

Columbus for Bernie

We are academics, activists, art workers, government employees, musicians, small business owners, and writers who call Columbus, Ohio, home. We endorse US Senator Bernie Sanders for president and we will vote for Senator Sanders in the Ohio Democratic presidential primary on March 17th, 2020.

Senator Sanders is not just the ideal or moral choice for president. He is also the most pragmatic candidate to defeat President Donald Trump in Ohio. Senator Sanders's brand of populist, worker-first politics echoes the winning politics of Ohio's own US Senator Sherrod Brown. Senator Brown and his progressive policies defeated a Republican challenger by six percent in 2018, while, in the same election, the moderate Democratic candidate for governor lost to Governor DeWine by four percent. We cannot risk running a moderate Democrat for president, as we did in 2016, who does not speak to the struggles and values of all Ohioans.

Senator Sanders's programs, such as Medicare for All and the Green New Deal, will alleviate Ohio's diseases of despair. According to the Health Policy Institute of Ohio, our state ranks 46th in the country in health outcomes, due mainly to drug overdoses—Ohio ranks 50th in the country for drug-overdose deaths. With Medicare for All enacted, rehabilitation programs would no longer be out of reach for those suffering through the opioid crisis. With the Green New Deal and a \$15 minimum wage enacted, Ohio would no longer be afflicted with a high rate of unemployment and glaring economic inequality.

As academics, we support Senator Bernie Sanders because we are tired of seeing our students take on student loan debt. We're also tired of seeing more and more tenure-track lines at colleges and universities become underpaid adjunct positions. Senator Sanders's commitment to free public college for all would benefit The Ohio State University and other Ohio colleges, ensuring a stable source of federal funding and more incoming students. Senator Sanders's plan to cancel student loan debt would not only save our students from economic servitude, it would free us as well—so many academics teach even as we bear the burden of our own student loans.

As activists, we support Senator Bernie Sanders because we need far-reaching criminal justice reform in Ohio. Ohio's cycle of racialized state violence must stop. According to mappingpoliceviolence.org, Columbus has double the national average per capita of police killings of black people, while the State of Ohio disproportionately imprisons both brown and black people. Sanders will end the War on Drugs, legalize marijuana, abolish the death penalty, allow prisoners to vote, ban for-profit prisons, end cash bail, and

advocate for ending the use of police to handle mental health emergencies, homelessness, maintenance violations, and other low-level situations.

As art workers, we support Senator Bernie Sanders because he supports us. We, too, suffer under student loans, but we also suffer from underpaid labor, often at rates less than the \$15 minimum wage Senator Sanders supports. We believe the US must invest in the arts, as it did under President Franklin D. Roosevelt, to make art available for the many, not the few—and Senator Sanders does too. Senator Sanders has said, "You have my promise that as president, I will be an arts president. I will continue to advocate strongly for robust funding of the arts in our cities, schools and public spaces. Art is speech. Art is what life is about."

As government employees, we support Senator Bernie Sanders because we need a strong voice for public sector unions in the White House. Senator Sanders has by far the most union support of all of the Democratic candidates in the race, and vows to eliminate so-called "right-to-work" laws, like Ohio's. We have seen cuts to programs that so many Ohioans depend on, like SNAP and Medicaid. These cuts are unconscionable and must end. Senator Sanders believes in fully funding government programs that support social welfare, affordable housing, infrastructure development, and job growth—these programs are the backbone of a well-functioning, vibrant society.

As musicians, we support Senator Bernie Sanders because we work from show to show without stable benefits. Senator Sanders's Medicare for All bill would separate health insurance coverage from employment, ensuring that all people in the US would have medical care regardless of their job. We see Sanders's long commitment to music on the community-level—best exemplified in the all-ages venue 242 Main Street that he opened in Burlington, Vermont—as a blueprint for the rest of the US.

As small business owners, we support Senator Bernie Sanders because we know that when the public does well, businesses do well. No one benefits when workers aren't paid enough to have disposable income. Senator Sanders's Medicare for All bill would be a godsend to small businesses, allowing us to hire new employees without worrying about paying for their healthcare plans.

As writers, we support Senator Bernie Sanders because he voted against the 1996 Telecommunications Act and will stop further media consolidation, which has put so many reporters and editors in Ohio out of work. Senator Sanders supports news unions and will appoint an attorney general who will use anti-trust laws against the social media monopolies that have hurt so many publications in Ohio.

All of us have good reasons to support Senator Bernie Sanders, and we believe all Ohioans do too. From opposing the Iraq War, which has taken the lives of so many Ohioans, to supporting reinvestment in the Rust Belt's crumbling infrastructure, Senator Sanders has always fought for all of us. Join us now in fighting for him.

Vote for Senator Bernie Sanders on March 17th.

In solidarity,
Columbus for Bernie

ACADEMICS

Thomas S. Davis, Associate Professor of English, The Ohio State University

Bob Fittrakis, Political Science Professor, Attorney

Richard Fletcher, Associate Professor, Arts Administration, Education and Policy at The Ohio State University

Bree Frick, Associate Professor, Psychology and Education, Columbus State Community College

Emi Gennis, Associate Professor of Comics & Narrative Practice, Columbus College of Art & Design

Lindsey Gibson, Librarian, Columbus State Community College

Darrick Hamilton, Economist, Scholar, and Public Intellectual

Erica Levin, Assistant Professor, History of Art, The Ohio State University

Caitlin McGurk, Associate Curator, Assistant Professor, The Ohio State University Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum

Aaron Miller, Library Associate, The Ohio State University Libraries

Liz Roberts, Lecturer in the Department of Art, The Ohio State University

Keith Allyn Spencer, Assistant Professor of Studio Art, Denison University

Carmen Winant, Associate Professor of Art, The Ohio State University

ACTIVISTS and GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Andi Atwood, Youth Advocate

Puja Datta, Union Organizer

Terra Goodnight, Policy and Advocacy Director, Innovation Ohio

Jeff Martin, Human Resources Consultant, Peridus Group

Kayla Merchant, CCEP, Police Reform Activist

Joe Papio, Senior Data Analytics Specialist, James Cancer Hospital at The Ohio State

University

Laura Payne, Researcher, Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

Mara Siegel, Marketing Director at a Columbus Law Firm

J. Stall, Information Security Analyst

Regan Tonti, Environmental Activist; Design Researcher

Kevin Truitt, Attorney

Adam Vincent, Attorney

Matthew Whistle, Teacher, Westerville City Schools

ART WORKERS

Eva Ball, Former Director of Glass Axis, Consultant at the Wexner Center for the Arts

Raeghan Buchanan, Organizer of FemmeFest, Artist

Maika Carter, Artist; Activist

Natalie Dee, Artist

Dave Filipi, Film Curator

Paige Früchtnicht-Ponchak, Gallery Coordinator, Stein Galleries, Wright State University

Elijah Funk, Designer, Online Ceramics

Cameron Granger, Artist

Kent Grosswiler Artist

Kara Gut, Artist

Sami Harthoorn, Artist

Emily Jimmerson, Artist

William E. Jones, Filmmaker

Left Handed Sophie, Cartoonist

Emma Levesque-Schaefer, Artist

Daniel Marcus, Roy Lichtenstein Curatorial Fellow, Columbus Museum of Art

James McDevit-Stredney, Director of No Place Gallery

Mitch McGuire, Stylist and Editor of *Refigural Magazine*

Meg Murnane, Producer

Brett Payne, Street Fight Radio Host

Bryan Quinby, Street Fight Radio Host

Ariel Rapier, Designer

Henry Ross, Artist

Sarah Mae Schmidt, Animator; Curator of Malt Adult

Jordan Spencer, Curatorial Assistant

Kate Sweeney, Photographer

Heather Taylor, Editor of *Hiss Mag*, Videographer

Kim Webb, Artist and Art Administrator
Sarah Weinstock, Artist
Lucy Zimmerman, Associate Curator, Wexner Center for the Arts

MUSICIANS, followed by the name of their bands

Shawn Beckering, Pink Reason, Psychedelic Horseshit
Kyle Bergamo, Future Nuns, Kneeling in Piss
Bob Brinkman, Bridesmaid
Sam Brown, New Bomb Turks, The Sun
Joe Camerlengo, Blanket Boys, Classical Baby, Van Dale; Registered Nurse
Tony Collinger, Envelope
Ryan Eilbeck, Delay and Natural Sway
Austin Eilbeck, Delay; Office Manager at Shout Out Loud Prints
Adam Elliott, Times New Viking
Kevin Elliott, Connections
Kevin Failure, Pink Reason
Caeleigh Featherstone, Saintsenecca
Ahmed Gallab, Sudanese-American Musician in Sinkane
Val Glenn, Time and Temperature
Ian Graham, Ouija Boys
Scott Hagelgans, Wharm
Winston Hightower, HWYTR, Minority Threat; Owner of FAH-Q Catalog Records
Michael "Rep" Hummel, Mike Rep and the Quotas, True Believers; Academic
Casey Immel-Brown, Funerals
Maryn Jones, All Dogs, Yowler
Philip Kim, Connections; Marketing & Communications Director
Andy Klager, Sons of Dribble
Jeff Kleinman, Choir Boy, Gamma World, Nervosas
RJD2, Music Producer
Zac Little, Saintsenecca
Lydia Loveless
Christopher Lute, DANA
Chris Lutzko, Unholy Two
Beth Murphy, Times New Viking
Alex Mussawir, Kneeling in Piss
Matt Reber, New Bomb Turks; Bookseller
Ryan Starinsky, The Sidekicks; Teacher at St. Joseph Montessori School
Bryant Strayer, HYTWR, Wharm, Yankee Candle 100s

Jim Weber, New Bomb Turks
Christian Weiland, Deathly Fighter

SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS

Jen Burton, Local Entrepreneur
Max Caldwell, Owner, Primitive Pleasures Records and Tapes
Bo Davis, Co-owner of Inside Outpost Records; Musician in Ipps, Messrs
Emily Davis, Co-owner, Inside Outpost Records; Musician, Ipps,
Tina DeBroux, Owner, Under Aurora
Sarah Anne Dixon, Owner, Jewelweed Floral Studio
Bela Koe-Krompecher, Owner of Anyway Records; Clinical Social Worker, MSSA,
LISW-S, LICDC
Kellie Morgan Lutzko, Owner, Straight to Video Records; Arts Worker
Scotty Niemet, Owner, Daddy's, Olliver Candles
Charlie Pugsley, Owner, Bookspace Columbus
Keith Rankin, Co-Owner, Orange Milk Records
Jennie Scheinbach, Founder, Worker-Owner, Pattycake Bakery
Kyle Siegrist, Owner, Lost Weekend Records
Bobby Silver, Owner, Yellow Brick Pizza
Skylab Gallery
Justina Smart, Owner, Smartypants Vintage
Adam Smith, Owner, Columbus Discount Records, Recording Engineer

WRITERS

Jenn Marie Nunes, Writer, PhD Student, The Ohio State University
James Payne, Poet; Former Instructor in the History of Art and Visual Culture
Department, CCAD