

# Statement of Purpose of Gene Debs EBDSA Caucus

- **There is a crisis in the working class whose essence is the absence of a mass working class party.** It's untrue that there is no class consciousness in the working class, but that consciousness is at a low level. This low level was what allowed millions of disgruntled workers to vote for the enemy of the working class, Trump. A mass working class political party would put the class question into every issue and vastly raise the class consciousness.
- **DSA can start to take some meaningful steps to resolve this issue by running working class candidates at local level.** *The role of such a campaign would be to bring together all the issues affecting the working class. Such a campaign would have to link up the local issues with the necessity of building a mass working class political party, which would oppose all the parties of big business, including the Democratic Party. It would also have to explain that such a candidate cannot resolve the problems for workers, but that she or he can use their office to help workers organize to fight to solve their problems for themselves.*
- **We cannot run independent working class candidates and support any Democrats at the same time.** *If we support some Democratic Party candidates, then we are in effect supporting at least the "progressive" wing of the Democrats, which is not an independent wing of that party. There is a reason the Democrats have been labeled "the graveyard of social movements". History shows that we cannot support them and at the same time actually work towards a working class alternative. We also note that the very formlessness of the Democratic Party makes it all the easier for the enemy - the capitalist class - to control it.*
- **Taking these steps means a debate inside the unions which means a debate on how the unions represent the membership.** *As socialists, we should start off with an orientation towards the rank and file of the unions. We note that the rank and file often feels extremely alienated from their unions, because they don't see the leadership organizing and leading a real fight in their interests on a daily basis. This goes along with the union leadership representing the Democratic Party. A fight to get the unions to break from the Democratic Party is part and parcel of the fight for the rank and file to take their unions back.*
- **To really move down this road, to fully engage the power of the members, we need regular DSA membership meetings.** *In order for an organization to be truly democratic, the rank and file must be able to meet on a regular basis. That is the only way that the rank and file, the real potential power within DSA, can control the direction of its chapter, and hold its leadership accountable.*

We think a working class perspective in politics is essential. The role of any political party is to organize, mobilize and express the views of its class as well as to help draw the lessons of the struggle. A mass working class party would mobilize workers to fight as *workers* around all the issues that confront us. This would be a fight carried out in the streets, the work places and unions, the working class communities and schools. However, if a mass working class party does not contest elections on its own independent basis, it will inevitably be drawn into the capitalist, Democratic Party orbit. DSA can play an important role in building such a party. Our caucus is dedicated to seeing the full potential power of DSA realized in this fight.

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