



Life in Brief

Born: February 4, 1971

Hometown: Los Angeles, CA

Current Residence: Los Angeles, CA

Religion: Jewish

Education

- PhD, Ethnicity and Nationalism, London School of Economics
- MA, International Affairs, Columbia University, 1995
- BA, Political Science and Urban Planning, Columbia University, 1992

Family

- Wife, Amy
- Daughter, Maya

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

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

Electoral Overview

- Won 2013 runoff election by margin of 8.4% and was re-elected in 2017 with 81.4% of the vote

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

Policy Positions 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*

- 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

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

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

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

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
- 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

COVID-19 Update

As mayor of the second most populous US city, emphasizes the severity of the outbreak and takes hardline stance to social distancing; focuses on expanding testing and connecting impacted individuals with resources

Actions: *Mandates social distancing and face coverings; amplifies resources for small businesses and the city's senior and homeless populations*

- Issued Safer at Home emergency order stopping non-essential activities outside of residences in response to COVID-19; announced that water and power would be shut off for nonessential businesses that don't close
- Recommended residents wear non-medical face covering in public; issued order requiring essential workers to wear masks
- Announced economic relief package for small businesses, which provides no-fee microloans to impacted companies
- Set up L.A. CARES Corps, a partnership between the city and the county to provide small businesses with assistance in applying for federal loans
- Launched partnership to organize the city's fashion and garment industry to make protective gear and other medical supplies for frontline workers
- Ordered halt to rent increases on rent stabilized units and issued moratorium on water and power shutoffs and evictions
- Expanded city's free testing program
- Launched initiative to support hospital workers through stipends, childcare referrals, and free care at city recreation centers
- Launched Emergency Senior Meals Response Initiative to provide low-income seniors with meals
- Established Medical Relief Center in the South Hall of LA Convention Center
- Deployed street medical teams to help fight COVID-19 among Angelenos experiencing homelessness, including with rapid-results field tests

COVID-19 Update (Continued)**Actions (Continued)**

- Announced furlough of thousands of city employees, in order to continue the operation of critical services, such as police and fire protection

Messaging: *Pragmatic view of public health and economic impact; calls for increased federal assistance*

- Has characterized the outbreak of the virus in LA as the city being under attack; warns that the economic damage will be worse than the 2008 financial crisis
- Encouraged residents to report others who do not adhere to social distancing orders
- Highlights uninterrupted food supply and continuity of services including trash pickup
- In an op-ed for CNN, called for the creation of a CARES Corps by the federal government; urges Washington to pass a national infrastructure bill
- Has drawn attention to data that indicates that the city's Latino community is disproportionately affected

Public Reception: *Positive portrayal in media for quick and thorough response*

- Has emerged as prominent figure in the battle against COVID-19 and has been praised by news outlets for his early hardline stance and successful coordination with Governor Newsom