

The position written against this resolution can be found [here](#)
A response to that position in favor of the resolution is [here](#)

A Class Struggle Strategy to Fight Trumpism - A call for DSA and socialists to vote for Biden in Swing States and Howie Hawkins in Safe States.

Email alexdavis814@gmail.com if you want to be listed as a co-signer (please spell out exactly how you want it to appear)

WHEREAS we are completely opposed to the right-wing agenda of Donald Trump and are committed to seeing him defeated in November, while also recognizing that Joe Biden represents the interests of big business;

WHEREAS getting rid of Trump is a top priority for many working-class people. Many people we will meet in our various activities will be thinking about the presidential election, as it will be the dominant political issue this fall, and in Ohio, being a swing state, even more so.

WHEREAS the vast majority of even the most left-wing working-class people will vote for Biden, not out of loyalty or support for the Democratic Party, but to unseat Trump. And in this case, in 2020, Biden vs. Trump, we can recognize that Biden is nothing more than a return to the neoliberal status quo and without covering up Biden's bigoted, misogynistic, pro-corporate agenda, we can recognize the truth of the situation and say that Trump and the section of the capitalist class that supports him represent a graver threat. Socialists should refuse to endorse Biden or campaign for Biden, clearly lay out our criticisms of Biden's pro-capitalist agenda, while joining with the vast majority of left-wing workers and oppressed people in Ohio and other swing states to vote to kick out Trump by voting for Biden. We in DSA should be sympathetic and supportive of this approach, while not joining the efforts to campaign for Biden, not hiding our criticisms of Biden's big-business agenda, and preparing activists to be ready to protest on Day 1 of his administration to demand Medicare 4 All, a Green New Deal, and other progressive reforms.

WHEREAS in the undemocratic system used in US presidential elections the president is not elected by a national popular vote but by an electoral college decided by a "winner take all" vote in each state. It is therefore useful to **distinguish between "safe states"** (the majority of states where the winner is clear in advance, such as Washington) **and "swing states"** (the minority of states where the election is closely contested such as Ohio). Exactly which states are "safe" vs "swing" states will become clearer in September and October;

WHEREAS Bernie Sanders, AOC, Rashida Tlaib, and union leaders have endorsed Biden, are calling for a vote for Biden in all 50 states, are largely uncritically promoting Biden, and are thereby providing left cover to Biden;

WHEREAS the DSA National Political Committee took an important step in announcing that [DSA will not endorse Biden](https://tinyurl.com/DSABeyondBernie) (tinyurl.com/DSABeyondBernie);

WHEREAS, given the importance of the 2020 presidential election and the support for Biden by the most prominent representatives of the US left, it is important that DSA leave no doubt that while we understand why people vote for Biden in swing states, we will not be complicit in covering up for Biden in “**safe states**”;

WHEREAS DSA taking a political stand of advocating a vote in “**safe states**” for the strongest socialist candidate for President would be an important way to demonstrate that there is at least a section of the left that is publicly refusing to support either Trump or Biden, while also signaling our desire to see Trump defeated by limiting this call to voters in “safe states”;

WHEREAS the 2019 DSA Convention agreed to a strategy of a “**dirty break**” with the **Democratic Party**, using the Democratic ballot line where this provides a real advantage to build working-class power and promote socialist ideas (i.e. supporting Bernie) but also taking opportunities to run independently from the Democrats and promote the future formation of a mass, working-class, democratic socialist party;

WHEREAS the 2019 DSA Convention agreed in Resolution 31 that **our goal is to create an independent working-class party** in the future; and

WHEREAS whether the Democrats manage to lose again against Trump or whether the Democrat gets elected as the lesser evil, millions are likely to be increasingly disillusioned with the Democratic Party in the period following the 2020 election; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1) Columbus DSA's focus for the rest of 2020 is on building movements of working and oppressed people like the uprising for Black Lives and the labor movement, and building DSA to play a growing role in organizing resistance against whoever will occupy the White House in 2021.

2) We reaffirm that DSA will not endorse Joe Biden. Columbus DSA will not campaign for Joe Biden or put resources into campaigning for Biden. We will continue to openly raise our

criticisms of Biden's big business agenda. On that basis, Columbus DSA politically recommends socialists in Ohio and other swing states join with the vast majority of left-wing workers and oppressed people to vote for Biden to kick out Trump.

3) Columbus DSA also appeals to DSA National to ask members and socialists in **"safe states"** to **vote for the strongest left candidate to register a protest against Biden. This means voting for Howie Hawkins**, the strongest socialist candidate in this presidential race. This is a political recommendation on how to vote, not a proposal for an active campaign. We believe this should be done as part of our work to build DSA rather than putting any energy into building the Green Party.

4) Columbus DSA requests that the DSA National Political Committee organize a national discussion in DSA about whether to **call for a vote for Howie Hawkins in "safe states"**.

Co-signers: Bianca Davis, Kyle Kamaz, Alex Davis, Ryan Crimaldi, Shane James, Donald R. Shartzer, Ernest L Whitted JR, Ember Vogel, Keith Kanz, Alexander Bellas