

**PRIORITY CAMPAIGN RESOLUTION: LABOR SOLIDARITY**  
EAST BAY DSA  
2022 CONVENTION

Submitted by: Maddy Grace W. and Richard M.

**Preamble**

At our last Convention in May 2021, East Bay DSA's membership adopted a [platform](#) with an organizational priority of Rank-and-File Labor Support & Solidarity, asserting that "Winning socialism will require a level of working class organization and militancy not seen in this country for nearly a century."

Since then, the level of rank-and-file militancy—nationally and especially in California—has increased sharply. From last Fall's "Striketober" wave of public- and private-sector labor actions to the stunning rank-and-file organizing victories at Amazon and Starbucks to the gains in union democracy made by reform caucuses at UAW and the Teamsters, it is clear that the U.S. has entered a period in which militant working class struggle is spreading organically. Historically, in periods like this, working class self-activity has spread rapidly, class consciousness grown abruptly, and major classwide gains been won that previously had seemed impossible. Our role as socialists is to support this organic militancy in every way that we can. This requires a sharper focus on the goals and tasks of our labor solidarity work in the coming year, and beyond.

The past successes of East Bay DSA's labor solidarity work provide a solid grounding for us to scale up to meet the needs and opportunities of the moment. This includes our chapter's picket line support for [AFSCME 3299 workers](#) in their 2018 strike against the University of California, our major strike solidarity campaign in support of the Oakland Education Association's [inspiring 2019 teachers' strike](#), our support for the [successful](#) 2020 strike of public healthcare workers at SEIU 2021 and CNA [against the Alameda Health System](#), and our solidarity work with the frontline AC Transit workers of ATU 192, including [a pre-strike solidarity campaign in 2019](#) and the [hazard pay campaign](#) we helped rank-and-file organizers [win](#) this year.

It also includes the work of the East Bay Labor Solidarity group, which was informally organized by members of East Bay DSA in 2021 as an early response to Striketober, and has, among other things, identified active and potential strike activity, turned out members to picket lines, raised funds, and recruited chapter members to engage in solidarity work with unions such as IUOE 39, NUHW, CNA, OEA, IAM, and Unite Summit, developing the skills and leadership of members in the process.

**A list of concrete, achievable tasks/goals**

Goals:

Goal 1: Engage hundreds of members of our chapter, and multiple committees and working groups, in supporting worker-led labor struggles during a historic rise in rank-and-file labor militancy, building our capacity as socialist organizers and deepening our relationships with militant members of the East Bay's multiracial working class.

Goal 2: Across multiple labor struggles, both anticipated and unanticipated, play the historic role

of socialists at times of mass rank-and-file labor militancy by (1) providing workplace struggles with decisive organizing support, (2) helping connect them to other struggles, and (3) defending them against class-collaboration and co-optation.

Goal 3: Support Oakland's education workers, students, parents and the broader community in winning common-good demands, including better school staffing, safe schools, and an end to school closures.

#### Tasks:

Task 1: Prepare for and engage in supporting a likely strike of the Oakland Education Association (OEA), building on our successful chapter-wide OEA strike solidarity campaign in 2018-19. This support will be planned and executed in maximum coordination and communication with East Bay DSA's OEA members.

Task 2: Provide solidarity and material support to other militant labor struggles in the Bay Area, anticipated and unanticipated, and conduct advance planning for anticipated campaigns. The nature of the support, including activities and messaging, will be determined by the needs of the affected workforce.

Task 3: To achieve the foregoing tasks and goals, formalize and expand the existing East Bay Labor Solidarity group into a subcommittee of East Bay DSA's Labor Committee, tasked with planning, coordinating and/or executing all labor solidarity actions of the chapter. Members of East Bay Labor Solidarity (EBLS) will connect with workers engaged in labor struggle, determine how East Bay DSA can best support them, and then carry out that support, in collaboration with the Labor Committee and other relevant East Bay DSA committees. EBLS will recruit to engage chapter membership in labor solidarity work, both to participate in individual campaigns and in the broader, ongoing committee work of EBLS.

Task 4: In carrying out this work, EBLS will center membership development and recruitment, using support actions as opportunities to bring in new members, and enable existing members to learn new skills, gain a deeper understanding of class struggle, and build confidence so that members can become skilled organizers and leaders of future solidarity campaigns.

#### **A plan to achieve those goals including, if possible, who will be responsible for organizing each task**

The members who have signed in support of this resolution have each pledged to be part of the East Bay Labor Solidarity Committee and/or to engage in other parts of this campaign by playing a range of leadership and other roles, including recruiting dozens more members to engage in the planning and execution of the campaign.

