

## 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](https://berniesanders.com/issues))

*(Just start typing after the >> cue)*

1. Your full name >> **Bodie Shargel**
2. Your city and county of residence >> **Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz**
3. Office you are seeking >> **Santa Cruz County Democratic Central Committee Delegate, District 3**
4. Length of residence in your current District >> **3 years**
5. Your occupation or avocation >> **UCSC Student and music teacher**
6. Significant memberships, affiliations, and leadership positions held (political, labor union, public service, etc.) >> **Current DCC Alternate, CADEM Delegate, Chair of the UCSC YDSA, member of the City of Santa Cruz Climate Action Task Force**
7. In what political campaigns, organizations, and movements have you been active, and what role did you play? >> **In the 2022 election cycle, I worked actively on: Joe Thompson's State Assembly campaign, Measure N (the Empty Home Tax), Sean Maxwell in District 6, and Justin Cummings' campaign for Supervisor. I'm currently the Campaign Manager for Joe Thompson's Santa Cruz City Council District 5 campaign. We are proud to be endorsed by SC4B.**
8. Which policy proposals championed by Bernie Sanders are you most passionate about? >> **I'm most passionate about the Green New Deal due to its wide-reaching impact, from climate to housing to the "labor market" to transportation. I believe Bernie's impact, however, has been most greatly felt in two ways. Bernie has turned Medicare for All from a fringe idea into an expectation for any representative claiming to be a progressive or an ally of the working class. Bernie has additionally led to a renaissance in support for organized labor among electoral politicians.**
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've had the chance to talk with some organizers from the campaign for the upcoming CalCare bill. I am planning to sign their candidate pledge as a DCC candidate and encourage progressive candidates to do the same. I'm also pushing organizations that I am part of, such as the YDSA, to endorse the bill. On the DCC, I will advocate for a resolution in support of the bill through the legislative committee. I believe that our DCC has released a similar resolution in the past.**
10. What bold and transformative policy proposals would you support to address the climate crisis at the local, state and national levels? >> **At the local level, I believe climate policy must focus on eliminating emissions from transportation, which account for 70% of emissions in the City of Santa Cruz and 60% countywide. We need to elect local leaders who will emphasize efforts to get people out of cars and slash emissions across the board. Nationally, we need a Green New Deal. I'll be another vote to turn our DCC into a platform for this advocacy. We must fight to transform the Democratic Party into a real left-wing political party because climate change will not be checked without structural changes to - or the abolition of - our current capitalist economic system.**
11. What policy proposals would you support that address the issue of growing income/wealth inequality? >> **Due to the interconnectedness of different political issues, many of the other policy positions I've outlined here will help to reduce wealth inequality such as improved public transit, CalCare, supporting unions, etc. More than any of those, addressing our housing crisis is a crucial**

**step towards equity. In our county there exists a two-tiered class system, one class composed of landlords and homeowners and the other composed of everyone else.**

12. What policy proposals would you support that address our local housing and homelessness crises? >> **We need more housing in our region, we need a higher share of housing built to be affordable for low-income people, and we need to check the power of the landlord/real estate class. On the DCC, I'll push to support candidates who share these positions and I'll push the DCC to advocate for new solutions to the housing crisis. This year, we passed a resolution in support of Alex Lee's social housing bill and sent it to a handful of state legislators as well as the Governor. This advocacy can make a difference, especially for the votes of legislators who represent Santa Cruz County.**

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.) >> **Many strategies can support the growth of unions, although several are out of the control of a DCC delegate. I nearly always support candidates endorsed by unions, and as a DCC delegate, will vote for the DCC to endorse them as well. This will help put labor allies in more offices around the community. I will also work in partnership with workers, their unions, and elected officials who are labor allies to use the DCC as a platform to support their efforts through resolutions, organizing, publicity, and whatever other resources we may be able to provide.**

14. If you were eligible, did you vote for Bernie Sanders in the Primary Election 2016? *Yes or No* >> **In 2020? *Yes or No* >> I was not eligible to vote in either election, but I supported Bernie both times. As a 6th grader in 2016, I was a volunteer and canvassed for Bernie's campaign in Santa Cruz.**

15. If elected, what do you realistically hope to accomplish during your term of office? >> **I want to continue pushing the Democratic Party and our DCC to the left. We have seen them leaning more progressive in recent years. I think it is possible to solidify the DCC as a reliable and powerful tool for identifying, educating, and empowering promising progressive leaders in Santa Cruz County over my four-year term.**

16. Give an example of when you spoke truth to power. Who were the players, what were the stakes, and what did you do? >> **At the end of Spring Quarter of 2022, many UCSC students were blindsided to not get offered on-campus housing for the next year and were instead left scrambling to find housing in the unforgiving market off-campus. I, along with the Student Housing Coalition and other leaders on campus, was able to capitalize on this awareness and anger around the student housing crisis to organize a turnout of more than 300 students to protest the university's housing policy.**

17. Are you running in coordination with any other local candidate? >> **There are 6 people vying for 5 spots from District 3. I consider all of them my friends and anticipate some type of slate forming. Maybe SC4B's endorsements will help inform which 5 people make up that slate.**

18. Why should members of Santa Cruz for Bernie vote for you to be their elected representative? (*max 50 words*) >> **I was honored to be endorsed by Santa Cruz 4 Bernie last time I ran for office. I believe I earned this endorsement because my values align with Bernie Sanders and this organization. I am running for DCC to further the advocacy of these same values in the Democratic Party.**

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**Please return your completed questionnaire to [santacruz4bernie@gmail.com](mailto:santacruz4bernie@gmail.com) by December 17, 2023.**

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