

A Conversation with Supervisor Nate Miley



Dear Alameda County resident,
“Over the years, many people in our community have asked me what a member of the Board of Supervisors is responsible for. I thought you might find this interview informative. It explains pretty clearly what I do and how my background influences the decisions I make and my priorities in office.

My best wishes to you in the New Year.”

— Nate Miley, Alameda County Supervisor

Why I am running for re-election.

Supervisor Miley, you're running for re-election to Alameda County Board of Supervisors, a post you've held for two decades. What influenced your decision to run again?

Simply put, our County needs experienced leadership now more than ever, and I'm still very passionate about providing that leadership.

When I took office in 2000, the county's major problems were social services, elder care and healthcare, and we've made strides in those areas. But our county's population has aged, and our region's economy has taken a nose-dive since it shifted away from manufacturing. At the same time, we've experienced a proliferation of illegal drugs and weapons, increased homelessness, and soaring housing costs. The pandemic also revealed significant challenges to our safety net services. On top of all that, our heightened awareness of environmental issues and social injustices demands attention.

Effectively dealing with these issues requires institutional knowledge, expertise and well-honed relationships with experts, balanced by the ability and humility to seek opinions and ideas from the community. That's what I bring.

There are four other supervisors on the Board: Dave Haubert, Elisa Márquez, Lena Tam and Keith Carson. Don't they also possess these qualities?

Certainly, but please consider this: Keith Carson is leaving the Board after over 30 years of service. Dave Haubert didn't come onboard until Scott Haggerty retired in 2020. Elisa Marquez joined us after Richard Valle succumbed to cancer this past year, and Lena Tam was elected after Wilma Chan was tragically killed two years ago. That means that the county, with its \$4 billion annual budget and multiplicity of complex issues, has lost over 130 years of public- and private-sector experience. Our newly installed supervisors are bright, capable, and bring experience from other areas. But they're still very new to their posts. Our County's problems are complex and experience is essential.

“Our County's problems are complex and experience is essential.”

What are some examples of issues that are difficult to resolve? And what actions have you taken to resolve them?

Access to affordable healthcare is one example. From the time I was an Oakland City Councilmember, I've fought to strengthen our healthcare system, ensuring ample funding for Highland Hospital, St. Rose Hospital, and for community providers like Roots Community Health Center, Asian Health Services, Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center, Native American Health Center, and La Clinica. Funding for these important essential healthcare providers and services is critical so I led the campaign to pass Measure A that now raises more than \$100 million every year to help Alameda County residents.

Another longstanding issue was the disposal of unsafe pharmaceuticals. For years people flushed unused medications down their sinks or toilets or threw them away in their trash because there were no disposal sites for pharmaceuticals. These drugs eventually end up polluting our water system. My work led to the first law in the state for the safe disposal of pharmaceuticals in Alameda County. That in turn became a model for the entire country, and was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

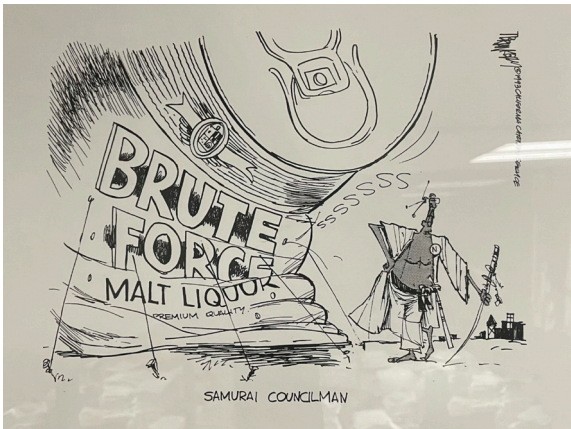
I fought the proliferation of liquor stores in poorer neighborhoods and the problems they attract, and led the effort to limit the number of alcohol outlets that could be licensed. My efforts locally drew the attention from the State and this became a statewide issue, leading the State Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to provide training for alcohol outlets employees, in order to prevent liquor sales to minors and inebriated adults.

