

SEIU 521 QUESTIONNAIRE
SALINAS MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

CAMPAIGN PROFILE

Candidate Name: Kimbley Craig

Candidate email: kimbley@kimbleycraig.com

Office sought: Mayor of Salinas

Campaign Address: 2402-B N. Main St. Salinas, CA 93906

(no PO Boxes) _____

Campaign Phone: 831-204-8410

Tax/FPPC ID #: 1420481

Occupation: CEO Employer: Monterey County Business Council

Proposed Ballot Designation: CEO Businesswoman

Elected offices currently/ previously held: Former Salinas City Councilwoman, District 5 – North Salinas

Other campaigns for elected office: _____

Appointed offices currently/ previously held: Salinas Police Community Advisory Commission

	NAME	PHONE
Labor Consultant*:	_____	_____
Campaign Consultant*:	<u>Michael Terris</u>	<u>415-308-0867</u>
Media Consultant*:	<u>Kimbley Craig</u>	_____
Mail Consultant*:	<u>Michael Terris</u>	<u>415-308-0867</u>
Fundraising Consultant*:	_____	_____
Field Consultant*:	<u>Sergio Sanchez</u>	_____
Pollster*:	_____	_____
Campaign Manager:	_____	_____
Scheduler*:	_____	_____
Other Campaign Staff:	<u>MacKenzie Ewing</u>	<u>480-239-3889</u>

** if applicable*

Anticipated Budget: \$100,000.00

Funds Raised to Date: \$70,000.00 (please attach campaign finance report)

Current/Prior union membership: _____

Other organizations you belong to: Hospice Giving Foundation, Salinas Rodeo Committee, Junior League of Monterey County, Salinas Valley Chamber of Commerce, Independent Seniors Transportation Network of Monterey County

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.

Economic recovery - After the devastating effects that COVID-19 has had on our small businesses and community, I will work to streamline regulations to help businesses rebound; support our most vulnerable; focus on fundamentals of personal economics, including good jobs & childcare solutions; maintain our City's strong fiscal foundation.

Keep the people of Salinas safe - Protect essential city services; ensure sufficient police & emergency response staffing to keep neighborhoods safe & minimize wildfire risk; prioritize COVID-19 prevention.

Expand Affordable Housing Options: Champion neighborhood-friendly affordable housing options for teachers, essential workers, young people & seniors, focusing those efforts in our Future Growth Area.

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 am a 2-term (2010-2018) former Salinas City Councilwoman for District 5, North Salinas. Currently, I serve as the Executive Director for Leadership Monterey County, the President and CEO of Monterey County Business Council and as a Commissioner on the Salinas Police Community Advisory Commission. I strongly believe in growing leadership in our community and led the formation of Leadership Monterey County in 2017---a program that educates and cultivates residents to be involved in their community through leadership in schools, nonprofits, and local politics. It focuses on educating the class on the major industries that create a thriving economy in our area---Agriculture, Hospitality, Government, Healthcare, Military, and others.

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.

City reserves are accrued specifically to ensure the continued provision of basic City services. We should have specific, consensus-driven, and impartial criteria to authorize the unlocking of City reserves. This would allow us to act quickly and efficiently to address extraordinary situations like the one we currently are facing.

At the same time, we should proactively build up our reserves during robust economic times to be prepared to react to unforeseen challenges. The City Council had \$0 in reserves in 2010 when I started---and a decade later it has \$9,552,000 (or roughly 8.2% of the budget). I would advocate to use City reserves if we simultaneously agreed to develop a realistic plan to replace them within a reasonable period of time so they will be available for future difficult financial times.

Such a situation would only be addressed in a realistic and sustainable manner through a collaborative process involving all stakeholders.

History has demonstrated that employees are the solution, not the problem. Such solutions will require detailed, ongoing talks among all public and private stakeholders. I would solicit dialogue, feedback, and ideas for saving money while maintaining services. I would also organize discussions with business, labor etc. to find ideas on how they could help ease the City's spending crunch and what support they would need from the City to do so.

I would work to identify operational efficiencies and service improvements that could be realized due to attrition and retirement. Then I would work with all groups to identify discretionary spending that could be frozen to achieve our spending reduction goal.

