

SEIU LOCAL 1021 VALLEJO CITY COUNCIL

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

CAMPAIGN PROFILE

Candidate Name: Katy Miessner

Office/District: City Councilmember, City of Vallejo

Campaign Address: PO Box 6111, Vallejo, CA 94592

Campaign Phone: 707-642-2100

Campaign Fax: _____

Email address: katy@katyforcouncil.com

FPPC#: #1402675

Occupation: Cooperative Fire Grants Program Specialist

Employer: USDA Forest Service

Proposed Ballot Designation: Vice-Mayor / Financial Analyst

Elected offices currently/ previously held:

Vallejo City Council, elected 2013

Other campaigns for elected office: Solano County Supervisor, 2012

Appointed offices currently/ previously held:

Solano County Fair Association Board (Appointed)

Vallejo Participatory Budgeting Steering Committee (Appointed)

Vallejo Heights Neighborhood Association (Elected)

Vallejo Free of Graffiti Anti-Graffiti Team (Volunteer)

Mira Theatre Guild Treasurer (Elected)

Better Vallejo Steering Committee Member (Volunteer)

Vallejo Independent Bulletin Contributor (Volunteer)

Sierra Club/Solano Group Executive Committee (Elected)

Vallejo Downtown Advisory Group Member (Appointed)

Vallejo Artists' Guild Treasurer (Elected)

Shanti Project AIDS Peer Support (Volunteer)

SIGNED

DATE

NAME

PHONE / FAX

Labor Consultant
Campaign Consultant:
Media Consultant*:
Mail Consultant*:
Fundraising Consultant*:
Field Consultant*:
Pollster:
Campaign Manager:
Scheduler:
Other Campaign Staff:

I am my own campaign manager, and I have a team of non-professional volunteers who ran my first, successful campaign and successful campaigns of other grass-roots candidates. I took Emerge, CA, a training course for Democratic Women, and there I learned how to run campaigns.

Treasurer: Allen Wildermuth, Assistant Treasurer

Anticipated Budget: \$50,000

Funds Raised to Date: \$56,000 (attach campaign finance report)

Current/Prior union membership: SEIU (was Distributive Workers of America, District 65) Boston University

Other organizations you belong to: Vallejo Heights Neighborhood Assn, Member, Vallejo Naval and Historic Museum, Mira Theatre Guild Member, NAACP, Vallejo Odd Fellows.

Please attach your biography, a list of current endorsements and any campaign literature you have printed as of yet.

1. What unique skills are you bringing to the Vallejo City Council that will actually make a difference to how things are currently being done?

The Liquefied Natural Gas Plant proposed for the southern end of Mare Island in 2002 initially got me involved in local politics. I was on the Steering Committee of Vallejoans for Community Planned Renewal, the group that worked to successfully defeat that proposal. I became very concerned that a council would consider such a project, when the southern end was supposed to be open space in the Mare Island Reuse Plan. I started regularly attending Council Meetings and reporting on them for Vallejo Independent Bulletin on a regular basis from 2002-2013. I examined the city's finances and knew in 2003 that the city would very likely go into bankruptcy because they were approving higher and higher expenses with no plans for new revenue.

I worked at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation for 14 years and I was their Budget Director, managing a 25-million-dollar budget, managed the budgets to build a state-of-the-art AIDS treatment hospital in Kimpala, Uganda. I know how government finance works; it is very similar to non-profit, and I know how to make financially responsible decisions.

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2. Briefly describe your top three budget priorities and the policy areas that will be of most interest to you as City Councilmember.

Build A Healthy & Vibrant Local Economy – we cannot continue to be a bedroom community with jobs in other cities. We need good local jobs so that people can live and work in the same city, spending their money locally. We have made great strides toward this goal in the last three years.

Increase City Services – we still need more police and firefighters, and fix potholes, and provide other city services. I’m grateful that the community supported Measure V, the 1% sales tax. It isn’t enough and we need investment partners to improve our city. These have to be the right partners however; whose vision matches the vision we have created through our new award-winning general plan.

Budget Priorities must also include transparent decision making and accountability. There are so many pressures on our budget, and so many needs in our community and none can be fully met. We must be transparent in our decision making so that all interests understand our decision-making process. With the pressures on the budget, we must always maintain healthy reserves so that in the next recession, we won’t face bankruptcy.

3. Under what circumstances, if any, do you favor privatizing existing government services?

Only insofar that there are special services we require that are generally underutilized in city government, we should contract on an as-needed basis.

Regular, ongoing public services are best provided by public employees, for continuity and effectiveness.

4. In the event that any public services were to be contracted out, would you support or oppose the requirement that the private contractor would have to offer its employees comparable wages and benefits?

I would support this.

5. What is your position on the use of taxpayer money spent interfering with the right of workers to freely choose a union?

I am completely against this; all workers must be allowed the opportunity to organize.

