

Charles Davidson, Rodeo Hercules Fire District – CANDIDATE STATEMENT

I am seeking the support of both our communities for my re-election as Rodeo-Hercules Fire District board director, as you have consistently championed the health and safety of our most vulnerable residents in their times of greatest need—and the safety of our firefighters. Four years ago, I ran for the RHFD board because our fire districts are essential for emergency medical services, which account for 90% of our Code 3 calls. The closure of Doctors' Hospital left West County without an emergency room, making these services even more critical.

My background in pre-medical and biomedical education, social work, and special education, along with my experience working with incarcerated youth, highlights the importance of a strong medical response system. Firefighters and paramedics are our first line of defense, providing care regardless of financial status.

My 15 years of environmental justice work in Contra Costa County have revealed significant public health concerns in Rodeo, a refinery town with high asthma rates and other issues. As a board member, I discovered that Rodeo's EMS call rate is nearly three times that of Hercules and identified millions of dollars in untapped resources.

I am committed to re-engaging with schools, expanding firefighter training, securing grant funding, and diversifying our workforce. As a member of the County Sustainability Commission, my expertise in physics and chemistry helps address hazards affecting communities near refineries. I ask for your support to keep our fire district a cornerstone of safety for all.