

# Candidate: Michael Wilson

## Supervisor, District 1

### **Candidate Details**

Phone: 707-975-3687

Email Address: michaellepleywilson@me.com

Website: www.WilsonForSupervisor.com

Social Media: <https://www.facebook.com/wilsonforsupervisor2024>

Acknowledgement of SCDCC Logo Use: I Acknowledged

Submitted: 12/14/2023 5:58:18 PM

Can the SCDCC publish your response on our website? I

Acknowledged

Can the SCDCC share your responses with county clubs? I

Acknowledged

### **Questionnaire Responses**

*Do you seek the endorsement of the Solano County Democratic Central Committee? If so, why?*

**Yes. I am seeking the endorsement of the Solano County Democratic Central Committee because I believe that the organization and members are the heart of the community and I want voters to know that I stand with the party and the platform.**



#### *1. Why are you running for office?*

**The privilege of serving in my current role has always been the opportunity to engage, one-on-one, with residents and improve everyday life—and the joy of service continues to inspire me.**

**Our County (and especially the City of Vallejo) face critical challenges ahead, and we all share a commitment to getting every resident housed, ensuring resident safety, and creating a healthier future for Vallejo families. Yet, one thing became very clear as Vallejo went through the process of rebuilding after bankruptcy: we need elected leadership with the experience to ensure our economic stability, the relationships to secure resources for projects, and the know-how to get things done.**

**Currently, as Supervisor Hannigan’s District Representative, we have focused on exactly that... bringing county support to Vallejo residents—including vital programs like the Mobile Food Pharmacy and Vallejo First 5. Our team has built critical partnerships, brought in significant resources, and together we’ve made an impact. I want to continue this work.**

#### *2. What is the nature and extent of any prior relevant involvement you have had in the community, civic, and/or political activities? Please include a description of all elected or appointed offices you have held.*

**Following a decade where I worked with underserved communities internationally and in the United States as a member of the Jesuit Order, I began a career in finance. I quickly advanced to the position of Controller and then Chief Financial Officer, guiding several businesses through their growth.**

**In 2007, just after I was elected to City Council, Vallejo was forced to declare bankruptcy. It was a challenging time; Vallejo families were hit hard by cuts in city services, and the future looked bleak. However, we were committed to moving forward without leaving anyone behind. I brought my fiscal experience to the table as we worked together, brick-by-brick, to put our city back together. I continue to work every day to keep us from ever being in that situation again.**

**When Erin Hannigan was elected Solano County Supervisor in 2012, I had the honor of becoming Supervisor Hannigan’s District Representative. As a team, we can be proud of what we’ve been able to accomplish and we’ve built a reputation for getting things done and community’s responsiveness.**

*3. What elements of your background, work history, education, volunteer positions, and/or other personal accomplishments make you the best candidate for this position?*

**That's a great question. I suspect both candidates in this race share similar goals and values. I think what sets us apart is our experience. I am coming to this job having demonstrated real impact, with results that speak for themselves—both in priority and capacity.**

**Also, there are other projects, which I have been instrumental in shepherding to this point, and which are just coming to fruition.**

**I'm excited for what's coming, and I'm committed to continuing to address the day-to-day, nuts-and-bolts needs of our community. The County can be a strong ally for the city, and that is really what motivates me.**

*4. What do you hope to accomplish in office? What are your top priorities for this term?*

**Because this district is Vallejo-centric, my focus is on continuing to provide county-level support to the city of Vallejo:**

**Safety: Vallejo's public safety crisis needs to end. We will not let Vallejo fail or fall into lawlessness. It is time that we work together to address this challenge.**

**Housing the Unhoused: Throughout California & especially in Vallejo, homelessness is on the rise—wedon'thaveenoughlivable-wagehousing&weneed more ways to bring residents back into housing.**

**Fairgrounds Revitalization Project: The Solano County Fairgrounds is a major gateway to Vallejo and has a long-standing tradition of providing a place for the community come together, but the space can offer much more. I will work to make it happen.**

