

OLYMPIA DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA



@dsaolympia.org

f/OlympiaDSA

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Candidate Endorsement Questionnaire

Thank you for seeking an endorsement from Olympia DSA! We are the local chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America, the nation's largest socialist organization with over 60,000 members across the US. Our chapter has been working since late 2016 to create an organized political force for those who want politics to serve the many. We are actively engaged in developing and implementing strategies for socialist action on housing, healthcare, mutual aid, ecosocialism, and labor. Our organizing area includes Thurston, Lewis, southern Mason, and eastern Grays Harbor Counties in Washington State.

We are socialists because we reject an economic order based on private profit, alienated labor, gross inequalities of wealth and power, discrimination based on race, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, disability status, age, religion, and national origin, and brutality and violence in defense of the status quo.

We are socialists because we share a vision of a humane social order based on popular control of resources and production, economic planning, equitable distribution, feminism, racial equality, and non-oppressive relationships.

We are socialists because we are developing a concrete strategy for achieving that vision, for building a majority movement that will make democratic socialism a reality in America.

We believe that such a strategy must acknowledge the class structure of American society, and that this class structure means that there is a basic conflict of interest between capitalists, who hold enormous economic power, and workers.

Olympia DSA seeks to endorse elected officials who consider themselves organizers first, and legislators second, in order to advance our political priorities, bring socialist strategies into the discourse on local issues, and grow the democratic socialist movement.

Olympia DSA are interested in supporting electoral candidates who share our analysis of the problems facing our communities and how to solve them. Please answer the questions below so we can understand your priorities in running for office, which will help us determine if your campaign and our organization is a good match!

A. Candidate Information

Name _____ Phone _____

Campaign Email _____

Office / Party Affiliation _____

Primary Date _____ General Date _____

Candidate Website / Social Media _____

Are you a member of a union? Y/N Local _____

Are you currently a member in good standing of Democratic Socialists of America? Y/N

List any DSA Locals or DSA national campaigns, committees, or working groups in which you are active.

B. Overview

1. Do you describe yourself as a socialist? Why or why not?

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2. Do you believe that quality housing, healthcare, education, and other basic necessities are human rights that should be guaranteed to all?

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3. How are you planning to finance your campaign? Will you take corporate money?

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4. What are the main goals you aim to accomplish if elected?

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5. What are the most critical issues or problems you see facing your constituents?

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6. What do you see as the necessary solutions to these problems?

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7. Once in office, do you see yourself being an organizer first, or a legislator first? In what way?

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C. Housing and Homelessness

1. What do you see as the most important steps elected officials can take to address the housing crisis in our communities and reduce housing insecurity for local residents?

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2. The housing crisis is a result of capitalist economic priorities, which treats housing as a commodity to be sold for profit, rather than as a basic necessity provided as a human right. Do you support a significant increase in construction of publicly-owned housing, with rents kept permanently affordable, as a way to reduce housing costs and curb harmful real estate speculation? Is this something you will prioritize if elected, and if so, how will you further this effort?

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3. Do you support tenant organizing and the establishment of enhanced legal rights and protections for tenants, such as rent control, limitations on evictions, etc.? Will you prioritize tenant protections if elected, and if so, what will you do to support tenants?

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4. How will you work to curtail the influence of real estate speculators, developers, and for-profit landlords on public policy in your jurisdiction?

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5. What is your position on no-sit/no-lie ordinances, which are enforced against unhoused people by some local jurisdictions? Will you work to repeal these ordinances where applicable, and if so, how will you pursue this goal?

D. Criminal Justice System

1. Police violence and abuses are not the result of “a few bad apples” or poor training, but are a natural consequence of the central role of police in upholding capitalist social relations. What do you understand to be the relationship between policing and the communities you hope to represent in office? If elected, what will you do to curb police violence against people of color, LGBTQ+ people, and the working class?

