

At Large Applicant Statements

Applicants were provided the following information: Submit a short paragraph to be provided as an attachment to the LGBTQ+ Commission meeting agenda about your experience and intent to serve. The below information was provided by each applicant for review.

Applicant: Javier Solís (they/them, he/him)

Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. My name is Javier Solís (pronouns they/them or he/him), and I am honored to be considered for the LA County LGBTQ+ Commission.

As a queer and trans person from a working-class, immigrant Mexican family, I bring both lived experience and a longstanding, professional commitment to equity and inclusion. I believe queer and trans communities in Los Angeles deserve to not only live and survive, but also thrive. I believe my skills and experiences uniquely position me to help make that vision a reality.

The following are the key areas of value I bring:

Authenticity and Inclusive Representation

Growing up in Los Angeles as a queer and transmasculine person, I believe I am uniquely positioned to best address systemic barriers queer and trans people of color face at various levels — from navigating Medi-Cal for gender-affirming care to employment challenges while medically transitioning - these experiences fuel my passion for ensuring queer and trans people of color are resourced and supported to thrive.

Professional Expertise in Advocacy and Engagement

With over a decade of experience in professional advocacy and social change work, I specialize in developing, managing, and executing communication strategies for social issues - most notably for environmental justice, racial justice, and gender justice at the international, national, state, and local level. My journey began at 12 years old while marching for immigration reform in downtown Los Angeles, and has grown into a career focused on sustainable, community-rooted advocacy and community engagement. This includes but is not limited to working as a Congressional Fellow in Washington D.C. for Congresswoman Royball Allard and as 1 of 15 scholars in the nation selected by the U.S. Department of State as a 2019-2022 Fulbright Binational Business fellow in Mexico City, Mexico to promote inclusive, binational diplomacy.

Vision for the Commission

My vision for the commission will prioritize listening to and amplifying historically oppressed voices, especially those of queer and trans people of color living in Los Angeles County. By leveraging my existing relationships with grassroots organizations and engaging the queer and trans community directly, I aim to ensure our work reflects their real needs and ongoing, sustainable community engagement in local government.

In closing, I am passionate about creating a Los Angeles where every queer and trans individual can live authentically and free from discrimination. I would be honored to serve as a commissioner and thank you for considering me for this vital role.

Thank you and talk soon!

Applicant: Jackie Steele (she/her)

I am interested in serving because I believe this commission is in a unique position to address the intersectional and layered needs of our community. The responsibility of bringing community voice to these spaces, as well as hearing from/supporting the public, is a great one. In my view bridging the gap between our Queer Elders and our wonderful, powerful Youth is of great importance. Developing equitable spaces, creating a pipeline of access & opportunity and hearing the stories of our community are the cornerstones of this work. I am especially interested in the work outlined in the ordinance focusing on connecting with community, service providers, county departments and partners to review and advise on these services, policies and training so we can improve or in some cases (advise to) create services for our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Applicant: Jer-Adrienne “Juju” Lelliott (she/her/hers)

Representing the vast LGBTQ+ communities that live across the greater Los Angeles area is an awesome responsibility and I am honored to be considered to serve as an at-large commissioner on the Los Angeles County LGBTQ+ Commission. In 2024, I planned and developed an HIV and sexual health program for Clínica Romero, working with each department to implement practices that uplift underserved communities of all sexual orientations, genders, ages, and ethnicities with humility, respect, and affirmation. I recently completed doctoral coursework in organizational change and leadership at USC Rossier where I conducted research on perinatal care for trans, genderqueer, and nonbinary (TGN) parents from Communities of Color. I continue to study reproductive health for LGBTQ+ parents and to advocate for the rights of TGN and intersex youth. For the past five years, I have served on the campaign board of LGBTQ+ Victory Fund, the only national organization exclusively dedicated to electing LGBTQ+ candidates at every level of office. I proudly served as fundraising committee cochair for three years until my recent election to campaign board cochair. In these roles, I have had the honor of helping candidates get elected in places where we lacked LGBTQ+ representation, including here in Los Angeles. As I prepare for the possibility of joining you in the work of promoting inclusivity, building trust, and assuring the well-being of LGBTQ+ communities in Los Angeles County, I am reflecting on the importance of representation for the communities I belong to here. If asked to serve, I will focus on engaging young people and advocating for the unseen as we fortify our commitment to each other. I will work for increased safety and security for our most vulnerable populations while celebrating the strength, vibrancy, and solidarity that make us one.

Applicant: Yolanda Whittington (she/her/hers)

Yolanda Whittington, a self-identified Black lesbian, brings decades of experience as a social justice advocate and community leader to her application for the Los Angeles County LGBTQ Commission. Beginning her advocacy in 1988 as a volunteer with the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference, Ms. Whittington has consistently demonstrated her commitment to addressing the unique challenges faced by Black queer communities. Her leadership roles with the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum focused on confronting systemic oppression, mobilizing Black religious leaders to combat homophobia, and training emerging Black LGBTQ leaders. As co-founder of United Lesbians of African Heritage (ULOAH) and later Black Lesbians United (BLU), she has championed visibility, wellness, and acceptance for Black lesbians, working to dismantle intolerance and prejudice. With her lifelong dedication to intersectional advocacy and her nuanced understanding of racial, gender, and sexual

identity issues, Ms. Whittington is uniquely positioned to provide impactful leadership and representation as a commissioner.