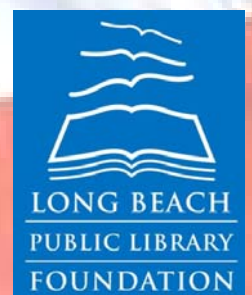


LONG BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION  
and  
FRIENDS OF THE LONG BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY  
2014 VOTER GUIDE





May 20, 2014

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[www.lbplfoundation.org](http://www.lbplfoundation.org)

Tax I.D. 33-0698704

Dear Long Beach Voter,

The Long Beach Public Library Foundation and the Friends of the Long Beach Public Library have jointly created an updated, second edition of our **2014 Voter Guide**. This tool will help prepare library supporters to make an informed decision regarding the Long Beach run-off elections, which will be held on June 3, 2014. This is a very important election which will determine our new Mayor and City Council members in Districts 1 and 5. The newly elected Mayor and City Council positions will help set the direction and determine future budgets for all City departments, including Library Services. This guide focuses specifically on the candidates' positions regarding the Long Beach Public Library.

To prepare the guide, a group of library supporters prioritized the five most important questions we wanted the candidates to answer. We sent a letter to the six run-off candidates inviting them to submit answers to the questions we provided. All six candidates responded by the deadline and we have included their unedited responses.

Please note that the **Long Beach Public Library Foundation** and the **Friends of the Long Beach Public Library** are 501(c)(3) organizations. By law, we are nonpartisan and cannot endorse or campaign for candidates. We have presented the answers **exactly as we received them, without edits** and we are distributing this updated guide to our stakeholders as an educational piece without commentary.

We invite you to read the answers submitted by all the candidates who participated and we encourage you to make sure you are registered to vote and participate in this important civic process.

**For a complete list of important dates and voter resources, including poll locations, visit:**

[www.longbeach.gov/citycleark/elections](http://www.longbeach.gov/citycleark/elections)

**Don't forget to vote on June 3<sup>rd</sup>!**

Thank you,

Stephanie S. James  
President  
Long Beach Public Library Foundation

Jo Rae Zuckerman  
Co-President  
Friends of the Long Beach Public Library

## MAYORAL CANDIDATE



## DAMON DUNN

*Q-1. On July 1, the City Council is expected to vote whether to accept one of two development teams to design, finance and build a new Civic Center, including a new Main Library. This project has been very controversial due to a lack of transparency, a lack of community input, and the speed at which it has proceeded. If elected Mayor, how will you address this public concern?*

A-1. The current city council and mayor have fast this project and I believe it creates many dangerous risks. As mayor, I will slow this project down, have public sessions to offer input, and make sure that we consult with the Library department so that the new library component is developed with the unique insights staff may have.

*Q-2. Community members express frustration at the limited days and hours their libraries are open. Current data show that Long Beach falls well below peer cities in the number of open hours. (Open hours per 100 residents: Oakland- 7.69 hours, Pasadena-16.92, Santa Monica- 10.63, Long Beach- 4.48 California Library Statistics, California State Library 2012) How would you respond to the public's request to have libraries open when they are needed? What creative funding solutions would you consider?*

A-2. I have been consistent on the campaign trail advocating for more library hours. So many of our low-income families do not have computers or internet access. The children in these families do not have a quiet place to study. As a child, I did not have access to a quiet place to study, books to read, or tutors to help with my homework. I would stay after school and work on my homework in the library. Libraries play a crucial role in bridging the education gaps of the low-income students that exist in every city of this nation. They provide access to educational tools; access to knowledge; and, ultimately, access to success.

*Q-3. Credentialed librarians must be information and literacy specialists who can help people access, navigate, and evaluate information in an increasingly complex world. They play a vital role in the economic and social health of our city. If elected, how would you assess and appropriately staff our Main Library and eleven neighborhood branches to meet these current and future needs?*

A-3. I will take the recommendations of staff. Library hours, size, services offered, and number of weekly visitors will all play a role in determining how to allocate staff to make sure we have sufficient resources to service the community.

