

## 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 >>

**Sean Dougherty**

2. Your city and county of residence >>

**Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz**

3. Office you are seeking >>

**US House CA-19**

4. Length of residence in your current District >>

**7 years**

5. Your occupation or avocation >>

**Engineer – I help design consumer electronics, like smartphones and laptops**

6. Significant memberships, affiliations, and leadership positions held (political, labor union, public service, etc.) >>

**SC4B (Advisory Group), Green Party (co-chair of state party's Membership and Outreach Committee)**

7. In what political campaigns, organizations, and movements have you been active, and what role did you play? >>

**My political activism began with the Iraq War and Occupy, during which I attended and organized protests.**

**My involvement with electoralism began with Bernie 2016, for which I made calls. For Bernie 2020, I created sc4b.org, tabled on Pacific Ave, helped run fundraisers at local venues, and knocked on doors.**

**I subsequently helped with SC4B's effort to take over the DCC by making a website and sending email blasts to targeted registered voters and posting ads on Facebook. I also provided free data services to local progressive campaigns (e.g. Brown, Kumar, Schendledecker).**

8. Which policy proposals championed by Bernie Sanders are you most passionate about? >>

**There's so much I cared about (e.g. canceling student debt & housing for all), but Medicare for All is the issue from Bernie that I talk about most in my own campaign.**

**Why didn't we get Medicare for All during the pandemic? I think the answer can be found in donor information on fec.gov, which shows that our politicians are bought by private health insurers.**

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? >>

**The fundamental problem is that our elected officials are paid by the private health insurance lobby not to provide us with a more cost-effective and humane single-payer system.**

**We must take multiple approaches to defeating the bribery by those who profit off our healthcare. As an elected official, I would do everything I could to force a vote on single-payer, requiring other officials to go on the record as being against single-payer.**

10. What bold and transformative policy proposals would you support to address the climate crisis at the local, state and national levels? >>

**No new fossil fuel projects. Massive investments in public transportation (e.g. high-speed rail). Heavy federal subsidization of solar panels on rooftops and parking lots.**

11. What policy proposals would you support that address the issue of growing income/wealth inequality? >>

**A handful of individuals control our economy and hoard profits for themselves. We must democratize our economy by increasing union membership, co-ops, and worker representation on corporate boards.**

**We should increase the power of labor by ensuring striking workers cannot be deprived of basic rights, like healthcare. We should provide subsidies for co-ops. We should require that corporate board members are elected by workers, not shareholders.**

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

**Social housing. We must abandon the current public/private partnership model, which in practice “public money provides private profits”. We must provide housing that has a cost scaled to a person’s income, not the whims of the “market”.**

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.) >>

**We should study the busting tactics of Amazon and Starbucks in recent years.**

**Amazon posted anti-union propaganda in e.g. bathroom stalls, intimidated workers with surveilled ballot boxes, and many other techniques. We must enact severe penalties for union-busting, primarily public ownership of a company that interferes with an election for unionization. The penalty must not be merely a fine.**

**In the case of Starbucks, individual stores have voted for unionization, but the corporation can effectively use stall tactics to wait until politically-conscious employees leave a “problematic” location. If an individual store, regardless of ownership model (e.g. franchise), votes for unionization, then there must be an immediate federal recognition of that status. The process of unionization should have absolutely no dependency on the corporation acknowledging the process.**

14. If you were eligible, did you vote for Bernie Sanders in the Primary Election 2016? *Yes or No* >>  
In 2020? *Yes or No* >>

**Yes in 2016 and 2020.**

15. If elected, what do you realistically hope to accomplish during your term of office? >>

**While the Gaetz faction is odious to those of us on the left, let us recognize that a small number of representatives can control the narrative. I disagree with almost everything Gaetz stands for, but I do agree with his strategy of forcing leadership to bend to the agenda of a minority faction via procedural stalling tactics. The Bernie movement is much bigger than Gaetz. Imagine if we were to use his hardball tactics to force a vote on Medicare for All.**

16. Give an example of when you spoke truth to power. Who were the players, what were the stakes, and what did you do? >>

**This campaign, which challenges war with Russia. My wife and I had a serious conversation about what would happen if people graffiti our house or send death threats to her or our son.**

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 have been part of the Bernie movement from its inception. Most of my positions are uncontroversial within this movement.**

**I am running for congress now because nobody else would run.**

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**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.**