

Responses to Questions by Progressive Democrats of Benicia
By Michael Wilson, candidate for Solano County Supervisor, District 1
More information can be reviewed at www.WilsonForSupervisor.com

1. Please provide a one or two paragraph background sketch.

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.

2. Provide one paragraph about why you are running for office.

The privilege of serving in my current role as District Representative for Supervisor Hannigan 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. Solano 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.

3. In one paragraph, describe your top three priorities.

A *Safe Community* that continues to *Address Homelessness* while building *Economic Strength* is the combination of my three priorities to improve Vallejo and Solano County. I strongly believe that a primary role of City and County leaders is to ensure the safety of every resident. I'm committed to continuing to be a strong county-level ally for Vallejo so that every neighborhood is safe and first responder times are adequate for resident needs. Everyone knows we need more housing, but how we get there is in the details, our ability to work together to achieve a larger vision, and in knowing how to bring projects to fruition. The City of Vallejo needs the County partnership in order to meet our collective goals. We need to come together to create a shared vision, and then pair it with a strong economic plan. Creating more housing and providing better family support requires adequate funding. City and County leaders can work collaboratively on innovative solutions and build on our successes.

4. At the end of your term of office how will you know you have been successful? What is your measure of success?

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. At the end of my term in office, I will know that I have been successful if I hear from members of the community that they feel safe and confident that Vallejo and Solano County are moving in the right direction. Working together, we will build housing for all along with economic opportunities in a safe community.

5. What do you view as the top three priorities for the county in attacking climate change?

My three top priorities for Solano County to address climate change are:

- 1: Reduce the County's carbon footprint and assist residents and businesses to do the same.
- 2: Work to have renewable energy become the backbone to the fossil-free energy grid in a manner that allows everyone to participate and does not leave poor and marginalized communities behind.
3. Address both sea level rise and equity issues in solving the problems with State Route 37. I support the long-term goal of constructing a series of elevated causeways. Essential to the construction and funding plan is that 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.

6. What do you view as your greatest accomplishment?

A great accomplishment is working alongside Erin Hannigan to form a successful partnership between Solano County and the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. The nearly \$ 8 million dollars in partnership funding has help so many people with Solano County who may have otherwise fallen through the cracks. First 5 Solano provides basic needs support that directly assists families in crisis by addressing immediate needs, and additional funding is committed to providing programs related to Early Learning, School Readiness, Social Engagement & Peer Support as well as Community Resource Information at the First 5 Center in Vallejo. The project with Family Health Services started in September 2018 to operate the Mobile Food Pharmacy and its Food Rx Program in collaboration with the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano Counties. This Mobile Food Pharmacy visits our County Medical clinics where medical professionals provide a food prescription, called Food Rx, to their patients. Under the supervision of our Probation Department, funding is invested to help young people and youth in transition through and out of Probation by providing things from Professional Attire to Mentoring services. This program enhances culturally relevant efforts with a focus on building resiliency in the lives of youth in transition toward success. Vibe Solano is a program that infuses a health equity lens to operate an "Achieving Equity Together" plan that addresses the challenges in our community among some of most vulnerable residents, including very young children, older adults, and farm workers. By pursuing strategies that change systems, organizational practices, and policies that ensure the changes to be equitable, long-lasting, healthy, inclusive, cost-effective and impactful, this work will be focused to ensure that people do not fall through the cracks. I am very proud of this partnership and the package of programs we provide to the community; it is my honor to help lead this great success.