

National-Chapter Agreement Bylaws Amendments: Compliance Omnibus - Wash F.

June 2026

Whereas, the 2025 National DSA Convention passed the Democracy Commission Structural Reform omnibus (which includes [CB01](#) and [CR01](#)) and [Unified Grievance Policy](#);

Whereas, chapters are required to maintain compliance with the Chapter Agreement within the omnibus and all other national requirements to maintain good standing. The following resolved clauses are intended to fulfill the [requirements](#) set forth for chapters to have in the Chapter Agreement and Unified Grievance Policy;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Bylaws of the New Orleans DSA be amended in the following ways:

[Article 2: Basic Organization and Conventions] Section 1: General Membership.

The General Membership of the Local, meeting in a synchronous Convention, Special Meeting, or General Meeting shall be the highest legislative decision-making body of the organization, providing that Special Meetings shall have the authority to deal with only those matters for which they may be called.

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[Article 3: Membership] Section 1: Definition. ...

Members in good standing will include all DSA members who have paid dues within the last year or who have paid lifetime dues, as verified by the National Office, and are not currently suspended or terminated from the Local. ~~All Local members in good standing shall have full and equal rights of membership.~~

Section 2: Voting and Office. All Members in good standing comprise the Membership and shall be eligible to vote on Resolutions, Bylaws, and other chapterwide motions, as well as all committee-level votes.

Once members have been in good standing for 30 days, they may also:

- ~~1. Vote in all elections and matters brought before the Membership;~~
- ~~2.~~ 1. Be elected or appointed to office in the Local;
- ~~3.~~ 2. Be appointed as delegates from the Local to any Regional, State, or National DSA convenings; and
3. Vote in elections for chapter officers or delegates to Regional, State, or National convenings.

In elections for chapter officers or national delegates, all voters and candidates must be a current member in good standing of National DSA 30 days prior to (and until) the election in order to participate.

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[Article 4: Election of Officers] Section 1: Nominations and Notice. ... All leadership positions shall be elected at Local Convention or in a General Meeting and voted on by all members who have been in good standing for at least 30 days prior to the election, in accordance with the rules specified in these Bylaws.

Section 2: Process. The elections process shall be fair, transparent, and democratic. The Local Council will be responsible for ensuring that elections are held, and may appoint an Elections Committee to oversee the process. No candidate may run their own election. The process of the election shall be ranked choice for every contested position. All nominees are expected to disclose other organizational and political affiliations.

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Section 4: Member Discipline, Suspension, and Expulsion. Pursuant to the National DSA constitution, the Local Council shall have the power to suspend or expel members from the Local. A two-thirds vote is required to suspend or expel a member and votes must be a matter of record. The Local Council alone will have the power to suspend or expel a member from the Local. In all cases, prior to discipline, the Local Council should consider and abide by the principles of privacy, accountability, and restorative justice. Members can be suspended or expelled:

1. If they are found to have maliciously inflicted serious emotional or physical harm against another member or otherwise violate the Code of Conduct;
2. If they are found to be in substantial disagreement with the principles or policies of the organization, including, but not limited to, engaging in behavior or speech that violates DSA's commitment to anti-racism, feminist socialism, and equality;
3. If they consistently engage in undemocratic, disruptive behavior;
4. or if they are found to be engaging in intentionally subversive activities or acting on behalf of or under the direction of another organization or body aiming to disrupt the Local's activities, membership, or events.

Nothing included in the Chapter Code of Conduct or Chapter Bylaws, and no actions taken by the Local Council or HGOs, should overrule or violate the [National Unified Grievance Policy](#), [National Code of Conduct for Members](#), or other national-level policies. Any local policy or action by Local Council or HGO(s) which appears to contradict national guidance should be reported to Local Council.

Section 4(a). Harassment and Grievance Officers (HGOs): In line with the Unified Grievance Policy, the chapter will have at least two HGOs available to assist with the cases in which a member reports harassment or alleges violations of the National or Local Code of Conducts. Responsibilities include:

1. Maintaining and monitoring the hgo@neworleansdsa.org email, accessible only to HGOs, which serves as a hotline for reporting complaints;
2. Investigate formal complaints and disciplinary referrals by Local Council or an HGO in line with the Unified Grievance Policy, including recommending any preliminary actions be taken by Local Council and producing a confidential report for LC detailing the outcomes of the investigation;
3. Maintain strict confidentiality protocols protecting the rights, safety, and dignity of all parties involved;
4. Recuse themselves from any matter in which they have, or are likely to have, a conflict of interest, and report such to Local Council;
5. Monitor for retaliation as described in Section 10(c) in the Unified Grievance Policy and open new complaints into any person(s) engaged in retaliatory conduct; and
6. Serve as a resource for Local Council and other members to ask questions regarding concerns not yet elevated to a formal grievance.

HGOs may not simultaneously serve on Local Council. HGOs will be appointed by Local Council on an annual basis and affirmed by General Membership at the following meeting.

Section 4(b). Political Discipline: Political discipline and expulsion is that which is done on the basis of the first criterion of Article I, Section 3 of National DSA's Bylaws, "substantial disagreement with the principles or policies of the organization."

HGOs and national bodies which are primarily responsible for components of the grievance process have no role in the investigation or adjudication of a member's political conduct. DSA's political decision-making bodies, namely the Local Council, chapter general bodies, National Political Committee, and the National Convention, have sole authority over political expulsions. No article of the Unified Grievance Policy applies to disciplinary processes on the basis of political disagreement, except for Section 13: Political Discipline.

Members facing political expulsion must receive specific written notice of the charges against them and must be given the opportunity to be heard before the body responsible for adjudicating the charges. There is a general policy of transparency for all political disciplinary processes. The pertinent political information used to justify any political expulsion must be disclosed to the general membership.

