



Civil Engineers for Infrastructure Political Action Committee Questionnaire for LA County Supervisor Race 2016

Civil Engineers for Infrastructure (CE4i) is a Political Action Committee that believes the public has a right to a continued enhancement of the quality of life. Infrastructure must remain a top priority. Public safety, education, healthcare, and the economy grow from a foundation of a reliable infrastructure. Prioritizing infrastructure is dependent on an informed public, a motivated legislature, and leadership from the engineering profession.

The following questions will allow CE4i to better understand your position on infrastructure related issues. We plan to share your responses with our membership and in our newsletter distributions. We may also share your responses with media outlets. Please submit your responses by Tuesday, December 8th.

Based on your responses and additional factors, CE4i may be able to support you during your campaign. We may also invite you to a meet and greet mixer to help you raise funds for your campaign.

Name: _____ Mitchell Englander _____

LA County Supervisor District (please circle): 5

Contact Email: _____ Mitch@mitchenglander.org _____

For each of the following questions, please answer “Yes” or “No”.
If no, please explain why.

1. Do you support raising the gas tax if the funds go strictly to improving our transportation infrastructure?

The current collection and distribution of our gas tax funds is an inequitable and antiquated system. Over 50% of the gas tax collected in California goes to the Federal government and these funds are not equitably distributed to the state or municipalities who contribute the lions share of these funds. While California generates a huge amount of revenue via the gas tax, we do not see our fair share of those funds. This system needs to change and should be our top area of focus on this issue. Bringing balance to this distribution system is critically important to improving California’s transit infrastructure. I would support an increase in the tax if there were guarantees that the funds generated will go back to the communities they originated from and if the funds go directly to infrastructure.

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2. Do you support sales tax rate increases if the funding goes directly to improving our transportation infrastructure (like another Measure R)?

I support the concept of Measure R2, although the final language has not been determined and there are many details that need to be resolved. One of the most important issues for me is ensuring that the funds are spent equitably throughout the County and that the local return money is dedicated solely to infrastructure. I supported and voted for Measure R.

3. Do you support requiring property owners to upgrade their buildings for seismic resiliency?

Absolutely. This is a critically important issue. That is why, on the City Council, I helped lead efforts to help pass what the LA Times called, “the nation’s most sweeping seismic regulations,” that requires approximately 15,000 structures to be retrofitted and targets the two most vulnerable types of structures. As part of that effort I also worked aggressively to help pass AB 428 in Sacramento, that was unfortunately vetoed despite passing both houses by near unanimous votes, to offset retrofitting costs by allowing property owners to apply for a tax break equal to 30% of retrofit costs. Despite this setback, I strongly believe that this is an issue of the utmost importance, and one in which we need to continue to push for solutions that help offset the sometimes daunting retrofit costs, while also incentivizing property owners to do the smart and responsible thing.

4. Do you support high speed rail in the State of California?

I support the concept of high speed rail and the overall investment in our statewide transit infrastructure. However, I am concerned over the management of the project as well as the route options that have been identified connecting the Central Valley and Los Angeles County. I believe that we need to have more accountability and transparency over the rail authority as well as a more robust process to address potential community impacts and concerns regarding the project as it moves forward. This is critical to ensure that the project not only moves forward, but that it is done in the most efficient, equitable, and responsible manner. There is a great deal of work to be done in this respect and I believe I am well suited, given my track record of building consensus among diverse communities and interests.

5. Do you support additional revenue streams dedicated to increasing recycled water supply for the County of Los Angeles?

Yes. The drought has made it painfully clear that we must do more to ensure a sustainable water supply. Those steps should include investments in our

infrastructure including recycling, storm water capture, storage, and conservation.

6. Do you support creating a new revenue stream dedicated to stormwater quality improvement for the County of Los Angeles?

Yes. I was an architect and leading advocate of SOSLA and subsequent efforts such as “complete streets” geared towards comprehensive improvements to our streets and sidewalks. A central element of complete streets is stormwater capture improvements.

7. Why should civil engineers support you instead of the other candidates?

As a City Councilmember, union member, Reserve LAPD Officer, community leader, former small business owner, and native of the district, I bring a unique mix of experience, perspective, and track record of delivering results for this community that is unmatched. I am deeply committed to this community and have dedicated my life to it.

