

# Bernie

## Alabama



**Virginia Applebaum, State Co-Chair**  
Vice Chair, SDEC Native American Caucus

**Bio:** Virginia Applebaum is the Vice Chair of the Alabama SDEC Native American Caucus and an alumnus of Emerge Alabama. Prior to attending Cumberland School of Law and becoming a practicing attorney, Virginia taught English and literature in the public school and public community college systems. Virginia, who enjoys historical research, spends as much spare time as possible in Warm Springs, Georgia, researching FDR's work and life in Georgia, photographing sites of historic significance, and advocating for preservation. Virginia is also conducting a research project on the history and effects of tax policy from 1928-present.

**Statement:** "Growing up on Lookout Mountain, at the state line between Georgia and Alabama, my childhood was filled with the works of the Civilian Conservation Corps, Works Progress Administration, and the Rural Electrification Administration. I am keenly aware of what social democracy can do. I first heard the name 'Bernard Sanders' during his run for the House of Representatives. For the majority of my life, I've known Senator Bernie Sanders to be a consistent supporter of the policies that benefit the many, not just the few."



**Gregory J. Bentley, State Co-Chair**  
Pastor, Huntsville Fellowship Presbyterian Church



**Bio:** Rev. Bentley graduated from Pine Hill High School in 1986 and matriculated at Stillman College, in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, the only HBCU founded by the "Southern" Presbyterian Church (PCUS). He has served in various capacities in political and civic affairs, including a term as Chairman of Minority Affairs for the Tuscaloosa County Democratic Party. Additionally, he is a member of Leadership Tuscaloosa, Goshen Lodge #530 (Prince Hall), and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

**Statement:** "I am endorsing Senator Sanders because his platform and consistent commitment to justice over the last 40 years remind me of the ministry of Jesus of Nazareth. He is a long distance runner for justice who will not sell the people out for personal gain."



**Jerome Dees, State Co-Chair**  
Criminal Defense & Civil Rights Attorney

**Bio:** Jerome is a criminal defense and civil rights attorney in Birmingham, Alabama. Jerome was appointed in January 2019 by Birmingham Mayor Randall Woodfin as the inaugural Chairman of the Birmingham Human Rights Commission. Jerome also currently serves as the President of the Board of Directors for the Offender Alumni Association and formerly served as the Black Caucus Chairman for the Alabama Young Democrats (2017-2019) and as the President of the Birmingham Young Democrats (2016).

**Statement:** "I support Senator Bernie Sanders for President because of his longstanding history of fighting for criminal justice reform, equality of economic opportunity, Medicare for All, deeply necessary environmental regulations, and accessible higher education for all."



**Richard A. Rice, State Co-Chair**  
Public Interest Attorney & Co-Founder, Grassroots Coalition Birmingham

**Bio:** Richard A. Rice is a Huntsville, AL native and graduate from the University of Alabama with a Bachelor's in Business Administration - Economics and Juris Doctorate (2004 and 2008, respectively). In 2009, he founded The Rice Firm, LLC, a public interest law firm, based in Birmingham, Alabama. In his practice, Rice assists consumers, homeowners, injury victims, veterans, charities and small business owners with a multitude of legal issues. The firm's practice areas are diverse but are generally focused on the pursuit of social justice and economic empowerment including consumer law, civil rights, personal injury, and small business/nonprofit consulting. In 2016, Rice co-founded the Grassroots Coalition of Birmingham, a 501(c)(4), focused on creating a local vibrant democracy based on cooperative principles and strategic collective action.

**Statement:** "I support Bernie because of his unrelenting willingness to fight for fundamental improvements in the quality of our political and economic institutions. In 2016, I co-founded a grassroots political organization located in Birmingham, Alabama, focused on converging non-profits, organizers, and concerned citizens on a local level to shape local policies and programs for the benefit of the communities we serve. I believe Bernie understands the necessity of local movements in improving the quality of life factors for everyday people. For so many reasons, the status quo is no longer tenable and Bernie is the candidate best positioned to expand the electorate and to speak truth to power in 2020."



### Arkansas



**Sarah Marsh, State Co-Chair**

Fayetteville City Council Member (Ward 1, Position 2) & Community Builder

**Bio:** Sarah Marsh grew up on a farm in Madison County, Arkansas. A graduate of the University of Arkansas with a degree in Architecture, Marsh is an award winning designer, a licensed Realtor, and is serving her eighth year on the Fayetteville City Council. Her passions are gardening, sewing, and building healthy communities.

**Statement:** "I support Bernie Sanders because I want to live in an America where people don't have to work so hard and still struggle so much. I want to be able to go to the doctor without having to worry about how much it will cost. I want the young people in my community to be able to go to college or trade school without having to start their adult lives in crippling debt. I love clean rivers and healthy forests and want to leave this planet in better shape than we found it. "



**Doris Wright, State Co-Chair**

Little Rock City Director (Ward 6)

**Bio:** Doris Wright is the City Director for Ward 6. A native of Lake Village, Arkansas, she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology and Sociology from the University of Arkansas at Monticello in 1981. She has also received a Certified Public Manager designation from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Director Wright was first elected to the Little Rock Board of



Directors in November 2006 and reelected in November 2010. She served as the first female African American Vice-Mayor of the City of Little Rock from 2012 to 2014.

**Statement:** "In order for families to prosper, we must have strong communities; in order to be strong, our communities must have stable neighborhoods. The policies outlined by Senator Sanders will enable our communities to prosper and nurture stable families."

**California**



**Morning Star Gali, State Co-Chair**  
Project Director, Restoring Justice for Indigenous Peoples

**Bio:** Morning Star Gali is a member of the Ajumawi band of Pit River located in Northeastern California. Ms. Gali serves as the California Tribal and Community Liaison for the International Indian Treaty Council, working for the Sovereignty and Self Determination of Indigenous Peoples and the recognition and protection of Indigenous Rights, Treaties, Traditional Cultures and Sacred Lands. She is a Tribal water policy organizer for Save California Salmon and has worked as the CA Regional Network Weaver for Native Americans in Philanthropy. She is a 2019 Open Society Institute Racial Equity fellow, Funders for Justice fellow 2018-2021 and a 2016-2018 Rosenberg Foundation Leading Edge fellow, focusing on the disproportionate impact of the criminal and juvenile justice systems on Native Americans. Between 2012-2016, Ms. Gali previously worked as the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Pit River Tribe and continues to lead large-scale actions while helping organize Native cultural, spiritual, scholarly, and political gatherings throughout California. Morning Star serves as a board member for the Sovereign Bodies Institute, California Indian Heritage Center Foundation and Women's Health Specialists of California, and also serves on a number of advisory committees that advocate for the sovereignty and self-determination of California's Indigenous peoples and protection of sacred lands.

**Statement:** "As a California Indigenous woman, self-determination begins with women and our bodies. Senator Bernie Sanders has been a champion for Indigenous rights and women's rights. Sanders elevates the concerns of protecting women's reproductive rights and protecting our Indigenous environmental rights. As an Indigenous grassroots organizer for over 20+ years, that's why I'm endorsing him for president of the United States."



**Allen Hernandez, State Co-Chair**  
Inland Empire Environmental Justice Leader

**Bio:** Allen Hernandez is one of the leading voices at the intersection of clean air, good jobs, and racial justice in the Inland Empire. He currently serves as Executive Director of the Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice, one of the oldest environmental justice organizations in the US. His career in environmental justice began as an organizer for the hotel workers' union UNITE Here Local 11 and Local 226, where he led hunger strikes and walk-outs to put power back in workers' hands. A second-generation resident of Fontana, Allen lives, works, and believes in the Inland Empire.

