



Life In Brief

Current Title: Mayor

Born: February 4, 1971

Birthplace: Los Angeles, CA

Hometown: Los Angeles, CA

Education Summary:

- Rhodes Scholar, The Queen's College at the University of Oxford and the London School of Economics
- M.I.A., School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University, 1993
- B.A., Political science and urban planning, Columbia University, 1992

Work History:

- Mayor of Los Angeles, 2013-Present
- Member, State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience, Council on Environmental Quality, Executive Office of the President, 2013-2014
- Member, Los Angeles City Council, 2001-2013
 - President, 2006-2013
- Lieutenant, U.S. Navy Reserve Information Dominance Corps, 2005-2018
- Professor, Occidental College, 1998-2001
- Adjunct Professor, 1998-2000

Electoral Overview:

- Re-elected in 2017
- Elected in 2013, defeating Wendy Greuel by a 9 point margin

Quick Summary

Rhodes scholar and political insider with Jewish-Latino blue-collar roots; pushes progressive vision for the city of Los Angeles, emphasizing climate policy and immigration reform

- Fourth generation Angeleno and grandson of Mexican and Russian Jewish immigrants
- Father Gil Garcetti was the Los Angeles district attorney who unsuccessfully prosecuted OJ Simpson
- Attended elite educational institutions including Columbia University, Oxford, and the London School of Economics; had career as a Navy intelligence reservist and college professor before entering politics
- City's first elected Jewish mayor, its youngest mayor in history, and its second consecutive Mexican American mayor
- Became a leader among mayors, working on addressing climate change and advocating on behalf of Latino issues; gained national attention for securing 2028 Olympic bid for the city
- Defender of LA's immigrant communities; prohibited city employees from asking residents about immigration status and launched workshops to educate immigrants on their rights
- Addresses the transportation crisis through investment in infrastructure, including expanding rail transit
- Cultivates network of Obama-era officials, including Presidential candidate Joe Biden

Approach and Motivations

Leverages multi-faceted identity and cultural literacy in a global city



- Despite his privileged background, empathizes with residents of diverse backgrounds
- Jokingly calls himself “your average Jewish-Mexican-American;” describes his values as rooted in his middle-class upbringing in San Fernando Valley
- Fluent Spanish speaker; addresses residents in English and Spanish
- Contrasts his style of inclusivity with President Trump’s practice of division
- In city council, authored municipal green building ordinance to require city buildings and large commercial buildings to be LEED-certified
- Launched Los Angeles’ Green New Deal, which sets a goal of carbon neutrality by 2050, through initiatives such as electric vehicle infrastructure
- With over 400 mayors in cities across America, committed to adopting the Paris Climate agreement after the Trump Administration exited

Policy Position and Areas of Focus

Prioritizes immigration, the environment, and expanding transportation infrastructure

Immigration: *Draws on personal connection to immigration to empower and protect LA’s immigrant communities*

- Re-established Office of Immigrant Affairs to promote civic engagement and help residents apply for citizenship; launched “Know Your Rights” workshop to educate immigrant communities on their constitutional rights
- Signed Executive Directive to bar city employees from inquiring about immigration status or engaging in federal civil immigration enforcement
- With coalition of Mayors, called on the Trump Administration to ensure an accurate and inclusive census and prohibit a question on citizenship status

Climate: *Leader on local climate policies, promoting green infrastructure and setting goals for carbon emissions*

Transportation: *Addresses transportation crisis through investments in accessibility*

- Announced Great Streets initiative to make Los Angeles more walkable and shift away from reliance on cars
- Led the coalition to pass Measure M, a local transportation funding program to expand the rail transit system and repair existing lines; secured federal funding to improve transportation infrastructure
- Has embraced public-private partnerships to fund projects such as the North Atwater Bridge, which will serve pedestrians and equestrians

Core Communities

Network of politicians operating at the local and national level

Obama White House: *High-profile allies from the Obama Administration*

- Served on the Obama Administration’s State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience



- Supported by presidential advisor David Axelrod in 2013 mayoral race; endorsed by former President Obama in 2017 campaign
- Hosted a dinner at his house for Joe Biden when the VP was considering a presidential run; early endorser of Biden for President and named national campaign co-chair
- Considered as a potential running mate for former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton

State and Local Government: *Personal and professional ties to Los Angeles County officials and state politicians*

- Family connections to local politics, including father Gil Garcetti who was a former Los Angeles County District Attorney who oversaw the OJ Simpson prosecution; sister Dana Garcetti-Boldt, who is former Los Angeles County deputy district attorney and current advisor to County Supervisor Janice Hahn
- Former member of the Los Angeles City Council; elected by his colleagues to serve as President of the Los Angeles City Council
- Friendly relationship with Governor Gavin Newsom, for whom Garcetti served as a Transition Team Ambassador

