

DELAWARE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA (DSA)

BYLAWS

These bylaws have been established in accordance with the national DSA Constitution and Bylaws to ensure coherence and uniformity across all chapters.

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ARTICLE I. NAME

Section 1. Official Name

The official name of this organization shall be the “Delaware Democratic Socialists of America (DSA)”, hereinafter referred to as “DEDSA”, “Delaware DSA”, or “the Local Chapter.”

Section 2. Legal Status

DEDSA is organized as a Delaware 501(c)(4) nonprofit corporation and is a local chapter of the national organization, the “**Democratic Socialists of America (DSA)**”.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

DEDSA is dedicated to advancing the transition to a truly democratic and socialist society, in which the means and resources of production are controlled

democratically and socially.

Section 1. Core Principles

1.i. Rejection of the Capitalist Economic Order

We oppose an economic system driven solely by private profit, alienated labor, entrenched wealth, and power disparities, and discrimination based on race, gender, disability, or sexual orientation. We also reject the use of brutality and violence to defend the status quo.

1.ii. A New Delaware Way

We envision a humane social order rooted in democratic socialism—a system where popular control of resources, production, and economic planning replaces the current neoliberal order that upholds corporate power, entrenched wealth, and inequality. Our vision embraces equitable wealth distribution, gender and racial equality, and relationships free from oppression. We believe that genuine American freedom means not only protecting individual liberties but also guaranteeing freedom from poverty, exploitation, and systemic injustice. In this spirit, our collective efforts aim to dismantle the capitalist structures that have long favored corporate interests over community well-being.

Section 2. Commitments

2.i Freedom of Ideology and Political Tendencies

This chapter is a space for all political tendencies that explicitly reject capitalism, racism, sexism, ableism, homophobia, and other forms of oppression. We welcome open discussion and debate among those who share these core progressive values, ensuring that every member's anti-oppression perspective can contribute to our collective mission.

2.ii Freedom to Organize

We support independent trade unions, women's rights groups, political parties, and other formations as safeguards against an intrusive state.

2.iii Freedom of Religion

We recognize the rights of those for whom spiritual concerns are central.

Section 3. Strategic Goals

Our overarching strategic goals are as follows:

3.i Build a Recognizable Socialist Presence

Establish a visible, influential socialist presence within Delaware’s broader democratic left.

3.ii Dismantle Delaware’s Entrenched Capitalist System

Actively challenge and work to dismantle the state’s corporate haven structures—including institutions like the Chancery Court—that perpetuate economic inequality and corporate dominance.

3.iii Create a Majority Movement

Foster a movement capable of realizing democratic socialism at both the state and national levels by raising awareness of the conflict between corporate power and the interests of the people.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership

Members of DEDSA will be those individuals whose dues to national DSA are paid in full and who reside and/or work in the state of Delaware. Individuals may not be members of DEDSA without being members of national DSA. It will be the responsibility of members to approve policies and guidelines for the operation of DEDSA, to elect delegates to the national convention, to vote on matters related to national policy, and to make recommendations on issues and other matters to the National Political Committee of DSA.

Section 2. “Good Standing”

Members are considered in “Good Standing” provided that they are considered in Good Standing with national DSA.

Section 3. “Active”

Members are considered “Active” provided they have attended one of the three most recent General Meetings, consistently participated in the work of an Internal Body of the Local Chapter as testified by an elected leader of said body, consistently participated in the work of a DEDSA priority as testified by an elected leader of said priority, or consistently participated in the work of the Steering Committee or its subcommittees as testified by a member of the Steering Committee.

Section 4. “Eligible Voter”

Members are considered “Eligible Voters” provided they are both Active and in Good Standing as per [Article III Sections 2 and 3](#).

Section 5. Removal of Members

5.i. Initiation of Charges.

If a member in Good Standing is found to be in substantial disagreement with the principles or policies of national DSA, or if they are found to be consistently engaging in undemocratic, disruptive behavior, or in violation of the DEDSA Grievance Policy, DEDSA may vote to expel them from DEDSA. In order for such a finding to be made, another DSA member must formally submit written charges against the member in question to the DEDSA Steering Committee, which will set the date of a Steering Committee meeting for deliberations on the charges.

5.ii Notice and Deliberation

The member in question must receive a copy of the written charges and notice of the meeting a minimum of two (2) weeks before that meeting takes place. The notification period may be waived if the Steering Committee is presented with evidence of malicious intent on the part of the member in question, or an immediate suspension can be put in place until the scope of harm can be deliberated.

5.iii. Expulsion Vote.

Expulsion of a member requires a two-thirds vote of the Steering Committee.

5.iv. Appeal.

An expelled member in Good Standing may appeal to the National Political Committee of DSA.

Section 6. Voluntary Donations

As mandated by the national DSA Constitution and Bylaws, the Local Chapter may establish a Local Chapter pledge system of voluntary donations for its members. The payment of a Local Chapter donation may not be a requirement for voting or for holding a Local Chapter office.

Section 7. Privacy Concerns

DEDSA adheres to a strict policy protecting the privacy of all members' personal and contact information.

ARTICLE IV. BRANCHES

Section 1. Definition

A Branch is a subgroup within the Local Chapter composed of members who reside in or are Active within a specific geographic area of Delaware.

