

Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) is the largest socialist organization in the United States. We believe that the economy and society should be run democratically to meet the needs of the many, not the few.



A better world is possible. Join us!

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1. Become a DSA member at dsausa.org/join
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Zohran Mamdani & The U.S. Political System

by Andrew D.

DSA member Zohran Mamdani won the Democratic primary for mayor of New York City earlier this year, beating out a crowded field including the disgraced ex-Governor Andrew Cuomo. Winning a clear majority of 56% of votes, Zohran ran on a program embracing popular economic programs, such as freezing the rent, free-fare buses, and free childcare, coupled with pro-Palestine messaging and a strong anti-Trump stance. Zohran's win was only made possible by a highly organized electoral campaign hosted by NYC-DSA, showing that organized socialists can cohere working-class power into a weapon against the status quo.

Zohran's win shows that workers are hungry for change, wanting a political movement that represents their interests. The Democratic Party establishment—the same that ignored cost of living increases and the Palestinian genocide—has faced plummeting public support in polls even after the re-election of Trump. People want a party and candidates that fight for their class interests, and while business owners and landlords already have that with Democratic and especially with the Republican parties, working people don't have a voice of their own in politics. Coupled with a two-party system with first-past-the-post voting, we have a self-perpetuating system where two giant parties dominate the landscape, and few alternative perspectives can get in.

DSA follows the “party surrogate” model: we consider ourselves an independent socialist political party, but we do not have our own ballot line. In the US, political parties on a ballot are not real parties, but rather, just something on paper. Any candidate, regardless of party affiliation, can run as a Democrat or a Republican, and they could receive that party's nomination as long as they succeed at a primary contest. Indeed, this is how Bernie Sanders, despite being an independent, was able to run as a Democrat during the 2016 and 2020 presidential primaries. DSA adopts a similar model, but unlike single candidates' campaigns, we are an organization made of rank-and-file members who have control over which of us will run as a DSA-endorsed candidate in an election.

With waning support for the Democratic brand, DSA should continue to run candidates as agitational figures in Democratic primaries who push the Democratic party to represent the workers they neglect. But we should also explore independent and nonpartisan races where our identity as a socialist party independent of the Democrats can be fully articulated.

It is our belief that this moratorium is needless and unhelpful. It creates confusion and concern where none need be. We also look forward to working with the city as partners on implementing any future anti-poverty plans going forward if the city sees fit to include its own citizens already doing the work of fighting poverty in any of its future anti-poverty projects.



The Future of EWOC is Bright

by Aaron C

Earlier this year I went to the first EWOC convention at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. It was a surreal and informative experience. Over 300 people from across the country, learning more about labor organizing side by side.

During the industry breakout session there was a comrade from an Amazon Fresh store looking for organizing advice, and luckily those of us from UFCW were able to give her our pitch about the world's largest food union and the asset that is AFL-CIO power.

One of the biggest surprises was Sara Hurd, DSA's outgoing National Labor Commission (NLC) co-chair. On the NLC calls she comes off as a no-nonsense assertive leader, but in person she was polite and friendly. Though when it came time for business, she is still the stoic, disciplined, laser-focused comrade ready to bring the Hurd.

The training available here was a useful complement to the DSA labor training, focusing on southern organizing and multiracial organizing. There were also opportunities for us to describe the experience in our workplaces, and I was able to educate my comrades on the dynamics on the factory floor. This conference was an important reminder of the importance of workplace organizing and labor cooperation.



Opposition to the Rock Island Moratorium on Shelters

by James B

This is a draft of a comment delivered in front of the Rock Island City Council

I am James, I am a citizen of Rock Island, and I serve as the co-chair of the Quad Cities chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America.

I am here today to ask, on behalf of our chapter, that the members of city council vote “No” on this moratorium, especially as it is written. For years now our chapter has been working on anti-poverty projects that include mutual aid, free food, solidarity shopping, and housing justice. Projects that have helped ease the burden of poverty for some in our communities, though we recognize that much more work still needs to be done. Many of the members of our chapter have, in fact, experienced homelessness at one point in our lives, and some still struggle with it as rent-seeking landlords and corporations continue to control the housing market in our communities.

