



Post-Conflagration L.A.

June 2, 2026

Though Angelinos started voting early in the mayoral race, today is L.A.'s election day. It's a race watched with varying degrees of enthusiasm and alarm across the country. Polls show no candidate close to a majority, which means the top two will likely face-off in a November runoff.*

Spencer Pratt, a former reality TV star, has run a study-worthy campaign and could finish close to the top. He's a former Palisades homeowner. He now lives in a trailer on his property, upon which he cannot yet re-build after the fires that swept through the area in January 2025. And he's built his campaign around the government's absolute failure on every level to assist — or just get out of the way — of a recovery.

His [video](#) ads — and [satirical contributions](#) by fans — have been magnificent.

[Erstwhile Castro-loving](#) incumbent Mayor Karen Bass —

who was [celebrating in Ghana](#) during the conflagration, basking in the glory of the continent's first woman president — is in no small part responsible for the city's worse-than-inept response to the fires. And candidate Pratt isn't letting anyone forget it.

A month ago, Mayor Bass blasted Pratt for “exploiting the grief of people in the Palisades,” calling it “reprehensible.” A weird twist of the reality of Pratt's rightly indignant stance. What she did and didn't do during and after the Palisade Fires are better described as “reprehensible.”

The other major candidate is Councilwoman Nithya Raman, an outspoken homeless advocate who didn't like it at all that homeless started camping outside her home.

Yesterday, the race was [described](#) as “neck-and-neck” by KTLA-5, with Hollywood actors Jane Fonda and Samuel L. Jackson cited as “supporting Mayor Bass, while Chelsea Handler and Mindy Kaling are backing Councilwoman Raman.”

In most other cities these endorsements would likely fizzle.

But in L.A. . . . ?

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.

* The latest UC Berkeley/LA Times poll shows Mayor Bass with 26%, Councilwoman Raman with 25% and Pratt with 22% support. Los Angeles does not use the same Top Two system that California uses statewide, whereby the top two vote getters move on to the General Election. In L.A., if a candidate garners a majority, the race is over.