Section 2. Recognized Branches

DEDSA currently recognizes 2 Branches:

- **Northern Branch:** covering New Castle County.
- **Southern Branch:** covering Kent and Sussex Counties.

Section 3. Branch Membership

Chapter members are considered to be members of the Branch in which they live

(or work, if they only work in the state of Delaware) for the purpose of counting branch membership or serving as Branch Chair. However, there is no restriction on members attending or participating in the activities of another Delaware DSA Branch, or serving in any other Branch's Working Groups or other organizing efforts.

Section 4. Formation, Dissolution, and Separation of Branches

A Branch may be chartered by majority vote of the Steering Committee upon petition of at least 50 members residing within a defined territory. Substantively similar Branches may be merged by the Steering Committee rather than granted separate representation. A Branch may be dissolved by the Steering Committee if the Steering Committee determines the Branch is defunct, has failed to conduct its internal affairs according to the Branch's or DEDSA bylaws, or if it has been promoting policies contrary to those of DEDSA or national DSA.

Section 5. Branch Chairs

A Branch must elect one Branch Chair to the DEDSA Steering Committee. Branch Chairs are required to represent their Branches at Chapter Steering Committee meetings. Branch Chair elections will coincide with Chapter Officer elections, and members in Good Standing considered to belong to a given Branch (see [Article IV Section 2](#)) may vote in the Branch Chair election for their branch.

ARTICLE V. LOCAL CHAPTER OFFICERS: POWERS AND DUTIES

Section 1. Officers and Terms

The Officers of the Local Chapter will be the Co-chairs, Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Coordinator. No officer may hold more than one officer position at a time. Officers will be elected to one-year terms; they will serve for the length of their term or until successors are elected.

1.i. Diversity Requirement.

Two or more elected Officers must be either a woman, transgender, non-binary, or any combination of these categories, determined solely by the officers' own identification.

1.ii. BIPOC Requirement.

Additionally, two or more elected officers must be Black, Indigenous, and/or People of Color (BIPOC), again determined solely by the officers' own identification.

If fewer than enough candidates stand for election to satisfy either or both of these requirements, the unsatisfied requirements are waived. For information on elections, [see Article XI](#).

Section 2. Vacancies

In the event of a vacancy in any Local Chapter office, the Steering Committee will appoint a replacement for the remainder of the term or until a special election can be held.

Section 3. Co-chairs

Two Co-chairs will be the chief executive officers of the Local Chapter.

- They will plan and facilitate Local Chapter and Steering Committee meetings or will appoint a substitute to assume the powers and duties of the presiding Officer as specified in Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised 11th Edition.
- The Co-chairs will be the official public spokespersons for the Local Chapter and will initiate such actions and policies as the Local Chapter's general welfare may demand. Before acting in their capacity as spokesperson, Co-chairs must get approval through a majority vote of the Steering Committee. Co-chairs may also delegate a public spokesperson for an event or occasion, also with majority approval from the Steering Committee.
- The Co-chairs will be responsible also for coordinating the day-to-day operations and political work of the Local Chapter, providing support to its

Branches, Working Groups, and Committees.

- The Co-chairs will report to DEDSA General Meetings on the business of the Steering Committee Meetings, at which time a copy of the minutes of those meetings will be available for inspection.
- The Co-chairs will be the primary contact for communication to and from DSA's national office, including participation in regular district calls. If needed, Co-chairs can delegate district call attendance to another Steering Committee member. Co-chairs are also responsible for dissemination of announcements from DSA's national office and National Political Committee.

No Co-Chair can simultaneously hold a position as a Branch Chair.

Section 4. Secretary

The Secretary will be responsible for answering all correspondence and queries of the Local Chapter and for maintaining an up-to-date membership list of the Local Chapter.

- The Secretary will be in charge of checking and responding to the Local Chapter's email and will forward or delegate responding to emails as needed. They will ensure effective communication with the National DSA. They will temporarily assume the responsibilities of the Co-Chair, if neither Co-Chair is able to do so.
- The Secretary will also be responsible for the taking of minutes of all General Meetings and Steering Committee Meetings, and will have custody of these minutes and the resolutions, reports and other official records of the Local Chapter. Minute-taking may be delegated to another volunteer at the Secretary's discretion.
- The Secretary will transfer official records in good condition to their successor. Official records will include meeting minutes, attendance, member lists, and voting/election results. The Chapter's Vaultwarden will be maintained by the Secretary, along with the Chapter co-chairs.
- The Secretary will work with Branch Chairs to collect Branch records and

ensure that those records are successfully integrated into the Local Chapter records.

Section 5. Treasurer

The Treasurer will be responsible for the funds and financial records of the Local Chapter.

- All funds collected by the Local Chapter will be turned over to the Treasurer, who will deposit them in a credit union or bank account under the name of the Local Chapter.
- The Treasurer will be responsible for reimbursing members for approved expenses on behalf of the Chapter, as well as advising members on what is and is not eligible for reimbursement. Reimbursements are subject to review and Steering Committee vote prior to payout.
- In cooperation with the Membership Coordinator, the Treasurer shall be responsible for ensuring that membership dues are current.
- At least once a year, the Treasurer will prepare the annual Local Chapter budget and deliver the Local Chapter financial report to the General Meeting of the Local Chapter.
- The Treasurer is also responsible for giving periodic progress reports as requested by the Steering Committee of the Local Chapter.

