

## **Providence DSA Candidate Questionnaire**

Statewide Legislative Office, 2020

### ***General Questions***

Are you currently or are you willing to become a dues-paying member of the Democratic Socialists of America?

Do you consider yourself a socialist? What is socialism to you? What is capitalism to you?

How will you use your elected office to not only legislate, but also help organize a multiracial working-class movement?

What do you do for a living?

How long have you lived in your district? What relationships do you have with residents?

Will you reject all corporate contributions to your campaign? Whom do you rely on for funding?

If you're running on the Democratic ballot line, how will you maintain your independence from the various liberals, conservatives, and business interests who dominate the party?

Will you commit to meeting with the Providence DSA on a regular basis after your election to provide us with updates and receive our feedback?

### ***Policy Questions***

Which legislative battles will be your highest priorities once elected?

Do you support a Medicare-for-All, single-payer system? Will you fight for single-payer health insurance (including coverage for contraception and abortion services) on the state level, absent federal legislation?

Do you support a statewide Green New Deal to combat climate change? Will you fight for legislation that creates union jobs and publicly owned infrastructure, while rejecting plans that rely on "public-private partnerships"?

Do you support bringing Rhode Island's utility system under complete public and democratic ownership, removing National Grid from the state?

Will you fight to create publicly owned housing that is high-quality, racially integrated, cooperatively managed by residents, and available to all Rhode Islanders (rich and poor) irrespective of immigration status or history of incarceration?

Will you fight to increase investment in public education and stop the expansion of charter schools? Do you support changing the system so that education is funded equitably through state taxes rather than local property taxes?

Will you fight to make public colleges and universities tuition-free in Rhode Island?

Do you support raising the state's minimum wage to at least \$15 an hour, tied to inflation?

Do you support banning at-will employment in order to protect all workers from arbitrary and discriminatory firing – including workers who may be punished for union organizing or political speech?

Will you support legislation that provides a statewide fund for worker cooperatives, creates tax incentives that favor cooperative firms over traditional businesses, and gives workers and unions the right of first refusal to buy businesses when they are up for sale?

Will you fight to end the practice of granting tax breaks to corporations and developers through so-called TSAs (tax stabilization agreements)?

Do you support raising the state income tax on individuals who make more than \$100,000 a year?

Do you support levying property taxes on wealthy nonprofits such as Brown University and other so-called anchor institutions?

Will you fight to eliminate cash bail, mandatory minimum sentences, solitary confinement, and felon disenfranchisement in Rhode Island?

Do you support statewide legislation that mirrors Providence's Community Safety Act? Do you also support measures to restrict the carrying of arms by police officers?

Will you support gun control laws that limit the distribution of firearms, while rejecting the usual "compromise" legislation that incarcerates poor people for illegal gun possession? Which policies do you believe will promote public welfare?

Will you vote to legalize marijuana and expunge all past convictions for the sale and possession of marijuana?

Will you vote to create supervised injection sites at Rhode Island clinics, and repeal the punitive “Kristen’s Law” signed by Governor Raimondo?

Will you vote to legalize prostitution and expunge past convictions? Which policies do you believe will protect workers in the underground economy while preventing sex trafficking?

Do you support a moratorium on the construction of any new prisons, alongside a complete ban on private prisons and the shuttering of the Wyatt Detention Center?

Will you fight for sanctuary state legislation that forbids all cooperation between local law enforcement and ICE?

Will you vote to provide driver’s licenses to all immigrants regardless of legal status?

Do you support the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement for the full political equality of Palestinians? Will you firmly oppose any attempts by state or local governments to suppress free speech on this (or any other) issue?

Will you fight the military contractors, such as Raytheon and Textron, that have bought off Rhode Island’s congressional delegation? Will you eliminate state grants to the defense industry and end the use of state tax dollars to train workers at these companies?

Do you support automatic voter registration and the repeal of Rhode Island’s voter ID law?

Will you vote to make elections statewide holidays?