

Metro DC DSA

CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

(Approved by the Steering Committee, May 2025)

Basic information

1. Name: [Omodamola Williams](#)
2. Current Occupation (if applicable): [Community Advocate](#)
3. Party Affiliation: [Democrat](#)
4. Have you been a public servant before? What positions and when? [Yes I have been a servant of the community as a coalition organizer for the MORE Network and YPP 2022-2025 , CASA, and planning board of Housing Justice Montgomery.](#)
5. How long have you lived in your jurisdiction? [Since Nov 2018](#)
6. Which office are you seeking? [City of Gaithersburg City Council](#)
7. Why are you seeking this office? [I am a single father in the city of Gaithersburg who endured poverty, racism, police brutality and overcame adversity through advocacy with local non profits. My goals is to promote equity, inclusion, and give a voice for the working class . And also pass permanent rent control for the city.](#)
8. Why are you soliciting Metro DC DSA's endorsement for this office? [To have support as DSA are my allies. I am also a new member of DSA. DSA have been known for their hard work throughout the DMV and I am proud to be part of it.](#)
9. Please list other significant endorsements you've received for this position or for prior races, and significant endorsements you are currently soliciting: [I have had CASA IN ACTION Endorsement before for my 2023 campaign run.](#)

DSA and democratic socialism

1. Are you a member of DSA? If not, would you join? Why or why not? [Yes I am currently a member](#)
2. How does the campaign you are planning and the office that you are considering relate to your theory of social change? [There needs to be a shift in leadership and that shift is me.](#)
3. Do you identify as a democratic socialist? Why? [Yes, my values of true democracy , community justice, people led organizations have brought me to the right place in this day in age to step up and lead.](#)
4. Are you willing to run publicly as a democratic socialist? [\[Yes/No\] Yes](#)
5. Will you be willing to run with other DSA-endorsed candidates as a slate? [\[Yes/No\] Yes](#)
6. Will you publicize DSA's endorsement? [\[Yes/No\] Yes](#)
7. Will you pledge not to take any campaign contributions from for-profit corporations or for-profit corporate PACs? [\[Yes/No\] Yes](#)
8. Will you pledge not to take any campaign contributions from real estate developers, corporate lobbyists, and landlords? [\[Yes/No\] Yes](#)

9. Will you pledge not to take any campaign contributions or endorsements from organizations in the carceral system (such as law enforcement unions)? [Yes/No] Yes
10. Will you pledge not to take any campaign contributions or endorsements from Democrats for Education Reform (DFER)? [Yes/No] Yes
11. Are you open to working with DSA when developing your platform? [Yes/No] Yes
12. Will you allow Metro DC DSA to create campaign materials to distribute during its work on your campaign? [Yes/No] Yes
13. DSA has a large and active volunteer base. Will you support DSA training our own volunteers, running our own canvases, and campaigning openly as DSA members? [Yes/No] Yes
14. Will you allow DSA to collaborate with you on your field plan and program? [Yes/No] Yes
15. Will you allow DSA to keep copies of all data we collect through voter contact, if legal in your jurisdiction? [Yes/No] Yes

Goals of your campaign

1. What is your estimated number of votes needed to win? About 6000 votes
2. What are your plans, beyond what Metro DC DSA can bring to the table, for obtaining the number of votes needed to win? I have been working with local community advocates and creating Tenant unions to further support renters rights. I will also be Door knocking and canvassing underserved areas in my city.
3. What are the issues that will distinguish you from other candidates? How are those issues popular with the electorate? What number of votes won the seat in the last open race? I am the political advocate of personal experience that wants change in the city. It will take about 4000-5000 votes to win.
 - a. If you are challenging an incumbent, what distinguishes you from the incumbent? Why would you be an improvement over the incumbent? How many votes did the incumbent receive in their last election? Their last competitive election?
 - i. My views on equity and inclusion and what community safety truly means is what distinguishes me for the other candidates. The last incumbent had a combined total of 8000 votes.
4. How much money will you need to successfully compete in this race and what is your plan to raise it? \$5000 and I plan to do fundraising events
5. What relationships do you have in your district that could form a base of support, through activism, organizing, work or personal networks? What relationships do you have to build? There are a few Tenant unions in my city that I have worked with and also some NGOs I worked with.
6. How will you use your campaign to build Metro DC DSA? Democratic socialism in DC/Maryland/Virginia? I want to organize in Gaithersburg and Upcounty because DSA doesn't have much representation from there. Having people from Gaithersburg will help DSA be more racially diverse.
7. How do you strike the balance between your positions as a socialist and your ability to appeal to the broader electorate? I understand that my views wont be everyones cup of

tea. As a community grassroots organizer, my leadership may differ when it comes to bridging different social economical communities.

