

**Greater Detroit Chapter Democratic Socialists of America  
Candidate Questionnaire Federal Office**

Dear Candidate,

A Detroit DSA endorsement means that the Chapter is committed to supporting the endorsed candidate spread democratic socialist values and win their primary/general election. At a minimum, once an endorsement is issued, the Chapter will (1) publicly announce the endorsement (at general membership meetings, via e-mail, on social media, etc.) and (2) engage in voter canvassing (i.e., door knocking and phone banking). In some cases, an endorsement may also entail other material assistance, including but not limited to fundraising. The level of support ultimately provided will depend upon Detroit DSA's available resources, the strategic importance of the race, and enthusiasm for the candidate among the Chapter's general membership.

For more information about our endorsement criteria, see our *Endorsement Policy* either provided with this questionnaire or available upon request.

Your responses to this questionnaire will help us understand your positions, your campaign and any issues specific to your community. Answers to each question should not exceed 300 words.

Please return your completed questionnaire via email **within 10 days** to [electoralcom.dsadet@gmail.com](mailto:electoralcom.dsadet@gmail.com). Short and direct answers are sufficient. If you do not receive confirmation of receipt within 5 days, please alert us as soon as possible.

A request for interview may follow.

Any questions about our endorsement process should be addressed to [electoralcom.dsadet@gmail.com](mailto:electoralcom.dsadet@gmail.com).

Thank you for stepping up to run for office. We look forward to receiving your responses.

In solidarity,

Gillian Talwar and Carlos Salazar  
Chapter Electoral Committee Co-Chairs

**2019 DETROIT CHAPTER DSA CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE**  
**Federal Office**

Candidate Name:

Office Sought:

Which Party?:

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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**A. ABOUT YOU**

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?
  - a) If yes, when did you join and what DSA events and activities have you attended or been involved in?
  - b) If no, are you willing to join DSA? How would you characterize your relationship to the Chapter?
  
2. Apart from DSA membership and this campaign, describe any other activism you've been involved in and/or any ties you have to grassroots advocacy groups.
  
3. What experience (if any) do you have of holding an elected position, running for election, or working with a campaign?

4. Do you support all of DSA's policy goals? Answer "yes", "no" or "yes with reservations" to each and explain any no answers or reservations.
- a) A "Green New Deal," e.g., rapid decarbonization of the economy, a federal jobs guarantee, a just transition;
  - b) Increased Income and Wealth Taxes on the Ultra Wealthy;
  - c) Healthcare as a Right (i.e., Medicare for All or state-level single payer proposal);
  - d) The unhindered right to an abortion and other reproductive rights;
  - e) Enhancing Labor Rights (\$15/Hour Minimum Wage, Card Check, Ending Right to Work, etc.);
  - f) Education as a Right (e.g., strengthening public schools, pulling the plug on charter school proliferation, free or public colleges);
  - g) Suitable Housing as a Right;
  - h) Clean Water as a Right (e.g., ending municipal water shut offs, ending privatization of fresh water);
  - i) Student Debt Relief/Forgiveness;
  - j) Comprehensive Immigration Reform, e.g., a path to citizenship for all, abolishment of ICE;
  - k) Abolition of the Death Penalty;
  - l) Abolition of Private Prisons and an end to mass incarceration;
  - m) Rejection of Corporate Donations/Super PAC Money;
  - n) Ending Wars, U.S. Military Intervention, and Nation-Building;
  - o) Paid Vacation Time, Sick Time, Family Leave, and Childcare;
  - p) No Selling Arms to Human-Rights Violators;
  - q) Extensive Police Reforms (e.g., special prosecutors to hold police accountable);
  - r) End the War on Drugs (e.g., amnesty for prisoners held on possession charges);

s) Justice and national freedom for Palestinians.

5. What ideas do you have about advancing any of these goals at the federal level if you are elected? Be specific.

## **B. ABOUT YOUR CAMPAIGN**

1. What are your top three issues and why? Be specific.

2. What is the political makeup and demographics of your constituency/ voterbase? How will this impact the race?

2. What do you hope to achieve by running for this office?

3. What initiatives will you champion that will directly and positively tackle institutional and systemic racism in both public and private arenas at the Federal level?

3. 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 Federal level?

4. 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?

5. What is your plan for building a strong and viable grassroots campaign?

6. How much money do you think you will need to raise and what fundraising plans do you have?

7. If endorsed by Detroit DSA, will you publicize that endorsement on your literature and website?

8. Why should the Chapter prioritize this campaign and this race?

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