

## Southern Caucus bylaws

### 1. Steering Committee.

- a. The steering committee will consist of five (5) elected DSA members from the South\* in good standing. No more than two (2) of the five (5) elected members of the Steering Committee shall come from the same state. No more than three (3) of the five (5) elected members of the Steering Committee shall be male or white.
- b. Responsibilities of the Steering Committee.
  - i. The Steering Committee is responsible for voting on statements, the creation of working groups, statements, etc.
  - ii. The Steering Committee is responsible for ensuring the progress of working groups toward the fulfillment of their assigned tasks in the prescribed time period proposed.
  - iii. The Steering Committee is responsible for the maintenance of a record of 1) a list of users on the Discord server and their local chapter (or organizing committee or at-large status), and 2) a list of representatives eligible to vote and their local chapter (or organizing committee or at-large status).
  - iv. More broadly, the Steering Committee is responsible for giving Southern Caucus direction -- for facilitating communication between at-large members, organizing committees, and local chapters of DSA in the South,\* proposing political activism and methods of organizing more effective to DSA members in the South,\* and involving Southern Caucus representatives in increased communication between existing DSA entities in the South and the proposing of better activism and novel ways to organize.
- c. Annual election of the Steering Committee.
  - i. The Steering Committee shall be elected annually.
  - ii. Forty-seven (47) weeks from the election of the Steering Committee, candidate nominations and statements will be called for for three (3) weeks.
    1. The Steering Committee is responsible for during the three (3) week period giving a questionnaire to candidates and publishing candidates' responses.
  - iii. At the end of the candidate nominations and statements period, the two (2) week voting period will begin.
    1. The vote for the election of the Steering Committee will be conducted on Loomio via ranked-choice voting.
  - iv. At the end of the two (2) week voting period -- one year from the election of the previous Steering Committee -- the results of the elections will be published and the newly-elected Steering Committee shall take over.

### 2. Membership in Southern Caucus.

- a. Southern Caucus is an organization of at-large members, organizing committees, and local chapters of DSA in the South.\*
    - i. As such, membership in Southern Caucus is restricted to at-large members of DSA and representatives of organizing committees and local chapters of DSA.
    - ii. A representative to Southern Caucus must be democratically elected to be the representative of their organizing committee or local chapter.
      - 1. The democratic election of a representative may take the form of a vote by general membership, a vote by steering committee, a vote by organizing committee, etc.
      - 2. A representative to Southern Caucus must supply to the Onboarding Working Group the way that they were elected representative and contact information for their organizing committee or local chapter in order to confirm that they were democratically elected.
      - 3. Southern Caucus representatives for organizing committees or local chapters of DSA may be recalled at any time by a democratic recall vote, the form of which must be sent to the Steering Committee in order to confirm the representative's recall.
3. Issuing statements.
- a. Anyone may propose that Southern Caucus publish a statement.
  - b. Statements published by Southern Caucus may be published after endorsement votes by either the Steering Committee or Southern Caucus representatives.
    - i. The Steering Committee must unanimously (5/5 vote) endorse a statement and the published version of the statement must mention that it is endorsed by the Southern Caucus Steering Committee (as opposed to the representatives of Southern Caucus).
    - ii. A statement voted on by representatives must pass with a 50%+1 majority vote in order to be published.
4. Working groups.
- a. A working group consists of at least 3 Southern Caucus members with an assigned task for a prescribed period of time.
    - i. Anyone can propose the creation of a working group -- to include the assigned task and the period of time for which the working group will exist -- to the Steering Committee, who can vote to create a working group by a 4/5 majority vote.
    - ii. Any Southern Caucus representative can also request that their working group proposal be voted on by the current Southern Caucus representatives. A 50%+1 majority vote by the current Southern Caucus representatives will create the working group.

- iii. Once the task of the working group is complete or the prescribed period of time has elapsed, the working group is dissolved.
  - 1. The tasks of the working group may not be changed such that the original assigned task of the working group has been fulfilled but the working group has not been dissolved yet.
  - 2. If the assigned task will not be fulfilled in the original time frame, the prescribed period for the existence of the working group may be extended by a 4/5 majority vote of the Steering Committee.
- iv. Permanent working groups.
  - 1. Following the adoption of these bylaws by the Interim Steering Committee, three (3) permanent working groups will be created that will exist once the first Steering Committee is elected as well: the Onboarding Working Group, the At-Large Working Group, and the Convention Working Group.
    - a. Onboarding Working Group.
      - i. The Onboarding Working Group will be responsible for reaching out to every DSA grouping in the South and optimally bringing a representative from every existing local chapter or organizing committee into Southern Caucus.
      - ii. The Onboarding Working Group will also be responsible for the internal organization of Southern Caucus: connecting members from different local chapters to each other, ensuring that representatives are participating in the caucus, ensuring that representatives are regularly in communication with their local chapters about Southern Caucus, etc.
    - b. At-Large Working Group.
      - i. The At-Large Working Group will be responsible for helping to organize at-large members of DSA: inviting them to Southern Caucus Discord server, helping them find other interested people in their area with whom to form a local chapter, figuring out meaningful political action that individuals without resources or nearby comrades can engage in, etc.
    - c. Convention Working Group
      - i. The Convention Working Group will be responsible for convening a Southern Caucus Convention preceding the National DSA Convention toward the end of drafting resolutions, policies, and amendments and of fielding candidates from Southern Caucus for NPC.

