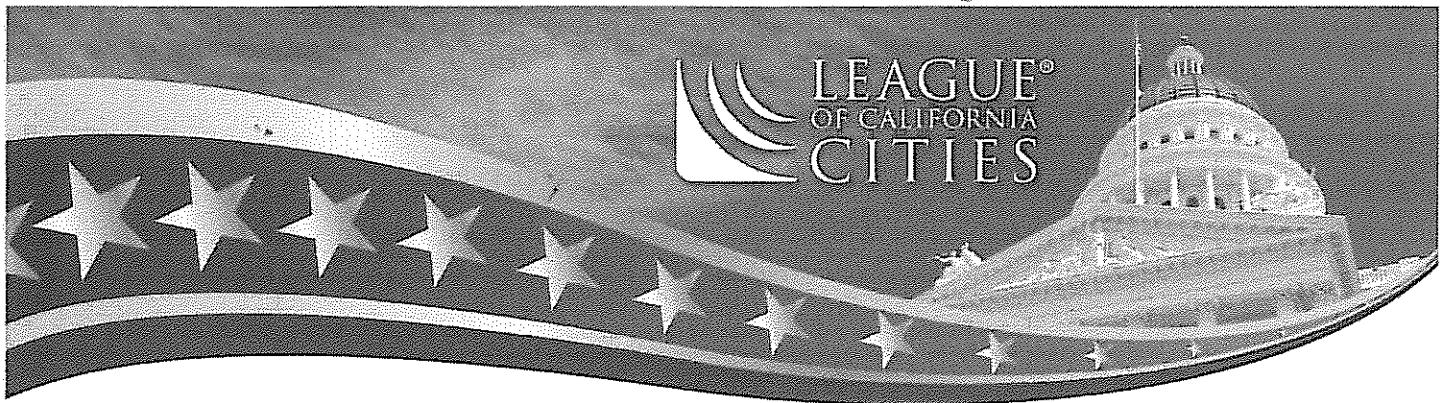


# 2016 LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE



Candidate Name: Kostas Rodits Position You Are Running For: 68th Assembly  
Political Party Affiliation: Republican Are You an Incumbent:  Yes  No

**INTRODUCTION:** Candidates for the state legislature in 2016 are respectfully requested to answer these questions relevant to the respective and often complementary roles of the state and city governments in California. While the League does not itself endorse candidates, the responses to this questionnaire will be shared with elected city officials in each legislative district for consideration in their own endorsement decisions as well as posted on the League website. Thank you for your participation. Please email your response to [Bismarck@cacities.org](mailto:Bismarck@cacities.org) or by fax to 916-658-8240 by no later than March 31. If you have any questions, please contact: League Public Affairs Director Bismarck Obando at [Bismarck@cacities.org](mailto:Bismarck@cacities.org) or 916-658-8273.

**LOCAL CONTROL.** The relationship between the state and cities functions best as a partnership where major policy issues are approached by the state with careful consideration of the varied conditions among the state's 482 cities and an appreciation of the importance of retaining local flexibility to tailor policies to reflect local needs and circumstances. Still, at times, cities have to respond to state legislation they believe undermines the principle of "local control" over important issues such as land use, housing, finance, infrastructure, elections, labor relations and other issues directly affecting cities. What is your perspective on local control and state preemption of local control? *(Please explain).*

The State government should only deal with matters which powers are enumerated to them by the 10th Amendment. This should deal with the general welfare of the State which can only be address on the State level. All other issues should and must be address by local cities and municipalites. Local control gives cities greater ability to address the unique issues within their city. Legislation from the State can never create a solution that can address the unique issues faced by all the 482 cities. Therefore, I believe in a small limited Federal and State government and greater local control should be given to local cities. I also believe that money flowing from the local level through taxation to the State and then flowing back down to the local level only creates additional bureaucracy and wastes tax dollars. The most effective way to use tax dollars is to let it stay at the local level and allow the cities to use the money to best serve their constituents.

## 2016 LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

**TRANSPORTATION FUNDING.** Cities and counties are struggling with a \$78 billion, 10-year maintenance funding deficit for the local streets and roads system. This amount is needed simply to maintain existing infrastructure; delaying these repairs by just 10 years would increase the deficit to \$99 billion. Meanwhile, millions of cars, trucks, busses and other vehicles have been added in California, utilizing our already over-burdened transportation network. At the same time, gas tax revenues (that benefit both the state and local system) have not been raised since 1994; they have been eroded by inflation, expanded use of electric and more efficient vehicles, and more recently declined 26% since Fiscal Year 2013-14. How would you support addressing this infrastructure funding deficit?

