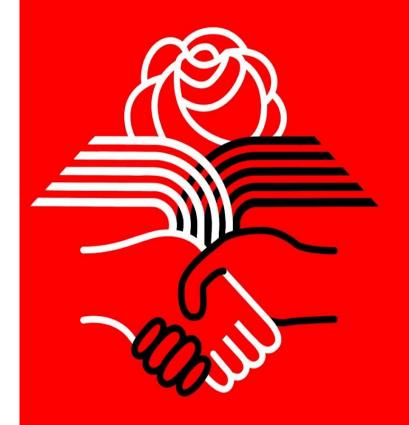
# **A New Endorsement Policy**



# Democratic Socialists of America Portland, Oregon





### Why a new endorsement policy?

- City council elections in 2024!
- Putting socialist politics forward and building DSA!
- Maximizing our rank-and-file labor strength and coalition work!
- Supporting candidates and holding them accountable to our politics!

# The path to endorsement

#### Endorsement Application and Nomination

- A candidate applies for an endorsement on chapter website
- A form is created for chapter members to sign onto
- 25 members in good standing must sign the form to move the endorsement forward

#### Endorsement Questionnaire

- Our endorsement questionnaire is sent to the candidate and they fill it out
- Responses are distributed to chapter membership to review 2+ weeks in advance of the GM

### Discussion and debate at GM

- The candidate attends a general meeting to present themselves to membership
- Members ask questions of the candidate, and discuss/debate whether or not the chapter should endorse

### Win 2/3rds of the vote at a GM

 In accordance with chapter bylaws, an endorsement requires a 2/3rds vote of membership at a GM

# Two types of endorsement

#### CADRE ENDORSEMENT

DSA member & organizer who is committed to the DSA platform

Meets with chapter twice monthly

Required to identify as democratic socialist

Campaign is a chapter run project

Required to endorse all other DSA cadre candidates

Will form a socialist caucus when elected

#### EXTERNAL ENDORSEMENT

Aligns with chapter values but may not be a DSA member

Asked to support DSA platform -- members decide if commitment is sufficent

DSA is independently branded as a coalition partner of campaign

> DSA has our own message within a coalition

## Why have two endorsement treacks?

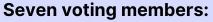
- The most democratic setup
- Trusts members to make strategic decisions
- Allows for flexibility in races without DSA members
- Holds DSA leaders to clear standards
- Allows united front coalition work

### The Socialists In Office Commitee

#### What is the SIOC?



The body that coordinates between elected officials, campaigns, and the chapter





- 2 External organizing cochairs
- 2 Electoral working group cochairs
- 3 at large members elected at April GMs



Meets twice monthly, open to all chapter members

#### What does the SIOC do?



Meets with endorsed candidates and elected officials



Coordinates slates of candidates and socialist caucus in legislatures



Coordinates candidate/elected officials' support for DSA and chapter priorities



Holds candidates accountable to DSA platform, membership democracy, and chapter policies

#### Why the SIOC?

A dedicated team can both support officals and hold them accountable

It lets the chapter directly elect electoral leaders

It makes electoral work a priority

The steering committee already has a lot of responsibilities

Other chapters like NYC use this model



### To summarize:

- A candidate applies for a cadre or external endorsement
- If they get 25 signatures, they are sent the questionnaire
- They present to membership at a GM, the endorsement is discussed, and a 2/3rds vote is required to endorse
- SIOC coordinates between the chapter and the campaign/candidate to provide support and accountability
- GMs make decide on endorsements and how the chapter relates to candidates
- An electoral strategy to meet the moment and complement our organizing!