



Councilmember Abbe Land

A resident of West Hollywood since 1979, Councilmember Abbe Land has played an instrumental role in West Hollywood since its inception, where she was part of the successful campaign to make West Hollywood an independent city in 1984.

Councilmember Land was appointed to the City's first Planning Commission in 1985. In 1986, when a council seat was vacated mid-term, she was elected to the City Council for her first term. She served with distinction as a Mayor Pro Tempore and Mayor until 1997, when she did not seek another term. In 2003, Councilmember Land returned to public service when she was once again elected to the City Council, and was re-elected in 2007 and in 2011. She has previously served five terms as Mayor of West Hollywood (1989-1990, 1994-1995, 2005-2006, 2009-2010 and 2013-2014).

In addition to her service as an elected official, Councilmember Land serves as the Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of The Trevor Project, the nation's leading provider of crisis

intervention and suicide prevention services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth.

Long a champion of affordable housing, Councilmember Land is a dedicated guardian of the City's historic tenants' rights protections. She helped create the West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation and the Affordable Housing Trust Fund to build and rehabilitate affordable housing for seniors, families, and people living with disabilities. She has also led West Hollywood's efforts to end chronic homelessness, in partnership with nonprofit and government partners.

Councilmember Land has been strong and creative proponent of economic development, helping develop the "Shop West Hollywood" campaign to support the City's small businesses. She remains involved in the development of ongoing and innovative economic initiatives to create an even stronger local economy.

An ardent supporter of arts and cultural affairs, Councilmember Land co-sponsored the Art Galleries Task Force to reduce the declining number of art galleries

in the city's renowned West Hollywood Design District, and strongly supported efforts to bring additional arts and cultural activities to the City.

For more than two decades, Councilmember Land has influenced public policy at the local, county, state, and federal level on a variety of issues ranging from gun and ammunition control to choice and the environment.

In 1996, she led West Hollywood to be the first California city to ban the sale of Saturday Night Specials handguns that led 31 other cities to pass similar legislation. The State of California eventually banned these junk guns. In 2007, she co-authored ordinances requiring the mandatory reporting of the theft or loss of firearms, and an ordinance which requires firearm dealers to post warning signs where guns and ammunition are sold.

Councilmember Land has taken the lead in guiding the City of West Hollywood's policies on the environment and sustainability. She has initiated several of the City's landmark environmental policies to cut carbon emissions and plays a leadership role in creating local solutions to global warming. She initiated the City's Green Building Ordinance, the country's first mandatory program for commercial and residential buildings. She also led the effort to ensure that the new West Hollywood Library was certified a LEED Silver building.

Her concern for the environment led to the development of the drought-tolerant demonstration gardens on two central City corners (Crescent Heights and Santa Monica Boulevards). Additionally, Councilmember

Land co-sponsored a Heritage Tree Preservation Program to protect some old growth trees and increase the City's urban canopy. She also co-sponsored a Mixed-Use Task Force to examine mixed-use development for a more pedestrian-friendly, sustainable urban environment, and spearheaded the creation of the City's Environmental Task Force, as well as its Bicycle Task Force.

Widely known for her leadership on women's issues, LGBT rights, and civil liberties, Councilmember Land was instrumental in creating the City's Women's and Disability Advisory Boards. She was also active in the development of the City's pioneering domestic violence prevention program for same-sex couples. She has also played a leadership role in providing support to the Russian immigrant community by ensuring culturally competent City services and Russian-language materials and programming.

The City of West Hollywood has a long history of supporting women's reproductive rights, thanks in part to Councilmember Land's efforts. In 1993 the City Council voted to become the first official pro-choice city in the nation, and she led a West Hollywood delegation to the 2004 March for Women's Lives in Washington DC. Councilmember Land was instrumental in securing a local public middle school option for West Hollywood area students at Laurel School, which began in 2010. She co-sponsored the model Families and Communities Task Force and 2009's West Hollywood Family Summit, both of which brought together public and private schools, children and family

advocates and city resources to address the needs of the children of West Hollywood. She continues to advocate for quality and accessible programs, services and educational opportunities for children, youth and families in West Hollywood and beyond.

A recognized leader in healthcare management, Councilmember Land is one of the state's leading advocates for single-payer, universal health coverage, and initiated the City's "Well West Hollywood" program to encourage increased physical activity in order to help reduce the rates of disease and death from chronic illness.

She serves as an appointed member of the L.A. County Department of Health Services' Women's Health Policy Council, and on the board of the AIDS Community Action Foundation. In addition, Councilmember Land sits on the advisory board of Women Against Gun Violence and the board of directors for the Planned Parenthood-LA Advocacy Project, where she serves as secretary.

Previously, Councilmember Land has served on the Board of Directors of the National League of Cities and the California League of Cities, the Southern California Association of Governments, Westside Council of Governments, California Women Lead, and she is a former President of Women in Municipal Government. Prior to working at The Trevor Project, she served as the Co-Chief Executive Officer of The Saban Free Clinic (formerly known as the Los Angeles Free Clinic). Prior to that, she was the Director of Development for the Feminist Majority Foundation.

Awards and Recognitions

Councilmember Land has been honored by numerous community organizations for her tireless work. Among the highlights, she was honored by the Stonewall Democratic Club with a Stoney Award in 2013. In 2010 she was named the Elected Official of the Year by California Women Lead, and also received the National Women's Political Caucus "Courage to Run" award and the TransUnity SIREN Award for Excellence.

She was honored by the National Women's History Month Project as one of the "Women Taking the Lead to Save Our Planet" in 2009. That year, she was also the recipient of the National Women's Political Caucus "Women of Achievement" award, as well as the "Remarkable Woman" award from the National Council of Jewish Women's Los Angeles chapter. She was featured in the 2008 inaugural National Women's Political Caucus/LA Westside chapter's Women Leaders Calendar.

She was one of the recipients of Big Thinking Women Unlimited's "50@50+ LA Award" in 2007, and that year she was also recognized for her leadership on gun control policies with the "Courageous Leader Award" from Women Against Gun Violence. The Los Angeles Business Journal named Councilmember Land as one of Los Angeles' "Women Making a Difference" in 2007, the same year she also received the President's Award from the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce.

In 2006, Councilmember Land received the Sheldon W. Andelson Award from Alternative Living for the Aging for her commitment to affordable housing for

seniors. She was named the 2005 “Woman of the Year” by the Los Angeles County Commission for Women.

She was honored with the 1999 George Moscone Award from Christopher Street West/LA Pride, and has also been the recipient of a Rainbow Key Award from the City of West Hollywood’s Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board. In 1998, Councilmember Land received the Women of Distinction Award from the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce and was honored with the Women in Leadership Award from the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce and the City’s Women’s Advisory Board.

You can contact Councilmember Abbe Land at West Hollywood City Hall through her interim deputy, John Erickson, at (323) 848-6460 or by email at aland@weho.org.