

## 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 >> **Kristen Brown**
2. Your city and county of residence >> **Capitola, Santa Cruz County**
3. Office you are seeking >> **Santa Cruz County Supervisor, District 2**
4. Length of residence in your current District >> **12 Years**
5. Your occupation or avocation >> **Vice President, Government Relations**
6. Significant memberships, affiliations, and leadership positions held (political, labor union, public service, etc.) >>
  - **Vice Mayor, City of Capitola**
  - **Santa Cruz METRO Transit District; Vice Chair**
  - **Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission; Vice Chair**
  - **Santa Cruz County Sanitation District Board of Directors; Chair**
  - **Santa Cruz County Flood Control District; Board Member**
  - **Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG); First Past President**
  - **Santa Cruz County Library Financing Authority Member**
  - **Capitola Wharf and Village Business Improvement Area; City Council Representative**
  - **Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Committee; AMBAG Representative**
  - **Central Coast Housing Working Group, AMBAG Representative; 2020**
  - **Capitola Coastal Bluff Erosion Committee; Facilitator/Lead; 2018**
  - **Friends of Capitola Branch Library; Founding Member; 2017**
  - **Capitola Foundation for Public Safety and Community Service; Board Treasurer; 2016-2019**
  - **Young Elected Officials Network; Women's Conference Host Committee Member; 2018-2019**
  - **California Community Action Partnership (CALCAPA); Legislative Conference Planning Committee and Board Chair Roundtable Leader; 2018-2019**
  - **Capitola Finance Advisory Committee Member; 2019-2020, 2023**
  - **Santa Cruz County Criminal Justice Council; 2021-2023**
7. In what political campaigns, organizations, and movements have you been active, and what role did you play? >> **In addition to my own political campaigns, I have supported (via volunteer time) the 2016 Library Bond Measure campaign (Measure S), Capitola's Measure F to extend the sunset dates of the sales tax that supports the wharf, jetty, flume, and other community services, and have endorsed multiple campaigns including the Measure H housing bond in 2018 and the Cabrillo Measure M bond in 2018.**

8. Which policy proposals championed by Bernie Sanders are you most passionate about? >> **I am passionate about and committed to economic, racial, social and environmental justice. I am for universal health care, housing-first models of addressing homelessness, canceling student loan debt, and creating debt-free college programs.**
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 support efforts at the state and national level to implement a single-payer healthcare system and commit to investing local dollars into free community healthcare programs and providers.**
10. What bold and transformative policy proposals would you support to address the climate crisis at the local, state and national levels? >> **As the Vice Chair of the METRO transit district, I am in support of implementing a free-for-all transit system in order to encourage ridership on our zero-emission electric bus fleet and lower single-occupancy vehicle trips that increase greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, I would support addressing energy use in public buildings and pursuing opportunities for sustainable and renewable energy procurement wherever possible.**
11. What policy proposals would you support that address the issue of growing income/wealth inequality? >> **I support increasing opportunities for homeownership as a means of decreasing wealth inequality. Additionally, I would support policy proposals that remove barriers to educational opportunities that lead to better employment and wage outcomes.**
12. What policy proposals would you support that address our local housing and homelessness crises? >> **I am supportive of housing-first models of addressing homelessness and would encourage the development of additional supportive interim housing and affordable permanent housing. I would encourage zoning that allows for this development and work to remove barriers to such development.**
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 labor agreements that include local hire and apprenticeships training program requirements, and recently worked to include such language in the City of Capitola's Housing Element update. I am also in support of investing in our public workforce.**
14. If you were eligible, did you vote for Bernie Sanders in the Primary Election 2016? *Yes or No* >> **No**  
In 2020? *Yes or No* >> **No**
15. If elected, what do you realistically hope to accomplish during your term of office? >> **If elected, I want to encourage the development of affordable housing through zoning and removal of barriers for development. Additionally, I seek to invest in our public transit system and transportation improvements, increase the outreach and engagement of underrepresented groups in government bodies such as commissions and committees, increase youth participation in government, and take action to protect our natural environment.k**
16. Give an example of when you spoke truth to power. Who were the players, what were the stakes, and what did you do? >> **Earlier this year, a group of residents at a mobile home park in Capitola came to Capitola City Council and told us that their property owner was about to raise their mobile home space rent by nearly 60%, which was likely to cause displacement of many residents. The park owners claimed that they weren't getting enough profit from the park and needed to raise the rent drastically. I acted quickly to enact a rent stabilization ordinance that capped the amount that mobile home space rent could be raised in any one-year period and prevented the displacement of many low-income families and fixed-income seniors.**
17. Are you running in coordination with any other local candidate? >>**No**
18. Why should members of Santa Cruz for Bernie vote for you to be their elected representative? (*max 50 words*) >> **I am a fourth-generation Santa Cruz County resident with a family legacy of public service. I have served for nearly 8 years on Capitola City Council and worked on regional boards and commissions to address issues related to housing, transportation, poverty alleviation, climate**

**change, ocean conservation, and public safety. I have always been committed to leading with authenticity, transparency, and accountability. I have the education and experience needed to get the job done and would be ready to step into this job on day one.**

**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.**