

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 >> **Joy Schendledecker**
2. Your city and county of residence >> **City of Santa Cruz**
3. Office you are seeking >> **City Council District 3**
4. Length of residence in your current District >> **8+ years**
5. Your occupation or avocation >> **Artist, Teacher, Community Organizer**
6. Significant memberships, affiliations, and leadership positions held (political, labor union, public service, etc.) >> **CADEM Assembly District Delegate; Co-Chair, Santa Cruz Democratic Socialists of America; Co-Founder: Santa Cruz Cares and Sanitation for the People; Governor, Board of Governors, Hugh Myddelton Primary School (London)**
7. In what political campaigns, organizations, and movements have you been active, and what role did you play? >> **Actively opposing the Oversized Vehicle Ordinance with SC Cares and SC DSA (public speaking, member of appellant group, educating public); Member of HUFF (Homeless United for Friendship and Freedom, Sanitation for the People, and DSA Love Boat (solidarity/community building, mutual aid distributions, fundraising, social media, public writing and comments)**
8. Which policy proposals championed by Bernie Sanders are you most passionate about? >> **I'm passionate about all of them, and universal liberation is an intersectional project! That said, I'm especially interested in free and fair elections since running for mayor last year, experiencing for myself how challenging it is to contest and enter spaces of power and privilege. To achieve our goals in other categories, like racial justice, a green new deal, or universal health care, we need to be able elect candidates and pass ballot initiatives that truly represent the preferred policies of the majority of US voters. Ranked choice voting, publicly financed campaigns, and ending corporate PAC activities would go a long way towards that.**
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 would mobilize our city council to pass resolutions in favor of both, and join health care workers and campaigners to speak publicly in favor of universal health care. As a CADEM ADD, I will be voting to endorse candidates and initiatives that support universal health care.**
10. What bold and transformative policy proposals would you support to address the climate crisis at the local, state and national levels? >> **Equitable planned retreat and ecological considerations should come before commercial interests and maintaining the status quo.**

One way or another, our wildlands and coastline will keep changing. With climate change intensifying, and increasingly unpredictable, it is already happening faster than our predictions. Insurance companies are already leaving high-risk fire and flood-prone areas and even entire states. The Coastal Commission will limit how much buttressing we can do to protect structures, and infrastructure, along the coastline.

Our first priorities should be to frontline communities that are more at risk of flooding and intense storms, like those living in Beach Flats or Pajaro Valley. Residents' economic status should figure into any transition to a just and sustainable future, with those on fixed incomes and lower incomes receiving more support to relocate.

Community-led, publicly-funded assemblies should be the foundation of the process to make these plans, feeding priorities up through their representatives to staff and any outside agencies.

I also support public ownership of utilities and infrastructure, and decentralized community microgrids.

Should we let the marketplace play musical chairs with residents, like rearranging the deck chairs on the titanic? Or should we the people have control over our communities, and work cooperatively to manage and mitigate climate challenges?

11. What policy proposals would you support that address the issue of growing income/wealth inequality? >> **I support redistribution of wealth through progressive taxation (especially a city property transfer tax), shrinking the wage gap between our lowest and highest paid city employees (currently \$16-\$144); and taxing corporate wealth at much higher levels.**

12. What policy proposals would you support that address our local housing and homelessness crises? >>

1. **Reduce the influence of real estate interests on our city staff and electeds through campaign finance and election reforms.**
2. **Reform our permit and planning department;**
3. **Increase our inclusionary ordinance to match the needs of residents, that means ideally to 50%;**
4. **Pass a progressive Property Transfer Tax with all funds going towards low income housing development, municipal purchase, and maintenance;**
5. **Tax empty homes and commercial properties;**
6. **Establish rent relief, eviction protection, legal aid, and rapid rehousing grants;**
7. **Increase and establish temporary shelters, tiny home villages, RV parks, and campgrounds throughout the city;**
8. **Decriminalize houselessness and provide sanitation and waste management for all**

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 city-wide Project Labor or Community Workforce Agreement.**

To increase staffing across our public sector, we need to increase wages and improve workplace conditions. We can't hire and retain enough people to fill the approximately 30% job vacancy rate if the wages remain so low that people can't afford to live.

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? >> **I would hope to pass a PLA/CWA; increase wages for the majority of city workers who don't earn anywhere near a housing wage of \$60; and repeal the anti-homeless, unnecessary, and cruel CSSO and OVO ordinances. If in a minority position, I would take up Councilmember Brown's stance of speaking up, questioning the status quo, and bringing residents' voices into council chambers.**

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 ran for mayor last year against Fred Keeley, as a proud ecosocialist feminist. I consistently stood up for city workers, for people without housing, and against a local war on drugs (fentanyl). I took a risk by seizing that public platform—it cost me a lot of time, money, and exposed me to being a public figure in a way I had never experienced before. I learned a lot, honed my policies, grew my networks, and got my name out there so I could run again and win.**

17. Are you running in coordination with any other local candidate? >> **not officially, but I would like to!**

18. Why should members of Santa Cruz for Bernie vote for you to be their elected representative? (*max 50 words*) >> **You should vote for me because I'm authentic, principled, consistent, and believe in putting people before profits.**

Please return your completed questionnaire to santacruz4bernie@gmail.com by October 13, 2023.

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