**Statement:** "I'm proud to endorse Bernie Sanders for a second time for President of the United States. His commitment to racial and environmental justice is clear. His Green New Deal plan captures the urgency, scale, and labor-environmental solidarity we need to deliver for fenceline communities and a planet in danger. Closer to home, his clear and demonstrated commitment to fighting irresponsible projects like warehouses offering low-wage jobs and more truck pollution shows that he understands the specifics of how to shift power away from polluters and back to the people. We are just trying to breathe, and Bernie is a breath of fresh air."



**Nikayla Jefferson, State Co-Chair**  
Lead Organizer, Sunrise Movement San Diego



**Bio:** Nikayla Jefferson was born, raised, and currently lives in San Diego. She organizes for the Sunrise Movement in San Diego and researches climate policy at her alma mater UC Santa Barbara. In her free time, she collects National Park pins, hosts disco dance parties, and writes poetry about girls. She is published in the Los Angeles Times and fanfiction.net.

**Statement:** "Bernie Sanders understands the urgency of the climate crisis and the crushing weight of it on my generation. He is the only candidate I trust to bring us through the climate crisis and into the era of a Green New Deal, and secure my livable future."



**Kimi Lee, State Co-Chair**  
Executive Director, Bay Rising Action

**Bio:** Kimi Lee, an activist from San Francisco's Chinatown, has been organizing immigrant communities for over 30 years. She started the Garment Workers Center in Los Angeles, serves on the Board of Chinese Progressive Association and has been an alliance leader in social justice movements across the country. She is currently the Executive Director of Bay Rising and Executive Director for Bay Rising Action.

**Statement:** "I support Bernie Sanders because he has been a real progressive leader for decades – pushing for community values and fighting corporate greed. We need to build our country to support everyone, not just the corporate elite."



**Lupe Martinez, State Co-Chair**  
Environmental Justice Community Advocate

**Bio:** Guadalupe Martinez was born in Brownsville, Texas, and moved to California with his mother and family in 1964 after his father suffered a fatal tractor accident. He soon started working in the fields of the San Joaquin Valley, working for a variety of farm labor contractors. While working in the grape fields in Ducor, Martinez met several organizers from the United Farm Workers, including Cesar Chavez. That was his first encounter with the Union and the taste for organizing and seeking justice never left him.

**Statement:** "Senator Sanders is the best candidate on environmental justice and farm workers' rights. He has stood with us for decades on the issues that matter most and will continue to stand up to polluters and corporate greed as President. We have some of the highest rates of pollution and asthma in the Central Valley due to the fossil fuel industry and big agriculture, so we have the most to gain from a Green New Deal. Senator Sanders has the movement and energy to make that happen."



**Daisy Vega, State Co-Chair**  
Co-Founder & Board Treasurer, Ground Game LA

**Bio:** Daisy Vega, an immigrant from El Salvador, lives in the Mar Vista Gardens public housing development with her family, where she serves as the President of the Resident Advisory



Council. She is a domestic worker in LA and she serves as a voting delegate to the People's Action Delegate Assembly. She is the Treasurer of the community organization People Organized for Westside Renewal and a Co-Founder & Board Treasurer of Ground Game Los Angeles.

**Statement:** "Apoyo a Bernie Sanders porque de su plataforma para proporcionar Medicare para Todos y una Garantía de Viviendas y porque Bernie respeta a todas culturas, los trabajadores y organizaciones comunitarias. Bernie es un líder con una visión clara y una deseos para avanzar a este país."

"I endorse Bernie Sanders because of his platform for Medicare for All and a homes guarantee, and because Bernie respects all cultures, workers and community organizations. Bernie is a leader with a clear vision and a desire to move this country forward."

#### Colorado



**Radhika Nath, State Co-Chair**  
Disability Rights Advocate & Policy Expert

**Bio:** Having immigrated to America as a student, Radhika Nath earned a doctorate in public policy. Radhika currently works in the healthcare field and fights for universal healthcare in Colorado. As the parent of neurodiverse kids, Radhika is an advocate for full inclusion of neurodiversity in society. In 2019, she ran for the Denver School Board and continues to stay engaged to fight for children who have backgrounds in trauma, disability or poverty.

**Statement:** "In a time when our democracy, our way of life, our future and even our planet are under threat, we need a leader who secures our children's future while at the same time creating systemic changes that strengthen our democracy and make our lives better. We need a leader who cares about us. For me, as a parent, an immigrant, a disability rights advocate, a social justice proponent, and a person who cares about systemic change, Senator Bernie Sanders is that leader."



**Joe Salazar, State Co-Chair**  
Former State Representative & WFP Executive Committee

**Bio:** Joseph Salazar is a Colorado native whose indigenous and Spanish roots in Colorado and New Mexico go back generations. He was the first in his family to go to college. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1993. Upon completing his undergraduate degree, he worked for the state as a civil rights and criminal investigator. In 2003, Joe graduated from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. Upon graduating from DU, Joe was awarded the coveted John Phillip Linn Employment Law Award, for his excellence in employment law. For the past 14 years, Joe's practice has included high profile employment discrimination and constitutional law cases, primarily against government bad actors. In November 2012, Joe was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives. He is the proud husband of Jessica Salazar and has two daughters, Alex and Lili.

**Statement:** "I endorse Bernie Sanders because we are not talking about a Democrat who plays Progressive. He is a Progressive who works with Democrats. We are not talking about a man who shifts positions depending on the political winds. We are talking about a man with a message – the same message – who embodies exactly what our country stands for. It is his moral compass to stand for justice."

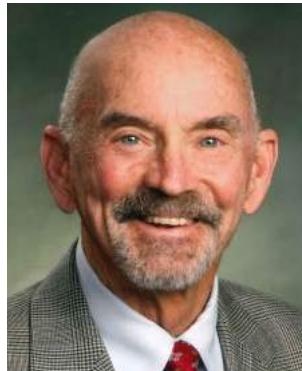


**Juan Marcano, State Vice-Chair**  
Aurora City Councilmember (Ward 4)



**Bio:** Juan is the son of Puerto Rican migrants, a brother, a husband, a policy adviser, and an advocate for working-class families representing Ward 4 of the city of Aurora, Colorado. He is proud to be part of the political revolution sweeping the nation at all levels of government and through grass-roots movements to build a nation and a world that works for the many, not just the few.

**Statement:** "Bernie Sanders has demonstrated sound judgment through his activism throughout his political career and possesses a moral compass that points towards justice. The clarity of purpose and unwavering righteousness that drives his cause makes him the only candidate for president capable of truly articulating a vision for a country where we all live with dignity and have a foreign policy where we no longer commit acts of barbarism in the name of global capitalism. I am proud to endorse Bernie Sanders for president of the United States of America."



**Mike Merrifield, State Vice-Chair**  
Former State Senator (District 11)

**Bio:** Senator Mike Merrifield was a public high school music teacher for 30 years. He has a long political history, having served four years on the Manitou Springs City Council, eight years in the Colorado State House of Representatives, and four years in the Colorado Senate.

**Statement:** "I am proud to support a man who has the courage to stand up to the fat cats and plutocrats, and supports working families, labor, and healthcare for all."