**Partnerships: Working Together We Can Accomplish more. Working with Supervisor Hannigan to establish a partnership with the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, we've secured nearly \$7 million in nontaxpayer funding to assist people in Vallejo and Solano County.**

**Early Childhood Support: The success of the First 5 Center on Sonoma Blvd is a testament to what we can do to help young families. This project is a hallmark**

**of the Supervisor Hannigan's service and needs to continue.**

**Senior Focus: I'll Continue To partner with the Florence Douglas Center and the "Walking for Health" grant from Sutter to provide free walking shoes to seniors.**

*5. How much funding do you anticipate needing to raise for this election? From what sources do you plan to raise the funds you need for this election and who has contributed to your campaign to date?*

**We rely on PAC and community contributions to help us cross the finish line. The campaign goal is to reach \$125,000. We have raised over \$ 115,000 since launching the campaign in June. We have an aggressive fundraising campaign that has attracted many contributions from the community and has opened the door to great conversations with residents.**

*6. Please list any endorsements you have already received.*

**To view all endorsement please visit [WilsonforSupervisor.com/endorsements](http://WilsonforSupervisor.com/endorsements)**

**PAC Endorsements:**

**Nor Cal Carpenters Union**

**Solano Napa County Professional Firefighters, Local 1186**

**Ironworkers Local 378**

**Asian Americans for Good Government (AAGG)**

**Equality California**

**LGBTQ+ Victory Fund**

**Solano County Sheriff's Custody Association**

**Federal and State Elected Officials**

**Congressman Mike Thompson**

**Senator Bill Dodd**

**Assemblymember Evan Low**

**Solano County**

**Erin Hannigan, Supervisor (District 1)**

**John Vasquez, Supervisor (District 4)**

**Mitch Mashburn, Supervisor (District 5)**

**Krishna Abrams, District Attorney**

**Chuck Lomeli, Treasurer, Tax Collector, County Clerk**

**Glenn Zook, Assessor-Recorder**

**Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Superintendent of Schools**

**Patrick Duterte, Director of Solano County Health and Social Services (former)**

**Ted Selby, County Emergency Medical Services Director (former)**

**Several current and former Vallejo City Council members (including every former Mayor of Vallejo), local education leaders, and a long list of community members.**

*7. Have you hired, or do you plan to hire, a campaign consultant? If so, who?*

**Yes. My campaign consultants are four waters media, inc and PMCohen Affairs.**

*8. California, Solano County, and local Jurisdictions are all facing substantial demands on their budget. What ideas do you have to help deal with the fiscal issues we face?*

**For me, a huge priority is fiscal stability—making sure that our community has the resources to genuinely impact challenges and shape our future. I have always believed that the first job of a county leader is to guarantee ongoing basic services and safety for every resident.**

**While the county is actually on more stable economic ground, some of our cities continue to struggle.**

**If you look at what we have been able to accomplish, it's clear that our administration has been able to create new programs (Vallejo First 5, the Mobile Food Pharmacy, etc) through the development of long-**

**term partnerships. Partners can be non-profits, agencies, or organizations—and are likely a combination of those. We've been successful in building these relationships in order to secure both ongoing and project funding.**

**I'm also excited about the fairgrounds revitalization project, which has been many years in development. While I have shepherded the project, this is a collective vision. We see the fairgrounds becoming a vital, thriving space that brings our community together and a regional economic driver. Projects of this scope take time, and the fact that this is so close to ground-breaking is very inspiring.**

*9. What are the major issues faced by the constituents in your jurisdiction, and how do you plan to address them?*

**Safety: As you may know, Vallejo is having a public safety crisis. We will not let Vallejo fail, and we're not going to let Vallejo fall into lawlessness.**

**The City and County are working together in partnership. The County can step in and assist, we can all sit down at the table together to get to a solution, and (as a former Councilmember, I know that) the City also has work to do to address the core issues at the city level. I look forward to helping facilitate a long-term solution.**

