

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 *

Joshua Eric Rusinov

Position you are running for *

Secretary

Why are you a member of DSA? *

I am a first-generation child of two Jewish/Russian immigrants from the USSR. My family lost many close people to the great patriotic war. The horrors they saw and the needless death that they witnessed was an atrocity. Through them, I learned the value of every human life and became dedicated to preserving life. Its not as simple as life and death though. A life that is lost to poverty is just as tragic. Later in my life, I lost a dear friend to a society that drives those who are lost beyond their limits. I made a promise to him to continue my lifelong mission of doing my part to make the world a better place. That combined with the Sanders 2016 campaign, which opened my eyes to a potential of change in electoral politics, I joined the DSA to do my part in working to make the world better for all people

What will you bring to this Executive Committee position? *

I will bring an unyielding desire and dedication to doing the best work I can to bring about positive change in our society. I bring every degree of detail and precision in my work that I do in my artistry/my professional work. I bring a formal education in project management and organizing logistically taxing groups & projects. I also bring a youth/energy which I think is one of the biggest driving forces of the socialist movements in this country.

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

I believe the NNJ DSA should take up the role of a political organization that puts boots on the ground and operates locally with the people to accomplish things outside the political spectrum as well as within it. My vision for DSA and NNJ DSA is very similar. If anything NNJ DSA is in a particularly good position to take up this particular role. The proximity of our chapter to the largest collection of superfund sites, diverse oppressed communities, varied and uniquely positioned unions, corrupt corporate conglomerates, etc. put us in the best situation to engage our members and work with them to organize inside & outside the workplace to demand their rights from within the political system when allowed and outside of it when necessary. I would work with the executive committee and well as other chapters and our members directly to not only encourage growing our membership base (incredibly actively) but also spend more time working with the members we have to help them get more involved within the organization and take up more leadership roles. I want to give people more tools with which to feel as if they are contributing to a better society/world. I want to continue to expand our already easily accessible activities for new members, and further develop every willing member to take on more devoted and significant roles.

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

I would work to bring our chapter more into the spotlight. I believe that running actual DSA candidates at all levels (yes including federal offices) even without a victory, as well as getting out to every working-class & social movement and making ourselves present and helpful are the two main ways in which we become a stronger chapter. As well as a stronger DSA in general. I would work to encourage more members and help more socialists take public office as well as encouraging more union members to express their power as collective labour in conjunction with an electoral strategy. Working with unions directly from both the leadership and the membership to reform weak/corrupt unions and build on the strength of unions already working to build a stronger working class.

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

As someone who has committed to running for federal office at some point, I completely understand the need for an effective electoral strategy. But honestly, as we saw with the overall success of progressive policies and the work of the NEC the DSA already has a working electoral strategy (to obviously be greatly improved). What I think we need right now it an active membership to be working in the streets and directly with communities to build education and show people the truth and effectiveness of how socialism will work to liberate us all from poverty, sickness, death, and a wasted future. People lose their lives to our system every single day. Now is an especially dire time to take up direct and immediate action to build a strong base for the near future!

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