

Hello. I'm Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

I'm running for re-election because I've kept the promise I made to you to work hard on the challenges we face in this city. I've laid a foundation in many areas, but we still have work to do.

Today we are facing tough economic times and I am determined to do everything in my power - working with President Obama and our leaders here in California - to get us through this crisis and build a brighter economic future.

We are working to create new jobs in Los Angeles with innovative initiatives:

A \$40 billion local investment in public transportation that will build our subway to the sea and significantly expand our light rail, synchronize traffic lights and cut commute times throughout the county.

A \$10 billion local investment in green energy efficient public schools and community colleges.

A plan to create jobs and reduce pollution at the Port.

A large-scale investment that will put people to work installing solar panels on city roofs across Los Angeles.

We are also proving that government can be more efficient at delivering services directly to our neighborhoods.

In the face of tough economic times, we have delivered three balanced budgets while keeping our commitment to hire 1,000 new police officers.

As a direct result of our effort to grow the police department, the City is safer today than anytime since 1956. Property crimes are the lowest since 1959, and homicides are down to numbers here in Los Angeles, that we haven't seen since 1969.

And we are making Los Angeles the greenest big city in America:

We're on track to have 20% of our energy come from renewable resources by 2010.

We have enacted the most progressive and aggressive Green Building Ordinance in America.

But the real key to transforming our economy is reforming our public schools.

This I believe is the most important investment we can make...and the most difficult.

Throughout the district we now have new leadership and a new vision and have laid a strong foundation for success.

Friends, the mountain ahead of us is high, but we've made steady progress.

I hope you will join me on March 3.

I would be honored to have your continued support. Together, we can build a better Los Angeles.

THE END – MAYOR VILLARAIGOSA