

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 >> **Wendy Harris (Guin)**
2. Your city and county of residence >> **Felton, Santa Cruz County**
3. Office you are seeking >> **Santa Cruz County Democratic Central Committee District 5**
4. Length of residence in your current District >> **15 years**
5. Your occupation or avocation >> **Realtor, working to earn degrees in Finance and non-profit administration with the intention of working in the non-profit sector.**
6. Significant memberships, affiliations, and leadership positions held (political, labor union, public service, etc.) >> **Rotary Club of San Lorenzo Valley Secretary-elect, former Valley Women's Club board member (chair of the scholarship committee), former Head Start Parent Committee member, QHIA Family Booster Club President, volunteer at Valley Churches United Missions and Grey Bears**
7. In what political campaigns, organizations, and movements have you been active, and what role did you play? >> **North County Dems, DWC, former President of Cabrillo For Bernie, Santa Cruz For Bernie (though not very active in recent years due to personal issues), actively campaigned for Bernie Sanders in 2016, currently serving as DCC D5 Alternate for Glenn Glazer, canvassing volunteer for Monica Martinez For District 5 Supervisor, volunteer for Joe Thompson for City Council**
8. Which policy proposals championed by Bernie Sanders are you most passionate about? >> **I have described my political affiliation as a "Berniecrat" since around 2010. I first became familiar with Bernie when the Supreme Court handed down the Citizens United decision. I saw the damage it would do to our political system, and he was the only one that was vocally opposing it. As I became more familiar with his platform, I realized I had finally found someone who was saying all the things that I was thinking. I align with Sanders in every policy he has put forward. I strongly believe in repealing Citizens United, getting corporate money out of politics, public funding of political campaigns, eliminating Super PACs, increasing taxes on the wealthiest in our country, enacting Medicare For All, enacting the Green New Deal, strengthening our unions and providing tuition free college.**
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? >> **As a member of the Democratic Central Committee, I would vocally advocate for ANY policies that move us closer to a Medicare For All system. The best step we can take is to enact CalCare in California so that we can become a model of what socialized healthcare can look like in this country. Americans know that our healthcare system is not serving the general public. Yet a lot of Californians don't know that an alternative is being crafted here. Enacting and participating in a widespread awareness campaign would go a long way. I would support the DCC as a body holding more events to educate the public about the benefits of CalCare and Medicare For All. We can table at local events, canvass local districts and participate in phone and text banking. As individuals we can put up signs (just got one for my house thanks to Glenn Glazer) and make a point of having conversations with our neighbors and fellow community members about the benefits of a national healthcare system.**

10. What bold and transformative policy proposals would you support to address the climate crisis at the local, state and national levels? >> **The Climate Crisis is the single most urgent issue facing humanity. If we don't fix it, NOTHING else matters so we need to be willing to take extreme steps to stop it. I am fully in support of all policies outlined in the Green New Deal. We need to rejoin the Paris Agreement and completely transition to renewable energy sources within a short and well-defined timeline. We need to eliminate the sham carbon credit system and remove the profit motive for fossil fuel companies through new taxes and penalties that hold them accountable for the damage they have already done to the environment. We need to fund programs that will provide credits to individuals that will help them to make their homes more energy efficient and transition them to alternative energy sources.**

11. What policy proposals would you support that address the issue of growing income/wealth inequality? >> **I support enacting an aggressive wealth tax, taxing capital gains as income, removing the cap from Social Security withholding, and raising income taxes on the highest earners by creating additional higher income tax brackets with higher tax rates. We need to provide more pathways to home ownership for the middle class. We need to widen access to upper education as well as trade schools to all people through tuition free college.**

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

I support housing first policies. People need safe secure housing before they can think about secure employment or addressing trauma. Second homes and vacant properties should be subject to vacancy taxes that encourage owners to return them to the housing market through either sale or rental. Large corporations and hedge funds should be banned from owning single family homes. We need to fully fund and staff our health and human services agencies so they can better support our unhoused population. Occupancy taxes should be raised for homes being used as short-term rentals. We should provide more incentives for landlords to accept Section 8 housing vouchers.

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.)

>> The examples given are the first best answers! Make Pell and Cal grants eligible to be used for trade schools and to support apprenticeships. Implement harsher penalties for companies participating in union busting practices. Remove "right-to-work" policies nationwide.

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! And YES!**

15. If elected, what do you realistically hope to accomplish during your term of office? >> **When Sanders ran for President, I learned that the two party system is too deeply engrained to realistically be bypassed altogether. However, we can make the Democratic party more progressive if Progressives take an active role in the Democratic party. As a self-described "Berniecrat" on the Democratic Central Committee, I will use my votes and influence to promote more progressive policies and candidates. I will work to replace non-progressive committee members with more progressive members and move party actions overall in a more progressive direction. I will actively listen to the ideas and suggestions of progressives and bring them to the state and national party at every opportunity to help push the country in a more progress direction.**

16. Give an example of when you spoke truth to power. Who were the players, what were the stakes, and what did you do? >> **Last year there was a very powerful local family that was trying to quietly push through a real estate project that would have ravaged to the natural resources of the neighborhood they were proposing it in. The neighbors organized and pushed back on the project. I allowed them to use a large Facebook group that I admin to bring awareness to the larger community about the project and its potential impacts. I was contacted directly by multiple members of the family behind the project. They publicly attacked my integrity and worked to ruin my reputation online because I refused to remove the information and the petition to stop the project from my online group. Because I also earn my living in Real Estate, but on a much smaller scale, I was terrified about standing against them. It was detrimental to my career, but what they were trying to do was wrong. Ultimately there was enough public outcry to make their project more trouble than it was worth, and they pulled out. I believe that my allowing the neighbors a platform to organize and reach the public when others were bullied into shutting up helped them to triumph in the end.**

17. Are you running in coordination with any other local candidate? >> **Yes! Glenn Glazer, Joe Thompson, and Amanda Harris Altice (no relation)**

18. Why should members of Santa Cruz for Bernie vote for you to be their elected representative? (*max 50 words*) >> **I am here because Bernie called us to action. I want to be on the DCC to further progressive policies and values at the grassroots level. The only way to make the Democratic party more progressive is for passionate Progressives to take power of the Democratic party.**

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.