TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction 5
Statement on Transparency 5
Convention Rules 7
Convention Agenda 9
Current Chapter Structure 14
Proposals – Amendments 15

Amendment 1: Steering Committee Nonfeasance 16
Amendment 2: Un-Endorsement & Censure Clause 17
Amendment 3: Eliminate Postal Voting for Steering Elections 18
Amendment 5: 5% Quorum Requirement For General Body Meetings 19
Amendment 5.1: 10% Quorum Requirement For Bylaw Changes 20
Amendment 6: Steering Committee Automatically Admin Committee Members 21
Amendment 7: Set Annual Elections for IOC Co-Chairs 22
Amendment 8: Steering Committee Compositions & Diversity 22
Amendment 8.1: Maintain Proportionality of Steering Committee 24
Amendment 9: Campaigns Council 26
Amendment 9.2: Removal of Campaign-based Caucus Inclusion on Campaigns Council 28
Amendment 9.3: Change Classification of the Electoral Caucus to a Working Group 29
Amendment 10: Distinguish Dues from Chapter Donations 30
Amendment 11: Public Statements 31
Amendment 12: Endorsements Committee 31
Amendment 13.1: Extended Discussion and Absentee Voting (Revised) 34
Amendment 14: Livestream GBMs 36
Amendment 15: Proposals Committee

Amendment 16: Absentee Voting on All Resolutions

Amendment 17: Electoral Endorsement Process

Amendment 17.1: Two-Tiered Endorsement Structure


Amendment 18: Mandate Leave Of Absence Policies For Elected Positions

Amendment 19: Allow Less-Frequent Voting Meetings and Asynchronous Voting

Amendment 19.1: Allow Less-Frequent Voting Meetings And Alternate Meeting Types

Amendment 22: Creating Strategy Forums

Amendment 23: Allow Campaigning For Other DSA Chapter-Endorsed Candidates

Amendment 24: Publications Editorial Board

Amendment 24.1: Reducing Steering’s Involvement in the Publications Editorial Board

Amendment 24.2: PEB Composition and Diversity

Amendment 25: Three Reader Resolution Process

Amendment 25.1: Against the Restriction of Voting Rights and Inappropriate Authority to Leadership Bodies

Amendment 25.2: Introduction at Any Meeting Type

Amendment 26: Duties and Obligations of Endorsed Candidates

Amendment 26.1: Resolution Based Process to Establish Duties and Obligations

Amendment 27: Implement Required Local Suspension and Expulsion Procedures

Proposals – Resolutions

Resolution 1: Resolution on Supporting Anti-Fascist Organizing Within MDC DSA

Resolution 2: Resolution to Endorse David Schwartzman For DC Council At-Large

Resolution 3: Mandatory Endorsement Questions
INTRODUCTION

Members of Metro DC Democratic Socialists of America, welcome to our Local Convention! In less than a year’s time, so much has happened in the world it’s hard to keep track of it sometimes. But our chapter has been right there in the thick of it all the way through. From shouting down fascists in the street and chasing them out of restaurants, to the hours long meetings you have put in to help with the day-to-day minutiae of the DSA, we have all done our part. It’s time we come together in good faith to acknowledge our accomplishments and make critical decisions about the future of our chapter.

Metro DC DSA previously formed new committees and campaigns, and built branches in Montgomery County and Northern Virginia, hosted panels and town halls, and more. We have begun to see the effects of our comrades work at these efforts. NOVA & MOCO DSA have grown over the last year as well as our chapter as a whole. Together, we have fostered change in our region, made real differences in the lives of our neighbors, and built a strong community of socialists. We must continue to build on this good work and ensure the sustainability and continued growth of our chapter and the socialist movement. The goal of the Local Convention is to democratically guide our chapter priorities as we move to advance economic and social justice and build working class power locally and nationally.

We ask that members be mindful of the DSA Guidelines for Respectful Discussion. DSA is a multi-tendency, big tent organization; our members’ diversity of thought and opinion is one of our greatest strengths. Still, we come together to advance a shared vision of fighting capitalism, empowering marginalized people, and building a society where political and economic spheres are controlled by the working class, not wealthy elites.

The Steering Committee would like to thank the members of the Local Convention Working Group for drafting the convention rules, processing and organizing the numerous proposals submitted, and ensuring convention logistics run as smoothly as possible. We would also like to thank you, our rank-and-file members. Metro DC DSA is your chapter, and you are the lifeblood of this organization and this movement. We appreciate the time, energy, thoughtfulness, and dedication that you have given to our chapter, and we are grateful you are joining us today.

In Solidarity,

The Metro DC DSA Steering Committee:

Liz Golden, Chair
Gabriel Rodriguez, Treasurer
Nate Su, Secretary
Margaret McLaughlin

Kim Lehmkuhl
Stu K
Rob Wohl
Allison Hrabar

A NOTE ON CONSERVATION: This packet is extremely long and effectively a one-time use document. We ask that you please consider the ecological impact before printing a physical copy; in most cases, retaining a digital copy of the packet on your mobile device will provide a more usable experience. Additionally, all information in this packet will be visually presented at the convention.
STATEMENT ON TRANSPARENCY

The following individuals were involved in the Local Convention Working Group in varying capacities...

Walker Green  Marge McLaughlin  Caroline McCaig  Liz G.  Joe DeGraff
Arman Kalyani  Kim Lehmkuhl  Conor Arpwel  Jasper Clarkberg  Adam Maloon
Francesco R  Arjun Comar  Cameron K.  Dieter Lehmann
Derrick Crowe  Colin Downes  Gabriel R.  Woody Woodruff  Caleb-Michael Files
Nate S.  Craig T.  Karen Werner  Danny Turkel  Garrett Schaffel
Jake W.  Adam Marshall  Brandon Hinke  Brigid Hogan  Michelle
Styczynski
Michael Overholser  Aaron Marks  Mike Bushnell  Andrés Perttierra  Claire H.

Convention Rules were written by the Local Convention Working Group, expanded upon from MDC DSA’s 2017 Local Convention Rules. The rules were read and approved by Steering Committee and posted on the Local Convention page of chapter website. These rules are also subject to final approval by the Convention Body before deliberation on proposals begin.

Members involved in planning the Local Convention also sponsored and cosponsored amendments. All convention proposals were examined by members of the Proposals Committee, which included Marge M., Arman Kalyani, Francesco R., Arjun Comar, Conor Arpwel, Brian D., Colin Downes, Kim Lehmkuhl, and Walker Green. The Proposals Committee operated in a private Slack channel where members of the Committee had access to all proposals submitted on Airtable. Decisions made by the Committee were made after open discussion in the Proposal Committee’s private Slack channel.

Upon the convention’s close, all amendments and resolutions passed will move to the Styles Committee, consisting of Colin Downes, Walker Green, Natalie Villalon, and Brian Wivell, and each sponsor of every amendment passed at the convention. The Styles Committee will then formulate an updated set of bylaws that include the language passed at the convention. The Styles Committee is empowered to resolve issues when language that is deleted is amended, and to create a coherent document that does not include problematic or contradictory language. As explained during the proposals training session at the September General Body Meeting, the Styles Committee can create and/or reorganize sections of the bylaws in order to ensure the intelligibility and consistency of the final document. Most importantly, the Styles Committee will make no substantive changes to the bylaws or any proposals passed by the convention during this process.

In Solidarity,

LWCG
CONVENTION RULES

Organization of the Convention
1. The Steering Committee is officially responsible for organizing the convention but has delegated its authority to the Local Convention Working Group (LCWG).
2. The Chair of the LCWG shall serve as the Chair of the Convention and may appoint such assistants as they deem necessary. The Secretary of Metro DC DSA shall serve as Secretary to the Convention, keeping the official record of the Convention, and may appoint such assistants as they deem necessary.
3. The Local Convention Working Group has created the following committees to assist with its work:
   a. an Administrative Committee, which is responsible for making recommendations to the Convention Chair regarding any issue that arises on the administration of the Convention. Members of this committee will be responsible for Convention logistics, planning, and scheduling. Members of this committee shall act as ombudspersons to facilitate the resolution of problems of process that delegates or delegations may face.
   b. a Proposals Committee, which shall receive resolutions and amendments submitted to the Convention and make recommendations to the Convention on the disposition of resolutions and amendments to the Constitution. The Proposals Committee may propose steps to facilitate consideration of resolutions and amendments, including but not limited to appointing small groups to redraft or combine resolutions, preferably in advance of the Convention, and in consultation with the authors. Where there appear to be differences of opinion, the Proposals Committee may propose alternate amendments that will allow the Convention plenary to concentrate discussion on points of substantive controversy.
   c. a Styles Committee, which shall have the power to rewrite any resolution or bylaws amendments passed by the Convention to make it consistent with the style of the document being amended (i.e. implementing gender neutral language, changing the order of sentences, etc.). The Styles Committee may not make any substantive changes to resolutions or amendments passed by the convention that change their final meaning or interpretation. The Styles Committee will be comprised of members appointed by the LCWG and the authors of all bylaws amendments that were passed by the Convention.
   d. Membership of each committee will be confirmed at the beginning of the Convention.

Delegate Credentials
1. All members in good standing of the Metro DC Democratic Socialists of America local that have paid their dues through November 2018 shall be seated as delegates. The Administrative Committee will be tasked with moderating all credentials disputes.

General Procedure
1. Each session of the Convention has pre-established time limits. The only exception to the established time limits would occur if there is a motion to extend the time approved by the majority of the delegates. Any such motion to extend the time must include a corresponding reduction of time for another session. At the end of each session, the document presented and amendments, if any, shall be voted up or down. Amendments shall be voted first; the document as amended will then also be voted up or down.
2. Except as provided in these Rules and the Bylaws, the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern the proceedings of the Convention. The Chair of each Convention plenary session shall be the sole interpreter of the Convention Rules and may appoint a parliamentarian and such other assistants as needed to conduct the session. Any delegate may appeal any ruling of the Chair to the Convention. The ruling of the Chair may be overturned by a vote in favor of the appeal by a majority of delegates present and voting.
   a. Procedural motions concern how to proceed with a matter such as moving to refer the matter to the Steering Committee or moving to extend or end discussion. Procedural motions may be made at the Convention. In order to be voted on, a procedural motion needs a second. If no other delegate seconds the motion, the motion fails.
   b. Substantive motions concern amendments to the content of Convention documents. No amendments will be allowed from the floor at this Convention as the time limits for amendments are established as part of the organization of the Convention and explained in emails regarding the Convention and on the Convention explainer on the website. Amendments received by the Convention committee at the required times will be part of the discussion of that Convention document.
   c. Point of Personal Privilege — a seated delegate may raise a point of personal privilege at any time. A point of personal privilege pertains only to issues of personal discomfort or needs such as not being able to hear the speaker, etc.
1. Only delegates and DSA staff members may speak on questions coming before the Convention in plenary session. Speakers on all motions shall be limited to two minutes, unless the Convention accepts a different limit.
2. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote on all questions coming before the Convention. All questions before the Convention shall be decided by majority vote of the delegates present and voting. All procedural motions, including a motion to suspend the rules shall require a majority vote, except where otherwise provided in the Rules.
3. Any amendment or resolution that is to be considered will first be motivated by its author. Then a certain number of speakers will be heard for and against, the number to be determined by the amount of time remaining in the session. When the time for comments for and against is exhausted, the Chair will ask for a delegate to call the question.
4. Each amendment will be considered separately, one after another. In the interest of time, the Chair of the session will first ask delegates for a show of support for each amendment before it is considered. At least 20 delegates must express initial support for the amendment for it to be heard. If the amendment receives 20 delegates’ support, it will be considered. If it fails to receive 20 delegates’ support, it will not.

Resolutions and Bylaws Amendments
1. All proposed amendments to the Bylaws or resolutions shall have a sponsor, who is a member in good standing of Metro DC DSA. There may be cosponsors, who are members in good standing.
2. Proposed amendments or resolutions shall be submitted in electronic form to the Local Convention Working Group no later than September 23, 2018. Amendments or resolutions submitted after September 23rd shall be referred to the Proposals Committee for consideration.
3. Amendments to proposals must be submitted electronically to the Local Convention Working Group no later than October 6, 2018. Amendments submitted after October 6th shall be referred to the Proposals Committee.
4. On October 7th, the Proposals Committee shall distribute to all Convention delegates a Convention packet listing all bylaws amendments and all resolutions.
5. Resolutions should consist primarily of statements of policy or outlines for organizational activity. The Proposals Committee will be empowered to remove excess “Whereas” clauses from resolutions.