**Housing the Unhoused: Like all major cities, Vallejo faces a dilemma—we don't have enough livable-wage housing, and we need better processes for transitioning residents back into housing when available.**

**Additionally, and equally important, we need to provide more support for families so that they can stay in their homes in the first place. A high percentage of street residents are our Vallejo neighbors who have experienced an economic change—from illness to taking care of a loved one or a job loss—no one should be penalized because of misfortune.**

**To genuinely address the urgency of homelessness, we need to support residents before they are on the street—which provides families greater dignity, reduces the impact on city services, is better for our economy, and builds healthier communities.**

*10. What are the major issues facing public employees in your jurisdiction, and how do you plan to address them?*

**We need to fill our vacant positions and provide the opportunity for advancement and upward mobility through both training and, frankly, through taking a chance on people and giving them the tools to succeed. Additionally, we need to invest in job readiness so that there is an opportunity for residents to make local careers and for our businesses to hire qualified workers, locally.**

*11. What are the major issues facing historically under-represented groups in your jurisdiction, i.e., Black, Latinx, Asian/Pacific Islander, LGBTQIA+, etc.? Are there issues specific to one or more groups in particular? How do you plan to address them?*

**As a young man, I took a vow to respect, empower, and support all people—especially those whose voices are the least heard. The commitment to strengthening justice and supporting equity has steered my service and has remained my compass ever since.**

**Vallejo is unique in the country. Our population is virtually ¼ each, African American, Filipino, Hispanic, and white. For many years, I have worked closely in all these communities and am very honored to have the strong support of both community leaders and residents alike. That doesn't mean we are done, or that we have reached a point of equity. The work here is ongoing.**

**An, of course, as an openly gay man, the concepts of inequity and judgment are personally very real. My husband Peter, and I have worked together as advocates for equality and justice for many decades. I believe everyone should be treated equally, be at the heart of discussion, and be heard in an open and respectful manner. I stand publicly and proudly for our community.**

**I would say that our country's current divisiveness and acrimony have no place here. I will continue to stand, shoulder-to-shoulder, with every community to demand that everyone be treated with respect, always.**

*12. What are the major economic issues facing your jurisdiction? How will you balance the concerns of union members, working families, local businesses, and regional/national corporate firms?*

**Absolutely! Working families are not only the backbone of our community, but they are the reason I am running. My priority is local families—workers, businesses, residents, young people, and our elders. We have to build partnerships with corporations to bring in fresh income, but my inspiration remains improving the quality of life for my neighbors.**

*13. What are the major issues facing children, youth, and their families in your jurisdiction? How do you plan to address them?*

**Two of the initial substantial projects our team tackled after Supervisor Hannigan took office, were building the Vallejo First 5 center and developing the Mobile Food Pharmacy. These priorities followed a fundamental belief that providing a stronger foundation for young families and youth, leads to healthier, safer communities and residents.**

**The next major project that we are tackling is the Vallejo Early Learning Center that is being developed at the old Beverly Hills School site in South Vallejo. This innovative approach to meeting multiple critical community needs will be the first of its kind in California and will serve as a model for other communities where lack of childcare facilities is a barrier to early childhood learning expansion, where there are surplus school sites, and where underserved communities historically lack access to these social service supports. This project has the potential to impact outcomes for the most under-resourced families for at least 2 decades, laying a strong foundation for positive outcomes in their lives and for the greater community as a whole.**

**I continue to hold the belief that early investment is critical. I'm dedicated to increasing ongoing (and meaningful) support for young families and residents, so that everyone has the foundation to build a hopeful future.**

*14. What are the major issues facing your jurisdiction, relating to the environment and the climate crisis? What are the specific impacts faced by marginalized and under-represented communities? How do you plan to address them?*

**Solano County—and Vallejo specifically—host the east side of Hwy 37. This highway has a complicated set of interconnected challenges, including sea-level rise, the costs of improvement, and the costs of commuting (as well as habitat preservation).**

