

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 >> **Justin Cummings**
2. Your city and county of residence >> **Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz**
3. Office you are seeking >> **Democratic Central Committee**
4. Length of residence in your current District >> **2007 - 20013; 2015 - present**
5. Your occupation or avocation >> **Third District County Supervisor**
6. Significant memberships, affiliations, and leadership positions held (political, labor union, public service, etc.) >> **NAACP, City Council 2019 - 2023; Mayor City of Santa Cruz 2020, Vice Mayor City of Santa Cruz 2019, Democratic Party Delegate, Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, California Coastal Commission, multiple inter-agency Commission and Boards.**
7. In what political campaigns, organizations, and movements have you been active, and what role did you play? >> **Measure M (steering committee), NO on D (canvasser), Measure G (canvasser), Yes on K & L (canvasser)**
8. Which policy proposals championed by Bernie Sanders are you most passionate about? >> **Medicare for all, housing for all, college for all, green new deal, racial justice, reinvest in public education, women's rights, LGBTQ equity, overall all of his policies are my priority.**
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 be a strong advocate and supporter of these kinds of bills and recommend that the Board of Supervisors support state and federal action.**
10. What bold and transformative policy proposals would you support to address the climate crisis at the local, state and national levels? >> **I support our local green new deal and would continue to support this at the state and national level.**
11. What policy proposals would you support that address the issue of growing income/wealth inequality? >> **I would support policies that support lower class and working class people, and policies that help close the wealth and income inequality gap. Social housing, rent control, the elimination of airbnb and universal basic income are just to name a few.**
12. What policy proposals would you support that address our local housing and homelessness crises? >> **I'm still a strong supporter of rent control and just cause evictions.**
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.) >> **Recently I voted to have the County begin working towards a countywide project labor agreement, an effort which I also supported while on the Santa Cruz City Council. I have supported public and private sector workers in their campaigns for a fair contract, through bargaining at the City; taking the lead on adopting local resolutions in support of a fair contract for workers at UCSC and Janus; and walking picket lines.**
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 hope to support and endorse candidates and policies that share the values of Bernie Sanders.**

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 recently put an item on the County Supervisors agenda to call for a cease fire in the war between Israel and Hamas. Although this was ultimately voted down, I thought it was important to be a voice for many in our community who feel the humanitarian crisis that has erupted in Gaza needs to be addressed.**

17. Are you running in coordination with any other local candidate? >> **Not at the moment, but I hope to in the near future.**

18. Why should members of Santa Cruz for Bernie vote for you to be their elected representative? (*max 50 words*) >> **As an elected official, I have tried to use my position to support and champion the values shared with Bernie Sanders. I have a strong track record of supporting progressive policies and candidates. As a DCC member, I hope to ensure that those values are reflected in the policies we support and will help foster the next generation of progressive leaders in our community.**

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.