R3A2: Amendment: For a Strong, Democratic Model of Local Organizing and Endorsement Discipline

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Motivation for Amendment: After drafting the base resolution, I spoke further with a number of comrades about what they want to see from the SIO Committee. I heard a number of specific thoughts on the resolution that I felt were highly compelling. I authored this amendment to incorporate those ideas, concerns, and critiques to create a unified proposal for our SIO Committee that I hope we can all get behind.

Amendment Language

WHEREAS:

1. Cohering local organizing require clear and specific actions required of the SIO Committee to implement effectively and according to the democratic principles of DSA;
2. The base resolution offers minimal clarity as to the formation, structure, and organizing principles of the local organizing subcommittees;
3. In building a party infrastructure, it is important that our SIO's act as a block to support the chapter when strategic;
4. MD-DSA lacks a clear policy on expectations for endorsed SIO's when the chapter endorses a new candidate for office.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED:

1. That Metro Detroit DSA re-commits itself to the development and expansion of our Socialists in Office (SIO) committee. The SIO committee will remain a subcommittee of the chapter's Electoral standing committee. It will be chaired by the chapter's electoral chair and two SIO co-chairs, who will be elected annually by the chapter membership using single-transferable-vote ranked choice voting at the same time as the Steering Committee is elected beginning in 2026.
2. The core goals of the SIO committee will be the following:
    a. Growing and coordinating our team of socialists in office at every level,

b. Using the power we win through elections to organize a mass movement for transformative reforms for and with the working class addressing specific issues in people's everyday lives, and
c. Working with our socialists in office to organize campaigns around local issues in their districts
d. Working with our socialists in office to build a candidate recruitment and training pipeline
e. Working with our socialists in office to hold events, trainings, and other programming that will advance the development of our members and working class constituents as effective socialist organizers.

We formally recognize that our goals of electing socialists to office, winning transformative reforms to address specific issues, and organizing working class communities to our politics must always go hand-in-hand, and that none of them can ever be achieved to their fullest extent unless we commit fully to all three.

3. The full SIO committee consists of:
    a. The chapter's SIO co-chairs, Electoral Chair, and Electoral Co-Chair
    b. The chapter co-chairs and campaigns coordinator
    c. One democratically elected representative from the each of the following: Electoral Committee, Eco-Socialist Working Group, and Labor Working Group
    d. All endorsed elected officials and members of their staff
    e. All endorsed candidates for elected office

    All members of the full SIO committee have a standing invitation to all SIO committee meetings. Members of the Steering Committee may attend SIO committee meetings as non-voting guests.
4. Other individuals may be temporarily invited to SIO meetings following a vote of the SIO committee chairs if they meet all of the following criteria:
    a. Their presence at the meeting advances a specific priority related to one of the above goals of the SIO committee;
    b. They are willing to work with Metro Detroit DSA and our electeds to advance our goals in the long term and build a lasting organizing relationship, beyond any immediate campaign or activity;
    c. No endorsed elected member of the SIO committee objects to their invitation.
5. The role of the three SIO co-chairs is to facilitate communication between our electeds and our chapter in service of the goals stated above. The SIO co-chairs shall be jointly responsible for organizing:
    a. A secure group chat including all members of the full SIO committee to facilitate constant communication amongst our electeds and chapter leaders;

b. At least monthly virtual meetings of the full SIO committee, including socialists in office and/or representatives from their offices;
c. In-person SIO summit meetings of the full SIO committee at least 3 times per year;
d. Additional zoom or in-person meetings as needed to address specific issues or opportunities as they arise.

In order to ensure a regular meeting cadence and help the SIO committee achieve its goals, monthly SIO committee meetings will occur at a regular time every month, and will proceed even if not every elected member is able to attend.

