

**Santa Cruz for Bernie questionnaire for Kristen Erickson  
2020 Bernie Delegate to the Democratic National Convention (DNC)  
Candidate Questionnaire - CA Congressional District 20**

*(Just start typing after the >> cue)*

1. Your full name >> **Kristen Erickson**
2. Your city and county of residence >> **Santa Cruz and Santa Cruz County**
3. Length of residence in CD20 >> **7 years**
4. Your occupation or avocation >> **Education; Secondary Literacy Coach (instructional and curriculum coach for English and History HS teachers)**
5. Significant memberships and affiliations (political, labor union, public service, etc.) >> **Pajaro Valley Federation of Teachers, volunteer for Free 2 Be a Kid**
6. Which of Bernie's policy proposals are you most passionate about? >> **Medicare for All**
7. Do you consider support for Medicare for All single-payer healthcare to be an essential conviction of a true progressive? *Yes or No* >> **YES**
8. During 2019-2020, approximately how many hours were you engaged in campaigning for Bernie in these activities?
  - door-to-door canvassing >> **0** hours
  - phonebanking >> **0** hours
  - tabling >> **0** hours
  - other >> **0** hours Describe campaign activity >>
9. Were you active in Bernie's 2016 campaign? *Yes or No* >> **Not officially, but I convinced people to vote for him from TX, the east coast, and in my local community. I am definitely a Bernie advocate even though it is not through the traditional volunteering activities mentioned above. I have an extremely active 4 year old which limits my time availability, but I try to convince everyone I know to become a part of the Bernie movement.**  
If so, how? >> **see above**
10. In what other campaigns, organizations, or movements have you been active, and what role did you play? >> **I volunteer with Americans for Conscience Checklist. We post actions people across the United States can take 3 weeks out of every month. My job specifically is to post the checklist on Facebook group webpages; such as, state and local indivisible groups, and state and local political groups. I also participate in these actions myself. It is important to call and represent our voice regularly to elected officials.**
11. If you were eligible to vote in the 2016 Primary, who did you vote for for President? >> **Bernie**  
Who did you vote for in the 2016 General Election? >> **Hillary**  
If not in California, in what state? >>
12. At the DNC, in addition to supporting Bernie's platform and voting for Bernie on the first ballot, what do you realistically hope to accomplish as a part of the delegation at the convention? >> **To help give Bernie's campaign a voice. Just because Biden is the presumptive nominee does not mean the people don't want Bernie's policies. This pandemic would look completely different if people in our country had Medicare for All and a living wage. I believe in living in a world with social justice, and Bernie represents that belief.**
13. If there is a second ballot at the DNC, who would you support for President? >> **Warren**  
Who would you never support? >>
14. Who do you fancy for Vice President? >> **Warren**  
Who would you never support? >>
15. Do you do your political work primarily inside the Democratic Party or outside of it? >> **outside of it**

16. Do you think the U.S. needs a viable progressive third party? *Yes or No* >> **YES**

If Yes, what are you doing to build it? >> **I am vocalizing it whenever I can, voting progressive down ballot, and calling to share the progressive voice with current members of government.**

17. In your opinion, how electable is Joe Biden in November 2020? **2- I am very worried**

(*enter a number from 1 to 5, with 1=No Chance to 5=Slam Dunk*) >>

18. What do you think are Biden's assets? >> **Obama**

What do you think are Biden's liabilities? >> **voting record history, inarticulateness, allegations of sexual misconduct, Anita Hill mishap, current gaffe at saying “you are not black”, links to corporate donors, not supporting Medicare for All. He is not inspirational or able to connect with the young, more diverse electorate. In short, I fear several criticisms of 45 can be applied to Biden, except that Biden is a democrat and not as extreme. That should not be good enough for our country’s highest office.**

19. What differences if any do you think would result from a Biden administration compared to a second Trump administration? >> **The courts would not be as flooded with republicans, several environmental regulations would go back into effect. Government agencies will be funded again. Racism and sexism would not be inflamed, but I’m not sure what will be done to transform our racist and sexist issues in our country under Biden. Hate crimes in places where our President speaks will not rise, and I would hope that Biden begins to move our country progressively forward instead of backwards.**

20. Give an example of when you spoke truth to power. Who were the players, what were the stakes, and what did you do? >> **As an educator I often and regularly speak up for the disenfranchised youth. I am such a vocal advocate that I am now a leader in our Ethnic Studies course and the expansion of it to more grade levels and more subjects within our district. During the recall efforts, I often vocally challenged supporters including neighbors of the recall by sharing my family’s personal story of being essentially evicted due to rent and deposit increase by 30%. I also strongly advocated for measure M and Prop 10 as well. Social justice is an important value to me.**

21. Why should Bernie supporters vote for you to be their DNC Delegate? (*max 50 words*) >> **I believe that everyone deserves the right to education, health, a dignified job, and respect from all members of their community. As an extroverted, strong, intelligent, and well-spoken woman, I will proudly advocate for progressive values as a delegate. I will feel honored to cast my ballot for Bernie.**