What we see when we look at this moratorium is confusion. Will our efforts to help our neighbors and ourselves be disrupted by this moratorium? If we have plans to help shelter and feed people experiencing homelessness as we move into the winter, will those plans have to be put on hold until the city decides it's ready to implement a plan? If we are not creating a new project but simply moving it to the city of Rock Island, is the city government going to behave with hostility towards us if we begin helping the most vulnerable citizens in the city? What are our neighbors, friends, and loved ones experiencing homelessness supposed to do when they cannot find shelter or food this coming winter as the moratorium ends and all projects have been placed into limbo? What are the alternatives for these people, who by the grace of God could just as easily be one of us?

There has been discussion, outside of this chamber, about implementing a plan that has been employed in Dubuque. As we understand it, it took over a decade of fine-tuning to get it right. If we are going to import such a plan, there seems to be very little reason why we should have to put any ongoing projects on hold for a fiscal quarter just to decide how we're going to integrate it. If such time is truly necessary, then why not start implementation the first time a complaint was given to Alderman Parker? How much time has already been wasted in writing up this moratorium and then pushing it off that could have been spent doing the important work of starting such a plan?

In Iowa, where Democrats have so far been entirely ineffective in fighting the fascism of the Republican Party, we must investigate the possibility of running as an independent in races to engage disaffected voters and present ourselves as an alternative to the capitalist parties.

The Socialist Party of America won a majority of seats on city council and the mayor's seat in Davenport in 1920, and they did so against a Democratic-Republican unity slate. We must show working people that we're the party for them, that building a better world is possible. We're already doing it in New York, we can do the same in Davenport again.



Opinion: Germany Must Act to Prevent Genocide

by Kelly K

On August 8th German Chancellor Friedrich Merz announced a ban on Germany selling weapons to Israel. To people in the know about the situation on the ground in Palestine, it was too little and too late and only further proved that the West could have stopped the ethnic cleansing and genocide playing out on our phone screens from happening. But at home, Merz's most extreme critics have compared him to the Nazis for this announcement. The Washington Post highlighted that, “even if it stops short of a full arms embargo, Friday's decision is a big policy shift for Germany, given its relationship with Israel, which is shaped by historical guilt over the Holocaust.”

The first time a German lawmaker was invited to speak to the Knesset (Israel's lawmaking body, voted in by the country's Jewish residents and the small percentage of Arabic speakers still allowed to live within its 1948 borders), there was a mass walkout because he was speaking German. Never mind that they mostly could understand German or that he didn't know how to speak Hebrew—German was inherently bad. Relations did not stay that frosty forever. European Parliament president Schultz drew protests in 2014 for a mostly pro-Israel speech (also in German) where he talked about speaking to West Bankers and noted that an Israeli uses 4 times as much water as a Palestinian, but this time only the most committed settler party MKs walked out.

Incidents like these have historically been followed by members of the German government profusely apologizing, all too aware of their parents' and grandparents' responsibility for the 1940s genocide. It's human nature, and politicians are also pressured to keep friendly relations with as many people as possible so their elites don't lose out on lucrative business deals, customers, and workforces. But almost a century of German Guilt can't be more important than saving Palestinian lives now.

The Times of Israel blog posted commentary on recent remarks from Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu stating that he is on a "historic and spiritual mission" and feels a "connection to the vision of Greater Israel." Maps of Greater Israel vary depending on who's drawing, but Israeli right-wingers have long dreamed of ruling lands as far away as Iran, western Egypt, and Yemen, as well as neighbors Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan. Leaks to the press reveal that Israel is talking to the government of South Sudan (which is in the midst of a civil war) about taking displaced Palestinians as part of its broader campaign of ethnic cleansing. Such reports draw comparisons to the world's most bloodthirsty dictators, painting a dark picture for everyone who lives nearby. The more that countries speak up, the more Israelis will realize their class interest is with Arab workers. There will be backlash against the politicians and nations who are brave enough to speak directly about the atrocities, but it has to be done.



America is an Unfulfilled Aspiration

by Bennett T

The United States of America was founded with utopian aspirations, a willingness to stake a claim that all men were created equal and endowed with unalienable rights.

Shortly after this Declaration, America abandoned that claim and has made little effort to reclaim it.