*Q-4. What leadership style and specific techniques will you use to create collaboration, transparency, creative thinking and accountability among the city council, department heads and city staff?*

A-4. Playing team sports have taught me how to collaborate with a team, build common goals, and pursue them together. It requires communication, mutual respect, and a focus on the shared goal. "Me" centered leadership always leads to poor distribution of influence, poor communication, and breaks down camaraderie. We have to move forward as a team.

Q-5. *Libraries all over the country are evolving in unique and innovative ways to meet the challenges of life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. What is your personal vision for the library of the future in Long Beach?*

A-5. T. S. Eliot was right: "The very existence of libraries affords the best evidence that we may yet have hope for the future of man." Outstanding libraries also speak to the hope for the future of cities. After all, libraries also house one of our great resources: librarians.

Libraries will be a priority for me as Mayor as they have been throughout my education and career.

## MAYORAL CANDIDATE



## ROBERT GARCIA

*Q-1. On July 1, the City Council is expected to vote whether to accept one of two development teams to design, finance and build a new Civic Center, including a new Main Library. This project has been very controversial due to a lack of transparency, a lack of community input, and the speed at which it has proceeded. If elected Mayor, how will you address this public concern?*

A-1. I have said on numerous occasions that we must not rush this project. There must be transparency and community input. If we decide to build a new civic center, rather than retrofit the buildings we have, the project, if done correctly, will transform our civic center. I believe the library should be at the center of this project. We must build a visionary library as they have done in Cerritos and San Diego.

*Q-2. Community members express frustration at the limited days and hours their libraries are open. Current data show that Long Beach falls well below peer cities in the number of open hours. (Open hours per 100 residents: Oakland- 7.69 hours, Pasadena-16.92, Santa Monica- 10.63, Long Beach- 4.48 California Library Statistics, California State Library 2012) How would you respond to the public's request to have libraries open when they are needed? What creative funding solutions would you consider?*

A-2. We need to dedicate more city resources to our libraries. A strong program for economic growth will bring us the additional resources we need to increase the hours the libraries are open, increase staffing and increase our budget for technology and acquisition.

I also believe the Mayor should be involved in assisting the Long Beach Public Library Foundation and Friends of the Public Library with their fundraising. The Mayor has the opportunity to meet with many organizations and people interested in supporting programs in the City. The Library would be at the top of my list for programs to support.

*Q-3. Credentialed librarians must be information and literacy specialists who can help people access, navigate, and evaluate information in an increasingly complex world. They play a vital role in the economic and social health of our city. If elected, how would you assess and appropriately staff our Main Library and eleven neighborhood branches to meet these current and future needs?*

A-3. Although it is the role of the Mayor and Council to set priorities, it is not the role of the Mayor to micromanage any of the City's departments, including the libraries. We have a great Library Director in Glenda Williams. Without a doubt we are understaffed in our libraries. I believe the Mayor and City Manager should work with Ms Williams to assess the needs of each library. If elected mayor, I would then work to provide as much of those resources as possible as our economy improves. It will not happen all in one year, but we must develop a plan to work toward full staffing.

*Q-4. What leadership style and specific techniques will you use to create collaboration, transparency, creative thinking and accountability among the city council, department heads and city staff?*

A-4. It is my nature to be collaborative. I am proud to have been the unanimous choice of my Council colleagues to be Vice Mayor. As a teacher by profession, I have learned that listening and finding common ground are the key to working together.

I would like to institute, within the provisions of the Brown Act, a strategic planning session for the Council. We have not come together to discuss our vision for the City. Each Councilmember ran because they have programs they would like to see implemented, programs they would like to promote and a desire to make Long Beach a better place. I believe we can do amazing things if we share those visions and work together to implement the ones we can reach consensus on.