And don't forget the ongoing problems of homophobia, racism and sexism. I've actively fought against these heinous practices by hiring and contracting individuals of all races and genders. I've officiated same-sex and interracial marriages, and appointed a diversity of individuals to county boards, commissions and MACs (Municipal Advisory Councils). I don't just support events like Castro Valley's Pride and Oakland's Black Joy, I sponsor and attend them. The people of these communities aren't campaign issues to me.

So as I said, few issues are new to me. I've been tackling them as they occur, and I'll continue to do that in the future.



Some of the best ideas come from small meetings with constituents, and to hear their thoughts and discuss solutions.



I led the fight against the expansion of liquor stores in poorer neighborhoods.

An ongoing problem is the increasing cost of housing. What have you done regarding affordable housing?

I championed the county's Measure A1 General Obligation Bond Initiative, raising \$580 million to create thousands of units of affordable housing throughout the county. For every Measure A1 dollar, housing providers are able to secure an additional three to four dollars from other sources, and our county received tens of millions of state and federal dollars annually to support the unhoused. Our county received a \$15 million HUD award last February to support the unhoused, resulting in more than 1,700 homeless individuals being moved into permanent housing.

A more hands-on example is my work with Firm Foundation Community Housing. I partnered with HomeAid Northern California and CoBUILD Construction in developing a tiny home village on the property of First Presbyterian Church in Castro Valley. That village now houses formerly homeless working women, including a family.

Similarly, I provided funding, guidance and support to Genesis Worship Center in Oakland to build apartments for formerly incarcerated men who are employed and on probation. I also championed the development of the Fairmont Campus Navigation Center Tiny Home Village, which provides housing for unsheltered clients and medical respite for those too ill to recover on their own. I hosted a virtual workshop for faith-based/community-based organizations and public agencies on navigating the tiny homes permitting process.

I also pushed for compromises between landlords and tenants during the Covid-19 pandemic—not an easy fix, since some landlord/tenant needs were diametrically opposed—and I always voted to support affordable housing issues throughout District 4. I was quick to fund low-cost housing developments by church organizations, including Oakland's Genesis Worship Center, Center of Hope Church and ACTS Full Gospel Church of God in Christ, and the First Presbyterian Church of Hayward.



During the pandemic (note the masks!) I helped to build small homes for formerly homeless women.

Let's talk more about employment, economic and environmental inequities. How have you as a member of the Board of Supervisors dealt with these issues?

That is a complex question as none of these issues can be solved solely by County government. However there are things we can do. Regarding employment inequality, I've long worked with minority contractors, youth training programs and employment programs. I also work with unsheltered, formerly incarcerated job seekers like Men of Valor, Downtown Streets Team and The Beautification Council, organizations dedicated to improving our communities while helping formerly incarcerated men and women re-enter society.

Most recently, I directed approximately \$30 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds directly to unincorporated Alameda County, and championed County contracts going to Small Local Emerging Businesses (SLEB). I also promoted food justice through ALL IN Food Hubs and emergency food distribution contracts during the pandemic, and I championed Measure A and C to increase access to affordable child care for working families.

The county can also help steer conversations about institutional racism to promote healing and understanding. I co-sponsored the Board's apology for the effects of slavery and racial segregation in Alameda County back in 2011, and co-authored the County's Reparation proposal for American Descendants of Slavery (ADOS). I also pushed for the County's recent disparity study, and look forward to the release of its results. These are crucial steps toward righting long-ignored wrongs.

Then, there's the issue of environmental justice. I've always pressed businesses in our industrial areas to conform to legal safety standards, called them out when they were not in compliance, and prompted them to participate in community improvements. One such business is Argent Materials, a concrete and asphalt recycling site that has been in Oakland since 2013.

Under my influence, these companies and others partnered with faith-based organizations, community groups, the Alameda County Sheriff's Office and former District Attorney's Office and the Oakland Public Works Department to clean up and landscape two Deep East Oakland illegal dumping hot spots.

