

Metro DC DSA

BALLOT MEASURE CAMPAIGN ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

(Approved by the Steering Committee, March 2026)

Instructions:

- Candidates are **prohibited** from using generative AI to respond to questions.
- Respond to every question.
- For [Yes/No/Unsure] questions, bold and highlight the answer.
- All short answer responses have a **word limit of 250**.
- Note that completed questionnaires have historically been published on our member portal and made available to the public.

Basic Information (to be filled out by a leader in the ballot measure campaign)

1. Name of ballot measure campaign:
 1. **MoCo Against Question A**
2. Name of the campaign leader filling out this form:
 1. **Olivia Delaplaine**
3. What connection do you have to the ballot measure campaign?
 1. **Interested prospective leader; was part of initial coalition interest meeting**
4. Provide a link to a document containing the ballot measure's language:
 1. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bdI49qeYv3Ar1UBjYnHO-HBiFwywFd3weJNPSTzv-o/edit?usp=sharing>
5. Provide a summary of what the ballot measure does:
 1. **It would make it so that the Montgomery County Council needs a unanimous vote of all 11 members to pass any county budget that exceeds the previous year's budget, adjusted for inflation.**
6. Which jurisdiction is the campaign in?
 1. **Montgomery County**
7. If the ballot measure reaches the number of petition signatures needed, when will it be voted on?
 1. **November 3 2026 (ballots will be mailed to voters as early as September 22 2026)**
8. Why is this ballot measure important, and how will it address the issue it targets? Or, if the campaign opposes a ballot measure, why is the measure harmful?
 1. **The measure would completely impede the county's ability to fully fund public schools, improve transit, build housing, and achieve our other priorities. If passed, it would make it impossible for the council to pass budgets that don't drastically reduce both taxes and services.**
9. Why are you soliciting Metro DC DSA's endorsement for this campaign?
 1. **To enable members of the Montgomery County branch to actively run and lead canvasses, to contribute money to print literature and use phone and textbanking software, and to make possible asking for funds from national**

10. Please list other significant endorsements the campaign has received and any other significant endorsements you are currently soliciting:
1. I don't believe any organization has made any official public statements on the ballot measure yet, but the organizations that we have been speaking with about it include: Progressive Maryland, Jews United for Justice, CASA, Everyday Canvassing, MCEA, AIM, SEIU Local 500, MoCo Climate Coalition

DSA and Democratic Socialism

1. Are you, or others in the campaign's leadership, a member of DSA? *[Yes/No/Unsure]*
 - a. If yes, how long have you been involved in the chapter (or nationally) and in what capacities?
 - i. Yes, since 2020
2. How does the campaign relate to its organizers' theory of social change?
 - i. Stopping this measure will make it easier to organize for our long term vision and demands
 - ii. It will strengthen our relationships with key coalition partners
 - iii. It will help to "mainstream" DSA within the voting electorate in Montgomery County
3. Will you publicize DSA's endorsement? *[Yes/No]*
 - a. Yes
4. Would the campaign be willing to cross-endorse other DSA-endorsed candidates and campaigns as a slate? *[Yes/No]*
 - a. Yes
5. Will you pledge to not take any campaign contributions or endorsements from:
 - a. For-profit corporations or for-profit corporate PACs;
 - b. Real estate developers, corporate lobbyists, and landlords;
 - c. Organizations in the carceral system (e.g., law enforcement unions);
 - d. Fossil fuel companies and private energy utilities; or
 - e. Charter school lobbying groups?*[Yes/No/Unsure] If no for any, explain.*
Yes
6. DSA has a large and active volunteer base. As applicable, will you:
 - a. Collaborate with Metro DC DSA on the campaign's strategy, field plan, and messaging? *[Yes/No/Unsure]*
 - b. Allow Metro DC DSA to create our own campaign materials to train our own volunteers, run our own canvasses, and campaign openly as DSA members? *[Yes/No/Unsure]*
 - c. Yes
7. Will you allow DSA to keep copies of data we collect through voter contact, if legal in your jurisdiction? *[Yes/No/Unsure]*
 - a. Yes

8. How will the campaign build support for democratic socialism and working class power in the DMV?
 - a. DSA's involvement in the campaign will focus on organizing public sector workers, students, families, MCPS alum, transit riders, and renters. It will give us a clear mechanism to talk about our long term vision and agenda with voters.

