

**Bylaws of the Northern Nevada Democratic Socialists of America Local Chapter
of Democratic Socialists of America**

Adopted 01.11.2021; amended 01.11.2021; approved by the NPC in the current form
mm.dd.yyyy.

ARTICLE I. Name.

The name of the Chapter will be the Northern Nevada Democratic Socialists of America Local Chapter of Democratic Socialists of America (DSA). DSA is a not-for-profit corporation.

ARTICLE II. Purpose.

The Northern Nevada Democratic Socialists of America Local Chapter of Democratic Socialists of America seeks to facilitate the transition to a truly democratic and socialist society, one in which the means/resources of production are democratically and socially controlled.

DSA rejects an economic order based solely on private profit, alienated labor, gross inequalities of wealth and power, discrimination based on race, gender or sexual orientation, and brutality and violence in defense of the status quo.

DSA envisions a humane social order based on popular control of resources, production, and economic planning, equitable distribution, gender and racial equality, and non-oppressive relationships.

Our conception of socialism is a profoundly democratic one. It is rooted in the belief that human beings should be free to develop to their fullest potential, that public policies should be determined not by wealth but by popular participation, and that individual liberties should be carefully safeguarded. It is committed to a freedom of speech that does not recoil from dissent, to a freedom to organize independent trade unions, women's groups, political parties, and other formations -- recognizing these as essential bulwarks against the dangers of an intrusive state. It is committed to a freedom of religion that acknowledges the rights of those for whom spiritual concerns are central.

We are socialists because we are developing a concrete strategy for achieving that vision. In the present, we are building a visible socialist presence within the broad democratic Left. In the long run, we hope to build a majority movement capable of making democratic socialism a reality in the United States. Our strategy acknowledges the class structure of the U.S. society. This class structure means that there is a basic conflict of interest between those sectors with enormous economic power and the vast majority of the population.

ARTICLE III. Membership.

Section 1. Membership.

Members of the NNDSA Local Chapter of DSA will be those individuals whose dues to

national DSA are paid in full, who reside and/or work in Northern Nevada area. Individuals may not be members of the Local Chapter without being members of national DSA. It will be the responsibility of members to approve policies and guidelines for the operation of the Local Chapter, to elect delegates to the national convention, to vote on matters related to national policy, and to make recommendations on issues and other matters to the National Political Committee of DSA.

A member may resign from the Local Chapter and national DSA by contacting DSA's national office.

Section 2. Removal of Members.

If a member in good standing is found to be in substantial disagreement with the principles or policies of national DSA, or if they are found to be consistently engaging in undemocratic, disruptive behavior, or if they are found to be under the discipline of any democratic centralist organization, the Local Chapter may vote to expel them from the Local Chapter of DSA. In order for such a finding to be made, another DSA member must formally prefer written charges against the member in question to the Local Chapter Coordinating Committee, which will set the date of a Local Chapter meeting for deliberations on the charges. The member in question must receive a copy of the written charges and notice of the meeting a minimum of two (2) weeks before that meeting takes place. Expulsion of a member requires a two-thirds vote of the Local Chapter meeting. An expelled member in good standing may appeal to the National Political Committee of DSA.

Section 3. Voluntary Donations.

As mandated by the national Constitution and Bylaws, the Local Chapter may establish a Local Chapter pledge system of voluntary donations for its members. The payment of a Local Chapter donation may not be a requirement for voting or for holding Local Chapter office.

Section 4. Privacy Concerns.

Care will be taken to protect the privacy of each member's contact information.

ARTICLE IV. Local Chapter Meetings.

Section 1. General Meeting.

The Local Chapter will hold a minimum of two (2) General Meeting annually for purposes of electing officers. All members of the Local Chapter will be sent notice of, and an agenda for, the General Meeting. Notice may be sent by electronic means, but individuals who have not provided an email address must be sent a paper copy or contacted by phone or text. The General Meeting will elect Local Chapter officers and may adopt an annual budget. In general, it is the highest legislative body of the Local Chapter. The General Meeting may coincide with a Regular Meeting.