**CONVENTION AGENDA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Delegate Check-In <em>(20 minutes)</em></th>
<th>2:45 PM – 3:05 PM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Convention Opens</td>
<td>3:05 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Convention Welcome</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chaired by Jake W.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Introduction</td>
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<td>• Code of Conduct</td>
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<td>• Overview of Convention Rules &amp; Agenda</td>
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<td>• Adoption of Convention Standing Rules</td>
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<td>• Adoption of Convention Agenda</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Consent Agenda</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chaired by Jake W.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. <strong>A1:</strong> Steering Committee Nonfeasance</td>
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<td>2. <strong>A7:</strong> Set Annual Elections for IOC Co-Chairs</td>
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<td>3. <strong>A10:</strong> Distinguish Dues from Chapter Donations</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Debate Session 1: Endorsement Proceeding</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chaired by Jake W.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. <strong>R2:</strong> Resolution to Endorse David Schwartzman For DC Council At-Large</td>
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<tr>
<td>**Recess / Break <em>(5 minutes)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Debate Session 2: GBM Reforms</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chaired by Adam Marshall</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. <strong>A19.1:</strong> Allow Less-Frequent Voting Meetings And Alternate Meeting Types</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. <strong>A25:</strong> Three Reader Resolution Process + <strong>A25.2:</strong> Introduction at Any Meeting Type</td>
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<td>3. <strong>A15:</strong> Proposals Committee</td>
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<td><strong>+ A25.1:</strong> Against the Restriction of Voting Rights and Inappropriate Authority to Leadership Bodies</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. <strong>A13.1:</strong> Extended Discussion and Absentee Voting (Revised)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Recess / Break (5 minutes)** 4:30 PM – 4:35 PM

**Debate Session 3: Endorsement Reforms**
*Chaired by Colin Downes*

1. **A17.1:** Two-Tiered Endorsement Structure
   + **A17.2:** Strips WG Language, Adds Conflict-of-Interest Provisions
2. **A12:** Endorsements Committee
3. **A2:** Un-Endorsement & Censure Clause
4. **A26:** Duties and Obligations of Endorsed Candidates
   + **A26.1:** Resolution Based Process to Establish Duties and Obligations
5. **R3:** Mandatory Endorsement Questions

**Recess / Break (5 minutes)** 5:30 PM – 5:35 PM
## Debate Session 4
*Chaired by Dieter Lehmann*

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</table>
| 1. **A9:** Campaigns Council  
   + **A9.2:** Removal of Campaign-based Caucus Inclusion on Campaigns Council | 2. **A8:** Steering Committee Composition & Diversity  
   + **A8.1:** Maintain Proportionality of Steering Committee | 3. **A22:** Creating Strategy Forums | 5:35 PM – 6:25 PM (50 minutes) |
| 4. **A24:** Publications Editorial Board  
   + **A24.1** | 5. **A14:** Livestream GBMs | 6. **R1:** Resolution on Supporting Anti-Fascist Organizing Within MDC DSA |   |

### Recess / Dinner Break *(1 hour)*

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<td>6:25 PM – 7:25 PM</td>
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## Debate Session 5: General Reforms
*Chaired by Derrick Crowe*

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</table>
| 1. **A3:** Eliminate Postal Voting for Steering Elections  
   + **A5.1:** 10% Quorum Requirement For Bylaw Changes | 2. **A5:** 5% Quorum Requirement For General Body Meetings  
   + **A5.1:** 10% Quorum Requirement For Bylaw Changes | 3. **A6:** Steering Committee Automatically Admin Committee Members | 7:25 PM – 7:55 PM (30 minutes) |
<p>| 4. <strong>A11:</strong> Public Statements | 5. <strong>A18:</strong> Mandate Leave Of Absence Policies For | 6. <strong>A23:</strong> Allow Campaigning For Other DSA Chapter- |   |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Elected Positions</th>
<th>Endorsed Candidates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>7. A27:</strong></td>
<td>Implement Required Local Suspension and Expulsion Procedures</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Closing Song / Pass the Can (5 minutes)</strong></td>
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<td>7:55 PM – 8:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Convention Adjourn &amp; Clean Up</strong></td>
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<td>8:00 PM</td>
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ROBERT’S RULES OF ORDER — QUICK REFERENCE

Adopted from SF DSA’s Orientation Manual

Robert’s Rules provides rules and procedures that allow a deliberative assembly to make its decisions efficiently, but with all due regard for the rights of the minority. Following the rules ensures more a fair and more achievable outcome without wasting time, but remembering all the details of parliamentary procedure can be a tall order. Keeping some quick reference material on hand when you enter a meeting will ensure you have the important information you need to effectively and democratically achieve the business of the assembly.

What is a motion?

When that light bulb goes off in your head and you have a great idea, you make a motion to get your idea discussed and a decision made.

Until a motion is made, seconded, and stated by the chair, no discussion is in order. This rule of “motion before discussion” saves valuable meeting time. When you start off with a definite proposal — “I move that . . .” — your group discusses the motion’s merits and all the details necessary to make a decision. And during the discussion, you and the other members are free to alter your motion as much as necessary before reaching the final decision. This process is much more productive than just starting off jabbering about some vague idea hoping to work it out as you go, and then getting around to making a motion summarizing what you think you may have just proposed.

Steps for a basic motion

1. The member rises and addresses the chair.
2. The chair recognizes the member.
3. The member makes a motion.
4. Another member seconds the motion.
5. The chair states the motion.
6. The members debate the motion.
7. The chair puts the question, and the members vote.
8. The chair announces the result of the vote.

Other things

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjourn</th>
<th>&quot;I move that we adjourn&quot;</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recess</td>
<td>&quot;I move that we recess until...&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complain about noise, etc</td>
<td>&quot;Point of privilege&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suspend further consideration of something</td>
<td>&quot;I move that we table it&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>End debate</td>
<td>&quot;I move the previous question”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postpone consideration of something</td>
<td>&quot;I move we postpone this matter until...”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amend a motion</td>
<td>&quot;I move that this motion be amended by...”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Object to procedure or personal affront</td>
<td>&quot;Point of order&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Request information</td>
<td>&quot;Point of information&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Object to considering some undiplomatic or improper matter
"I object to consideration of this question"

Take up matter previously tabled
"I move we take from the table..."

Consider something out of its scheduled order
"I move we suspend the rules and consider..."

**CURRENT CHAPTER STRUCTURE**

At a high level, Metro DC DSA currently consists of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMITtees</th>
<th>WORKING GROUPs</th>
<th>BRANCHes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Steering Committee</td>
<td>• Migrant Justice</td>
<td>• Montgomery County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Socialist Feminism Committee</td>
<td>• Stomp Out Slumlords</td>
<td>• Northern Virginia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Administrative Committee</td>
<td>• DC ReInvest</td>
<td>• Rock Creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Internal Organizing Committee</td>
<td>• Sex Work Decriminalization</td>
<td>• Prince George's County Organizing Committee</td>
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<td>• Amazon HQ2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Political Education</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Palestine Solidarity</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Comprehensive Plan</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
PROPOSALS – AMENDMENTS
AMENDMENT 1: STEERING COMMITTEE NONFEASANCE

Sponsors: Margaret McLaughlin
Co-Sponsors: Caleb-Michael Files, Liz G, Max Socol, Justin Jacoby Smith, Danny Turkel, Walker Green, Kim Lehmkuhl, Greg Afinogenov, Francesco R.

Rationale:

A1: As the governing body of the chapter, the Steering Committee casts regular votes to ensure that the chapter is functioning properly and properly reflecting the will of the general body. Members of Steering are elected and expected to contribute a significant amount of time to this managerial and administrative body.

A1.1: Avoiding strange edge cases where a steering member may be in violation due to forces not entirely in their control. It also include a grace period for current steering members to get into the new protocol and not feel they need to oppose it because passage would automatically remove them from office.

(a). Amending section entitled STEERING COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS; REMOVAL

Currently reads as:

1. Any Officer or member of the Steering Committee may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Steering Committee. Any Officer or member of the Steering Committee may resign in writing. The Chair may resign without ceding their place on the Steering Committee.
2. Any elected officer or member of the Steering Committee who misses three consecutive meetings or ten total meetings in a term without an acceptable reason shall be removed from the committee and their position declared vacant. Members of the Steering Committee may also be removed for malfeasance or gross incompetence.
3. Members may petition for the removal an elected official by collecting signatures of either 100 members or 20% of the general body membership, the greater of the two, and having two-thirds of those present at a general body meeting vote in favor of removal. Members may petition for a snap election of any elected body by having two-thirds of those present at a general body meeting vote in favor of a snap election, to be held at the time and place of the general body’s discretion. Any Officer or member of the Steering Committee may also resign in writing.

Amended to:

1. Any elected officer...
2. Members of the Steering committee must maintain at least a 50% voting participation rate online. If unable to maintain a 50% voting participation rate online, the member of the Steering Committee shall be removed for nonfeasance. The participation rate shall be calculated on a
rolling basis every three calendar months, from the month of the first term of the Steering Committee. This measure is not retroactive and will begin after the 2018 Local Convention.

3. Members may petition…

AMENDMENT 2: UN-ENDORSEMENT & CENSURE CLAUSE

Sponsors: Walker Green
Co-Sponsors: Justin Jacoby Smith, Danny Turkel

Rationale:
The current bylaws do not authorize or provide an official mechanism to rescind an endorsement or reprimand an electoral candidate who has already been endorsed locally by the chapter. This language grants the general body that ability.

(a). Amending section entitled ELECTORAL ENDORSEMENTS

The General Body shall be empowered to officially endorse electoral candidates on behalf of MDC DSA by a two-thirds vote at a general body meeting. Members of the chapter shall not be empowered to campaign as representatives of MDC DSA or its formations on behalf of any candidate, except that such candidate has been endorsed by MDC DSA or DSA National.

Section 1: Endorsement

“The General Body shall…”

Section 2: Un-Endorsement

1. The General Body shall be empowered to rescind the endorsement of an electoral candidate, who has been endorsed locally by MDC DSA, by a two-thirds vote in the affirmative at a general body meeting, with previous notice.
2. The General Body can only rescind an endorsement of candidate who has been endorsed locally by MDC DSA, not nationally by DSA National.
3. If a candidate’s endorsement has been rescinded, members of the chapter shall not be empowered to campaign as representatives of MDC DSA or its formations on behalf of that candidate.

Section 3: Censure
1. The General Body shall be empowered to censure an electoral candidate, who has been endorsed by MDC DSA or DSA National, by a majority vote at a general body meeting, without previous notice.

2. A motion to censure expresses severe disapproval or condemnation of an electoral candidate who commits an action that goes against the shared values, purpose, or mission of DSA, without prohibiting members from campaigning as representatives of MDC DSA or in any of its formations on behalf of that candidate.

**AMENDMENT 3: ELIMINATE POSTAL VOTING FOR STEERING ELECTIONS**

**Sponsors:** Walker Green  
**Co-Sponsors:** Justin Jacoby Smith, Danny Turkel, Brian W., Doug T., Francesco R., Nate S.

**Rationale:**
The bylaws currently allow for postal ballots as an option for Steering Committee elections. Given our chapter’s limited financial resources and for efficiency sake, this language eliminates that option and permits only email ballots as a valid option for Steering Committee elections.

In addition, this new text requires the Steering Committee to appoint an interim body (such as a temporary elections working group) to prepare for this election, instead of suggesting the Steering Committee do so under the current language.

---

(a). Amending section entitled STEERING COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS

Members of MDC DSA, at an annual membership meeting, shall elect members of the Steering Committee by secret ballot. Members of MDC DSA, by an email (or postal) ballot, shall elect members of the Steering Committee by secret ballot. The current steering committee should select an interim body to prepare a proposal as to how this might be implemented by March 1.

**Section 1: Election Method**

Members of MDC DSA, at an annual membership meeting, shall elect members of the Steering Committee by secret ballot conducted through email.

**Section 2: Election Preparation**

The current Steering Committee shall appoint an interim body by March 1 to research and propose proper implementation of the Steering Committee election.
AMENDMENT 5: 5% QUORUM REQUIREMENT FOR GENERAL BODY MEETINGS

Sponsors: Walker Green

Rationale:
There are currently over 1,600 registered chapter members. A reasonably-sized quorum is necessary to protect the interests of members who are unable to vote by ensuring that a small, disproportionate number of members cannot make decisions on behalf of the membership.

This language will supersede the current GBM standing rules which require 75 members to obtain quorum.

(a). Amending section entitled MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERS

Currently reads as:

Public meetings of the members shall be held on a regular basis, at least once a month, and at a regularly scheduled time and place, unless determined otherwise by the members. The meeting shall be run according to the adopted parliamentary authority and other procedures approved by the members. A meeting of the members shall be defined as a General Body Meeting or a Local Convention. The General Body Membership shall convene in a meeting of the members at least once a month. In the absence of a Local Convention, the members present and assembled at a General Body Meeting represent the General Body Membership and are the highest decision-making authority in the organization. The General Body Membership shall allow for the democratic introduction of proposals through a resolution process. Resolutions can be introduced by any member at a General Body Meeting.

Amended to:

Section 1:

“Public meetings...”

Section 2: Quorum

1. A quorum of 5% of the local membership is required for a general body meeting to transact business.
2. If applicable, absentee ballots or votes cast electronically shall count towards attaining quorum of the business to which it pertains to.
**AMENDMENT 5.1: 10% QUORUM REQUIREMENT FOR BYLAW CHANGES**

**Sponsors:** Arjun Comar, Walker Green

**Rationale:**
The original proposal modifies the quorum requirement but only for GBMs. This means that if the chapter grows to be over 2000 members, the quorum requirement will be higher for GBMs than for bylaw changes. This amendment to A5 adds a 10% requirement for bylaws as well.

(a). Amending A5: 5% Quorum Requirement for General Body Meetings, which amends section entitled MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERS; by
(b). Amending an additional section entitled CHANGES TO THE BYLAWS

*Currently reads as:*

3. Meetings of the Members.

   Section 1:

   “Public meetings…”

   Section 2: Quorum

   1. A quorum of 5% of the local membership is required for a general body meeting to transact business.
   2. If applicable, absentee ballots or votes cast electronically shall count towards attaining quorum of the business to which it pertains to.

*Currently reads as:*

14. Changes to the Bylaws.

Members shall have the power to approve changes to the Bylaws. Any proposed changes to the Bylaws shall be announced to the members one meeting in advance of any vote. Changes may be adopted by a vote of two-thirds of the members present. In order to amend the bylaws of MDCDSA in the absence of a Local Convention, language must be introduced at the monthly meeting of the members prior to the monthly meeting at which members will vote on the amendment in question. The meeting at which the bylaws amendment is considered must have a quorum of 100 members.
Amended to:

Section 1:

Members shall have the power to approve changes to the Bylaws. Any proposed changes to the Bylaws shall be announced to the members one meeting in advance of any vote. Changes may be adopted by a vote of two-thirds of the members present. In order to amend the bylaws of MDCDSA in the absence of a Local Convention, language must be introduced at the monthly meeting of the members prior to the monthly meeting at which members will vote on the amendment in question.

Section 2: Quorum

1. The meeting at which the bylaws amendments are considered must have a quorum of 10% of the local membership.
2. If applicable, absentee ballots or votes cast electronically shall count towards attaining quorum of the business to which it pertains to.

**AMENDMENT 6: STEERING COMMITTEE AUTOMATICALLY ADMIN COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**Sponsors:** Walker Green  
**Co-Sponsors:** Margaret McLaughlin, Danny Turkel

**Rationale:**  
Currently all members of the Steering Committee serve as members of the Administrative Committee, but they had to manually vote themselves into the committee. This language circumvents that extra step and allows all current Steering Committee members, who are already elected and entrusted by the membership with sensitive information, to automatically serve on the Administrative Committee and require their assistance with administrative tasks before the Chapter.

(a). Amending section entitled COMMITTEES; ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Currently reads as:

The Administrative Committee shall be a Standing Committee co-chaired by the Secretary and the Treasurer. Any member of the general body may be put forth by the co-chairs of the Administrative Committee to be vetted and approved by a majority vote of the Steering Committee or General body.
Amended to:

The Administrative Committee shall be a Standing Committee co-chaired by the Secretary and the Treasurer. Any member of the general body may be put forth by the co-chairs of the Administrative Committee to be vetted and approved by a majority vote of the Steering Committee or General body. All members of the Steering Committee shall be ex officio members of the Administrative Committee.

**AMENDMENT 7: SET ANNUAL ELECTIONS FOR IOC CO-CHAIRS**

Sponsor: Walker Green  
Co-Sponsors: Danny Turkel, Francesco R.