Section 6. Membership Coordinator

The Membership Coordinator shall be responsible for the overall health and growth of DEDSA membership by coordinating the outreach, recruitment, and engagement activities of the Local Chapter.

- The Membership Coordinator shall serve as one of the two co-chairs of the Member Engagement Committee, overseeing membership growth, retention, engagement, participation, and leadership development initiatives.
- The Membership Coordinator shall organize their activities to be inclusive, culturally competent, and non-oppressive to marginalized groups. Special

attention shall be devoted to the recruitment of members from marginalized groups.

Section 7. Additional Duties and Actions Out of Order

The Local Chapter Steering Committee may assign additional temporary duties to an Officer of the Local Chapter, so long as such assignments do not conflict with the designation of responsibilities outlined in these Bylaws.

Any action taken by an officer in contravention of these bylaws is null and void.

Section 8. Leadership Transition

In the event of an unexpected vacancy in a key leadership role, the Steering Committee shall appoint an interim officer from among existing Chapter members while organizing a special election within thirty (30) days.

Clear protocols for leadership transitions shall be maintained to ensure organizational stability and continuity.

ARTICLE VI. STEERING COMMITTEE

Section 1. Composition

The Local Chapter Steering Committee will be composed of the five (5) Officers of the Local Chapter and two (2) Branch Chairs.

Section 2. Duties

The Steering Committee administers the affairs of the Local Chapter and oversees the implementation of the decisions made at General Meetings; it may also propose policy to the General Meetings.

- It will have the power to receive reports of any Committee or Branch and advise thereon, to call Special Meetings of the Local Chapter, and to act on any matter that requires immediate and urgent action. The Steering

Committee is the executive body of the Local Chapter, and thus subordinate to its legislative body, the General Meeting.

- The Chapter Steering Committee will be responsible for establishing and coordinating program activities for the Local Chapter, including but not limited to political education and outreach, socials, organizer training, coalition building, and helping members start new projects and campaigns.
- The Steering Committee is also responsible for proposing guidelines and policies that will subsequently be voted on by members in Good Standing of DSA, for enacting policies and enforcing guidelines passed by membership, and for acting on the organization's behalf between Local Chapter meetings.

Section 3. Meetings

The meetings of the Steering Committee will be held at the call of one (1) of the Co-chairs at such intervals as may be determined by a prior Steering Committee Meeting or in consultation with any three (3) members of the Steering Committee. All members of the Steering Committee must be given four days' oral, written, or electronic notice of regular Steering Committee meetings; a twenty-four-hour notice may be given under special emergency circumstances.

Section 4. Quorum

A quorum of a simple majority, including at least three (3) of the five (5) officers, is required for the transaction of Steering Committee business.

Section 5. Branch Chairs

Branch Chairs are elected by each of the constituent Branches of the Chapter. Each Branch is allotted one Branch Chair.

- Branch Chairs are required to represent their Branches at Steering Committee meetings.
- They are also expected to inform their Branches (and/or Branch steering

committees) of chapter decisions and developments.

- Branch Chair elections are to be held annually. In the event that a Branch Chair resigns, a replacement will be appointed by the Steering Committee until new elections can be held.

Section 6. Conflict of Interest

DEDSA adopts a Conflict of Interest Policy to ensure that personal interests do not improperly influence the actions of its Officers or Steering Committee members. Full disclosure of any potential conflicts is required.

6.i. Disclosure Requirements

All Officers and Steering Committee members must submit a written disclosure of any potential conflict upon appointment. Disclosures must be updated annually or whenever circumstances change. Failure to disclose may result in disciplinary action, up to removal from office.

6.ii. Recusal Process and Review

When a conflict is identified, the affected individual must recuse themselves from any related discussions, decisions, or votes. In cases where a member either refuses to recuse themselves or disputes the necessity of recusal in matters involving personal financial interests, a designated conflict-of-interest review subcommittee shall be convened. This subcommittee will comprise at least two Officers and two non-officer or independent members. It will review the case and provide recommendations. If the subcommittee is unable to meet the required quorum within fourteen (14) days, the matter shall be escalated to a General Meeting for resolution using the General Meeting's quorum requirements. [Note: The ongoing periodic review of all disclosed conflicts is not mandated here, leaving such reviews to be conducted at the discretion of the Steering Committee as needed.] Disciplinary measures, including temporary suspension of voting rights or removal from office, may be imposed if a breach is determined. All actions must be documented in meeting minutes and communicated to the membership.

6.iii. Appeal Process

An affected individual may appeal any disciplinary action at the next General

Meeting. The General Membership's decision, rendered by a majority vote, shall be final.

ARTICLE VII. FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT

All expenditures exceeding \$500 must be voted on and approved by a majority of the Steering Committee.

Section 1. Recusal

Any member of the Steering Committee with a direct financial interest in the expenditure must recuse themselves from the vote.

Section 2. Independent Audit

The Treasurer shall engage an independent auditor if:

- 50%+1 of the general body votes for it
- if the previous tax year exceeded \$50,000
- if the Steering Committee votes for an audit.

The auditor will be selected and approved by the Steering Committee. The resulting audit report must be presented at the General Meeting.

Section 3. Financial Transparency

The Treasurer, in collaboration with the Steering Committee, shall maintain transparent records of all financial transactions. Financial reports shall be available to any member upon request.

