Democratic Socialists of America
Las Vegas

2025 Steering Committee Special Election Candidate Questionnaire

Megan C. — Member Engagement Coordinator

Why are you running for the Steering Committee?

Because I want to give back to my community, and get involved in leadership with an org that has been so good to me.

What has your experience in DSA been like so far?

My experience in DSA has mostly been in Mutual Aid with SunSols, and also candidate boot camps and a lot of in person events in the last 6 months

What activist, political, organizing experience have you had outside DSA?

I have event planning experience through Girl Scouts, my work in the school district, and Tyler Cavey for NV campaign.

In your view, what is the role of a socialist organization in the U.S. today? What should we be doing to make meaningful change?

The role of a socialist org in the US today is to prove to other parties that there is another way. A way that benefits not just the rich, but the working class and even those just trying to survive. We as socialists should be advocating for the rights of those who don't have the same rights as us. We should be helping those who can't make do, we should be helping those who are suffering. Most of all, we should be fighting for equality for ALL.

How should LVDSA work with other progressive or issue-based organizations? What makes a good coalition partner? Are there any specific groups you think we should collaborate with?

LVDSA should work with other orgs that are progressive to build community, because there is strength in numbers. Also, we should work with them to build resources. Organizations like project 150 and the peoples revolutionary front. People's Revolutionary Front are the owners of Red Star Community Center, which I think would be a great place for us to work with.

What individual strengths would you bring to the Steering Committee, and how will you be able to devote the necessary time for this role?

I'm very friendly, social media savvy, an excellent planner, I'm very organized with deadlines, and I will make the time necessary.

Jesser S. — Political Education Coordinator

Why are you running for the Steering Committee?

I'm running for Steering Committee to help organize a political education program for our chapter. It was radical literature that led me to DSA, so I appreciate the power it can have to convert people to our cause and would like to make it a powerful tool in our organizing. I was formerly the Political Education Coordinator for the chapter so I would bring direct experience and fresh ideas to the Steering Committee.

What has your experience in DSA been like so far?

I joined Las Vegas DSA in early 2019 and not long after formed the YDSA branch at UNLV when I was an undergraduate student. Since then, I have been involved in DSA/YDSA organizing at various levels, ranging from leadership positions, rank and file membership, and delegate to our National Convention on two occasions. The 6+ years of organizing experience have been tremendously formative for me, both politically and personally. Prior to joining DSA, I treated politics as a "marketplace of ideas" (to use the banal phrase), entertaining all sorts of ideas on a purely theoretical and non-rigorous way. DSA was the first political organization I ever joined, and the constant dialogue with other socialists and active participation in organizing efforts transformed my mere curiosity of politics into a lifelong and active conviction. Being an organized socialist introduced community, discipline, ideological growth, self-reflection, and moral fortitude that does not come from engaging with politics on the sidelines. I, like many members of our chapter, do not see myself ever ceasing to be involved in political organization in some capacity.

What activist, political, organizing experience have you had outside DSA?

The vast majority of all my organizing has been with DSA or YDSA but I've assisted other local organizations. During my YDSA days I helped with Palestinian organizing by hosting events and guest speakers on campus to promote the cause of Palestinian liberation. These organizing efforts occurred a few years before October 7th and the Palestinian cause was not the urgent global issue that it is now. The amount of attention the issue received was quite low compared to now. Looking back, I realized that organizing, even when seemingly obscure, lays the foundation for future organizing. During the mass mobilizations against Israeli occupation and genocide post-10/7, the local organizations that had been fighting for years mobilized quickly using existing infrastructure and organizers. We don't just organize for today; we organize for tomorrow. People hardly join radical organizations during "good" times, but we build the foundation anyway to organize the people when things get hard and they look for answers.

In your view, what is the role of a socialist organization in the U.S. today? What should we be doing to make meaningful change?

The role of a socialist organization in the U.S today is to recruit and organize people into the party/organization that will eventually take political power and transition our society from a capitalist one into a socialist one. This organization is DSA, and this transformation may take decades or even exceed our lifetimes. Nonetheless, we must push the movement forward by any amount we can given our circumstances. The meaningful changes we can make will be largely dictated by the moment we live in; meeting the moment and showing our resolve is crucial. I believe our chapter is doing this as we fight against ICE in our community and build deep links through mutual aid and community outreach, among other things.

How should LVDSA work with other progressive or issue-based organizations? What makes a good coalition partner? Are there any specific groups you think we should collaborate with?

I believe in working with other progressive organizations where we share a common cause as this can only strengthen our organizing ability and influence in the community. I believe a good coalition partner is one that is willing to reciprocate support and solidarity. Solidarity is a two-way street. I believe having connections with any other socialist organizations in the city is a good idea, as well as issue-based orgs such as Palestinian liberation orgs, immigrant-rights orgs, and other social justice orgs. Now more than ever, there is a concentrated assault against all of these communities as part of a single reactionary program. There is no better time to be working in solidarity with other groups.

What individual strengths would you bring to the Steering Committee, and how will you be able to devote the necessary time for this role?

