



East Bay DSA September General Meeting

Sunday, September 15, 2024

11am-1:30 pm

1610 Harrison Street Oakland and [Zoom](#)

Sign-in link: ebdsa.us/gm-signin

Time	Section	Facilitator
10:45	Doors open, sign-in and coffee	
11:05	Settle in, welcome, -approve agenda passed by acclamation -approve minutes from the last meeting. Approved by acclamation	Victoria
11:10	Discussion of Chapter Priority Salting Drive: Discussion confidential. Ginna- need a listserve. What is a militant union? how to bring together then many organizing group not militant only does service work , ongoing effort to unify but it is slow	Zach W/ Gina S
11:25	Chapter Coordination Committee Report and Volunteer Asks Max- what does it do, see leaders list for sub groups, need additional support, structure needs additional discussion, zach-how do we make gm more interesting as a task for group	Max M
11:35	Explanation of Robert's Rules followed by Resolution to Endorse Berkeley Rent Board Slate Reminder: candidates and their staff and campaign officers (incl. Treasurer, chair, campaign manager, etc.) must leave the room once debate on their endorsement begins. Candidates are able to give a brief statement and answer questions before leaving, and may return when debate has concluded. Motivator- Soli A., has been able to advance progressive policy, slate has endorsed Jovanka and	Juan

	viceversa, has endorsed Pro-Palestinian resolutions, why is board limited in what it can do, Costa Hawkins, has helped with tenant organizing, Yari - urges everyone to vote for them but thinks our endorsement will not mean much because we do not have resources therefore should not endorse, Nikkan- electoral comm. Thinks they can support candidate with their resources, has over 30 people to work on committee election, Skyler - same as Yari, Ceilia- rent board is important for dsa organizing, Max- no campaign plan or canvassing in resolution same issue as Yari 78 yes 37 no, passed	
11:55	Resolution to Unendorse Councilmember Nikki Fortunato-Bas motivator - Luca, all our endorsed candidates should not endorse pro zionist candidates but only means chapter will not give resources to her campaign, Nikki- listed many progressive issues and passed oakland ceasefire resolution under her leadership, questions to Nikki: why should folks vote for Jesse - Nikki - hard decisions and discussed with Jovanka, strategic choice to ensure her election in Berkeley, question: alana - how do feel this is okay, MV- what is the role of county board in supporting working class Nikki - budget is twice Oakland, she has worked with Jesse and he is changing his position on ceasefire, Motivator questions: Danny- what about other issues than Palestine- Our revolution de-endorsed, Jacob- why not de-endorsed Jovanka because she came out in favor of Harris, Pro- Lydia- same as motivator, Claire- critical we get Nikki on Supervisors for supporting working class, Izzy pro - we should only endorse candidates who consistently support DSA issues, Sarah - against - we should de-endorse many other candidates if we follow this resolution Proposal to extend debate by 1 speaker on each side - passed Rithika - Jesse is so bad DSA can not be associated with him. Question of whether people of color have not spoken (question was answered by the chair in the affirmative) Joel - ideological purity is a slippery slope to irrelevance, Discussion extended again by vote which passed - Jovanka - she did not endorse Harris but thinks it is important to hold candidates to high standards , Joel - AOC has supported Harris so why not de-enndorse her but Nikki has not gone down this path, may impact Nikki being elected, pro- Ed - will impact our relations	Zach W

	with other groups if we do not un-endorse her, MV-very high stakes to get her elected , narrowing coalition is bad, she has moved Jesse Extension failed Joe Berry - please report actual votes and has anyone not been able to vote Simple majority to pass, passed 71 to 49	
12:15	Resolution to Re-launch East Bay Majority Justin motivator , aim to publish weekly, name change will aim to involve other chapters , objective is to have outsiders be audience, against Max - premature until we discuss with other chapters, pro - Michael - good idea, Maddie - against - we should focus on stuff chapter is doing, Passed - 59 yes 3 no	Victoria
12:35	Resolution to Endorse Sasha Ritzie-Hernandez for Oakland School Board District 5 Sasha motivator - unions endorsed her, question: how to assist with tenant organizing and labor work - Justin, 2K students unhoused and she wants to work on this, Debate: no debate speakers, Passed yes 64 0 against	Zach W
12:55	Dues Drive announcement followed by social announcement - need more folks to step up to pay local dues, 3 month dues drive, social after meeting at Two Pitches	Rachel
1:00	Sing, announcements, and adjourn! Head to Two Pitches for Post GM Social Gina - see her about Amazon organizing or vegan food YARI - Come out for Jovanka canvassing every weekend until election Nikkan - will introduce resolution to de-endorse Jovanka at next GM meeting	Bonnie L