I believe in transparency in government and using technology to assist with that transparency. People can now use e-comment to get their thoughts and suggestions to Councilmembers. I want to expand on our use of technology to make the city more efficient and accessible. The library is a critical part of this endeavor. 20% of our residents live in poverty and their access to the internet and email may very well be limited to our libraries and schools. We must make sure we do not forget those who use this valuable resource. In fact we must expand the availability in low-income neighborhoods.

*Q-5. Libraries all over the country are evolving in unique and innovative ways to meet the challenges of life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. What is your personal vision for the library of the future in Long Beach?*

A-5. As I mentioned, if we rebuild the civic center, the Library must be the centerpiece. Books are a critical part of the mission of the library, and always should be, but information, no matter what its form is, must be available. Ebooks, audio, video and access to the internet is as essential. The library should be a place for the exchange of ideas. I would love to see community rooms for salons and other cultural programs. The libraries budget should include funding for programs that expand and enrich our residents' intellectual curiosity. We can truly fulfill the mission of "lifelong learning, intellectual curiosity, and free and equal access to information."

## DISTRICT 1 - CITY COUNCIL RUN-OFF CANDIDATE



### MISI TAGALOA

*Q-1. On July 1, the City Council is expected to vote whether to accept one of two development teams to design, finance and build a new Civic Center, including a new Main Library. This project has been very controversial due to a lack of transparency, a lack of community input, and the speed at which it has proceeded. If you are elected to City Council and inherit this project, how will you address this public concern?*

A-1. To address the lack of transparency and to slow things down, I will make sure that major projects such as the Civic Center are given an extended public comment period and require an extensive cost/benefit analysis before it is proposed. These cost/benefit analysis should include all viable options as well as a do-nothing option. Before we build another monument, perhaps a library can be built in the First District. There are 12 libraries in eight council districts, yet the First District does not have its own branch library. To address the lack of community input, I pledge to keep an open door policy, do weekly outreach projects in the community and to educate the public about upcoming developments.

*Q-2. Community members express frustration at the limited days and hours their libraries are open. Current data show that Long Beach falls well below peer cities in the number of open hours. (Open hours per 100 residents: Oakland- 7.69 hours, Pasadena-16.92, Santa Monica- 10.63, Long Beach- 4.48 California Library Statistics, California State Library 2012) How would you respond to your residents' requests to have libraries open when they are needed? What creative funding solutions would you consider?*

A-2. Extending library hours is a matter of budget priority. Councilmembers must incorporate city libraries as a component of the quality of life in a community. Libraries should also be considered a public safety component of a "whole city," because libraries teach children the love of learning, the importance of information and going to the library in itself is an after school program which keeps kids off the streets. Children can read books and use library technology for discovery, entertainment and study. As far as creative funding solutions, I recently met with a Boy's Scout representative and he was bemoaning the fact that young boys are not coming to Scout and he is afraid that scouting may not play a meaningful role in the lives of the youth in Long Beach. Wouldn't it be great if we can repurpose their resources to support a "Boy's Scout" component at the library?

*Q-3. Credentialed librarians must be information and literacy specialists who can help people access, navigate, and evaluate information in an increasingly complex world. They play a vital role in the economic and social health of our city. If elected, how would you encourage the City Manager to assess and appropriately staff our Main Library and eleven neighborhood branches to meet these current and future needs?*

A-3. As a Councilmember, I would work with the City Manager to make sure that credentialed librarians are seen as information and literacy specialists helping students and teachers become effective users of ideas and information. I would use the position to advocate for the First District's fair share of city tax dollars. Those dollars can then be invested in library services. My personal goal is to open a branch library in the First District. It is only fair that the residents of the First District get a library that they can call their own.

