

***Napa-Solano Central Labor Council
Napa-Solano Building and Construction Trades Council
Candidate Questionnaire
City Council (Solano County)***

Candidate's Name: Katy Miessner
Area/District: Vallejo City Council Second Term
Mailing Address: Miessner for Council 2018, PO 6111 Vallejo CA 94591
Contact #: 707-642-2100 / 415-412-2874
E-Mail: kathyforcouncil@gmail.com
Party Affiliation: Non-Partisan race / Registered Democrat since 1977
Committee ID #: Miessner for City Council 2018, FPPC ID #1402675
Campaign Manager: Myself
Contact #: same as above
Endorsement Checks - Make Payable To: Miessner for Council 2018
Treasurer's Name: Myself/Allen Wildermuth, Assistant Treasurer
Contact #: same as above
Union Affiliation (Present/Prior): SEIU (was Distributive Workers of America, District 65) Boston University
Occupation: Grant Program Specialist
Employer: USDA Forest Service
Please list your social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, etc) and websites that belong to you or are under your control: www.KatyForCouncil.com; www.facebook.com/KatyForCouncil

If an Incumbent, please provide the month/year your original term of office began: January, 2014

Questions

1. Why are you running for office and what have you done to deserve Labor's endorsement?

Five years ago, I stated that Vallejo has great promise and I wanted to work as a Councilmember to see that promise realized. Almost five years later, I am so excited that because of the hard work of Council and City Staff, we are seeing the fruits of these efforts. Vallejo has great positive "buzz" and we have and continue to attract the private capital we need to rebuild our economic base, with partners that share my vision of 21st Century jobs: Innovative, healthy for the community and skilled jobs with good pay and benefits for our residents

I want to serve the City of Vallejo on Council as a continuation of this work. I've lived here for eighteen years and have come to know wonderful people all over Vallejo and call this town my forever home. I will continue to research issues, practice due diligence when asked to approve a city resolution, and continue to work with council and the City Manager to make the best decisions for the greatest good of Vallejo.

2. Have you or your campaign manager ever worked on other campaigns?

Bob Sampayan for Mayor, Marti Brown for City Council, Stephanie Gomes for City Council, Bob Sampayan for City Council, Robert McConnell for City Council, Gary Cloutier for Mayor, Yes on Measure A, State and National (phone-calling and postcard writing): Hillary Clinton for President, Al Gore for President, John Kerry for President, No on Proposition 8; and various

postcard writing efforts for recent Democratic campaigns around the country through Vallejo-Benicia Indivisible.

3. What is your background in public service?

I have served on Vallejo City Council for almost five years. I have almost eight years as a Federal contractor/employee and 20 years' experience in non-profit financial management (similar to public service). I have been actively involved in City of Vallejo and Solano County issues through various groups (Sierra Club/Solano County, Mira Theatre Guild, Solano County Fairgrounds Board Director, Vallejo Waterfront Coalition, Downtown Advisory Group, Vallejo Heights Neighborhood Association, Vallejo Artists Guild) since moving here in 2000. I have also worked on HIV/AIDS Prevention, volunteered to assist people dying of AIDS, ran two marathons to raise money for HIV/AIDS Services, volunteered for the AIDS Life/Cycle, and raising funds for NARAL (National Abortion Rights Action League).

4. Why are you seeking an endorsement from the Napa-Solano Central Labor Council?

I am a union supporter and would be honored to have the endorsement of the Central Labor Council.

5. How long have you been in the community? Describe your community ties.

I have lived in Vallejo since 2000. I have lived in many cities/states and Vallejo is by far my favorite place. I have been here for eighteen years; prior to this I never lived on one place more than six years, due to my father's career and my own. Vallejo is my & my husband's forever home.

I currently serve on the Vallejo City Council as Vice Mayor, am a trustee of Vallejo Flood and Wastewater, am Vice-President of the Housing Authority. I am or have been a member of: Director, Solano County Fairgrounds; Founding member of Better Vallejo; Vice President and newsletter designer, Vallejo Heights Neighborhood Association; Mira Theatre Guild (treasurer); Sierra Club/Solano Group Executive Committee Political Chair; Vallejo Downtown Advisory Group; Vallejo Waterfront Coalition; Vallejoans for Community Planned Renewal; Vallejo Artists Guild (treasurer); numerous articles regarding city finances for Vallejo Independent Bulletin.

6. List your key supporters, including campaign volunteers and hired consultants.

I don't have hired consultants.