Campaign Goals

1. What steps need to be taken to get the ballot measure on the ballot? On what timeline? If petition signatures are necessary, how many will you need and by what date?
 - a. The measure has already collected the 10,000 signatures needed for the ballot. Our goal would be to oppose the ballot measure.
2. Explain in detail the campaign's plan to get on the ballot. How much assistance with getting on the ballot does the campaign predict it will need from DSA volunteers?
 - a. Zero, our plan is to oppose it
3. What is your estimated number of votes needed to win?
 - a. Based on 2020 general election turnout turnout: 238220 votes
 - b. Based on 2022 midterm turnout: 173564 votes
4. What relationships and constituencies does the campaign have in its district that could form a base of support, through activism, organizing, work, or personal networks?
 - a. Existing coalition network:
 - b. Branch membership: ~700 members in good standing
5. Which constituencies or districts does the campaign plan to target with its efforts, and approximately how big is that voter universe?
 - a. Registered Dems who have voted in past general elections
 - b. Parents, students, MCPS alum
 - c. Bus, metro, transit riders
 - d. Renters
 - e. Public sector workers
6. What are the campaign's door knocking or phonebanking goals (e.g. total number of passes through the voter universe, total number of doors/calls, number of volunteers)? How much help will the campaign need from DSA volunteers to achieve these goals?
 - a. Door knocking: 5k
 - b. Phonebanking: 25k
 - c. Number of volunteers: 50
 - d. New electoral leaders developed: 5-10
7. What are your campaign's plans, beyond what Metro DC DSA can bring to the table, for obtaining the number of votes needed to win? (e.g. print and digital media, communications, mail, advertisements, events, or other campaign operations)
 - a. Work with coalition on print and digital media, graphic design and messaging, advertisements
8. Is the issue addressed by the ballot measure popular with the electorate? What evidence is there of that popularity?

- a. If there have been previous attempts to pass a similar ballot measure in this jurisdiction, how many votes did those attempts receive? What makes this attempt different?
 - b. **Yes- won campaign against Question B in 2022**
- 9. Is there an opposition campaign? If there is, describe it and its base of support.
 - a. List any significant endorsements and donors the opposition campaign has that you are aware of:
 - b. **We are the opposition campaign**
- 10. If the ballot measure passes, what barriers will need to be overcome before it is implemented as written? If your campaign is opposing a measure, what pathways exist for blocking, or mitigating the effects of, the measure's implementation?
 - a. If there are significant barriers to implementation, how does the campaign plan to address them, and what resources will it need to successfully do so?
 - b. **Get full 11 members elected to the council that are pro-spending / anti-austerity-- that will be way more expensive and time intensive than defeating this ballot measure**
- 11. How much money will you need to win the campaign and what is your plan to raise it?
 - a. **We hope to contribute \$5000 as DSA toward the campaign to go to printed literature, mail, and advertisements**
- 12. How does the campaign intend to win over voters to its position?
 - a. What talking points is the opposition campaign using, and what reservations do you expect to hear from residents about your campaign?
 - b. **We expect the majority of the concerns to be around increased taxes, particularly around increased taxes for homeowners and the council's removal of the ITOC this past budget cycle. We also expect there to be some talking points in favor of privatizing public services such as schools-- lines like the schools are corrupt, we need more oversight, we shouldn't be giving them more money, etc.**
 - c. **We hope to win voters over by highlighting how this is a blatant power grab by Republicans, how this will hurt public sector workers like teachers and school staff, and how we need a council that can spend the money we need to fix our aging school buildings, fix our roads, build more housing, etc.**