8. What issue do you think will be hardest to win over your electorate on, and how do you intend to win over voters to your position? [We are all connected despite our social economic class and when the underworking class is left out of access to resources, we all fail as society because we are all connected in this ecosystem. I want to work on better policing and property taxes.](#)
9. Do you believe there is an issue you support but is not currently winnable? What issue, and why? [The current city leadership does not believe in rent control in which i am championing. The current city council are strong advocates for developers and private landlords. My motto is people over profit. My city will reap the benefit when we have city workers who can actually afford to live in the same city they are employed. That's what I am fighting for.](#)

Goals in office

1. Would you be open to having DSA members as staff in policy positions and/or to collaborating with our working groups on policy? Will you actively try to hire at least one DSA member on your staff? [Yes](#)
2. Will you agree to appear periodically at DSA meetings and actions, especially those in your district? [Yes](#)
3. Will you endorse and campaign for other DSA endorsed candidates in the future? [Yes](#)
4. Will you commit to quarterly meetings with Metro DC DSA's Socialists In Office Committee? And to more regular meetings between Metro DC DSA's Socialists in Office Committee and senior staff in your office? [Yes](#)
5. How will you use your office, if elected, to build socialism and working class power? [By collaborating with NGOs](#)
6. If elected, what are your top 3 priorities? [Rent Control, Police accountability, Civic engagement](#)
7. How will you implement those priorities, given that you will likely face opposition from other elected officials? [By using statistical data and welcoming others to express their opinions.](#)

Questions for incumbents

1. Tell us about a success/political win you championed/led that created material wins/improved conditions for the working class in your district. How did you win it? [I helped in the fight for Rent Stabilization back in 2023.](#)
2. What obstacles did you face in office and how do you plan to address these obstacles if re-elected? [My work entails passing legislation for renters in the city of Gaithersburg. The current city council and Mayor are against renters rights so I have a long fight ahead of me. But by getting more renters to testify for the passage of rent stabilization and local groups and small businesses, i believe we can win.](#)

Metro DC DSA Priorities

As democratically decided priorities for Metro DC DSA, priority campaigns write a description of their current organizing in our region, and are allowed to include questions. These serve to ground our electoral organizing in our chapter's work, and we expect candidates to explain their positions on our most pressing, democratically guided work.

Abolition

MDC DSA's Abolition Working Group is organizing in coalition with Black-led and racial justice organizations to move toward police and prison abolition in DC, Montgomery County (MoCo), and Northern Virginia (NoVA). As part of our vision for racial, gender, disability, and economic justice, we demand our local governments to defund the police departments to fund social services such as free public transit and social housing, redistribute funds to restore underfunded agencies such as public libraries and parks and recreation, replace police in schools with supportive non-police staff, and free our neighbors from occupation and incarceration as a path towards abolition -- a world without cops and prisons. These aspirations are a core part of our long-term vision of socialism.

In DC, MDC DSA has endorsed the demands of the Defund MPD Coalition, including reducing the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) budget by 50% over a three-year period, and worked on the Us Not Crimnibus campaign to oppose the Secure DC omnibus crime bill. In MoCo, we have endorsed the STEP Act to reduce police stops for minor traffic infractions and are a Silver Spring Justice Coalition member. In NoVA, we work within a coalition of groups led by people of color—particularly La ColectiVA—to cut 50% of the police budgets in Arlington, Fairfax, and Prince William Counties and invest in community services and well-being instead.