## Maine



**Jonathan Fishman & Briar Lyons, State Co-Chairs**

Musician, Phish & Business Owner, Lincolnville General Store & Elderflower Farm

**Bios:** Jon Fishman is the drummer and co-founder of the band Phish. He has co-written 19 songs and is solo credited on eight songs. Briar Lyons is married to Jon. A business owner, Briar runs the Lincolnville General Store and Elderflower Farm. Jon and Briar have five children and they reside in Lincolnville, Maine.

**Statement:** "Bernie has been fighting his entire career spanning over 40 years for education, climate change, local and small agriculture, removing big money from politics, health care and human rights. He has been consistent, truthful and persistent. We have confidence that he will set the board for success with regard to these concerns by calling on citizens, appointing professional individuals and building teams with the goal of bringing the globe together to combat these issues."



**Troy Jackson, State Co-Chair**  
State Senate President (District 1)

**Bio:** President Jackson represents the good people of Northern Aroostook County in Senate District 1. He is a fifth-generation logger from Allagash whose participation in the 1998 logging blockade along the Canadian border launched him into politics. A lifelong resident of the St. John River Valley, President Jackson is a passionate advocate for workers' rights, lower health care costs, property tax



relief and economic opportunity. President Jackson is a member of the Democratic National Committee. He attended Allagash Consolidated Community High School and is a graduate of the University of Maine at Fort Kent. President Jackson and his partner, Lana Pelletier, have two adult sons, Chace and Camden. In 2018, Senator Troy D. Jackson became the 117th President of the Maine Senate, having been elected to a second term the previous November.

**Statement:** "I'm endorsing Senator Sanders for President because it is time we lift people up. I know that he is the only one we can trust to fight for us."



**Safiya Khalid, State Co-Chair**  
Lewiston City Councilor

**Bio:** Safiya Khalid is a politician and activist from Lewiston, Maine. A graduate of Lewiston High School and the University of Southern Maine, Safiya serves as a member of both the executive committee and the state committee of the Maine Democratic Party, and as Vice Chair of the Lewiston Democratic Party. She is currently working for Gateway Community Services as a Community Coordinator, helping asylum seekers, refugees and immigrants integrate into American society. Prior to her current position, she worked as a clerk for the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing in Augusta. She is the first elected Somali-American to the Lewiston City Council and proudly serves the people of her community.

**Statement:** "I support Bernie because I want to live in a country where we have progressive, structural changes that work for everyone, regardless of your background".



**Rachel Talbot Ross, State Co-Chair**  
State Representative (District 40)

**Bio:** Rep. Rachel Talbot Ross is serving her second term in the Maine House. She is a member of both the Health and Human Services Committee and the Judiciary Committee. A ninth-generation Mainers and longtime public servant, Talbot Ross has worked for the City of Portland and has led several nonprofit organizations dedicated to social justice. She is currently the Director of the Martin Luther King Jr. Fellows and President of Maine Freedom Trails. She serves on the Maine State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and is chair of the African American Collection Advisory Committee at the University of Southern Maine. Talbot Ross is the recipient of numerous awards, including the University of New England's Deborah Morton Award for exceptional civic leadership.

**Statement:** “At this critical time in our nation’s history when our civil rights and liberties are being dismantled, we cannot simply replace a President. We must elect a leader who will not only restore and strengthen these hard-won gains, but can mobilize people from diverse backgrounds and of all ages to enact systemic change. Bernie Sanders is that leader and I’m proud to join so many fellow Mainers in strong support.”



### Massachusetts



**Mike Connolly, State Co-Chair**  
State Representative (26th Middlesex)

**Bio:** Mike Connolly is serving in his second term representing parts of Cambridge and Somerville in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. Raised in public housing in Norwood, MA, Mike spent time in foster care and benefited from a Head Start program as a kid. He made it to Duke University on a football scholarship and went on to Boston College Law School, becoming an attorney in 2010. Mike considers Bernie's October 2015 rally at the Boston Convention and Exposition Center to be a life-changing moment. With over 20,000 people in attendance, this was the moment that he started to believe that the working class could actually win the kind of society we want and deserve. In October 2017, Rep. Connolly introduced Senator Sanders to a packed ballroom in Somerville, Mass. in support of 16 Our Revolution-endorsed candidates for local office. The next month, 15 of those candidates won their races. In early 2019, Rep. Connolly introduced a groundbreaking "Housing For All" legislative agenda. In April of that year he met with Senator Sanders on Beacon Hill and discussed their shared desire to see bold programs to guarantee Housing For All.

**Statement:** "From the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, to the movements for a Green New Deal and guaranteed Housing for All in this decade, Senator Bernie Sanders has always been on the front lines of the fight for justice. Bernie understands that our politics must be about lifting up the voices of the multiracial working class — and this is precisely what makes him the candidate best positioned to defeat Donald Trump in November."



**Jamie Eldridge, State Co-Chair**  
State Senator (Middlesex & Worcester District)

**Bio:** State Senator Jamie Eldridge represents the 14 communities of the Middlesex and Worcester district. He serves as a leader with the Senate Progressive Caucus, co-chairs the Criminal Justice Reform and Clean Energy Caucuses, and is the author of An Act to Establish Medicare for All in Massachusetts, 100% Renewable Energy, the Safe Communities Act to protect immigrants, Debt-Free College, and legislation to close corporate tax loopholes. He serves as the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Judiciary and is the only legislator to be elected under the publicly-financed Clean Elections law in Massachusetts history. He was a national delegate for Bernie Sanders for the 2016 DNC Convention, and a national delegate for Barack Obama for the 2008 DNC Convention.

**Statement:** “Four years after endorsing Bernie Sanders for President, I’m extremely proud to again endorse Bernie for President, after he has once again won the New Hampshire Democratic presidential primary. Over the past four years, Senator Sanders has transformed what the Democratic Party stands for. From \$15 an hour minimum wage to Medicare For All to criminal justice reform, he has supported these issues while building a historic multi-racial grassroots coalition that has fired up the Democratic base and connected with voters sick of the DC status quo. As the Democratic presidential primary moves into Massachusetts and beyond, I hope voters disgusted with Donald Trump’s efforts to dismantle our country remember this: when Democrats fail to bring their most progressive believers into a campaign and inspire everyday Americans, Republicans are able to win elections. Let 2020 be the year that Democrats stand up for the ideas that will make a difference in people’s lives, and not corporate special interests. That’s what Bernie Sanders stands for and that’s why I’m with Bernie.”



**Nika Elugardo, State Co-Chair**  
State Representative (15th Suffolk)

**Bio:** Nika Elugardo is a State Representative in the Boston area. Working in community and economic development for over 20 years, her focus has been grassroots and executive leadership and systems thinking for nonprofit and civic leaders.

**Statement:** “I’m endorsing Bernie Sanders because he understands that America’s greatest destiny is ahead of us. Bernie will lead as a President whose vision of a truly revolutionary democracy excites and activates emerging leaders. He inspires us to chart our collective course to become the first and greatest democracy that engages every ethnicity, creed, and gender, from the very grassroots of leadership to the highest positions in our national government. Bernie’s vision spans the political spectrum, offering a pathway to authentic opportunity and justice for all Americans and for all people. I am thrilled to be all in for Team Bernie.”