Q-4. *What leadership style and specific techniques will you use to create collaboration, transparency, creative thinking and accountability among the mayor, city council, department heads and city staff?*

A-4. It's called collective action. It is a framework which produces true alignment of purpose across related sectors, for a specific project. On the surface it makes sense that a collective approach is good for addressing interrelated challenges, but it is not a natural model for most stakeholders. In many ways collective action goes against the grain of institutional, cultural, and economic norms. Collective action calls for moving from competing for resources to sharing them; shifting from outputs to outcomes with heightened accountability; shifting from technical approaches to adaptive and evolving ones; and funding a process or new infrastructure rather than individual projects.

A good example is the fact that the First District does not have a library. When presented with this reality, "limited" resources (which implies competition) and historicity were put forth immediately as reasonable explanations for not having a Library in the First District. There is a subtle reluctance among stakeholders to enter already charted waters, to be vulnerable and to look for a map to navigate a desired outcome: a Library in the First District. As collective action brings forth vision and momentum, the notion of "building the plane as you're flying it" becomes a reality. Collective action would create collaborations, requires transparency, embraces creative thinking and increase accountability among all stakeholders.

Q-5. *Libraries all over the country are evolving in unique and innovative ways to meet the challenges of life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. What is your personal vision for the library of the future in Long Beach?*

A-5. The library of the future should not just be a repository of books or a warehouse of information, but it should be a generative sanctuary, a community workshop and a hub filled with tools for the knowledge economy. It should be an integral part of the social correlates which create a "beloved community." I must admit, I had some reservations about the viability of libraries in the new economy, but a recent tour of our main library convinced me that our library system is on the right track in re-inventing itself and repurposing their spaces for the 21<sup>th</sup> Century.



## DISTRICT 1 - CITY COUNCIL RUN-OFF CANDIDATE



### LENA GONZALEZ

*Q-1. On July 1, the City Council is expected to vote whether to accept one of two development teams to design, finance and build a new Civic Center, including a new Main Library. This project has been very controversial due to a lack of transparency, a lack of community input, and the speed at which it has proceeded. If you are elected to City Council and inherit this project, how will you address this public concern?*

A-1. I believe that the community needs to be more involved in this process. There needs to be more input and if that should slow down the process a bit, then so be it. This is one of the largest and most unique projects our city has seen in a while, we must be very thoughtful in how we approach this. I would ensure that there were larger forums where more voices can be heard, addressing more of the key concerns that community/stakeholders have.

*Q-2. Community members express frustration at the limited days and hours their libraries are open. Current data show that Long Beach falls well below peer cities in the number of open hours. (Open hours per 100 residents: Oakland- 7.69 hours, Pasadena-16.92, Santa Monica- 10.63, Long Beach- 4.48 California Library Statistics, California State Library 2012) How would you respond to your residents' requests to have libraries open when they are needed? What creative funding solutions would you consider?*

A-2. It is unfortunate that the 1<sup>st</sup> District does not have a library, however, we can certainly come up with some creative solutions for that. Typically, our Downtown residents utilize the Main Library. It would be great to host a survey for residents to find out when and what they are utilizing the library for, mostly in the First District. If it is beyond hours that are open, perhaps there can be satellite library options at our First District parks that can be funded with council discretionary funds, NPP grants (partnering with our neighborhood groups, etc.) There is deep interest in the First District for more educational tools, but sometimes we need to bring it directly to the community too.

*Q-3. Credentialed librarians must be information and literacy specialists who can help people access, navigate, and evaluate information in an increasingly complex world. They play a vital role in the economic and social health of our city. If elected, how would you encourage the City Manager to assess and appropriately staff our Main Library and eleven neighborhood branches to meet these current and future needs?*

A-3. Technology is moving very fast and I would work with our City Manager to ensure that technology is cutting edge and that our librarians have the technological tools to stay up to date with our city's needs. Every community and library is different as well, so determining the specific needs: staffing, resources at each would also be rather important.