As part of my long-term interest in improving the quality of our local neighborhoods and environment, I convened the third annual statewide Illegal Dumping Conference. I also was instrumental in establishing the Lead Abatement Joint Powers Authority to actively address the harm to children due to the presence of lead paint in homes.

To ensure that the young people of District 4 are being adequately served, I led the effort to develop the only two County-sponsored youth centers in Alameda County: REACH in unincorporated Ashland and Youth UpRising in East Oakland. I'm a long-time supporter of the work of the Cypress Mandela Training Center in East Oakland, and DSAL (Deputy Sheriffs' Activities League) for the unincorporated communities. And I've always been a strong ally of the East Oakland Youth Development Center.



Dealing with illegal dumping is an ongoing problem. Here I am helping to restore a former illegal dump site.

“I’ve been successful because I’m able to work with people who may differ with me.”

You said some issues can’t be resolved by County Supervisors. What are some of those issues?

County Supervisors can’t solve crime in Oakland, Hayward, Berkeley, or any other incorporated city in the county. Cities have elected officials of their own, and police departments to enforce their laws. When invited, however, our County Sheriff and California Highway Patrol can, and do, step in.

Likewise, County Supervisors can’t shut down homeless encampments in incorporated cities. Our mandate is to offer services, such as healthcare and shelters, and to partner with the elected officials of cities within the county. We can’t usurp their authority any more than they can usurp ours.

Lastly, County Supervisors can’t force landlords to provide rent-free housing, or prevent lawfully obtained eviction orders. County Supervisors cannot vote against the wishes of their constituents because of privately held beliefs or desires. County Supervisors can’t make land-use decisions in cities, shut down a city’s crematorium, or clear out homeless encampments in cities. Any candidate who believes that county supervisors have this authority is either naive or unclear on the mandate of a county supervisor.

Supervisor Miley, Let me ask you some personal questions. Prior to being on the Board of Supervisors you served as an Oakland City Councilmember. Some would say that indicates real dedication to service. Where does that dedication come from?

It's part of my upbringing. I was raised by a mother and father who believed in duty, responsibility, discipline and hard work. And I was raised in a community that reflected those values.

“I was raised by a mother and father who believed in duty, responsibility, discipline and hard work. And I was raised in a community that reflected those values.”



My mom and dad instilled in me my work ethic and commitment to community.

My father was a part of the Great Migration from the south—in his case, North Carolina—to Maryland, when he was a very young man. As the eldest of four children, he was responsible for helping to support his single mother and siblings.

In the '40s there weren't many opportunities for Black men, so Dad joined the military. That gave him the experience to get an entry-level civil service job with the Department of the Interior until he retired.

Meanwhile, my mother grew up in Washington, D.C., the granddaughter of a very, very, very traditional Baptist minister. Hers was a large extended family, as was my father's. When my mother and father fell in love, they were in their early 20s. So there was no question but that they would get married and live near her family in D.C. That dedication to family never waned, and it strongly influenced my own closeness to family and community.



While most of my time is spent on county issues, I find the time I spend with young people as the most impactful and rewarding.

Did your parents face many struggles, as a young African American couple?

They undoubtedly did, given the times and the fact that I came along within the next couple of years. But they didn't share much about their struggles with me because that was considered "grown folks business" in those days.

What I do know is that my parents came from close knit families that looked out for each other. From what I could see and from all that I heard, they were all able to secure civil service jobs in the District, plus jobs on the side. My guess is that my great-grandfather, grandmother, parents, aunts and uncles were able to buy homes because houses were small and cheap on the "colored" side of town. They probably pooled their money, which was pretty typical of African American families during that time.



This is the home I grew up in. It was on one of the only two streets that African Americans were allowed to live on.

But as I said, my parents lived in a small house in D.C. until they were able to buy a home of their own. They settled in Suitland, then a predominately white suburb of Prince George's County, Maryland. My younger brother, sister and I grew up in that house. It was on one of two streets designated for African Americans in that particular development. I never questioned it because my folks didn't make it an issue; it was just the way things were in the '50s and '60s. We focused on keeping our home and streets pristine, and looked forward to Sunday dinners with Grandma and our many uncles, aunts and cousins.