**Rationale:**

The bylaws currently do not define how long IOC Co-Chairs must serve and when they are elected. This language requires that IOC Co-Chairs are elected annually, separate from the Steering Committee election, and allows for the current IOC Co-Chairs to serve a full year term.

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(a). Amending section entitled COMMITTEES; Internal Organizing Committee

**Currently reads as:**

The general body membership will elect two IOC officers to oversee the Committee. IOC officers will provide monthly reports on internal organizing to the Steering Committee, or upon request. Any dues paying members in good standing who have an interest in the internal health and function of MDC DSA are encouraged to join. The IOC will be responsible for proposing budgetary needs for internal organizing to the MDC DSA membership and/or appropriate bodies.

**Amended to:**

"The general body membership..."

Amended to add:

The IOC Co-Chairs shall be elected annually by secret ballot at the same annual membership meeting that the Steering Committee elections are held.

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**AMENDMENT 8: STEERING COMMITTEE COMPOSITIONS & DIVERSITY**

Sponsors: Walker Green  
Co-Sponsors: Danny Turkel, Greg Afinogenov
Rationale:

The General Body has already approved by resolution that the Steering Committee shall consist of 9 members total (3 officers and 6 at-large members) and that at least five Steering Committee members shall be women, non-binary folks, or persons of color.

It is necessary to have both of these requirements codified in the bylaws because it will require a higher threshold of approval to change, and prevents it from potentially being changed at any low turnout general body meeting.

In addition, this language explicitly affirms that there will only be one elected Chair, not Co-Chairs, at any given time – as already practiced and provided for in the bylaws.

(a). Amending section entitled Steering Committee and Officers; Steering Committee

Currently reads as:

The Steering Committee shall consist of Officers and at-large members. The officers shall consist of a Chair, a Treasurer, and a Secretary. The number of at-large members of the Steering Committee shall be determined by the general membership. The Secretary and the Treasurer shall be elected directly by the general body and shall be voting members of the Steering Committee. No person shall hold more than one office. Each officer and at-large Steering Committee member will serve a one-year term, the beginning and ending dates to be determined by the members. A majority of the duly appointed members of the Steering Committee shall constitute a quorum for conducting business. The Steering Committee shall meet at least once a month at a time and place to be determined by the Steering Committee. In-person Steering Committee meetings shall be open to observation by any member of DSA in good standing, unless two-thirds of the committee votes to close the meeting.

Amended to:

Strike out:

The Steering Committee shall consist of Officers and at-large members. The officers shall consist of a Chair, a Treasurer, and a Secretary. The number of at-large members of the Steering Committee shall be determined by the general membership.

Insert:

Section 1: Composition
1. The Steering Committee shall be set to nine members, consisting of three Officers and six at-large members. The officers shall be Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary.
2. There shall be only one elected Chair, not Co-Chairs, presiding over the Chapter and the Steering Committee at any given time.
3. At least five Steering Committee members shall be women, non-binary folks, or persons of color.

Section 2:
“The Secretary and the Treasurer...”

**AMENDMENT 8.1: MAINTAIN PROPORTIONALITY OF STEERING COMMITTEE**

**Sponsors:** Arjun Comar, Walker Green
**Co-Sponsors:**

**Rationale:**
This amendment extends the original proposal to keep the size of the Steering Committee proportional to the size of the membership, ensuring that the workload of members of Steering does not grow without available hands to cover needed tasks, and that the Committee remains representative of the membership. The amendment makes constant the approximate current ratio of members to representation on the Committee. It ensures that Committee members are added and removed in pairs without significant fluctuation because of minor changes in the number of dues paying members.

The necessary size for the Committee is assessed one month prior to the annual Steering election to give time for an appropriate number of candidates to be nominated, vetted, and elected by the General Body. It does not change the current size of Steering and would not add any new members until the dues-paying membership increases to a count of 1995, at which point the Committee would be increased to 11 members, and to 13 at 2470 members in good standing. If the size of the membership dropped below 1425, the size of the committee would be reduced to 7. This amendment also caps the maximum size of the body at 15 because that represents an approximate doubling in the size of the chapter, at which point the organizational structure of the chapter needs to be revisited in its entirety.

The amendment seeks to ensure at-large members are only added or removed from the committee in even increments. That is, if a single member would be added or removed, no change should occur to the size of the committee, and if three members would be added or removed, just two members should be added or removed instead. This keeps the Committee an odd number of members and prevents deadlock. It also ensures the size of the committee changes as little year over year as possible while maintaining proportionality.

(a). Amending A8: Steering Committee Composition and Diversity
Original Amendment:

Strike out:
The Steering Committee shall consist of Officers and at-large members. The officers shall consist of a Chair, a Treasurer, and a Secretary. The number of at-large members of the Steering Committee shall be determined by the general membership.

Insert:
Section 1: Composition
1. The Steering Committee shall be set to nine members, consisting of three Officers and six at-large members. The officers shall be Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary.
2. There shall be only one elected Chair, not Co-Chairs, presiding over the Chapter and the Steering Committee at any given time.
3. At least five Steering Committee members shall be women, non-binary folks, or persons of color.

Section 2:
“The Secretary and the Treasurer…”

Strike Out and Replace: Steering Committee and Officers; Steering Committee

Amended to:

Strike out:
The Steering Committee shall consist of Officers and at-large members. The officers shall consist of a Chair, a Treasurer, and a Secretary. The number of at-large members of the Steering Committee shall be determined by the general membership.

Insert:
Section 1: Composition
1. The Steering Committee shall have three Officers and any remaining members shall be at-large members. The officers shall be Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary.
2. There shall be only one elected Chair, not Co-Chairs, presiding over the Chapter and the Steering Committee at any given time.
3. A majority of Steering Committee members shall be women, non-binary folks, or persons of color.

Section 2: Size
The size of the Steering Committee shall be maintained at an approximately constant ratio to the number of chapter members in good standing, assessed at the General Body Meeting one month preceding the annual election of the Committee, with the following stipulations:

A. The size of the Committee including the Officers shall not be fewer than the number of Officers nor greater than fifteen.
B. The size of Committee shall be determined by the number of members of the chapter in good standing at a ratio of 1 Committee member per 190 members in good standing. The difference between the current size of the Committee and that fraction rounded to the nearest whole number determines the number of at-large members to be added or removed from the Committee, as appropriate.

C. At-large members of the Committee shall always be added or removed in even increments. If the increment would be odd, one fewer member shall be added or removed instead.

Section 3:
“The Secretary and the Treasurer...”

**AMENDMENT 9: CAMPAIGNS COUNCIL**

**Sponsors:** Margaret McLaughlin  
**Co-Sponsors:** Danny Turkel, Woody Woodruff, Chris Vega, Jake W., Ben D., Greg Afinogenov, Ryan Mosgrove

**Rationale:**
A9: Much of the external work of the chapter is done by working groups or caucuses devoted to carrying out specific campaigns: Stomp out Slumlords, the Electoral Caucus, the Migrant Justice Working Group, etc. Organizing these groups under the umbrella of a Campaigns Council promotes communication between campaigns and visibility across the organization. It also helps newer or unaffiliated members plug into campaigns by giving them a locus to inform themselves of the various work we do. Unlike the IOC, the Campaigns Council acts as a representational body of all external work the chapter participates in.

Working Groups and campaign-based Caucuses shall choose a Campaign Representative for the Campaigns Council; Working Groups are free to determine their Campaign Representative as they see fit. The Campaign Representative serves as the primary point of contact between their respective working group or caucus, the Campaigns Council and the General Body; if they are unresponsive in this duty, they may be voted out and the Working Group or Caucus shall choose another Representative. A Campaign Representative may be dismissed by a two-thirds vote in the affirmative by the Campaigns Council, and, should be rare and only for unresponsive or negligent Representatives.

A9.1: The activities of member groups of the Campaign Council are magnets for members, especially new members, to get actively engaged in MDC DSA’s work. Wide dissemination of the actions, meetings and programs/campaigns of the member groups are essential for members to make informed choices about their engagement, and to avoid informational siloing.

A9.5: This amendment ensures that the Campaigns Council is incorporated into the Internal Organizing Committee which is a natural fit for this Campaign Council.
A9.4: Added language to keep an actual list of who is on the Campaigns Council so that the chapter has their contact information. There is no currently existing list of Working Groups that have been formed and building one has been a logistical nightmare. The easiest way to build this list and keep it up to date is to keep track of the Representatives to the Campaigns Council. By tracking this contact info we will also have a reliable way to plug in new members to specific working groups.

(a). Adding section entitled CAMPAIGNS COUNCIL

Section 1: Purpose and Composition

The Campaigns Council shall be a sub-committee of the Internal Organizing Committee, serving as a comprehensive board and gathering space of Working Groups and campaign-based Caucuses. The Council will be responsible for providing both visibility across MDC DSA’s various campaigns and updates on campaign progress to the broader MDC DSA membership.

Section 2: Communication, Meeting, and Member Participation

Representatives of the Campaigns Council are expected to maintain frequent contact with each other and are encouraged to meet on a regular, monthly basis. Members of any Working Group or campaign-based Caucus may elect a representative to the council, and MDC DSA members unaffiliated with either, shall be free to and encouraged to attend meetings of the Campaigns Council, which shall always remain open to the General Body. The Representatives of the Campaigns Council are expected to maintain frequent contact with each other and are encouraged to meet on a regular, monthly basis. The Campaigns Council must also keep an up to date list of the Representatives serving on the council, including their contact information.

Section 3: Liaison

Meetings of the Campaigns Council shall be facilitated by the Liaison. The Liaison shall be a member of the Council determined by the Council and will serve as Liaison on a two-month rotating basis. The Campaigns Council Liaison shall serve as point of contact between the Council and the Steering Committee and provide updates to the Steering Committee on campaign progress. The Liaison shall:

1. Coordinate resources to Campaign Working Groups and Caucuses;
   1. Resources include, but are not limited to, the allocation of the Chapter’s physical inventory and assisting the Treasurer with reimbursement requests;
2. Ensure that conflicts between Campaign Working Groups and Caucuses regarding access to resources or scheduling are resolved amicably, paying appropriate attention to fairness and chapter goals;
3. Facilitate the provision of organizing training, coaching, and logistical support to Campaign Working Groups and Caucuses as needed;
4. Coordinate the onboarding of new members to the Campaigns Council.
5. Assign, task or cause to happen regular reporting on activities by all campaigns represented on the Council, accessible to the Steering and Administrative Committees, the General Body, and MDC DSA periodicals, other publications and web content. The frequency of the reports may be set by the Liaison or by the Steering Committee on behalf of the General Body.

Section 4: Branch Participation

Each Branch shall be allowed to select a Branch Representative who serves as a non-voting participant to the Council, with the intent of providing insight and advice for campaigns in the geographic area of that Branch.

**AMENDMENT 9.2: REMOVAL OF CAMPAIGN-BASED CAUCUS INCLUSION ON CAMPAIGNS COUNCIL**

Sponsors: Brian W.
Co-Sponsors: Nate Su.

**Rationale:**
Current language mentions campaign based caucuses. Recommending removal because there is currently no definition of what a campaign based caucus is or what distinguishes them from a regular caucus. Also the language about provisions of resources and funds to caucuses could set a dangerous precedent if ideological caucuses were to receive resources or funds.

If language was in there to provide representation to Electoral comrades, they could form a five member Electoral Working Group to continue to receive representation on the Council for the short periods in between the existence of more specific electoral campaign working groups.

(a). Amending A9: Campaigns Council

**Section 1: Purpose and Composition**

The Campaigns Council shall be a Standing Committee, serving as a comprehensive board and gathering space of Working Groups. The Council will be responsible for providing both visibility across MDC DSA’s various campaigns and updates on campaign progress to the broader MDC DSA membership.

**Section 2: Communication, Meeting, and Member Participation**
Representatives of the Campaigns Council are expected to maintain frequent contact with each other and are encouraged to meet on a regular, monthly basis. Members of any Working Group may elect a representative to the council, and MDC DSA members unaffiliated with either, shall be free to and encouraged to attend meetings of the Campaigns Council, which shall always remain open to the General Body. The Representatives of the Campaigns Council are expected to maintain frequent contact with each other and are encouraged to meet on a regular, monthly basis.

Section 3: Liaison

Meetings of the Campaigns Council shall be facilitated by the Liaison. The Liaison shall be a member of the Council determined by the Council and will serve as Liaison on a two-month rotating basis. The Campaigns Council Liaison shall serve as point of contact between the Council and the Steering Committee and provide updates to the Steering Committee on campaign progress. The Liaison shall:

1. Coordinate resources to Campaign Working Groups
   1. Resources include, but are not limited to, the allocation of the Chapter’s physical inventory and assisting the Treasurer with reimbursement requests;
2. Ensure that conflicts between Campaign Working Groups regarding access to resources or scheduling are resolved amicably, paying appropriate attention to fairness and chapter goals;
3. Facilitate the provision of organizing training, coaching, and logistical support to Campaign Working Groups as needed;
4. Coordinate the onboarding of new members to the Campaigns Council.
5. Assign, task or cause to happen regular reporting on activities by all campaigns represented on the Council, accessible to the Steering and Administrative Committees, the General Body, and MDC DSA periodicals, other publications and web content. The frequency of the reports may be set by the Liaison or by the Steering Committee on behalf of the General Body

Section 4: Branch Participation

Each Branch shall be allowed to select a Branch Representative who serves as a non-voting participant to the Council, with the intent of providing insight and advice for campaigns in the geographic area of that Branch.
**AMENDMENT 9.3: CHANGE CLASSIFICATION OF THE ELECTORAL CAUCUS TO A WORKING GROUP**

**Rationale:**

*This proposal has been rescinded by its sponsor and will not be proposed at the Convention.*

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**AMENDMENT 10: DISTINGUISH DUES FROM CHAPTER DONATIONS**

**Sponsors:** Kim Lehmkuhl  
**Co-Sponsors:** Gabriel Rodriguez, Ben D., Doug T., Francesco R.

**Rationale:**

MDC DSA’s bylaws conflict with recent action taken by the National Political Committee to “determine procedures for the collection of dues and contributions and the sharing of same between the Local and National Organizations” pursuant to Article II, Section 6 of the DSA bylaws.

In or around June 2018, the NPC adopted the guidance, provided in section 8 of Resolution #21 (Move Towards Monthly Dues) passed at the 2017 DSA Convention, that “local chapters receive back from the national organization 20% of the amount the members in their jurisdiction contribute in the form of monthly dues, at regular intervals.” This 20/80 monthly dues split applies regardless of whether dues are paid to National or to MDC DSA.