No longer were all men created equal; some men were allowed to own others, and the state facilitated a genocide of the indigenous population.

Even in the brief moments when members of the founding political class of America highlighted this hypocrisy, they still tended to forget the large number of humans that are not men.

This cycle of aspiration and abandonment of the downtrodden would repeat and is perhaps the heart of the grand American experiment as it exists instead of as it was conceived.

For example, the United States Postal Service (USPS) is currently struggling against calls for privatization. While the USPS is a government entity, our tax dollars do not pay for the Postal Service. USPS is self-funded and relies on the sale of stamps, products, and services. Bizarrely, USPS is required to pay for the cost of its retirement healthcare 75 years into the future, a requirement no other federal agency or private corporation has. This requirement leads to the misconception that USPS is collapsing or in a budgetary deficit because of this orchestrated and invented crisis.

Not only would privatization of the USPS hurt local workers, as corporations owned by billionaires would swoop in and remove services and jobs in the name of profit, but these corporations would also raise prices. Workers, consumers, taxpayers, and citizens will pay dearly for these profits that benefit only a few.

For our neighbors, our livelihoods, and our local communities, another price increase could be financially devastating, and service cuts could mean the loss of a union, career, or pension. Privatization would close post offices in cities all around the country. This impact would be most felt by our more rural citizens who rely on the USPS for delivery of essential items. Additionally, a rise in prices would most affect our community's most socioeconomically vulnerable.

Our neighbors will not benefit from the removal of a service that supports our local workers and community needs. Legal, financial, and medical matters are managed via mail. The idol of capitalism is so deeply embedded in the collective psyche that we forget that the United States Postal Service is, as its name states ...a service. A crucial service that gives communities the tools to exercise their right to send and receive mail. USPS was never intended to make a profit –it was from its formation, intended to be a service for citizens of every community.

There should be no boundary to the right to send and receive mail. We cannot allow the rich and greedy to trample our neighbors, remove resources, and harm our communities. Privatization, to make a public service profitable for a few, is painfully loathsome. We must stop funneling money into the hands of billionaires and deconstruct our views on capitalism.

Visit fightingnalc.com to learn more about how you can help support workers at the USPS.



Sara Hurd told the crowd about the toll a commission chair position takes and how she only got through it thanks to her partner and their love of cooking and doing laundry. She also made clear how many people don't have that support and that to help those people be involved, we should support the resolution to pay National Labor Commission (NLC) chairs.

I was amazed by the organization of some of the groups. Comrades were working until the vote closed at 10 PM, laser-focused on the results and dispatching their lieutenants to garner votes, while keeping track of the shifting alliances between different groups as issues came up for a vote.

Our delegation also connected with other Iowa chapters about our needs and how we could coordinate to resist the encroachments of the Iowa government.

Though there were issues, such as an unprofessional chairperson, a douchebag reporter, and an even more bizarre Saturday night dinner. Overall, it was a unifying experience where we were reminded what we fight for: that even when it seems that there is conflict with each other, we are comrades who are strongest when we stand together.



Fight for the National Association of Letter Carriers (USPS)

by B Maloney

Capitalism and its social conditioning are deeply pervasive.

People of the Quad Cities need to fight not only to maintain current public services and community resources but also to enhance, increase, and invest in them. This fight starts with examining the learned characteristics of our society and critically questioning who benefits from capitalism.

Under capitalism a profit must be made, and no cost is too high if it increases profit. The media, our social conditioning, and the status quo attempt to convince us that this is a necessary requirement to have a successful society. Through this lens, agencies and businesses that do not create revenue are considered to be failing. This false framing invents the perception that a lack of profits is also an absence of worth. In this way, capitalism asserts that profits are more valuable than our neighbors.

However, there were still those who believed in the aspiration, and when it came time to reconstruct the republic following the Civil War, the rhetoric of the Declaration returned.

Congressmen once again borrowed the language of the radicals who stood opposed to the monarchy a century before; once again they advocated for a wider swath of men, once again believing that there were rights that were inherent to the humanity of these folks.

Then Reconstruction fell apart under the weight of trying to both maintain and reform a white supremacist system, and as it did, the language of equality faded.

The belief that all men were created equal fell under the assault of radical white supremacists who had bided their time and maintained their power despite treason.