On the City Council, I have built a reputation as an effective coalition builder and problem solver. My Democratic peers have elected me as President Pro Tempore of the Council despite being the only Republican member. I have also built a reputation as one of the most outspoken advocates and champions for investing in our cities’ infrastructure, whether it is seismic retrofit requirements, sidewalk improvements, water management system upgrades, or transit infrastructure. I firmly believe that these are some of the smartest and most important investments we can make for our city. I will take that focus and commitment to our infrastructure to the County Board of Supervisors.

I have a proven track record of winning tough elections. As a first time candidate in 2011, I won an open seat in a crowded field outright with 58% of the vote. This year I was re-elected with 100% of the vote. I know how to build broad coalitions of support that include Democrats and Republicans, as well as public safety, labor, and business leaders.

My campaign is best positioned to win. I raised over \$580,000 in less than 10 weeks and am on track to raise \$1.5 million for my primary campaign. My proven track record of winning tough elections, ability to build broad coalitions of support, record of accomplishments, and deep roots in the district make me the strongest candidate in this race.

8. If elected, what are your top three priorities?

1. Public safety

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2. **Improving services and access to public resources for all communities in the 5th district particularly outlying and rural areas.**
3. **Making smart investments in our county infrastructure and services in order to grow our regional economy and improve the quality of life for county residents.**

9. What infrastructure topic or topics are you most familiar with? Which one(s) would you like to know more about?

I have a great deal of knowledge and experience with a wide variety of infrastructure topics. As I stated previously, infrastructure is a priority for me and a topic that I take particular interest in. Some of the areas which I have particularly extensive knowledge with are streets and sidewalks, storm water capture, and infrastructure related to waste conversion technologies. I would like to continue my work on each of these issue areas on the Board of Supervisors, as I believe they are each critical to our quality of life and present unique opportunities to create jobs and implement innovative approaches to addressing complex problems. For example, my work in waste conversion and specifically the Recovering Energy Natural Resources and Economic Benefits from Waste for Los Angeles or RENEWLA plan holds a great deal of promise. This infrastructure investment can help eliminate the need for landfills via waste conversion – a win for the environment and our economy.

10. If elected, will you seek out individuals with scientific and/or engineering backgrounds? Will you appoint them to certain committees and/or boards? Or hire them as staff? Have you done this in the past (if applicable)?

Yes absolutely. I believe it is critically important to have engineers and scientists in management positions with decision-making power. Their expertise and perspective is needed to ensure we are making smart and sound investments in our infrastructure.

11. What is your vision on reducing traffic congestion and increasing goods movement both in your jurisdiction and regionally?

Overall, I believe we need to take a comprehensive approach when it comes to reducing traffic and improving mobility. This means making smart investments that will modernize and expand our transit infrastructure while also maintaining and improving existing assets. I support efforts to continue the expansion of our rail network, improve bus services, expand capacity on our freeways and highways, and implement planning practices that promote multi-modal forms of transit.

12. What is your vision to ensure LA County has reliable water sources? How do you intend to fund this vision?

As a mentioned previously, conservation is simply not enough to address our long-term needs. I believe we need to have a serious conversation about making a sustained commitment to improving our water infrastructure – particularly our ability to capture more storm water, improve storage capacity, and recycling.

In regard to funding, I would pursue a mix of federal and state grants as well as bond funds, local funding sources, and am also interested in EIDFs as a possibility to begin funding these investments. We need to take a comprehensive approach and need leaders at the County level who have a proven track record of connecting the dots, bringing people together, and securing funding for these critical needs. I have a proven record of doing that and will bring that needed experience to the board of supervisors.

13. Please share any information you would like to add.

In addition to the qualifications I have discussed above, my campaign is best positioned to win. I raised over \$580,000 in less than 10 weeks and am on a clear track to raise \$1.5 million for my primary campaign.

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As a testament to the strength of my candidacy, my campaign recently conducted a poll that shows I am in the lead. The polling, conducted by nationally recognized pollster Jill Normington, whose clients include Hillary Clinton for President, shows that I not only start in first place, but that as voters hear about all of the candidates' background, record, and experience - I build a double-digit lead over my opponents. This research is yet more proof of the strength of my campaign, message, and strong track record on issues that matter most to voters.

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