

Proposal 1: Class Struggle Elections

Bennett N, Sofia C, (Others)

Political Rationale:

While as socialists we understand that we won't elect our way to socialism, electoral politics are still significant to our project. Most working class people in the US conceive of politics through elections, meaning that they have high visibility. Further, socialist electeds can serve as extensions of working-class movements while in office, raising demands and growing our power both inside and outside the state.

North New Jersey DSA supports class-struggle candidates: socialists who are by, of, and for the working class and who will use their campaigns and office to foster working-class militancy and consciousness, draw sharp political lines with capitalists, and build socialist power independent of capitalist parties.

North New Jersey DSA should be electorally proactive, endorsing selectively and building our own electoral organizing powerhouse. This means rooting our electoral work in the organic movement of the working class, recruiting candidates from our organization and campaigns to run as class-struggle candidates, and avoiding progressives who may deserve our vote but not our chapter's collective resources and labor.

Organizing Tasks:

- Endorse and support only class-struggle candidates and ballot measures that:
 - Raise the expectations of the working class, unite them against a common capitalist enemy, and promote mass working-class movements outside the state;
 - Openly identify as democratic socialists;
 - Take no corporate, real estate, or law enforcement money.
- Use the electoral campaigns that we engage in to meet the following goals:
 - Spread class consciousness and build the power and militancy of the working class;
 - Build DSA by growing our capacity and recruiting new working-class members;
 - Make and potentially win anti-racist socialist demands;
 - Strengthen relationships with key coalition partners, especially organized labor.
- Develop our Electoral Working Group and an Endorsements Process that is capable of and empowered to identify strategic races, prepare our own candidates to run for office, do key research, communications, fundraising, and field work, and create a more rigorous endorsements process