The NPC has further indicated its intention to “consider the proportion of annual dues to be shared back to chapters and how this will be implemented” at an upcoming meeting. It is foreseeable that the annual dues split ultimately adopted will apply regardless of whether dues are paid to National or to MDC DSA.

MDC DSA’s current bylaw language conveys an intent to raise and retain funds above and beyond dues amounts determined by DSA. This intent can be preserved by modifying the language to reflect the practice permitted by Article II, Section 5 of the DSA bylaws: “Locals may set up pledge systems for their members, whereby members can pledge to make regular donations to the Local in excess of National dues on a monthly, quarterly or other basis.”

Amending Section entitled: DUES

*Currently reads as:*

6. Dues
The members shall determine any Dues, which shall be separate from dues paid to national Democratic Socialists of America. All dues collected by the Chapter shall be retained by the Chapter.

Amended to:

6. Donations and Dues

The members may set up a pledge system, whereby anyone may make regular donations, which shall be separate from dues determined by national Democratic Socialists of America. All donations collected by the Chapter shall be retained by the Chapter.

**AMENDMENT 11: PUBLIC STATEMENTS**

**Sponsors:** Walker Green  
**Co-Sponsors:** Brian W., Francesco R., Ryan Mosgrove

**Rationale:**

In an effort to better inform members of all points of views and positions regarding proposed resolutions, members will now be able to submit public statements on any business, which will be published publicly alongside proposals wherever they are distributed, including on the Chapter's website and weekly email updates.

Example: https://www.eastbaydsa.org/resources/member-statements/2017-12-10

**Adding Section entitled:** Public Statements

**Public Statements**

1. Any member in good standing may submit a public statement - whether in favor, in opposition, or otherwise - to any proposed resolution or bylaw amendment, which shall be published alongside such business items wherever they are distributed, to inform the general body of all points of view when considering an issue.
   a. This includes, but not limited to, being made available on the Chapter’s website and weekly email publication.
2. Public statements may be submitted by non-sponsors at any time in the consideration process.
3. Sponsors of a resolution are required to submit a public statement to accompany their proposed resolution.

**AMENDMENT 12: ENDORSEMENTS COMMITTEE**

**Sponsors:** Walker Green and Stu K.
Co-Sponsors: Austin Warrington, Ben Davis, Greg Afinogenov, Brian W., Kim Lehmkuhl, Nate S., Jake W.

Rationale:
There needs to be a non-partisan electoral committee that processes all political candidates who seek our Chapter’s endorsement, regardless of political party or office sought. Members of the Endorsements Committee will be charged with the initial endorsement process, and will create and provide all candidates one of three Standard Electoral Candidate Questionnaires--based on the candidate’s state-level jurisdiction--to determine if a candidate’s values align with DSA’s. The Steering Committee will approve all questionnaires before finalizing the questionnaires for the election cycle of that given year. Campaign-based working groups and independent caucuses can take on further research and vetting of candidates in the form of interviews, in-person meetings, and race-specific questionnaires.

Amending Section entitled: COMMITTEES

Amended to add:

1. Endorsements Committee

   a. Purpose

      i. The Endorsements Committee (EC) shall be a Standing Committee charged with all communications and processing of political candidates who seek the Chapter’s endorsement.

      ii. The EC shall be an administrative body that remains neutral on ideological motivation of candidates and conducts the administrative tasks of processing all endorsement applications, regardless of political party or office sought.

   b. Membership

      i. The EC shall be co-chaired by members appointed annually by the Steering Committee and confirmed by the General Body.

         1. To avoid a conflict of interest, the following members shall not be permitted to co-chair this committee, but are encouraged to join as regular committee members:

            a. Members of the Steering Committee.

            b. Elected chairs of any campaign-based working group or caucus.

            c. Paid staff of any electoral campaigns.

      ii. Any member in good standing may join the EC to help with its activities.
c. Endorsement Process

i. The endorsement process for each electoral cycle shall begin on November 15 of the year before elections in which the chapter endorsements are taking place.

ii. All political candidates who seek the Chapter’s endorsement shall be required to submit a request for chapter endorsement to the EC to start the endorsement process on their campaign. The endorsement request form shall be available on the Chapter’s website.
   1. The EC is required to process all endorsement requests regardless of the number of electoral campaigns the Chapter has already endorsed and timeline into the election cycle.

iii. The EC shall send candidates who submit a request for chapter endorsement a Standard Electoral Candidate Questionnaire that all candidates must fill out before further consideration. The Standard Electoral Candidate Questionnaire shall include standard and jurisdiction-specific questions to determine whether a candidate’s values align with the values and mission of DSA.
   1. The EC shall be charged with researching and drafting three standard questionnaires–one each for jurisdictions listed in paragraph (iii)(2)–and encouraged to solicit advice and feedback from the general body.
   2. The EC shall be charged with gathering input from members on three sets of jurisdiction-specific questions from the following state-level jurisdictions:
      a. District of Columbia
      b. Maryland
      c. Virginia
   3. Prior to submission for Steering Committee approval, the EC may consult and collaborate with relevant caucuses and working groups, including, but not limited to, the Socialist Feminist Caucus, the AfroSoc Caucus, the Service Industry Caucus, and the Reinvest Working Group, seeking advice and input for specific issue questions.

iv. The Standard Electoral Candidate Questionnaires are subject to approval by the Steering Committee. The EC is not responsible for introducing endorsement resolutions or motivating the endorsement of an electoral candidate. This responsibility falls on any campaign-based working group, caucus, or individual sponsor.

v. All endorsement resolutions must go through the regular resolution process as determined in these bylaws.

d. Transparency
i. Whenever a candidate submits an endorsement application, the EC shall notify the general body within 1 week of a candidate’s request for an endorsement proceeding.

ii. The EC shall keep the general body informed of the status of all endorsement proceedings.

iii. The EC shall publish a candidate’s standard questionnaire to the general body within 1 week of submission.

e. Campaign-Based Working Groups, Caucuses, Branches, and Individuals

i. Any campaign-based working group, caucus, branch, or individual member in good standing, in coordination with the EC, may take on the additional responsibility of research, vetting, and motivating of a candidate, including, but not limited to, race-specific questionnaires, conference call interviews, and in-person meetings.

1. The EC cannot interfere with independent research or vetting of a candidate.

f. Recommendation for National Endorsement

i. The EC shall receive requests from members seeking to send locally endorsed candidates to national DSA for national endorsement.

ii. The EC shall present national endorsement requests to the Steering Committee for approval, at which point the EC shall designate a member, caucus, branch, or campaign-based working group as responsible for completing and submitting any required materials to national DSA for national endorsement of a locally endorsed candidate.

**AMENDMENT 13.1: EXTENDED DISCUSSION AND ABSENTEE VOTING (REVISED)**

**Sponsors:** Ryan Mosgrove, Walker Green, and Stu K.

**Co-Sponsors:** Nate S., Kim Lehmkuhl

**Rationale:**
This amendment would create an absentee voting system and allow for a longer period of discussion and voting on proposals being brought before the membership for approval. Our current system is more or less typical of membership organizations and restricts voting and formal discussion to the monthly in-person meeting of the members. This proposal allows for more formal online debate of proposals before the GBM, then in-person oral discussion at the GBM, then a three day period for absentee voting before discussion and voting is closed.
This proposal is based on the language of the Absentee Proposal being discussed currently in Boston DSA, which currently has 190 co-signers both within Boston and around the country. I share the arguments that the proposal's author laid out here. If we want to build a majoritarian movement for democratic socialism, it’s important that we break down as many barriers to participation in discussion as we can while ensuring our decision making process remains effective. I believe this process will allow our decisions as a chapter to incorporate a broader range of input, and increase engagement among our members in our most vital function as a chapter - collective decision making.

Addition: This is a revised version of A13 that merges it with elements of A16 to create a single proposal regarding absentee voting which all sponsors have agreed to.

Amending Section entitled: Article 3: Meetings of the Members

Amended to:

Section 1: Function

1. “Public meetings of the members…”

Section 2: Voting Rights

1. All members shall be enfranchised and have the right to vote on all proceedings brought before the general body.

Section 3: Absentee Voting

1. **Process:** MDC DSA shall offer absentee voting on any measure which is to be considered by a vote of a general body meeting of a members of MDCDSA (each such measure, a "Proposal"). For any Proposal, there shall be at least one in-person meeting of the members for oral discussion and debate of the issue. Prior to the day of the in-person meeting of the members, there shall also be an online discussion period of at least three days. Absentee voting shall open for three days immediately following the in-person meeting of the members, during which time online discussion shall be ongoing.

2. **Eligibility:** In order to be eligible for absentee voting, members must have joined DSA more than 30 days prior to the in-person meeting of the members or have attended the relevant in-person meeting of the members. This restriction does not apply to voting in person.

3. **Absentee Ballots:** A Credentials Committee, a Sub-Committee of the Administrative Committee, shall be responsible for developing an effective, accessible, and secure method for online discussion and absentee voting. The identity of the member requesting an absentee ballot shall be securely authenticated at the time the ballot is issued. Summaries of the online and in-person discussions and access to the complete records of these discussions shall be made available on the same interface as the absentee ballot. The Administrative Committee shall be responsible for the creation,
administration, and collection of absentee ballots as well as informing the Secretary of the names of absentee voters and the results.

4. **Proposals & Amendments**: Proposals must be submitted and distributed no later than one day in advance of the period of online discussion. Amendments to Proposals must be submitted before absentee voting opens. Any amendment not accepted by the primary Proposal’s authors may either be withdrawn by those submitting it or added to the absentee ballot as alternative version of the primary Proposal.

5. **Exceptional and Emergency Circumstances**: In exceptional and/or emergency circumstances in which deliberation on a Proposal cannot be delayed until the required conditions are met, the Steering Committee may, by a two-thirds vote, shorten the online discussion and voting period or alternatively put the Proposal to in-person voting alone without absentee voting. If the Steering Committee votes to restrict a given vote to in-person voting only, members present at the in-person vote may, with a two-thirds majority, override the Steering Committee and allow for a three-day absentee voting period following the meeting. In consultation with the Administrative Committee, the Steering Committee may, by a two-thirds majority, postpone absentee voting should a credible security threat be discovered.

6. **Quorum**: Absentee ballots shall count towards attaining quorum of the business to which it pertains to.

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**AMENDMENT 14: LIVESTREAM GBMs**

Sponsors: Walker Green  
Co-Sponsors: Ryan Mosgrove, Kim Lehmkuhl

**Rationale:**

To increase accessibility to our General Body Meetings for members who cannot make it, we should livestream public portions of our monthly meetings. Any member who wishes to not appear in the livestream may opt out of the video and speak off-screen and/or opt to have the livestream muted for the duration of their speech. Here’s an example livestream from Boston DSA’s General Body Meetings.

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Amending Section entitled: Meetings of the Members

**Amended to add:**

1. Public portions of General Body Meetings that are not in Executive Session, shall be live-streamed.

   a. Footage
i. The livestream shall be limited to displaying presiding officers, members who are making announcements, members who are presenting to the general body, and sponsors or debaters of resolutions who wish to speak at the dais.

b. Security

i. Any member may opt-out of being in the livestream video and can speak off camera.

ii. Any member may opt to have the livestream audio muted or video paused during the duration of their speech.

iii. The general body may move a meeting into Executive Session at anytime by a majority vote.

c. Facilitation

i. The Technology Committee, a Sub-Committee of the Administrative Committee, shall be responsible for facilitating the livestream of the meeting. Members of the Technology Committee shall be appointed by the Administrative Committee.

**Amendment 15: Proposals Committee**

Sponsors: Walker Green  
Co-Sponsors: Kim Lehmkuhl

**Rationale:**

There is a need for the chapter to have an advisory body of members versed in parliamentary procedure that members can consult when creating resolutions. The Proposals Committee will help members draft resolutions, inform them if a proposal needs a resolution, and provide alternatives and solutions to any parliamentary issues that may arise. The Proposals Committee shall operate similarly to the Convention Proposals Committee.

(a). Amending section entitled COMMITTEES

**Amended to add:**

1. Proposals Committee
a. The Proposals Committee shall be a sub-committee of the Administrative Committee charged with assisting members in the preparation of all resolutions and bylaw amendments to be considered by the general body. The Proposals Committee is an advisory body that seeks to help members draft proposals.

b. The Proposals Committee shall be a nonpartisan body composed of members from varying ideological backgrounds. Co-Chairs shall be appointed by the Steering Committee. Any member can join the Proposals Committee as a regular member.

c. The Proposals Committee shall be responsible for:

   i. Assisting members with the drafting of resolutions and bylaw amendments.

   ii. Determining what proposals require and don’t require a resolution.

   iii. Making sure submitted proposal do not conflict with these bylaws.

   iv. Making resolution sponsors aware of any potential parliamentary issues and providing possible alternatives and solutions to such issues.

   v. Informing members if a proposal has already been considered, adopted, or rejected in the past in consultation with the Secretary.

   vi. Facilitating discussion between sponsors with complementary or contradictory proposals.

d. All proposals to be considered at a general body meeting must be submitted first to the Proposals Committee.

   i. The Proposals Committee shall work in conjunction with the Administrative Committee and the Steering Committee when setting proposals to be considered on the GBM agenda.

   ii. The Proposals Committee shall not be empowered to halt the consideration of any proposed resolution or bylaw amendment. All submitted proposals, after review by the committee, will be placed on the agenda of the next following GBM.

### Amendment 16: Absentee Voting on All Resolutions

Sponsors: Walker Green, Stu K.
Co-Sponsors: Chris Vega, Ben D.
**Rationale:**
This amendment has been rescinded by its sponsor and merged with A16, and will be presented as A13.1.

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**AMENDMENT 17: ELECTORAL ENDORSEMENT PROCESS**

**Sponsors:** Sam Knight  
Co-Sponsors: Walker Green, Greg Afinogenov, Kim Lehmkuhl

**Rationale:**  
This bylaw amendment outlines a transparent, simple procedure for getting electoral endorsements from the General Body.

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(a) Amending section entitled ELECTORAL ENDORSEMENTS

**Currently reads as:**

Electoral Endorsements. The General Body shall be empowered to officially endorse electoral candidates on behalf of MDC DSA by a two-thirds vote at a general body meeting. Members of the chapter shall not be empowered to campaign as representatives of MDC DSA or its formations on behalf of any candidate, except that such candidate has been endorsed by MDC DSA or DSA National.

