

# North NJ DSA Executive Committee Candidate Questionnaire - January 2021

Please use this form to submit your candidacy for one of the positions on our executive committee.

For full descriptions of all executive committee positions, please view our by-laws:

<https://north.dsanj.org/chapter-by-laws/>

Full Name \*

Ezekiel Tek

Position you are running for \*

Co-Chair

Why are you a member of DSA? \*

I'm a DSA member because I believe democratic socialism is the only way to avert climate catastrophe, a newly emerging far right and the unchecked power of capital. It's also the only path I see to a just and humane society where everyone can flourish and fully develop all of their capacities as individuals.

What will you bring to this Executive Committee position? \*

Having already served a year as co-chair, I bring my previous experience in leadership to the table. I also have experience from the Bernie campaign in canvassing and phone-banking work as well.

What is your vision for North NJ DSA and how will you work to achieve it? \*

I believe our chapter needs to activate more of its +1,000 members and get them regularly involved in organizing. We also need to develop more leaders in our chapter who can spearhead work with confidence and develop others themselves. Every year at our chapter elections, there should be a numerous and diverse number of candidates vying for leadership positions because they want to lead the good work the chapter is doing, and don't feel like it's an obligation to plug an administrative hole. Ideally at least 100 of our members would be at a minimum, attending chapter meetings on a regular basis. Our chapter should also work to build strong connections to labor unions in our area, establish numerous YDSA chapters at the various colleges in North Jersey, and elect our members to office at the local and state level.

If you could change one thing about our chapter, what would you change? \*

I support improved structure and centralization of our chapter as a means to improve the effectiveness of our organizing capabilities. I also believe that in order for any political organization to achieve meaningful success, certain work should be prioritized given the fact that we are a volunteer organization with limited finances. This is in no way to say that other work should be forbidden or restricted in any way, just that decisions on the use of chapter resources must always be decided by a vote of the whole chapter and with the mentioned limitations on time and money considered. I would also welcome more political debate within our chapter on the question of how we think the DSA should be organized and what work we think makes the most sense to prioritize.

Is there anything else you'd like to share with fellow chapter members? \*

I am a member of Bread & Roses, which is a national caucus working to build a democratic and effective DSA.

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