

Bylaws of the Houston Democratic Socialists of America, Inc.

ARTICLE I. Name

The name of the corporation shall be Houston Democratic Socialists of America, Inc.

ARTICLE II. Houston DSA Strategy

The Houston Local of the 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 on private profit, alienated labor, gross inequalities of wealth and power, discrimination based on race and sex, and brutality and violence in defense of the status quo.

DSA envisions a humane social order based on popular control of resources and production, 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, and 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 this 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.

Houston DSA is committed to working on the above-mentioned issues and supporting the efforts of labor unions in our area. We encourage our members to actively support and participate in the work of their labor unions and advocacy groups on those issues. Houston DSA believes that justice for the people of the U.S. is directly linked to justice for people throughout the world. Houston DSA will strive to have a diverse membership and leadership.

ARTICLE III. Membership

Section 3.1. Membership

Members of the Houston Local DSA will be those individuals whose dues to national DSA are paid in full and who reside and/or work in Harris County, TX and the surrounding, contiguous counties. It will be the responsibility of members to approve policies and guidelines for the operation of the Houston DSA, 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.

Section 3.2. Dues

The local chapter may establish a Local pledge system of voluntary donations for its members.

Section 3.3. Removal of Members

If a full member is found to be in substantial disagreement with the principles or policies of national DSA or strategy outlined in Article II, or if they are found to be consistently engaging in undemocratic, disruptive behavior, or advocates violence, the Local may vote to expel them from DSA. In order for such a finding to be made, another DSA member must formally prepare written charges against the member in question to the Local Executive Committee, which shall set the date of a local 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 weeks before that meeting takes place. Expulsion of a member or affiliate member requires a two-thirds vote of the local meeting. An expelled full member may appeal to the National Political Committee of DSA.

ARTICLE IV. Local Meetings

Section 4.1. Local Meetings

Local Meetings will be held at least monthly. Any change to meeting time, date, or location must be announced via social media and email to allow for adequate notice.

Section 4.2. Elections

Elections for one co-chair, secretary, outreach coordinator, and treasurer will be held in April. A second co-chair election will be held in October. At the initial election, two co-chairs will be elected, with position one having a term of only six months. A budget may be set at those meetings as well.

Section 4.3. Quorum

A quorum of 50% of the average attendance at the last six months' regular meetings is required to transact business. The quorum will be announced at each regular meeting, and will remain that number until the next regular meeting.

Section 4.4. Emergency Meetings

The Local Executive Committee may call an Emergency Meeting of the Local on five days' notice when an urgent and important matter requires deliberation.

ARTICLE V. Local Officers: Powers and Duties.

Section 5.1. Officers and Terms

The officers of the Local will be the two Co-Chairs, Outreach Coordinator, Secretary, and Treasurer. The term of office will be one year.

Section 5.2. Vacancies

A special election will be held at the next local meeting to fill any vacancy in the Local Executive Committee. The new officer shall serve the remainder of the term.

Section 5.3. Co-Chairs

The Co-Chairs will be the executive officers of the Houston DSA. They will preside over Houston DSA meetings. The Chairs will be the official public spokespersons for Houston DSA and will initiate such actions and policies as the Houston DSA's general welfare may demand.

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

Section 5.4. Outreach Coordinator

The Outreach Coordinator will be responsible for answering all correspondence and queries of the local. They will insure effective communication with the national DSA. They will temporarily assume the responsibilities of the Chair, if the Chairs are not able to do so.

The Outreach Coordinator will be responsible for maintaining the local's social media presence.

Section 5.5. Secretary

The Secretary will be responsible for taking the minutes of all local and Executive Committee Meetings, and shall have custody of these minutes, and the resolutions, reports, and other official records of the local.

They shall transfer official records in good condition to their successor. Official records shall include meeting minutes and member lists.

Section 5.6. Treasurer

The Treasurer will be responsible for the funds and financial records of the Local. All funds collected by the Local will be turned over to the Treasurer.

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 budget, and deliver the Local financial report to the General Meeting of the local, as well as periodic progress reports as requested by the Executive Committee of the Local.

