

Candidate Questionnaire

From: Santa Cruz for Bernie

To: Candidates for Local Races in the March 5, 2024 Primary Election

Santa Cruz for Bernie, with over 2,000 politically active members in the Central Coast region, requests that you complete this questionnaire so we can provide guidance to our membership in the upcoming important Primary Election in March.

Because SC4B members widely support policy proposals promoted by Senator Bernie Sanders, some of those topics are reflected in this questionnaire. (See berniesanders.com/issues)

(Just start typing after the >> cue)

1. Your full name >> **Amanda Harris Altice**
2. Your city and county of residence >> **City of Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz County**
3. Office you are seeking >> **Democratic Central Committee District 5**
4. Length of residence in your current District >> **2.5 years**
5. Your occupation or avocation >> **Community organizer and graphic/web designer**
6. Significant memberships, affiliations, and leadership positions held (political, labor union, public service, etc.) >>
 - Indivisible Santa Cruz County, 2017–present
 - Commissioner on the County of Santa Cruz Housing Advisory Commission (HAC)
 - Treasurer NAACP Santa Cruz County Branch, 2023–present (member since 2018)
 - Member of Democratic Socialists of America-Santa Cruz (DSA)
7. In what political campaigns, organizations, and movements have you been active, and what role did you play? >>
 - **CA-22 House of Representatives Andrew Janz campaign** (to get Devin Nunes out): Campaign Volunteer
 - **Indivisible Santa Cruz County**: Volunteer co-lead, event and protest organizer, community organizer
 - **California Nurses Association** (Medicare for All Campaign): Campaign Volunteer
 - **Empty Homes Tax Campaign (Measure N)**: Assistant co-writer. Signature gatherer. Strategy, messaging, and graphic designer (mailers, buttons, yard signs, etc.)
 - **Joy Schendlecker for Mayor (2022) and City Council District 3 (2023)**: campaign volunteer. Strategy, messaging, and graphic designer (mailers, buttons, yard signs, etc.)
 - **DSA Santa Cruz (Love Boat)**: Volunteer supporting our unhoused neighbors
 - **NAACP Santa Cruz**: Lead Organizer MLK March for the Dream (2018-present)
 - **Housing Matters**: Logistics Organizer March to End Homelessness (2023–24)
 - **Santa Cruz Pride**: Volunteer Contingent Organizer (2023–24)
 - **Joe Thompson for City Council**: Campaign volunteer
8. Which policy proposals championed by Bernie Sanders are you most passionate about? >>
 - Medicare for all
 - College for all
 - Green New Deal
 - Tax Increases for the Ultra Rich
 - LGBTQ+ rights and equity

9. What actions would you take at the local level in support of single-payer healthcare including a national Medicare for All and a state CalCare plan? >>

I have participated locally with our Medicare for All group. I have met with local representatives, canvassed, and spoken at events to share my personal story. I would continue to do so. I firmly believe that Healthcare is a Human Right

10. What bold and transformative policy proposals would you support to address the climate crisis at the local, state and national levels? >> Green New Deal but we should make it local. We need a way for people of the 5th district to have better infrastructure so that one disaster does not cause folks to lose their homes for years or permanently. We can build a green new infrastructure in our more rural areas and create higher paying jobs at the same time.

11. What policy proposals would you support that address the issue of growing income/wealth inequality? >> Shrinking the wage gap and supporting higher wages for essential workers. Taxing larger local corporations at a higher tax rate. Regressive taxes on things like a property transfer tax.

12. What policy proposals would you support that address our local housing and homelessness crises? >> Lots of people lost housing in D5 during the CZU fires and still have not been able to rebuild. Other candidates campaigning have said they will help fix and streamline this process and I want to work with them and hold them accountable if that does not happen.

Our last housing element identified properties in our unincorporated areas that we can build on. We should build affordable housing on these properties and need to find different ways to help subsidize building these properties (grants, state funding, etc).

13. What measures would you support to foster union jobs? (e.g. adopt project labor agreements with local hire and apprenticeship training requirements; invest in fully staffed public sector workforce.) >> I fully support efforts that will build worker power and fight for a living wage. A living wage, for me, is also healthcare, also a safe place to live, paid time off and sick pay. So many people struggle and are just a paycheck or two away from complete disaster. We need to be able to pull more resources from the top down (not trickle down!) for working-class Americans.

I think it's a great idea to have apprenticeship programs for students that help them to learn how local government works. Not everyone needs to follow the same path and people have different interests and goals.

14. If you were eligible, did you vote for Bernie Sanders in the Primary Election 2016? *Yes or No* >> **Yes**
In 2020? *Yes or No* >> **Yes**

15. If elected, what do you realistically hope to accomplish during your term of office? >> District 5 has its own set of challenges, and disaster mitigation is one of the biggest. With the increasing risk of fires and damage from storms, the people of district 5 need to have more support and resources readily available. CADEM already has these priorities listed as part of their Rural platform to 'Improve rural disaster resilience by increasing vegetation management on both public and private rural roads, providing fire safe clearing on State and Federal land at the Wildlife-Urban Interface ("WUI"), and providing funding for emergency equipment, and public safety grade communications for wildfire evacuation and recovery'.

I want to help streamline this issue so that it can benefit the residents most impacted. We need to have less barriers and realistic ways to support these efforts.

16. Give an example of when you spoke truth to power. Who were the players, what were the stakes, and what did you do? >> I spoke at the Indivisible Walk for Reproductive Rights when Texas started to ban abortion in the state. I organized and put out a call to action for others to join. We also encouraged others to reach out to our representatives to stand against this.

In my job at the Resource Center for Nonviolence I do this through the programs and events I help create and organize. This has been mostly focused on antiracism work in the form of antiracism book circles hosted by RCNV and also in collaboration with the Santa Cruz Public Libraries.

My event, march, and rally organizing efforts are a way to help groups that may not normally be seen have a voice and be seen in our community . These events bring their experience to the forefront and empowers them in their efforts to create a more just and fair society.

17. Are you running in coordination with any other local candidate? >> Yes, others running in D5 for DCC (Joe Thompson, Wendy Harris, and Glenn Glazer) and other progressives in D3 (Justin Cummings, Ayo Banjo, Bodie Shargel, and Ami Chen Mills)

18. Why should members of Santa Cruz for Bernie vote for you to be their elected representative? (*max 50 words*) >> Our shared values create a better Santa Cruz, one that recognizes and uplifts the most vulnerable people in our community. If we create a world with the most vulnerable in mind we create a better world for all.

Please return your completed questionnaire to santacruz4bernie@gmail.com by December 17, 2023.

Thank you for your participation in this democratic process of candidate endorsement.