West Adams Neighborhood Council?

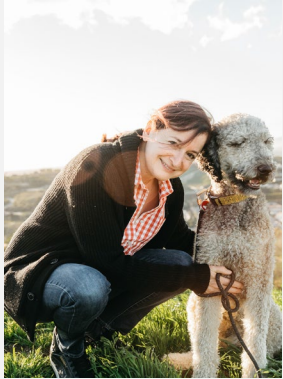
I am running because I feel we have an obligation to help the folks in the area. We can be their interface with the City Government. The West Adams NC is the first line where people in the West Adams area can come to get informed, to be heard, to get assistance with working with City departments and the myriad of different plans and programs. We also have the opportunity to fund some programs and citizen efforts directly if those programs are brought to us.

What is your connection to West Adams?

My wife and I have been residents, homeowners, in the area for 20 years. We live, shop and use the services of local businesses and restaurants. This is our home. Right now, I am taking the CERT training offered by the local Fire Department so I can help in case of an emergency in our neighborhood.

What are your areas of interest?

Financial Management, Land Use and Planning, and Safety. I think the West Adams NC Board needs to be fiscally responsible so that as much of our budget as possible benefits the community. We need to be cognizant of the needs of the people who live and work in the area of the Neighborhood Council. To that end, we need to be respectful of their homes and families, to be encouraging of new businesses as they come into the area, but be watchful that each of those businesses benefit the current residents and new residents who want to live in our neighborhoods.



Ramey Ward

Candidate for Homeowner Representative

Candidate Statement Submitted to City Clerk Office:

No statement submitted

Why are you running for a Board seat on the West Adams Neighborhood Council?

No response submitted.

What is your connection to West Adams?

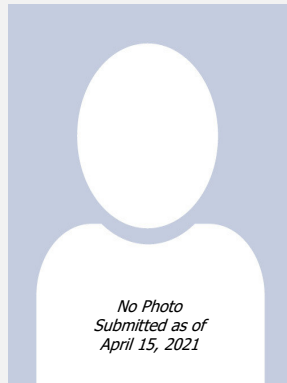
No response submitted.

What are your areas of interest?

No response submitted.

Community Interest Representative

1 Total Seat | 2 Total Candidates



[Ginger Coleman](#)



[Connye L. Thomas](#)

Community Interest Representative

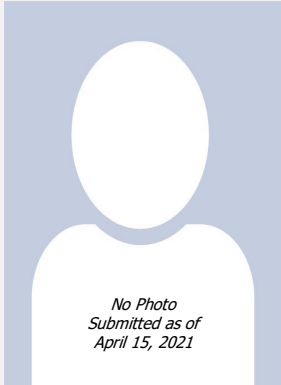
1 Total Seat | 2 Total Candidates

Qualifications to Run:

Stakeholder who declare a stake in the neighborhood as a community interest stakeholder, defined as a person who affirms a substantial and ongoing participation within the West Adams Neighborhood Council's areas and who may be in a community organization such as, but not limited to, educational, non-profit and/or religious organizations and who is 18 years or older.

Qualifications to Vote:

Stakeholders who are 16 years or older and declare a stake in the neighborhood as a community interest stakeholder, defined as a person who affirms a substantial and ongoing participation with a community organization that has continuously maintained a physical street address for not less than one year, and that performs ongoing and verifiable activities and operations that benefit the neighborhood, and is located within the West Adams Neighborhood Council's area. A for-profit entity shall not qualify as a Community Organization.



Ginger Coleman

Candidate for Community Interest Representative

Candidate Statement Submitted to City Clerk Office:

No statement submitted as of April 15, 2021.

Why are you running for a Board seat on the West Adams Neighborhood Council?

I want to be aware of what is happening in the neighborhood so that I can encourage others to have an input on what is happening. Or be a voice of the community for concerns. The community does not feel left out with all the changes that are happening that they know nothing about.

What is your connection to West Adams?

I live and work in the community.

What are your areas of interest?

- Housing
- Planning and Land Use Development



Connye L. Thomas

Candidate for Community Interest Representative

Candidate Statement Submitted to City Clerk Office:

I'm an active member of the West Adams Neighborhood Council (WANC). An incumbent Member At Large of the WANC Executive Board. A 30 year resident of West Adams. I work with many organizations to help individuals overcome obstacles which limit their access to opportunities and success. As the Community Interest Representative, I will continue to work to help create new, smart, effective, and efficient ways to keep our community safe and healthy for individuals, families, businesses, and activities which contribute to achieving and sustaining the lifestyle level we each desire. We need jobs, improved schools, healthcare facilities; retail and food markets, public safety and improved public transportation. I will encourage our elected officials and stakeholders to join us in getting tasks done. We must be a TEAM to be successful in our efforts to improve our community. Please VOTE for Connye Thomas as your Community Interest Representative.

Why are you running for a Board seat on the West Adams Neighborhood Council?

Please see response above.

What is your connection to West Adams?

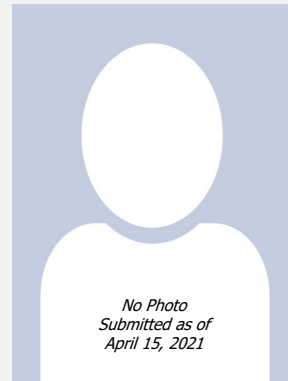
I'm a homeowner and live in West Adams community.

