

## 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 >> **David Tannaci**
2. Your city and county of residence >> **Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz**
3. Office you are seeking >> **Santa Cruz City Council District 1**
4. Length of residence in your current District >> **5 years**
5. Your occupation or avocation >> **Santa Cruz Water Department, Engineering and Distribution**
6. Significant memberships, affiliations, and leadership positions held (political, labor union, public service, etc.) >> **SEIU 521 Shop Steward, 2022 MOU City of Santa Cruz Labor Bargaining Team Leader/Strike Organizer, Advocacy for those experiencing homelessness**
7. In what political campaigns, organizations, and movements have you been active, and what role did you play? >> **SEIU 521 FIRST EVER CITY OF SANTA CRUZ LABOR STRIKE!!!**
8. Which policy proposals championed by Bernie Sanders are you most passionate about? >> **Healthcare and Union strength for dignity and wealth equality**
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? >> **Maintaining coverage and reducing the cost of healthcare for our working families of Santa Cruz is vital. Within the scope of my role on SC city council, I will push for all medical costs to be shouldered by employers rather than workers.**
10. What bold and transformative policy proposals would you support to address the climate crisis at the local, state and national levels? >> **My work as a biologist has given me a thorough understanding of our critical needs when it comes to climate—so much so that I started working for our local Water Purveyor. Our current Capital Projects are securing our water future through resiliency, inter-agency cooperation, and increased control of conservation measures to maximize our capture and re-capture while reducing consumption.**  
**I support continuing our LEED certification efforts and green building practices, as well as working with the transportation groups to close Pacific Avenue to cars and expand non-automotive infrastructure within the city. I support Santa Cruz's Rail/Trail project and the County's Buffered Bike Lanes project, and will work with METRO to integrate and expand mass-transit, while continuing to reduce the carbon footprint of city operations.**
11. What policy proposals would you support that address the issue of growing income/wealth inequality? >> **The opportunity for longevity in our community, through secure housing, needs to be developed and supported. Santa Cruz's explosive cost of housing and rampant wage suppression are a double whammy when trying to address wealth inequality. I am in favor of immediate city-supported affordable housing as well as condo mapping of our large new developments to provide opportunities for rental and ownership to families and young professionals at a much lower cost.**
12. What policy proposals would you support that address our local housing and homelessness crises? >> **As a city employee I pushed for the development of the Homeless Response Unit. Their team has been doing an incredible job designing and supporting highly effective shelters and housing**

**camps, as well as direct outreach to those experiencing homelessness. They are now calling for a broadening of the program, increasing available beds and headcount for on-the-ground direct outreach to provide vital services. This program is currently funded, but must be cultivated so that it continues to grow and address the needs of our most vulnerable community members.**

**I support the City of Santa Cruz's development of a response team for Mental Health Support in order to improve our community's response to acute scenarios. This team will be able to triage and offer aid to our houseless community members in moments of crisis rather than amplify stressors and foment conflict with status quo Police response.**

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 support a PLA ordinance.**

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? >> **Within the scope of my role on the City Council I would continue the fight for increased wages, healthcare, and dignity for our city workers. We are a model for labor across the county and are committed to setting new standards.**

**I would also help close the loopholes that allow developers to sidestep our municipal inclusionary requirements and affordable housing goals.**

**Leveraging years of community engagement, I would also bring together individuals and groups with multi-disciplinary backgrounds in an effort to build solidarity amongst a diverse coalition. Our battle to ameliorate housing inequality and address the needs of the houseless must happen on fronts beyond city council. Through organization of community forums, town halls, discussions and events I will model the ways in which City Council members can collaborate with their constituents and build momentum for lasting change. My aims are community engagement and activations, and I know there is no ceiling to what can be accomplished during my time in office.**

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 helped to lead the FIRST EVER City of Santa Cruz Labor Union STRIKE!!!**

**The players were City Workers, SEIU 521, City Management, and hired legal mercenaries.**

**Our livelihood, our future, our children's meals and our dignity were all at stake.**

**We ORGANIZED, MOBILIZED, EDUCATED... AND WE WON!**

**To this day, the power of the strike emanates beyond the contract which was in question. Since its ratification we have won allotments for safety boots and significant pay increases for critical workers, *all outside of contract talks!* Real TRUTH TO POWER!**

17. Are you running in coordination with any other local candidate? >> **I and fellow progressive City Council candidates are working together to re-establish a strong presence at City level.**

18. Why should members of Santa Cruz for Bernie vote for you to be their elected representative? (*max 50 words*) >> **I am a rank and file laborer and have a proven track record of organizing under the progressive banner, taking the fight to City Council in our monumental strike!**

**I also have unique credentials for providing oversight amidst the current building boom, as I review all projects for the water department and have intimate understanding of the ins and outs of approval and implementation processes, as well as the function of City Government in each.**

**Please return your completed questionnaire to [santacruz4bernie@gmail.com](mailto:santacruz4bernie@gmail.com) by October 13, 2023.**

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