1. What do you think are the root causes of harm and violence in our communities? What do you think is the right way to address them? [Poverty and Racism. The only way to address this is by building open communication platforms](#)
2. Do you support moving away from carceral policies in your jurisdiction? Why? If yes, what actions would you take in office to shift power and resources away from the police and carceral system? What non-carceral programs and services would you shift power and resources to instead? [I do support moving away from capital punishment and investing more in holistic approaches such as restorative justice.](#)
3. Do you support removing police from schools? If yes, what actions would you take in office to make this happen? [I fully support the removal of police from schools. I'm not sure what actions could be taken due to the limitations of a city council member.](#)
4. Do you support removing traffic enforcement from police to other government agencies, like the Department of Transportation? If yes, what actions would you take in office to make this happen? [Yes I support the removal of traffic police. And Look forward to working with the Mayor on better police reform.](#)
5. What actions would you take in office to end mass incarceration and support reentry? [Investing more in community services](#)

6. Many local police departments participate in training with Israeli military and/or police in what is often called the “Deadly Exchange,” furthering practices of surveillance, militarization, and racist violence and policing. Do you support ending these police exchanges in your jurisdiction? [Yes I support ending the polices](#)
7. How do you intend to overcome pro-police and carceral sentiments during your campaign? While in office? [I cant change the minds of those who are pro-police, but I can inspire people who aren't to stand up and mobilize](#)

Stomp Out Slumlords and housing justice

Stomp Out Slumlords (SOS) fights evictions and supports tenant organizing throughout the Washington metro area. The group began in 2017 as an effort to canvass tenants threatened with eviction to educate them about their rights and encourage them to defend themselves in court. Since then, SOS has gradually focused more and more on organizing tenant unions and going on the offensive to demand concessions from major landlords and developers.

During the pandemic, SOS committed to the movement to cancel rent and expanded their organizing efforts into more than 25 buildings in and around DC and supported rent strikes in most of them. Since the spring 2020, they have mobilized hundreds of people to protest politicians and landlords and stop illegal evictions through direct action.

SOS is now one of the largest and most militant tenant organizations in the region, and they have won rent forgiveness plans from big developers and played an important role in getting and defending some of the nation’s strongest emergency tenant protections.

Metro DC DSA played a key role in passing the first county-wide permanent rent stabilization law in Maryland in Montgomery County, MD in July 2023 and will continue to ensure the implementation of the law and campaign for rent stabilization in Gaithersburg and Rockville, which were exempted from the 2023 law.

1. What steps would you take to expand renter protections in your jurisdiction? [Introduce a better bill then the current Rent Stabilization bill currency for the county.](#)
2. If applicable, do you support passing just cause eviction? [Yes](#)
3. What steps would you take to pass or expand rent control or stabilization in your jurisdiction? [Build relations with tenant leaders and local NGOs](#)
4. How would you support tenants on rent strike in your jurisdiction as an elected official? [Giving them a voice of support](#)
5. How would you expand tenants' ability to rent strike? [Collaborating with groups in educating on renters rights](#)
6. **For DC candidates:** Do you oppose exemptions to or attempts to weaken the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA)? Do you support fully funding programs and initiatives that stop displacement and give tenants the opportunity to purchase their homes? [I support tenant rights](#)

7. **For MD/VA candidates:** Would you support passing, funding, and/or strengthening legislation like TOPA that gives opportunities for tenants to purchase their buildings or turn their buildings into social housing? [Support](#)

Green New Deal

Metro DC DSA supports a Green New Deal to fight the existential crisis of capitalist-driven climate change and environmental racism in the DMV area. We believe in a Green New Deal that builds and exercises power through labor and tenant unions, electoral campaigns, diverse coalition-building, political education, and policy change. Our vision is to decommodify and guarantee human needs, democratize and decarbonize the economy by 2030, and repair the generational effects of oppression and displacement of Black, Indigenous, and people of color.

Metro DC DSA currently has two Green New Deal campaigns. We Power DC (WPDC) is organizing to replace Pepco with a democratically-run municipal utility rooted in the principles of energy democracy. WPDC launched in October 2019 as the #NoPepcoPledge, which asked DC Council candidates to reject donations from Pepco and support a feasibility study on alternative utility models. The campaign is currently organizing for a municipal utility, and our current demands include utility debt forgiveness, a permanent ban on utility shut offs and union wages for all Pepco contractors.

Metro DC DSA also supports DC Councilmember Janeese Lewis George's Green New Deal for Social Housing Act and supports expanding green social housing in Montgomery County and across the region.

1. Do you support municipalizing utilities in your jurisdiction? Why or why not? [Yes](#)
2. Do you support ending utility shut offs and forgiving utility debt in your jurisdiction? Why or why not? [Yes](#)
3. Will you accept donations from energy utilities?[No](#)
4. What steps should your jurisdiction take to decarbonize the economy by 2030? How will you ensure that this happens? [Working with environmental friendly grassroots orgs](#)
5. Do you support a Green New Deal for Social Housing? Why? [Yes](#)

Labor

The Labor Working Group organizes with workers, including DSA members, from across the region to fight bad bosses, build new unions, and turn out for solidarity actions. Organizing the working class in their workplaces, whether through traditional collective bargaining and unions or other types of organizations, is central to socialist thought and practice. Especially here in the DMV, unions are diverse working-class organizations that build multi-racial solidarity through collective action for community transformation.