**Paul R. Feeney, State Co-Chair**  
State Senator (Bristol & Norfolk District)

**Bio:** State Senator Paul Feeney is in his second term in the Massachusetts Senate, representing over 170,000 constituents of the Bristol & Norfolk District. Feeney currently serves as the Senate Chairperson of the Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, as well as the Senate Vice-Chairperson of the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Professional Licensure and the Senate Committee on Post Audit and Oversight. Since his election to the Senate in 2017, Senator



Feeney has been successful in advocating for and passing legislation and amendments regarding the protection of workers' rights, lowering of health care and prescription costs, increased investment in public education, measures to address chronic homelessness, environmental protections, and millions of dollars in funding for the communities in his district. Prior to his service in the Senate, Feeney worked for over 20 years as a telecommunications technician where he also represented his co-workers as the legislative director of his union, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 2222. In 2016, Feeney served as the State Director for Bernie Sanders's campaign for President in Massachusetts and Connecticut and seconded Sanders's nomination at the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia. Senator Feeney resides in Foxborough with his wife, Laura, who operates a licensed family child care business in their home.

**Statement:** "Senator Bernie Sanders is the bold, passionate and principled leader we need to stand up for working people, to protect the rights of women, to fight for affordable education and to guarantee quality affordable healthcare for every man, woman and child in our country. Senator Bernie Sanders is an honest, compassionate and straightforward public servant who has never once wavered in his loyalty to the working-class people of the United States. I am proud to support Senator Sanders in his campaign for the Presidency and look forward to working closely with him to restore honesty and decency to the Oval Office, while building a coalition of working women and men that have been forgotten about for far too long."



**Paul Mark, State Co-Chair**  
State Representative (2nd Berkshire)

**Bio:** Rep. Paul Mark represents the sixteen cities and towns that make up the 2nd Berkshire District in Western Massachusetts and serves as Chair of the House Committee on Redistricting. Rep. Mark has been a dues paying union member for 24 years and a champion of economic justice for working families throughout his time in office. While working full-time as a telephone lineman, Paul earned an Associate's Degree in Telecommunications, a Bachelor's Degree in Economics, a Master's Degree in Labor Studies, a Law Degree, and a Doctorate in Law and Public Policy.

**Statement:** "I was the first elected official in Massachusetts to endorse Bernie Sanders for President in 2016 and I am excited to reaffirm my support today. Bernie Sanders has consistently



fought for the values important to me and the people I represent throughout his time in elected office. Standing up for working families, pursuing equality and justice for all, protecting our environment, guaranteeing health care for all and an economy that works for everyone are the values that will resonate throughout this country and lead to victory in November."



**Varshini Prakash, State Co-Chair**  
Co-Founder & Executive Director, Sunrise Movement

**Bio:** Varshini Prakash is Executive Director and co-founder of the Sunrise Movement, a movement of young people working to stop climate change, and create millions of good jobs in the process, through the Green New Deal. Varshini has been a leading voice for young Americans, including when she co-organized a mass demonstration for the Green New Deal with Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez that went viral and put the climate crisis at the top of the political agenda for the 2020 election cycle. Varshini's work has been featured in the New York Times, MSNBC, The New Yorker, BBC, The Washington Post, among others. In 2019, she was acknowledged on the Forbes 30 under 30 list for law and policy, and TIME 100 Next, a new list of rising stars who are shaping politics, popular culture, science, and more. Varshini currently lives in Boston, MA.

**Statement:** "I'm humbled and thrilled to join Bernie Sanders's team as Massachusetts Co-Chair. Watching Bernie Sanders's bid for President in 2016 was the first time I and millions of other young people believed politics could be for us. Bernie's immediate support for the Green New Deal, his fight for universal protections and rights for all people, has delivered resounding backing from thousands of youth activists with Sunrise Movement. I'm proud to help him build a political revolution and leverage the power of our movement here in my home state of Massachusetts."



**Lindsay Sabadosa, State Co-Chair**  
State Representative (1st Hampshire)

**Bio:** Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa is a progressive Democrat representing the 1st Hampshire district. She is the lead sponsor of the Medicare for All legislation in the Massachusetts General Court and the Co-Founder and Co-Chair of the Medicare for All Caucus in the State House, the first of its kind in any state capital. Passionate about health care as a human right, she has taken on the work of grassroots organizing and education around single payer health care, regularly travelling the state to talk to people about what Medicare for All would mean for families, businesses, health care, the Massachusetts economy, and improving social determinants of health. Sabadosa's other legislative interests are founded on the same principles that lead her support for Medicare for All: ending economic and identity-based inequities in society. Those interests include housing and homelessness, criminal justice reform, harm reduction-based recovery and treatment, reproductive freedom, public transportation, and addressing the climate emergency through an environmental justice lens.

**Statement:** “As we head into the 2020 elections, our country needs a path forward based on consistent, unwavering support for ending inequities and restoring faith in government, which can and should be a vehicle for good. We need elected leaders who support bold, game-changing policies like Medicare for All and free early and higher education because they understand that half-measures have always left and will continue to leave out far too many people. When I looked at the candidates for president, I wanted not only someone with a steadfast commitment to progressive politics but someone who inspired people to believe that change is truly possible and that their involvement in government is critical. Bernie Sanders’s campaign is grounded in the belief of ‘not me, us’ and is a true people-powered movement. That is the sort of transformational change I want to see on a national level, and that is the kind of change I want to continue to fight for on the state level.”



## Minnesota



**Keith Ellison, State Co-Chair  
MN Attorney General**

**Bio:** Keith Ellison was elected Minnesota Attorney General in 2018 and represented Minnesotans in Congress from 2007-2009, where he championed consumer, worker, and civil rights protections to defend the rights of Minnesotans against the interests of the powerful. He passed laws to fight credit card abuse and to defend the rights of tenants and renters, and founded the Congressional Antitrust Caucus and the Congressional Consumer Justice Caucus. Before entering politics, Keith spent 16 years as an attorney specializing in civil rights and defense law, overseeing a team of attorneys focused on delivering justice for Minnesotans who had nowhere else to turn. For five of those years he also served as Executive Director of the Legal Rights Center.

**Statement:** "The most pressing problem of our time is inequality. For working-class people, they really can't thrive and grow in this economy and Bernie has the best prescriptions now. Over the course of time he has demonstrated the most consistent commitment to working families."



**Ilhan Omar, State Co-Chair  
U.S. Representative (CD-5)**



**Bio:** Born in Somalia, Rep. Omar and her family fled the country's civil war when she was eight. The family spent four years in a refugee camp in Kenya before coming to the United States in the 1990s. Rep. Ilhan Omar currently represents Minnesota's 5th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives, which includes Minneapolis and the surrounding suburbs. An experienced policy analyst, organizer, public speaker and advocate, Rep. Omar was sworn into office in January 2019, making her the first Somali-American and first of two Muslim-American women elected to Congress, and the first woman of color to represent Minnesota. As a Legislator, Rep. Omar is committed to fighting for the shared values of the 5th District, values that put people at the center of our democracy.

**Statement:** "Bernie is leading a working class movement to defeat Donald Trump that transcends generation, ethnicity and geography. That is why he is fighting to cancel all student debt. That is why he is fighting to make all school meals universal. That is why he is fighting for a humane immigration policy that treats immigrants as human beings and not criminals. And it's why Bernie is fighting to end our forever wars and truly prioritize human rights in our foreign policy—no matter who violates them. And it's why I believe Bernie Sanders is the best candidate to take on Donald Trump in 2020."