**Amended to:**

Electoral Endorsements. The General Body shall be empowered to officially endorse electoral candidates on behalf of MDC DSA by a two-thirds vote at a general body meeting, once the following requirements are met:

1. Candidates must have a Working Group formed on behalf of their electoral campaign as a prerequisite to seeking endorsement.
2. The Working Group must submit to Steering Committee a completed candidate questionnaire relevant to the specific office that the candidate is seeking (e.g. Mayoral, Alexandria County Council, United States Senate).
3. After submitting the questionnaire, the candidate must come to one General Body Meeting to answer questions directly from MDC DSA members.
4. The final vote may not take place until the next general body meeting so that all MDC DSA members have a reasonable amount of time to conduct their own research on the candidate.

Members of the chapter shall not be empowered to campaign as representatives of MDC DSA or its formations on behalf of any candidate, except that such candidate has been endorsed by MDC DSA or DSA National.
AMENDMENT 17.1: TWO-TIERED ENDORSEMENT STRUCTURE

Sponsors: Greg Afinogenov
Co-Sponsors:

Rationale:
Provide for the option of adopting a statement of support instead of a full endorsement in the event that the chapter is divided on an endorsement question.

(a). Amending A17: Electoral Endorsement Process

Currently reads as:

Electoral Endorsements. The General Body shall be empowered to officially endorse electoral candidates on behalf of MDC DSA by a two-thirds vote at a general body meeting, once the following requirements are met:

1. Candidates must have a Working Group formed on behalf of their electoral campaign as a prerequisite to seeking endorsement.
2. The Working Group must submit to Steering Committee a completed candidate questionnaire relevant to the specific office that the candidate is seeking (e.g. Mayoral, Alexandria County Council, United States Senate).
3. After submitting the questionnaire, the candidate must come to one General Body Meeting to answer questions directly from MDC DSA members.
4. The final vote may not take place until the next general body meeting so that all MDC DSA members have a reasonable amount of time to conduct their own research on the candidate.

Members of the chapter shall not be empowered to campaign as representatives of MDC DSA or its formations on behalf of any candidate, except that such candidate has been endorsed by MDC DSA or DSA National.

Amended to:

Electoral Endorsements. The General Body shall be empowered to officially endorse electoral candidates on behalf of MDC DSA by a two-thirds vote at a general body meeting, once the following requirements are met:

1. Candidates must have a Working Group formed on behalf of their electoral campaign as a prerequisite to seeking endorsement.
2. The Working Group must submit to Steering Committee a completed candidate questionnaire relevant to the specific office that the candidate is seeking (e.g. Mayoral, Alexandria County Council, United States Senate).
3. After submitting the questionnaire, the candidate must come to one General Body Meeting to answer questions directly from MDC DSA members.
4. The final vote may not take place until the next general body meeting so that all MDC DSA members have a reasonable amount of time to conduct their own research on the candidate.
5. In the event that the endorsement vote fails, the chapter may, by majority vote, choose to issue a statement of support for the candidate instead. Members may not campaign for the candidate as representatives of MDC DSA, and chapter resources may not be used to support the campaign, but the candidate is permitted to publicize and refer to the statement in their campaign materials.

Members of the chapter shall not be empowered to campaign as representatives of MDC DSA or its formations on behalf of any candidate, except that such candidate has been endorsed by MDC DSA or DSA National.


**Sponsors:** Sam Knight  
**Co-Sponsors:**

**Rationale:**  
This amendment to Amendment 17 strips the Working Group language out of the initial proposal. It also adds a conflict-of-interest provision.

(a). Amending section entitled ELECTORAL ENDORSEMENTS  

*Currently reads as:*

**Electoral Endorsements.** The General Body shall be empowered to officially endorse electoral candidates on behalf of MDC DSA by a two-thirds vote at a general body meeting, once the following requirements are met:

1. Candidates must have a Working Group formed on behalf of their electoral campaign as a prerequisite to seeking endorsement.
2. The Working Group must submit to Steering Committee a completed candidate questionnaire relevant to the specific office that the candidate is seeking (e.g. Mayoral, Alexandria County Council, United States Senate).
3. After submitting the questionnaire, the candidate must come to one General Body Meeting to answer questions directly from MDC DSA members.
4. The final vote may not take place until the next general body meeting so that all MDC DSA members have a reasonable amount of time to conduct their own research on the candidate.

Members of the chapter shall not be empowered to campaign as representatives of MDC DSA or its formations on behalf of any candidate, except that such candidate has been endorsed by MDC DSA or DSA National.

Amended to:

Electoral Endorsements. The General Body shall be empowered to officially endorse electoral candidates on behalf of MDC DSA by a two-thirds vote at a general body meeting, once the following requirements are met:

1. Candidates must have the support, in writing, of five (5) MDC DSA members in good standing, excluding any members who are working in a professional capacity for the candidate seeking MDC DSA’s endorsement.
2. The Steering Committee must then certify that candidates are supported by five qualified chapter members in good standing, and that candidates have completed candidate questionnaire relevant to the specific office that the candidate is seeking (e.g. Mayoral, Alexandria County Council, United States Senate).
3. After submitting the questionnaire, the candidate must come to one General Body Meeting to answer questions directly from MDC DSA members.
4. The final vote may not take place until the next general body meeting so that all MDC DSA members have a reasonable amount of time to conduct their own research on the candidate.

Members of the chapter shall not be empowered to campaign as representatives of MDC DSA or its formations on behalf of any candidate, except that such candidate has been endorsed by MDC DSA or DSA National.

**Amendment 18: Mandate Leave Of Absence Policies For Elected Positions**

**Sponsors:** Nate S.
**Co-Sponsors:** Greg Afinogenov

**Rationale:**
People need to take a step back from elected chapter positions for various reasons including physical/mental health, burnout, family, life circumstances, etc. Part of creating an organization that motivates people to get involved and run for elected positions, is ensuring they have the support to step back as needed to take care of these other matters. Our current lack of policies in this area breeds the expectation that individuals elected to chapter positions are taking on a “second job” which is often not feasible for otherwise-motivated
comrades — for example, we have had two Steering members resign in the past, citing lack of time for the role. This amendment would mandate each elected position have a leave of absence policy and sets minimum expectations for these policies, but does not specify in detail. We could, for example, have one leave of absence policy for all elected positions; alternatively, we could have one policy for Steering Committee members and another for the Internal Organizing Committee Co-Chairs.

(a). Adding section entitled LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Amended to:

**Leave of Absence.** Every elected position at the chapter level in Metro DC DSA (i.e., positions elected by the MDC DSA general body, including but not limited to members of the Steering Committee, Co-Chairs of the IOC, Grievance Officers, and Branch Leadership) shall have a written leave of absence policy adopted by resolution of the Steering Committee, General Body, or bylaw. Leave of absence policies for elected positions shall minimally incorporate the following elements:

- Members elected to a given position may take leave of absence through notification of the Steering Committee and the body or committee(s) primarily impacted by the elected position.
- Taking a leave of absence shall not jeopardize the continuance of the member in the elected position after the leave of absence has finished. The member shall be able to return to the position with all rights and responsibilities of that position restored.
- Members taking a leave of absence from an elected position shall make best efforts to ensure the vital functions of that position continue to be met in their absence. Members shall not be asked to continue their responsibilities in the elected position during their leave of absence, except wherein such responsibilities are vital to chapter functioning and cannot reasonably be delegated to other members.

Other aspects related to leaves of absence, such as the length of allowable absence or appointment of members “acting” in the elected role for the duration of the absence, may be addressed in the policy specific to the position in question.

**Amendment 19: Allow Less-Frequent Voting Meetings and Asynchronous Voting**

**Rationale:**
This amendment has been rescinded by its sponsor and merged with A20 and A21, and will presented as A19.1.
**AMENDMENT 19.1: ALLOW LESS-FREQUENT VOTING MEETINGS AND ALTERNATE MEETING TYPES**

**Sponsors:** Kim Lehmkuhl, Nate S., Brian W.

**Co-Sponsors:**

**Rationale**

This final proposal is a merger of A19, A20, and A21. The author of A19 has accepted this amendment as friendly, and the author of A20/A21 is withdrawing those proposals.

The Steering Committee has discussed at the past several meetings that General Body Meetings have seen a decline in attendance/interest. There is broad agreement among the Steering Committee that the voting function of the meeting and the campaigns mobilization/plugging-in function of the meeting seem to be at odds with one another. In addition, several GBMs have had too many agenda items that end up competing for time. Lastly, many things go to a GBM vote that, per our bylaws, do not require such a vote. All of this has created significant administrative workload for the chapter and especially the Steering and Admin Committees.

The solution is to do what many other chapters do and have less frequent voting meetings. New Orleans DSA, for example, has a quarterly voting meeting where they vote on anything that rises to the level of a GBM vote. They still have a meeting every month—however, these meetings can be strategy sessions, presentations from community groups, organizing trainings, education, etc. There are many things that a “DSA meeting” could be apart from the typical model we have constructed of campaign updates, breakout groups, voting, etc. Hardcoding the frequency of voting meetings into the bylaws has prevented us from having this flexibility.

This bylaws amendment does not commit the chapter to any particular course of action regarding GBMs, but strikes language that would disallow the changes we are considering. These changes would allow for voting meetings as infrequent as once every three months. This doesn’t mean we have to move to this timeline—we could still continue having meetings the way we are, even with these bylaws changes—but it gives us the option to adapt.

(a). Amending section entitled MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERS

*Currently reads as:*

**3. Meetings of the Members.**

Public meetings of the members shall be held on a regular basis, at least once a month, and at a regularly scheduled time and place, unless determined otherwise by the members. The meeting shall be run according to the adopted parliamentary authority and other procedures approved by the members. A
meeting of the members shall be defined as a General Body Meeting or a Local Convention. The General Body Membership shall convene in a meeting of the members at least once a month. In the absence of a Local Convention, the members present and assembled at a General Body Meeting represent the General Body Membership and are the highest decision-making authority in the organization. The General Body Membership shall allow for the democratic introduction of proposals through a resolution process. Resolutions can be introduced by any member at a General Body Meeting.

Amended to:

3. Meetings of the Members.

Public meetings of the members shall be held on a regular basis, at least once every three months, and at a regularly scheduled time and place, unless determined otherwise by the members. The meeting’s deliberations shall be run according to the adopted parliamentary authority and other procedures approved by the members. A meeting of the members shall be defined as a General Body Meeting (i.e. voting meeting), Informational Meeting (a non-voting meeting), Special Meeting, or a Local Convention. The General Body Membership shall convene in a General Body Meeting or a Local Convention at least once every three months. In the absence of a Local Convention, the members present and assembled at a General Body Meeting or Special Meeting represent the General Body Membership and are the highest decision-making authority in the organization. The General Body Membership shall allow for the democratic introduction of proposals through a resolution process. Resolutions can be introduced by any member at a General Body Meeting.

Special Meetings. The Steering Committee, by majority vote of the Committee or petition of 5 percent of the Membership, may call a Special Meeting on at least seven days’ notice when an urgent and important matter requires deliberation. No matters other than those listed in the meeting notice may be brought to or raised from the floor at a Special Meeting. Voting may be conducted at a Special Meeting on those matters listed in the meeting notice.

Informational Meetings. The Steering Committee may call additional chapter-wide Informational Meetings for a variety of reasons but at which voting business will not be conducted and policies will not be set. For the purposes of these bylaws, chapter-wide Informational Meetings should not be considered General Body Meetings.

Urgent Matters. Urgent matters that would regularly require a GBM vote may be voted on by the Steering Committee and, if adopted, be put to a ratification vote by a majority or two-thirds vote as the bylaws require, at the next voting meeting.
Definition of Voting. “Voting,” in the context of the above sections, shall refer to synchronous or asynchronous voting, in-person or remotely, pursuant to these bylaws.

AMENDMENT 22: CREATING STRATEGY FORUMS

Sponsors: Brian W.
Co-Sponsors: Jake W., Chris Vega, Matthew Agar, Ben D., Ryan Mosgrove, Nate S.

Rationale:
This chapter lacks a robust public debate around the strategies and goals of our various working groups. Many of these conversations do take place but remain internal to the working groups in which they occur, leaving the membership only aware about work that they are intimately involved in. This amendment tasks the Steering Committee with planning quarterly forums that could serve to facilitate this discussion. These forums would feature presentations from each working group on their goals, strategies, successes, and setbacks. After each presentation would be discussion from the general membership, where members can ask questions, provide suggestions, and find out ways to be involved. The forum is not a body invested with any decision making authority, but simply an event to force our membership to think strategically about designing campaigns. The Steering Committee may also delegate this planning task to other members of the local if it chooses. This task would be best carried out, planned, and sponsored by the Campaigns Council [A9] if it passes.

(a). Amending section entitled MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERS

Currently reads as:

Public meetings of the members shall be held on a regular basis, at least once a month, and at a regularly scheduled time and place, unless determined otherwise by the members. The meeting shall be run according to the adopted parliamentary authority and other procedures approved by the members. A meeting of the members shall be defined as a General Body Meeting or a Local Convention. The General Body Membership shall convene in a meeting of the members at least once a month. In the absence of a Local Convention, the members present and assembled at a General Body Meeting represent the General Body Membership and are the highest decision-making authority in the organization. The General Body Membership shall allow for the democratic introduction of proposals through a resolution process. Resolutions can be introduced by any member at a General Body Meeting.

Amended to:

Public meetings of the members shall be held on a regular basis, at least once a month, and at a regularly scheduled time and place, unless determined otherwise by the members. The meeting shall be run according to the adopted parliamentary authority and other procedures approved by the members. A
meeting of the members shall be defined as a General Body Meeting or a Local Convention. The General Body Membership shall convene in a meeting of the members at least once a month. In the absence of a Local Convention, the members present and assembled at a General Body Meeting represent the General Body Membership and are the highest decision-making authority in the organization. The General Body Membership shall allow for the democratic introduction of proposals through a resolution process. Resolutions can be introduced by any member at a General Body Meeting. The membership shall also meet quarterly for a Strategy Forum. This meeting has no decision making authority but is intended to facilitate discussions about the goals, strategies, and activities of our Working Groups and Committees. The Steering Committee shall be responsible for planning this event, but may delegate this task to other members or formations, if it chooses.

**AMENDMENT 23: ALLOW CAMPAIGNING FOR OTHER DSA CHAPTER-ENDORSED CANDIDATES**

**Sponsors:** Brain W.

**Co-Sponsors:** Ben D.

**Rationale:**

The current bylaws language allows members to officially organize for other nationally endorsed DSA candidates, but doesn’t mention the ability to organize for candidates endorsed by other DSA locals. This amendment clarifies the original intent. This change will allow us to lend aid to chapters in our region to help them develop their electoral programs, especially ones that might not have nationally endorsed candidates.

