

RWF Candidates Forum Transcription

By Anthony Daggon

Andy Waters - 0:00 - 4:57

It's an extreme honor to be invited by all you ladies and gentleman. You were probably told to come here tonight I guess. Anyways, my name is Andy Waters. Nobody probably knows me from here. I'm from Moorpark, 4th generation, family farmer. Been involved in the county for 4 generations. Involved in the water issues, involved in city Moorpark city stuff. My mom has been a big, been a big, she actually made me do this. Bob's a wonderful, wonderful individual, done a lot for the city of San, Simi Valley. I mean his his his his his resume is amazing and he's done so much for this city and you know, I shop in Simi Valley. I got to Costco. My friends live here. That's all I know about Simi Valley. And Simi Valley is disconnected from the rest of Ventura County. From the county, I tell people from Simi Valley "Hey I'm Andy Waters, I'm running for the 4th district. What's that? What's the county do? I don't understand. Why, I mean, I know the city council. I know what they do. You know, they make policy, they provide. Well, the county has a \$2 billion-dollar budget, we all pay for obviously, and we don't have a say in it because we're east county. You know, I might just ramble on here for a while for a here but, we pay for that, we deserve, we deserve to have a voice in the county. I'm from

the county, I'm a farmer. I go to the county all the time. How many, how many in this room have been to the county building in the last 6 months? So, if I did a year, probably nobody. I go all the time. I know everybody there, I know all the issues. I know Mike Powers, I know, I can, I can make things happen for east county. Okay, maybe I can't make things happen, but I least I can be involved in the conversation and support us. So, anyways, um, that's my position. That's where I am at. I've been involved in the water issues because I'm a farmer so when we start growing, we need stuff. So, I got involved in a small entity gaygas that supplies all the water to Simi Valley and I had some issues with the farming entity and I got involved and I'm like, wait a minute, in the Northridge earthquake, Simi Valley was 1 day from losing all water. Zero water deliveries to Simi Valley. I had my own little problems I was dealing with farming and then I got involved. Wait a minute, this is a really big problem. If we don't have the infrastructure to supply Simi Valley with the water they need for simple fire protection. So, you know, so then my eyes opened up. I got more involved and I became more involved in the county, it's pretty scary. Pretty scary what we, you know, every day we live, we work. I was at the Chamber of Commerce this morning and they were doing business here, business there. But, if we don't have fire, we don't have sheriff, we don't have police, we don't have the core

services we need. And by the way, we pay a lot of money for this stuff. We should get, we should have a safe place to live. We should have water and have fire services and the city council has done great job with your police department, so luckily the county doesn't have to be involved in that so much. Anyways, Andy Waters, running for your 4th district. Throwing my hat in, I'm new. I don't have any inclinations about who I owe something to, or who I'm going pay for. All I'm going to say tonight is, I'm putting in a lot of effort into making my county the place to live, where all of us can enjoy and I go to all the county, not all the county okay. I go to the county meetings. I have to and I give my 3 minutes and I think if all of you in this room who are obviously engaged because you wouldn't be here if you weren't engaged can make a difference. I would like your support. You have a great city council, you know your mayor is an awesome person. He's done a great job and I came in late and I'm asking for a chance and that's all I'm asking for. So, if I could answer any questions, because I got nothing else. Anyone, please?

Question 1 - 4:57 - 5:02

What separates you from the other candidates? What do you stand for? What do you want to accomplish?

Andy Waters - 5:02 - 5:44

So, I mean from the candidate from Moorpark, I'm conservative, I'm pro-business, I'm anti-regulation. I don't want to duplicate regulations. If the city of Simi Valley has their own rules, I don't want to duplicate those with the county. I want the city of Simi Valley to control their own destiny. I want to give the city council their own-, I don't want to infringe on that. I want to support that with whatever it could be. It could be grants, infrastructure. It could be, I have a problem with traffic. I sit in traffic all day. I go up and down the county all day long, that's all I do. I spend most of my time in my pickup and I hate traffic and the county should fix that. That's just my problems.