	Nat - come hear how to stop lead in Oakland school water Rachel - new member mixer on Thursday September 19th Tom - wants to discuss Ukraine situation with others Andy - rally on oct. 6 on pro-Palestine and a socialist discussion on imperialism Friday 9/27, Izzy - talk to him on how to become a member Ed - Dublincity council will have a discussion to disinvest next week Carlos - get a snack on the way out Bonnie -on the 23rd the international committee will rally to stop fueling Israei, aimed at Chevron	
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Resolution to Endorse Berkeley Rent Board Slate

Submitted By: Soli & Electoral Committee

Whereas East Bay DSA worked to coordinate this years Berkeley rent board convention to pick a slate of candidates to run for Berkeley rent board

Whereas The petitioner collected 25 signatures of current East Bay DSA members (15 in district)

Whereas the Candidate questionnaires are available here:

- [Avery Arbaugh](#)
- [Alfred Twu](#)
- [Dominique Walker](#)
- [Xavier Johnson](#)

Whereas The electoral committee voted to recommend to endorse the slate (11 for, 0 against, 1 abstain)

Therefore be it resolved, East Bay DSA endorses the Berkeley rent board slate

Resolution to unendorse Nikki Fortunato Bas for Supervisor

Submitted by: Luca D., Andrew T.

Whereas, East Bay DSA endorsed Nikki Fortunato Bas for Alameda County Board of Supervisors District 5,

Whereas, on August 16, Nikki Fortunato Bas endorsed Jesse Arreguin for State Senate,

Whereas, Arreguin, speaking at an event held by the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), a Zionist lobby group that opposes “[any attempts to delegitimize Israel, including the BDS Movement](#)”, pledged to not allow a ceasefire resolution to be passed by Berkeley City Council,

Whereas, Arreguin visited Israel on a JCRC-sponsored trip in 2022, departing the same day Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh was murdered,

Whereas, DSA member Jovanka Beckles, his opponent for State Senate, is the chapter endorsed candidate and is openly for Palestinian liberation and divestment,

Whereas, East Bay DSA passed the resolution [Organizing for Palestinian Liberation](#), which requires that endorsed candidates “refrain from any and all affiliation with the Israeli government or Zionist lobby groups,”

Whereas, the resolution also states that endorsed candidates “upon receiving fair and ample opportunity for education about the Palestinian struggle for liberation, endorsed candidates who do not commit to the aforementioned basic expectations will have their EBDSA endorsement swiftly revoked,”

Whereas, the passage of the resolution signifies that many chapter members consider any enabling of Zionism or Zionist politicians to be an electoral red line for our organization,

Whereas, after being informed that Bas was considering endorsing Arreguin, the Steering Committee sent an email prior to her endorsement, asking her to reconsider, and advising her that — as a democratic organization — members may propose a resolution for her unendorsement on these grounds,

Whereas, to be a principled socialist in office requires that, at a bare minimum, you reject any possible action that would strengthen the position of Zionism locally

Therefore, be it resolved, East Bay DSA revokes its endorsement of Nikki Fortunato Bas effective immediately,

Be it further resolved, the Steering Committee will release a public statement on chapter social media explaining the political reasons behind the chapter’s unendorsement.

SIGNATORIES:

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|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Luca D | 19. Max M |
| 2. Ashmitha K | 20. Rachel S |
| 3. Deya R | 21. Alejandro G |
| 4. Aidan S | 22. Ed R |
| 5. Sarah W | 23. Thane H |
| 6. Andrew T | 24. Drew B |
| 7. Negeene M | 25. Eric E |
| 8. Paola L | 26. Stan W |
| 9. Shubhangi B | 27. Ryan M |
| 10. Elana A | 28. Andy M |
| 11. Rithika R | 29. Matthias L |
| 12. Victoria V | 30. Christina B |
| 13. Megan B | |
| 14. John M | |
| 15. Matt N | |
| 16. Naomi S | |
| 17. Michael T | |
| 18. Ashley P | |

Resolution: Rebooting East Bay Majority into Bay Area Majority

Signees: Justin G; Zach W; Zoe S; Dani T; Simon B; Rane S.; Mitra Z; Jonathan M; Yari G; Charlotte A

Whereas: The East Bay DSA has become the largest and among the most active chapters in the Bay Area, touching on various areas of class struggle, and is thereby a feasible place to house a regional media organ;

Whereas: The bourgeois media rarely, if ever, reports on episodes of class struggle, be they labor, tenant, or movement happenings;

Whereas: The bourgeois media that does exist has become so consolidated, with fewer avenues for news and information about local politics and culture every year, and fewer viewpoints expressed across the media landscape;