Section 2. Regular Meetings.

The Local Chapter will hold Regular Meetings at least four (4) times annually, the time and place of which will be set in a schedule published and distributed by the Local Chapter Coordinating Committee. The Regular Meetings will set Local Chapter policy and work priorities, and they will include political education sessions.

The Local Chapter Coordinating Committee will set the agenda for Regular Meetings. In general, the Regular Meeting is the operating legislative body of the Local Chapter.

Section 3. Emergency Meetings.

The Local Chapter Coordinating Committee may call an Emergency Meeting of the Local Chapter on five (5) days' notice when an urgent and important matter requires deliberation.

Section 4. Quorum.

A quorum of 10 percent of the members (but not fewer than six (6) persons) is required for General, Regular, or Emergency Meetings to transact business.

Section 5. Accessibility

Members may participate in Meetings by, or through the use of, any means of communication allowing all participants to simultaneously or sequentially communicate with one other, such as teleconference, video-conference, or other available technology. This includes voice votes. Any participant in a Meeting by such means shall be deemed present in person at such meeting.

A Member in good standing (Proxy) who is present at a Meeting may hold up to two signed proxy cards from other non-present Members in good standing. The Proxy must vote in line with each non-present Member's directions as written on their proxy card. Any member who requests an accessibility accommodation and is not present at a Meeting shall not be counted toward any member allowing accessibility's two proxy-vote limit. Despite being deemed present by attending electronically, non-physically present members may avail themselves of proxies for purposes of voting should they desire, in lieu of voting by electronic attendance.

ARTICLE V. Local Chapter Officers: Powers and Duties.

Section 1. Officers and Terms.

The officers of the Local Chapter will be two Co-Chairs, Secretary, Treasurer, and Social Media Coordinator. The term of office will be half a year, and will run from November through May or until their successors are elected.

Section 2. Vacancies.

In the event of a vacancy in any Local Chapter office, the Local Chapter Coordinating Committee will appoint a replacement for the remainder of the term.

Section 3. Co-Chairs.

a. The Co-Chairs will be the chief executive officers of the Local Chapter. They will preside over Local Chapter and Coordinating Committee meetings or will appoint a substitute to assume the powers and duties of the presiding officer as specified in the Latest Edition of Robert's Rules of Order. The Co-Chairs will be the official public spokespersons for the Local Chapter and will initiate such actions and policies as the Local Chapter's general welfare may demand.

b. The Co-Chairs will be responsible also for coordinating the day-to-day operations and political work of the Local Chapter's Branches and Committees.

c. The Co-Chairs will report to Local Chapter Regular Meetings on the business of the Coordinating Committee Meetings, at which time a copy of the minutes of those meetings will be available for inspection.

Section 4. Secretary.

a. The Secretary will be responsible for answering all correspondence and queries of the Local Chapter and for maintaining an up-to-date membership list of the Local Chapter. They will ensure effective communication with national DSA. They will temporarily assume the responsibilities of the Co-Chair, if neither Co-Chair is able to do so.

b. The Secretary will be responsible also for the taking of minutes of all Local Chapter and Coordinating Committee Meetings and will have custody of these minutes, and the resolutions, reports and other official records of the Local Chapter. They will transfer official records in good condition to their successor. Official records will include meeting minutes and member lists.

Section 5. Treasurer.

The Treasurer will be responsible for the funds and financial records of the Local Chapter. All funds collected by the Local Chapter will be turned over to the Treasurer, who will deposit them in a bank account under the name of the Local Chapter. In cooperation with the Secretary, the Treasurer will be responsible for ensuring that membership dues are paid up-to-date. The Treasurer will prepare the annual Local Chapter budget and deliver the Local Chapter financial report to the General Meeting of the Local Chapter, as well as periodic progress reports as requested by the Coordinating Committee of the Local Chapter.

