

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 >> **Joe Thompson**
2. Your city and county of residence >> **Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz County**
3. Office you are seeking >> **Member, Santa Cruz County Democratic Party Central Committee**
4. Length of residence in your current District >> **3 years**
5. Your occupation or a vocation >> **Union Organizer, SEIU Local 1021**
6. Significant memberships, affiliations, and leadership positions held (political, labor union, public service, etc.) >> **CWA 9404, Substance Use Disorder Services Commissioner, Santa Cruz County, DSA/YDSA, UCSC College Democrats, Sierra Club, Workers United WSRJB and other various organizations**
7. In what political campaigns, organizations, and movements have you been active, and what role did you play? >> **Joe Thompson For Santa Cruz City Council District 5, Candidate, Gail Pellerin for State Assembly, Field Director, Empty Home Tax, signature gatherer /canvasser**
8. Which policy proposals championed by Bernie Sanders are you most passionate about? >> **Medicare for all.**
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 will support all CalCare actions and try to pass a resolution of support for Calcare.**
10. What bold and transformative policy proposals would you support to address the climate crisis at the local, state and national levels? >> **I will work to reduce transportation emissions, and advocate for climate change policies that place workers above profits, and hold corporations accountable.**
11. What policy proposals would you support that address the issue of growing income/wealth inequality? >> **A wealth tax, vacancy taxes, increased property tax for luxury homes.**
12. What policy proposals would you support that address our local housing and homelessness crises? >> **I will work to build truly affordable housing in Santa Cruz and fight against any measures that criminalize homelessness.**
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 will introduce a resolution at the DCC to support project labor agreements, and fight to bring local union jobs to Santa Cruz.**
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* >> **N/A but I volunteered on both campaigns but was ineligible to vote.**
15. If elected, what do you realistically hope to accomplish during your term of office? >> **I hope to pass a Project labor agreement, build more affordable housing, and enact more protections for workers including a higher minimum wage.**

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 truth to power, when I started organizing at Starbucks. I led the first Starbucks in California to unionize. The players were my coworkers and I, the stakes were fighting for our right to unionize and a living wage, and I used one on one, phone calls and team bonding.**

17. Are you running in coordination with any other local candidate? >> **Amanda Harris Altice, Wendy Harris, Glenn Glazer**

18. Why should members of Santa Cruz for Bernie vote for you to be their elected representative? (*max 50 words*) >> **I am a member of Santa Cruz for Bernie, I hope to give you a voice in the Santa Cruz County Democratic Party. I have supported the Empty Home Tax and other progressive measures and candidates. I will always look to Santa Cruz for Bernie for guidance when I'm unsure.**

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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.