Both my parents worked, like every other family in my community. All the households had two parents and they all had jobs. I didn't think it was unusual for the times.

What was school like?

All my playmates were Black until I got to junior high and high school. There, nearly all the students were white. That, I did think was unusual. Everyone seemed to know each other, except me and the handful of other Black students. Fitting in socially was challenging at first and it affected my grades. Mom had to remind me daily that I was just as smart as my classmates, if not smarter. She even spoke with my teachers about the negative perceptions that I may have internalized from the abrupt "integration".

I eventually gained confidence, transferred into college prep classes and graduated with honors. I excelled as a thespian and lettered in both football and track. I only made a handful of Black friends in high school because so few were in my classes or extracurricular activities, and we soon drifted out of each others' lives.



While I loved sports my passion was community service. I'm #85 in this team picture. My teammates jokingly called me Butterfingers Miley!

Your upbringing sounds seriously old-school.

I guess it was an old-school upbringing, although I thought nothing of it at the time. I grew up at a time when people worked for what they wanted, raised their kids and any other kids who needed raising, and took care of their responsibilities. Mom and Dad continued to work long hours at demanding jobs. In fact, Mom obtained a teaching credential while working days, and began teaching at the local elementary school when I was in my early teens.

My folks also did a lot of volunteer work for their church. My dad was a deacon in the church. My mom sang in the choir and I cleaned the church on Saturdays and taught Sunday school. My parents expected me to help with the housework, yard work, church work, whatever work needed doing—and I didn't dare say no! When I was able to work outside of the home, I did that, too.

A typical weekend included chores, homework, school and/or civic activities, family gatherings, discussions and playing with neighborhood friends. But there was always an emphasis on education first, part-time job later. And my part-time jobs never kept me from church, scouting, camping, and volunteering in my community.

We hear a lot today about candidates being raised by single moms, living out of cars, and running from abusive situations. My heart goes out to them, but that just wasn't my experience. My upbringing informs the person that I've become, and the adults that I've raised my son and daughter to be.

How did your background and personal values play into your decision to major in Government at Franklin & Marshall College?

My choice of majors was part of my career goal: I wanted to serve the public by holding political office. I reasoned that a Bachelor's Degree in Government would give me a solid theoretical foundation, and a law degree would give me a solid legal foundation.

But at the time, the Vietnam war was raging and I was classified as 1A with a draft number lower than 15. So instead of being drafted, I planned to enlist in a deferred Marines entry program while in law school, then spend summers training, then enter the Marines as a judge advocate. Eventually my plan was to run for political office in my home state. As luck would have it, the war ended, my plans changed, and I was able to go straight through law school after finishing my undergrad degree.

Coming to Oakland

You hold a law degree from the University of Maryland. How did you find your way to Alameda County?

With the war over, I no longer felt the pressure to enlist. Instead, I joined a Jesuit non-profit group as a volunteer and came to Oakland. It was an awakening! I discovered a greater need for public service here than I ever could have imagined back in Maryland.

My new role called for me to meet with individuals, neighborhood groups and church groups to get an understanding of community needs, then hold elected officials and the private sector accountable for problems they created that negatively impacted the quality of life in the Oakland flatlands.

The \$50-per-month stipend wasn't great for a law school graduate, but for me, it was all about social justice and ministry. I managed my expenses by living in a West Oakland house—coincidentally, formerly used by the Black Panther Party—with other Jesuit volunteers. It took some talking to get my parents onboard, but I told them I'd be back in a year and they grudgingly went along with it. My parents were strivers and taskmasters, but they were also great believers in public service.

My folks also saw the worth of my work as my responsibilities, knowledge and expertise increased. My initial Jesuit volunteer post grew into a paid professional position with the founding of the Oakland Community Organization (OCO). It took me from Oakland to multiple cities across the country as a community organizer, training other organizers in 19 states and 22 cities. By 1980, I became the director of The Organized Communities for a Unified Stockton, an OCO affiliate organization, and later trained with the Industrial Areas Foundation Network (IAF) in Houston Texas.