5. Discord server.
  - a. For the purposes of the internal communication of Southern Caucus, the Steering Committee will maintain a Discord server.
    - i. The Steering Committee may choose one or more admins to manage the Discord server as they see fit.
      1. The admin(s) of the Discord server must announce when a new member joins the Discord server.
  - b. After the adoption of these bylaws by the Interim Steering Committee, no DSA members outside of the South\* may be invited to the Discord server.
    - i. Current DSA members on the Discord server who reside outside of the South\* may remain on the Discord server after the adoption of these bylaws by the Interim Steering Committee.
  - c. The Discord server is open to all DSA members in the South.\*
6. Amending the bylaws.
  - a. These bylaws may be amended at any time by a 4/5 majority vote by current Southern Caucus representatives.
  - b. In the event that the general functioning of the Southern Caucus deteriorates or quorum for voting is not reached due to lack of participation for three consecutive votes, these bylaws may be amended by a 5/5 unanimous vote by the Steering Committee.
7. Quorum for voting on statements, the creation of working groups, and amending the bylaws.
  - a. Quorum for voting will be determined by roll calls for participation.
  - b. Quorum for voting will be 1/2 of the previous roll call for participation.
8. At-large members
  - a. At-large members of DSA in good standing -- members who are not affiliated with a local chapter or organizing committee -- are welcome in Southern Caucus.
  - b. At-large members' voting representatives
    - i. Each state's at-large DSA members are eligible for up to two (2) at-large voting representatives to represent their state (for a possible total of thirty (30) at-large representatives).
    - ii. At-large voting representatives' votes are equal to the votes of local chapter and organizing committee representatives.
    - iii. The first at-large member from a state to join Southern Caucus automatically becomes the first at-large voting representative for that state. The second at-large member from a state to join Southern Caucus automatically becomes the second at-large voting representative for that state.

1. Once a third at-large member from a state joins Southern Caucus -- and as more at-large members from a state join Southern Caucus as well -- the at-large members from that state must decide amongst themselves who their two at-large voting representatives will be.

9. Interim Steering Committee.

- a. The Interim Steering Committee was formed by five (5) volunteers from Southern Caucus Discord server after repeated attempts to formalize Southern Caucus failed, and includes @maddy\_stl, @cam, @pure ideology, @ggracchi, and @griffinmahon.
- b. The Interim Steering Committee tasked itself with writing a mission statement and bylaws for Southern Caucus, and with overseeing the election of the Steering Committee.
  - i. First Steering Committee election.
    1. After the adoption of these bylaws by the Interim Steering Committee, the Interim Steering Committee will put out a call for candidates and statements for the Steering Committee.
    2. Candidate nominations and statements will be accepted for the three (3) weeks following the adoption of these bylaws by the Interim Steering Committee.
    3. During the three (3) week candidate nominations and statements period, the Interim Steering Committee will provide a questionnaire to candidates that will be published to Southern Caucus members who will be voting in the first Steering Committee election before the voting period begins.
    4. The voting period will be two (2) weeks long, following the three (3) week period of accepting nominations and statements. Results of the election will be published by the Interim Steering Committee the day after the voting period closes.
    5. Eligibility to vote in the first Steering Committee election.
      - a. Every member of Southern Caucus Discord server who is a member of a Southern\* organizing committee or local chapter, or reside in a Southern\* state is eligible to vote in the first Steering Committee election.
      - b. For the purposes of the election of the first Steering Committee, every member of the Southern Caucus Discord server's vote will be equal.
      - c. The vote for the election of the first Steering Committee will be conducted on Loomio. Southern Caucus Discord server members will be asked for their local chapter or at-large status for the purposes of determining their vote's eligibility.

- c. In carrying out the bylaws it has drafted, the Interim Steering Committee will dissolve with the election of Southern Caucus Steering Committee.
  - i. Before dissolving, the Interim Steering Committee will ensure that the newly-elected Steering Committee knows that they can re-choose the admin(s) of the Discord server and has access to and the account information for Southern Caucus Gmail, Twitter, and Facebook.

\* South as defined by Southern Caucus

The South as defined by Southern Caucus includes the following fifteen (15) states, from which any at-large members, organizing committees, and local chapters of DSA are eligible for membership in Southern Caucus: AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MO, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA, WV.

While there are other neighboring states that are occasionally considered part of the South, Southern Caucus has to have a definite boundary in order to function reasonably. Inasmuch as the activism recommended to local chapters and the proposals to national DSA from Southern Caucus will take into account the conditions of local chapters operating with minimal resources, few members, and an embedded reactionary political context, we feel that the work of Southern Caucus will also be of benefit to DSA members in these neighboring states.