**Alondra Cano, State Vice-Chair**  
Minneapolis City Council Member (Ward 9)

**Bio:** Alondra and her family immigrated from Mexico to rural Minnesota when she was ten years old. She is the first Latinx to have been elected to serve on the Minneapolis City Council. As an organizer, she helped pass the Minnesota Dream Act. As a Council Member, she led the charge to pass a \$15 minimum wage ordinance and, with American Indian leaders, persuaded her city to recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day.

**Statement:** "I support Bernie Sanders for President because he has the courage to stand up for our community when it matters, not when it's convenient. His fight for the people has energized millions across the country to organize and build a movement for political change. Bernie's voice has always reflected this movement, he is the President who will work to inspire our nation to believe in the power of us."



**Winona LaDuke, State Vice-Chair**  
Co-Founder, Honor the Earth

**Bio:** Winona LaDuke is a rural development economist and author, who works on issues of Indigenous economics, food, and energy policy. She co-founded Honor the Earth with the Indigo Girls, as a platform to raise awareness of and money for Indigenous struggles for environmental justice. Globally and nationally, Winona is known as a leader on the issues of culturally-based sustainable development strategies, renewable energy, and sustainable food systems. She is a leader in efforts to protect Indigenous plants and heritage foods from patenting and genetic engineering.

**Statement:** "Bernie Sanders is a committed, courageous champion for the people. For decades, he's worked with Native people to support our calls for justice, for dignity, and for the next economy, one where we are all able to thrive. More than just calling for justice, Senator Sanders has committed to making a future where we are at the table and not on the menu. I have immense respect for this leader and look forward to working with him in the year ahead."



**John Marty, State Vice-Chair**  
State Senator (District 66)



**Bio:** John Marty is a senior state senator - having served since 1987 - and is a strong, consistent advocate for governmental ethics, environmental protection, and universal health care. John is the author of the proposed Minnesota Health Plan, which seeks to replace health insurance for some with health care for all. John is a graduate of St. Olaf College with a B.A. in Ethics. He and his wife, Connie, live in Roseville, MN.

**Statement:** "I am proud to support Bernie Sanders because sincerity and integrity matter, and trustworthiness in politics is so rare. Bernie has thoughtful, well-reasoned positions on the issues, especially universal healthcare, economic justice, and climate issues. Equally important, he doesn't take those stands in order to score points; he has consistently fought for them over the years. Also, contrary to what many pundits say, Bernie is the most electable candidate. He has shown an incredible ability to connect with young people, rural residents, and others who have felt disengaged. Inspiring this enormous bloc of potential voters and getting them to the polls is essential if we want to guarantee victory in 2020."



**Joel Sipress, State Vice-Chair**  
Duluth City Council Member (District 2)

**Bio:** Joel Sipress has served on the Duluth, Minnesota City Council since 2014. He is also a member of the Duluth Public Utilities Commission and the Duluth Housing and Redevelopment Authority Board of Directors. Prior to taking office as a city councilor, he served for four years as a member of the Executive Board of the Duluth DFL, Democratic Party.

**Statement:** "As a local elected official, I see every day the ways in which our economic and ecological challenges are rapidly reaching a breaking point. Whether it is a lakeshore that is being devastated by a changing climate, a housing market that is pushing thousands to the brink of homelessness, or a health care system that jeopardizes both physical and financial well-being, we can no longer afford to tinker around the edges. Senator Sanders is leading a movement to change our broken economic and political systems. I'm proud to be part of that movement."



### North Carolina



**Jillian Johnson, State Co-Chair**  
Durham Mayor Pro Tempore

**Bio:** Jillian Johnson is a long-time community organizer and activist, a mother of two, and a member of the Durham City Council. She was first elected in 2015, on a platform of racial, economic, and environmental justice, police accountability, equitable development, and broadening democracy. Originally from Virginia, she arrived in Durham in 1999 to attend Duke University, where she earned a B.A. in public policy. She is also a co-founder of Durham for All, a multi-racial cross-class political organization fighting for homes, education, safety, economic inclusion, and democratic participation for all Durham residents.

**Statement:** "I support Senator Bernie Sanders for President of the United States because he will make the critical federal investments that my community needs. More funding for housing, education, jobs, and healthcare will benefit everyone, here in Durham and throughout the country. His plan to end deportations will make our country safer for immigrants, and his plan to provide free public college and forgive student loan debt will help thousands of people become financially secure. Bernie Sanders will fight for a future where everyone can thrive."





**LaTarndra Strong, State Co-Chair**  
Founder, Hate Free Schools Coalition, Activist & Community Organizer

**Bio:** LaTarndra Strong is a change agent focused on creating long term equity in education, promoting anti-racist living, and addressing structural injustices through policy change. Her experience building grassroots coalitions drives her belief that change is possible through strong community engagement, local leadership, and a commitment to diversity. In addition LaTarndra believes that we build movements person to person, and practices shifting communities one person at a time.

**Statement:** "I am endorsing Bernie Sanders because I believe in his vision to repair our nation. His policies center on the needs of everyday folks. We need leaders who recognize that our system requires new ideas and innovations to reconnect Americans to the American Dream. Bernie's commitment to health care for all, education for all, and opportunity for all is a game changer. I want that for my family and for all American families, regardless of our makeup and differences."

**Oklahoma**



**Jesse Jackson, Jr., State Co-Chair**  
Pastor, Oklahoma City East Sixth Street Christian Church

**Bio:** Pastor Jackson is the longest serving pastor in the history of this century-old congregation. He is committed to social justice, the reform of our political system, and, as the scriptures say, to "do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God." Pastor Jackson's fight for justice has taken him to Palestine and Israel, the Sonoran Desert of Mexico, and Arizona and West Africa. He believes it is vital that we stand with those afraid to stand alone and speak for those who have been silenced.

**Statement:** "Before I knew Sen. Sanders name, I watched him on CSPAN speak courageously on so many issues, even when it appeared that no one was listening. It didn't stop the fire inside him or the truth that he spoke. I supported him in 2016 and I proudly stand with him now. His voice, vision and temperament is exactly what this nation needs right now."



**LaRenda Morgan, State Co-Chair**  
Governmental Affairs Officer, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes

**Bio:** LaRenda Morgan is an enrolled member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes and also of Otoe Missouria Tribal Descent. She has been a long standing advocate for the Indian Child Welfare Act, Indian Health Services, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, and has promoted State and Tribal Voter Registration. LaRenda was appointed and served as the first Oklahoma Democratic Party Tribal Liaison. In 2016, LaRenda filed for candidacy in the Oklahoma House of Representatives. Although she did not win, she continues to promote political engagement, tribal community voter outreach and encourages tribal citizens to file to run for state office. She is actively involved in tribal government and state politics. She considers herself a thought leader, strategic thinker and visionary.

**Statement:** “I met Senator Bernie Sanders at a Tribal Leaders Meeting in Oklahoma where I was able to sit down with him and other tribal leaders and discuss Indian Country issues and hear his responses to our concerns. He was sincere about resolutions and spoke genuinely from his heart. For this reason I decided to endorse Senator Bernie Sanders.”



**Alison A. Petrone, State Co-Chair**  
Norman City Councilor



**Bio:** Alison is a lawyer, small business owner, and a member of the Norman City Council. She and her husband have two children, both of which attend public schools. She is an active community volunteer and civic advocate. She is a lifelong Oklahoma resident.

**Statement:** "Senator Sanders has a 40 year record of transparency and an unwavering compassion for policy initiatives that are laser-focused on bettering the lives of the people, as well as our shared environment. His political independence gives him the unique ability to unite large coalitions of everyday people, as well as engage new voters to partake in the political process. He understands the dangerous consequences of allowing special interests to effectively buy our elections, and continues his career long pledge in public service of funding his campaigns solely through the donations of the people."