I have prior experience on the Steering Committee as Political Education Coordinator and as a Co-Chair of YDSA, so I can bring delegation skills and committee organizing skills to my position. I currently see a lot of enthusiasm and ideas for political education coming from our members, and I want to guide members into working on these events and delegating work so the committee can run effectively.

Imani M. — Political Education Coordinator

Why are you running for the Steering Committee?

I believe that political education is the barrier in between the average person having conscious and informed voting decisions and knowledge about how their government can and should serve them. There are also so many manners in which we can educate in an accessible, inclusive and intersectional manner to garner, not only class solidarity but real community.

What has your experience in DSA been like so far?

It has been fantastic it's been amazing to be around so many like-minded and intelligent people who have the same values and care for the world.

What activist, political, organizing experience have you had outside DSA?

I was on the Bernie campaign when I was 16 and have volunteered and worked with NextGen for upwards of 6 years during my college and graduate school experience. I used to work with the young Nevada Democrats and attend meetings with the local chapter of the NAACP. Through these experiences I've learned that the best way to connect to people is to just talk to them and meet them where they are. There are so many people with idealistic visions for the world in political spaces, and while that has its value, it can sometimes keep them from understanding the Everyman. Fundamentally most people want the same outcome in their lives, and they're political values are based on what they believe will give them those outcomes. As socialist we understand both in theory and in practice how to make things better and care for our neighbors and the lack of satisfaction that many people have with the political system is directly linked to capitalism and the hoarding of wealth. Therefore it is more important than ever to have these conversations to where people can understand the reality in which they live in instead of what they're being sold by politicians who have no real skin in the game because capitalism benefits them.

In your view, what is the role of a socialist organization in the U.S. today? What should we be doing to make meaningful change?

We have to be showing up. Just as free breakfast and lunch is being taken from our children in schools we have to remember that it started with a leftist organization before it became government ran. We have to show people that were more than Theory and talk that we put our words into action and to make sure that we are taking care of our community in ways that are necessary. It's more than politics it is people's lives that are affected by not only current policy but structural inequality that has left us all where the chips may fall. It is amazing that we were able to no longer tax diapers as a state but who was making sure that caretakers are getting diapers. Is there a manner in which we can make transportation better so that people don't have to rely on either our barebones public transportation or uber and lyft who exploit their workers and has become so expensive that people are paying the equivalent to a car bill they originally couldn't afford. I love that this organization is already doing these types of things through things like Sunday solidarity and helping people unionize, it shows the character of this organization, and with collective help we can do more.

How should LVDSA work with other progressive or issue-based organizations? What makes a good coalition partner? Are there any specific groups you think we should collaborate with?

Organizing events is the primary manner I can think of. A few organizations I can think of is obodo Collective, would just say community garden and grocery store on the west side, more than a hashtag and which primarily deals with issues with prisons and policing, Fifth Sun Project, which advocates for global liberation.

What individual strengths would you bring to the Steering Committee, and how will you be able to devote the necessary time for this role?

While I do have school and work obligations with a set schedule I'll be able to devote the necessary time to this role. I do pride myself on my knowledge on politics, economics, and sociology, having received my undergraduate degrees in such, and continuing my education in law and social work.

Harley R. — Secretary

Why are you running for the Steering Committee?

I have administrative experience and want to use my skills to help support DSA, its members and the greater community.

What has your experience in DSA been like so far?

I have been with DSA for less than a year and so far everyone has been welcoming, supportive and focused on building a better future.

What activist, political, organizing experience have you had outside DSA?

I have experience leading a front office of a very busy Cardiology office. During that time I had to be prepared for patient emergencies, transitions with computer systems, communication with insurance companies, providers and worried family members. More recently I have lead an administrative team that was responsible for maintaining insurance information for a large hospital network. I ran reports, audits and maintained communication with multiple insurance companies to keep accurate records.

In your view, what is the role of a socialist organization in the U.S. today? What should we be doing to make meaningful change?

I see that most people in this country have been deprived of the knowledge of how a democratic system works and their voices and representation has been stifled. My biggest belief is knowledge is power and educating people to know the power we have to effect change is vital. Informing people of what choices they really have and that capitalism is enslaving us mentally and financially. The best was to do this is to work with the community, get socialist policies on the books and live the change we want to see.

How should LVDSA work with other progressive or issue-based organizations? What makes a good coalition partner? Are there any specific groups you think we should collaborate with?

Coalitions are vital right now because we need a strong front to build a strong foundation. A good partnership would share the same goals and values with LVDSA. I’m not familiar enough to know what groups to partner with however food pantries, time banks, human rights groups would be great to work with in this present moment.

What individual strengths would you bring to the Steering Committee, and how will you be able to devote the necessary time for this role?

My life has been a constant battle of hard situations and because of that Ive been able to put myself in the shoes of others. I'm very passionate about bringing change to our current crumbling system. There nothing else I want to do more than be apart of a group that wants better for the working class of this country. Currently I work from home so I already have a set up to be available for meetings and other duties. I don't have much of a social life and I put everything on my calendar.