So would you say you were an activist?

I guess one could say I was, but being an activist didn't mean committing anarchy or in any way breaking the law; it meant making the world a better place for everyone. As John Lewis said, "getting into good trouble."

Here's an example. The Fruitvale Theater had closed down in the 1970s and the primary owner had let it fall into a state of disrepair — garbage, rats. It was terrible. It had become a symbol of real neighborhood blight. The owner had turned a deaf ear to community pleas to fix the problem for years, and the City of Oakland was less than responsive. So my OCO colleagues and I organized busloads of 200-odd neighborhood volunteers to go to that owner's Pacific Heights mansion in San Francisco to demand that he do the right thing. As Frederick Douglass had so famously said, "Power concedes nothing without demand."

The theater owner met us on his front porch and we held a very respectful conversation, presenting him with reasons that he should demolish the dilapidated theater. He listened to us and had the defunct property demolished. Low-cost housing now stand on that site. This victory was long in coming, and was the first of its type and scale by OCO.

From my earliest days of organizing to today, I have fought to improve our community by working with and inspiring people.



It took months of organizing but I learned the power of people working together to improve their community. In January 1979 The Oakland Tribune ran this picture with the caption: CHEERS. Fruitvale District residents sipped champagne and cheered as the wrecker's ball smashed into a wall of the old Fruitvale Theatre building, long an eyesore in the neighborhood.

Deciding to run for office.

What about your political aspirations?

My political aspirations grew as I organized. In fact, my organizing work turned out to be the perfect conduit to politics, giving me a practical feel for urban issues and a familiarity with people living in lower- and middle-class communities—very important, since I didn’t grow up in the Bay Area.

“My organizing work turned out to be the perfect conduit to politics, giving me a practical feel for urban issues and a familiarity with people living in lower- and middle-class communities.”

I intentionally sought other experience as well. I used my law degree to get a position with a local law firm, Siegel, Friedman & Yee, where I learned more about Oakland’s legal and politically progressive issues and was taken under the partners’ wings. I later worked as an insurance agent with New York Life Insurance, to gain experience in the private sector and to get a further sense of the broader community.

These jobs also enabled me to meet and form lasting relationships with community, business and religious leaders, as well as elected officials.

Supervisor Miley, didn’t you also found a non-profit organization around this time?

Yes, United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County (USOAC) was born of my activism, but spurred by need rather than politics. As an organizer, I was constantly hearing about the unmet needs of the elderly. So in 1986, I began working with concerned citizens to create a sponsoring committee to address these issues, with an emphasis on securing funding for senior services in Oakland.

We were able to persuade the City of Oakland to create a department-level Office on Aging, and went on to secure more than \$1 million in funding from the Oakland Redevelopment Department to renovate the Downtown Oakland Senior Center and establish city-owned senior centers in East Oakland, West Oakland, North Oakland and Fruitvale-San Antonio.

We also worked with the city to establish senior crossing zones, secure additional space for Arroyo Viejo seniors and adopt a Comprehensive Plan for seniors, while advocating for patient payment reform in Medicare overcharges, fighting against AC Transit rate increases for seniors, and providing input on the Countywide Coordinated Paratransit Plan.



I’ve learned that to be an effective representative you just can’t sit in meetings, you need to get out of the office and get involved.

“I am President of United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County. It was recognized as Oakland’s foremost advocacy group for the elderly. United Seniors now boasts more than 13,000 members throughout Alameda County.”

You also raised a family along the way. Don’t you have two adult children?

Yes, I did. And yes, I do! My son works for the county and my daughter is a social worker in Chicago. Both are happy and healthy and hold Master’s Degrees; Chris in Public Administration, and Sarah in Clinical Social Work. They’re both very public-service oriented—those apples didn’t fall far from the tree! I’m very proud of them. I also have three little grandchildren who keep me on my toes and bring me a lot of joy, and a great daughter-in-law, who nurtures them while working full time.

