

1. Your full name >> **Ayo Banjo**
2. Your city and county of residence >> **Santa Cruz**
3. Office you are seeking >> **Member, DCC Supervisorial D3**
4. Length of residence in your current District >> **7 years**
5. Your occupation or avocation >> **Program Strategist and Marketing Director**
6. Significant memberships, affiliations, and leadership positions held(political, labor union, public service, etc.) >> **UCSC Student Body President, UCSC NAACP Founding President, California/Hawaii NAACP State Youth President, Climate Action Task Force member, Current DCC Alternate, Committee on Black Residential Affordable Housing Chair**
7. In what political campaigns, organizations, and movements have you been active, and what role did you play? >> **Largely captured in question 6 above, I have been involved in both local, state and national NAACP organizing as President, co-led the Santa Cruz Black Lives Matter Movement, led housing and tuition affordability campaigns across the University of California as President and an active member of student government, and am currently on the city's climate action task force developing adaptation and mitigation strategies in planning and reducing city greenhouse emissions.**
8. Which policy proposals championed by Bernie Sanders are you most passionate about? >> **I care most about Sanders' strong support of aggressive action on climate change, endorsing the Green New Deal to transition to renewable energy and create green jobs. Our team looks to prioritize climate resilience, promoting sustainable infrastructure, and fostering job creation in the renewable energy sector within Santa Cruz.**

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 CalCareplan?

**>>Partnerships with Advocacy Groups: Our campaign recognizes the power of collective advocacy. We will connect and champion partnerships with local and national healthcare advocacy groups to amplify our efforts and build a robust coalition dedicated to healthcare reform. This includes collaborating with local healthcare providers to understand their perspectives and elevate any concerns they may have about the transition to a single-payer system. Building strong partnerships is essential for the success of such a transformative healthcare model.**

10. What bold and transformative policy proposals would you support to address the climate crisis at the local, state and national levels? **>> For local action, my priority is investing in sustainable infrastructure, ensuring Santa Cruz leads in climate resilience and green job creation—especially for our youth and increasing POC representation in the climate field. Our state advocacy includes collaborating with statewide initiatives for comprehensive climate adaptation and mitigation strategies, continuing the strategy of SB 375 Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act that integrated land use and transportation planning to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, directing regional governments to develop Sustainable Communities Strategies (SCS) that align transportation and housing planning to reduce per capita emissions. This groundbreaking legislation fosters compact, transit-oriented development to combat climate change. And national leadership includes advocating for federal policies that prioritize renewable energy, environmental justice, and a swift transition to a green economy.**

11. What policy proposals would you support that address the issue of growing income/wealth inequality? >> **Addressing income/wealth inequality is a top priority for our team. We support policies like equitable tax reform, living wages, and targeted investments in education and workforce development to create an inclusive Santa Cruz where prosperity is shared by all.**

12. What policy proposals would you support that address our local housing and homelessness crises? >> **Our team is dedicated to addressing Santa Cruz's housing and homelessness crises by advocating for policies that incentivize and prioritize the development of affordable housing units, ensuring diverse housing options for all Santa Cruz residents. We believe in supporting and expanding outreach programs that connect the homeless community with essential services like the Homeless Garden Project, and including diverse healthcare, mental health support, and employment resources. We fundamentally believe in facilitating community engagement forums to gather input and collaboratively develop solutions, ensuring that policies reflect the diverse needs and perspectives of our residents.**

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.) >> **Our team is committed to boosting union jobs in Santa Cruz through advocating for project labor agreements that prioritize local hires, ensuring that community members benefit from development projects. We also support increased investments in a fully staffed public sector, providing stable and well-compensated employment opportunities that contribute to our community's prosperity.**

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

In 2020? *Yes or No* >> **Yes**

15. If elected, what do you realistically hope to accomplish during your term of office? >> **As a member of the Democratic Central Committee, I believe it is our responsibility to be a guardrail for progressive values, identifying incredibly diverse and dynamic candidates for office, recruiting seasoned local community organizers into the halls of power, and help ensure the community maintains control of the agenda while empowering DCC clubs to have voting power in the committee. I believe also in creating a bench for young leaders and establishing a youth committee in order to ensure a consistent pipeline of seasoned experienced young ambitious, diverse future leaders. This also means endorsing a united, progressive agenda (both at county and state legislative levels) around climate adaptation/mitigation strategies, transportation expansion and housing affordability.**

16. Give an example of when you spoke truth to power. Who were the players, what were the stakes, and what did you do? >> **As student body president at UCSC, I recognized the need for housing support for our struggling students across various socioeconomic backgrounds. We decided to lead a campaign in my office in order to expand financial resources and legal support for students currently struggling in housing. We targeted University of California officials and budgetary leaders in order to establish a campaign, resulting in successfully raising close to half a million dollars that went directly into an emergency relief program for students to be granted rent support funds, and hired a full-time lawyer to support students' legal complaints. All this while doubling the net worth of the student budget to close to \$1**

million and establishing a student advocates office to institutionalize these resources and expand governmental services for our constituents. As the youngest student body president at that time at the age of 19, we were so proud of the continued seismic impact we had in raising the standards for effective student leadership.

17. Are you running in coordination with any other local candidate? >> **No**

18. Why should members of Santa Cruz for Bernie vote for you to be their elected representative? >> **Yes, our vision aligns with Bernie's values, championing progressive ideals—affordable housing, climate resilience, and inclusive opportunities. And with a track record of community engagement, we'll amplify your voices. But more importantly, I wear my heart on my sleeve. I fundamentally believe in consistent compassion and inspiration as the catalyst to leadership. If we're going to make a movement, we've got to inspire people with vision.**

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*A 2020 image with national civil rights attorney, Lee Merritt at the Bernie Sanders presidential campaign kick off in Los Angeles.*