1. How will you support public sector unions in your jurisdiction?[I will need help on figuring that out.](#)

2. How will you expand union density in the DMV? [Collaborating with union local leaders](#)
3. How will you support collective bargaining and the right to strike in your jurisdiction? [By understanding the legality of the scope and working with leaders to pass progressive bills](#)
4. Do you support increasing the minimum wage in your jurisdiction? Do you support legislation like Initiative 82 that ends the tipped minimum wage? [Yes](#)
5. Do you support a PRO act in your jurisdiction? [Yes](#)
6. How will you use your power and influence as an elected official to combat union-busting efforts by employers in your jurisdiction? [Legislation that will protect workers on the state scale.](#)

Bodily Autonomy

Metro DC DSA is a socialist feminist organization committed to fighting against systems of patriarchal capitalist oppression that devalue women and LGBTQIA+ people. Through the Bodily Autonomy Working Group (BAWG), we organize for the democratization of domestic and care work, political and social liberation for all genders, full bodily autonomy for all, and the end of state recognition of the gender binary. We fight for material improvements in the lives of working class people who are marginalized on the basis of gender and sexuality, including reproductive justice, access to gender-affirming and LGBTQIA+ competent healthcare, affordable housing, legal protections for all gender identities, especially transgender children and BIPOC trans comrades, sex work decriminalization, and an end to state interference and police harassment.

The Bodily Autonomy Working Group's Reproductive Justice (RJ) and Trans & Queer Liberation (TQL) campaigns have organized sustained political actions through letter writing campaigns, canvassing, educational events, mutual aid coalitions, and fundraising. In 2025, RJ, in partnership with the DC Abortion Fund and EC4DC, has so far packed over 1,000 Plan B care kits to be distributed freely throughout the DMV. Additionally, TQL organized a letter writing campaign that generated over 95,000 letters protesting hospitals' early compliance with Trump's executive order and demanding the DC Attorney General join the litigation of 15 state attorneys general to protect gender-affirming care for trans youth.

1. How will your campaign/office protect and promote reproductive justice within your jurisdiction? [Introduce policies that protects clinics from police, harassment, and make sure they are properly funded.](#)
2. How will your campaign/office work towards healthcare and legal protections for all gender identities? Does that plan include a commitment to supporting and introducing trans sanctuary legislation and/or a trans rights amendment within the purview of your campaign/office? [I am open to cooperate with local groups to enact protections for the inclusive community](#)
3. What actions will your campaign/office take to counter transphobic narratives in public discourse? [Audit and revise city documents to ensure gender-neutral language and](#)

proper recognition of nonbinary and trans people (e.g., in forms, signage, bathrooms). Require **LGBTQ+ sensitivity and anti-bias training**—led by community members. And track hate crimes.

4. Do you support, and will you commit to, introducing legislation and/or budgeting for universal 0-3 childcare within the purview of your campaign/office? **Yes**
5. How will your campaign/office support efforts to improve employment and housing access for the trans community; especially BIPOC trans people who statistically experience the highest levels of homelessness and joblessness due to discrimination? **We already have housing programs but I will further expand funding for it.**
6. Do you support the decriminalization of sex work? **Yes**
7. Do you support decriminalization, descheduling, decarceration, and promoting a harm reduction approach to drug possession and consumption? **Yes**
8. How will your campaign/office work to reduce the criminalization of trans people due to police and justice system interactions resulting from sex work and drug use, in light of the link between those things and the trans community's marginalized status? **By consulting with my trans group allies.**

Palestine

In 2017, the Democratic Socialists of America adopted a resolution at its national convention in support of Palestinian civil society's call for a global Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement until Israel ends its illegal colonization of Palestinian lands, ensures equal rights for Palestinians living within Israel, and guarantees the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes. In 2023, the Democratic Socialists of America again affirmed its commitment to Palestinian liberation and support for BDS, and outlined standards for endorsed candidates. In 2024, Metro DC DSA passed a [local resolution](#) which established the following commitments for locally endorsed candidates, and instructed the Political Engagement Committee to issue a recommendation against endorsing candidates who do not meet these expectations:

1. Do you pledge to publicly support the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement? Please provide a yes or no answer and explain your position. **Yes I support everything that is against racism and the businesses that fund the genocide of Palestine people.**
2. Do you pledge to refrain from any and all affiliation with...
 1. The Israeli government or Zionist lobby groups (such as AIPAC, DMFI, Christians United for Israel, J Street).
 2. Think tanks that obfuscate the reality of the occupation (such as the Foundation for Defense of Democracies);
 3. Political junkets to Israel (such as those sponsored by J Street);
 4. Any event whose content or purpose contravenes DSA's stated platform and positions on anti-Zionism, apartheid, occupation, or BDS;

Please provide a yes or no answer and explain your position. [Yes I don't support anything that support Israel.](#)

3. Do you pledge to oppose legislation that harms Palestinians and supporters of the Palestine solidarity movement, such as...
 1. Any official adoption (including affirmation or codification) of a redefinition of antisemitism to include opposition to Israel's policies or legal system, or support for BDS (e.g. IHRA definition of antisemitism);
 2. Legislative and executive efforts to penalize individuals, universities, and entities that boycott or protest Israel (such as the anti-BDS Executive Order in Maryland and DC Mayor Muriel Bowser's order for MPD to crack down on George Washington University student protests, which, in addition to harming Palestinians, violate rights to freedom of speech and expression);
 3. Legislative and executive efforts to send any military or economic resources to Israel;

Please provide a yes or no answer and explain your position. [Yes, I don't support the harming of freedom of speech and rallies that support GAZA.](#)

4. Do you pledge to support legislation that furthers the cause of Palestinian liberation, such as...
 1. Legislative and executive efforts to end Israeli apartheid and ethnic cleansing against Palestinians and promote Palestinians' rights to return to and live freely on the land (e.g., H.R. 3103, most recently introduced in the 118th Congress);
 2. Condemnation of Israeli apartheid and colonial practices (e.g., H.Res. 751, introduced in the 117th Congress);
 3. Attempts to end the spending of U.S. tax dollars on Israel and/or sanction Israel until it ceases its practices of apartheid and colonialism (e.g., "Not On Our Dime!");
 4. Legislation to end all funding and cooperation with Israel, such as ending college and university exchange programs, divesting state pension funds from companies complicit in Israeli apartheid, and sanctioning the state of Israel for violations of international law;
 5. Calls for a ceasefire in response to genocidal actions taken by the state of Israel;
 6. Investigations and accountability for war crimes perpetrated by the state of Israel

Please provide a yes or no answer and explain your position. [Yes, I simply don't support Nazis or any tactic close to it. Im not a fan of war or the eradication of families.](#)

Racial justice

1. How would you use your office to combat racism in the educational system? [By working with local school district in doing teach-ins.](#)

2. How would you address racism in access to employment and the racial wealth gap? [Strengthening the racial equity department in the current city with more funding and better policies.](#)
3. How would you apply a racial equity lens to policy in your jurisdiction? [By working closely with the cities department of racial equity.](#)
4. Do you see any threats to voting rights in your jurisdiction? If you do, how would you work to ensure equal voting rights? [Im not completely sure as to the threats in this local upcoming election but i do believe in having better access to voting polls.](#)

Health justice

1. Do you believe that healthcare is a human right? What actions would you take to support universal healthcare? [Yes I am a strong advocate for universal healthcare and a few actions I'd take to support it is by collaborating with local and national Ngo's.](#)
2. How would you support ending medical debt? [Making healthcare free](#)

Migrant justice

1. Do you support classifying and publicly announcing your jurisdiction as a sanctuary for undocumented immigrants? [Yes](#)
2. Do you support the unconditional abolition of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE)? [I agree that \(iCE\) is a problem that needs to be abolished or severely limited in powers and authority.](#)
3. Do you support prohibiting local law enforcement from cooperating with ICE or participating in deportation activities? [Yes](#)
4. Will you oppose the operation of any migrant detention facility in your jurisdiction (whether run by ICE, another government agency, or privately run), and oppose the transfer of any migrants in your jurisdiction to such facilities? [Yes](#)
5. Will you oppose the exclusion of migrants from any assistance programs and facilities, and oppose different and longer residency requirements for migrants before they qualify for any programs? [Yes](#)