Endorsement of Elected and Appointed Officials: Congressman Mike Thompson, United States House of Representatives, California, Fifth District; Monica Brown, Supervisor, Solano County District Two; Bob Sampayan, Mayor, City of Vallejo; Robert McConnell, Esq., Councilmember, City of Vallejo; Stephanie Gomes, former Vice Mayor, City of Vallejo. Marti Brown, former Councilmember, City of Vallejo; Tony Pearsall, former Councilmember, City of Vallejo; Paula Bauer, Esq.; Solano County Planning Commissioner; Brendan Riley, Commissioner, Vallejo Architectural Heritage and Landmarks Commission; Jimmy Genn, Commissioner, Vallejo Architectural Heritage and Landmarks Commission, Pearl Jones Tranter, Commissioner, Vallejo , Architectural Heritage and Landmarks Commission; Genea Brice, City of Poet Laureate (Inaugural); Vice-Chair, City of Vallejo Commission on Culture and the Arts; Paul Boneberg;

Chair, City of Vallejo Commission on Culture and the Arts; Bob Lockhart, Member, City of Vallejo Marina Advisory Committee; Wanda Madeiros, Vice Chair City of Vallejo Code Enforcement Appeals Board; Karen Sims, Vice Chair, City of Vallejo Participatory Budgeting Steering Committee; Claire Siverson; Commissioner, Vallejo Human Relations Commission; Richard Burnett, Member, Metropolitan Transportation Commission Policy Advisory Council; Miguel Castillo, Secretary, Gente Puente Committee, Common Ground; Wayne Goodman, Grand Juror, Solano County Civil Grand Jury; Stephen Hallett, Board District Two Representative for Supervisor Monica Brown; Marianne Kearney-Brown, Vice President, Vallejo City Unified School District; Ruscal Cayangyang; Trustee, Vallejo City Unified School District; Wendell Quigley, Director, Greater Vallejo Recreational District Board; Ron Bowen, Director, Greater Vallejo Recreational District Board; Dennis Albright; former Director, Greater Vallejo Recreational District Board; Karol Heppe, former Director, Greater Vallejo Recreational District Board; Liat Meitzenheimer, former Director, Greater Vallejo Recreational District Board, Isabel Reyes, President, The Eric Reyes Foundation; Mina Diaz, Founder & Director, Diaz and Loera Centro Latino; Eloise Escano Scott, Director, Pista Sa Nayon 2018 Festival Directors; Ann Jones Smith, Boardmember, Vallejo Lamplighter; Thomas Bilbo; Chairman, Solano Pride Board of Directors; Jane Bogner, Treasurer & Recycling/Volunteer Coordinator, Sierra Club Solano Group

7. Have you received endorsements or contributions from any Labor PACs for this race or any prior races? Where do you expect to receive your main financial commitments?

I have not received any PAC donations for this, or my prior two campaigns for City Council or Solano County Supervisor.

My financial commitments are from individuals.

8. What is your campaign budget and how much have you raised so far?

\$40 - \$50K; I've raised approximately \$40,000 to date, not including in-kind.

9. What do you see as the major issues in this campaign? What distinguishes your candidacy and campaign from the other candidates for this office?

We are a city, not a suburb, and we can't continue to depend on sales and parcel taxes to provide core services; more Police and Firefighters and desperately needed infrastructure improvements. Even with Measure V becoming a permanent sales tax, we still see deficits in future budget projections.

We must continue our success in bringing 21st Century businesses Vallejo; businesses which are compatible with our existing strengths in light industry and manufacturing, tourism, health services, and higher education. Businesses with progressive labor practices who recruit, train and provide skilled jobs with good pay and benefits to local workers such as Factory_OS, Savage & Cooke, Film Mare Island, Mare Island Dry Docks, Alstom, Mare Island Brewing, Napa Smith Brewery, Medical and Recreational Cannabis retail establishments. We need good-paying and skilled jobs for our citizens.

These local jobs will also improve our fiscal health; the “local multiplier effect” is the additional economic benefit added to our local economy when workers spend their paychecks here in town.

I am an independent candidate who has the support of the people of Vallejo and it is their best interests that I will represent.

Again, even with Measure V becoming a permanent sales tax, we still see deficits in future budget projections. Money is scarce and poor financial management erodes our ability to provide services. I will use my knowledge of the issues and my financial expertise to make sure money is spent where it is most needed and most effective.

