

Seth Morrison JVP Candidate Bios: 2018

Short Bio:

Seth Morrison is currently serving as Treasurer of JVP and he is the Co-Founder and Coordinator of the Las Vegas Chapter. Seth is active on the Legislative Leadership Team guiding JVP's Congressional outreach and he brings experience in consumer marketing, fundraising and operations to the JVP board.

Bio:

Seth Morrison has held leadership posts in many local, regional and national non-profit and political organizations. He is completing his first term on the JVP national board where he was elected as Treasurer and serves on the Congressional Outreach committee. He co-founded the Las Vegas JVP Chapter and serves as its coordinator. This almost 2-year-old chapter has over 140 local supporters. Organizations outside JVP have included HIV/AIDS and LGBTQ advocacy, environment, health care and local progressive politics.

Morrison grew up in a Jewish home on Long Island and was active in Zionist organizations before exposure to Palestinians and their narrative caused him to leave the established Jewish community to focus on Palestinian human rights and ending the occupation. He chaired the Washington DC Metro Chapter of J Street in 2013 before realizing that only BDS can end Israel's addiction to the occupation. His op-eds supporting BDS, Palestinian and Bedouin rights have been published in The Forward, The Jerusalem Post and +972 Magazine.

Professionally he is retired from a career in consumer marketing and product development for the cable television industry. Morrison served as the SVP & General Manager of CTAM, a cable industry trade association. As a marketer, he has been responsible for major local and national marketing, PR and social media campaigns for the cable television industry and non-profit organizations.

Questionnaire

What is your name?

Seth Morrison

What is your history of working within JVP and other organizations in the movement?

I joined JVP in 2013 after many years of leadership roles in Liberal Zionist and co-existence organizations because I realized that only BDS would bring real justice to Palestinians and lead to an Israel/Palestine that we could all be proud of. I joined the Washington DC Chapter at the same time and in 2015 was asked to serve on the Steering Committee. Later that year I was also elected to the JVP National Board and in 2016 when I moved to Las Vegas I co-founded and serve as Coordinator of the Las Vegas Chapter.

Why do you think you would make a good nominee for board elections this year?

It has been an honor to serve on your board of directors and I hope that you will re-elect me for a second and final term (JVP board members are term limited) so that I can continue my work for Palestinian rights and an end to the occupation. Two years ago, I was elected as Treasurer and I have worked closely with staff to fine tune JVP's financial reporting, support the transition to our dynamic new member database and begin the implementation of multi-year budgeting for improved long-term planning.

Applying my expertise as a consumer marketer I have worked closely with the Fundraising Team to improve messaging and I organized JVP's first comprehensive member survey which is being used by the board and staff to guide the basebuilding plan to significantly increase JVP's size and influence. My op-eds and Letters to the Editor on Palestinian rights have been published in the Washington Post, The Forward and +972.

I also serve on the Legislative Leadership Team which has significantly increased JVP's credibility in Congress resulting in HR 4391, the first pro-Palestinian rights bill to be introduced in Congress and over 24 Members of Congress speaking out against Israel's violent response to unarmed protestors in Gaza.

In addition to my board work, since joining JVP I have been active in and an advocate for our chapters. I served on the DC Metro Steering Committee and when I moved to Las Vegas in 2016 I co-founded and serve as coordinator for the Las Vegas Chapter which now has over 140 supporters.

These are some of the qualities we are looking for in potential nominees. Please put a star(*) next to those qualities you think you would be able to bring to JVP's Board :

(these are broad categories we are using to match potential nominees with our understanding of JVP's needs right now. We don't expect every prospective nominee to possess every quality):

- Leadership and governance experience in large and/or fast growing nonprofits, particularly political and/or membership organizations. *
- Strategic leadership in grassroots activism, policy advocacy, and/or cultural work related to justice in Palestine and Israel. *
- A commitment to ending oppression in all forms. *
- Leadership experience at the local, regional and/or ideally national levels of JVP or other organizations in our movement. *
- Fundraising skills *
- Knowledge of one or more of JVP's strategic focus areas: Campus Organizing; Interfaith; Legislative Advocacy; Arts and Culture; Jewish Community Transformation; Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Campaigns *
- Intersectional political analysis and ability to build and sustain alliances between JVP and other social justice organizations and sectors. *
- Understands the experiences of Jews who are marginalized within mainstream Jewish communities and has a commitment to challenging Ashkenazi centrism *
- Excellent interpersonal skills in collaborative/work with a diverse group of interested and influential individuals; volunteers, allies and staff. *
- Other: My successful career in consumer marketing and my 13 years as a senior marketing executive in a non-profit can contribute to JVP's marketing, communications and operational management. *

What are other skills, networks, perspectives, or experiences you think you would bring as a board member?

Since junior high school I was always the person volunteering to serve others and fix what is broken in our society. As an adult I continued to volunteer for local organizations and eventually assumed regional and national leadership positions where I worked for ending the occupation, building a progressive Jewish community, fixing our environment, fighting AIDS/HIV and supporting LGBTQ candidates and allies for public office.

Professionally I worked in consumer marketing enabling me to bring professional marketing skills to the non-profits that I support. For 13 years I was a senior marketing executive for a non-profit, so I am well versed in non-profit management and development. If I am given the honor of re-election I will continue to bring this diverse set of skills to JVP's board.

Of any of these qualities, are there particular areas where you think you would especially shine?

Service on any organization's board, local, regional or national is both an art and a science. There are legal requirements that must be followed, and non-profit organizational best practices developed over many years by non-profit leaders that can be applied; but board members also need excellent interpersonal skills, experience seeking out and sharing ideas and most important a willingness to learn from others and compromise. I respectfully submit that I have demonstrated these skills in working with my amazing and dedicated board colleagues, JVP's phenomenal staff and grassroots leaders and hope you will give me the chance to continue my work with the board, staff and members of JVP.

Anything else you'd like to tell us about yourself?

For almost three years I have had the tremendous privilege of serving on your board of directors, as a chapter leader and as a major donor fundraiser. With your support I will continue to do everything I can to bring true justice to Palestinians and to change American public opinion so that our nation's blind support for Israeli apartheid is ended.