(a). Amending section entitled ELECTORAL ENDORSEMENTS

*Currently reads as:*

The General Body shall be empowered to officially endorse electoral candidates on behalf of MDC DSA by a two-thirds vote at a general body meeting. Members of the chapter shall not be empowered to campaign as representatives of MDC DSA or its formations on behalf of any candidate, except that such candidate has been endorsed by MDC DSA or DSA National.

*Amended to:*

The General Body shall be empowered to officially endorse electoral candidates on behalf of MDC DSA by a two-thirds vote at a general body meeting. Members of the chapter shall not be empowered to campaign as representatives of MDC DSA or its formations on behalf of any candidate, except that such candidate has been endorsed by MDC DSA, other DSA Chapters, or DSA National.
AMENDMENT 24: PUBLICATIONS EDITORIAL BOARD

Sponsors: Craig T., Woody Woodruff
Co-Sponsors: Alex Morash

Rationale:
MDC DSA leaders rightly want a wider participation in the local chapter’s publications — periodicals (weekly update and monthly Washington Socialist), brochures and printed outreach material — and a stronger presence for our campaigns on the website mdcdsa.org.

Formalizing what has been an ad hoc legacy activity predating the local’s recent growth requires the creation of a working group with leadership that is accountable to the General Body and to its representative leadership group, the Steering Committee.

This proposal for a new bylaw preserves the authority residing in the Administrative Committee and the two elected members of the Steering Committee for managing (including budget and standing platforms). Co-chairs of the Working Group will be appointed by the Steering Committee.

Activists in MDC DSA’s publications, including the legacy workers, welcome the prospect of an enlarged Working Group to cooperatively manage all the parallel activities in the publications sphere.

The proposed Working Group will ensure — through its size and diversity — that MDC DSA publications will continue to represent the local chapter and the singular qualities of socialist activism by an explicitly socialist organization in the DMV.

Create Section Entitled: Publications Editorial Board

1. A publications editorial board (PEB) shall be a Standing Board with at least 3 members, including Co-Chairs appointed by the Steering Committee. Any current member of MDC DSA may be a member of the PEB.

2. The constitution of the PEB, and the structural principles outlined below, may be revisited at any time, but no more than twice in one year, by the General Body on petition of ten current MDC DSA members in good standing.

3. The PEB’s purview shall be oversight, management and production of MDC DSA publications, which may include print or digital periodicals, brochures or flyers, news releases, video, audio, and web content on mdcdsa.org or other platforms.
4. All content published by the PEB shall reflect the values of Democratic Socialists of America, Metro DC DSA, and democratic socialism.

   The PEB shall strive to solicit and produce content, including design, that meets the chapter’s needs, informs the chapter and the public about chapter initiatives and achievements, and contributes to the discussion of socialism. They may produce other content as needed.

   The PEB shall ensure that all content reflects the values of Democratic Socialists of America, Metro DC DSA, and democratic socialism and represents a wide range of perspectives across all chapter publications. They shall also ensure that all publications appear on schedule and on budget if one is needed.

   The PEB shall report in writing at least four times per year to the Steering Committee and General Body on the conduct of its responsibilities.

5. **Leadership**: The PEB co-chairs are charged with organizing members of the PEB in producing content. The co-chairs are accountable for the content of the publications across all platforms and are editorially independent of other MDC DSA leadership formations of MDC except in instances in which the General Body applies constraints of time, place, and manner through the Steering Committee.

6. Platforms used to produce and publish PEB content shall be managed by the Administrative Committee (8.a) and its co-chairs, the Secretary and Treasurer. Any PEB proposals for printed material, or video, will be subject to standing budget procedures for approval by the Steering Committee or General Body.

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**AMENDMENT 24.1: REDUCING STEERING’S INVOLVEMENT IN THE PUBLICATIONS EDITORIAL BOARD**

Sponsors: Francesco R., Arjun Comar

Co-Sponsors:

**Rationale:**
Clarifies language around the structure of the board and ensures its accountable to the General Body instead of Steering, which should probably stay out of directly managing this Board. It also allows the members of the working group to elect their own leaders and mandates diversity requirements for the co-chairs of the Board.

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**Original Amendment:**
1. A publications editorial board (PEB) shall be a Standing Committee with at least 3 members, including Co-Chairs appointed by the Steering Committee. Any current member of MDC DSA may be a member of the PEB.

2. The constitution of the PEB, and the structural principles outlined below, may be revisited at any time, but no more than twice in one year, by the General Body on petition of ten current MDC DSA members in good standing.

3. The PEB’s purview shall be oversight, management and production of MDC DSA publications, which may include print or digital periodicals, brochures or flyers, news releases, video, audio, and web content on mdcdsa.org or other platforms.

4. All content published by the PEB shall reflect the values of Democratic Socialists of America, Metro DC DSA, and democratic socialism.

The PEB shall strive to solicit and produce content, including design, that meets the chapter’s needs, informs the chapter and the public about chapter initiatives and achievements, and contributes to the discussion of socialism. They may produce other content as needed.

The PEB shall ensure that all content reflects the values of Democratic Socialists of America, Metro DC DSA, and democratic socialism and represents a wide range of perspectives across all chapter publications. They shall also ensure that all publications appear on schedule and on budget if one is needed.

The PEB shall report in writing at least four times per year to the Steering Committee and General Body on the conduct of its responsibilities.

1. Leadership: The PEB co-chairs are charged with organizing members of the PEB in producing content. The co-chairs are accountable for the content of the publications across all platforms and are editorially independent of other MDC DSA leadership formations of MDC except in instances in which the General Body applies constraints of time, place, and manner through the Steering Committee.

2. Platforms used to produce and publish PEB content shall be managed by the Administrative Committee (8.a) and its co-chairs, the Secretary and Treasurer. Any PEB proposals for printed material, or video, will be subject to standing budget procedures for approval by the Steering Committee or General Body.

Amended to:

Adding a Section entitled: Publications Editorial Board

Section 1: Publications Editorial Board

1. A publications editorial board (PEB) shall be a Standing Board with at least 3 and up to 5 members, including Co-Chairs. The Co-Chairs shall be elected by the members of the Publications Working
At least two members of the Board shall be women, non-binary folks, or persons of color. Any current member of MDC DSA may be a member of the PEB.

Section 2: Constitution
1. The constitution of the PEB, and the structural principles outlined below, may be revisited at any time, but no more than twice in one year, by the General Body on petition of ten current MDC DSA members in good standing.

Section 3: Purview
1. The PEB’s purview shall be oversight, management and production of MDC DSA publications, which may include print or digital periodicals, brochures or flyers, news releases, video, audio, and web content on mdcdsa.org or other platforms.

Section 4:
1. The PEB shall organize the Publications Working Group to produce content as needed for MDC DSA. They shall also meet regularly with the Publications Working Group to ensure that work is completed on a timely basis.
2. The PEB shall strive to solicit content, including design, that meets the chapter’s needs, informs the chapter and the public about chapter initiatives and achievements, and contributes to the discussion of socialism. They may produce other content as needed.
3. The PEB shall ensure that all content reflects the values of Democratic Socialists of America, Metro DC DSA, and democratic socialism and represents a wide range of perspectives across all chapter publications. They shall also ensure that all publications appear on schedule and on budget if one is needed.

Section 5: Leadership
1. The PEB co-chairs are charged with organizing members of the Publications Working Group in producing content. The co-chairs are accountable for the content of the publications across all platforms and are editorially independent of other MDC DSA leadership formations of MDC except in instances in which the General Body applies constraints of time, place, and manner. The PEB co-chairs are subject to recall at any time by majority vote of the Publications Working Group or resolution of the General Body, with a special election to fill the vacated seat for the remainder of the term to follow within a timeframe to be decided by the PEB.

Section 6: Publications
1. Platforms used to produce and publish content shall be managed by the Administrative Committee (8.a) and its co-chairs, the Secretary and Treasurer. Any PEB proposals for printed material, or video, will be subject to standing budget procedures for approval by the General Body.

AMENDMENT 24.2: PEB COMPOSITION AND DIVERSITY

Rationale:
THIS PROPOSAL HAS BEEN RESCINDED BY ITS SPONSOR AND MERGED WITH A24.1.

AMENDMENT 25: THREE READER RESOLUTION PROCESS

Sponsors: Walker Green, Chris Hicks, David Duhalde

Rationale:
Currently, our resolution process fosters discussions that are often rushed and leave members inadequately informed. Often resolutions are proposed before the General Body with little knowledge of the members of what was being proposed, where to find proposed language ahead of time, and how proposals will impact the chapter. Often, new members attending their first Metro DC DSA general body meetings find themselves voting on important matters, such as endorsement of politicians, our federal tax status, or our financial reimbursement policy, with little or no context of the need of these resolutions, creating an environment of confusion and “insider baseball.” Such asymmetries of information, where one side knows much more about an issue than another, can leave discussion making debate rather lacking because few understand the nuances. In some cases, our chapter has taken votes on resolutions that didn’t need to be voted on, taking away from our limited time together.

This proposal mandates that all resolutions must be introduced one-month before formal debate and adoption, with explicit exceptions and override procedures, and subjects to them to a “Three Reader” review system. The purpose of this bylaw amendment is to give members more time to consider proposals and venues to be informed, and ensure that the resolutions are needed for the action called for. This will create a much more informed democracy and democratic culture in our chapter and strengthen our commitment to resolutions after we vote on them. This proposal continues to make our general body be the ultimate decision-maker of the organization. Any resolution adopted by the general body or steering committee may always be re-considered and overturned.

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The purpose of the first read is to allow members to introduce a resolution for the first time before the general body. At the first read, sponsors of resolutions can inform the general body of their proposal and solicit feedback from members. The first read will act more like a discussion rather than a formally structured debate with limited time. Here, sponsors will be able to gauge the audience on how they feel about the action they’re proposing and discover any areas of contention or concern members may have. Members will also be able to suggest language or ideas to improve the resolution to help the sponsor reach their intended goal (note that this is not a formal amendment process). Resolutions being proposed in the first read are not put to a vote, but rather, sent to the second read.
The purpose of the second reading is to provide the Steering Committee and interested members an opportunity to make any changes to the resolution before a final vote. This would happen at a steering meeting following the GBM to allow for a more concentrated discussion of issues regarding the resolution, and finalize language before the ultimate General Body vote that determines its adoption or not. A smaller, but still public meeting, about the resolutions can help sharpen the document and give people a chance to clarify questions, differences, and concerns that otherwise could take up a significant portion of a GBM. This second meeting, however, cannot pass, defeat, or table a resolution. Only the GBM reserves that right. If it there is no second reading between GBMs, the resolution goes straight to a third reading at the next GBM for a vote.

At the Second Read, the Steering Committee can debate the resolution and make any alterations they see fit — both friendly and unfriendly (amendments). Any changes would clearly be marked as so and given to the original sponsor in advance. The sponsor reserves the right to not accept the Steering-amended proposal, and the original proposal can be sent to the Third Read for a vote. Non-steering members present may debate and propose amendments as well. Steering may adopt non-committee members suggestions, but only steering members can vote on the final version (since it’s their meeting) that is sent to the Third Read (the next GBM). Proponents and opponents of resolutions are encouraged to attend to make their thoughts heard.

If the Steering Committee passes a version of the resolution that is unfriendly to the original proposal, the sponsor may submit the original proposal alongside the Steering-amended resolution at the next GBM. Whichever gets the higher amount of votes wins. If the resolution is passed unanimously at the second read, then the Steering Committee may submit it to the consent agenda for the following GBM. As always, one member may request an item be removed from the consent agenda and debated on the floor.

The purpose of the third reading is to be exactly like the voting procedure we engage in now. Since the proposal has been through two reads, and members are now fully informed about the merits and concerns of the proposal, it is put to a final debate and vote before the general body. Proposals in the third read are dealt with according to Robert’s Rules of Order, instead of an informal discussion. The proposal(s) that make the Third Read can still be amended before being put to a final vote.

At anytime during this process, 2/3rd of Steering or 3/4th of the General Body can declare a resolution an “Emergency Resolution” and have it skip the Three Reader system and put to an immediate debate and vote.

(a). Adding section entitled RESOLUTIONS

Amended to:

Definition
1. Resolutions may be adopted by the the General Body at any scheduled general body meeting. Resolutions shall require a rationale, a statement of purpose in the form of Whereas clauses, and the action(s) to be taken by the Chapter in the form of Be It Resolved clauses.
   1. Resolutions shall pertain to the following: A) fiduciary matters (finances, expenditures, reimbursements); B) chapter statements including, but limited to, on events, stances, and politics; C) joining coalitions; D) endorsement of candidates for public office; E) appointments to committees; and F) dissolution of the chapter (see “Dissolution”).
   2. The following items of business do not require a resolution, and shall be not be considered by the general body: A) creation of working groups (see “Working Groups”); B) creation of caucuses (see “Caucuses”); C) commitment to work on a particular issue; D) commitment to participate in a day(s) of action; E) support for politicians (U.S. or otherwise); and F) support for federal, state, or municipal legislation without action required.

**Process**

All resolutions considered by the general body shall be put to the following process:

1. **First Read: Introduction to General Body & Solicit Feedback:** The purpose of the first read is to introduce a resolution concept to the general body and respond to questions.
   1. A resolution shall be put to a first read at a General Body Meeting. Any member in good standing may introduce a resolution, so long as they meet the required definitions of a resolution.
   2. Members may ask clarifying questions about the introduced resolution, but may not propose amendments, move to a final debate, or vote on the resolution at its first read.

2. **Second Read: Steering Review & Amendments:** The purpose of the second read is to provide the Steering Committee and interested members an opportunity to make any changes to the resolution before a final vote.
   1. At the Second Read, the Steering Committee shall debate the resolution and may propose amendments in an open meeting. Non-steering members present may debate and propose amendments as well.
   2. After debate, the Steering Committee will vote on any proposed amendments and may adopt them by majority vote. Non-steering members are not permitted to vote on amendments in the Second Read, as only Steering members can vote during the Steering Committee meeting. The Steering Committee may adopt amendments to a resolution with or without the sponsor’s approval. If the Steering Committee adopts an amendment without the sponsor’s approval, the sponsor retains the right to put forth their original resolution alongside the Steering-amended resolution in the Third Read.
1. If the sponsor exercises this right, both resolutions shall be put to a debate and vote at the next GBM. The proposal, with the highest number of votes at the GBM will be adopted, as long as it has at least majority support of the general body.

3. The Steering Committee is not empowered to place a resolution on hold and prevent a resolution from being sent to the Third Read. All resolutions are automatically sent to the Third Read after being properly considered in the Second Read. If a resolution isn’t given a Second Read between GBMs, the resolution is exempt from the Second Read and is sent to the Third Read.