ARTICLE VIII. LOCAL CHAPTER MEETINGS

Section 1. Definition

Delaware DSA Chapter Conventions, General Meetings, and Special Meetings shall represent the general will of the membership and shall have the highest authority of decision-making power over all matters within Delaware DSA. In these bylaws, “Delaware DSA Meetings” refers to a meeting established by this article.

Section 2. Local Chapter Convention

Delaware DSA shall hold a convention each calendar year to:

- Accept reports, consider questions of Chapter business
- Elect the DEDSA Steering Committee
- May adopt an annual budget.

The Steering Committee shall electronically or physically send written notice of the convention to all members no less than twenty-one (21) days prior to the convention. The Steering Committee shall publish the agenda to the membership no less than ten (10) days prior to the convention.

If the Convention elects to consider special standing rules, the question of their adoption will be the first order of business and, upon adoption, will apply to that convention only.

The Convention may coincide with a General Meeting.

Section 3. General Meetings

Delaware DSA shall hold a minimum of four (4) General Meetings each calendar year to address any Local Chapter business within the guidelines set by the Convention.

- The Steering Committee shall publish the time and place to the membership no less than fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting.
- The Steering Committee shall publish the agenda to the membership no less than five (5) days prior to the meeting.
- A member can request to add an item to the agenda. Such requests must be sent no fewer than 72 hours ahead of the General Meeting or they are not guaranteed consideration.

Section 4. Special Meetings

Delaware DSA Steering Committee may call a Special Meeting of Delaware DSA on 48 hours notice when an urgent and important matter requires deliberation.

Special Meetings may be approved through a simple majority vote of the Steering Committee. The rules of the Special Meeting shall be in accordance with the bylaws and any standing rules adopted for general meetings.

Section 5. Rules

DEDSA may elect to adopt standing rules, which shall not be inconsistent with these bylaws, to administer the process and procedures of Delaware DSA Meetings.

These bylaws and existing standing rules will govern all Delaware DSA Meetings. If additional structure is needed, a motion may be called to adopt the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised for a specific section of, or the remainder, of a meeting. Should a simple majority support the motion, Robert's Rules will be utilized. Should Robert's Rules be inconsistent with these bylaws or standing rules, then the bylaws or standing rules will apply.

Any action taken by a Chapter Meeting in contravention of these bylaws is null and void.

Section 6. Quorum

A quorum of five percent of the members (but not fewer than six (6) persons) is required for Delaware DSA Meetings to transact business. In cases where quorum cannot be met with members present, a vote may be called after the meeting and put before membership on a secure online platform. Members may also move to hold any vote over a secure online platform by a simple majority of members present.

Section 7. Resolutions

Any members in Good Standing may bring resolutions before the Chapter General Meeting to be voted on by membership. In order to submit a resolution to be considered at a General Meeting:

- A resolution must be first endorsed by at least 5 chapter members in Good Standing.
- The resolution must then be submitted to the Steering Committee by email and posted on the announcements channel at least one (1) month before a General Meeting in order to be added to that meeting's agenda.
- Resolutions submitted after that date may be added to the agenda by a two-thirds vote of the Chapter Steering Committee. Otherwise, they will be considered at the following General Meeting.

The Steering Committee may reject submitted resolutions by majority vote if:

- The resolution contradicts or is prohibited by the Local Chapter's Bylaws or by the national organization
- If it is the Steering Committee's opinion that the resolution is somehow incomplete, unactionable, unenforceable, or otherwise impossible to enact.

The Steering Committee must provide their reasoning for any rejected resolutions, and may provide suggested amendments to a resolution's author if they feel that a resolution would be acceptable with certain changes.

The Steering Committee will announce the agenda for the General Meeting, including those resolutions to be included, at least 1 week before the meeting.

Resolutions are passed by a majority vote of the General Meeting. If quorum cannot be met at the General Meeting where the resolution is presented, an online vote of members in Good Standing may be held.

ARTICLE IX. INTERNAL BODIES

Section 1. Definition

Internal Bodies of the Local will consist of Commissions, Committees, and Working Groups. All Internal Bodies are ultimately answerable to the general membership.

Section 2. Commissions

Commissions may be appointed by the Steering Committee and empowered to carry out a specific set of tasks that do not ordinarily fall upon an officer or any Internal Body, and for which no longer-term body is provided by these Bylaws.

The structure, responsibilities, and limits of a Commission's powers, including appointment of members, must be stipulated at the time of creation. Any substantial change to the Commission, including appointment of new members must be approved by the Steering Committee.

- Commissions must report back on their actions and activity at General Meetings.
- Commissions will dissolve upon completion of their assigned tasks, or after six months, whichever is sooner.
- Commissions may be renewed by majority vote of the Steering Committee if, and only if, the Commission's assigned tasks remain incomplete.

Section 3. Committees

A committee is a group within the Local Chapter that is tasked with carrying out an internal function for the chapter. Ratification of these Bylaws will establish the following committees:

- Political Education Committee (PEC)
- Communications Committee (Comms)
- Membership Engagement Committee (MEC)
- Red Rabbits (RR)
- Socialists-in-Office Committee (SiO).

Committees will be led by two (2) co-chairs who will be appointed by the Steering Committee within a month of the annual Local Chapter Convention to one-year terms.