Section 5.7. Additional Duties

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

Section 5.8. Recall Elections

At any local meeting, a motion may be made to set a recall election for one or more members of the Local Executive Committee. The rules for announcing a General Meeting must be followed for the next scheduled meeting. Approval of the recall election requires a three-fourths vote.

ARTICLE VI. Committees.

The local will have Committees, when needed. The Committees will have co-chairs appointed by the Chapter co-chairs and then approved or replaced by committee members.

ARTICLE VII. Nominations

Section 7.1. Nominations Committee

A three-person Nominations Committee shall be established at least one month prior to every election by a vote at a regular meeting. It shall solicit and receive nominations for the positions to be elected.

Section 7.2. Nominations Process

Nominations for Executive Committee members and delegates to the National Convention shall be opened one month in advance of the election. Nomination can be taken up to the election including the election meeting. All members attending the election meeting will have only one vote for each Executive Committee position. There shall be no proxy votes or bullet votes permitted.

ARTICLE VIII. Delegates to the National Convention

Local delegates and alternates to the National Convention will be elected by full members of the Local Chapter of DSA. Elections for the National Convention delegation shall be held on the schedule announced by the national organization.

ARTICLE IX. Prohibited Activity

Houston Local shall not engage in activity prohibited by the IRS guidelines established for 501(c)(4) organizations or similar rules established by the state of Texas. Nor shall the local engage in any activity prohibited by resolutions adopted by DSA's National Convention or DSA's National Political Committee.

ARTICLE X. Amendments

Proposed amendments to these Bylaws must be made by written resolution, endorsed by five members of the Local chapter of DSA, and submitted to the Executive Committee a month in advance of a General or Regular Meeting. The Executive Committee is required to provide the Local membership with two weeks' written notice of the proposed amendments. The amendment must be approved by a majority vote of two consecutive Local Meetings.

ARTICLE XI. Jurisdiction

Harris County

77002	77003	77004	77005	77006	77007	77008	77009	77010	77011
77012	77013	77014	77015	77016	77017	77018	77019	77020	77021
77022	77023	77024	77025	77026	77027	77028	77029	77030	77031
77032	77033	77034	77035	77036	77037	77038	77039	77040	77041
77042	77043	77044	77045	77046	77047	77048	77049	77050	77051
77053	77054	77055	77056	77057	77058	77059	77060	77061	77062
77063	77064	77065	77066	77067	77068	77069	77070	77071	77072
77073	77074	77075	77076	77077	77078	77079	77080	77081	77082
77083	77084	77085	77086	77087	77088	77089	77090	77091	77092
77093	77094	77095	77096	77098	77099	77201	77315	77336	77338
77339	77345	77346	77357	77365	77373	77375	77377	77379	77388
77389	77396	77401	77429	77433	77447	77449	77450	77477	77484
77489	77493	77494	77498	77502	77503	77504	77505	77506	77507
77520	77521	77523	77530	77532	77535	77536	77546	77547	77562
77571	77581	77586	77587	77598					

Fort Bend County

77053	77082	77083	77085	77099	77406	77407	77417	77420	77423
77430	77435	77441	77444	77450	77459	77461	77469	77471	77477
77478	77479	77485	77489	77493	77494	77498	77545	77578	77583
77584									

Galveston County

77510	77511	77517	77518	77539	77546	77550	77551	77554	77563
77565	77568	77573	77590	77591					

Montgomery County

77301 | 77302 | 77303 | 77304 | 77306 | 77316 | 77318 | 77327 | 77328 | 77339 |
77354 | 77355 | 77356 | 77357 | 77358 | 77362 | 77365 | 77372 | 77378 | 77380 |
77381 | 77382 | 77384 | 77385 | 77386 | 77447 | 77873

Brazoria County

77047 | 77422 | 77430 | 77444 | 77480 | 77486 | 77511 | 77515 | 77531 | 77534 |
77541 | 77546 | 77566 | 77577 | 77578 | 77581 | 77583 | 77584

Waller County

77355 | 77363 | 77423 | 77445 | 77447 | 77484 | 77493 | 77494

Chambers County

77514 | 77520 | 77521 | 77523 | 77535 | 77560 | 77575 | 77597 | 77622 | 77665

Liberty County

77327 | 77328 | 77357 | 77371 | 77372 | 77535 | 77538 | 77564 | 77575