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## Red Line

**We are a left coalition of socialists across DSA chapters** who see the need to **build a revolutionary mass party, with a commitment to socialist revolution** and a mass base in the working class, through which workers of all backgrounds can unite and fight as a class on every terrain of struggle.

We believe DSA is by far the most promising place for like-minded socialists to gather, specifically **by cohering a left-wing section within the organization** across existing caucuses and un-caucused members that can weather setbacks and occasional disagreements to organize toward revolutionary goals and contend for the future of the socialist movement in this country.

We are offering an alternative vision **and working together for changes to DSA's electoral and labor strategy**, based on the lessons we've gathered from past experience and a recognition of present conditions. We will develop political candidates and labor unions as instruments of our class, furthering socialist leadership and the class struggle and constituting concrete steps toward a break from the Democrats. We hope to win over other members nationally by spearheading work on this model in our chapters.

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### We plan to

Focus on fighting for changes to electoral and labor strategy in DSA because of their importance to building a revolutionary mass party, their centrality in political debates within the organization right now, and our disagreement with the organization's current course in these areas.

Welcome (1) members without caucus affiliation, (2) those who are and plan to remain members of existing caucuses, and (3) anyone else in DSA willing to vote with us and commit to our program.

Make participation in the coalition accessible to members with limited capacity or availability, and to those who may not be interested in taking on electoral or labor work but who share our beliefs.

Contest positions of leadership in chapters and working groups — and put forward proposals and undertake work to implement our vision at the chapter level and across chapters where feasible.

Send as many aligned delegates as possible to National Convention and join with others to elect the strongest possible left-wing presence on the National Political Committee (NPC).

Function as a regional coalition that is a home for comrades who share the goals and principles articulated in this document.

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## RED LINE STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

<b>Shane L</b>	Worcester DSA	Membership Committee secretary, past Steering Committee member
<b>Joey P</b>	Boston DSA	Past Coordinating Committee member
<b>Daniel C</b>	Rhode Island DSA	Executive Committee member, Labor Working Group co-chair
<b>Ivy E</b>	Worcester DSA	Steering Committee member, Tenant Committee coordinator
<b>Ringo X</b>	Worcester DSA	Past Steering Committee member

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## OUR PROGRAM

### 1. For a Revolutionary DSA

**Our ultimate goal: Revolution, not Reformism.**

We seek to abolish capitalism, starting with the U.S. capitalist state, and to install a socialist system of collective ownership and democratic control over the means of production and all aspects of life. Socialists cannot vote, legislate, or bargain our way to this new society within bourgeois electoral structures and the capitalist mode of production. To have a decisive break from capitalism, we must first build our power and infrastructure in two crucial arenas — the labor movement and a party — so that we are ready when the spark ignites revolution.

#### **The role of reforms.**

When socialists participate in struggles for reform we should always do so in service of revolutionary goals. To make demands of capital and collectively fight to attain them organizes us as a class, materially improves the lives of the working class, and raises expectations for a different and better future. If done right we will build class consciousness and earn the working class's trust in our socialist vision for society. The masses will come to understand what must be done to attain that better system we desire for all workers.

Reforms can be helpful for revolutionary organizing, but they cannot become the object of our political vision. Social democracy is neither the desired outcome nor a prerequisite to socialism, but a lesser alternative to revolution offered by the ruling class as a consequence of the power an organized mass movement builds.

**On issues not otherwise specified in this program.**

Our coalition will not oppose or hinder other efforts of comrades in DSA toward the revolutionary project: Including, for example, abolishing the carceral state, ending white supremacy, gender and sexuality justice, a commitment to ecosocialism, the decommodification of housing, and international solidarity and anti-imperialism.

## **2. For a revolutionary labor movement**

**Organized and purposeful labor solidarity.**

We must mobilize DSA members to picket lines and for other labor actions — in an organized and visible fashion, rather than an individual and anonymous way — to support workers' struggles. Our intention should be to talk with rank-and-file workers as they are developing class consciousness and to openly identify as socialists. This work will help ground our members' politics in the on-the-ground realities of the class struggle and build trust and continuing connections between DSA members and workers.

Such an approach means politically educating our members and developing them as organizers. In other words, preparing members not to proselytize and hand out flyers or newspapers, but to have fluid and political conversations with workers, identify leaders among them, serve as local solidarity captains, distribute DSA pins or other merch for our members who turn out, collaborate with workers to plan our own DSA solidarity actions, and provide resources needed by the workers.

We must also continue to build our own local labor media, an alternative to capitalist media with union members and other workers as its intended audience. Such media can serve as an organizing tool as our DSA reporters can gain a deeper understanding of a struggle, build even closer connections with leading workers, and produce content that situates their struggle alongside other workers' struggles and in the broader class struggle. Additionally, this labor journalism can be consumed by workers and shared through their networks, and it can preserve local working class history that contextualizes our struggles in the history of all hitherto existing society.

We must make an effort to turn out members locally who can show up consistently, and become recognizable faces and points of contact for workers. Also, we must make plans to maintain relationships with workers beyond any particular contract fight, strike, or action. Such relationships can help make DSA a political home for militant trade unionists. Accordingly, we must seek to bring these militant unionists and other promising workers into DSA, into socialist consciousness, and into the broader class struggle as socialist worker-leaders on the shop floor and in their unions.