**Jacob Rosecrants, State Co-Chair**  
State Representative (District 46)

**Bio:** Before his election to the Oklahoma State Legislature in 2017, Representative Jacob Rosecrants was a geography teacher at Roosevelt Middle School in Oklahoma City. As an enthusiastic supporter of Bernie Sanders in 2016, Jacob was inspired to run for office himself to fight for better opportunities for Oklahoma children and their families. Jacob lives in Norman, Oklahoma with his partner, Robin, and their two children, Isabella and Jonah.

**Statement:** "I am excited to endorse Bernie Sanders because he understands that our public schools are shaping the future of humanity, not making widgets. I believe that Bernie's vision for educational equity, increased funding for schools, a nationwide teacher pay raise, and especially ending standardized testing, will help teachers do what they do best: teach. Bernie's education platform promotes healthy social, emotional, and cognitive development to help ALL children thrive in school and in life. It's not about us; it's about them. I am proud to endorse Bernie Sanders for President, and I hope you will join me!"



**Tennessee**



**Emily Benedict, State Co-Chair**  
Nashville Metro City Councilwoman (District 7)

**Bio:** Emily is a 20-year resident of Inglewood and East Nashville with a passion for serving others. Her current policy priorities include fully funding schools and teachers, building coalitions to ensure residential growth aligns with neighborhood values, improving infrastructure, and creating affordable housing. Beyond her role on City Council, she sits on the board of the Nashville LGBT Chamber of Commerce and through the Greater Nashville Realtor association, she serves on the Affordable Housing Committee.

**Statement:** "For decades, Bernie has fought for causes that I believe in - universal healthcare, social and racial justice, workers' rights, and diplomacy over war. When I campaigned last summer, I ran on a platform of experience, equity, and sustainability. There is no one more experienced and no one more focused on equity for all of us than Bernie Sanders. He has my support. I hope you will join me, and join us."



**Delishia Porterfield, State Co-Chair**  
Nashville Metro City Councilwoman (District 29)



**Bio:** Delishia Porterfield, a mother and minister, is an educator whose expertise — and passion — is working with students with disabilities. The Memphis native, who holds Bachelors and Masters degrees from Tennessee State University, was recently re-elected to represent Nashville's 29th District in the Metro Council. She serves on the Education, Budget & Finance and Health, Hospitals and Social Services Committees on the Metro Council, as well as on the Board of Directors for eMpowerment, Inc., Ignite Her Pursuit, and the Destiny Theater Experience. Delishia is the proud mother of a Metro Nashville Public Schools 7th grader.

**Statement:** "As a former educator, I proudly supported Senator Sanders in 2016 because of his strong commitment to working families. As an activist, I appreciate his work and dedication to the Civil Rights Movement. Now, as a newly-elected official, I wholeheartedly support Senator Sanders in his effort to transform our criminal justice system, make healthcare a human right with Medicare for All and remove the burden of student debt with College for All. Senator Sanders is the candidate who is intentionally focused on economic, racial, social and environmental justice. Working families across Tennessee need a champion and Bernie Sanders is the only candidate who will not only fight for them, but win in November."



**Zulfat Suara, State Co-Chair**  
Nashville Metro City Councilwoman (At-Large 5)

**Bio:** Zulfat was elected as an At-Large Council Member in September 2019. With over 34,000 votes from a very diverse population, she became the first Muslim to be elected to the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County and the first immigrant elected to an At-Large position. She is the first Muslim woman elected in the State of Tennessee and the first Nigerian woman elected to any office in the United States. Zulfat Suara is originally from Nigeria, arriving in 1993 to the U.S. She has been active in community service and leadership, all while working full-time as a CPA. Zulfat is married to her husband of 29 years, Dr. Rahaman Suara, and they have five children.

**Statement:** "I like Senator Bernie Sanders because his message resonates with me, and with many -- it's because he cares. Bernie believes that America should work for all citizens and not a few. As an African American, Muslim, immigrant, woman, I want a president that cares for the issues that are important to all demographics that I represent. Bernie gets the importance of keeping families



together, earning a livable wage, affordable housing and the burden of student loan debt. Bernie believes healthcare is a right and that no one in the richest country in the world should have to choose between their health and putting food on the table."

**Texas**



**Greg Casar, State Co-Chair**  
Austin City Council Member (District 4)

**Bio:** Gregorio "Greg" Casar is the son of Mexican immigrants, a labor and community organizer, and the youngest person ever elected to the Austin City Council. He has passed policies to disrupt mass incarceration and mass deportation, end inexcusable tax breaks for the wealthiest, and create an unprecedented expansion of funding for affordable housing. Casar was the sponsor of Austin's paid sick days law which the Austin American Statesman called "the most progressive local labor policy in Texas and the American South."

**Statement:** "Bernie Sanders is not just running a campaign for the presidency: he's building the multi-racial, working class movement that we need, especially in Texas. Here, we have the largest number of people without healthcare of any state, there are children in cages at the border, and we see more workplace deaths than anywhere else in America. To transform our politics, we must organize millions of people like never before-- and I am endorsing Bernie Sanders because he is the candidate who, through decades of commitment to service and struggle, is building the movement that can win the future we deserve."



**Jim Hightower, State Co-Chair**

Editor, Hightower Lowdown & Former TX Agriculture Commissioner

**Bio:** Jim Hightower is a best-selling author, radio commentator, nationally-syndicated columnist, and editor of The Hightower Lowdown, a populist political newsletter. He has spent the past five decades battling the Powers That Be on behalf of the Powers That Ought-To-Be: Consumers, working-families, small businesses, farmers, environmentalists, and just-plain-folks. Twice-elected to statewide office in Texas, Jim is an all-around populist agitator who believes that the true political spectrum is not right to left, but top to bottom. Political columnist Molly Ivins said, "If Will Rogers and Mother Jones had a baby, Jim Hightower would be that rambunctious child -- mad as hell, with a sense of humor."

**Statement:** "I'm proud to support Bernie Sanders. He's unabashedly-progressive, running an all-out people's campaign and proposing a bold agenda for change: rebuilding our middle class, reclaiming our democracy, and saving our planet. As a South Texas saying puts it: 'A grandes males, grandes remedios' – for big problems, get big solutions. Obviously, our society's problems today—from rampant inequality to climate change—are beyond huge, and we need a leader big enough to lead us to fix them. Bernie is that leader."



**S. Lee Merritt, State Co-Chair**

Civil Rights Attorney

**Bio:** S. Lee Merritt, Esq. commonly known as "the people's lawyer," is emerging as an influential new voice in the fight for Social Justice. A Civil Rights activist and attorney, Merritt runs a high-profile practice focusing on victims of police brutality, hate crimes and corporate discrimination. As an activist, he has championed police reform and community empowerment. His office has led the way in reform in Texas, a state notorious for its failure to prosecute police officers, advocating for the first murder indictments of officers in the state in over 40 years.



