

BE IT RESOLVED:

That pursuant to our commitments to democracy and accessibility, the Democratic Socialists of America - Los Angeles chapter is in need of a formal voting process for major bylaws resolutions that extends further than single chapter meetings that may not be accessible to all 5000 Members of its Local,

That open and easy access to elections is the foundation of a democratic society,

That an informed and involved constituency is necessary for a healthy democracy,

That there is healthy precedent for this practice as demonstrated in our Steering and Subgroup Officer elections,

That Article IV, Section 1 of our own bylaws detail the following: "For all binding chapter business, remote votes and proxy votes, including asynchronous votes, may be facilitated and counted when possible."

That the Covid-19 Pandemic and the necessity of all-teleconferencing meetings have made proxy voting during the time of Local Meetings or Annual Convention sessions arduous, expensive, or otherwise difficult to replicate, while absentee voting is a far more accessible practice,

That DSA-LA, as a mass, working-class organization, recognizes the necessity of working-class inclusion and access to power regardless of the participatory availability afforded to them by the restraints of living under Capitalism,

We, the undersigned Members in Good Standing of DSA-LA, propose the following:

ARTICLE XIV. AMENDMENTS

Section 2. Absentee Voting

When Chapter Bylaw Amendments or Priority Resolutions are presented for a vote at a Local Meeting or Annual Convention, Steering shall create and disseminate an Online Voting Tool for the Amendments and Resolutions in question to all Members in Good Standing for the purposes of Absentee Voting.

The vote shall be open for at minimum one (1) week, unless otherwise specified by the Resolution or Amendment in question.

The voting period shall begin during the Local Meeting or Annual Convention session in which the Amendments or Resolutions are proposed and the in-meeting vote begins.

The voting period will end a week (seven days) from the original date of the Local Meeting or Annual Convention session at 12:00 AM PST (midnight).

When conducted for items up for vote at the Annual Convention, the Digital Absentee Vote will be considered included with the Annual Convention as the highest legislative and decision making body of the Local.

The Online Voting Tool utilized will be selected based on requirements for accessibility, anonymity, and security, and will require the use and verification of the voting members' e-mail address associated with their membership.

Results from both the Local Meeting vote and this Digital Absentee Vote will be published and detailed within one (1) week of the closing of the Digital Absentee Vote.

The e-mail (or other communiques for disseminating the Digital Absentee Vote, as needed) shall include links to the following:

- (1) The original proposed document, as it exists before the Local Meeting or Annual Convention session
- (2) The revised final document, with any and all amendments successfully voted on from the floor
- (3) The Online Voting Tool with explicit options to vote yes, no, or abstain on either (1) or (2)
- (4) Argument statements for and against the proposed amendment as previously submitted by members and posted to the DSA-LA Chapter website.
- (5) Anonymized transcripts and/or recorded minutes of the debate conducted during the Local Meeting or Annual Convention session, including all arguments for and against presented.

In a manner identical to the Steering elections, the vote shall be done through ranked-choice voting (RCV). The option that receives the most votes shall be ratified and incorporated into the Bylaws within 48 hours of the closure of the vote.

Once this Amendment is ratified, its dictates apply to all concurrent and subsequent Amendment or Resolution votes.

[That is to say it applies to all Amendments that would be implemented on the day this Amendment is proposed, which is projected to be at the Local Meeting for April 2021. This section may be removed after implementation. This language has been added for clarity.]