



**Lakewood Village Neighborhood Association (LVNA)  
City of Long Beach District 5 Candidate Interview Questions**

Direction: Please enter your responses to the questions below using Adobe Reader. Your responses will be posted on the LVNA website as a secure PDF document for our association members to review.

**Candidate Name:** Megan Kerr

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1. What are your top 3 priorities?

**Public Safety**

Over the past few years, we have seen the impact of public safety in every aspect of our lives. We know residents want to feel safe, so working with our public safety offices to make sure they have the resources to perform their duties while creating the appropriate accountability and training to care for our communities. I have a strong record of being a collaborative leader; I have strong relationships with leaders both locally and throughout the region. I will continue to look to partner with others to problem solve and provide the best representation for residents.

**Infrastructure and Open Space**

District 5 cares a great deal about maintaining and improving infrastructure and parks. I will focus on these basic services that improve our quality of life and neighborhoods.

**Neighborhood Unity**

This is a newly drawn city council district, that, on top of two years of a pandemic has made many in the community feel disconnected from each other. It will be important work to bring our community together again, in safe ways. I plan to spend a great deal of time getting to know the various neighborhoods and working with them to get to know each other, some for the first time.

2. Why are you running?

I am running to continue to serve my community in a new and more comprehensive way. I chose to run for school board in 2014 because I was already doing the work in local schools. Being on the board was a way to formalize and expand the ways that I could serve our students, families, and staff. I feel much the same way about running for city council. I am an active and engaged member of our community, I work to support our businesses and want to work with our city staff to effectively serve our residents in district 5 and across the city.

3. How will you foster dialogue?

I have a reputation for being an engaged and collaborative leader. I intend to be present to residents and encourage them to interact directly with me and our staff to solve problems and address concerns. I will spend my time getting to know our different neighborhoods by attending local meetings and events. I will work to support events that build community. I will engage with community members about items that will come before the council and make sure to hear from our diverse constituency.

4. How will you manage the budget?

As a school board member, I help oversee a \$1.2 billion taxpayer-funded budget and have been on the audit committee. Being thoughtful and judicious with public funds and will work with staff to approve a budget that continues to meet our city needs.

5. What is your vision for District 5?

District 5 is unique in that it has a mix of engaged neighborhoods, small business corridors that create energy and opportunity for residents, our airport, and some of the most technically advanced industries in the city.

We have an opportunity to become a united 5th district with engaged and connected residents stretching from the San Gabriel River to the Los Angeles River.

6. Do you think the city is well run? Why/why not?

Yes. The city of Long Beach is overall a safe and clean city, in good financial standing, is attracting new businesses, has managed a pandemic to keep residents safe, informed, and provided testing/vaccination clinics for all residents free of charge. We are a community of neighborhoods that have access to good schools, a top rated airport, and city services that, on the whole, are well provided.

Long Beach, like other major cities, is facing serious issues around homeless and housing shortages, some rising levels of crime and violence, and environmental issues, including air quality. We must take these issues seriously and work collaboratively to address them.

7. What will you do to support/defend neighborhoods?

I will be present and engaged with residents throughout the district. My office will communicate clearly and be responsive to residents and business owners needs and concerns. I will share the concerns with both staff and my colleagues on the city council to work together in the best interests of the 5th district.

8. Which city departments need improvement and why?

I will work with the city manager to identify ways that departments can improve. We know that there are staffing issues in some departments that can impact the level of service to constituents. Covid-19 has had a large impact on several departments, including Animal Care. This is a department that relies heavily on volunteers to carry out their mission, and has had numerous challenges in the past. As a volunteer foster with a local dog rescue, I understand the needs the pandemic created in this area and I look forward to supporting them in their work.

9. How will you prioritize services?

Maintaining strong and efficient basic services to our neighborhoods is a priority, especially those that impact safety and quality of life such as street and sidewalk maintenance. Needs may vary across the district and my office will work with residents to identify and work on solutions to those impacting their specific neighborhood and issue. We will also collaborate across the district to make best use of district funds to have the most impact.

I think that Long Beach has been a leader when it comes to modernizing our municipal administration through technology and online resources. From things like the Go Long Beach app to the Smart City Initiative, new tools have been used to streamline services and increase responsiveness. Something I would emphasize as a member of the City Council is to explore incorporating these kinds of new processes into planning and development so that we can build more quickly and affordably while still ensuring the proper oversight of new projects.

#### 10. Why are streets in bad condition?

The current condition of our local infrastructure is the result of decades of delay and patchwork to get by. The City of Long Beach's updated Pavement Management Index and Alley Management Index are clear indicators of the need for sizable investment across the 5th District. The city has made some headway with funds coming from Measure A, but they are not enough to keep up with the backlog of long term issues or the emergency issues that come up during storms or other weather issues.

As we look to the future, it will be imperative that the City of Long Beach use the once-in-a-lifetime investment from the Biden Administration's Infrastructure Act to improve the most basic needs of our district. As your representative, I am committed to being that champion. Additionally, we must improve our public transportation network to improve congestion which also impacts our neighborhoods.

#### 11. Additional Comments?

My story is a familiar Long Beach story, recognizable to many who have either grown up here or grown to love this amazing city. I was born and raised in Bixby Knolls, attended St. Anthony High School and Long Beach City College before graduating from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, with my bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology. As a young adult, I met my husband of 26-years Andy (a North Long Beach native), and together we raised our three children in the same neighborhood where I grew up.

Prior to my election to the Long Beach Unified School Board in 2014, I was a community volunteer, PTA, and School Site leader advocating for increased access to learning and protecting extracurricular activities. My early work at LBUSD was integral to multiple local schools being awarded the U.S. Department of Education National Green Ribbon Award. The award honors schools and districts that are exemplary in reducing environmental impact and costs, improving the personal health and wellness of students and staff, and providing effective environmental education through incorporating STEM subjects, civic engagement, and green career pathways.

Since becoming a member of the Board of Education, I have continued to be an effective champion for uplifting Long Beach's diverse communities, bringing educational resources to income-restricted neighborhoods, and elevating the work of LBUSD to an international level. During my tenure on the Board of Education, I signed a Community Workforce Agreement which includes a first of its kind workforce coordinator, to connect graduating students to skilled trades training programs, partnered with Long Beach Marine Safety to increase access to programs and internships for students in North and West Long Beach, and opened Educare LA which is a model birth-to-five early childhood education center in North Long Beach.

In addition to my public service, I have supported numerous Long Beach nonprofits, including current positions as a board member for the California Conference for Equality and Justice (CCEJ) and the Rancho Los Cerritos Historic site. I have been recognized for my advocacy for LGBTQ+ youth and for supporting community-based literacy programs for North Long Beach students. My family and I also have a passion for fostering and rehoming puppies. To date, we have helped save the lives of over 100 puppies that would have otherwise ended up in shelters, on the streets, or euthanized.

Website: [LVNA Website \(https://golvna.org/about/\)](https://golvna.org/about/)

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