

Metro DC Democratic Socialists of America

SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

(Approved by the Steering Committee, March 2026)

Instructions:

- Candidates are **prohibited** from using generative AI to respond to questions.
- Respond to every question.
- For [Yes/No/Unsure] questions, bold and highlight the answer.
- All short answer responses have a **word limit of 250**.
- Note that completed questionnaires have historically been published on our member portal and made available to the public.

Basic Information

1. Name (pronouns):
2. Current Occupation (if applicable):
3. Party Affiliation:
4. Have you been a public servant before? *[Yes/No/Unsure]* If so, what positions and when?
5. How long have you lived in your jurisdiction?
6. Which office are you seeking and why?
7. Why are you soliciting Metro DC DSA's endorsement?
8. Please list other significant endorsements you've received for this position or for prior races and significant endorsements you plan on soliciting:

DSA and Democratic Socialism

1. Are you a member of DSA? *[Yes/No/Unsure]*
 - a. If yes, how long have you been involved in the chapter (or nationally) and in what capacities?
2. Do you identify and intend to run publicly as a democratic socialist? *[Yes/No/Unsure]*
Explain.
3. Would you be willing to run with other DSA-endorsed candidates as a slate?
[Yes/No/Unsure]
4. Will you publicize DSA's endorsement? *[Yes/No/Unsure]*
5. Will you pledge to not take any campaign contributions or endorsements from:
 - a. For-profit corporations or for-profit corporate PACs;
 - b. Real estate developers, corporate lobbyists, and landlords;
 - c. Organizations in the carceral system (e.g., law enforcement unions);
 - d. Fossil fuel companies and private energy utilities; or
 - e. Charter school lobbying groups?

[Yes/No/Unsure] If no for any, explain.

6. DSA has a large and active volunteer base. As applicable, will you:
 - a. Allow and support DSA creating our own campaign materials, training our own volunteers, running our own canvasses, and campaigning openly as DSA members? *[Yes/No/Unsure]*
 - b. Allow DSA to collaborate with you on your field plan and program? *[Yes/No/Unsure]*
7. Will you allow DSA to keep copies of data we collect through voter contact, if legal in your jurisdiction? *[Yes/No/Unsure]*
8. How will you use your campaign and elected office to build support for democratic socialism and working class power in the DMV?

Campaign Goals

1. Plan to Win:
 - a. What is your estimated number of votes needed to win? (*i.e., how many votes did the incumbent receive in their last election? their last competitive election? what number of votes won the seat in the last open race?*)
 - b. How much money will you need to successfully compete in this race and what is your plan to raise it?
 - c. Is there public campaign financing in your jurisdiction? *[Yes/No]* If yes, how does it work and will you participate?
 - d. How many volunteers do you (plan to) have? How many doors/phonecalls do you intend to knock/make as part of a field program?
2. What are your plans, beyond what Metro DC DSA can bring to the table, for obtaining the number of votes needed to win?
3. What relationships do you have in your district that could form a base of support, through activism, organizing, work, or personal networks, and what relationships do you need to build?
4. What are the issues that will distinguish you from other candidates? (*Consider the following: Are the issues popular with the electorate in your jurisdiction? Which issues do you think will be hardest to run on, and how do you intend to win over voters to your position? Do you believe there is an issue you support but is not currently winnable? What issue and why?*)
5. Do you see any threats to voting rights in your jurisdiction? If you do, how would you work to ensure equal voting rights?

Goals in Office

1. Would you be open to having DSA members as staff in policy positions? *[Yes/No/Unsure]*

2. Would you be open to collaborating with Metro DC DSA on your policy platform?
[Yes/No/Unsure]
3. Will you appear periodically at DSA actions, events, and meetings, especially those in your jurisdiction? *[Yes/No/Unsure]*
4. Will you endorse and campaign for other DSA-endorsed candidates in the future?
[Yes/No/Unsure]
5. Will you and (senior) staff in your office hold regular meetings with Metro DC DSA's Socialists In Office Committee? *[Yes/No/Unsure]*
6. What are your top 3 priorities?
7. How will you implement those priorities, given that you will likely face opposition from other elected officials and monied interests?

Questions for Incumbents

1. Tell us about a political success you championed or led that delivered material improvements for working class people in your jurisdiction. How did you win it?
2. What obstacles did you face in office and how do you plan to address these obstacles if re-elected?

Policy Questions

1. Do you support collective bargaining for all workers in your jurisdiction's school system, including public school teachers, support staff, and teachers in the public charter sector?
[Yes/No/Unsure] Explain.
2. How will you support public sector unions in your jurisdiction's school system?
3. Do you support the right of public sector teacher unions to strike? *[Yes/No/Unsure] Explain.*
4. Do you support increasing wages for teachers and school support staff in your jurisdiction? *[Yes/No/Unsure] Explain.*
5. What is your position on charter schools? Would you support a moratorium on charter school openings and expansions in your jurisdiction? *[Yes/No/Unsure] Explain.*
6. Do you support removing school resource officers from schools, and ensuring that schools are protected spaces from and do not collaborate with ICE? *[Yes/No/Unsure] Explain.*
7. How would you fight the school to prison pipeline in your jurisdiction?
8. Will you oppose any efforts to permit guns on school grounds and oppose allowing educators to be armed? *[Yes/No/Unsure] Explain.*
9. Do you support removing military recruiters from schools? *[Yes/No/Unsure] Explain.*
10. How would you work to redistribute resources in your jurisdiction's school system so that educational outcomes are not dependent on property taxes or home values in a student's neighborhood?

11. Do you support making school meals free for all students and forgiving all “lunch debt” in your jurisdiction? *[Yes/No/Unsure] Explain.*
12. What steps would you take to make the schools more accessible for students with disabilities?
13. What steps would you take to improve language access and the educational outcomes of students for whom English is not their first language?
14. How would you use your office to combat racism and promote racial equity in the educational system?
15. How do you envision the school system in your jurisdiction supporting students who are unstably housed?
16. What steps should your jurisdiction’s school system take to decarbonize by 2030?
17. Do you support ethnic studies and other forms of inclusive education programming in the curriculum and libraries of the school system in your jurisdiction? *[Yes/No/Unsure] Explain.*
18. Do you support and would you defend the free speech rights of students and teachers to advocate for the Palestinian call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) to pressure Israel to comply with international law by ending the occupation, instituting equal rights for its Palestinian citizens and respecting Palestinian refugees’ right to return? *[Yes/No/Unsure] Explain.*
19. Do you pledge to oppose any official adoption of a redefinition of antisemitism to include opposition to Israel's policies or legal system (e.g. the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition) in your jurisdiction’s school system? *[Yes/No/Unsure] Explain.*
20. How would you reform the structure of the school board to make it more democratic in your jurisdiction?
 - For DC candidates: Should the District end the current system of Mayoral control of DCPS? *[Yes/No/Unsure] Explain.*
 - For Prince George’s County candidates: Do you believe all members of the Board of Education should be elected by their constituents rather than appointed by the county executive? *[Yes/No/Unsure] Explain.*