

RESOLUTION TO BEGIN THE PROCESS TO BUILD THE TEXAS STATEWIDE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

WHEREAS, we have developed a national political program titled “Workers Deserve More” that challenges the political hegemony of the far-right Republicans and corporate Democrats, of which we claim that ‘neither party is capable of advancing a positive program... that meets the needs of the majority of Americans’;

WHEREAS, we have seen incredible electoral victories across the nation and within our state – victories such as [insert electoral wins] – and plebiscites that have torn past conceptions of voters as uninterested in progressive or socialistic policies;

WHEREAS, along with great wins we have faced honorable defeats, from which we have learned valuable lessons that must be shared across chapters;

WHEREAS, our victories and defeats are confined to the local – what is learnt in our chapter is seldom shared to our comrades in other chapters;

WHEREAS, beyond skill-sharing, a major challenge for running our comrades for political offices is on the question of funds, which may be simpler for some chapters while prove more difficult for others;

WHEREAS, if we hope to make an impact in the state congresses as we have envisioned doing for years, we would need to make electoral interventions across the state to show our strength as a unified socialist movement;

WHEREAS, such victories can elevate our prestige as the political and social alternative to the status quo, strengthening our work intervening in labor, mutual and direct aid, immigrant rights, housing, etc.;

WHEREAS, our strength lies in both the varied work we do, and the numbers and links we have between cities, states, etc.;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Houston chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America announces its intent to collaborate with fellow chapters to develop an electoral commission for Texas, which will have in its task the following:

- A. Serve as the principal body to explore conditions for elections within the state and our possibilities for interventions. This would include the maximum number of candidates we can reasonably field, whether we can run candidates under an independent party line, as Democratic Socialists (given third party laws are lax enough to develop DSA as a statewide party), or as Democrats who challenge existing electoral laws
- B. Create a united electoral fund to ensure all chapters participating have well-funded campaigns that are principally funded by the DSA, strengthening our organization for further political independence
- C. Train potential candidates key skills socialist elected officials should have, such as orating and campaigning, to provide the confidence and skills necessary for our core members to serve as representatives of the working class
- D. Provide a collaborative network for designing and printing electoral propaganda
- E. Serve as the central communicative body between local chapters and the National Electoral Committee, freeing up capacity on a national standpoint to be able to support our electoral work in broader capacities on one end, and maximizing the efficiency of our volunteer labor via skill-sharing, cross-chapter propaganda development, etc.;

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the internal organization of the Texas Electoral Commission will be worked out by delegations of the state's DSA chapters, of which have at least a single representative from every DSA chapter;

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the chapter will endeavor, by way of our Electoral Working Group or Committee, to identify and recruit core members to run for key elected positions in areas most strategic to build a working class socialist base. Such persons will be presented to the State Electoral Commission to ensure they can be funded to run and be subsequently trained and prepared for their respective campaigns.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that our chapter will draft a call to our fellow state chapters to present this resolution to their respective bodies for consideration and passage as a way to create a democratically-decided course of action, with the intent of holding a statewide convention in August after the National Convention. The convention will serve as an in-person space to work out the particularities of the electoral commission, its structures, its delegations, and the means of communication between it and the various chapters.