Those of us, white and Black, man and woman and non-binary, transgender and cisgender, heterosexual and queer, who still believe that all people are created equal and are endowed with inalienable rights are treated as radicals.

It is those who oppress, those who separate, and those who exploit who have radically abandoned what America was supposed to be and exist instead in the grand tradition of what America is.

Join with us in our belief in radical freedom for the oppressed, rather than the radical oppression of the system as it exists. An America that believes all its citizens are created equal is a radical departure from the America that exists today, and it will require us to embrace a revolutionary future of equality.



DSA Convention 2025

by B Maloney

I recently had the opportunity to gather in a ballroom in Chicago with over one thousand comrades for the DSA National Convention, and it was an amazing and unforgettable experience. The energy in the room, the sense of unity, and the shared purpose among such a large group created an atmosphere unlike any other. Being surrounded by so many comrades fosters a powerful and palpable feeling of community and inspiration.

The ballroom hall was charged with such enchanted energy throughout the multi-day event. The convention contained compelling and thought-provoking speakers from DSA members across the country and international collaborators and activists. Comrades listening attentively were so moved by the speakers that claps, chants, and cheers contagiously erupted constantly. There were video messages from overseas politicians and a rousing motivational speech from US Representative Rashida Tlaib.

During the deliberation block, comrades could be seen around the room engaged in healthy debate and learning from one another. DSA members from chapters across the county shared perspectives and enthusiastically motivated the crowd. The chairs and facilitators were not only impressively structured and committed to accomplishing the work set out for the convention but also entertaining and able to bring levity where needed.

I am grateful I was able to attend the 2025 DSA National Convention. It is truly an experience that leaves a lasting impression and one that should not be missed if the opportunity arises. I encourage anyone who hasn't attended to go. You won't regret it.



by Andrew D

I was humbly elected delegate by my chapter, Quad Cities DSA, along with my comrades Aaron C and B Maloney, to attend the DSA National Convention in Chicago in August. I met over 1,200 delegates from across the national organization in one place, people I've only seen before through a screen. I learned from my comrades, their successes and failures in organizing for a better world. I met representatives from different unions, political activist groups, and international political parties. Convention was a critical juncture where we all gathered together, strategized, and fought back against the capitalist class.

The DSA National Convention is held every two years, but this isn't ComicCon: Convention is the highest decision-making body of DSA. DSA chapters proportionally elect members as delegates to represent the chapter and democratically guide the direction of the whole organization. So what do we vote on at Convention? We consider work plans from our different committees (labor, political education, international organizing, etc.), new directions of work, and structural reforms to our organization. We also elect our leadership—the National Political Committee—and the two Co-Chairs of our organization.

The basis for all of this is that the Convention is a deliberative assembly: think of the U.S. Congress, only accessible to working people. Liberals extol the value of the U.S. Constitution and our representative democracy, but how democratic is our society when the only regular engagement with it is to cast a ballot every two to four years, where the only credible candidates are from two parties? In a deliberative assembly, by contrast, the rank-and-file member reigns supreme and has full control of all of the functions, subgroups, and leadership. If a majority of assembly members want the organization to do a certain thing, they state what they want, debate the proposal's merits (what it means to deliberate), and vote on that proposal. Assembly members even have the right to override actions of their elected leaders.

As democratic socialists, we want the entirety of society to operate this way. We want workplace democracy, where all employees not only own and control the means of production, but deliberate over how their workplace operates, and they elect their leaders from the rank-and-file workers. We want tenants to collectively own their apartment building and work with their neighbors to maintain and improve where they live. What DSA does at their Convention, what DSA chapters do in their general meetings is this: we are experimenting with and practicing mass democracy so we can reassert our power over our lives and communities. What we do today builds the culture and the practice that will take root tomorrow.



by Aaron C

Going into the 2025 DSA convention, there were a lot of expectations I had in my head. For years I had heard horror stories from my chapter comrades about it. Stories of in-fighting and 'big chapter' drama were traded among previous attendees. Because of this, when I was walking towards the dark convention floor, I expected to walk into a UFC octagon watching big chapters and caucuses putting each other in the political equivalent of a rear naked choke. Surprisingly, I saw and heard something else instead.