Committees may be established by a vote by general membership at a General Meeting of the Local Chapter. A Committee is created by a Resolution passed by the general membership that contains a charter that details the purpose of the committee, the powers granted to the committee, and the internal structure and functioning of the

committee. Committee charters may be amended by a vote of a General Meeting of the Local Chapter. A Committee that has not met for at least three months will be considered defunct. If a Committee is found to be defunct, the Steering Committee will schedule a vote for dissolution of the defunct Committee at the next available Chapter Meeting and notify General Membership. If the Steering Committee finds that a Committee has failed to conduct its internal affairs according to DEDSA bylaws or to have acted in violation of formally adopted resolutions or policies of DEDSA, the Steering Committee may vote to suspend all officially sanctioned meetings, operations, and/or business of the Standing Committee until the next General Meeting of the Local Chapter, at which point General Membership will vote on the question of dissolving the Standing Committee.

3.i. Privileges of Committees

- Committees will be guaranteed reasonable use of the Local's internal communications systems to advertise meetings to members
- shall further be entitled to basic support from the Communications and Member Engagement Committees (at the discretion of those Committees and their chairs). Committees will be guaranteed reasonable use of physical and virtual meeting spaces operated by the Local (e.g., a Zoom account or an office).
- Committees may submit requests for limited Membership Data, (i.e. Names, phone numbers, general location) to the Membership Coordinator.
- Additional privileges, such as social media access and access to phone bank and text bank lists, are subject to prior approval by the Steering Committee and may be revoked.
- Without approval by the Steering Committee, Committees are prohibited from liaising officially with other organizations and from releasing public statements. Additional requirements relating to liaising with external organizations are specified in [Article X](#).

3.ii. Membership, Co-Chairs, and Vacancies

- All Committees must track their membership and provide member rolls to the Secretary at least once per calendar quarter.

- All Committees, other than the Socialists-in-Office Committee, must determine clear standards for membership. The Socialists in Office Committee's standards for membership are determined by [Article IX, Section 3, Subsection 3](#). All Committees may determine their own internal structure as they see fit, so long as such structure does not conflict with these Bylaws or other rules of the Local.
- A Committee co-chair may be removed by vote of two-thirds of the Committee, followed by a three-fourths vote of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee, in consultation with membership of the concerned Committee, will appoint a replacement to fill vacant co-chair positions within three (3) months.

3.iii. Socialists-in-Office Committee

The Socialists-in-Office (SiO) Committee will be the Committee responsible for coordinating the Local's involvement with local, state, and federal electoral campaigns, including but not limited to recruiting and researching candidates for elected office and producing a candidate questionnaire for each electoral cycle.

In order to be a voting member of the SiO Committee, a person must:

- be a member in Good Standing of the Local
- have attended at least two meetings of the SiO Committee in the last one hundred and eighty (180) days
- indicate in writing to the co-chairs of the SiO Committee that the person wishes to join the Committee.

A member fulfilling these criteria may vote on proceedings of the SiO beginning ten (10) days after their request is submitted. The SiO Committee must submit member rolls to the Secretary, as outlined in Article V, Section 3, Subsection 2.

3.iv. Dissolution of a Committee

Dissolution requires a two-thirds vote of the Steering Committee followed by a two-thirds vote of a General Meeting. If one or both co-chair positions are unfilled for more than three months, the Committee will automatically dissolve.

Section 4. Working Groups

Working Groups may be established for the purpose of initial, exploratory, and educational activities relevant to the aims of the Local and the purview of the Working Group, such as pilot programs, specific political education, and research activities. Working groups will be defined as issue-based (e.g., abolition) or identity-based (e.g., queer socialists). Ratification of these Bylaws will confirm the establishment of the following working groups: Arts & Culture Working Group (ACWG), Housing Justice Working Group (HJWG), International Solidarity Working Group (ISWG), Migrant Rights Working Group (MRWG), Mutual Aid Working Group (MAWG), and Queer Socialists Working Group (QSWG). To create a new Working Group, members of the Local Chapter may submit a resolution to the Steering Committee co-signed by at least five members of the Local. The resolution must describe an area of work that is not currently within the jurisdiction of another Internal Body of the Local and that is related to the purposes of the Local. The resolution must identify two co-chairs of the Working Group. The Working Group will be established upon a majority vote of the Steering Committee.

4.i. Privileges of Working Groups

- Working Groups will be guaranteed reasonable use of physical and virtual meeting spaces operated by the Local (e.g., a Zoom account or an office), and shall further be entitled to basic support from the Communications and Member Engagement Committees (at the discretion of those Committees and their Chairs).
- Working Groups may submit requests for anonymized member data to the Membership Coordinator.
- Additional privileges, such as access to social media, and access to phone bank and text bank lists, are subject to approval by the Steering Committee and may be revoked.
- Without approval by the Steering Committee, Working Groups may not liaise officially with other organizations and may not release public statements. Additional requirements relating to liaising with external organizations are specified in [Article IX](#).