What are your areas of interest?

- Economic Development and Jobs
- Social and Racial Justice
- Homelessness and Poverty

Business Representative

1 Total Seat | 1 Total Candidate



Richard P. Williams

Business Representative

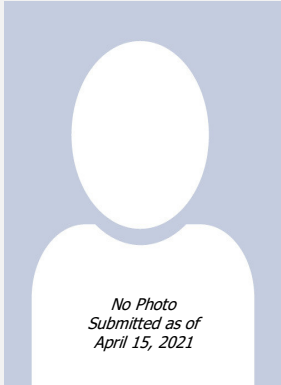
1 Total Seat | 1 Total Candidate

Qualifications to Run:

Stakeholder who declare a stake in the neighborhood as a community interest stakeholder, defined as a person who affirms a substantial and ongoing participation within the West Adams Neighborhood Council's areas and who may be in a community organization such as, but not limited to, educational, non-profit and/or religious organizations and who is 18 years or older.

Qualifications to Vote:

Stakeholders who are 16 years or older and declare a stake in the neighborhood as a community interest stakeholder, defined as a person who affirms a substantial and ongoing participation with a community organization that has continuously maintained a physical street address for not less than one year, and that performs ongoing and verifiable activities and operations that benefit the neighborhood, and is located within the West Adams Neighborhood Council's area. A for-profit entity shall not qualify as a Community Organization.



Richard P. Williams
Candidate for Business Representative

Candidate Statement Submitted to City Clerk Office:

No statement submitted as of April 15, 2021.

Why are you running for a Board seat on the West Adams Neighborhood Council?

No response submitted.

What is your connection to West Adams?

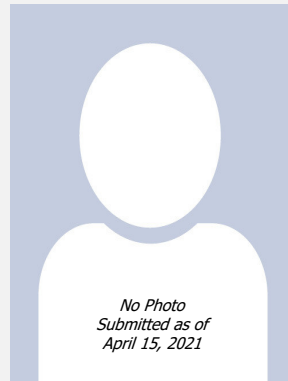
No response submitted.

What are your areas of interest?

No response submitted.

Youth Representative

1 Total Seat | 1 Total Candidate



Phillip Wiley

Youth Representative

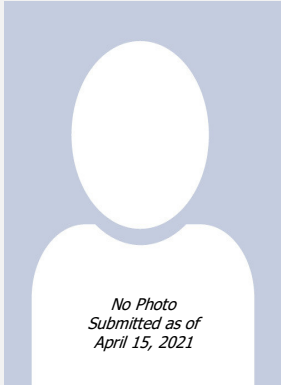
1 Total Seat | 1 Total Candidate

Qualifications to Run:

A stakeholder, who lives, works or owns property in the West Adams Neighborhood Council's area and over the age of 18 who works with the youth within the West Adams Neighborhood Council's area.

Qualifications to Vote:

Stakeholders who are 14 years or older and live, work, or own real property in the West Adams Neighborhood Council area.



Phillip Wiley
Candidate for Youth Representative

Candidate Statement Submitted to City Clerk Office:

No statement submitted as of April 15, 2021.

Why are you running for a Board seat on the West Adams Neighborhood Council?

No response submitted.



What is your connection to West Adams?

No response submitted.





What are your areas of interest?

No response submitted.

Election Dates

 Region 10 Election Timeline 		
Election Day: May 25, 2021		
Description	Day of the Week	Deadline*
Candidate Filing Period Begins	Saturday	January 23, 2021
Candidate Challenge Period Begins	Saturday	January 23, 2021
Candidate Filing Period Ends	Tuesday	March 9, 2021
Documentation Deadline for Candidates	Friday	March 12, 2021
Candidate Challenge Period Ends	Wednesday	March 17, 2021
Candidate Withdrawal Deadline	Sunday	March 21, 2021
Release of Certified List of Candidates	Friday	March 26, 2021
Vote-By-Mail Application Period Begins	Friday	March 26, 2021
Candidate Photo and Statement Deadline	Tuesday	May 18, 2021
Vote-By-Mail Application Period Ends	Tuesday	May 18, 2021
Election Day	Tuesday	May 25, 2021 **
Challenge Filing Period Begins	Wednesday	May 26, 2021
Deadline to Receive Postmarked Ballots	Friday	June 4, 2021
Unofficial Results Due	Wednesday	June 2, 2021
Challenge Filing Period Deadline	Thursday	June 3, 2021
Official Results Due/Certification Deadline	Thursday	June 10, 2021

Due to the pandemic, the City Clerk - Election Division's office may be closed to the public, however, staff is available Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. by phone and email.
 * Applications or required documentation must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. on filing deadline days.
 ** Ballots must be postmarked by Election Day and received within 10 calendar days.

clerk.lacity.org/elections
 Follow us @LACityClerk #LACityVotes #IVoteLA
 




Vote-By-Mail (VBM) Ballot Application

Apply through online portal

[VBM Application Portal](#)

Apply through paper application

[English](#)

[Español](#)

[日本語](#)

[Other languages](#)

Additional Information

[Ballot voting model \(BVM\)](#)

[Vote-by-mail home page \(City Clerk\)](#)

[Voter documentation guide](#)

[West Adams NC elections page](#)

Request VBM ballot by May 25, 2021