

## **Metro Detroit DSA Candidate Endorsement Questionnaire — State Office**

Candidate Name:

Office Sought:

Partisan (which Party?) or Non-Partisan:

Date of primary and / or general election:

Campaign Committee Name:

Address/Zip:

Phone: ()

E-mail:

Website:

Contact person for your campaign (if other than the candidate):

Name of individual completing this questionnaire:

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### **DSA's electoral strategy of running class struggle elections (from [Louisville DSA's website](#)):**

DSA embraces a model of class struggle elections. A class struggle election is a campaign that clearly and unequivocally draws the line between the working class and the capitalist class. A candidate running a campaign consistent with the class struggle election strategy will not hesitate to identify themselves as a worker and their supporters as workers organized and advocating for themselves. Our campaigns make clear the class enemies who finance and support the political establishment in our city and beyond. Candidates endorsed by DSA reject donations from real estate developers and other business interests, and make clear that their opponents are financed by and therefore beholden to ruling class forces. It is common to see socialist candidates for office organizing alongside workers in the community and you will often see DSA members linking electoral campaigns with other elements of class struggle such as strikes, union organizing efforts, and issue campaigns for working class demands. Elected DSA officeholders are encouraged to use the position to aid workers organizing in their workplaces and help build worker power independent of the Democratic Party and the ruling class.

### **Relevant articles about DSA's electoral strategy:**

[On class struggle elections](#)

[On building a mass movement](#)

[On NYC DSA's socialist slate for state legislature](#)

[2021 DSA National Convention electoral resolution](#)

## **1. Your Campaign**

- 1.1. What experience (if any) do you have of holding an elected position, running for election, or working with a campaign?
- 1.2. What is the central message of your campaign? And how does your campaign align with the positions of DSA?
- 1.3. What are the issues that will distinguish you from other candidates?
- 1.4. What relationships do you have in your district that could form a base of support, through activism, organizing, work or personal networks?
- 1.5. How will your campaign appeal to working class voters and those disaffected with the political process?
- 1.6. What endorsements do you have or will you seek from elected officials, political organizations, unions and community leaders?
- 1.7. What is your estimated win number (of votes)?
- 1.8. How much money will you need to successfully compete in this race? What is your plan to raise it?
- 1.9. What are your top three issues and why? Be specific.
- 1.10. What is the political makeup and demographics of your constituency/voter base? How will this impact the race?
- 1.11. If you are running against an incumbent, how do you plan to overcome that disadvantage? If this is an open seat, what sectors of the electorate do you think will support you?
- 1.12. If endorsed by Metro Detroit DSA (MDDSA), will you publicize that endorsement on your literature and website?
- 1.13. Why should the MDDSA prioritize this campaign and this race?

## **2. In Office**

- 2.1. If elected, you'll be one of a few representatives who refuse corporate donations and support a Democratic Socialist vision for the state of Michigan. How can a single representative contribute to bringing radical change to the state?
- 2.2. If elected, what are your top three priorities? And what plans do you have to accomplish them given the political milieu?
- 2.3. What committees would you want to join?
- 2.4. What will your office do to specifically engage disaffected constituents and bring them into the political process?
- 2.5. How will you participate in and support the work of MDDSA while in office?
- 2.6. How will you use your elected position to recruit and help to grow DSA membership?
- 2.7. Why is it important to talk to folks about joining DSA while on the campaign trail and in office?
- 2.8. Do you think it is more important that folks recognize you as a DSA member or as a "progressive" Democrat? Please explain.

### **3. Relationships to DSA**

- 3.1. DSA Membership is required to obtain an endorsement. This entails being up-to-date on your member dues. Are you currently a DSA member?
  - 3.1.1. If yes, when did you join and what DSA events and activities have you attended or been involved in?
  - 3.1.2. If not, are you willing to join DSA? How would you characterize your relationship to MDDSA?
- 3.2. Once in office, will you agree to appear periodically at monthly MDDSA chapter meetings?
- 3.3. How will DSA be involved in developing your platform?
- 3.4. How will you actively work with DSA and fight for working class power once you are in office?

- 3.5. Will you be willing to have a DSA member as one of your paid staff during your campaign and once in office?
- 3.6. Do you support the following goals? Answer “yes”, “no” or “yes with reservations” to each and explain any no answers or reservations.
  - 3.6.1. A “Green New Deal,” for the state of Michigan.
  - 3.6.2. Progressive taxation for Michigan.
  - 3.6.3. Healthcare as a Right through Medicare for All or state-level single payer.
  - 3.6.4. The Right to an Abortion in Michigan.
  - 3.6.5. Ending “Right to Work” and Employment at Will.
  - 3.6.6. \$15 Minimum Wage.
  - 3.6.7. Ensure that all school districts have the same per pupil funding..
  - 3.6.8. Education as a right through strengthening public schools, pulling the plug on charter school proliferation, and making public community colleges and universities tuition free.
  - 3.6.9. Affordable and Safe Housing as a Right.
  - 3.6.10. Clean water as a right and ending privatization of fresh water.
  - 3.6.11. Making Michigan a sanctuary state and stopping all ICE collaboration.
  - 3.6.12. Rejection of Corporate Donations/Super PAC Money.
  - 3.6.13. Defunding and demilitarizing the state police force, starting a mental health response team, and banning facial recognition technology.
  - 3.6.14. Ending the use of all private prisons and decreasing mass incarceration.
  - 3.6.15. Non-enforcement of drug possession and funding of rehabilitation services for drug users.
  - 3.6.16. The Repeal of Michigan Public Acts 526 and 527, which bans those receiving state contracts from boycotting institutions based in or doing business with the State of Israel.
  - 3.6.17. Universal Basic Income in the state of Michigan.

- 3.6.18. Automatic voter registration at age 18 and automatic mail-in ballots for all registered voters.
- 3.7. What ideas do you have about advancing any of these goals at the state level if you are elected? Be specific.
- 3.8. What initiatives would you champion to tackle institutional and systemic racism in both public and private arenas at the state level?
- 3.9. What initiatives will you champion that will directly and positively tackle gender, sex, and sexuality-based discrimination in both public and private arenas at the state level?
- 3.10. How do we win socialism in America?

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Thank you for taking the time to think about and address our questions.