Vallejo has recovered from bankruptcy; city finances are the healthiest they’ve been in decades. But the flipside is that we see rising housing costs that are out-of-reach for many, even while being the lowest in the Bay Area. Homelessness and squatter issues continue.

10. What is your position on the use of tax dollars by public agencies or publicly funded agencies to hire consultants to prevent workers from forming unions?

I oppose such actions.

11. If you would vote to privatize public services in an effort to provide cost savings to the city, would you require contractors to provide pay and benefits comparable to what the city would otherwise provide?

I believe that regular, ongoing public services are best provided by public employees, for continuity and effectiveness.

12. Would you support a preference for local contractors bidding on local work and/or mandating that a certain percentage of the workforce be hired locally?

Yes, Vallejoans need jobs in Vallejo.

13. Would you honor an AFL-CIO Boycott? X Yes ___No ___Maybe
Please describe the circumstances when you would intentionally cross a picket line.

I wouldn’t cross a picket line.

14. What new revenue sources would you support to fund existing or new city services?

During my first term, I supported placing Measure V on the ballot and while not a City tax, I support the School bond. The infrastructure won’t fix it self and with neglect, becomes exponentially worse and more expensive to fix. We have to look at funding to fix our aging waterpipes.

I support the City Manager’s current efforts to eliminate roadblocks to business expansion within the City’s Permitting processes and the Planning and Building departments. I will continue to support businesses that provide vocational training and job readiness for the under-employed,

such as Factory OS, and to send a clear message to developers or those wishing to bring business to the City that we welcome new, 21st century businesses that are compatible with our existing strengths in light industry and manufacturing, tourism, health services, and higher education.

15. Do you support the creation of new pension, health care or retiree health care plans that would provide fewer benefits for newly hired employees? What is your understanding of how cost savings are realized under these two-tiered plans?

I dislike two-tiered systems as they create a "second class" of younger/newer workers and create an "us and them." Cost savings would be realized by lowered costs for a segment of employees.

16. What is your opinion of the benefits of big box/large chain retail stores verses local businesses or locally owned chain stores?

Locally owned businesses tend to hire more people, and locally owned businesses recycle profits back into the community. Most big-box stores hire part-time workers with no benefits. I believe Costco is one exception to this, there may be others.

17. Would you vote to require a full economic/community impact report to measure such areas as pollution, crime, traffic and impact on existing businesses?

Yes, I think it's important to have the facts in front of us to make an informed decision. We already have challenging intersections in Vallejo, and without understanding traffic impacts that may affect state roads and freeways, we could be on the hook for improvements, which is an unintended subsidy to a Supercenter that may be approved.

The public deserves to know what the impacts will be with Supercenters—or any new, large proposed development, such as the Nimitz Group on North Mare Island: more traffic impacts, potential harm to wildlife, pollution to nearby creeks, potential increases to crime. The public needs to know that policy makers are making an informed decision because in the end, it is their tax dollars, and we must be able to support our decisions with facts. We need to know whether potential negative impacts created by a proposed development don't exceed sales/property tax and jobs (living wages and number of).

18. As an elected official, would you be accessible to workers or their union representatives on work related matters or any issues that may come before you to vote on? If so, please name labor issues where you have worked with labor unions in the past to come to a consensus.

I am very happy that city employees' representative and unions, and council/city manager were able to come to a consensus with recent contract approvals. I understood that it had been some time since raises were implemented after bankruptcy, reviewed and considered the city's finances, and weighed all perspectives. Based on these factors, the decision I made was for the greatest good to the Vallejo community, and supported employees. Lastly, good faith bargaining, confidentiality, and respect to all parties involved is very important to me and I upheld these

values during the negotiations.

Labor issues I have worked or am working on:

I investigated the use of Eminent Domain to seize underwater mortgages from banks, a program that would have people in their homes. This program is getting a lot of support from Unions in Richmond, CA, and it's my understanding that SEIU and other Union (non-PERS) pension funds would have been used to fund this program. I held an information session and introduced the Richmond advisors to the Vallejo community, Mayor Davis and two city council members. Unfortunately, there was not enough council support for this issue, and the federal budgets in 2012 and 2013 included language to disallow Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac backed mortgages, which put an end to the possibility of this program.

I worked with UFGW on the Vallejo Walmart Supercenter.

19. Would you help to appoint representatives of organized labor to boards and commissions to ensure working people have a full voice in public policy decisions?

