



Venice Neighborhood Council

P. O. Box 550, Venice, CA 90294

www.VeniceNC.org



APPLICATION FOR PRESIDENT

Deadline: Thursday February 12, 2026

Instructions:

Stakeholders interested in applying for President of the Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) are requested to complete the following application and: (1) Email it to the VNC Secretary (Secretary@VeniceNC.org), and Rules & Elections Committee (Rules@VeniceNC.org) prior to midnight on February 12, 2026.

Your application will be forwarded to the VNC Board for review. The position will be decided by board vote at the Venice Neighborhood Council February 17, 2026 board meeting, held at Westminster Elementary School, 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd. Applicants are encouraged to attend to introduce themselves and speak before the board (representatives may not speak for you). Proof of stakeholder status must be presented prior to the VNC Board meeting. Please see the valid credentials accepted at the bottom of this page.

First Name: Ted Last Name: Henderson Phone: [REDACTED]

Street Address: [REDACTED]

City: Venice State: CA Zip: 90291

I hereby certify that I wish to serve as President of the Venice Neighborhood Council, and I am a Stakeholder within the boundaries of the VNC area.

Stakeholder Signature: [REDACTED]

Date: 2/11/2026

Valid Credentials – choose one of the following:

- CA Driver's License, CA Residency Card, Passport, imprinted check, recent utility bill, or property tax bill, with an address within the VNC boundaries
- School ID Card or Report Card, for a school within the VNC boundaries
- Business license, business check, or pay stub, from a business within the VNC boundaries

See VNC boundaries in VNC Bylaws at: <https://www.venicenc.org/assets/documents/5/committee681e8e0ac8e9b.pdf>



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Questions:

1. Motivation

Please explain why you wish to serve as President of the VNC.

Response: **I am seeking the position of President of the VNC to increase public participation in VNC meetings and elections, to strengthen our local representation, to ensure orderly meetings where all members have an equal voice, the majority has the right to make decisions, and business is conducted productively, preventing chaos and lengthy debates.**

2. Prior Service

Have you previously served on the Venice Neighborhood Council board or any committee? If so, please list the position(s), role(s), and dates of service.

Response: **Yes, I have served as a selected member of the Land Use and Planning Committee, as an appointed member of the Rules Committee, as a selected Community Officer in 2025, and I am currently the appointed and board confirmed Chair of the Rules & Elections Committee.**

3. Related Experience

Please describe your professional qualifications, training, or other related experience.

Response: **An engineer by training, I am a former senior legislative staffer in the United States Congress, and I have an advanced degree in climate change from Columbia University. I am also an entrepreneur and pro-democracy advocate. Well versed in congressional parliamentary procedure, I am proud of having built the Capitol Bells app, which told the public when Congress was voting and invited them to vote alongside their representatives to help people better represent themselves.**

4. Time Commitment & Responsibilities

The President is the chief executive of the VNC. She/he is responsible for:

- Chairing the Board and Administrative Committee (AdCom) meetings.
- Setting the agenda for the Administrative Committee meetings.
- Appointing committee chairs, subject to ratification by the Board, unless otherwise specified in the bylaws.
- Acting as chief liaison with Los Angeles City and other government agencies for the delivery of Community Impact Statements (CIS), California Public Records Act requests, and other correspondence.
- Acting as chief liaison with other Neighborhood Councils.
- This position is open to stakeholders eighteen (18) years of age or older who live, work or own real property within the VNC boundaries.



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Please confirm your understanding of these responsibilities and describe your availability to commit the necessary time to this volunteer position.

Response: I object to this question. Too many of our neighbors are being turned away from participating in the Neighborhood Council because of unrealistic expectations of expertise and demands of time set by a small group of activists who have coopted the VNC for their personal gratification. Every position from President to Committee Member is an unpaid, part-time, volunteer role that must be available and affordable enough to welcome stakeholders from all walks of life or else we will continue to fail in our goal to elevating the voices of the people of Venice.

5. Community Involvement

Please describe your past or current involvement in neighborhood, community, civic, or volunteer organizations—especially within the Venice area.

Response:

Asked an answered above in questions 2 and 3.

6. Key Issues Facing Venice

From your perspective, what are the three most critical issues currently facing the Venice community? Response: Participation, participation, and participation. Effective democracy starts and ends with participation. Sadly, the effectiveness of the VNC has been hobbled by wars on two fronts that have killed stakeholder participation.

On one front, the City of Los Angeles snuffed out voter turnout in our 2025 election with a botched and buggy voter registration website and a confusing ballot, cutting participation by 75%.

On the second front, a small group of obstructionists has ground the business of the Council to a halt with sustained and systematic bullying, harassment, and abuse aimed at anyone who dares to defy their goals. This is not a matter of two sides fighting passionately for their beliefs — this is a matter of a small minority preventing the majority from doing the work of representing the people and creating a welcoming and respectful culture of representation that lifts all voices in Venice.

Shamefully, neither prior Council leadership nor the City's Department of Neighborhood Empowerment stood up to these bullies. I will stand up to any bully who threatens the civility and dignity of our Council. I will ensure equal representation for all members and stakeholders. It is for that reason earlier this week that along with two other Board Members I filed a Motion of Censure against a persistently disruptive Member, whom I generally align with politically. I will not hesitate to do so again whenever necessary to protect this vital institution of local democracy from bullies and saboteurs seeking to deny Venice its collective voice.