4.ii. Membership, Co-Chairs, and Vacancies

- Working Groups must establish clear standards for membership within the Working Group, subject to approval by the Steering Committee. Working Groups must provide member rolls to the Secretary regularly.
Working Groups may determine their own internal structure as they see fit, so long as such structure does not conflict with these Bylaws or other rules of the Local.
- All Working Groups must have two co-chairs. Working Groups are responsible for electing their own co-chairs with a vote of the Working Group's membership. If one or both co-chair slots are unable to be filled for over three months, the working group will be automatically dissolved.
- To be renewed following a Local Convention, Working Groups must file a report with the Secretaries relating the Working Group's activities over the prior year. All Working Groups must track their membership and provide member rolls to the Secretary at least once per calendar quarter.
- Working Groups that are either inactive or operating in violation of these Bylaws may be dissolved by a majority vote of the Steering Committee. Upon ratification of these bylaws, all existing DEDSA Working Groups have one month to ensure they are up to these standards or they will be dissolved.

4.iii. Issue-Based Working Groups

Issue-based Working Groups have the primary purpose of exploring and organizing around an issue area of relevance to the mission of the Local Chapter. Issue-based Working Groups will have two co-chairs elected by the membership of the Working Group every six months. A co-chair may be removed based on a two-thirds vote of the Working Group or by a three-fourths vote of the Steering Committee. In the case of a vacancy in a co-chair position, the Steering Committee will appoint a replacement within three months.

4.iv. Identity-Based Working Groups

Identity-based Working Groups will organize around a social identity category. Co-chairs of identity-based Working Groups will be elected by the membership of the

Working Group every six months. A co-chair may be removed based on a two-thirds vote of the Working Group or by a three-fourths vote of the Steering Committee. In the case of a vacancy in a co-chair position, a replacement chair must be elected by the Working Group within 3 months of a vacancy.

ARTICLE X. EXTERNAL RELATIONSHIPS

Section 1. Endorsements for Elected Office

To be endorsed by the Local Chapter, a candidate for elected office must satisfy at least the following minimum conditions

- the district or constituency they are running to represent must fall partially or entirely within the catchment of the Local Chapter
- the candidate must complete a candidate questionnaire produced by the SiO Committee
- the candidate must participate in a private deliberative session with the SiO co-chairs and up to two rank-and-file members (as approved by the SiO co-chairs).
- following this session, an open endorsement vote shall be conducted via an online platform (e.g., on Discord) with a voting period lasting at least one week.

1.i. Socialists-in-Office Committee Recommendations

The SiO Committee will be responsible for recommending endorsement of candidates to members of the Local. Members of the SiO Committee who are currently working on the campaign of a candidate (in a paid or unpaid capacity) must recuse themselves from any SiO Committee vote on the recommendation of that candidate. The SiO Committee must vote on the recommendation of a candidate before the candidate may appear before the general membership for an endorsement vote. The SiO Committee may take any of the following actions in its vote for recommendation:

- send the candidate to the General Meeting with a positive

recommendation;

- send the candidate to the General Meeting with a negative recommendation;
- send the candidate to the Steering Committee with a negative recommendation, in the case that the SiO Committee believes that the candidate's endorsement is not worthy of deliberation by the general membership.

If the SiO Committee sends a candidate to the Steering Committee with a negative recommendation, the Steering Committee may vote by a simple majority to either:

- accept the SiO Committee's recommendation (with the result that the candidate does not receive an endorsement from the Local and there is no debate on the question at the General Meeting)
- reject the SiO Committee's recommendation (with the result that the candidate goes to the General Meeting for a vote on the candidate's endorsement by the Local). The Steering Committee should vote to reject the SiO Committee's recommendation if it determines that the candidate's endorsement is worthy of chapter-wide debate.

If the Steering Committee accepts the SiO Committee's recommendation, the candidate in question or their supporters may attempt to overturn the SiO's decision using the procedures outlined in [Article XII, Section 5](#).

1.ii. Endorsement Votes

A simple majority vote in favor of endorsement at a General Meeting is required for the Local to endorse a candidate.

1.iii. Campaign Coordination with Endorsed Candidates

The SiO Committee is responsible for coordinating and directing the Local's involvement with endorsed campaigns.

Section 2. Relationship with Elected Officials

Any time a Steering Committee or SiO Committee member speaks or works with an elected official or endorsed candidate regarding DEDSA matters, they must report

back regarding the conversation or interaction to the Socialists in Office Committee. DEDSA emphatically discourages a culture of gatekeeping with regards to relationships with elected officials and candidates. The Steering Committee may appoint a group of members to coordinate the Local Chapter's relationship with local, state, and/or federal elected officials within the catchment of the Local.

Section 3. Coalitions

The Local Chapter may join coalitions with other organizations through a vote of the Steering Committee. Upon joining a coalition, the Steering Committee will appoint 1-3 members of the Local Chapter as official coalition liaisons who will be responsible for reporting to the Steering Committee and to the Local Chapter about the status of the coalition and the Local's involvement. Liaisons will be appointed at least in part based on their connections to the substantive area of the coalition's work, and will ideally be drawn from relevant Committees and Working Groups of the Local. Upon joining a coalition, liaisons will be entitled to the same privileges as a Working Group, as described in Article IX, Section 4.i. The Steering Committee may vote to approve additional privileges to coalition liaisons.

Section 4. Liaisons

Internal Bodies seeking to coordinate with other external groups should seek approval from the Steering Committee. Where appropriate, the Steering Committee will appoint official liaisons. The Steering Committee will keep record of liaisons for all organizations with which the Local is coordinating.

Section 5. Events

The Local Chapter may choose to endorse or sponsor certain events organized by other organizations.

- Endorsement involves more limited support of the event.
- Sponsorship involves more extensive support.