Mayors: *Allies with fellow mayors on national policy initiatives, particularly climate change*

- Active in the U.S. Conference of Mayors as Chair of the Latino Alliance and Infrastructure Task Force
- Co-founded the Mayors National Climate Action Agenda, along with Houston mayor Annise Parker and Philadelphia mayor Michael Nutter
- Signed a joint declaration with Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia setting zero emissions goals for the ports of LA and Long Beach

Relevant Financial Information

Attracted high dollar donations from Southern California-based companies and business owners in previous election cycle; has made campaign contributions to Democratic Presidential candidates and competitive congressional campaigns

Top Corporate Donors (2015-2018)

- Next Century Partners (Los Angeles, CA), \$1,400
- Made with Elastic LLC (Los Angeles, CA), \$1,400
- VGR & Associates (Los Angeles, CA), \$1,400
- Disney Worldwide Services (Lake Buena Vista, FL), \$1,400
- The Coca-Cola Co. (Atlanta, GA), \$1,400

Top Individual Donors (2015-2018)

- Ricardo and Sylvia Arambulo, President at Capital Partners (Los Angeles, CA), \$2,800
- Harriet and Harvey Bookstein, Self-employed Business Manager (Los Angeles, CA), \$2,800
- Jesse and Stacy Sharf, Attorney at Gibson, Dunn, & Crutcher (Santa Monica, CA), \$2,800
- De Dinh, CEO of Dinh Research Corp. (Alhambra, CA), \$1,400
- Douglas Frye, Attorney at Douglas Frye (Malibu, CA), \$1,400

Political Donations

- Biden for President, \$2,800, 2020



- Catherine Cortez Masto for Senate, \$1,000, 2016
- Missourians for Kander, \$1,000, 2016
- Maggie for NH, \$1,000, 2016
- Hillary for America, \$5,400, 2016
- Deborah Ross for Senate, \$1,000, 2016
- Obama for America, \$7,750, 2008-2012

Speaking: *Speaks at California universities and mayors' conferences on climate policy and city planning*

- Favorite Subjects: Climate change, urban planning, transportation infrastructure
- Preferred Audience: Universities including USC, UCLA, and Cal State; mayors conferences including C40 Cities and CA Cities Annual

Publications, Media and Speaking

Public appearances center around Garcetti's environmentally-friendly and accessible vision for Los Angeles

Publications: *As an academic, published articles and book chapters on post-conflict societies; as mayor, authors op-eds on water and transportation management*

- Favorite Subjects: International affairs topics including Eritrean nationalism and non-violent action; local issues including water quality and secure roads
- Preferred Outlets: Local newspapers including the LA Daily News

Media: *Discusses role as mayor and vision for LA in local news and late-night talk shows*

- Favorite Subjects: The power of local politics, 2028 Olympic bid, City's Green New Deal
- Preferred Outlets: Talk shows including Late Night with Seth Myers and Jimmy Kimmel Live; local news outlets including KTLA
- Social Media Habits: Active on personal and professional Twitter accounts

Professional Affiliations

- [Human Rights Watch](#)
- Young Storytellers
- C40 Cities
- Junior Statesmen Foundation
- LA County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
- National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials
- United States Conference of Mayors

Family and Personal Background

Diverse genealogical background and early exposure to politics; hobbies include jazz and photography

Jewish-Mexican-Italian-American heritage; adopted his daughter and has fostered children

- Garcetti's paternal grandfather was born in Parral, Chihuahua, Mexico and traveled to the United States as a child after his father was murdered during the Mexican Revolution
- Paternal great grandfather had immigrated to Mexico from Italy
- Garcetti's maternal grandparents were from Russian Jewish immigrant families



Eric Garcetti
Mayor Of Los Angeles

- Daughter Maya is adopted; Garcetti and his wife have also fostered seven children

Politically active from an early age; in his free time, enjoys music and photography

- Son of Gil Garcetti, the former Los Angeles County District Attorney who prosecuted the OJ Simpson trial
- While in high school, he was a member of the Junior State of America, a national civic engagement and political debate organization for students
- At Columbia, served on the student council, was president of the St. Anthony Hall fraternity and literary society, and founded the Columbia Urban Experience
- Also at Columbia, co-wrote and performed in three years of the *Varsity Show*, a student-written musical; now, he is also a jazz pianist and photographer

Criticisms and Controversies

Criticized in local media for mishandling the 2018 Woosley Fire

- A 2019 Los Angeles County report of the government response to the wildfires cited the lack of available firefighters as a crucial misstep
- The LA Times reported that Garcetti made personal requests to fire officials to check on the status of a private residences during critical times of the fire, exacerbating resources