**The issue needs to be addressed, both because traffic makes commuting extremely difficult and because sea-level rise is causing increased flooding.**

**I support the long-term goal of constructing a series of elevated causeways. Essential to the construction and funding plan is to start with equitable tolling, especially starting with the first section in Marin County.**

**Public transportation is an essential component of the success of SR37. Currently, there are no options for public transit between Vallejo and Marin. There are conversations with STA, but funding will be key to making this happen. This project is moving forward and we need to ensure that the series of decisions being made for its implementation are the best ones for our community—especially those for whom commuting is essential.**

*15. What are the major sources of greenhouse gas emissions in your jurisdiction? What specific steps would you take to lower greenhouse gas emission from government, commercial and residential sectors?*

**From the beginning, we have focused on improving public transportation options and functionality. And again, these solutions have come down to building ongoing partnerships.**

**Supervisor Hannigan was a founding board member of SolTrans, which has been highly successful. We also helped to develop Solano Mobility, which supports public transit for our senior community. The first step in getting the public to use public transit (and use cars less) is to make sure we have responsive, reliable, safe options, so these projects have felt like a step in the right direction.**

**But there is more to do! We need to work to expand public transit with connections Countywide. We also need to work to provide transit in and out from the county along routes like SR 37.**

*16. What role would the use of renewable energy sources, enhanced energy efficiency, conservation, and other methods play in your response to the climate crisis? What is your opinion on the recent proposal by the California Public Utilities Commission to change rooftop solar incentives?*

**I'll start by saying that I have solar on my house. I believe emphatically in moving to a fossil-free future, and that building a strong renewables base is a required step in that process.**

**That said, we must build equity, sustainability and affordability into this new renewable economy and the current NEM is neither equitable nor sustainable. The recent proposal was the CPUC's attempt to address these critical issues.**

**In order for renewables to become the backbone of a fossil-free energy grid, every home must have access and no single community can bear the cost-brunt.**

**I have the privilege of being able to afford rooftop solar, but I have since learned that I do that at the expense of another family who isn't able to afford rooftop solar; they have now become financially responsible for what was my financial portion of the grid support. As more cities build rooftop solar into their housing plans and more homes add after-market rooftop solar, that's just not fair and it isn't sustainable.**

**While I strongly support the total shift from fossil fuels to renewables, we have to do this in a way that doesn't leave lower-income communities bearing the greatest burden, as so often happens.**

**I don't know what the answer is, and clearly it's complicated. But I do know we have to go this road all together.**

*17. What are the major issues in your jurisdiction related to poverty, income inequality, affordable housing, homelessness, and food insecurity? How do you plan to address them?*

**Food insecurity and adverse health outcomes for low income people are definitely major issues locally, which is why one of our initial projects was the Mobile Food Pharmacy. This programs helps us reach people where they are and address disparities and assist those in the greatest need.**

**Additionally, and equally important, we need to provide more support for families so that they can stay in their homes in the first place. A high percentage of street residents are our Vallejo neighbors who have experienced an economic change—from illness to taking care of a loved one, or a job loss—no one should be penalized because of misfortune.**

**To genuinely address the urgency of homelessness, we need to support residents before they are on the street—which provides families greater dignity, reduces the impact on city services, is better for our economy, and builds healthier communities.**

Alongside Supervisor Hannigan, I've been a part of developing the affordable housing projects that the City is currently bringing online in partnership with the County. These should be just the beginning. I also remain dedicated to public/private partnerships—a strategy Supervisor Hannigan has employed very effectively to create the Mobile Food Pharmacy, provide support for childhood education, and help build a stronger foundation for young families. We need to address the immediacy of the crisis and be equally focused on the long game, providing support and stable pathways for residents.

18. *What are the major issues facing your jurisdiction related to public health services and access to affordable health care? How do you plan to address them?*

Amazingly, one of the greatest issues of public health services is getting people to the doctor on a regular basis before it becomes an emergency. We are working hard to support and educate people on health services. The Affordable Care Act was a great start, but we continue to look for ways we can improve getting healthcare to our residents.