Question 2 - 5:44 - 5:47

How would you propose it be fixed?

Andy Waters - 5:47 - 6:52

Well, so, the federal government runs most of our roads through Ventura County. Simi Valley, 118, all the way through Moorpark and you have trucks. We're working on that. There's a proposal for \$18 million dollars for a truck stand in West of Moorpark to tail the truck. Get them, keep them on the 118, keep them out of Simi Valley, keep them out of Moorpark. So, that's all you can do, right. Because we as a county or the cities, are limited to our powers, but we can work with them to get the money, to put our 2-sense in. This is what we need to do, this is the

intersection we need to do. Like I know, I got, there on First Street. I got to go to Costco, it sucks. But, you know, I got drive through that. I can go I'm only going to go this hour, this hour, and this hour, how do we fix that? How do we mainstream the freeways so not everybody is not leaving Simi Valley? How do we keep our people here? How do we keep our workforce here? How do we maintain that? That's all traffic we've driven, so. Yes ma'am.

Question 3 - 6:52 - 7:00

What do you think the biggest problem is for the county facing us right now?

Andy Waters - 7:00 - 7:54

The county is a \$2 billion-dollar problem. That means they take all of our money and they want to spend it. Then they want to spend more of our money and they want to do even more regulations and they want to spend more on this. That's not enough. So, you know, the dog catcher, we're going to pull away from the dog catchers funding and then he's going to go to your backyard. He's going to look over your gate and he's going to fine you for your dog's not being licensed even though on and on and on. So, my biggest problem with the county is over, not over regulations, sorry. Duplications of regulations or duplication of powers. We already have the EPA, we already have, let the cities maintain the cities. Let the county do what they need to

support us with the foundations that we need to make that happen and move on. Yes ma'am.

Question 4 - 7:54 - 8:10

My question goes to the sanctuary state idea. Really, you're in farming. Do you use, can you verify your employees? Can you verify their legality?

Andy Waters - 8:10 - 9:12

Okay, so, just to be clear with this group. I'm a farmer. I employ about 1,800 people in Ventura County. I do not reverify anybody. Most of my employees are probably not documented. This doesn't leave the room, right? So, anyways, the Sanctuary State, I think that's bullshit. Um, I think, I might of. You know, we have to have a strong policy for immigration. We have to have a pasero program, a way. We've had people live and work on our ranches for 20, 30, 40, 50 years. They've paid taxes, they know what they're doing. They haven't broken and rules. They should have a way in to what we do, right. Their kids have gone here, they've all been, so why can't we, why don't we have a policy to let that happen? Why don't we have a way in?

Question 4 - 9:12 - 9:15

Why don't they want to become a citizen?

Andy Waters - 9:15 - 9:16

They do. They do, they pay.

Question 5 - 9:16 - 9:20

Why aren't they though? What is holding them up for 25 years?

Andy Waters - 9:20 - 9:32

It's our rules, our regulations, our structure that does that. I've had the same employee for 40 years and he's paid into our taxes and he's paid. He's never going to see social security. He's never going to see-

Question 6 - 9:32 - 9:44

Okay, but why? My question is, I'm not born here, I came here, I'm a citizen. Why can't people who come here, number 1, learn English.

Andy Waters - 9:44 - 9:46

And they do. And they do. They do.

Question 7 - 9:46 - 9:55

But many don't and I want to know what is holding? Is that something we should work on so that they can become citizens?

Andy Waters - 9:55 - 10:09

I think we have the policies in place to make than happen. And the people that have worked for me have done that path. Have gone through that. Have gone through the classes. Have done the pledge of allegiance. They all understand that and have worked it. So, we shouldn't-

Question 8 - 10:09 - 10:12

What stopped them? I don't understand.

Andy Waters - 10:12 - 10:20

I don't think anything stopped them. I think it's the media stopped them. The publicity, it's federal, but the people that have-.

Question 9 - 10:20 - 10:26

The main thing is why, if they have been here for 40 years, how come they haven't become a citizen?