6. Regular meetings of the SIO committee will be structured in line with the stated goals of our SIO committee. Each regular meeting will follow a set agenda including sections relating to each goal. These sections will cover priorities connected to the corresponding goal, including but not limited to:
    a. Cadre-building: Opportunities for Metro Detroit DSA to secure election wins and opportunities to strengthen our connections with elected allies or community groups; Discussions of how our elected officials can work together to support each other across levels of government;
    b. Priority Issues: Discussions about priority issues in the communities our socialists in office represent; opportunities for Metro Detroit DSA to support our electeds in their official capacity to support or oppose legislation and/or other official acts; building community support for campaigns around our specific demands;
    c. Organizing Actions: Direct asks for our elected officials arising out of our endorsed campaigns; ongoing collaboration on outward-facing projects such as campaign schools and workplace organizing trainings; proposals from electeds to organize their constituents; report-outs from socialists in office about the work happening in their local geographic organizing group.
7. In districts where MD-DSA has socialists in office, the SIO committee, working in coordination with the Electoral Committee, shall strive to organize subcommittees of DSA members within those districts tasked with identifying and developing local electoral and issue campaigns, community events, and other public-facing actions that advance the goals of MD-DSA. Such campaigns must still go through the normal chapter campaigns process. Such subcommittees shall strive to organize campaigns that are in line with the chapter's already endorsed priority campaigns.
    a. Local organizing subcommittees do not preclude any member(s) in good standing from proposing events, actions, or campaigns to the SIO Committee to consider.
8. To ensure the effective implementation of local organizing subcommittees, the SIO Committee Co-Chairs shall:

a. Provide, at minimum, quarterly updates to the Steering Committee on the progress of the local organizing subcommittees, and to the General Membership at the monthly GM's.
b. Within four weeks of Chapter Convention:
    i. Identify, with the support of relevant committees, subcommittees, and working groups, at least two distinct geographic regions represented by chapter-endorsed electeds to prioritize for local organizing and identify potential leaders living in the geographies to launch the local organizing subcommittees;
    ii. Present the identified geographies and prospective leaders to the Steering Committee, and to General Membership at the subsequent General Membership meeting.
c. Within six weeks of Chapter Convention:
    i. Develop and execute, with the assistance of the Membership Engagement Committee, an internal recruitment drive of members living in and around the identified geographic organizing nodes, and publicize, via at least three internal communications, the formation of the organizing subcommittees;
    ii. Work with SIO's (if desired) to appoint Organizing Liaisons who are tasked with, as needed, assisting the SIO Committee and organizing subcommittees in developing, scheduling, and executing one-off events, recurring actions, and public facing activities with SIO's.
        1. Organizing Liaisons are appointed to six month terms at the request of an individual SIO by majority vote of the SIO Co-Chairs, and are subject to removal by a unanimous vote of the SIO Committee Co-Chairs.
        2. Organizing Liaisons may, by majority vote of the SIO Co-Chairs, be delegated various responsibilities and tasks necessary to enact the SIO Committee and Organizing Subcommittee's democratically adopted agenda.
    iii. Schedule an initial meeting between identified potential leaders, and interested rank-and-file members in both local nodes.
d. Within eight weeks of Chapter Convention:
    i. Hold the initial meeting of local organizing subcommittees, including the democratic election of Co-Chairs for each local subcommittee in accordance to chapter bylaws;
    ii. Schedule or have held an SIO event for each geography;

iii. Established a regular schedule for local organizing subcommittees, to meet at minimum monthly.

e. Within six months of Chapter Convention:

i. Prepare a report to the Steering Committee and Membership that identifies the successes, areas for improvement, and other recommendations to be considered when considering additional local organizing opportunities.

9. The SIO Committee is tasked with identifying electoral campaign support needs from current SIO's, and developing a democratically accountable plan to advance coherence and agreement between the chapter's electoral strategy and current SIO's. To achieve this the SIO Committee Co-Chairs shall:

a. Following an affirmative endorsement vote by membership, schedule a meeting between the endorsed candidate(s), the Electoral Committee Co-Chairs, Campaigns Coordinator, and current SIO's or their representatives no later than 4 weeks following the vote to develop an SIO campaign support plan.

b. This plan needs substantive buy-in by SIOs, and is subject to approval by a majority vote of the SIO Committee Co-Chairs. The plan should consider at minimum:

i. Public Endorsements, if requested;

ii. Fundraising and Institutional support, as applicable;

iii. Joint events, as applicable;

iv. Additional support recommended by SIO's.

c. When the SIO Committee approves an endorsement support plan, it is an expectation that SIOs shall act as a block to support MD-DSA's democratically adopted strategy. If an SIO disregards the support plan, the SIO Co-Chairs may recommend censure or withdrawal of endorsement of the SIO in question, to be considered by general membership as soon as practical.

Signed:

1. Mikal Goodman
2. Ali Hallal
3. Chris Gilmer-Hill
4. Jess Newman
5. Aaron Bager
6. Phil Bianco
7. Francesca Stephenson
8. Rose Castilla
9. Isabel Castilla

10. Ricardo Caudillo
11. Justin Skytta
12. Gary Walker
13. Tom McBride
14. Jack Dalton
15. Melina H.
16. Madeline Wyatt
17. Liam McCormick
18. Lila Brickner