

Hello, I'm Mary Benson and, with your vote, I can win in September . If there was ever a place and time to elect a representative from the grassroots, **This is the place and now is the time.** .

I have been working for TEN YEARS - to improve the quality of life – for PEOPLE living in the second council district. I have worked to EMPOWER those who otherwise thought their voice would go unheard. And through my work, I KNOW that I have the experience to get the job done.

The second council district is MY HOME, and I KNOW - what the needs are for this district. For years, the PEOPLE of this district - have been asking me to tell the city council what we need. It is time for ACTION!

The district is spread across the entire San Fernando Valley, this has caused a DISCONNECT - between the people living in the more rural North section of the district - - and those in the suburban South section. I believe - that with the help of a knowledgeable, - local – and responsive staff that both areas, and every community WITHIN those areas – CAN be served.

The DOWNTOWN Politicians have spent and legislated our City into RUIN! We need to look at the long term when designing a budget. The City needs to cut spending - and ENCOURAGE BUSINESS, the backbone of our economy, to return to our city. BECAUSE

Business has FLED the city, - as regulations, - ever changing rules - and an incompressible tax structure has made it almost impossible – to be profitable . We have to make BUSINESS in L.A. profitable again. And with the RETURN of these BUSINESSES we WILL SEE a RETURN of great JOBS!

Our neighborhoods have seen BOTH good AND bad development projects. I believe that we can TRANSFORM those BAD developments INTO GOOD developments - with community input and a watchful eye IN city council.

NO development, however, should move FORWARD without a CAREFUL assessment of the underlying infrastructure. We NEED to KNOW that the power, - road, - sewer – and water systems - that supply the project - will be adequate when the development is finished.

We also need to work WITH the L.A. Department of Water and Power. NO LONGER CAN THEY OPERATE WITHOUT independent of consumer oversight. The people DESERVE an independent third-party advocate that would oversee their practices, - AND THE RATES THEY CHARGE.

We NEED to PRESERVE Greenways and Open Space. A BEAUTIFUL city IS a HEALTHY city, - where people want to live, - work, - and play! It's an ASSET to Residents and Businesses Alike!

On September twenty-second, If you give me your vote - I promise we CAN move our Council District, - and Los Angeles as a whole - in the RIGHT DIRECTION. I am Mary Benson, and I have HOPE for the Future, let's get there TOGETHER!