Section 6. Social Media Coordinator.

The Social Media Coordinator will be responsible for managing the social media communications of the Local Chapter.

Section 7. Additional Duties.

The Local Chapter Coordinating Committee may assign additional temporary duties to an officer of the Local Chapter, so long as such assignments do not conflict with the designation of responsibilities outlined in these Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI. Elections.

Elections shall be carried out using the Single Transferable Vote method to rank candidates on the ballot. 50% of seats (rounded down to a whole number) shall be reserved for members that do not self-identify as men ("non-men"). From this ballot, the highest ranking non-men shall be deemed elected to the reserved seats, remaining seats shall be filled from the next highest-ranked candidates whether non-men or those who self-identify as men.

If fewer non-men are elected than the required threshold reserved above, each voter's ranking for non-men candidates shall be transferred to a separate ballot and the Single Transferable Vote method shall be used to elect seats from this list until the threshold is met or the list of candidates is exhausted.

If fewer candidates are running than available seats, or if fewer non-men are running than the required threshold of reserved seats, nominations from the Meeting shall be used to fill remaining seats subject to a simple majority vote. If no simple majority can be reached, the seat shall be vacant.

ARTICLE VII. Coordinating Committee.

Section 1. Composition

The Local Chapter's Coordinating Committee shall consist of at least five (5) officers, representing as diverse a population as possible, elected at a General Meeting, two of these five seats are reserved for those members who do not self-identify as men ("non-men"). Other members to the coordinating committee shall be drawn from the chair(s) of any Local Chapter Branches to represent the interests of those communities. At least one position may be held by an officer of the local YDSA chapter(s) as the YDSA ambassador.

Section 2. Duties.

a. The Coordinating Committee administers the affairs of the Local Chapter and oversees the implementation of the decisions of the General and Regular Meetings; it may also propose policy to the General and Regular Meetings. It will have the power to receive reports of any Committee or Branch, and advise thereon, to call Emergency Meetings of the Local Chapter, and

to act on any matter that requires immediate and urgent action. The Coordinating Committee is the regular executive body of the Local Chapter, and thus subordinate to its Legislative bodies, the General and Regular Meetings.

b. The Local Chapter Coordinating Committee will be responsible for establishing program activities for the Local Chapter, for proposing guidelines and policies that will subsequently be voted on by members in good standing of DSA, and for acting on the organization's behalf between Local Chapter meetings.

Section 3. Meetings.

The meetings of the Coordinating Committee will be held at the call of one (1) of the Co-Chairs at such intervals as may be determined by a prior Coordinating Committee Meeting or by consultation with any three (3) members of the Coordinating Committee. All members of the Coordinating Committee must (ordinarily) be given four (4) days oral, written, or electronic notice of regular Coordinating Committee Meetings; a 24-hour notice may be given under special emergency circumstances.

Section 4. Quorum.

A quorum of a simple majority, including at least three (3) of the five (5) officers, is required for the transaction of Coordinating Committee business.

ARTICLE VIII. Branches.

Section 1. Definition.

A Branch is a subgroup of the Local Chapter consisting of at least five (5) members in good standing with national DSA. Branches may be defined by geography or language. The chairs of Branches will hold membership on the Local Chapter Coordinating Committee.

Young Democratic Socialists of America (YDSA) chapters within the geographic area defined by a DSA Local Chapter may affiliate as a branch of that Local Chapter, in which case the local YDSA chapter may send a representative to the Local Chapter Coordinating Committee.

ARTICLE IX. Committees.

Section 1. Duration.

The Local Chapter will have Ad Hoc Committees or Working Groups, which will exist for a limited and explicit duration. Ad Hoc Committees may be established by a vote of members in good standing at a Regular Meeting of the Local Chapter.

Section 2. Duties.

Chairs of Ad Hoc Committees will keep the Coordinating Committee and the Regular

Meetings of the Local Chapter informed on the activities of the Committee.

