



DSA LA and YDSA students stand in solidarity with UAW workers

WINNING IN HARD TIMES – BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE IN THE NEW YEAR

DSA members are serious about building working class power. That’s why, at this year’s National Convention, DSA members voted to create full-time, paid positions for two political leadership positions — National Co-Chairs! Meet Ashik and Megan, your new National Co-Chairs, hear how DSA committees, chapters, and campaigns had wins in hard times during 2023, and see we’ll be organizing for a brighter future in 2024.



Ashik Siddique, National Co-Chair

Seven years ago, DSA gave me a political home in what felt like a dark time for the left, plus a sense of collective agency, fellowship, and active hope for a better world that I did not previously know was possible.

Now, years later, I am deeply humbled to have earned the confidence of our members to represent our organization as co-chair.

DSA chapters nationwide are winning historic tenant protections, minimum wage hikes, and the biggest Green New Deal program ever. We’ve put hundreds of open socialists in office, and kicked hundreds of neoliberal shells out in the process. We’ve played key roles in a new wave of labor organizing nationwide. We’re forging ties across the Global South, and now, against a US-funded genocide in Palestine, we’re a vital force in rebuilding the strongest anti-war movement in decades.

Under extreme pressure, we keep demonstrating DSA’s unique theory of power. Last week, I participated in a 5-day hunger strike at the White House to demand a permanent ceasefire in Gaza, an action that tied together so many threads of our organizing. The hunger strike was led by DSA state legislators using a social movement protest tactic against the highest office in the country, one that’s out-of-touch with its voting base. We were joined in rallies by labor unions including United Auto Workers, whose leadership was recently reformed by rank-and-file workers including many DSA members — all to show internationalist solidarity with people under siege.

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Against ruling class efforts to divide the working class and sacrifice whole populations, we must keep leveling up into a national organization whose party infrastructure fuels all our work from the foundations — a fully funded DSA that actively recruits new members 24/7, whose coordinated information and organizing machine can go toe-to-toe with the billionaires trying to stop us.

The far right, economic inequality, and global temperatures are rising fast. But we will rise faster — to become the mass movement that history and our future deserve to transform our society. Socialists must lead, and I am so excited to keep building our collective leadership together to win the future we all need.



Megan Romer, National Co-Chair

It's an incredible honor to have a vote of confidence from comrades across the country. These new co-chair positions represent a new era of DSA, with full-time political leadership allowing us to massively expand our capacity and our reach — and it couldn't come at a more important time. The ongoing genocide in Gaza is waking more and more people up to capitalism's most authentic form — violent settler-colonialism — and as the largest socialist organization in the US in generations, it's our responsibility to help organize them

into the fight for the brighter, more hopeful alternative of democratic socialism.

The good news, though, is that we have incredible momentum built up from DSA wins across the country, from the Build Public Renewables Act (BPRA) in New York to rent control in Maine and Tacoma, a 69% win rate on election night, and local Strike Ready work in dozens upon dozens of chapters.

We are still in the process of charting our year ahead, but I think there's broad agreement that we need to keep building our bench of electeds in municipal, state house, and school board races, and I already see enthusiasm surging for defending our Congressional electeds as they come under fire from AIPAC. The labor and tenant movement unions continue to surge, with DSA comrades leading the way in countless locals, and I anticipate that work booming in the coming year. I don't know what all of our campaigns will look like yet, but I'm hoping to meet up with lots of comrades from across the country to knock on doors in Detroit or St. Louis... or, for that matter, Arizona, where DSA is leading a campaign to end right-to-work laws, or in whichever area they decide to build a new Cop City that we gotta stop.

Each win we get, at any level and in any terrain of struggle, is another chip in the facade of capitalist control. And if we can keep harnessing this work and using it to better organize ourselves and recruit new people to our movement, we will be victorious. We've got our work cut out for us, but I'm honored to work toward this future alongside Comrade Ashik, the rest of the amazing National Political Committee, DSA's wonderful staff, and of course our thousands of comrades across the country. A better world is possible — let's fight for it! 🌹

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FROM THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR

OUR TASK THIS NEW YEAR

BY MARIA SVART



Biden just recently bypassed Congress to rush 14,000 tank shells to Israel and AIPAC pledges to take out the Squad.

