

My name is Hugo Soto-Martinez. I was born and raised in South Central to immigrant street vendor parents. If you've ever seen a kid selling oranges with their family, that was me. When I was 15 my dad sustained a back injury that left him paralyzed, so I had to work to support my family.

In high school I got a job at a non-union hotel where I worked while studying for my Criminology and Political science degree at UC Irvine. Weeks before graduating I was approached to help organize the union. I knew I'd be fine, I was on my way to becoming an immigration lawyer. But my coworkers, the housekeepers and busboys, were still going to put up with all the abuse, so I decided to fight. Together we won fair wages, free family healthcare, respect on the job, and most importantly a vehicle to fight workplace injustice: the union. I dropped everything because I knew this was my calling.

I've been an organizer for 16 years now, and as part of that we've won incredible electoral victories, like getting rid of crooked Arizona sheriff Joe Arpaio, flipping Arizona blue, and last year, working with Stacey Abrams to win two Georgia Senate seats.

But when I got home after Georgia, I realized I'd been doing all this work elsewhere, but my city was suffering. Rents keep going up, Homelessness keeps getting worse, there isn't a single protected bike lane in our district. It goes on and on.

I'm running to reverse the failed policies of the status quo. I want to build housing with mental health and addiction services for our unhoused. I want to create housing that essential workers can actually afford. I want to remove armed officers from nonviolent calls and invest those funds into systems of care that actually prevent crime. But most importantly, I want to work with you, to build the LA we deserve.