- Additional state gas or other vehicle taxes:  Yes  No
- Additional state user fees (similar to the vehicle registration fee):  Yes  No
- Expanded local authority to raise taxes and fees locally:  Yes  No
- Return transportation funding from General Fund (\$1 billion/yr.) and reform CalTRANS:  Yes  No
- Combination of approaches:  Yes  No
- Other approaches? *(Please explain)*

California already has one of the highest tax rates on gasoline in the country. CalTRANS has approximately 6500 more employees than needed and we have one of the highest cost per road repair and building in the nation. Increasing taxes only helps to ensure higher cost to consumers and does not address the issue of reforming CalTRANS and other State programs. The State should only address highways which are under their control. Local roads should be maintained on the local level and such the tax dollars should not go to the State and then flow back down to the cities. They should stay locally. I would also prefer that highways under the State control be fixed on the local level. If we give the funds to the cities in which the roads run through and contract them to fix the roads and maintain them. The cities can prioritize what repairs come first and be able to contract road repairs to private corporations through a competitive bid RFP process. I would also advocate to the cities and counties to create a yearly plan of road repairs and have multiple cities and the counties in the surrounding region put out a combined RFP on road repair. By combining projects within neighboring cities it will lower the price per mile for road repair and thus fix more roads per dollar spent. For the taxation I believe that local governments should be able to increase taxes if they choose; even though I disagree. But cities should be autonomous to do as they please.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING.** With the loss of \$1 billion in redevelopment funding that previously went to affordable housing and the exhaustion of past state affordable housing bond funds, California has virtually no resources to construct affordable housing. Affordable units often require additional public subsidy so that rents and/or purchase prices can be made affordable to low and moderate income households. What is your solution to the affordable housing crisis?

- Allocate a portion of state general fund dollars for affordable housing:  Yes  No
- Establish a new permanent source of affordable housing funding from a new revenue source such as a recently contemplated \$75 state tax or fee on various real estate instruments:  Yes  No
- Establish a local-state matching program, where local funding commitments to affordable housing are matched dollar-for-dollar with a state contribution:  Yes  No
- Reduce the regulatory burden on housing production imposed by CEQA and other regulations:  Yes  No

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- Combination of these approaches:  Yes  No
- Other approaches? *(Please explain)*

I believe that affordable housing is a local issue and should not be addressed at all by the State. State government should address issue which only the State can address and cities can do as they please with their tax dollars. On a side note I do not believe in government sponsored affordable housing. It is simple supply and demand and that will best set the pricing of housing. Also, affordable housing is just code for government subsidizing of lower wages and higher rent. Affordable housing is well intended but it allows employers to pay their workers less. If an employee cannot afford to live near their work and can't afford to commute to their job they will seek another job which will suit their financial situation. As an employer myself I realize that if I can't find people to fill vacant positions because of low wages then I will have to pay them more. At the same time if the vacancy rate of housing rises the owners of the apartments and homes will have to lower their prices. If they want to make money they will lower their prices so people can afford to live there and pay the rent. When government interferes with the economy by trying to micro manage they actually create problems instead of finding solutions. Let the free market dictate wages and housing prices.

**WATER CONSERVATION AND STORMWATER.** Faced with the ongoing drought and increasing federal and state clean water regulations, local governments have struggled to enforce water conservation requirements and remove contaminants from stormwater and urban water runoff without reducing funding for public safety and other general fund commitments. How should the state assist cities with this challenge?

- Providing increased grants through state bonds financed from the state General Fund:  Yes  No
- Providing cities and other water agencies with increased flexibility to implement water conservation rate pricing and raise funds locally:  Yes  No
- Combination of these approaches:  Yes  No
- Some other approaches? *(Please explain)*

The State should work in conjunction with cities and counties to create additional water reservoirs locally in order to maximize the amount of rain water we can capture instead of allowing most of it to run to the Oceans. I believe we can have business friendly regulations while protecting the environment. We can strive to save water and be more protective of our resources. At the same time when our businesses and farmers need more water we let billions of gallons of rainwater drain into the ocean without collecting it as effectively as we could; we squander our precious resources and lose a great opportunity to solve our problems efficiently and effectively. For instance, if we become efficient at collecting rainwater locally we would not only save money but we would save electricity. Did you know that the largest use of electricity in California is used in moving water? If we focus on smart local solutions like this we can actually address our environmental issues to help businesses grow and thrive.

Candidate Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

