

**SEIU 521 QUESTIONNAIRE**  
**SALINAS MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL**

**CAMPAIGN PROFILE**

Candidate Name: Wes White  
Candidate email: weswhiteforsalinasmayor2020@gmail.com  
Office sought: Salinas Mayor  
Campaign Address: 51 Nacional Street  
(no PO Boxes) Salinas, CA 93901  
Campaign Phone: (510) 274-9275  
Tax/FPPC ID #: 1426744

Occupation: Videographer Employer: John Doe13k Productions

Proposed Ballot Designation: Teacher/Researcher/Videographer

Elected offices currently/ previously held: Monterey County Democratic Central Committee D4

Other campaigns for elected office: Salinas City Council (2016), Salinas Mayor (2018)

Appointed offices currently/ previously held: Salinas Airport Commission (2016-2019), Monterey County Housing Advisory Committee (2017-NOW)

	NAME	PHONE
Labor Consultant*:	_____	_____
Campaign Consultant*:	_____	_____
Media Consultant*:	_____	_____
Mail Consultant*:	_____	_____
Fundraising Consultant*:	_____	_____
Field Consultant*:	_____	_____
Pollster*:	_____	_____
Campaign Manager:	<u>Adam Scow</u>	<u>(831) 400-9933</u>
Scheduler*:	_____	_____
Other Campaign Staff:	_____	_____

*\* if applicable*

Anticipated Budget: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Funds Raised to Date: \$ 32,000 (please attach campaign finance report)

Current/Prior union membership: \_\_\_\_\_

Other organizations you belong to: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**GENERAL QUESTIONS**

1. Briefly describe your top priorities and the policy areas that will be of most interest to you as Mayor.

Transparency/accountability to balance the budget/trim the city corporate fat, increase affordable housing units, encourage more city-stakeholder and city-community dialogue toward better and best practice policies and procedures while receiving and accepting direction from feedback of the current policies enacted.

To include community in many more city corporate decisions that directly and indirectly affect the city's residents as issues arise throughout my term. To listen, and facilitate practical solutions that will produce the least harm.

2. What public administration or leadership experience do you have? Please explain the programs you have developed and implemented for the benefit of the public.

I started a Cooling Shelter in May 2017 after the Salinas Warming Shelter, which housed 70 men, women, and children, closed by TAMC vote. The Cooling Shelter housed 40 people for a little over a week. I got a red-tag on the building on the Monday morning and consequently threatened with arrest by Wednesday. Monday afternoon, there was a Housing Subcommittee meeting, where most everyone from the Cooling Shelter came to speak to the Mayor and staff. Motivational speakers had already been preparing them over the weekend. Tuesday there was a city council meeting, where again, most everyone from the Cooling Shelter came to speak. At the last moment on Wednesday evening, the city and County stepped in and found enough room for everyone! Including pets! Action that otherwise would've resulted in summary dismissal and perpetual persecution became placement within programs.

What has been happening at Roberts Lake in Seaside now is another example of how the community was inspired to organize just like the Lapis Road Homeowner's Association in 2017, and resisting the Salinas RV Ban of 2018. These are THE SAME PEOPLE being pushed around, and was about to go through that cycle again, until we forced the conversation for the city to hold a special meeting about relocating EVERYONE while providing basic health and safety services. If I hadn't helped facilitate that as the Co-President of the Salinas/Monterey County Homeless Union, NO ONE in an RV would be allowed anywhere along the Peninsula two or three weeks ago, as RV Bans are consistently enforced throughout jurisdictions, including the County.

Validating EVERY PERSON is a trait of a teacher and a parent. It needs to become a part of local government. I've been a Substitute Teacher since 2006, while married raising two girls who were

reading and writing before they were two, and done with Kindergarten before they were three, because I made their life, my life. There is much untapped potential when we ignore those we are supposed to serve.

## **PUBLIC SECTOR/GOVERNMENT SERVICES**

SEIU Local 521 is an overtly anti-racist organization. As such, we believe that to win economic justice for working people, we must win racial justice. This belief is grounded in our understanding that the fundamental challenges to our vision are structural racism and corporate power; until Black communities and other communities of color can thrive, none of our communities can truly thrive. SEIU Local 521 supports policies and candidates that will reverse systemic racism and invest in the working class and communities of color.

3. How would you handle a budget deficit without balancing the budget on the back of workers or by cutting services to low-income communities of color? Please address the issue of the City's reserve funds in your response.

I think we're going to need to find equity of loss between departments, positions, tasks, services, and equipment. I would prefer cuts to senior staff and administration duties well before the front line mid-lower staff duties. There has to be a sense of "fair share" responsibility to keep plugging along and keep morale high.

4. What steps will you take to fight economic and racial inequality?

As a Teacher, I have never used a token economy. That can lead to teaching one to do a trick for a treat (which can become a habit), rather than doing the right thing because it's the right thing to do.

I would EXPECT that neither is occurring, yet passively and actively LOOK AND LISTEN for both economic and racial inequality, then speak up and ask "WHY?".

I have ardently been supportive of economic and racial equality since 2014 through the public events I attend, record, and publish for free on my YouTube channel, John Doe13k.