Following the devastation caused by Hurricane Harvey in the summer of 2017, Merritt helped to launch the American Black Cross, a disaster relief organization geared to serve the most vulnerable sectors of society. That same year, Merritt was recognized as one of the top 10 most influential African Americans in the country ages 18 to 45 by The Root. The National Black Caucus of State Legislators awarded Merritt the prestigious "Nation Builder" award, adding him to an elite list of recipients including President Barack Obama, Shirley Chisholm and Vernon Jordan. He attended law school in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania at Temple University's James Beasley School of Law and is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Texas Clients Botham Jean and Atatiana Jefferson, were both murdered by police officers within miles of each other in their homes in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area. These tragic events sparked a national conversation about officer use of force and accountability. Working alongside partners in the activist and legal community, indictments were secured in both cases. Merritt continues to travel and speak around the country seeking justice for the many victims of police brutality.

**Statement:** "Bernie Sanders is the only presidential candidate I've heard in my lifetime speak publicly and consistently about the issues that impact people who are from where I am from. This race has to be about health care, criminal justice reform, school debt and empowering communities outside of the top 1%. Bernie has a track record of progress, experience and a plan that will work for all Americans, maybe for the first time in this country's history."



**Farrukh Shamsi, State Co-Chair**  
Former Vice Chair, State Democratic Party

**Bio:** Farrukh has been a Democratic Party activist, a community builder and a leader for Houston and Texas. He has been a precinct chair, State Democratic Executive Committee member for three terms, and was the first American Muslim and also the first Asian American elected Vice Chair for the Texas Democratic Party. He also served on the 2012 and 2016 DNC Platform Committees. He has an MBA in marketing and management and a Bachelor of Science double major in biology and chemistry. He is currently a leader in opioid treatment, having received an award for excellence. He has served on various SAMHSA/CSAT panels and boards concentrating on substance abuse and mental health services.



**Statement:** "I have actively supported the Senator, because the way people are being treated in this country right now is atrocious. It is all about money and corporations and not the people. I like that Senator Sanders is honest and cares about the people of this country and is not beholden to corporate lobbyists. He has strong community values and widespread support from persons of all ages and ethnicities. Senator Sanders has direct conversations with American Muslim groups throughout the country and has the most diverse staff of any Presidential campaign at all levels. He only gets resistance from those who don't want real change from the bottom up or are just misinformed. But when they hear his message, many are swayed to become supporters."

**Utah**



**Rosalba Dominguez, State Co-Chair**  
Murray City Councilwomyn (District 3)

**Bio:** Rosalba Dominguez is a lifelong Utah resident, community advocate, partner, step-mother and urban gardener living in Murray's historical area of Council District 3. As a first-generation American born to working class parents, she learned firsthand that a strong work ethic and passion for communities make cities like Murray a special place to work, live and raise a family. Currently, she works as an art teacher with the local non-profit Clever Octopus helping children across the Wasatch Front discover a love and appreciation for art.

**Statement:** "I am supporting Bernie Sanders for President because I believe it is time to be our authentic selves, without hiding behind big money and interest groups. We deserve someone in politics who will work for all Americans. Bernie speaks to the people, speaks to our youth and strives for peace."



**Dustin Gettel, State Co-Chair**  
Midvale City Councilmember (District 5)

**Bio:** Councilmember Gettel was born and raised in rural Pennsylvania but moved to the Salt Lake City suburbs in late 2015. He currently works for the Utah Department of Health Division of Medicaid and is in his first term on Midvale City Council having defeated an incumbent Councilmember by more than 20 percentage points in 2017. Councilmember Gettel has a Master's degree in Health Law and over a decade of experience in both public and private healthcare. He is extremely proud to be one of only 8 out LGBTQ elected officials in the state of Utah, and he enjoys spending time hiking the beautiful Utah canyons and trails with his rescue pups Lucy, Remy, and Gandalf.

**Statement:** “I quickly endorsed Bernie Sanders for President in 2016 because of how easily he brought people into the political process who were previously overlooked and underrepresented. Bernie has led a nearly unstoppable progressive movement in the United States, and he continues to provide a much needed voice for a diverse cross-section of the electorate. Bernie is the best candidate to take on and defeat Donald Trump in November 2020, and I am thrilled to once again support his campaign in what could very well be the most consequential presidential election in our nation's history.”



**Elizabeth Payne, State Co-Chair**  
Murray City School Board Member (District 4) & UT Progressive Caucus Chair



**Bio:** Elizabeth Payne is a mother of four and wife of a Marine Corps veteran. She has served as Chair of the Salt Lake County and Utah State Democratic Party Progressive Caucuses. After running a local grassroots progressive campaign, Elizabeth was elected in the 2018 midterm election to serve on the Murray City School District Board of Education.

**Statement:** "Bernie Sanders is the reason I believed that someone like me could run for office. When he called for a political revolution and asked us to "run for office from school board on up," I answered that call and ran for school board. Bernie is the candidate that I trust on education from making sure our teachers are paid a living wage to making sure no child goes hungry at school. Bernie is the only candidate who understands the need for universal, tuition-free, pre-k through trade school and public college."



**Angela Romero, State Co-Chair**  
State Representative (District 26) & Democratic Caucus Assistant Whip

**Bio:** Angela Romero has always had a passion to serve. Growing up in Tooele, Utah, Angela was raised by her grandparents who inspired her to pursue college, graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Utah. In 2012, she won her election to represent House District 26 in the Utah Legislature. In 2016 and 2018, she was elected by her colleagues to serve as the House Democratic Assistant Whip.

**Statement:** "America has witnessed Bernie Sanders consistently stand next to hard working people in their fight for a livable wage. We've watched him stand with our students time and time again in their pursuit for higher education in the face of outrageous student debt. We've observed his relentless fight for guaranteed healthcare for all people as a matter of human rights. I'm in for the fight. I'm in for the transformation. I'm in. #NotMeUS"

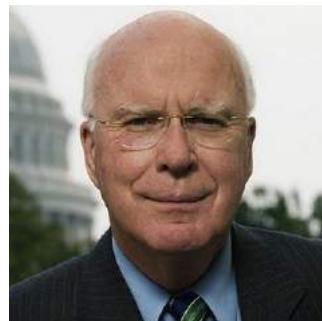


**Lex Scott, State Co-Chair**  
Founder, Black Lives Matter Utah & United Front Civil Rights Organization

**Bio:** Lex Scott is the Founder of Black Lives Matter Utah and she is nationally recognized for her work in civil rights. She is an E-50 (Enlightened 50) award winner, two time Best in State Award winner, and Omega Psi Phi Social Justice Award winner. She has worked diligently on body cam legislation, de-escalation training for police, diversity training for police, diversity in hiring practices, implementation of less lethal weapons, and data collection. Her chapter feeds the homeless, holds a summer camp for black children, a ski camp for black children, registers inmates to vote, and is opening a black history museum.

**Statement:** “I fully endorse Bernie Sanders to be the next President of the United States, because of his lifelong commitment to civil rights and equality. Bernie is the only candidate who has a proven track record of fighting for marginalized groups and people of color across this nation. I fully believe that Bernie Sanders is committed to ensuring that marginalized people are spoken for, and that he will help to create programs that will lessen the discrimination against all marginalized people. I will be voting for Bernie Sanders for President, he is the ethical choice, he is the most experienced, he is the candidate who will change America for the better.”

**Vermont**



**Patrick Leahy, State Co-Chair**  
U.S. Senator



**Bio:** Patrick Leahy was elected to the United States Senate in 1974 and remains the only Democrat elected to this office from Vermont. At 34, he was the youngest U.S. Senator ever to be elected from the Green Mountain State. Leahy was born in Montpelier and grew up across from the State House. A graduate of Saint Michael's College in Colchester (1961), he received his Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center (1964). He served for eight years as State's Attorney in Chittenden County where he gained a national reputation for his law enforcement activities and was selected as one of three outstanding prosecutors in the United States in 1974. Leahy is the Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. He is the senior-most member of the Senate Judiciary Committee and of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Leahy is the Ranking Member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on State Department, Foreign Operations and Related Programs. He ranks first in seniority in the Senate.