I got married when I was in my early 30s. Fran and I couldn’t sustain the marriage but we shared in the raising of our children. I’ve retain very cordial relations with my ex-wife and her husband, Mel. I’m currently in a long-term relationship and have high hopes that when I ride off into the sunset, it’ll be with Toni, my significant other.

Supervisor Miley, you got that degree in Government, the law degree, and those years of experience organizing, what prompted you to run for office?

By the ‘90s, I was living near Mills College, organizing my neighbors to address their community concerns. I still wanted to run for office and I spent five years studying the issues, getting involved in political and civic affairs, understanding the needs of the community, and formulating my position on controversial matters facing the Oakland City Council. When a seat in my district came up for election, I was well-prepared to challenge the incumbent, even though he had held that seat for more than 13 years. And I won.

My education, law degree and years of preparation paid off, helping me handle the record-breaking homicides, speeding and traffic infractions that occurred once I was in office. I tackled them head-on, fighting assertively to get speed bumps installed in so many trouble spots that I became known as “the speed-bump king,” and enacting pedestrian safety measures that were recognized state- and nationwide. I also worked with community groups and activists to limit the number of liquor stores in the low-income neighborhoods of Oakland, and led efforts around tobacco regulations, community policing, and the establishment of the joint powers lead-abatement authority.

“I became known as an elected official who gets things done.”

It sounds like you were really making a difference on Oakland City Council.

I like to think so, and it felt very rewarding. I'd begun my third city council term when Mary King announced her planned departure from District 4 of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. Community members pushed me to pursue that seat because of my successful fights for safety, senior citizens and healthcare improvements. I began to see that I could serve on a larger scale.

Remember, I have this long-held belief in public service as adding value, helping to advance our society. To me, it's not about promoting ego or being admired. So I went for that Board of Supervisors seat and was elected over a number of other worthy opponents.

And you've held that seat on District 4 ever since. Tell us a bit about your district, Supervisor.

For starters, it's the most politically, ethnically and geographically diverse of the county. It encompasses portions of Oakland: blue-collar Deep East Oakland, Eastmont and Millsmont; the more white-collar neighborhoods of Laurel, Dimond and Montclair. It includes the unincorporated town of Castro Valley, which ranges from white-collar to agricultural, and the strictly blue-collar unincorporated areas of Ashland, Cherryland, El Portal Ridge, Fairmont Terrace, Fairview and Hillcrest Knolls. Finally, it includes most of Pleasanton.

“ As a Supervisor representing a very diverse community I work on difficult and complex issues: encouraging the building of affordable housing, improving social services, transportation, and our county's health system. Public safety and illegal dumping continue to be high priorities.”

Representing people in such diverse communities must present challenges. How do you manage to deal with such diverse needs?

It is not easy. First, you have to have a great staff. Second, you have to work hard to understand the issues. The problems we deal with in the County often take years to address and government works slowly. My legal background, my community organizing, and my experience of dealing with people from all different backgrounds has served me well. My tenacity has led to significant improvements in the lives of many of our citizens

I try to tackle big issues and approach my work without ideology prejudice. That has led to working hard on a wide range of healthcare issues that touch so many of our residents.

I've worked with all segments of our community toward housing solutions, supporting low-income developments throughout my district, minority contractors, youth training and employment programs, formerly incarcerated individuals and unhoused job seekers.

I also serve residents in unincorporated areas who do not have locally elected leaders, I have tried to represent their interests as a member of the Board of Supervisors. I worked for the successful passage of Measure D, an ordinance to enhance and preserve agriculture and open space in our county. I initiated the Eden Area Livable Initiative for a shared vision in the unincorporated communities; and secured funding for the REACH Ashland Youth Center, Youth UpRising, the new Castro Valley Library and the new Cherryland Community Center. I led the effort to secure the Farmers Market and Trader Joe's in Castro Valley, and to revitalize Eastmont Mall into Eastmont Town Center. And I supported the creation of My Eden Voice, and I pushed the county to recognize the need for a disparity study to determine whether there is discrimination in county contracting..