4. If a resolution has unanimous support of the Steering Committee, the resolution may be put on the consent agenda for the next GBM.
   1. Resolutions placed on the consent agenda are not subject to debate and are adopted by unanimous consent at the GBM.
   2. Any resolution may be taken off the consent agenda by the objection of any one member in good standing.

3. Third Read: Final Debate, Amendment, and Vote: The purpose of the third read is to take a final vote on any resolution.
   1. Resolutions in the third read shall be put to a formal debate and final vote. Rules regarding deliberation shall follow the standard rules of order and any special rules of order adopted by the general body.
   2. Resolutions cannot be amended from the floor in the third read.
      1. The general body can suspend this rule by a ⅔ vote to consider an amendment from the floor. If suspended, the amendment requires a majority vote for adoption.

4. Amendments to resolutions in the third read must be submitted in advance, no later than 72 hours of the GBM of when it is to be considered. Amendments submitted in advance require a majority vote for adoption.

5. Exceptions
   1. Any resolution may bypass the first and second reading if it’s considered an Emergency Resolution. To be considered an emergency resolution, the content and purpose of the resolution must be time-sensitive and of crucial importance that warrant the skipping of a one-month consideration period for a resolution. A 2/3rd vote of the Steering Committee or 3/4th vote of a General Body is required to deem a resolution an Emergency Resolution. Emergency Resolutions will follow the regular rules of order required for adoption by the General Body: a majority vote or 2/3rd vote depending on the type of resolution.
   2. Statements that are adopted by the Steering Committee are exempt to the third reading at the general body meeting. This includes, but not limited to, Statements of Support, Statements of Solidarity, or Joining onto a Coalition Statement.

6. The Secretary is responsible for making sure that a resolution is not a duplicative of a previous resolution adopted by the Chapter.

7. The Steering Committee shall determine if a resolution is necessary to conduct the proposed action and that it meets the required resolution criteria. (See “Definition”)

54
8. Any resolution may be rescinded or amended by a majority vote of the general body with previous notice.

**Amendment 25.1: Against the Restriction of Voting Rights and Inappropriate Authority to Leadership Bodies**

**Sponsors:** Ryan Mosgrove  
**Co-Sponsors:** Nate S., Franklin Roberts, Meredith Schafer

**Rationale**

Internal democracy functions best when we extend the most freedom to rank-and-file members to determine for themselves the direction of their organization. While I appreciate the spirit of this proposal and support elements of it that give members more information to make decisions, there are components of this proposal that I believe are wholly antithetical to that goal.

In short, Amendment 25 as currently written dramatically restricts the rights of the membership in what may even be debated at General Body Meetings and hands unprecedented authority over to the Steering Committee to control what the membership is even allowed to consider. It is a dramatic departure from the norms and precedents of MDCDSA or of any DSA chapter in the country.

The idea of the “Three Reader” system itself is a good one and worth consideration. However, this specific proposal has many problems attached to it that are not substantive to the stated goal of the proposal. I have two specific areas of concern for with A25 as currently written:

1. Dramatically restricting the rights of the rank-and-file membership.

The first part of the proposal attempts to reframe what the rank-and-file membership is allowed to consider and places the Steering Committee as the arbiter of enforcing those restrictions. Section B of this article reads:

*The following items of business do not require a resolution, and shall be not be considered by the general body: A) creation of working groups (see “Working Groups”); B) creation of caucuses (see “Caucuses”); C) commitment to work on a particular issue; D) commitment to participate in a day(s) of action; E) support for politicians (U.S. or otherwise); and F) support for federal, state, or municipal legislation without action required.*

Point A and B are superfluous since our bylaws already affirm that the general body does not have the power to create working groups or caucuses. Point C-F are totally new restrictions that have never been applied in the past at MDCDSA GBMs nor are they anything to my knowledge that rank-and-file members have expressed a desire for.
Put simply Point C-F would abolish the right of rank-and-file members to vote on anything that declares a commitment to an area of work, work in support or opposition to any policy or candidate, or to support as a chapter any activity with current or potential coalition partners. A25 instead limits such support to the most abstract form of taking a “stance” but restricts the general membership from discussing any specific tactic or course of action. Regardless of whether this is the authors’ intention or not, this is unambiguously the effect.

Whether it’s a day of action to block Brett Kavanaugh’s supreme court appointment, supporting the repeal of SESTA/FOSTA, activity to support national legislation like Medicare for All, or establishing housing justice or immigrant rights as a chapter-wide priority, A25 would rule such proposals out of order before they even hit the floor.

What it does instead is give this power to every chapter body except the General Membership, which is intended to be the highest authority in the chapter (for good reason!) This means that an electoral working group could simply coordinate support for candidates on its own strength, not requiring rank-and-file input at all. An anti-fascist working group could endorse and coordinate its own actions in the name of the membership, again with no input or oversight needed. A Medicare for All working group could endorse a march on Washington without any debate required or even possible. Two working groups could even support opposing activity, making the entire point of being in a single organization with an internal democratic culture pointless. Giving the rank-and-file only the power to have politics in the abstract is meaningless. Politics only exist in motion, in action not theory.

Most concerning, while it restricts the rights of the general membership to make such decisions, it does not restrict it on the part of the Steering Committee. This means that the Steering Committee could potentially make these types of critical political decisions on its own weight alone. Indeed if the general membership is handcuffed from even hearing such motions then an activist Steering Committee with the authority to support or deny such proposals would be the only way to support initiatives as a whole chapter.

2. Tipping the scales in favor of the Steering Committee to determine the political direction of the chapter.

Even without the “Definitions” section of the proposal, A25 still puts a thumb on the scale in favor of the Steering Committee. The “Process” article, Section 2, Subsection B reads:

*After debate, the Steering Committee will vote on any proposed amendments and may adopt them by majority vote. Non-steering members are not permitted to vote on amendments in the Second Read, as only Steering members can vote during the Steering Committee meeting. The Steering Committee may adopt amendments to a resolution with or without the sponsor’s approval. If the Steering Committee adopts an amendment without the sponsor’s approval, the sponsor retains the right to put forth their original resolution alongside the Steering-amended resolution in the Third Read…If the sponsor exercises this right, both resolutions shall be put to a debate and vote at the next GBM.*
This language, along with other language throughout the proposal, gives the Steering Committee a clear edge over any proposal that comes to the floor for discussion and cedes an inappropriate amount of authority to the Steering Committee over the deliberative process. The effect would mean that if a rank-and-file member brings a proposal to the chapter, Steering would automatically get the opportunity to change the proposal as they see fit by a simple majority vote “with or without the sponsor’s approval”.

If the sponsor does not agree with the changes, then they have to go head to head against the Steering Committee at the general body meeting. The problems with this sort of system should be self evident. An enshrined authority of the leadership to pick its own battles, to influence the terms of debate, coupled with the authority they already have to set the agenda and logistics of the meetings creates an undesirable burden on rank-and-file members to exercise their democratic rights. This added weight given to the Steering Committee is reinforced in other sections of the proposal which I have also proposed amendments.

I should point out that none of this should be interpreted as an attack on the current Steering Committee in any way. Personally I have heard Steering Committee members speak against this sort of authority being given to them (though not regarding this specific proposal) which I feel is to their credit. This amendment is only intended to highlight the potential abuses imbedded within A25 if left unamended.

Moreover it is not my position that leadership bodies or working groups should never be allowed any authority whatsoever under any circumstances. Giving smaller authoritative bodies the power to weigh in or direct certain types of work in the chapter can be very positive. However the specific language of this proposal does that in a way that I feel oversteps on the rights of members to organize for, and consider proposals as they see fit. I think that’s a red line that should not be crossed if we want to preserve and grow democratic engagement in our chapter, rather than suffer the atrophy other less democratic organizations have suffered by restricting decision making to small subgroups.

My amendment to A25 makes no new additions to the proposal and only cuts language that I feel restricts the rights of the rank-and-file membership for the reasons I have listed. I should also mention that I have personally raised my concerns with the proposals authors either directly or indirectly before submitting this amendment. I also offered to collaborate on a second draft that would merge the best elements of this proposal with my own proposal on Extended Discussion and Absentee Voting for the chapter. I offer this amendment in that same spirit of good faith.

There is a good reason that every DSA chapter in the country, even our national constitution, establishes the assembly of the membership as the highest authority in the organization. Broad majoritarian decision making is critical to the life of any organization that works toward the emancipation of the disempowered, disenfranchised masses of working people in this country and the world. Democracy is not a static force that either exists or doesn’t. Democracy is a muscle, and if we want it to be strong we have to exercise it in the broadest, most accessible, most inclusive ways we can without sacrificing the integrity of that decision making
process. Enfranchising all members, without the barriers of activity levels or purity tests, is the surest path to a real mass organization able to exercise mass power not in the name of working people, but by working people themselves.

(a). Adding section entitled RESOLUTIONS

Amended to:

Definition

1. Resolutions may be adopted by the the General Body at any scheduled general body meeting. Resolutions shall require a rationale, a statement of purpose in the form of Whereas clauses, and the action(s) to be taken by the Chapter in the form of Be It Resolved clauses.

Process

All resolutions considered by the general body shall be put to the following process:

1. First Read: Introduction to General Body & Solicit Feedback: The purpose of the first read is to introduce a resolution concept to the general body and respond to questions.
   1. A resolution shall be put to a first read at a General Body Meeting. Any member in good standing may introduce a resolution.
   2. Members may ask clarifying questions about the introduced resolution, but may not propose amendments, move to a final debate, or vote on the resolution at its first read.

2. Second Read: Steering Review & Amendments: The purpose of the second read is to provide the Steering Committee and interested members an opportunity to make any changes to the resolution before a final vote.
   1. At the Second Read, the Steering Committee shall debate the resolution and may propose amendments in an open meeting. Non-steering members present may debate and propose amendments as well.
   2. The Steering Committee is not empowered to place a resolution on hold and prevent a resolution from being sent to the Third Read. If a resolution isn’t given a Second Read between GBMs, the resolution is exempt from the Second Read and is sent to the Third Read.

3. Third Read: Final Debate, Amendment, and Vote: The purpose of the third read is to take a final vote on any resolution.
   1. Resolutions in the third read shall be put to a formal debate and final vote. Rules regarding deliberation shall follow the standard rules of order and any special rules of order adopted by the general body.

4. Exceptions
1. Any resolution may bypass the first and second reading if it's considered an Emergency Resolution. To be considered an emergency resolution, the content and purpose of the resolution must be time-sensitive and of crucial importance that warrant the skipping of a one-month consideration period for a resolution. A 2/3rd vote of the Steering Committee or 3/4th vote of a General Body is required to deem a resolution an Emergency Resolution. Emergency Resolutions will follow the regular rules of order required for adoption by the General Body: a majority vote or 2/3rd vote depending on the type of resolution.

5. Any resolution may be rescinded or amended by a majority vote of the general body with previous notice.

**AMENDMENT 25.2: INTRODUCTION AT ANY MEETING TYPE**

**Sponsors:** Walker Green

**Co-Sponsors:**

**Rationale**

Given the plethora of proposals concerning the frequency of General Body Meetings (voting meetings), this language ensures that resolutions can be “first-read” at any formally called meeting of the General Body, including General Body Meetings, Special Meetings, Informational Meetings, Strategy Forums, Voting Meetings, and Non-Voting Meetings. This does not include smaller chapter formation meetings such as Working Group, Caucus, or Committee meetings.

(a). Amending A25

**Amended to:**

**Process**

All resolutions considered by the general body shall be put to the following process:

1. **First Read: Introduction to General Body & Solicit Feedback:** The purpose of the first read is to introduce a resolution concept to the general body and respond to questions.
   1. A resolution shall be put to a first read at any formally called meeting of the General Body, including General Body Meetings (voting meetings), Informational Meetings (non-voting meetings), Special Meetings, Strategy Forums, and Local Conventions. Any member in good standing may introduce a resolution, so long as they meet the required definitions of a resolution.
2. Members may ask clarifying questions about the introduced resolution, but may not propose amendments, move to a final debate, or vote on the resolution at its first read.

**AMENDMENT 26: DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF ENDORSED CANDIDATES**

**Sponsors:** Kim Lehmkuhl, Francesco R., Aaron M., Arjun Comar  
**Co-Sponsors:** Brian D., Becca Thimmesch, Matthew Sampson, Michelle Styczynski

**Rationale**

A26: Candidates endorsed by MDC DSA should understand that accepting the endorsement comes with certain duties and obligations to the chapter’s goals and objectives, so when a candidate contravenes those goals they should lose the chapter’s endorsement. This proposal creates a clear red line that candidates cannot cross while continuing to expect the endorsement of, and material aid from, the chapter in their electoral campaign. The goal is to establish a set of commitments made by the candidate to the chapter when seeking our endorsement such that when the candidate violates those commitments, they immediately sever ties between the chapter and their campaign. By doing so, the chapter makes it clear to candidates that the relationship with the chapter does not go one way and that the candidate has obligations to the chapter, namely to uphold basic and uncontroversial socialist positions. This amendment does not bar a candidate from reseeking endorsement nor does it establish any positive duties for candidates. The amendment seeks to discourage candidates who cannot abide these restrictions from seeking endorsement in the first place. In an ideal world, this bylaw would never be invoked. In the event of disagreements about the factual basis for invoking this amendment, the General Body retains the power to make a factual determination.

A26.2: Based on feedback, we’re updating the list of barred organizations and categories of duties and obligations.

(a). Amending section entitled ELECTORAL ENDORSEMENTS

*Currently reads as:*

The General Body shall be empowered to officially endorse electoral candidates on behalf of MDC DSA by a two-thirds vote at a general body meeting. Members of the chapter shall not be empowered to campaign as representatives of MDC DSA or its formations on behalf of any candidate, except that such candidate has been endorsed by MDC DSA or DSA National.

*Amended to:*
Section 1: Endorsement

The General Body shall...

Section 2: Duties and Obligations of Endorsed Candidates

By accepting the endorsement of MDC DSA, the endorsee agrees that they will adhere to all of the following duties and obligations:

1. The endorsee agrees that Black lives matter and will consequently reject endorsements from white supremacist organizations including labor, fraternal, or other organizations whose mission is primarily to organize and represent the police or corrections staff, including, but not limited to, all Fraternal Order of the Police (FOP) branches, Maryland Law Enforcement Officers (MLEO), Inc., the International Union of Police Associations (IUPA), Police Associations, the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), all branches of the Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Associations, the Police Benevolent Association, the Patrolmen’s Benevolent Association, and the Correction Officer Union.