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2. Will you support or initiate measures to disarm, defund, and/or abolish police? Will you support reducing or eliminating police presence in local schools in favor of more counselors and social workers? How would you contribute to these goals while in office?

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3. Historical trends as well as recent revelations show the close connections between violent far-right groups and police agencies. How will you use your office to prevent collusion between police and far-right extremists? How will you work to end police intimidation and harassment of anti-fascist community defenders?

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4. How will you work to curtail the influence of police on public policy in your jurisdiction?

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5. Do you support ending cash bail and other types of punishments that disproportionately impact the poor and working-class, such as fines?

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6. Do you support banning for-profit-prisons and abolishing the for-profit prison model?

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7. Do you support the decriminalization of drugs, and implementing a public health approach to addressing addiction? If so, how would you pursue this goal?

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E. Labor

- 1. As socialists, we see the power of organized workers, acting in unity and solidarity, as essential to creating a more free and just society. How will you support the cause of organized labor, both within government and more broadly?**

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- 2. How will you protect and expand the right of unorganized workers to organize and protect their interests?**

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- 3. How will you use your office to find and empower potential labor leaders in the community?**

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- 4. Will you support ending the contracting-out of public services to non-union for-profit businesses, and returning that work to unionized public employees? If so, how will you pursue this objective while in office?**

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- 5. How will you work to curtail the influence of anti-union forces on public policy in your jurisdiction?**

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F. Immigration

- 1. As socialists, we view the demonization and scapegoating of immigrants as a cynical strategy to uphold capitalist social relations, by dividing the working class, and misdirecting white workers' resentment at their worsening economic conditions away from the true culprits – the capitalist class. We view the unity of workers of all races, genders, faiths, abilities, and nationalities to be essential to the creation of a better world. What will you do to support solidarity with immigrants, and reduce the threats of employer retaliation, police abuse, and vigilante violence faced by immigrants?**

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- 2. How will you support the strengthening of sanctuary protections for undocumented immigrants in your jurisdiction?**

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3. Do you support the call to abolish ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) and immigration detention centers? How will you use your office to support this cause through legislation and/or advocacy if elected? Will you support measures to ensure that local police agencies do not share information with ICE or CBP (Customs and Border Protection)?

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G. Environment

1. As socialists, we see climate change and ecological collapse as a predictable result of capitalism, and its drive to constantly expand and exploit new resources, in pursuit of profit for the few at the expense of the many. We believe that ecological sustainability and the environmental health of planet Earth cannot be guaranteed while capitalism remains in existence. How will you work to combat climate change, while also preserving and strengthening the economic security of those most impacted locally – such as by creating unionized, living-wage green jobs?

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2. How will you support the expansion and accessibility of public transit and other green forms of transportation in your jurisdiction?

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3. How will you work to ensure that climate change mitigation projects in your jurisdiction are carried out in an equitable way, without adverse impacts disproportionately placed upon oppressed groups?

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4. How will you work to curtail the influence of the petroleum industry and other environmentally-destructive businesses on public policy in your jurisdiction?

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H. Healthcare

1. As socialists, we believe that healthcare is a human right, and that the exploitation of illness and human suffering for profit is unacceptable. How will you support efforts to make quality healthcare available without cost to all people, regardless of immigration status?

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2. How will you work to curtail the influence of the insurance and for-profit healthcare industries on public policy in your jurisdiction?

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3. How will you support healthcare workers and their organizing efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic and future times of crisis?

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4. How should a government that values human life above profit respond to a pandemic?

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I. Public Finance

1. Washington has the most regressive tax system in the country, with the middle and low-income workers disproportionately burdened by property and sales taxes. How will you make our tax structure more progressive while creating essential revenue for State expenditures?

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2. Which of these do you support, particularly in your jurisdiction: a progressive income tax, a wealth tax, a payroll tax on the largest employers, a capital gains tax? Why or why not?

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3. Do you support the creation of a publicly-owned state bank? Why or why not?

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