



At-Large Representative Candidate

Benjamin Schultz

What is your name, the seat you are running for, and one or two lines about you personally?

My name is Benjamin Schultz and I am running for At-Large Representative. I moved into the Crestview last year and am excited to bring my experience as a field organizer in Oakland, CA to our local community. I realize that this community is undergoing many changes with an influx of new residents, growing businesses and a complex relationship with our greater Los Angeles neighbors.

What is your stake in SORO?

My fiancé and I purchased our first home in Crestview after long searching for a diverse, walk-able, community-focused and centrally located neighborhood. I am a frequent customer at a number of local small businesses, and work in nearby Culver City.

What is your favorite thing about this community?

As I touched on before, I love feeling like a part of a tight-knit community tucked into the larger fabric of Los Angeles. Our neighborhood is diverse and welcoming; a place where a newcomer like myself quickly developed friendships with neighbors and strangers alike.

Five years from now, how might SORO look different, and how would you make that happen?

As many of you know, our community, like the rest of LA, is changing. I look forward to being a voice for our community as we continue to pay homage to the SORO community's past and evolve with the changes around us. If I am elected, I hope to preserve the historic feel of our neighborhood by working with City Hall to regulate the unfettered construction of new homes. Furthermore, will strive to improve and upgrade the numerous community spaces, such as parks and community centers, to ensure the next generation of SORO youth have a beautiful and safe space to grow up. Finally, I will work with the community to attract new small businesses and encourage SORO stakeholders to spend within their community, for the community.

What are your strongest skills and leadership qualities, and how will they be an asset to your work as a board member?

My time spent as a field organizer in Oakland, CA has left me uniquely qualified to engage with our community and voice their needs. This includes organizing actionable neighborhood campaigns for the issues that are most important, and marshalling the power of the people to drive change. I have long been an outspoken, meticulous, and driven person in my professional life, and these skills easily translate to working within the city bureaucracy.

What is one thing most people don't know about you?

I would say the one thing people don't know about me is that for several years, I worked at an international peace camp that brought together Israeli and Palestinian teenagers to have conflict resolution dialogue. It was an amazing experience that taught me how to be patient, and how to listen and accept a different viewpoint than my own.

Register to vote online (until May 31) at soronc.org/vote

Vote in person at the SoRo Festival, Sunday June 5, 11:30-3pm.