

A Resolution revising the chapter endorsements process.

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Whereas, the New Orleans chapter is a burgeoning force in state and local politics, electoral and otherwise, as evidenced by efforts including, but not limited to, the 2020 and 2021 library millage campaigns, the 2021 sex work decriminalization campaign, and Marguerite Green's 2019 campaign for Agriculture Commissioner; and

Whereas, the New Orleans chapter's [existing endorsement process](#) has proven insufficient to the chapter's needs, and remains vague to members, candidates, and outside observers alike, resulting in confusion limiting our members' ability to propose, debate, consider, and vote on endorsements; and

Whereas, an effective endorsement process both democratizes chapter electoral efforts by providing clear avenues for participation to members, and provides an introduction to the chapter for candidates interesting in working with and joining the chapter; and

Whereas, such a process can facilitate the incubation of candidates from within our existing ranks;

Therefore be it resolved, the Local Council will initiate the endorsement process for a given candidate or ballot measure at the written request of at least 10 members or 1% of membership, whichever is higher, rendered to the Local Council no later than three months before election day (Step 1); and

Resolved, the Local Council will, with the advice and support of members of the Municipal Action Committee, Electoral Working Group, and any active campaign groups, develop a set of prepared questions for the candidate, to be approved by a majority vote of the Local Council (Step 2); and

Resolved, the Local Council will facilitate a Q&A session with the candidate, open to all membership, to ask these questions, and moderate supplemental general questions from members, on a date no later than two months before election day (Step 3); and

Resolved, debate and voting on endorsement of any candidate or candidates will begin at the subsequent General Meeting and continue for a period of one week, taking place online, on a ballot including an equal option for no endorsement, and using ranked-choice voting (under whatever counting system currently utilized by the national organization) if multiple candidates for the same position are under consideration (Step 4); and

Resolved, if the General Meeting subsequent to the last candidate Q&A is scheduled less than one month before election day, voting will begin early enough to allow for at least one month between the close of voting and election day; if necessary, the Local Council will facilitate an online debate session at some point during the week of active voting (Corollary to Step 4); and

Resolved, membership will be informed of the voting period via emails, phone-banking, text-banking, in conjunction with notification via email and social media; and

Resolved, candidates will require a simple majority vote, with at least 25% of membership participating, to receive the chapter's endorsement;

Resolved, should members decide that the political calculus, stakes, conditions or other considerations shift once an election goes to a runoff, a special runoff endorsement process can be initiated no later than two weeks before the runoff election date at the written request of at least 10% of membership for a given endorsement (Runoff Step 1); and

Resolved, the Local Council may vote to confirm the requested endorsement as an official chapter endorsement with a two-thirds supermajority, rounded up to the nearest whole vote (Runoff Step 2); and

Resolved, endorsements will be an indication of a material commitment from the chapter to campaign for the candidate. Accordingly, each endorsement will form a Campaign Group as defined in our bylaws. That campaign group will bottomline all campaign efforts, including, but not limited to, canvassing, phonebanking, textbanking, solicitation of national DSA endorsements, and general campaign activities; and

Resolved, the chapter will aim to endorse only candidates that we believe can win; and

Resolved, upon authorization of an endorsement, the candidate pledges to remain a member of DSA, to meet with the Local Council on at least a quarterly basis in meetings that are open to the general membership, to make a best effort to attend monthly General Meetings, to be open about their membership in DSA, and to work to build a socialist caucus in the relevant legislative body; and

Resolved, the Local Council will communicate these expectations directly to the candidate at the outset of the endorsement process; and

Resolved, wherever time allows, the Local Council will pursue a national endorsement for locally endorsed candidates through engagement with the National Electoral Committee; and

Resolved, the Electoral Working Group will seek out resources and guidance from the National Electoral Committee on recruiting, developing, and training candidates from within DSA's ranks, as well as on best practices for running electoral campaigns and to facilitate learning from other chapters with more developed electoral programs; and

Resolved, this resolution supersedes and replaces in full any former endorsement process.

Special thanks to co-chair emeritus Frances G. for her contributions to the previous endorsement process upon which this process was based.