

# DEMOCRATIC LEFT

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## FROM THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR TIME TO FIGHT

BY MARIA SVART



I have never been one to sugar coat reality. The far Right is winning and close to cementing permanent minority rule.

Corporate owners made record profits during the pandemic while blaming their fleecing us at the cash register on inflation. They forced us into deadly working conditions and have canceled many of the key government income supports that kept us afloat during these last few years. Now they will force many of us to shoulder the burden of often dangerous unpaid reproductive labor: incubating, birthing, and raising the future working class.

The Right's decades-long fight to roll back a century of progress, hard won by mass movements, could succeed. The Supreme Court leak on May 3 about *Roe v. Wade* galvanized many to action and brought attention to the Court's direction. Several other decisions, both in lower courts and by the Supreme Court, will bring dramatic, devastating changes to our world. For too long, we have depended on an undemocratic and unreliable institution to

protect us while letting our power—the power of the people, of collective action—atrophy.

But that's why it's such an honor to be with you in DSA. Metro Washington D.C. DSA organized a rally at the Supreme Court the very night of the leak, and 62 DSA chapters and 34 YDSA chapters sprang into action to demand reproductive justice. It is no exaggeration to say that DSA members have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for abortion funds over the years. We face this new era with an organized base in red, blue, and purple states ready to wage political fights and build broad coalitions at all levels and to take to the streets for democracy.

The other reason I have hope is that we are not alone. We're in a moment of unprecedented working-class revolt at Starbucks and other workplaces. Dozens of DSA and YDSA chapters are organizing "sip-ins," solidarity rallies, and other support for our members and other workers unionizing their stores. As I write in mid-June, over 150 Starbucks locations have voted union yes! Hundreds of DSAers are training in the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation's Organizing for Power Core Fundamentals series led by

Jane McAlevey, and many more in the Emergency Workplace Organizing Project trainings co-led with the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE).

Everything is at stake. Now is the moment to join the battle. 🌹

### MORE TO READ AT [DSAUSA.ORG/DEMOCRATIC-LEFT](https://dsausa.org/democratic-left):

- **Liz Weston** on the politics of the reproductive rights movement immediately post-*Roe*
- **Viral Mistry** on Kelly Lytle Hernández's *Bad Mexicans: Race, Empire, and Revolution in the Borderland*
- **Yasser Ali Nasser** on the Global South's response to Ukraine war

**JOIN! RECOMMIT!  
BUILD WORKING  
CLASS POWER!**

DSA members are supporting striking workers, organizing their workplaces, fighting for a Green New Deal, and electing socialists to office all over the country. Join the struggle and build the mass multiracial working-class movement we need. We have a world to win!



**[DSAUSA.ORG/JOIN](https://dsausa.org/join)**

# DSA STANDS FOR REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

BY GRIFFIN MAHON

**B**y the time you read this, the Supreme Court of the United States may have already overturned *Roe v. Wade*. That 1973 ruling established the right to an abortion through the first two trimesters and into the third, with exceptions, as a constitutional right to privacy. Now, amid toxic culture wars about gender and sexuality, six conservative justices and the increasingly reactionary Republican Party are attacking women's bodily autonomy.

Socialists around the country leaped into action when a draft of the decision was leaked in May.

The **Wilmington, NC** chapter held a series of demonstrations. DSA members in **Western Montana** led a 500-person rally. And at the capital, the **Metro D.C.** chapter rallied at the steps of SCOTUS, carrying a banner declaring that “While Dems snooze on abortion, working women lose.”

Stuck between a pro-choice public and the Republicans, the Democratic Party seems content to fundraise, but not to fight. At our campaign's website [protectabortion.org](https://protectabortion.org), DSA writes that the way to defend and advance reproductive rights “is by building working class movements of the majority that can contest power at the ballot box, in our workplaces, and in the streets.”

The **Atlanta** chapter has been canvassing and recruiting neighbors and coworkers to organize. Writing for

their blog, an ATLDSA member points out the hypocrisy of the “pro-life” Republicans: “Supporting pro-life policy would mean taxing the rich to fund universal public programs like Medicare for All, a Green New Deal, housing for all, and paying all people a living wage.”

Why does this issue matter to so many DSA members? Our feminist commitments come from the many comrades and the family we know and our shared fight for equality and freedom. The Hyde amendment, which denies federal funding for abortions, made clear what the Right's priorities are. Controlling reproduction—whether or when one may have children—means continuing the patriarchy. This agenda of social control will roll back hard-fought rights for women and queer workers.

