

FACT SHEET



WHO ARE THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA?

DSA has supported numerous candidates over the past several years, including Senator Bernie Sanders in his 2016 and 2020 Presidential campaigns, Zohran Mamdani's campaign for Mayor of New York City, and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Rashida Tlaib's campaigns for the United States House of Representatives.

Did You Know?

- ➔ According to [their 2023 constitution](#), the DSA rejects an economic order based on private profit and supports socialist economic efforts as a replacement.
- ➔ Metro DC DSA members have [identified](#) knocking on more than 150,000 doors and made over 61,000 phonebank calls to voters since their electoral program was relaunched in 2017.
- ➔ In November 2023, DSA members [participated in a protest](#) at the Democratic National Committee calling for a ceasefire in Gaza, which led to a clash with law enforcement injuring 90 protestors and 6 police officers.
- ➔ In July 2024, the DSA [removed its endorsement](#) of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez after she hosted an online panel discussion about antisemitism with Jewish leaders, calling her comments "a deep betrayal."



NYC's Top Democrat

Zohran Mamdani, who won the 2025 Democratic nomination for Mayor of New York City, identifies as a Democratic Socialist and was endorsed by the DSA. Mamdani has expressed support for making city buses fare-free, providing public child care, raising the minimum wage to \$30 an hour by 2030, and creating city-owned grocery stores that buy and sell at wholesale prices. In addition, Mamdani says he would pay for his plans by raising the corporate tax rate and taxing New Yorkers who earn more than \$1 million annually at a flat 2 percent rate.

Who Are The Democratic Socialists Of America?

Executive Summary

The Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) is a political and activist organization which works to advocate for the expansion of socialism in the United States. The DSA operates as a national organization with numerous local chapters covering different regional areas. Policies the DSA supports include Medicare for All, defunding the police, the Green New Deal, and advancing socialism past “authoritarian visions of socialism” in popular thinking.

DSA has supported numerous candidates over the past several years, including Senator Bernie Sanders in his 2016 and 2020 Presidential campaigns, Zohran Mamdani’s campaign for Mayor of New York City, and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Rashida Tlaib’s campaigns for the United States House of Representatives.

Candidates can be endorsed by the DSA at the national level or at the local chapter level. Chapters allow potential candidates to submit a comprehensive survey to their membership for organization wide review. Endorsements are then voted on by the membership of the chapter, with each member being able to voice their opinion through the voting process.

After a candidate receives an endorsement, DSA national and local organizations support the candidate through members volunteering to door knock, phone bank, and attend rallies. Additionally, DSA candidates receive financial support from the organization to support their campaigns.

The national DSA organization identifies over 80,000 members and chapters in all 50 states. Individual chapters claim high numbers of door knocking and volunteering. For example, the Metro D.C. DSA chapter identified knocking on more than 150,000 doors and making over 61,000 phonebank calls to voters since 2017.

DSA has a history of supporting controversial actions regarding the conflict in Israel and Palestine. In July 2023, the Twitter account of the DSA BDS and Palestine Solidarity Working Group sent out a message saying, “One could (and should) very well argue that in a settler colonial context there are no such things as ‘civilians.’” Additionally, in 2024, DSA removed its endorsement of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for hosting a panel on antisemitism, calling her actions “a deep betrayal.”

Summary Of The DSA Platform

The Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) is a non-party political and activist organization advocating for Democratic Socialism in the United States.

- According to [their 2023 constitution](#), the DSA rejects an economic order based on private profit and supports socialist economic efforts as a replacement.
- DSA [identifies](#) organizing around several key issues among its various chapters and [organizational entities](#), including support for Medicare for all, defunding the police, and the Green New Deal. Additionally, the DSA has said their vision as an organization “pushes further than historic social democracy and leaves behind authoritarian visions of socialism in the dustbin of history.”