I'm proud that my efforts were able to obtain funding for the construction of the first new Cherryland fire station in 40 years, with four new renovated fire stations being planned throughout our district.

Let's shift gears a bit, to challenges about finding compromise. Is it difficult?

Sometimes. Our county is diverse and this district even more so. People want local solutions to difficult problems that are often national problems. As elected officials we often have to find a middle ground and govern according to the greater good. It's not always easy.

Here is an example. The Black Lives Matter movement, spurred by the horrific and unjust killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and other unarmed citizens of color, reached the very soul of most every person in the county. Around the same time, we uncovered alarming concerns about our County Sheriff's Department within Santa Rita Jail, and the Oakland Police Department is still under Federal Oversight because long-standing abuses in the Black community had not been sufficiently remedied. Defunding the police became a rallying cry for many.

But at the same time many residents want more police not less. Balancing reform and the need for safety and security for citizens creates obvious challenges.

Is that why you resist political labels?

Yes. Early on, I was labeled a "maverick" because I wasn't afraid to dive in and make changes to get things done. But I also recognize that the best way to govern is to listen to all sides, find a compromise, and push toward long-term, flexible solutions. I strive to offer law- and conscience-based guidance to constituents of all stripes, then deliver services that bridge the gap.

This is the reason that my office operates proactively rather than reactively, delivering services and championing public involvement and transparency. I find good people and help them grow, getting out of their way to allow them to achieve success.

“The best way to govern is to listen to all sides, find a compromise, and push toward long-term, flexible solutions.”

What would you call your most significant contributions to people of color and women in your district?

Apart from my work improving accessibility to health care in the county and encouraging more affordable housing, I would first point to my early advocacy of reparations for American Descendants of Slavery (ADOS). Because of my strong vested interest, I co-sponsored the Board of Supervisors' 2011 official resolution apologizing for enslavement and racial segregation, and I called on the state and federal government to take similar action.

I currently chair the county's ad hoc committee on reparations for American Descendants of Slavery (ADOS), and will be working closely with our county's Reparations Citizens Advisory Commission to develop a county-wide action plan.

I opposed Proposition 209 because it constrained our ability to provide public sector opportunities to minority- and women-owned business enterprises, and I've consistently fought for small local emerging business enterprises seeking County contracting opportunities, which is a priority of mine.

I fought to keep Kaiser Permanente in Oakland, fought hand in hand with labor for just contracts for workers and championed prevailing wage agreements, as the men and women who do the work, deserve a fair living wage.



I regularly meet with seniors to help address the problems of our aging Alameda County residents

Plans for the future.

What are your plans for your upcoming term?

There are many. First and foremost is illegal dumping. I will continue to fight to prevent illegal dumping because it's a crime against our communities that affects the quality of life whether in our rural, urban or suburban areas. By leading the statewide Illegal Dumping Task Force, I've advocated for education, eradication and enforcement throughout the region. In the coming term, I'll push for stronger means of enforcing laws and penalties against these perpetrators.

Second, I believe strongly in jobs, jobs and more jobs! Quality, living-wage jobs must be made available for individuals and families to thrive in the Bay Area. As a member of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the Bay Area Housing Finance Authority and the Alameda County Transportation Commission, I keep job creation at the forefront of my decision-making process.

My voting decisions will also always include concerns for the production of housing. I will continue to make this a focus while being mindful that the production of housing and transportation projects do not sacrifice the quality of our environment.

I'll also push for law and order reforms that promote constitutional policing without compromising or diminishing public safety. It's important to have consequences and accountability for criminal behavior like sidschows, retail theft, and assaults on racial minorities and senior citizens.

Finally, I will secure on-going funding for senior programs. As America continues to age, we should continue to care for our older citizens, providing them with comprehensive services. As I always say, if it's good for seniors, it's good for everyone. But at the other end of the spectrum, I'll continue to mentor those who want careers in public service, especially young adults. As the song goes, I believe that children are our future.

“I will continue to fight to prevent illegal dumping because it’s a crime against our communities that effects the quality of life whether in our rural , urban or suburban areas.”