*Q-4. What leadership style and specific techniques will you use to create collaboration, transparency, creative thinking and accountability among the mayor, city council, department heads and city staff?*

A-4. I am a connector and collaborator at heart. I thrive on working together and partnerships, which I believe has made my work as a First District Field Deputy much easier and has created incredible ideas to come to fruition. With very little resources and the loss of RDA, I

was able to work with the Vice Mayor in allocating thousands of dollars towards beautification projects by creating task forces in our major corridors and working with local artists, business owners and leaders to improve our neighborhoods. I will continue that work in this fashion and ensure that all voices are heard!

*Q-5. Libraries all over the country are evolving in unique and innovative ways to meet the challenges of life in the 21st century. What is your personal vision for the library of the future in Long Beach?*

A-5. Technology, community forums, surveys and constant outreach on the amazing things that our libraries and hard working librarians are doing, will be key. As your next City Councilmember, I want to ensure that we are always hearing directly from our residents and library stakeholders as to what works and doesn't work for them then determine how we can creatively fund or make things work for the ideas and/or challenges. In addition, our libraries play a vital role in our local education so keeping close ties with our school board members and trustees opens up the discussion of transparency a little more. We all have a very important role to play in ensuring that our city is progressing forward!

## DISTRICT 5 - CITY COUNCIL RUN-OFF CANDIDATE



### CARL KEMP

*Q-1. On July 1, the City Council is expected to vote whether to accept one of two development teams to design, finance and build a new Civic Center, including a new Main Library. This project has been very controversial due to a lack of transparency, a lack of community input, and the speed at which it has proceeded. If you are elected to City Council and inherit this project, how will you address this public concern?*

A-1. I believe Mayor Foster has unnecessarily expedited this project and has short changed voters electing a new majority to city council. That said, the new council could possibly be saddled with a project it didn't approve. At that point, we will have to decide if we cut our losses or move forward in the best way possible. If we do move forward, my top priorities will be:

- A) Maximize public input by having a minimum of to outreach sessions per council district. We need the communities' voice heard if we want to build the best campus possible to meet their needs.
- B) The design should be iconic and the functionality should be unparalleled. When people come to city hall they should feel like it is theirs, like the can use it for community events, and be proud of it. This includes having a modern library capable of providing the historic magic that many of is enjoyed as kids, but also able to keep up with rapidly moving technology. This also includes having a highly sustainable design that maximizes energy efficiency.
- C) We should keep as many jobs as possible in Long Beach as construction moves forward.

*Q-2. Community members express frustration at the limited days and hours their libraries are open. Current data show that Long Beach falls well below peer cities in the number of open hours. (Open hours per 100 residents: Oakland- 7.69 hours, Pasadena-16.92, Santa Monica- 10.63, Long Beach- 4.48 California Library Statistics, California State Library 2012) How would you respond to your residents' requests to have libraries open when they are needed? What creative funding solutions would you consider?*

A-2. Libraries are essential for civilized society, and every great city has great libraries. With general fund dollars being stretched thin, libraries and parks are always the victims of cuts. I would use my platform as councilman, in concert with my colleagues and the Mayor, to recruit private sources of funding. We should also be working with the Port and other enterprise departments to find creative partnerships that keep our vital community resources functioning.

*Q-3. Credentialed librarians must be information and literacy specialists who can help people access, navigate, and evaluate information in an increasingly complex world. They play a vital role in the economic and social health of our city. If elected, how would you encourage the City Manager to assess and appropriately staff our Main Library and eleven neighborhood branches to meet these current and future needs?*

A-3. If elected I would ask the city manager to assess the current staffing levels at all libraries and the adequacy of the training of the staff there. Ideally, we should have the most capable staff possible. At a minimum, we should provide a baseline of training that allows residents to have the maximum access to information within our libraries.

Q-4. *What leadership style and specific techniques will you use to create collaboration, transparency, creative thinking and accountability among the mayor, city council, department heads and city staff?*

A-4. Building and developing relationships is my specialty. I've been fortunate to learn from some of the best like Bob Maxson, Beverly O'Neill, Doris Topsy-Elvord, Jim Hankla and Jerry Miller. My style is about the "we" not the "me". One goal of mine is to have the new council go through an abbreviated Leadership Long Beach team building session at Campfire USA in the 5th district. Understanding each other on a non policy level will go a long way towards helping collaborate on issues of interest to our constituents.