**Socialist organizing within the existing labor movement.**

We need a prolonged, consistent, and serious investment of DSA resources — money and our members' time — to the unglamorous and slow process of labor organizing. Furthermore, we must seek to organize workplace cohorts and industry groups of DSA members already within and newly entering strategic industries so that our members can coordinate and support each other. To form an organizational core of a compelling socialist pole in the labor movement, we should develop and integrate DSA's national, statewide, and local labor committees, with YDSA members closely integrated.

Where feasible, we must help these cohorts of members build openly socialist rank-and-file formations within existing unions, both in already established bargaining units and through new organizing. But in most cases, we should be prepared to combine forces with union reformers and militants, acting as the left wing of a united front with them in the struggle to democratize a union and activate and raise the consciousness of its membership.

We see organizing coworkers for collective action during a contract fight, strike, or in response to workplace issues as the best way to reveal to the rank and file those conservative union leaders who may be engaged in class collaboration; and catch such leaders in a crossfire trained on the boss.

Recognizing that not all union leaders are created equal, even among ossified leadership in thoroughly bureaucratized unions, we remain open to working on joint projects with unions that are not socialist. However, we should never become involved in attempts by leadership to discipline labor or contain workers' militancy. Nor should we let relationships with leadership or perceptions of them supercede or confuse our relationships with the rank-and-file and our ultimate goals in the labor movement.

Ultimately, our goal is not merely to tail workers, hoping they spontaneously develop into socialists as we cheerlead them and their unions all the way down the cliff that labor has been falling down for decades now. Rather, we hope to cohere the working class and prepare it to take political power. To take power by radicalizing other rank-and-file workers, organizing a base within unions that can contest for power internally and win union leadership as open socialists, and for both the rank and file and leadership to then reorient unions to open class struggle, wielding them as true fighting organizations of the working class against all forms of oppression in this country and abroad, reviving and dramatically growing the labor movement.

### **3. For a revolutionary mass party**

We believe socialists must engage in political struggle and mass work, which means rejecting abstentionism. Electoral work provides valuable opportunities for publicity, agitation, and advancing our politics. But the people DSA recruits and runs for elected office must be solidly cadre: open socialists who come from our own ranks, agree to work toward DSA's democratically agreed-on platform in all they do, and are directed by and accountable to DSA's membership..

Seeking the election of socialists, cadre or not, is not the same as seeking to take state power. We do not set out to administer the capitalist state, nor lend legitimacy to an exploitative and oppressive economic and political system. Socialists will never take state power through elections, nor can we gradually win more and more reforms until a break with the capitalist system occurs.

Electing cadre socialists is not an end unto itself: it is a tactic in the class struggle. Our goal is to provide a Marxist alternative that primes the working class for revolution.

#### **The function, role, and utility of DSA-cadre elected officials.**

- Remove obstacles in the way of — and free up resources for — the class struggle. When necessary, jam up the workings of the state in order to prevent increasing oppression.

- Provide steadfast opposition to the current government, including the leadership of the Democratic Party.
- Build support for socialism and DSA through effectively carrying out constituent services and attaining material gains for the working class.
- Expose the undemocratic and repressive mechanisms of bourgeois democracy from within.
- Popularize our demands by using their public platforms to protect, legitimize, and signal boost movements of the working class and oppressed.

### **Principled candidates and organizational discipline.**

The people we choose to run for elected office should be recruited from those active within DSA. The candidates we run should have strong convictions in our political project and must campaign and serve as open socialists.

DSA must build the infrastructure (people, processes, and funding) to produce cadre candidates and keep them on track. This machine will allow us to maintain control over the structures and mechanisms for electing and reelecting our candidates.

- That includes the organization having control over fundraising and funds raised, staffing decisions, and campaign data.
- All of this should be in service of maintaining a dynamic where DSA's elected officials understand they need to abide by DSA's democratically made decisions, including instructions the organization has for them.

In our electoral work, we must reject the limits of the existent state and actively strive to avoid:

- Inverted relationships where elected officials attempt to direct DSA
- Candidates using DSA as a pool of volunteers and money in pursuit of their own political ambitions or personal political project
- Liquidation of our socialist electeds into liberal "progressive" caucuses to pursue reforms
- Opportunism in submitting to the Democrats in exchange for backroom deals or careerist ends
- Celebrity politicians acting out individualist fantasies or as saviors instead of operating as a socialist bloc and extension of DSA for the organization of our class

### **Class independence.**

Socialists cannot take over or realign the Democratic Party. Our long-term goal is to have our own party and, thus, end association with the Democrats (i.e., to attain 'The Dirty Break'). A party is not simply a ballot line, and we do not outright reject use of the Democratic ballot line at this time. However, we believe our candidates should not identify as Democrats and that DSA must begin to put resources behind political campaigns independent of the Democratic ballot line.

It will be a long road to the revolutionary mass party. We commit ourselves to traveling that road together, to building the party, and to the struggle for socialist revolution.