The general membership of the Local Chapter or the Steering Committee may vote to endorse an event by a simple majority. The Communications Committee will

promote endorsed events on social media.

The general membership of the Local Chapter or the Steering Committee may vote to sponsor an event by a simple majority. Only a Committee, Working Group, coalition liaison, or member of the Steering Committee may move to sponsor an event. The Steering Committee will assign a point person to coordinate chapter efforts to support sponsored events. Sponsored events will be promoted to members of the Local internally and on social media.

ARTICLE XI. ELECTIONS AND NOMINATIONS

Section 1. Election of Chapter Officers

Elections for Local Officers shall be held at least once yearly. Local Officers are to be elected by a vote of the Local membership.

- A three (3)-person Nominations Committee will be established at least one (1) month prior to every Local Officer election by a vote of the Steering Committee.
- It will solicit and receive nominations for the positions to be elected.

Section 2. Election of Branch Chairs

Elections for Branch Chairs shall occur annually within each constituent Branch. Branch Representatives are elected by their Branch membership.

- A Nominations Committee will be established at least one month prior to the Branch Chair election by a vote of the Steering Committee to solicit and receive nominations.
- This process can be independent of the annual convention schedule, or it can be done as part of the annual convention elections.

Section 3. Vacancies

In the event of a vacancy, whether due to recall or resignation, the Steering

Committee must appoint a temporary replacement until a special election can be held.

If the vacancy occurs after the first six (6) months of the term, or if there are no candidates that ran during the previous election for the vacant seat, the Steering Committee may appoint a replacement for the remainder of the term through a simple majority vote.

Section 4. Online Voting

Elections for both Local Chapter and Branch positions shall be conducted online whenever possible.

- The Nominations Committee is responsible for ensuring that the voting platform is secure and that instructions are clear.
- The election shall be publicized via email and other official communication channels.
- Local Chapter elections must remain open for at least fourteen (14) days, while Branch elections must remain open for at least seven (7) days.
- Wherever feasible, these elections shall be held concurrently to streamline the process.

Section 5. Recall

As Officers of the Local exist to serve the Local, any elected Officer may also be recalled by the Local.

5.i. Petition & Elections Committee.

A recall vote may be triggered by a petition signed by a number of members equal to or greater than two-thirds of the total number of votes cast during the previous Branch or Local Chapter election.

5.ii. Recall Vote.

Once triggered, an Elections Committee shall be established in accordance with Sections 1-2 to hold a forum on the recall, followed by a Local- or Branch-wide election, where a supermajority of two-thirds of voters shall be required to recall the Officer or Branch Chair.

5.iii. Removal for Malfeasance or Nonfeasance.

In the case of malfeasance or nonfeasance, Branch or Local Steering Committees may call a vote to remove an Officer, with a two-thirds majority vote of the Branch or Steering Committee required to execute the removal.

Officers may not vote in the matter of their own recall. The rationale and result of any such vote called must be published to the membership.

- Malfeasance shall be defined as intentional misuse of Local resources, abuse of Local Officer powers, or deliberate misrepresentation of the positions of the Local. Additionally, if a Local Officer is found to be in significant violation of the Grievance Policy, HGOs may recommend removal from the Local office and such violations shall be considered malfeasance.
- Nonfeasance shall be defined as an ongoing or repeated failure to execute Officer duties and maintain regular contact with other Branch or Local Officers, without making arrangements to be replaced or voluntarily stepping down from the position, or failure to maintain membership.

Section 6. Delegates to National Convention

Local Chapter delegates and alternates to the National Convention will be elected by Active members in Good Standing of the Local Chapter of DSA. Elections for the National Convention delegation will be held on the schedule announced by the national organization.

- Nominations for Local Chapter Officers and delegates to the National Convention will be opened at least ten (10) days before and closed at the meeting at which elections take place.
 - The call for nominations will be announced to all members in Good Standing of DEDSA as soon as nominations are open.
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ARTICLE XII. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

All disciplinary procedures of DEDSAI are intended to comply with [Resolution 33 of national DSA](#). Nothing written in these Bylaws may be interpreted as superseding the procedures of Resolution 33 or any other mandatory grievance procedures of national DSA.

Section 1. Grounds for Discipline

Grounds for discipline are:

- Harassment
- physical violence against another member of the Local Chapter
- violations of the Local or National Code of Conduct
- anti-democratic behavior.

Discipline related to harassment, violations of the Code of Conduct, and interpersonal violence will proceed through the grievance process defined in [Section 2 of this Article](#).

Harassment will be defined as in Resolution 33 of DSA National.

Anti-democratic behavior will be defined as the following

- flagrant violation of these Bylaws, the Local's standing rules, or established Committee or Working Group procedures
- consistent refusal to carry out democratically-required duties
- willful sabotage of the Local Chapter's work
- coordinated entryism.

Anti-democratic based discipline will proceed through a political process outlined in [Section 3 of this Article](#).

Disciplinary procedures require written notice and an opportunity to be heard for all charges, following the timelines specified in Resolution 33. In cases of harassment in which there is a reasonable concern for the safety of a member or members of the Local Chapter, members may be temporarily suspended pending the resolution of the grievance process.