That sounds like a big agenda, Are there other things you also want to address?

I intend to address the crisis of homelessness through rental assistance programs that do not adversely affect landlords, and offer tenant protection through mandatory and possibly binding mediation with counseling service to tenants. More affordable housing will be made available through a regional bond measure, with a \$1 billion expenditure plan in Alameda County that emphasizes housing protection, production and preservation. These funds will address the needs of the unsheltered, as well as housing for teachers, first responders, among others.

Of great importance to me is the environmental dangers of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly known as PFAS. I’m leading the effort to raise public awareness, and to push the industries to stop using and manufacturing PFAS’s. These ‘forever chemicals’ are extremely persistent in our environment, and can lead to such health problems as liver damage, thyroid disease, obesity, fertility issues and cancer. We need to find solutions to eliminate the effects of these harmful chemicals.

I will continue to work with Castro Valley residents to explore incorporation, if they want it. Their MAC is doing a fine job, but there may be mayoral and city council candidates who could help Castro Valley rise to the next level. I’ll continue to seek opportunities for greater local governance throughout our entire unincorporated area—which, were it a city, would be the fourth largest in Alameda County.

I want to ensure that my constituents in Pleasanton and the tri-valley realize the benefits of Valley Link and other transportation improvements, as well as other county resources for vulnerable populations living there.

And I’ll continue to address public safety concerns through measures like our Sideshow Ordinance, which has proven to be a very effective crime prevention tool.

Do you have any regrets?

Hmmm. If I had it to do over, I’d have been a lot more present for my daughter. I wasn’t always as present when she was young as I should have been. I think I could’ve done more work on myself earlier to understand my deficiencies and the steps I needed to take to become a better parent.

Career-wise, I sometimes wonder how things might’ve turned out if I hadn’t joined the Jesuit Volunteer Corp and come to Oakland after law school. I might’ve stayed in Maryland, taken the Bar Exam and pursued a legal and political career in my home state. Had the Vietnam War not ended prior to my graduation from law school, I might have entered the Marine Corp and become a Judge Advocate General. I don’t know.

There are also a few staff members and interns that I would’ve liked to have held onto a little longer. They know who they are, so I don’t want or need to name them. But I’ve always encouraged career growth, so holding onto them would’ve been selfish. I retain cordial relationships with all my former employees and wish them all the best.

So, Supervisor, what do you do in your spare time?

I don't have much! But I make it a point to engage in physical exercise regularly, at my local fitness facility or in the course of my day. It helps to have very young grandchildren, who like to run and play with Toni and me. It also helps that Toni values physical activity and fitness as much as I do.

Family is very important to me, so I make it a point to see my little grandchildren, brother, sister and other relatives as often as possible. I also accompany Toni when she visits family in Arizona, and greatly admire her relationships with her siblings and cousins. Toni introduced me to the Ashland Shakespeare Festival and jazz cruises; in turn, I introduced her to camping. She's an avid reader and encourages me to read at least one non-work related book a year. It also helps that Toni values my commitment to physical activity and fitness.



Being a Cub Scout and later a Boy Scout (yes this is me) taught me the importance of community service. Public service is my passion. It's not about promoting ego or being admired. It is what I love.

“I try to find a balance between family and public service, it is not always easy. My style derives from my community organizing orientation, which seeks to engage the community and develop local leadership, work on grassroots issues that affect the quality of life—and at all times, stay in the background to build a collective leadership. But I’m still passionate enough about serving the public through my elected position not to stress about spare time, or the lack of it. It’s my life’s work.”

P.O. Box 29753
Oakland, CA 94604

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
TRADE LITHO

WWW.MILEYFORSUPERVISOR.COM



“My “style” is to stay in the background and let others take credit. It comes from my community organizing background which seeks to engage the community and develop local leadership to work on issues that affect the quality of their lives.”

— Nate Miley, Alameda County Supervisor

PAID FOR BY NATE MILEY FOR SUPERVISOR 2024. FPPC ID #992285