Whereas: Proletarian culture has been largely neglected as a legitimate form of cultural production, and is rarely discussed unless it has become instrumentalized for profit-making, but the elevation of proletarian culture is an essential aspect of the class struggle because class consciousness requires a confident and socially validated class culture;

Whereas: *East Bay Majority* has significant potential to become an organ to class struggle, as a place of discourse that can amplify class struggle and give its participants their proper due, as well as a place where working-class culture can be discussed and elevated;

Whereas: Our organizing projects—be they new labor unions, rank and file work; tenant union work; or movement work like Palestine solidarity—would benefit from an organ that can properly report on their happenings, as the words and images of our struggle must be represented, particularly within the current social media landscape;

Therefore, let it be resolved: *East Bay Majority* shall be rebooted, with its name changed to *Bay Area Majority*, in order to become the Bay Area's premiere place of class struggle news and proletarian cultural reportage;

Resolved: *Bay Area Majority* shall have an Editorial Board consisting of a minimum of three positions (and a maximum of five positions), and will have final say over what articles are published by *Majority*, only to be overruled by a majority vote of the chapter Steering Committee;

Resolved: Major topics of focus will be workplace organizing and labor struggles, tenant organizing, police repression, and working class arts and culture.

Resolved: The initial Editorial Board of *Majority* will consist of Zoe S, Charlotte A, and Justin G, with their first term coming to an end June 1, 2025.

Resolved: *Bay Area Majority*'s editorial board will be appointed by the EBDSA Steering Committee, and via majority Steering Committee vote. The Editorial Board will draft and maintain the editorial policy of *Majority* and present it (including any changes) to the chapter Steering Committee for approval;

Resolved: The chapter Steering Committee may add additional editorial positions to Bay Area Majority's Editorial Board;

Resolved: *Bay Area Majority* will solicit reportage on all class struggle episodes throughout the wider Bay Area, including happenings in Northern Central Valley if they are significant;

Resolved: *Bay Area Majority* will seek to integrate itself into the Bay Area culture, by maintaining an events calendar, and by hosting relevant public-facing events typically open to the public;

Resolved: *Bay Area Majority* shall not promote ideological writing on theoretical issues or internal DSA debates unless explicitly directed to do so by the Steering Committee;

Resolved: The East Bay DSA Steering Committee shall have the option to dedicate some EBDSA staff time for *Majority*-related matters, such as fundraising, editing, etc.;

Resolved: East Bay DSA shall initiate a *Majority* relaunch strategy that includes significant resources for fundraising, website revamping, reaching out to other DSA chapters to see if they are interested in contributing to this project, and any other preliminary or ongoing issues pertaining to the Bay Area Majority project.

Resolved: Eighty percent (80%) of all money raised explicitly for *Majority* (this amount can be changed by a majority vote of the chapter Steering Committee) will be reinvested in this project, with the top priority for funds going to paying writers for solicited stories and paying for translation of articles into Spanish, Chinese, and other languages spoken by working class people in the Bay Area. The rest of the funds will go directly to East Bay DSA for operational costs of maintaining such a project.

Comrades willing to work on this project include: Zach W, Yari G, Charlotte A, Justin G, Simon B, Mitra Z, Rane S, Zoe S

Recommendation to Endorse Sasha Ritzie-Hernandez for Oakland School Board District 5

Submitted by: Antonio G., Ethan L., Nickan F., Carrie A., Ana M. of the EBDSA Electoral Committee

Whereas Sasha Ritzie-Hernandez has been a champion of the class struggle and a consistent voice against the Genocide in Gaza,

Whereas the petitioner collected 25 signatures of current East Bay DSA members (5 in district),

Whereas the district report is available here: [District Report](#),

Whereas the Candidate questionnaire(s) are available here: [Questionnaire](#),

Whereas The electoral committee voted to recommend to endorse Sasha (11 for, 0 against, 0 abstain),

Whereas the electoral committee has put together the following plan to do at least 2 canvasses with the aim of: knocking minimum 500 doors and reaching 50+ voters,

Therefore be it resolved, East Bay DSA endorses Sasha Ritzie-Hernandez.

YOU CAN GET IT IF YOU ORGANIZE

*(adapted by Troublemakers School Labor Sings Workshop–4/11/23,
from YOU CAN GET IT IF YOU REALLY WANT by Jimmy Cliff)*

You can get it if you organize (X3)

But you must try, try and try

ORGANIZE– - -

We'll succeed at last

Persecution you must bear

Win or lose you got to get your share

Got your mind set on a dream

You can get it, though hard it may seem (You can get it. . .)

Rome was not built in a day

Opposition will come your way

But the harder the battle you see

It's the sweeter the victory (You can get it . . .)