5. Will you commit to publicly supporting and campaign for The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2020/Prop 15, also known as Schools and Communities First, or Property Tax Split Roll? What specific actions will you take to publicly support the campaign?

ABSOLUTELY!! I will take whatever specific actions you would ask of the public, and me directly.

6. Under what circumstances do you favor contracting out services that are currently done or could be done by SEIU members? If the city did look to contract out work, would you allow SEIU members sufficient time to provide alternative plans to contracting out before outsourcing is approved?

If your membership decided that it wanted certain services contracted out, I would likely have no problem. If there was no way to avoid certain services to be contracted out, it seems only reasonable that sufficient time would be provided before approval.

7. Public Employee Pensions have come under attack by various anti-government and anti-worker groups like the Freedom Foundation and California Policy Center. What is your opinion of the City's pension system?

I remember one of the first times I met Mayor Gunter and City Manager Corpuz in the Fall of 2014. They were bragging how at least Salinas wasn't as bad off as Stockton. One of the reasons they were really looking forward to Measure G passing. CFO Pressey went over some of the reasons and pensions was one of the biggest, yet the city still hired on a lot more staff, and spent a lot of its money up front. I'm kinda disappointed it went that direction because it goes right back to those pension spikes that will occur throughout this decade. Still gotta make it work going forward though. Together.

8. As the nation grapples with COVID-19, child care is a major issue for workers. Will you work to provide child care or funding for child care for city workers? Please explain your position.

I will look for creative child care solutions on city property, and work to find funding sources for child care for city workers.

It is getting more and more difficult to function while following CDC guidelines. Our city workers need to work, but they also need to KNOW they're children are safe and well provided for.

9. What policies will you propose to address the high cost of housing (rent stabilization, inclusionary housing, general plan amendments, etc.)?

I would like to see legislation for eviction moratoriums and rent stabilization, especially during COVID-19. Most of our inclusionary/affordable housing has already been built and decided on for a while, and I doubt the city has money to buy/build additional units as a sweeping policy at this time. However, that doesn't mean there shouldn't be planning talks and numbers for the future. I think the

city really lost an opportunity by having such a low percentage of affordable housing within the new growth area.out there within Rogge Road.

**SUPPORTING UNIONS/NEW ORGANIZING**

10. Which of the following actions would you take 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                          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fight for proper enforcement of current labor law |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Hold a press conference                           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Speak at rallies                                  |

Additional actions or comments:

11. Would you cross a picket line?

- | YES                      | NO                                  |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

12. If elected, which of the following will you commit to in order to build a strong working relationship with SEIU?

- | YES                                 | NO                       |   |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Call for and welcome SEIU input on relevant policy matters                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Attend SEIU leadership and worksite meetings                                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Work with SEIU to develop legislative proposals                               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ensure direct access to you and your staff                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Work to appoint qualified union members to appropriate Boards and Commissions |

13. Is there anything else you believe is important for the members of SEIU to know about you and your campaign?

For qualifications:

Associate Business Administration, Behavioral Science, and Transfer Studies (1995) from Hartnell,  
Bachelor Psychology (1997),  
Substitute Teacher (2006-NOW),  
Associate Early Childhood Education (2011),  
Master Information Security (Computers) (2012).  
DOD Secret Eligibility Clearance (2014)  
Community Watchdog (2014-NOW)

Relationship. Community. Righteous reason. Meeting people more than halfway.  
Public service. Seeing people smile. Saving Lives. Infrastructure. Environment. Public  
Safety.

Growing up in Guam and Hawaii on Navy bases gave me a deeper understanding and  
connection to looking out for people and treating them well. I want to put nurturing into  
government to perpetuate better and best practices through serious dialogue and sincere  
cooperation. People's dignity should remain most important.

For the past six years, I have documented many festive, social, civic, and environmental  
events within the Monterey Bay Region free of charge. Well over 1,100 independent media  
videos are available on YouTube at John Doe13k. Subscribe!

Formal education includes: Master's in Information Security (Computers); Bachelor's in  
Psychology; Associate's in Business Administration and Early Childhood Education; Preschool Site  
Supervisor credential; and many computer certificates including DOD SECRET eligibility clearance  
while attending the Naval Postgraduate School as a civilian.

I am a helper and a healer. I seek interaction, not rejection in city policies. I feel the  
community has much untapped potential. I would facilitate participation to prioritize our  
communities' needs.

Little Known Facts about my Lineage:

4th generation Salinan. My Great-Grandmother (Mother's Mother's Mother) went to Salinas High  
when it first opened. My Father's Father was in Pearl Harbor when the bombs dropped and a  
maintenance man for Soledad Prison. My Mother's Father was a vegetable broker. My Father was  
in the Navy for 22 years, so I grew up in the middle of the Pacific Ocean on Guam and Hawaii until  
coming to the Mainland (San Diego) when I was 11. An Uncle is a partner with Valley Fabrication.  
I have been the Blacksmith for the Streets of Bethlehem since 2011, taking over for my Father's  
Father who took on the role for ten years. My Father's Mother and the "Quilting Ladies" of our  
church came up with the idea for Streets of Bethlehem after the Nativity Scene was removed from  
city hall.

Signature: Wes White Date: 07/24/2020

Print Name: Wes White

- **In addition please sign our organizing pledge on the attached page**