

Ami Chen Mills, DCC, District 3

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 >> **Ami Chen Mills**
2. Your city and county of residence >> **Santa Cruz, CA**
3. Office you are seeking >> **DCC member, District 3**
4. Length of residence in your current District >> **20+ years**
5. Your occupation or avocation >> **Journalist, activist, organizer, coach**
6. Significant memberships, affiliations, and leadership positions held (political, labor union, public service, etc.) >> **co-founder, Extinction Rebellion, Santa Cruz; member, Citizens Climate Lobby, member; Committee for Organic and Regenerative Agriculture; former director, Sustainable Systems Research Foundation and Center for Sustainable Change (also co-founder of CSC), member; member of SC city homelessness committee; Board, Center for Spiritual Living, Trained: Conflict Resolution Center; UAW 2865.**
7. In what political campaigns, organizations, and movements have you been active, and what role did you play? >> **See above. 2019 climate strikes and actions, including civil disobedience action at Chase Bank, Citizens Climate Lobby, lobbying locally (Panetta and in Washington DC)**
8. Which policy proposals championed by Bernie Sanders are you most passionate about? >> **Health care/Medicare for All, Housing for All, Green New Deal**
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? >> **Support Watsonville Community Hospital; Support state CalCare plan. Support local efforts to expand Medicare for all, especially in the DCC. (I worked at Central California Alliance for Health for a short period in 2018)**
10. What bold and transformative policy proposals would you support to address the climate crisis at the local, state and national levels? >> **Food security policy, organic and regenerative agriculture across the county, ban pesticides near schools and around Watsonville and beyond ... youth climate corp, pension fund divestment from fossil fuel investments, divestments in every area, support for local microgrids, alternative housing (like tiny homes, RVs), composting toilets and gray water permitting, water harvesting systems, food gardens in urban areas, tree planting, rewilding, support Indigenous land stewardship and land back proposals.**
11. What policy proposals would you support that address the issue of growing income/wealth inequality? >> **Wealth tax, billionaire tax, restructure tax code, re-fund the IRS, housing for all, medicare for all, unionization,**
12. What policy proposals would you support that address our local housing and homelessness crises? >> **Safe parking sites that are workable, safe and provide services too, not in busy downtown parking lots with severe time restrictions. Increase low income and affordable housing stock. Supportive housing. Real estate transfer tax to support low income housing production. Empty Homes Tax. Tenant union organizing and support. Rescind the current OVO. Start again. Tax or**

charge RV dwellers who are simply traveling and have means (who do park on Delaware and elsewhere) to pay for services. Dialogues with service providers, activists and homeowners. Restrictions on global multinational hedge funds and equity firms purchasing housing here.

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.) >> **Yes. All of those.**

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

15. If elected, what do you realistically hope to accomplish during your term of office? >> **A lot of initial learning and observing to understand how to best be effective and then, advocacy to DCC in the form of resolutions, lobbying electeds, etc. ... Plan to join the legislation committee.**

16. Give an example of when you spoke truth to power. Who were the players, what were the stakes, and what did you do? >> **Oh Gosh. See my social media and "Moment of Truth" radio show at KSQD. <https://ksqd.org/moment-of-truth/>**

I have spoken at SC Council meetings many times on behalf of the unhoused. I called out Santa Cruz Together for their apparent campaign violations on local news media when no one else would. Many lobbying meetings with Council members and state level officials regarding climate. Many civil disobedience actions downtown, at Panetta's offices, etc.; wrote a book about the CIA on college campuses, lots of opinion pieces in local publications ... etc.

17. Are you running in coordination with any other local candidate? >> **Progressive slate for DCC.**

18. Why should members of Santa Cruz for Bernie vote for you to be their elected representative? (*max 50 words*) >> **Most members probably know a bit about me already. I am dedicated to both fighting fascism in the form of the current GOP and doing all we can to prevent climate catastrophe. I am highly critical of the neo-liberal capitalist system which is destroying our world and understand the intersections between racism, homophobia, transphobia, patriarchy and sexism and the current economic system.**

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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.