- Specific DSA chapters, including the Seattle DSA, have [identified their platform](#) as including free education at all levels from pre-k to college, universal unionization in all work places, unlimited access to birth control and abortion, and an abolition of all national borders.
- DSA has also [issued](#) statements of support for the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel and supports a U.S. arms embargo of Israel.

Recent Notable Members

The Democratic Socialists of America has endorsed and supported some of the most vocal members in left wing politics:

- Bernie Sanders, who twice ran for President as an endorsed candidate of the DSA, [identifies](#) his socialist political beliefs as continuing the “unfinished business” of the New Deal started by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.
- Zohran Mamdani, who [won](#) the 2025 Democratic nomination for Mayor of New York City, identifies as a democratic socialist and was [endorsed](#) by the DSA. Mamdani has [identified](#) support for making city buses fare-free, providing public child care, raising the minimum wage to \$30 an hour by 2030, and creating city-owned grocery stores that buy and sell at wholesale prices. In addition, Mamdani says he would pay for his plans by raising the corporate tax rate and taxing New Yorkers who earn more than \$1 million annually at a flat 2 percent rate.
- Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez is [a former member](#) of the Democratic Socialists of America and [benefited](#) from DSA’s support in her 2018 Primary victory against Joe Crowley.
- Rashida Tlaib was [endorsed](#) by the Democratic Socialists of America for Congress, and she has been [vocally critical](#) of Israel over their treatment of the Gaza Strip.

Endorsement Process And The Benefits Of The DSA Endorsement

The DSA organization requires candidates to submit candidate questionnaires which are open to review by their membership. For candidates endorsed by the DSA nationally and locally, DSA provides volunteers and campaign finance support.

- [Metro DC DSA](#) and the [Seattle DSA](#) allow potential candidates for endorsements to submit a candidate questionnaire which can be reviewed by the members of each organization before a formal vote by the general body to provide or deny an endorsement.
- The National DSA [requires](#) all candidates to reflect DSA’s commitment to change and urgent need to support working class communities.
- Candidates endorsed by the DSA see a number of benefits, [including](#) a higher volunteer rate for door knocking in support of their endorsed candidates.
- In several years, the DSA has run a slate of endorsed candidates in various areas, including NYC and at a national level, to [coordinate field and communications operations](#) to boost as many of their

candidates as possible. DSA-endorsed candidates also [benefit from coordinated fundraising](#) support through entities including “DSA For The Many” and the [DSA’s National Electoral Commission](#).

How Widespread is the DSA?

The DSA identifies over 80,000 members nationwide, with local chapters identifying extensive ground campaign support efforts through their membership.

- According to [the DSA website](#), the organization identifies over 80,000 members and chapters in all 50 states.
- Metro DC DSA members have [identified](#) knocking on more than 150,000 doors and made over 61,000 phonebank calls to voters since their electoral program was relaunched in 2017.
- Seattle DSA has [identified](#) organizing as many as 20 events a week to door knock, phone bank and rally in support of their candidates and policies.

Controversial History With The Israel-Palestinian Conflict

The DSA has taken several controversial actions regarding the conflict between Israel and Palestine.

- In July 2023, the Twitter account of the DSA BDS and Palestine Solidarity Working Group [sent out a message saying](#), “One could (and should) very well argue that in a settler colonial context there are no such things as ‘civilians’, but disregarding that even, it’s total folly to honestly compare settlers perpetrating pogroms to resistance groups deploying violence to liberate themselves.”
- When criticized for this statement, including from [Congressman Ritchie Torres](#) (D-NY) who called the tweet “naked justification of terror against Israel,” DSA posted a [lengthy thread](#) saying their original message was correct and they still endorsed its contents.
- In November 2023, DSA members [participated in protest](#) at the Democratic National Committee calling for a ceasefire in Gaza, which led to a clash with law enforcement injuring 90 protestors and 6 police officers.
- In July 2024, the DSA [removed its endorsement](#) of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez after she hosted an online panel discussion about antisemitism with Jewish leaders, calling her comments “a deep betrayal.”