The East Bay Labor Solidarity Committee will prepare, with input from multiple committees and working groups within the chapter, a detailed implementation plan. That plan will include the following components, among others:

- Monitor emerging East Bay labor struggles in order to become aware of solidarity opportunities by using existing means and developing new ones. (Examples: following social media and emails of various unions and labor councils, actively researching unions in the area, establishing individual contacts in various sectors and workplaces.)

- When a solidarity opportunity is discovered, spread the word within the chapter to activate a list of interested members and committees within the chapter to engage in the campaign working group. (Examples: Majority articles, chapter email and text blasts, phone and text banking, presentations at membership and committee meetings.)
- For each solidarity opportunity, engage interested members and committees within the chapter in activities that include:
  1. Establishing contacts and developing trust with the relevant union(s) at the rank-and-file level and, where possible, with elected leadership.
  2. Assessing the situation with the union contacts to discover the major demands and solidarity needs, and preparing a “game plan” for the struggle to fulfill the asks. (Examples: picket turnout, fundraising, direct action, media.)
  3. Based on the “game plan,” recruit East Bay DSA members to fill necessary roles and form a campaign working group. This working group will exist for the duration of the struggle and take responsibility for its support.
  4. Execute the game plan while maintaining regular communication with the union contacts and East Bay DSA’s membership. In particular, EBLS shall maintain regular communication with, and rely on input and leadership from, the chapter’s Labor Committee and East Bay DSA members who are union members in particular sectors, such as the Education Workers Labor Circle.
  5. For larger/longer-term campaigns, assist other committees and/or workers directly involved in the struggle in holding educational meetings about the struggle in question.
  6. Hold a debrief discussion of the campaign, documenting lessons learned, and setting out next steps for continuing to build the relationships with the union and its rank-and-file leaders.
- Plan events, media, and other forms of outreach to recruit new members to campaign working groups, including members of East Bay DSA, other local DSA and YDSA chapters, and interested union and community members.
- In the case of labor actions that have a scope broader than the East Bay, collaborate with the Labor Committee of California DSA, and other DSA and YDSA chapters engaged in the campaign.
- Provide opportunities for our members to develop their organizing and leadership skills. (Examples: bottomlining a phone bank, graphic design, writing for Majority, research, 1:1s, strategic analysis and leadership, co-leading a campaign working group.)
- Report back at monthly Labor Committee meetings. Hold regular, open meetings of the East Bay Labor Solidarity Subcommittee to keep members updated on fast-moving developments, share updates from campaign working groups and others on the latest work, and promote/recruit for ongoing game plans.

Measures of the campaign’s success will include:

- How many militant labor struggles East Bay DSA supports on the picket lines, through communications, and in other ways
- How many DSA members actively engage in the work of EBLS (target: 2 dozen or more)
- How many DSA members engage in labor solidarity activities overall (target: 100 or more)
- How many new members, including workers, join DSA through relationships forged in the labor struggles we support

### **Request for resources from chapter, if necessary**

This urgent priority campaign, like the Bernie Sanders campaign in 2018-20, will require a major mobilization of our members to successfully support the rapidly-spreading consciousness and self-activity of the multiracial working class, as we can anticipate a number of major strikes and unionization efforts occurring in rapid succession and/or simultaneously.

This campaign will require access to the EBDSA NationBuilder and Spoke accounts, the ability to phone bank and email East Bay DSA membership as needed, and physical chapter materials such as banners. It will also require support from chapter social media and design volunteers.

The need for extraordinary financial resources is not currently anticipated, but the East Bay Labor Solidarity Subcommittee will assess and bring any financial needs to the attention of the Steering Committee as soon as they arise. For instance, the East Bay Labor Solidarity Subcommittee may consider recommending that the chapter vote to create, and fundraise for, a standing chapter strike or campaign fund.

### **A fundraising plan, if significant monetary resources are needed**

Not applicable, see above. However, it is possible that campaigns will engage in fundraising efforts to contribute to strike funds, or another effort along the lines of the [Bread for Ed](#) project we mounted in support of the 2019 Oakland teachers' strike.

### **10 signatures of members who are interested in organizing the campaign**

*(Names in **bold** are members who have committed to participate in and/or lead East Bay Labor Solidarity; others have committed to participate in campaign and recruitment activities)*

1. **Maddy Grace W.**
2. **Medb G.**
3. **Hasan A.**
4. **Tim T.**
5. **Carla W.**
6. **Richard M.**
7. **Keith B.B.**
8. **Ashley P.**
9. **Cyn H.**
10. **Zach M.**
11. **Lexi R.**
12. **Ana M.**
13. **Jamie G.**
14. Abigail G-G
15. Ari M.
16. Dori G.
17. Daria K.
18. Ella T.
19. Joty D.
20. Matt S.
21. Michael S.
22. Molly S.
23. Nathan S.

24. Shane R.
25. Tim M.
26. Vilma S.