ARTICLE X. Delegates to National, Regional, and State Bodies.

Section 1. Eligibility to Vote.

Local Chapter delegates and alternates to the National Convention, as well as to any regional or state organizations, will be elected by members in good standing of the Local Chapter of DSA.

Section 2. Schedule of Elections to National, Regional, or State Organizations.

Elections for the National Convention delegation will be held on the schedule announced by the national organization. Elections to regional or state organizations will be held on the schedule announced by those organizations.

Section 3. Method of Voting.

Following Article V, Section 5 of national DSA's Constitution, delegates to the National Convention must be elected by secret ballot. And, "No election for delegates to the National Convention shall be held more than four months, or less than forty-five days, prior to the opening of the National Convention. No election for delegates shall be conducted before the apportionment of delegates."

Following Article VI, Section 3, of national DSA's Bylaws, Local Chapters "may determine their own method of election of delegates to the Convention except that a petition from 10% of a Local' Chapters membership or a motion supported by 15% of those present and voting at the Local meeting which determines the method of election will require the use of the Hare system in that Local's election of delegates to the National Convention."

ARTICLE XI. Prohibited Activity.

Northern Nevada Democratic Socialists of America Local Chapter will not engage in activity prohibited by the IRS guidelines established for 501(c)(4) organizations or similar rules established by the state of Nevada. Nor will the Local Chapter engage in any activity prohibited by resolutions adopted by DSA's National Convention or DSA's National Political Committee.

ARTICLE XII. Nominations, Elections, and Recall.

Section 1. Nominations Committee.

By vote at a Regular Meeting, a three (3)-person Nominations Committee will be established at least one (1) month prior to every election. It will solicit and receive nominations for the positions to be elected.

Section 2. Nominations Process.

Nominations for Local Chapter officers and delegates to DSA meetings will be opened at least 10 days before and closed at the meeting at which elections take place. The call for nominations will be announced to all members in good standing of Norther Nevada DSA as soon as nominations are open.

Section 3. Uncontested Positions.

If a position is uncontested, the nominee may be declared elected by acclamation.

Section 4. Recall

Any officer of the Local Chapter of DSA may be recalled for malfeasance or failure to fulfill their duties or obligations as an officer. In order to recall or remove an officer, a member in good standing must formally refer a request to remove said officer to the Local Chapter Coordinating Committee, which will set a date of a Local Chapter meeting for deliberations on the accused officer's removal. The officer in question must receive written documentation of the specific reasons for the removal request and notice of the meeting a minimum of two weeks before the meeting takes place. The accused officer will be given a chance to speak in their own defense at this meeting. Removal of an officer requires a two-thirds vote of the Local Chapter meeting.

ARTICLE XII. Amendments.

Proposed amendments to these Bylaws must be made by written resolution, endorsed by five (5) members of the Local Chapter of DSA and submitted to the Coordinating Committee at least one (1) month in advance of a General or Regular Meeting. The Coordinating Committee is required to provide the Local Chapter membership with at least two (2) weeks' written or electronic notice of the proposed amendments. The amendment must be approved by a majority vote of two (2) consecutive (Regular or General) Local Chapter meetings.

ARTICLE XIII. Rules of the Local Chapter.

Section 1. Rules.

The Rules contained in the Latest Edition Robert's Rules of Order, will govern this Local Chapter in cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws. Consensus decision-making is desirable where feasible, but meetings must submit to the Latest Edition of Robert's Rules of Order upon the request of a member.

Section 2. Action Out of Order.

Any action taken by an officer or member of the Local Chapter in contravention of these Bylaws is null and void.

Section 3. Harassment Policy.

The Local Chapter will follow the [Harassment Policy of national DSA](#).

ARTICLE XIV. Distribution of assets.

Upon dissolution of the organization, any residual assets shall become property of the national organization of Democratic Socialists of America.