Section 2. Grievance Procedure and Harassment & Grievance Officers

The Steering Committee will appoint between one and two Harassment and Grievance Officers (“HGOs”). HGOs will be appointed for a term of one year and may serve for no more than three consecutive terms. HGOs will be responsible for:

- investigating charges of harassment, violations of Resolution 33, and violations of the Local or National Code of Conduct
- HGOs will deliver a report to the Steering Committee determining the credibility of the claims, specifying which standards of conduct have been violated, and recommending mediation and/or disciplinary measures as appropriate. The Steering Committee will vote on the recommendation of the HGOs.
- To expel a member based on the outcome of a harassment and grievance procedure, the Steering Committee must submit a recommendation for expulsion and vote to expel.

Section 3. Political Discipline

3.i. Anti-Democratic Behavior

Any member may initiate a charge of anti-democratic behavior against another member by submitting a written complaint endorsed by at least three additional members. The Steering Committee will investigate the matter and produce a report for general membership review. Before finalizing the report and voting on any sanctions, the charged party shall be given an opportunity to be heard by the Steering Committee. The Committee will then vote on appropriate sanctions in accordance with Section 4.

3.ii. Political Speech of Elected Public Official Members

For this Article, “elected public official members” are defined as those elected officials whose electoral contests involved at least 500 votes, or a threshold determined appropriate by the Steering Committee in light of local conditions. Such members—including ward leaders—may be censured, suspended, or expelled for political speech or conduct that is in flagrant conflict with the substantive priorities of the Local or National DSA. Any Steering Committee member may bring forward a charge under this Section. Disciplinary measures require a majority vote of the Steering

Committee followed by a two-thirds vote at a General Meeting, and such decisions shall not be subject to internal appeal.

Section 4. Sanctions

The Local may impose three levels of sanction:

- Censure
- suspension (including possible suspension from particular activities rather than suspension from all activity within the Local Chapter)
- expulsion.

If the grievance pertains to:

- harassment or physical violence against another member, disciplinary measures require a majority vote of the voting body.
- For discipline related to anti-democratic behavior, the threshold for disciplinary action will be a two-thirds majority.
- In order to expel a member, a vote of the full Steering Committee is required, with a two-thirds majority needed for expulsion.
- For all other grievances, a quorum vote of the Steering Committee will be required.

Section 5. Appeals

A member who has been disciplined may file an appeal with the body immediately superior to the original voting body:

- a grievance adjudicated by the Steering Committee may be appealed to the General Meeting
- a grievance adjudicated by the General Meeting may be appealed at the Local Convention).

If the appeal is not successful, it may be appealed to National DSA, but not to an additional body within the Local. If a member is expelled, the member is guaranteed the ability to appeal to the General Meeting.

All rulings are ultimately appealable to National DSA, in accordance with current National grievance procedures.

Appeals to the Local Chapter must be filed in writing with the Secretary within 30 days of receiving written notice of a ruling. Appeals must state the basis for the appeal. Appeals must be heard and adjudicated within 120 days from the date the appeal is filed. The written grounds of the appeal will be presented at the meeting scheduled for deliberation of the appeal. A rebuttal from the body that delivered the ruling is also permitted before moving to a vote.

Members may appeal the outcome of their grievance on the following grounds:

- the standards laid out in these bylaws or in National DSA Resolution 33 were not followed;
 - there were procedural errors, misconduct, or conflicts of interest that affected fairness of the outcome;
 - The punishment was disproportionate to the offense.
-

ARTICLE XIII. TECHNOLOGY AND DATA SECURITY

Section 1. Secure Platforms

DEDSA shall implement secure, encrypted platforms for electronic voting and communications. All online systems must meet current cybersecurity standards and be reviewed periodically.

Section 2. Data Protection

Member data shall be protected in accordance with applicable laws. Access to sensitive data is restricted to authorized personnel as designated by the Steering Committee.

Section 3. Breach Notification and Remediation

In the event of a data breach or unauthorized access, the designated data security officer shall:

- Notify the Steering Committee and affected members within 72 hours. The

notification must be made using all available communication channels.

- The Steering Committee shall coordinate with external cybersecurity experts to remediate the breach and prevent future incidents.
- A written report detailing the breach, remedial measures, and accountability actions shall be provided to the membership.

Section 4. External Policy Reference

DEDSA may, from time to time, reference a more detailed external technology and data security policy that meets or exceeds these minimum requirements.

ARTICLE XIV. SUPREMACY OF NATIONAL BYLAWS

If any element of these Bylaws contradicts or conflicts with the bylaws, standing rules, or rulings by the NPC or National Convention, the National text shall supersede the text in these Bylaws.

ARTICLE XV. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Proposal

Amendments to these Bylaws must be proposed in writing and submitted to the Secretaries at least thirty days in advance of a scheduled vote as part of a chapter General Meeting or Local Convention. Such proposed amendments must include signed sponsorship by at least 3% of chapter members to be considered for a vote by the general membership.

Section 2. Notice Requirements

No amendments to these Bylaws will be considered absent at least two weeks'

notice to the membership of the Local via email.

Section 3. Special Meetings

Amendments to these Bylaws may not be considered at a Special General Meeting.

Section 4. Vote Requirement

An Amendment to these Bylaws requires a two-thirds vote of the general membership to pass.

ARTICLE XVI. DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS

Upon dissolution of DEDSA, any residual assets shall be transferred to the national Democratic Socialists of America organization.

Approved by the Delaware DSA on May 25, 2025.