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

We must approach the development of communities in a holistic manner. This means taking into account **all** the needs of a community together, i.e. housing, transportation, access to daily provisions, access to restaurants and entertainment, childcare, senior housing and services, etc. This is how you build a sustainable, equitable community. I will strongly advocate for the council to:

1. Understand all the ways the City reaches out to underrepresented communities, get Council and City staff feedback on where they feel we need a more expansive outreach, and suggestions on how to do this.
2. Reach out to leaders of underserved communities (e.g. faith leaders, community organizers, individuals advocating on behalf of the communities, etc.) to understand how they have been involved in City discussions on issues related to their community; where

they believe their involvement needs to be stronger; what their priority issues are; and what other community representatives they believe also should be involved.

3. Continue support of the Attorney General's "best practices" implemented by Salinas Police Department in an effort to expand their community understanding and efforts to hire officers who are more reflective of the community in which they serve.

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?

Yes. The City of Salinas will receive an additional \$9,812,000 with the passage of Prop 15. I will advocate for these funds to be used for housing and homelessness prevention services, job training, youth programs, domestic violence services, libraries, parks and street and sidewalk repairs at the city level.

An additional \$6,113,708 for Salinas City Elementary School District and \$11,284,788 for Salinas Union High School District are expected to be generated if Prop 15 passes. I will push for those funds to be used for more teachers, classroom aides, books, computers, supplies for in-person and distance learning, nurses and healthcare services for students, special education, arts, music and sports programs, and school breakfast and lunch programs for underprivileged students.

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?

There seems to be a rumor that I want to contract out jobs. I spoke in council several years ago about Salinas' city charter mandate to have police officers---those are not jobs we can contract out---but I want to be clear I that I believe that contracting out should only be used as a last resort for specialty jobs that cannot (or will not) be done by our city employees. If decisions are made to seek outside contractors, I would certainly want to make sure that these services cannot be accomplished efficiently by SEIU members.

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?

Pensions are a vital part of the compensation for our county employees. I don't believe in depriving our workforce of a fair deal upon retirement.

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

Childcare plays a vital role in our nation's economy. COVID-19 has largely shut down childcare programs and schools across the nation, presenting challenges for working parents. Childcare closures are a particularly acute problem for frontline and essential workers. I will work with State and local agencies already accessing Federal funding via the CARES Act to direct city workers to their childcare programs. I will also work to find funding within our city budget to help mitigate the costs for our city employees.

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

We need more affordable housing where service workers, teachers, young people and seniors can live. I would take the following actions to begin to reverse the history of past housing actions that made home ownership and stable housing a reality and enable people of all economic and racial backgrounds to live and raise their families in Salinas:

Advocate for City programs that offer incentives to enable low and middle-income renters to stay in their homes and prevent mom and pop landlords from being forced to sell, leading to neighborhood gentrification and upward pressure on rents.

Support the expansion of transit-oriented development in areas near public transit.

Advocate for the requirement that all new housing above 20 units be required to include a minimum of 15% affordable housing units.

Back regulations that deter corporate ownership of existing housing stock for purely speculative reasons.

Support housing nonprofits like Housing Resource Center of Monterey County that employ innovative and proven methods to secure stable housing for low income individuals or give people access to home financing to become homeowners.

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 type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Walk picket lines |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Hold a press conference |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" 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?

The incoming Mayor of Salinas will be challenged with the daunting task of leading the city through a significant economic downturn from this pandemic. Economic recovery and economic

development will be a few of the most challenging issues that Salinas elected officials need to focus on immediately.

Currently, there is a significant gap in leadership that I know I can fill---I have the experience as a former city councilwoman from 2010-2018, have worked with 5 of the 6 current city council members, and have kept up with the current issues with my role as CEO at the Monterey County Business Council. Our City Manager is retiring, and we are expecting 3 or possibly 4 new Council members come November. Now is not the time for a beginner to become the Mayor. The I know the issues, I know the players, and I know the politics. And I'm confident I can step into the role with knowledge and capability to start immediately.



Signature:

Date: 8/26/20

Print Name: Kimbley Craig

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