Last year, members of the **Tidewater** chapter in Virginia helped start a local abortion fund that was ready to respond. And **all around the country**, DSA members have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for abortion funds in the last few years.

In the U.S. political system, as few as five men can disastrously affect the lives of tens of millions of women. The institutions of our government insult



**YDSA members in Irvine, CA at a joint rally with Planned Parenthood (Credit: Anthony Park)**

democracy and prevent women from controlling their own lives. Socialists do not want *Roe* to be overturned. But we must also demand a legal right to abortion that is based on collective liberation, not just individual privacy. Making abortion illegal won't stop abortions; it will just make them life-threatening or even more out of reach for the poor while they are safe and available for the rich. We will only win this class war by ensuring that all people can freely choose the course of their own lives. There is no “choice” without access to birth control, adequate prenatal care, paid parental leave, universal childcare, and decent public education.

Free abortion, on demand, without apology! 🌹

**GRIFFIN MAHON** is an at-large DSA member in Maryland and a member of the National Political Education Committee.

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# WHAT IS POLITICS?

OFTEN, THE WORLD OF POLITICS APPEARS DAUNTING, CONFUSING, OR DOWNRIGHT UGLY.



ON TOP OF CONVOLUTED PROCESSES, THERE ARE PERSONAL ATTACKS, LIES, AND CORRUPTION. SOME POLITICIANS, EVEN THOUGH THEY CLAIM TO BE FROM OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE AISLE, SEEM IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL APART. IT MAY EVEN LOOK LIKE THE MEDIA MAKES POLITICS CONFUSING ON PURPOSE.

BUT REALLY, IT'S SIMPLE: THROUGH POLITICS WE CAN WEIGH IN ON HOW TO MANAGE OUR RESOURCES.



LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL LEVELS MAKE BUDGETS TO PLAN HOW TO SPEND THE RESOURCES THAT THEY GET, MOSTLY THROUGH TAXES. WHETHER IT'S BUILDING NEW ROADS, FUNDING AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS, OR SETTING UP MASS VACCINATION CENTERS FOR COVID, THE DECISIONS A GOVERNMENT MAKES ABOUT RESOURCES REFLECT ITS PRIORITIES.

THAT'S WHY WE NEED MORE ORDINARY PEOPLE, LIKE YOU AND ME, TO GET INVOLVED IN POLITICS. IF WE GET INVOLVED, WE CAN PUSH TO MAKE THE PRIORITIES OF THE GOVERNMENT—HOW WE GET AND SPEND RESOURCES—REFLECT OUR PRIORITIES.



LIZZIE

# FROM THE NATIONAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

BY KRISTIAN HERNANDEZ

**N**PC Update—Here’s what’s new since the last *Democratic Left*:

- We approved the formation of a *Roe v. Wade* Committee to coordinate our response in light of the SCOTUS leak.
- The 2023 Convention will take place in person, location TBD.
- The Recommitment Drive is underway, and in order for chapters to continue their work, we have extended the drive for an additional month. So far, more than 100 chapters are participating in the drive, and we have recommitted well over 2,000 members!
- Members of the NPC took part in the recent delegation to Brazil to meet with representatives of the PT (Workers Party) and other left parties, as well as leaders of labor unions and housing organizations. Members of the delegation will be available to speak to chapters over the summer about their experience.
- The NPC will have its quarterly meeting in August.
- We appointed three new members to the NPC to fill vacancies: Estefania Galvis (NYC), Kevin Richardson (NC), and Marvin Gonzalez (NYC).

Check out the DSA website at [dsausa.org](https://dsausa.org) for more details. We know the last few months have been particularly rough, and we are confident that as DSA members we can make it through these times by choosing to act in solidarity with others and refusing to give in to hopelessness. 🌹

**KRISTIAN HERNANDEZ** is chair of the National Political Committee.

## NEW IN THE ARCHIVES

In the beginning, there were two organizations, each with its own newsletter. Now, for the first time, you can read them both! See how the democratic socialist movement responded to the crises of the day. *Moving On*, the publication of the New American Movement, is now on the *Democratic Left* site under “Past Issues.”

**Moving?** Let us know: [info@dsausa.org](mailto:info@dsausa.org). The Post Office charges for every returned copy of *Democratic Left*. We save money, and you don't miss an issue.



## A better world is possible.

I want to join DSA.  I want to renew my membership.

Enclosed are my dues:  \$45 Introductory  \$60 Regular  \$20 Student  \$27 Low-Income  \$175 Sustainer  An extra contribution

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