

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: "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.

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 chooses 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: 7-24-2020

Print Name: _____

CHRIS BARRERA

SEIU 521 QUESTIONNAIRE
SALINAS MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

CAMPAIGN PROFILE

Candidate Name: Chris Barrera
Candidate email: Chris@BarreraforSalinasmayor.com
Office sought: Mayor – City of Salinas
Campaign Address: 412 South Main Street, Salinas, CA 93901
(no PO Boxes) _____
Campaign Phone: 831-206-9089
Tax/FPPC ID #: 85-1946386

Occupation: Realtor Employer: Windermere Real Estate

Proposed Ballot Designation:

Elected offices currently/ previously held: N/A

Other campaigns for elected office: N/A

N/A

Appointed offices currently/ previously held: N/A

	NAME	PHONE
Labor Consultant*:	_____	_____
Campaign Consultant*:	_____	_____
Media Consultant*:	_____	_____
Mail Consultant*:	_____	_____
Fundraising Consultant*:	_____	_____
Field Consultant*:	_____	_____
Pollster*:	_____	_____
Campaign Manager:	Andrew Sandoval	831-809-1150
Scheduler*:	_____	_____
Other Campaign Staff:	_____	_____

** if applicable*

Anticipated Budget: \$ _____
Funds Raised to Date: \$ _____ (please attach campaign finance report)

Current/Prior union membership: United Food and Commercial Workers & the Plumbers Union.
Other organizations you belong to: President - League of United Latin American Citizens #2055,
Board Member – Salinas-Steinbeck Rotary, Elks Lodge #614, Monterey County Civil Rights
Commission.

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 Supervisor.
 - a) Hiring a highly qualified and vetted City Manager who understands the specific needs of our community
 - b) Homelessness
 - c) Affordable Housing
 - d) Forming Partnerships with local school districts for after school programs

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 have served as the President of LULAC #2055 for the past four years. During that time, I have worked with the board to strengthen the organization and expand the services we offer in the community. Most recently, I have worked to fund raise and help to distribute food at twenty different food distributions in the most financially impacted areas of Salinas and Monterey County. Also, as a civil rights leader I work around the clock to ensure that the rights of local people are not violated. I work to educate and resolve disputes when those rights are violated. My phone rings around the clock, and I am always available to answer the call where and when we are needed.

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.

As a former union member and leader, I believe in putting people first. The reserves are for emergencies, and we are in an emergency situation right now. Employees are needed to staff the city services that our residents depend on, particularly in areas supporting low-income communities of color.

4. What steps will you take to fight economic and racial inequality?
We need to bring everyone to the table, even if they have been locked out in the past, and/or have been taken off city committees. This year has brought a new awareness to many people of how race has played a part in economic inequality. Based on my experience, many rights have to be fought for. Oppression and injustice must be protested. Most of all, I believe that education is key to helping to bring about new awareness and support of racial and social justice.

I would like to see more development programs implemented for city staff related to racial sensitivity. I would also like to see workshops and seminars and notable speakers for the general public on the issue of race relations. I think we can benefit from using Monterey County's program on race relations as a model for the City of Salinas. Together we can become a better community where everyone is valued and included, and all can participate in economic advancement.

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?

Insuring our Schools have proper funding is crucial. We need to find ways to bring more funding to local schools. This is a topic on which I would like to be better informed. I welcome information about it.

5. 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?

Of course, my priority is city employees. As I have stated on many occasions, I want to bring everyone to the table. I think that it would be valuable to have proactive discussions with employees to help solve issues in the City. I believe that it is important to have conversations with people who actually do the work.

6. 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?

Employees work hard for their money and should get the money they deserve when they retire.

7. 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 understand that right now under the current orders, schools will still be closed for some time in the future. Parents are in the difficult position of choosing between their jobs and having to be home to take care of their young children. I believe that we can work to partner with other qualified organizations to see how childcare can be provided for employees. We can also look to creative solutions like working from home, flex time, etc., to show our employees that they are valued and we are sensitive to their personal needs.

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

We must find a solution to this issue of lack of access to affordable housing that is sustainable. The general plan states a minimum of 25% inclusionary and affordable housing in new constructions developments. Actually that number is closer to 8%. We need to enforce the provisions within the general plan, to make sure that everyone has access to an affordable housing. Together we can work to achieve this goal.

SUPPORTING UNIONS/NEW ORGANIZING

9. Which of the following actions would you take to support workers engaged in union activity such as bargaining and organizing?

YES	NO	
X		Walk picket lines
X		Mediate with employers
X		Write letters of support
X		Fight for proper enforcement of current labor law
X		Hold a press conference
X		Speak at rallies

Additional actions or comments:

10. Would you cross a picket line?

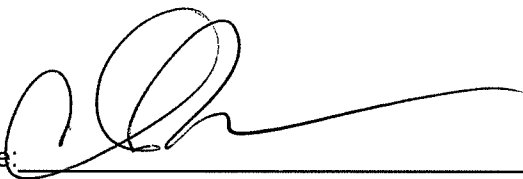
YES	NO
	X

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

YES	NO	
X		Call for and welcome SEIU input on relevant policy matters
X		Attend SEIU leadership and worksite meetings
X		Work with SEIU to develop legislative proposals
X		Ensure direct access to you and your staff
X		Work to appoint qualified union members to appropriate Boards and Commissions

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

As a union worker for almost 30 years I value my union brothers and sisters. I respect and support wages, benefits and safe working environments. If endorsed by SEIU 521, you can count on having a valued relationship with me and being invited to the table. Together we can.

Signature:  _____ Date: 7-24-2020

Print Name: Chris BARRERA

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

My name is Chris Barrera. I am a lifelong resident of Salinas, CA. I have two wonderful sons, Christopher Jr. and James Daniel. I also have a beautiful granddaughter.

I am a graduate of North Salinas High School and attended Hartnell College. I worked at Nob Hill Foods for 20 years & I was a UA union plumber for 8 years.

I have been a partner/ realtor at Windermere Valley Properties for the past 4 years. I enjoy making dreams come true for families in the home ownership world.

My father Ted Barrera, was my mentor, hero and partner. Together we created the Team Barrera real estate brand which is well known throughout Salinas, Monterey County & the Gilroy/ Morgan Hill area. My father passed away last year, leaving a legacy of hard work ethic, giving back & being an example of putting others ahead of one's self. My mother Martha taught me the value of respect & staying humble at all times.

I am the president of a civil rights organization. Together we do a lot of important work in the community. We provide food distributions for needy families, provide an extreme amount of scholarships, and address numerous local issues for those with no voice. I am a member of the Salinas Steinbeck Rotary & the Elks Lodge #614 of Salinas. I serve on a variety of distinguished boards and committees, as well. In addition, I served as a little league coach for Ferrasci Little League.

My calling is service above self and I feel that I would do a great job as Mayor for our City of Salinas. I am humble, genuine and I simply love Salinas.