Andy Waters 10:26 - 10:46

They have. They have. They have. The one's that have worked for me, the one's that participate, they have. They haven't stopped. Its, it's not the stuff you see in the media about oh you know dah duh dah. That's not reality. That's not what we live in our businesses. What we do, if you employ people throughout the manufacturing-.

Question 10 - 10:46 - 10:51

Okay, so first you said they aren't citizens, so they are citizens?

Andy Waters - 10:51 - 11:08

Well, I'm not sure about that because I get, I ask. But when they get, here's my real social security number, here's my real citizenship. Here's what I'm doing and that's amazing and you've done that. And now they can-.

Question 11 - 11:08 - 11:11

Well, if they have a social security number, then you're supposed to be a citizen.

Andy Waters - 11:11 - 11:13

No. There's lots of social-.

Question 12 - 11:13 - 11:15

Okay, so that's, that's.

Andy Waters - 11:15 - 11:33

So, we need to have a good policy to make them, those people that are working for us right now that are working for all of us to make us successful. They need to have a way in. And if that's. A legal way in. Exactly.

Question 13 - 11:33 - 11:35

Get in line like the rest of the people.

Andy Waters - 11:35 - 11:53

Exactly. Get in line, pay your taxes, become part of it. And they do. That's what they want. That's what all of us want. And if you've been here and you've paid in. I mean, we should have a program. We did. We had the Bracero Program and you know and amnesty, amnesty, amnesty, but.

Question 14 - 11:53 - 11:58

Do you know why they stopped the Bracero Program?

Andy Waters - 11:58 - 12:06

Yeah, they, they it was loosely regulated and all of the Bracero's became citizens. Yes ma'am.

Question 15 - 12:06 - 12:48

Yes, we have question. Can you please be a little louder for the rest of the people can hear. I actually have statement. We ask like, how come, basically isn't this easy to do. Because, they keep wanting us to have the same stupid discussion. Because they don't actually want to solve problems. Um, the federal government, the state government, the county government. They don't seem to be serious about actually solving our problems so that it's not a continual issue. You know, for example, they had an opportunity to do something about DACA and they didn't take it because they it to continuously be an issue to divide us.

Andy Waters - 12:48 - 13:03

I don't, I don't want to deal with conspiracy theories about this, or that, or the other thing, but, undocumented workers and all that. That's a huge revenue source for California. Nobody wants to say anything about-. Yes, ma'am in the back.

Question 16 - 13:03 - 14:00

I would like to know if there's any hope down the line that we will get back the Bracero Program. Would you still allow the people to come from that side over here, do the work that was needed to be done, get money that would see them through the rest of their year, while they went back home and lived their lives with their family back home. And then at some point, somebody decided, well, we won't do that anymore. And now we have this ongoing problem that which has just continued ever

since that program was eliminated. Is there any talk among any politicians about restoring that kind of a program where they can come over, earn enough money to see them through their, the rest of their year, go home, be with their families, and then come back when the next season starts?

Andy Waters - 14:00 - 15:00

So, we have an H2A program right now that we do with California with migrant workers. You know, we bring them up, they work, they pay. But they're not the Bracero Program. And I think that's exactly what we need. I think and not even a Bracero Program, but a hybrid of that. The people that have done it illegally, that are up here working for us or. Because I'm in the farming industry obviously. I work every day in the fields with people that have come legally, illegally, H2A Program, Bracero Program. Um, we need to have a system where immigrants. I don't care, doesn't have to be from Mexico. Any immigrant who comes to America that gets in here legally, that has a program that works and pays into our system, and pays the taxes, and pay. They make lives for themselves. There should be a program that's set. It's easy, it's not that difficult. Go ahead