19. *Are you in favor of following science-based advice from health experts on pandemics and vaccine mandates? Which entities, if any, do you feel are best suited to issue public health mandates?*

Yes, I am in favor of science-based advice from health experts. . During the pandemic our office worked closely with our Solano County Department of Public Health and worked closely with our Federal and State partners along with Kaiser Permanente and Touro University to bring vaccines to the people, especially through the mass vaccination center at the Solano County Fairgrounds.

20. *Do you support a woman's right to make reproductive healthcare choices? Please explain.*

Yes. I support a woman's right to choose, without exception.

21. *How would you respond to concerns that some public employees, and specifically members of law enforcement, are affiliated with extremist groups, including those that advocate violence against the government and racial, ethnic, LGBTQ+, and other under-represented groups? What steps would you take to address this issue?*

First, hate—of any kind—has no place in our community. I've spent a lifetime building bridges and creating safe spaces. I expect I will spend the rest of my life doing that as well.

According to the LGBTQ+ Victory Fund, there are 1264 LGBTQ+ elected officials in America. While that seems like a great number, it is 0.23% of all the elected officials in our county. Nationwide, LGBTQ+ people represent an estimated 7.2% of the total population. In order to have equitable representation, we need 36,000 more elected officials in our county.

Solano County has never had an openly gay member of the Board of Supervisors. If elected, I will be the first. I am very honored to be endorsed by the LGBTQ+ Victory Fund and Equality California.

22. *Members of the public are exhibiting declining levels of faith and trust in their elected officials at all levels, leading to increased tension and reduced civil discourse. What will you do to restore public confidence and encourage productive civic participation in your jurisdiction?*

Trust is developed through a personal engagement and demonstrated integrity. I feel honored to have worked for these last 12 years for an elected leader for whom I have great respect—and I believe this sentiment is broadly and deeply shared. Supervisor Hannigan treated everyone with respect, was responsive, was above board in all of her dealings and actions, and focused her effort on projects that benefitted her community. She set a very high bar, one I intend to clear.

23. *How long have you been a registered Democrat? Why are you a Democrat, and how do your reasons relate to the office you seek?*

I have been a Democrat all my life. I am a Democrat because I believe in the party and its platform. I trust our values and will work to ensure those values are represented at the Board of Supervisors.

*24. Have you read and do you support the current California Democratic Party platform? Are there any parts of the Party platform that you do not support? If so, why.*

**Yes and yes. There are no parts that I don't support.**

*25. Have you ever publicly endorsed a candidate other than a registered Democrat? Are there circumstances in which you would do so? Please explain.*

**As someone who's worked in partnership with local leaders for many years, there are times when I support someone with whom I've worked. In most situations, these are of course Democrats—and Solano County has Supervisors from both sides of the aisles who work closely together to the benefit of every resident.**

*26. If you discovered that negative campaign methods, such as the use of attack ads and mailers, misleading phone and text messages, or similar tactics, were being used against an opponent, what would you do?*

**Our campaign is focused on issues and what is important for our residents. We have no intention of using any negative attacks. I would disavow the use of such tactics if someone else used them in support of our campaign.**

*27. Please share any other information you think will assist the Central Committee in considering your endorsement.*

**From my early years—when I took a vow of poverty and worked with disadvantaged communities around the world—through this moment I have felt called to, and followed a path of, service. Whether that has been as a community volunteer, a Councilmember, or an activist, what matters most is how we make life better for others.**

**For me that is a combination of passion, empathy, and the functional knowledge to make an impact.**

**For the last 11 years, I've worked with an amazing team and an incredible Supervisor. We have a lot to show for the effort. And there remains more to do. Setting us up so we never go through the pain of bankruptcy again, and so that we have the resources to do the things we need to do to take care of our residents takes experience as well as desire. I will bring my heart and my experience to the table to fight for every family, neighborhood, and community and to continue to make life better for others.**