

## **Resolution for the creation of standards to evaluate chapter work**

Laura W and Cate R.

**Whereas** DSA is a big tent organization with members of various political tendencies and at different stages of political development;

**Whereas** every New Orleans DSA member should be empowered to shape the work of the chapter;

**Whereas** New Orleans DSA does not have standards to weigh the strategic benefits of taking up work;

**Whereas** the lack of these standards relies on members individual political beliefs and understanding of the political landscape, power structures, and the chapter itself to drive the work of the chapter;

**Whereas** business presented to the membership without standards for the evaluation often results in the membership being asked to approve business rather than participate in a deliberative debate;

**Be it resolved** that New Orleans DSA adopt the following as a publicly available member resource

**Be it resolved** that the following shall be included in agendas and packets whenever business is being conducted

**Be it resolved** that the following is a rubric for the evaluation of potential chapter work, and that the membership shall retain all voting rights regardless of whether a proposal meets these standards

- How is this work socialist?
- Does this work present opportunities to struggle alongside the BIPOC working class?
  - Which workers are most directly affected by this campaign, and how do we organize with them?
- How does this work build power for the working class?
- What other community support will be necessary to win? (Churches, politicians, activist groups, labor unions, parents, etc.)
- What is the history of this work in New Orleans, and do we have the capacity to power map our organizing conditions?
- What does victory look like?
  - What are some benchmarks and escalation opportunities?
  - What are our red lines, or non-negotiable positions?
- Does this campaign grow the chapter?

- Is it something that will be identified with New Orleans DSA, to raise our visibility among the city's working class and create an incentive for people to join?
  - Does this work actively recruit new members through a structured campaign, or rely on activist interest and passive recruitment?
- Is this campaign scalable?
  - Are there opportunities for members of all levels of chapter involvement to participate in this work?
  - Is it something dozens of members can participate in at one point or another?
- Who will lead this campaign? How many leaders will need to be elected from the general membership? What will the terms be?
- What are the capacity needs from the membership and from established Committees and/or working groups?
- What chapter resources will this work require?
  - Membership mobilization, design, social media, budget, GSuite
- Will this work involve working in coalition with other New Orleans organizations?
  - Are we in a position to lead and/or pull the strategy left?
  - Which organization/s? How do our principles align/where do our principles deviate?
  - Do we have an established relationship with these organizations?
- What training, political education, and membership development will be a part of this campaign?
  - Six-step organizing conversations?
  - Power mapping?
  - Historical context?
- What is our plan to debrief? How will we evaluate and integrate these lessons into our institutional knowledge?