**Peter Welch, State Co-Chair**  
U.S. Representative (At-Large)

**Bio:** Peter Welch has been a champion for working Vermonters throughout his career. Since his election to Congress in 2006, he has been widely recognized as a thoughtful and effective legislator who chooses governing over gridlock. Peter was born in Springfield, Massachusetts in 1947. He graduated from the College of the Holy Cross in 1969. After working for a year in Chicago fighting housing discrimination as one of the first Robert F. Kennedy Fellows, he enrolled in law school at the University of California, Berkeley and graduated in 1973. After law school, he settled in White River Junction, Vermont where he worked as a public defender before founding a small law practice. He was first elected to represent Windsor County in the Vermont Senate in 1980. In 1985, he was unanimously elected by his colleagues to lead the chamber, becoming the first Democrat in Vermont history to hold the position of President Pro Tempore.



## Virginia



**Lee Carter, State Co-Chair**  
House Delegate (District 50)

**Bio:** Lee Carter is an electronics technician who first ran for office after a workplace injury left him at the mercy of Virginia's workers compensation system. He defeated a member of Republican leadership for his House of Delegates seat in the 2017 elections, and is the only socialist currently elected to the Virginia General Assembly. He's been fighting to make sure that everyone can live and work, free from worry about how they're going to put food on the table, make rent, or see a doctor, and free from discrimination based on who they are, who they love, or who they were born to be.

**Statement:** "Throughout my life and my time in office, I've fought to empower the working class to take control of our political system, our economy, and our own destinies. There's only one candidate in this Presidential primary who has shown - for far longer than I've been alive - that his heart burns with the same desire for working class freedom and empowerment. From his fight for desegregation of housing in the 1960s, to his fight for LGBTQ+ equality in the 1980s, to his fight for Medicare for All and an end to corporate corruption today, he's never wavered in the fight to achieve a better, and more just world. That same candidate is the only one with the grassroots political movement behind him to actually deliver on the kinds of changes that the working class desperately need. That candidate is the next President of the United States, Senator Bernie Sanders!"



**Elizabeth Guzman, State Co-Chair**



## House Delegate (District 31)

**Bio:** Delegate Guzman is the first Hispanic female immigrant ever elected in the Virginia House of Delegates. Elizabeth serves as the Vice-Chair of the Education Committee, the Social Services Subcommittee Chair on the Health, Welfare, and Institutions Committee, and is a member of the Labor and Commerce Committee. Elizabeth serves as Vice President of AFSCME Local 3001, Political Advisor for AFSCME Council 20, Executive Board Member for CASA, Southeast Region Chair for the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators, a lifetime member of the Dale City Civic Association, and a founding member of the Virginia Green New Deal. She delivered the SOTU response in Spanish to President Donald Trump. Elizabeth is a social worker and public administrator who has dedicated her entire career to public service.

**Statement:** "Senator Bernie Sanders has had a consistent message over his entire political career: be willing to fight for the working class and treat everyone with the respect and dignity they deserve, regardless of where they were born, who they love, or how they look. From calling out the greed of Wall Street to standing up for civil rights in Chicago, Senator Sanders has been on the right side of history his entire life. His parents' immigration story and his personal life experiences have allowed him to see the struggles of ordinary people. His message has resonated with millions of Americans – he even inspired me to run for office in 2016. We need a president who has strong positions on issues that matter the most to ALL hard-working individuals and will energize the American electorate, which is why I proudly endorse Bernie Sanders for the Democratic nomination."



**Abrar Omeish, State Co-Chair**  
Fairfax County School Board Member (At-Large)

**Bio:** Abrar Omeish currently serves as a School Board Member At-Large in Fairfax County, overseeing a three billion dollar budget for 1.2 million constituents right outside of Washington, DC. She is the first Libyan ever elected in US history and the first Muslim and youngest ever elected in her role. Abrar co-founded an organization providing thousands of underprivileged youth with free tutoring and mentorship in 20 locations over the past ten years. After working as a senior organizer at the DNC, she was a legal fellow at a human rights and immigration law firm and has been a



spokeswoman for the #NoMuslimBanEver campaign. Abrar holds a double bachelors with honors from Yale University and is a current dual MPP/JD student and Blume fellow at Georgetown.

**Statement:** "A leader of integrity whose consistency is unmatched, whose intersectionality and drive towards equity and opportunity include and uplift all people; whose leadership on the issues, before they became popular, inspires not only an electoral campaign, but a movement, and has changed the conversation and our priorities across the country; a leader whose dreams are not limited by status quo nor intimidated by corporate interests; and a leader with an ability to inspire small dollar donors to break record after record. Truly, Bernie has already pivoted the course of U.S. history and I can only imagine what he will do in office."



**Koran Saines, State Co-Chair**  
Loudoun County Supervisor (Sterling District)

**Bio:** Koran T. Saines was born in Fairfax, Virginia and graduated from Indiana Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Resource Management. Koran is a Human Resource professional and a single father to his 13 year old son, Gabriel. Supervisor Koran's win in 2015 was historic as he became the first person of color elected to the Board of Supervisors in Loudoun County's history. Koran has spent the majority of his life living in Sterling, VA.

**Statement:** "I feel Senator Sanders has shown time and time again that he is the leader that we need to get the country back on track. Senator Sanders has been championing a \$15 living wage, Medicare for All, universal free college, and the decriminalization of marijuana, all long before they became politically popular. Senator Sanders' clear vision and leadership make him the best candidate for the general election because he can energize our base while bringing new voters into the process through his bold ideas. This is why his message is resonating with people in all walks of life and his campaign is gaining momentum in Virginia and nationally."



**Jonathan Sokolow, State Co-Chair**  
Attorney, Writer & Activist

**Bio:** Jonathan Sokolow is an attorney, writer and activist in Northern Virginia. He has spent 35 years as an attorney in the trade union movement, representing workers in the public sector as well as coal miners fighting to defend their health and retirement benefits. Jon has been a constant presence in social justice movements for more than 40 years. In 2016, Jon was elected as a delegate for Bernie Sanders to the state convention of the Virginia Democratic Party. He currently serves as Vice-President of Green New Deal Virginia.

**Statement:** “I have been a supporter of Bernie Sanders since he was my Congressman in Vermont in the early 1990’s. As someone who has spent their entire career fighting for workers in the trade union movement as well as in healthcare, I deeply appreciate Bernie’s fierce, uncompromising and consistent support for workers’ rights and I am convinced that Bernie’s leadership on Medicare for All is bringing us one step closer to recognizing that healthcare is a basic human right. As someone who fights for policies to address the climate emergency and the intersecting crises of poverty, environmental racism and social injustice, I am convinced that Bernie’s support for the Green New Deal will ensure that we have a just transition to a green economy that leaves no worker or community behind. And as someone who believes that our greatest priority must be to defeat the most dangerous president in modern American history, I believe that Bernie is the only candidate who can create the excitement necessary to convince millions of young people and working people who have lost faith in our political system that their vote matters and that progress on any issue cannot be won unless we first remove Donald Trump from the White House.”

*Positions and Organizations listed for identification purposes only, and do not imply formalized institutional support.*

##