2. The endorsee stands in solidarity with colonized peoples and will consequently reject endorsements from Zionist organizations, including but not limited to the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), Zionist Organization of America (ZOA), the American Israel Political Action Committee (AIPAC), Jewish Defense League (JDL), Hadassah, J-Street, and Christians United for Israel (CUFI).

3. The endorsee opposes imperialism and embraces internationalism and will consequently reject corporate funding from businesses, institutions, or advocacy organizations, both for-profit and nonprofit, whose primary purpose is war profiteering including, but not limited to, Boeing Defense, Space & Security, General Dynamics, Honeywell International Inc., Lockheed Martin Corporation, Northrop Grumman Corporation, and Raytheon Company.

4. The endorsee seeks to represent the working class and will consequently reject corporate funding from businesses, institutions, or advocacy organizations, both for-profit and nonprofit, whose primary purpose is wealth extraction, resource extraction, or real estate development, including, but not limited to, Wells Fargo, Amazon, the National Restaurant Association, the Restaurant Association of Metropolitan Washington, Dominion Energy, Exelon, Paloma Partners, Soros Fund Management, Blackstone Group, and the Association for Commercial Real Estate.

5. The endorsee wishes to be a voice for the marginalized and so shall refrain from hate-speech, including, but not limited to, racism, misogyny, homophobia, transphobia, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and ableism, or harassment.

6. The endorsee supports healthcare for all and so, recognizing reproductive healthcare as healthcare, will reject endorsements and funding from anti-abortion groups, including, but not limited to, American Right to Life, Americans United for Life, National Right to Life, Susan B.
Anthony List, National Institute of Family and Life Advocates, Concerned Women for America, Democrats for Life, Students for Life of America, and Focus on the Family.

Failure to uphold these duties and obligations shall serve to automatically rescind the chapter’s endorsement, and members of the chapter are therefore not empowered to campaign as representatives of MDC DSA or its formations on behalf of the candidate, per MDC DSA bylaws. Endorsed candidates who no longer intend to fulfill these duties and obligations shall submit in writing a statement of their intent to terminate their chapter endorsement. In the event of disagreements about the basis for invoking this bylaw, the General Body retains the power to make a factual determination by a majority vote.

**Amendment 26.1: Resolution Based Process to Establish Duties and Obligations**

**Sponsors:** Arjun Comar

**Co-Sponsors:**

**Rationale**

Based on feedback, I’d like to introduce an alternative to A26 that includes a resolution based process to add and remove both categories and specific examples of duties and obligations that candidates that seek our endorsement must uphold.

(a). Amending A26: Duties and Obligations of Endorsed Candidates

Currently reads as:

Section 1: Endorsement

The General Body shall...

Section 2: Duties and Obligations of Endorsed Candidates

By accepting the endorsement of MDC DSA, the endorsee agrees that they will adhere to all of the following duties and obligations:

1. The endorsee agrees that Black lives matter and so will reject endorsements from white supremacist organizations including labor, fraternal, or other organizations whose mission is primarily to organize and represent the police, including, but not limited to, all Fraternal Order
of the Police (FOP) branches, Maryland Law Enforcement Officers (MLEO), Inc., the International Union of Police Associations (IUPA), Police Associations, the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), all branches of the Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Associations, the Police Benevolent Association, and the Patrolmen’s Benevolent Association.

2. The endorsee stands in solidarity with colonized peoples and so will reject endorsements from Zionist organizations, including but not limited to the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), Zionist Organization of America (ZOA), the American Israel Political Action Committee (AIPAC), Jewish Defense League (JDL), Hadassah, and J-Street.

3. The endorsee seeks to represent the working class and so will reject corporate funding from businesses, institutions, or advocacy organizations, both for-profit and nonprofit, whose primary purpose is wealth extraction, resource extraction, or real estate development, including, but not limited to, Wells Fargo, Amazon, the National Restaurant Association, the Restaurant Association of Metropolitan Washington, Paloma Partners, Soros Fund Management, Blackstone Group, and the Association for Commercial Real Estate.

4. The endorsee wishes to be a voice for the marginalized and so shall refrain from hate-speech, including, but not limited to, racism, misogyny, homophobia, transphobia, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and ableism, or harassment.

5. The endorsee supports healthcare for all and so, recognizing reproductive healthcare as healthcare, will reject endorsements and funding from anti-abortion groups, including, but not limited to, American Right to Life, Americans United for Life, National Right to Life, Susan B. Anthony List, National Institute of Family and Life Advocates, Concerned Women for America, Democrats for Life, Students for Life of America, and Focus on the Family.

Failure to uphold these duties and obligations shall serve to automatically rescind the chapter’s endorsement, and members of the chapter are therefore not empowered to campaign as representatives of MDC DSA or its formations on behalf of the candidate, per MDC DSA bylaws. Endorsed candidates who no longer intend to fulfill these duties and obligations shall submit in writing a statement of their intent to terminate their chapter endorsement. In the event of disagreements about the basis for invoking this bylaw, the General Body retains the power to make a factual determination by a majority vote.

Amended to:

Section 1: Endorsement

The General Body shall...

Section 2: Duties and Obligations of Endorsed Candidates

By accepting the endorsement...

Section 3: Modifications to the Duties and Obligations of Endorsed Candidates
The specific duties and obligations a candidate must uphold may be established by resolution of the General Body. A list of duties and obligations passed by resolution of the General Body supersedes the list of duties and obligations established when this bylaw was adopted. When the General Body votes to amend the list of duties and obligations, the list in section 2 must be updated accordingly in all places where the bylaws are published. Any list of duties and obligations so amended may again be amended in the future by another resolution of the General Body.

Failure to uphold...

**Amendment 27: Implement Required Local Suspension and Expulsion Procedures**

**Sponsors:** Kim Lehmkuhl, Allison Hrabar  
**Co-Sponsors:** Matthew Sampson, Francesco R.

**Rationale**

Section 3(c)(iii)(2) of Resolution #33 (Harassment Policy and Grievance Process) passed at the 2017 DSA Convention requires that “Local chapters that lack [suspension and expulsion] procedures shall have suspension and expulsion procedures in place by July 1, 2018.”

Until such date that MDC DSA adopts local suspension and expulsion procedures, section 3(c)(iii) requires MDC DSA to operate under “the procedures outlined in Article III, Section 4 of the DSA Constitution and Article I, Section 3 of DSA bylaws,” which read as follows:

**Article III, Section 4 of the DSA Constitution:**

*Members may be expelled by either the National or Local organization. For a member to be expelled nationally, two-thirds vote of the National Political Committee shall be necessary. Criteria for expulsion are prescribed in the Bylaws. Decisions on expulsion by either the Local or National Organization may be appealed to the National Convention.*

**Article I, Section 3 of DSA bylaws:**

*Members can be expelled if they are found to be in substantial disagreement with the principles or policies of the organization or if they consistently engage in undemocratic, disruptive behavior or if they are under the discipline of any self-defined democratic-centralist organization. Members facing expulsion must receive written notice of charges against them and must be given the opportunity to be heard before the NPC or a subcommittee thereof, appointed for the purpose of considering expulsion.*
This bylaw amendment adopts a version of the two DSA provisions above, modified to comport with the MDC DSA’s existing code of conduct.

Section 3(c)(ii) of Resolution 33 requires that when a local chapter establishes suspension or expulsion procedures, its “Steering Committee is authorized to enforce these remedies and penalties in accordance with those procedures.”

(a). Amending section entitled CODE OF CONDUCT

Currently reads as:

Code of Conduct

MDC DSA members are expected to conduct oneself with civility and respect towards all other members. Unacceptable member behavior includes: creating an intimidating, offensive, and/or abusive environment for other members; engaging in undemocratic or disruptive behavior; engaging in any actions detrimental to the purpose or values of the organization. If a member’s conduct is found to be in substantial disagreement with the principles or policies of the organization, they will be subject to disciplinary action that may include suspension and/or expulsion from MDC DSA, in accordance with MDC DSA bylaws and policy.

Amended to:

Code of Conduct

MDC DSA members are expected to conduct oneself with civility and respect towards all other members. Unacceptable member behavior includes: creating an intimidating, offensive, and/or abusive environment for other members; engaging in undemocratic or disruptive behavior; engaging in any actions detrimental to the purpose or values of the organization.

Suspension and Expulsion

If a member’s conduct is found to be in substantial disagreement with the principles or policies of the organization, they will be subject to disciplinary action that may include suspension and/or expulsion from MDC DSA. Members facing suspension or expulsion must receive written notice of charges against them and must be given the opportunity to be heard before the Steering Committee. For a member to be suspended or expelled from MDC DSA, a two-thirds vote of the Steering Committee shall be necessary. Decisions on expulsion by the Steering Committee may be appealed to the National Convention.
PROPOSALS – RESOLUTIONS
RESOLUTION 1: RESOLUTION ON SUPPORTING ANTI-FASCIST ORGANIZING WITHIN MDC DSA

Sponsors: Craig T., Francesco R., Michelle S
Co-Sponsors: Danny Turkel, Kim Lehmkuhl, Elizabeth Stafford, Matthew Sampson, Doug T.

WHEREAS, white supremacy was enshrined in the creation of the United States of America,

WHEREAS, fascism has been an ever-present force in this country and has become increasingly normalized since the 2016 presidential election,

WHEREAS, fascists in the United States are now openly organizing and being recruited into and from the police and armed forces,

WHEREAS, fascists in the United States killed Heather Heyer on August 12, 2017 in Charlottesville, VA, have killed others elsewhere, and will likely kill again,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

1. That Metro DC DSA recognizes the need for a diversity of tactics to defeat fascism;
2. That Metro DC DSA emphasizes safety in all organized antifascist actions;
3. That Metro DC DSA acknowledges that building coalitions with organizations and individuals across the left is an effective strategy to defeat fascism

RESOLUTION 2: RESOLUTION TO ENDORSE DAVID SCHWARTZMAN FOR DC COUNCIL AT-LARGE

Sponsors: David Schwartzman

Please note: Per the chapter’s standing rules, all members in good standing have the right to vote on endorsement resolution R2 regardless of whether they register to vote at the Convention. If you will not be able to attend the Convention, you may cast an absentee ballot for R2 only until Friday, October 12, 2018 at 11:59pm Eastern.

WHEREAS, David Schwartzman is campaigning on a platform to empower working class District residents by establishing a DC public bank, raising the state tax rate on DC’s highest earners to offset the GOP tax cuts for the wealthy, and fighting to implement Initiative 77 and Paid Family Leave here in the District;

WHEREAS, David Schwartzman has been a resident of Washington, DC, since 1977 and he has previously run for public office in DC in 1998, 2008, 2010, 2012, and 2014;
WHEREAS, David Schwartzman’s full campaign platform can be found on his website [here](#); and

WHEREAS, David Schwartzman’s candidate questionnaire is available [here](#).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

1. That Metro DC DSA urges DC voters on November 6 to cast one of their two votes for DC Council At-Large to David Schwartzman, candidate of the DC Statehood Green Party.

2. That Metro DC DSA urges members to join DSA Member David Schwartzman’s campaign as volunteers to get this DSA member on the DC Council to use his office to legislate and organize for a more just community.

**Resolution 3: Mandatory Endorsement Questions**

Sponsors: Brian D., Arjun Comar  
Co-Sponsors: Walker Green, Kim Lehmkuhl, Francesco R., Michelle Styczynski

WHEREAS, it is imperative for the Chapter to have an in-depth accounting of a candidate’s views prior to an endorsement vote;

WHEREAS, the Chapter must know whether a candidate will stand in solidarity with us for the goal of socialism;

WHEREAS, a non-robust accounting of potential endorsement candidates’ views can allow a candidate with views contrary to a socialist organization to deceitfully gain endorsement;

WHEREAS, not all candidates for endorsement have presented an full accounting of their views and stances to the Chapter prior to an endorsement vote;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT candidates seeking the endorsement of Metro DC DSA shall be required to fill out an endorsement questionnaire providing a full accounting of their views and stances in relation to the socialist cause. This questionnaire will be developed by a body of the general body’s choosing. The questionnaire shall contain, but not be limited to, the following questions:

1. Does the candidate stand for sanctuary for all and reject endorsement from organizations involved in immigration enforcement and incarceration. Will the candidate support the call for unconditional abolition of ICE?

2. Will the candidate commit to anti-imperialist ideals, standing in solidarity with workers throughout the world harmed by US imperialist policies and reject endorsements from defense contractors? Will the candidate oppose all interventions and aggressions on foreign soil?
3. Does the candidate stand in solidarity with colonized peoples and reject endorsements from Zionist organizations? Will the candidate support the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement and support the call for liberation of the Palestinian people?

4. Does the candidate agree that Black lives matter and reject endorsements from white supremacist organizations including labor, fraternal, or other organizations whose mission is primarily to organize and represent the police? Does the candidate support the abolition of the policing institution as we know it, leading to demilitarization of law enforcement, direct democratic control of local, state, and federal law enforcement institutions, as well as the institution of a justice system based on restorative justice? Does the candidate support ending prison slavery and drug prohibition, with a commitment to reparations to Black individuals and communities based on the disproportionate harm these institutions have caused?

5. Does the candidate seek to represent the working class and reject corporate funding from businesses, institutions, or advocacy organizations, both for-profit and nonprofit, whose primary purpose is wealth extraction, resource extraction, or real estate development? In support of the working class, does the candidate support public housing, the Fight for 15, the abolition of the tipped sub-minimum wage, and a UBI/jobs guarantee?

6. Does the candidate support healthcare for all, recognize that healthcare for all applies to the full range of medical treatments often denied to the LGBTQIA+ community, recognize the full range of reproductive healthcare as healthcare, and reject endorsements or funding from anti-abortion groups? Will the candidate support the movement for Medicare for All as a first step towards nationalization and public control of the health industry?

7. Does the candidate identify as a socialist? If so, how does the candidate envision using elected office to work towards socialism?

8. Does the candidate support the rights of sex workers, support decriminalization of sex work, and reject the endorsements of organizations opposed to sex workers?

9. Does the candidate oppose the continued privatization of public education and stand for full funding and teacher-leadership of public schools policy-making?

10. Does the candidate support greater worker control of the economy? If so, how?

11. Does the candidate recognize the threat of impending climate change and the necessity of open borders to accommodate the upheaval it will cause?

12. Does the candidate acknowledge the crimes of colonization on First Nations people and support reparations and return to ancestral lands for their communities?

13. Does the candidate support the unconditional right to form a union, card check, and oppose the Janus vs. AFSCME decision and right to work legislation?

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