6. What do you think an environmentally-just community looks like and how can Vallejo approach this vision of an environmentally-just community over the next five years?

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Our general plan is our guide to an environmentally just community. Our Healthy Community Element "Goal CP-1, Promote the health of all Vallejoans" won a special Award of Merit - Planning and Health from the American Planners Association, for its forward thinking, and this element, the roadmap to our future, contains several policies and actions towards environmental justice.

The council and city must use this guide when considering new developments and industries and we must be held accountable to follow this plan.

This is critical because the South Vallejo community suffers from a higher than normal amount of asthma and cancer, due to their proximity to refineries and highways. This is identified in the State of CA Cal-Enviro Screen maps. Cal Enviro Screen 3.0 now identifies an additional two Vallejo areas.

Environmental Justice means, a minority and/or low-income neighborhood already suffering from the impacts of industrial pollution, they deserve special considerations when new projects are proposed that would bring even more pollution to their neighborhood.

7. Do you publicly support or oppose the position that workers should be able to freely choose for themselves whether they want to unionize without the intimidating effects of any employer interference? This includes publicly supporting and encouraging employers to remain neutral on the question of unionization. What have you done in the past or what will you do in the future to demonstrate your support or opposition?

I have walked picket-lines while at Boston University. I will always support unionization. My Great Aunt Mary Gawthorpe, a British Suffragette, moved to the United States in the early 20th century, where she helped organized the Ladies Garment Workers. She was a great role model to me and my family.

WORKING WITH THE UNION

If elected, which of the following will you commit to for the purpose of building a strong working relationship with SEIU and to support workers engaged in union activity such as bargaining and organizing?

YES	NO	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Walk picket lines
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mediate with employers
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Write letters of support

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- _____ Call for and welcome SEIU input on relevant policy matters
- _____ Attend SEIU leadership and worksite meetings
- _____ Work with SEIU to develop legislative proposals
- _____ Ensure direct access to you and your staff
- _____ Work to appoint qualified union members to appropriate Boards and Commissions
- _____ Fight for proper enforcement of current labor law
- _____ Hold a press conference
- _____ Speak at rallies

Additional actions or comments: I fully support SEIU's efforts and can help in a limited capacity as my schedule allows. Thank you for this opportunity to respond to the questions and concerns of the SEIU community! _____

Would you cross a picket line?

YES NO
 _____ X

**CANDIDATE PLEDGE –
 SUPPORTING THE RIGHT OF WORKERS TO CHOOSE A UNION**

Section 923 of California's Labor Code states it is the public policy of this state that "It is necessary that the individual workman have full freedom of association, self-organization, and designation of representatives of his own choosing, to negotiate the terms and conditions of his employment, and that he shall be free from the interference, restraint, or coercion of employers of labor, or their agents, in the designation of such representatives...."

Employers have the power to fire, promote, change work assignments and other wise reward and punish their workers. There are many responsible employers who respect the rights of their workers and obey the law. Unfortunately, many employers abuse their power in the workplace to deny their workers the right to freely choose a voice on the job by joining a union and bargaining contracts determining the terms and conditions of their employment.

Each year workers seeking to organize a union in their workplace are fired although the law says this is illegal. After years of litigation, employers are required to rehire these workers and pay back wages minus any income the worker earned after being fired. Employers pay no other penalty. Workers receive no compensation for the harm done to their lives and careers. And unions receive no compensation for the impact of such illegal activities on their organizing drives.

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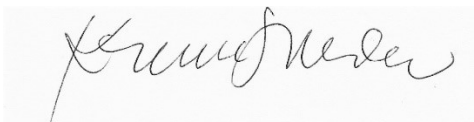
Even after workers overcome employer interference and vote for a union many employers then refuse to bargain a contract in good faith.

SEIU asks you as a candidate and elected official to exert moral leadership and to actively support public policies that protect the right of workers to freely choose a voice on the job by participating in a union and to bargaining with their employers.

As a candidate and elected official I hereby pledge:

1. To publicly support and actively encourage workers who are organizing a union with the Service Employees International Union (SEIU).
2. To publicly support and actively encourage the position that workers should be able to freely choose for themselves whether they want to gain a voice on the job by unionizing without the intimidating effects of any employer interference. This includes publicly supporting and encouraging employers to remain neutral on the question of unionization.
3. To publicly support and actively encourage the position that no taxpayer money should be spent interfering with the right of workers to freely choose a union.
4. To publicly support and actively encourage a fair and fast process for determining worker support for unionization including secret ballot election or card check recognition.
5. To publicly support and actively encourage employers to negotiate an agreement with the union within 90 days after the majority of workers express their choice in favor of forming a union.
6. To publicly support and actively encourage employers to negotiate good faith collective bargaining agreements with their workers and to abide by the terms of those agreements.

Signature:



Date: __09/27/2018

Print Name: Katy Miessner

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DATE