I would consider Union representatives equally when choosing appointments. I would review resumes/applications for those best suited, and approach the appointment process in a fair and effective manner.

20. If government funds were used in constructing a facility in your jurisdiction, as an elected official, would you request and encourage the use of Project Labor Agreements for construction and operation?

I support hiring qualified people at a prevailing or living wage through a fair hiring process, and PLAs are a tool for doing this. The City of Vallejo has been using PLAs for many years and their use has been effective. I was so pleased that Factory_OS and the Carpenters Union worked together to establish their shop, with good wages and benefit packages.

21. Would you support the creation of a Labor Compliance Program for jobs with State and Federal money to insure compliance with state labor laws regarding public works construction?

I support hiring qualified people at a prevailing or living wage through a fair hiring process, and if a Labor Compliance Program results in this outcome I would support its creation.

22. Would you support increases to the minimum wage to keep up with inflation and help workers provide for their families?

Yes.

23. Do you support a living wage requirement for contractors accepting jobs funded by public monies from cities? (A living wage is defined as a wage above the level to qualify for public assistance plus affordable health benefits.)

Yes.

24. Do you support binding arbitration for public employees for disputes during contract negotiations? What about grievances and disciplinary action?

I do not support Binding Interest Arbitration in contract negotiations. Spending decisions must be done by the council and in the light of day. Spending decisions on the largest part of our budgets should be made by city representatives, not by allowing the decision of a third-party arbitrator to prevail. Binding Arbitration allows a third-part arbitrator—who does not have to be a Vallejo resident and who is not answerable to Vallejo citizens and the City Council—to make spending decisions on behalf of the City. The arbitrator is only allowed to choose one side’s last final offer and cannot mediate.

I support a fair process in grievances and disciplinary actions, and would ask labor reps for their advice on whether they believe binding arbitration can ensure a fair process that employees can trust. And, I want the City Manager to create policies and processes that can resolve disputes before they turn into grievances. Employee/Employer disputes that lead to grievances and disciplinary actions are a breakdown in these processes.

Do you support the Right to Strike for:

- a. Private employees: ___ Yes ___ No (depends)
- b. Public employees: ___ Yes ___ No (depends)

26. If financial cutbacks become necessary in your term of office, where would you make them? (Please list by priority for cutback.)

We have worked hard to rebuild city reserves to a prudent 15%. Prior to bankruptcy, the city’s reserves were reduced to an untenable one percent. The City now has the ability to withstand financial downturns by using one-time reserves for the short-term.

If the reserves are not enough, I would choose to:

- *cut non-essential, non-staff budget line items;*
- *ask for voluntary early retirements;*
- *carefully examine program deliveries and outcomes, and—with input from staff familiar with the programs— cut those that would have the least impact on the community;*
- *consider a hiring freeze (non-essential positions); and*
- *consider a wage freeze (for all, including management).*

27. Would you support a policy that requires contractors and sub-contractors, who wish to bid on public works construction projects, to pre-qualify, based on technical and financial fitness, safety, consistent adherence to state and federal laws, and the utilization of

apprentices enrolled only at state-approved apprenticeship programs (which typically graduate apprentices)?

I will support pre-qualification if the process assists in assuring that bids come from contractors and subs who meet minimum qualifications needed for a project, and contractors must meet certain standards to assure quality and safety.

I am in favor of apprentice programs and state-approved apprentice programs that provide the assurance that graduates have the skills to needed for projects to meet certain standards.

28. Would you be in favor of bringing forward a resolution to implement such a pre-qualifying policy within the first 6 months of your term?

Yes, depending on the language of the policy and other competing priorities.

29. Would you support new legislation to strengthen government workers' union rights and protections post the Supreme Court's Janus decision?

Yes.

30. Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

Over the years, various factions in Vallejo have opposed each other, and the more time spent on opposition, the less time there is for creating solutions. I am proud of the work that I have done with the council during the last five years; we have shown leadership and the desire work together for the betterment of Vallejo. Our new City Manager recognized this and was excited to apply for and be hired. While we don't agree on everything, we are able to put our differences aside and see the bigger picture, and this is creating stability and attracting great opportunities. We have completed an award-winning General Plan, a plan that tells folks interested in our city, what our unified vision is, and what to expect, creating even more stability. We have the opportunity to reinvent our city and we are doing this together.

Thank you for the opportunity to interview with the Napa-Solano Labor Council.

Signature

Date