Question 17 - 15:00 - 17:09

Hi, um, okay. How can I? I am an immigrant. I came here legally. I've been practicing for a long time. This is the first time that I'm here. My name is Isabelle. I am an immigrant and uh,

and I am an American citizen legally. I came legally. It's the only difference between me and the people who's been the. I'm going to use an example that you placed, the people who has been working the land for 40 years. The only thing that I hear is this. That for 40 years, they got away being illegal. It is the honest truth. You, I think, I believe that you have more focus, which is normal of course. You know the other culture. You know what the other culture means. How can we save the other culture if all we do is send back to their own countries because they are illegals? But I believe that there are other options. For example, and I might sound crazy but I don't know why we never think about it as crazy it must sound. For example, the people who we throw in jails, we could put them to work on the lands. The reason why you are opening for legal, you know these people, so that they can keep working on their lands. But, these people have families. At the end of the day, we are going to keep paying taxes for them and owe nothing. This is what we are trying to cut out. The law needs to be for all of them the same because they came, the first day that they came here, they didn't follow the law like I did. And that earns me my right to speak up today.

Andy Waters - 17:09 - 18:15

And those people that have come here illegally or legally and are trying to get what you got, trying to make what you got.

They get really good wages, we pay really well. We pay \$25-\$30 an hour for people that came, that have no paper, no documents. No this, no that. And this doesn't leave the room, right? So, they're making, they're making the American Dream and they're going through the paperwork and they've all, not all. You know, they're making the effort to become an American citizen. They are making the efforts to do the right thing. They're making the effort to provide for their families. And we make it harder for them. You can only work 8 hours. I did all this and I can only work is 8 hours? I can only do this so I got to get another job, another job. You know, we make it difficult for people to be successful in Ventura County because of all the rules. And all I'm saying is as Ventura County Supervisor, I want streamline that system.

Question 18 - 18:15 - 18:29

But there's a reason we have rules. There is a law, there is a law. You are trying to find a way for these people for 40 years ago broke the law to find a way to stay because.

Andy Waters - 18:29 - 18:40

And now you call that DACA, or this or that. I'm saying that if you are here and you're paying your way and you are paying your taxes, you should have a legal way to make it where you are at today.

Question 19 - 18:40 - 18:45

No, when they do come here illegally, no you don't.

Andy Waters - 18:46 - 18:47

Just deport?

Question 20 - 18:47 - 19:20

Try to do that. Try to be illegal in Mexico. Try to be an illegal in Europe. You will be deported. Not in 40 years, but in 40 hours. Makes sense, it's like. It doesn't matter how many years they have they been here. That's not a reason to legalize and illegal because they broke the law. They knew what they were doing and right now, we have to solve their problem.

Andy Waters - 19:20 - 19:46

We have to solve the problem that we have now and I think we have a way to do it. Whether it's either DACA, whether it. We have a way to do that. We have a way to make people that are citizens, not citizens. That are non-citizens, but they are productive people in our county to help us. And we should help them. That is my policy, I could be wrong, but that's what I'm saying.

Question 21 - 19:46 - 20:00

I just want to see the politicians putting legal's first. And once again, we are talking about having to help the illegals and I don't know, it's like frustrating. I sound inhuman.

Andy Waters - 20:00 - 20:05

No, no. No, it's not inhuman. You have uh-.

Question 22 - 20:05 - 20:13

But once again, it's like, how can we help the illegals. How can we help the illegals? How can we help the illegals? Illegals vs. Citizens.

Andy Waters - 20:13 - 20:14

Yes ma'am.

Question 23 - 20:14 - 20:32

Mr. Waters, are you concerned about how you exposed yourself to this group? And said this isn't leaving the room because you know the fact that you actually employ illegal aliens who come back on your shoulders because they actually are your employers? Is that why you're worried?

Andy Waters - 20:32 - 20:41

No, I'm not worried at all, I just said that. I do everything on the up and up. I'm here today to get your support, I have nothing to lose.

Question 24 - 20:41 - 20:44

But as an employer, don't you have to check for proper papers?

Andy Waters - 20:44 - 20:45

Oh yeah, I have everything.

Question 25 - 20:45 - 20:48

Did you decide to overlook that? Are you not breaking the law?

Andy Waters - 20:48 - 21:02

No, we have all the proper paperwork. We do all the blah blah blah blah blah that they make us do. It's all certified and if somebody wants to come after me for my business practices, go ahead because everybody else has, so. Yes ma'am.