Q-5. *Libraries all over the country are evolving in unique and innovative ways to meet the challenges of life in the 21st century. What is your personal vision for the library of the future in Long Beach?*

A-5. The Long Beach Library of the future is inclusive and inviting to all. It is modern and nostalgic. I envision flexible and fun technology, programs that draw the public in (puppet shows, reading, music, lectures, etc). Libraries of our future will maximize relationships and leverage private resources in bad budget years AND good budget years. I see naming opportunities, and other corporate funding opportunities as a team effort between the elected officials at all levels and the Library Foundation.

We have a rich and glorious history as a city, and with our libraries, and I am committed to making sure it stays that way for a long time to come.



## STACY MUNGO

*Q-1. On July 1, the City Council is expected to vote whether to accept one of two development teams to design, finance and build a new Civic Center, including a new Main Library. This project has been very controversial due to a lack of transparency, a lack of community input, and the speed at which it has proceeded. If you are elected to City Council and inherit this project, how will you address this public concern?*

A-1. If on July 15<sup>th</sup> I inherit an approved Civic Center project team, I would schedule community forums to provide opportunities for the selected development team to meet with neighbors and present their broad civic center idea to the community for input and feedback. I would encourage my peers to host community forums as well.

*Q-2. Community members express frustration at the limited days and hours their libraries are open. Current data show that Long Beach falls well below peer cities in the number of open hours. (Open hours per 100 residents: Oakland- 7.69 hours, Pasadena-16.92, Santa Monica- 10.63, Long Beach- 4.48 California Library Statistics, California State Library 2012) How would you respond to your residents' requests to have libraries open when they are needed? What creative funding solutions would you consider?*

A-2. As a budget officer I have a solid understanding of Long Beach's budget. Our libraries provide critical services many rely upon. I spoke with a neighbor just yesterday who said she would check her email tomorrow as the libraries were not open yesterday. As a frequent user of our library resources, I am familiar with the programs and tools available to residents and how critical a strong library is to a community. I will work hard to ensure that libraries will be open when they are needed. I am very supportive of partnerships and grant opportunities that could fill the gap that has been left by budget cuts.

*Q-3. Credentialed librarians must be information and literacy specialists who can help people access, navigate, and evaluate information in an increasingly complex world. They play a vital role in the economic and social health of our city. If elected, how would you encourage the City Manager to assess and appropriately staff our Main Library and eleven neighborhood branches to meet these current and future needs?*

A-3. I believe to have a first-class city we must have a first-class staff. Our libraries are a resource for residents to get the information and tools they need from experienced and actively supportive professionals. I have always believed that what gets measured gets done. I would work with stakeholders to design our resource plan and set timelines for implementation.

*Q-4. What leadership style and specific techniques will you use to create collaboration, transparency, creative thinking and accountability among the mayor, city council, department heads and city staff?*

A-4. I have built my reputation on honest, transparent collaboration. For more than a decade I have served our local schools, non-profits, community watch programs and neighborhood association by volunteering and raising money to provide the programming our communities need. I accomplished these tasks by bringing neighbors and stakeholders together, defining our goals and holding one another accountable to reach them. As your councilwoman, I will

bring our community and city staff together to set measurable goals we can accomplish together.

*Q-5. Libraries all over the country are evolving in unique and innovative ways to meet the challenges of life in the 21st century. What is your personal vision for the library of the future in Long Beach?*

A-5. Libraries play a critical role in helping neighbors build lifelong learning experiences, specifically around civic literacy and 21st century skills including technology literacy and global awareness. I see a Long Beach providing these learning experiences both in their physical locations and online. I support the partnership between the library and PADnet – these types of collaborations will provide residents access to resources to build their skills for the jobs of tomorrow.