Meanwhile, Trump boasts openly of his plans to invoke the Insurrection Act and become a dictator. What is a democratic socialist organization to do less than a year before the presidential election?

DSA operates on many terrains — in the economy through our labor work, in the electoral arena through our candidate and issue campaigns, and in the war of ideas through

our ideological work. Through our chapters, and through organizing that systematically engages people outside DSA, we have our ears to the ground. As a national organization we also have an eagle's eye view. We see the cruelty in Republican controlled states, the complicity and cynicism from centrist Democrats in too many purple and blue states. And from our international ties, we know what happens when authoritarians take power through the equivalent of controlling Congress, the White House and the Supreme Court. These are critical avenues to gather and synthesize information so that we can develop our strategy — collectively and with maximum effectiveness. We must utilize that strength because now is the time for hard nosed honest assessment. Serious organizing means analyzing our power, the power and agenda of the ruling class, and the power of the working class whether it is self conscious or not.

Both leading candidates for President are unpopular, and voters are

disgusted with politics in general. So how do we navigate the existing political system while also raising expectations for something better? How do we move while we have a friendly National Labor Relations Board, a tight job market, and rising unions?

Where do we need to be in November 2024 so we can start building towards it now? Where do our unions, our tenant associations, our legislative caucuses and our PTAs need to be? Where do our chapters need to be? How do we as an organization best spend our time to get there? We have a mobilized membership, access to a broader mass working class audience, national elected leaders, and leadership infrastructure in between.

We look at the structures of society and we know our power comes from the base rather than from tinkering at the top. History is made by mass movements. Let's make a New Year's resolution to analyze the moment with clear eyes and then get to work. 🍷

CHAPTER AND VERSE: OHIO STATEWIDE ORGANIZING PROTECTS ABORTION RIGHTS

This issue's spotlight is on our Ohio chapters' organizing together throughout 2023 for a major abortion rights win in a battleground state.

In the summer, Ohio chapters fought a measure which would have stopped all future ballot initiative work in the state — and defeated it! Ohio's GOP

legislature designed the measure to make citizen-led amendments to the state constitution nearly impossible, and the August vote on it was deliberately timed before a November ballot measure to protect abortion.



Ohio voters saw through Republicans' tricks, despite massive conservative spending. They voted this anti-democratic measure down! In addition to preserving critical room to protect abortion, DSA chapters' work to defeat the August measure allowed other crucial future ballot measures that could make a material difference for millions of Ohioans, such as raising the floor for Ohio workers by making sure everyone can be guaranteed a fair minimum wage.

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The next step was November, when Issue 1, a measure protecting abortion and ending the previously-passed heartbeat ban, would be on the ballot. Every single Ohio chapter participated in this campaign, which tallied thousands of member hours. Members from all seven chapters knocked on doors, phonebanked voters, and worked in coalition with other organizations to educate voters on the measure and get them to the polls. And in this red-leaning state, Issue 1 passed by more than 13 points!

This means that the right to abortion will be spelled out in Ohio's constitution, expanding access by invalidating a gestational ban previously passed by the legislature. The collective work of the Akron, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton-Miami Valley, Mahoning Valley, Northwest Ohio, and Metro Cincinnati & Northern Kentucky chapters helped make this major win possible! 🌹

So far, over 1200 DSA members are making sure that our organization has a durable funding source for organizing by switching to Solidarity Dues (<https://dsausa.us/solidaritydues>) and asking comrades to do the same. RSVP at dsausa.us/sibd-phonebanks to reach out to your comrades this winter!

MOVING? LET US KNOW AT [DSUSA.US/DL_ADDRESS_CHANGE](https://dsausa.us/dl_address_change). We save money, and you don't miss an issue.



A better world is possible.

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