Section 4(c). Right to Appeal: In cases of formal grievance processes, a complaining member, accused member, or chapter HGO may appeal the Local Council's adjudication to the National Political Committee. Members may not appeal temporary discipline pending the outcome of a grievance decision unless 120 days have passed since the

member was notified of the temporary discipline measure. This will be done through working with the National Grievance Panel; chapters and/or parties are not permitted to “lobby” the NPC about their desired outcome on appeal and efforts to do so may be considered retaliation.

A member expelled on political grounds may appeal their expulsion. Political expulsion by the Local Council may be appealed to the chapter general body. Political expulsion by a chapter general body may be appealed to the National Political Committee. Political expulsion by the National Political Committee may be appealed to the National Convention.

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[Article 5: Local Council] ...

Section 2(c). Secretary: The Secretary is responsible for taking minutes of all General Membership and Local Council meetings, and shall be responsible for publishing these minutes, as well as resolutions, reports, and other official records of the Local. The Secretary may appoint, but must oversee, a temporary proxy minutes-taker for any meeting. That proxy may not vote on behalf of the Secretary. Additionally:

1. The Secretary shall transfer official records in good condition to their successor;
2. The Secretary will assume the responsibilities of one of the Co-Chairs, if both Co-Chairs and the Membership Chair are unable to do so;
3. The Secretary shall report to National DSA all amendments to the Bylaws, the results of elections for Local Council members, and any resignations or removals of Local Council members within 30 days of any elections, appointments, or changes; and
4. The Secretary shall submit to National DSA the minutes of chapter general body meetings at which votes are taken, including monthly General Meetings and Local Convention, within 30 days of their approval.

Section 2(d). Treasurer: The Treasurer will be responsible for administration of funds, budget, and financial organization of the Local, including overseeing fundraising activities for the Local. The Treasurer will provide:

1. ~~A~~ Provide a report to the Local Council on the financial status of the organization at each Local Council meeting, according to the agreed uniform system of bookkeeping;
2. ~~A report to the General Meetings on~~ Present the financial status of the organization at each General Meeting, in accordance with the financial controls and policies developed by the Finance Committee;
3. Develop and publish to membership a budget updated annually; and
4. ~~And~~ Maintain transparent and open financial reports available to the entire membership upon request by an officer of the Local Council.

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[Article 10: Rules of Order] Section 4: Rules of Conduct. All members are subject to the National [DSA Code of Conduct for Members](#). Additionally, t The Chapter must maintain a public Chapter Code of Conduct which provides expectations for all those who participate in DSA meetings, conferences, and other public-facing events, as well as the consequences for unacceptable behavior. That includes DSA members, allies, vendors, donors, supporters, and others.

Resolved, the following is added to Article 9: Amendments --

Section 4. No amendment to these bylaws may be in conflict with the National DSA Constitution and Bylaws. The Chapter will provide the amended bylaws to the DSA National office within 30 days of a change being made.

Resolved, the following is added to the New Orleans DSA Meeting Code of Conduct in line with the Unified Grievance Policy and using text from both it and the National [Member Code of Conduct](#):

4. Consequences of Unacceptable Behavior ...

The LC and HGOs are committed to addressing members' or leaders' unacceptable behavior while creating a process for everyone to account for their actions, transform their behavior, and respond to accusations, as long as that process does not allow further harm to thrive. This will be done in line with National DSA's [Unified Grievance Policy](#). Additionally, tThe LC and HGOs will work with community members who experience harm to contribute to shaping this restorative process, if they desire to do so.

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5. Reporting Guidelines

Anyone who is subject to or witnesses any unacceptable conduct should report that conduct to a chapter HGO (harassment and grievance officer) or Local Council member. They may do so through direct communication methods or by using the confidential email accessible to HGOs exclusively (hgo@dsaneworleans.org).

The HGO or Local Council member will determine whether the conduct violates the code of conduct and/or rises to a potential violation of DSA's [anti-harassment policy \(Resolution 33\)](#), and if so, can assist with filing a grievance regarding the potential violation. The HGO will investigate violations of this code of conduct pursuant to the [Unified Grievance Policy](#) and standards established by National DSA for investigations under Resolution 33, and will make recommendations to the Local Council on remedial action. Such action can include, but is not limited to, no-contact orders, suspension, and, where appropriate, expulsion. Expulsions can be appealed to the National Political Committee (NPC) of DSA, following the appeals process authorized by Resolution 33 and described in the Unified Grievance Policy.

~~If you are subject to or witness unacceptable behavior, or have any other concerns, please notify a meeting marshal, an HGO, or DSA officer (including the elected chapter leadership and/or meeting or committee chair).~~

Solely as an option of critical need, depending on the nature of the conduct, DSA officers may help community members engage with local law enforcement or to otherwise help those experiencing unacceptable behavior feel safe. At in-person events, organizers will also provide escorts as desired by the person experiencing distress.

No confidential grievance information will be disclosed to law enforcement or any party to a civil lawsuit without a valid and enforceable subpoena requesting said information. If a subpoena or informal request for information or evidence from anyone outside of the parties or in relation to any legal, judicial, administrative or other kind of action is received, the Local Council will contact the National Grievance Chairs immediately.

~~Chapter HGOs (harassment grievance officers) can assist with filing a grievance for a potential violation of DSA's harassment policy, Resolution 33, and/or chapter codes of conduct. If an HGO is not present at the meeting, please contact a chapter officer or look on the chapter website to obtain the confidential email address to submit a grievance.~~

Resolved, the newly elected Local Council will appoint two HGOs by the date of the August General Meeting in order to achieve full compliance with national policy.