

# Codifying Universal Voting in Steering Committee Elections:

Draft Resolution for the Metro DC DSA Steering Committee

To Be Ratified By the Metro DC DSA Local Convention

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## Background

1. Whereas, since early 2019, our chapter has used the OpaVote platform to deliver email ballots to all chapter members for chapter-wide decisions, such as electoral endorsements and Steering Committee elections, to encourage chapter-wide participation in our democratic processes;
2. Whereas, at the last local convention in December 2020, our chapter voted on a complete overhaul of the [chapter's bylaws](#), which included an amendment that required voting for the Steering Committee only by “delegates at the local convention each year through a secret electronic ballot (Section 7.2);”
3. Whereas, Section 3.2 of the chapter bylaws say that anyone who has been a member of Metro DC DSA in good standing for at least 30 days prior to the convention is eligible to vote as a convention delegate:
  - a. “To be eligible to vote as a delegate in the MDC DSA local convention, individuals must be (and remain) a member of MDC DSA in good standing for 30 days before the convention;”
4. Whereas, a broad interpretation of Section 3.2 would be that all chapter members who meet the convention eligibility requirements are automatically delegates to the local convention, so therefore all chapter members are eligible to vote in Steering Committee elections via OpaVote or another method of universal electronically-delivered ballot;
5. Whereas, our chapter bylaws should, where possible, clearly reflect the intent and practical guidance of the bylaws, rather than rely on the interpretation of the current and future Steering Committees to implement the bylaws;
6. Whereas, if our chapter is to maintain the universal delivery of ballots to all chapter members for Steering Committee elections, regardless of whether chapter members are able to attend local chapter conventions, we should have clear rules for Steering Committee elections that do not rely on the interpretation of the current or future Steering Committees to guarantee the ability of all chapter members to vote in Steering Committee elections.

## Resolution

1. Therefore, be it resolved that Section 7.2 of the Metro DC DSA bylaws are amended as follows, with deletions struck out in red text and additions in blue text:
  - a. The voting members of the Steering Committee will be elected ~~by delegates at the local convention~~ each year through a secret electronic ballot ~~sent to all chapter members~~. ~~Steering Committee elections shall occur in conjunction with the MDC DSA local convention.~~