

Resolution on the 2029 City Council Strategy: Electing a Socialist Speaker and Building an Independent Socialist Pole

Preamble

Whereas, Zohran Mamdani's 2025 election as Mayor of New York City represented a historic breakthrough for socialist politics in the United States, and his administration has delivered material gains for working-class New Yorkers, including universal childcare in coordination with New York State;

Whereas, the constraints of mayoral governance—including negotiations with the governor, the City Council, and the business lobby—have led the administration to adopt a managerial governing style that sidelines key left demands, including police reform, the expansion of community safety infrastructure, and the stopping of Zionist land sale events, in favor of "practical" deliverables;

Whereas, the experience of the Obama and Biden administrations demonstrates that when left governments deliver material improvements while sidelining bolder demands, disillusionment is monopolized by the right in the absence of an organized pole to the left;

Whereas, Zohran's identity as a socialist and his continued popularity distinguish him from Obama and Biden, but do not eliminate the structural risk that a left vacuum will be filled by reaction;

Whereas, it is therefore vital to maintain an organized, independent socialist pole in New York City politics — one that keeps the banner flying for demands the administration is unwilling or unable to address, so that that discontentment with Zohran does not only flow rightward;

Whereas, the New York City Council, with Julie Menin as the current speaker, presents both a barrier to Zohran's agenda and an opportunity to build that independent pole in his second term;

Whereas, Zohran remains broadly popular and is (at this moment) well-positioned for reelection in 2029, creating a potential down-ballot opportunity for DSA to contest City Council races;

Whereas, City Council members are not bound by the same constraints as the mayor and can champion radical demands that the administration cannot;

Whereas, DSA holds four City Council seats: Tiffany Cabán (CD-22), Alexa Avilés (CD-38), Chi Ossé (CD-36), and Shahana Hanif (CD-39) — and all four representatives are term-limited in 2029, meaning the bloc's core terrain must be held through succession races rather than incumbent defense;

Whereas, more than two-thirds of the City Council's membership will be term-limited in 2029, creating an unprecedented opportunity to reshape the body;

Therefore, should NYC-DSA endorse Zohran for Mayor in 2029, **be it resolved as follows.**

Section 1 — Principles

1.1 Socialist Speaker. DSA aspires to elect a DSA member as Speaker of the City Council. If this is not achievable in 2029, DSA lends support for a progressive Zohran ally as a fallback.

1.2 The Independent Pole. DSA will maintain an organized socialist pole in New York City politics that is analytically and programmatically independent of the Mamdani administration, even as it supports his re-election and governance. This pole exists to ensure that demands sidelined by the administration have an organized expression, and that disillusionment with the administration can be channeled leftward with a socialist pole, rather than allowing the right to monopolize all discontentment with the administration.

1.3 Critical Support. The socialist bloc in the City Council will support Zohran on existential questions — budget passage, speaker selection, and defense against state preemption — while being prepared to offer formal dissents when strategic and championing demands the administration cannot. Criticism is internal to the coalition; its purpose is to strengthen Zohran against the right, not to weaken him.

1.4 The Laboratory. The City Council is the site where DSA tests and normalizes bolder policy — including police reform and the expansion of a Department of Community Safety — that the mayor's office will not or cannot at this moment champion. The laboratory function is geographically bounded: it is concentrated in districts where Zohran's margin is strongest, and its messaging is tested before citywide deployment.

1.5 Unity of Action. The left flank and the administration are facets of a single coalition. The goal is the construction of a multi-faceted socialist pole capable of challenging the right.

Section 2 — Electoral Strategy

2.1 Anchor Districts and the "Commie Corridor." DSA's 2029 City Council program is anchored in the "Commie Corridor." This corridor is the geographic base where the socialist

brand is hegemonic, where DSA infrastructure is embedded, and where socialist messaging has been tested and validated. Mamdani ran strongest in these neighborhoods, demonstrating that the corridor is a real political formation with electoral strength.

2.2 Types of Races. Candidate profile, messaging, and resource allocation will be determined by district-level power mapping, conducted by the Electoral Working Group in consultation with the City SIO Committee.

- **Succession races:** DSA-held districts where the incumbent is term-limited. These are DSA's baseline terrain. The task is to hold the bloc's four core seats through successor candidates. Recruitment is inspired by Darializa Avila Chevalier: movement-rooted socialists with demonstrated bases in their districts, willing to champion demands bolder than the administration's official position.
- **Open-seat races:** Districts without an incumbent. These are the bulk of the 2029 opportunity. The Working Group will assess each district for viability of a DSA-endorsed socialist and the appropriate messaging.
- **Incumbent challenges:** Districts where a sitting council member faces reelection. The Working Group will assess each incumbent for vulnerability, alignment with the governance mandate in Section 3, and viability of a full challenge versus a pressure campaign.

Section 3 — Implementation

3.1 City SIO Committee. The 2029 City Council strategy will be coordinated through the existing City Socialists in Office (SIO) Committee, which includes DSA elected officials, their staffers, and representatives from the Citywide Leadership Committee, geographic branches, and relevant working groups.

3.2 Tasking the Electoral Working Group. The NYC-DSA Electoral Working Group, whose existing mandate is to recruit socialist candidates for local office and build field programs to support them, will be tasked with executing the electoral components of this resolution. Specifically, the Electoral Working Group will:

- **Recruit and vet candidates** for succession races and for open-seat races under consideration in the Commie Corridor and adjacent districts. The EWG will also explore recruitment for additional districts where possible. Candidate recruitment should prioritize movement-rooted socialists with demonstrated bases in their districts.
- **Conduct district-level power mapping** for all target races, assessing viability of DSA-endorsed socialists, appropriate messaging, and resource requirements.

- **Assess viability of incumbent challenges** and additional targets on a district-by-district basis, determining whether a full challenge or pressure campaign is appropriate.

3.3 Relationship Between Electoral Working Group and City SIO Committee. The Electoral Working Group, in consultation with the Steering Committee and Citywide Leadership Committee as well as organizers supporting the City SIO Committee, will present a preliminary strategic plan to the chapter no later than one year after the passage of this resolution. This preliminary plan will include district-level power mapping, candidate recruitment targets for succession races, and initial messaging testing results. A full strategic plan will be presented one year later, incorporating the results of the 2028 federal and state elections and their implications for the 2029 City Council terrain.

3.4 Report Back. The Electoral Working Group, in consultation with the Steering Committee and Citywide Leadership Committee as well as the City SIO Committee, will present a full strategic plan to the chapter no later than one year after the passage of this resolution, including district-by-district assessments, candidate recruitment progress, and messaging testing results.

Be it further resolved that the chapter commits itself to the strategy outlined above and directs the City SIO Committee and EWG to begin implementation immediately.