Question 26 - 21:02 - 21:27

So, I think you've made your position on um illegal immigration pretty clear. And I guess my question is so, you have a whole lot of potential constituents here, people in the community who are here legally. Do you have any things in mind that you think will be beneficial to the other people of the community?

Andy Waters - 21:27 - 22:46

Coming to this group from Simi Valley, having my opinion is everybody from Moorpark and Simi Valley doesn't really know where Ventura is. Nobody has been to that monster of the county system. Oh okay. So anyways, we know where our money is being spent, alright. So, we have a good feeling where our money is being spent, and I just want to make sure that our money is spent wisely for what we need. I want to make sure when we send our property taxes to that \$2 billion-dollar coagulant of employee you know, that we get what we need. I don't think, I don't think Moorpark, I don't think Simi Valley gets their fair share. I don't think we get the due. You know, I think we send a lot of money there and I don't see it coming back there. I see the traffic problem, you know. Simi Valley has an awesome police

department, outstanding. But I think the county should put a little bit more into that. I think the county should, you know. I think they should, we should, because I'm not there yet. But I think the county has the duty to spend on what it spends on Oxnard and the outreaches to Simi Valley. I think Moorpark gets a lot of the money but.

Question 27 - 22:46 - 22:57

How come we get such a little? Why do we allow them to give us such a little portion of the budget? I don't know.

Andy Waters - 22:57 - 23:48

Actually, Simi Valley gets the same as everybody else. I'm just thinking like political. I'm just saying there needs to be a voice from East County that can be respected at that board. There's only 5 of us. There's only 5 of them on that board. Bob's a great man, he's done a great job. Can he, can he be more uh articulate in situations? Absolutely. I mean, he's a much better public speaker than I am. I can, I've been involved in the county, I know Mike Powers, I know Jeff Drat. I know how it works because I've been in the system, I know how, I know how to funnel my way through and I think I get along with most people. And I think I would be a good representative of Simi Valley and Moorpark if you guys would come out and support me. Yes ma'am.

Question 28 - 23:48 - 23:58

Just one more question. I heard that the other change, the other candidates agreed to run a clean campaign. Are you in on that?

Andy Waters - 23:58 - 25:00

No, I'm totally against a clean campaign because I know Mr. Huber is spotless and there's absolutely nothing I can do and come out and say. So, if he can find something on our other opponent to dirty, whatever, I'm just saying. Seriously, um I would never do it. That man is amazing nothing will come from my campaign once I get one started, that it would say anything bad about that gentleman. I think, I think he's a wonderful man. I think he's done a wonderful job and uh and I don't like him so much as his wife. She is the first person to introduce herself to me at the city. Anyways, she's wonderful. Thank you, guys, for having me.

Question 29 - 25:00 - 25:15

You talked a lot about some of the issues foreseeing to secure my vote, this is great. And you said that numerous times. Some of the issues like are homic-, suicide rate in Simi is pretty high compared to others in the county.

Andy Waters - 25:15 - 25:16

Stop smoking meth.

Question 30 - 25:16 - 25:35

Is there any steps that you have to help in the county position to help our town Simi, as well as just saying, you know, do you

think you'd do a better job than him? Because right now, I'm voting for Bob with what you said here today. So, I just want to know if you can change my mind and most other people in this room.

Andy Waters - 25:35 - 26:34

Bob is obviously a great man. The only thing that I'm giving up to the voters is I'm in it for the long haul. I'm in it for 12 years. My kids, my kids are young, I'm grounded. I'm not going anywhere. I'm going to put the time in it takes to get the, to learn the ins and outs of the county. And, bring that in. So, in 4 years, you can't make anything happen in any government agency, let alone the county. So, I'm going to put all the time in it takes to get whatever it is we need to get done. Your question about Simi Valley. Yeah, so, let's put the time in. Let's find out what the issue is. Obviously, we got, if it's the drug problem. How can we get that money that we've paid into funneled into Simi Valley and get it out of Hueneme, get it out of Oxnard, get it out of Ventura. Get it, because we paid for it. Just because we're good doesn't mean we need the same funding.