

R5: Ensuring Broad Support for Metro Detroit DSA Endorsed Candidates: Amendment to the [Candidate Endorsement Policy](#)

AUTHORS

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WHEREAS

1. This amendment would increase the threshold for electoral candidate endorsements made by general membership from a simple majority to a two-thirds majority.
2. Socialists in Office like Rashida Tlaib and Dylan Wegela can be leaders of the socialist movement and use their political offices to propagandize about democratic socialism, give voice to social movements, and organize their constituents to build a militant working class base behind them. Because of their dedication to our movement, they have near unanimous support across all political tendencies in our chapter. Building independent political power as a socialist organization requires that we develop more candidates like them from within our own ranks, rather than backing outsiders with only loose connections to the chapter and without a full understanding of our unique organization. In our volunteer-run organization, chapter members will only participate and feel enthusiastic about giving their precious free time to candidates' campaigns that they've developed personal relationships with, previously organized alongside, and feel excited to put forward as spokespersons for democratic socialism and DSA.
3. As DSA gains more capacity and power in the electoral realm, candidates may seek our endorsement as an opportunity to capture free volunteer labor without prior involvement in our organizing work or chapter, and/or without actually sharing our politics. This change encourages potential endorsement candidates to develop first as organizers within DSA, engage in our ongoing organizing work, and participate in our collective democratic decision making process. This can create broader buy-in for candidate endorsements and more naturally lead to members running for office when and where it is most strategic as determined through intentional planning within the chapter and Electoral Committee.
4. When our chapter makes electoral candidate endorsements, it requires a significant amount of time, energy, and resources to provide the support necessary for that candidate to win office with the backing of Detroit DSA. Given the typically short amount of time between making an endorsement and Election Day, we need as many members as possible to be prioritizing material support for the candidate through phone banking, canvassing, social media, chapter communications, fundraising, hosting public events, and beyond. In order to ensure that the full capacity and support of the chapter is behind an endorsed candidate that becomes a de-facto spokesperson for our chapter and organization, we should increase the endorsement threshold to ensure the broadest possible buy-in across all political tendencies.

[View the full Candidate Endorsement Policy here.](#)

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT

The [Candidate Endorsement Policy](#) be amended as such:

e) Steering Committee Phase

All candidates recommended by the EC shall be presented to the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will consider the nominations and will vote upon which candidates if any, to endorse, taking into account the principles set forth herein and the Chapter's available resources. The Steering Committee may also decide to offer messages of support short of endorsement to good progressive candidates whose races are not selected. A two-thirds majority of the Steering Committee in favor of a candidate is required in order to send the decision to the general membership for approval.

f) Ratification by the General Membership Phase

The notice to members of the next general membership meeting will include notice that the meeting will include voting on endorsements. A **two-thirds** majority vote of the members ~~attending the general membership meeting~~ is required for approval of Steering Committee endorsement decisions. ~~The members can vote for or against each of the Steering Committee decisions, or may vote to refer a decision back to the Steering Committee for further consideration. However, at-large Chapter members cannot change a Steering Committee decision.~~

SIGNATORIES

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