



# ATLDSA

## Candidate Bulletin

### Atlanta DSA Delegate Elections for the 2025 DSA National Convention

Atlanta DSA will hold elections at our general meeting on May 31st, 2025 for twenty-two (22) delegates and two (2) alternates to the 2025 DSA National Convention.

Meeting information can be found here: [atldsa.org/gm](https://atldsa.org/gm)

For more information on National Convention and the delegate election process: [atldsa.org/delegate](https://atldsa.org/delegate)

## Candidate List

- |                              |                              |                               |
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| • <a href="#">Sumter A</a>   | • <a href="#">Leonardo H</a> | • <a href="#">Nnamdi O</a>    |
| • <a href="#">Kelsea B</a> * | • <a href="#">Jonathan H</a> | • <a href="#">Marco O</a>     |
| • <a href="#">Kieran B</a>   | • <a href="#">Jess H</a>     | • <a href="#">Brian R</a>     |
| • <a href="#">Dan C</a>      | • <a href="#">Owen H</a>     | • <a href="#">Jan R</a>       |
| • <a href="#">Sydney C-Q</a> | • <a href="#">Steven I</a>   | • <a href="#">Gabriel S</a> * |
| • <a href="#">Mason C</a>    | • <a href="#">Nate K</a>     | • <a href="#">Ryan S</a>      |
| • <a href="#">Julia F</a>    | • <a href="#">Natalie M</a>  | • <a href="#">Chris S</a>     |
| • <a href="#">Bianca G</a>   | • <a href="#">Jean M</a>     | • <a href="#">Trevor T</a>    |
| • <a href="#">Craig G</a>    | • <a href="#">Jordon M</a>   | • <a href="#">Josh T</a>      |
| • <a href="#">Spencer H</a>  | • <a href="#">Matthew N</a>  | • <a href="#">Shannon Y</a>   |

\* = elected to or running for government office

**Note:** Nominations were received for two members who are elected to or running for government office. Chapter bylaws Article VII Section 2 states "No person elected to or running for government office may hold any leadership position of any kind in Atlanta DSA." The chapter steering committee discussed whether this bylaws provision should apply to these delegate elections, with some chapter members arguing that it should apply, and others arguing it should not. Pending further guidance from the National organization, the Steering Committee is allowing the candidates in question to run for delegate, and encourages all members to think about this question when casting their ballot.

# Candidate Statements

## Sumter A (they/them)

I have attended three DSA conventions in the past. As a DSA member since 2017, in the wake of the first Bernie campaign, I have seen our organization experience growth and challenge alike. For the past two years I have served as a Democracy Commissioner, studying DSA chapters and other socialist parties across the world to draft a resolution package to rationalize DSA. If elected, I will ensure DSA strengthens our links with unions and popular progressive organizations and endorses a socialist candidate for president to defeat Donald Trump. We need a united front against fascism, and I will help DSA become a key part of it.

In short:

Labor Unions. Socialists in Office. A Rational, Effective, Mass Democratic Organization. Let's build a socialist party from the base we have built.

Vote Groundwork!

## Kelsea B (they/them)

Hey comrades! My name is Kelsea Bond, and I'm running for delegate on the Groundwork Slate. I have been a core Atlanta DSA organizer since 2020, served as the chapter Co-chair for nearly four years, sat on DSA's National Labor Commission, and am now a proudly DSA-endorsed candidate for Atlanta City Council.

I'm running for delegate for a third time because I believe that DSA is the vehicle we need to build a worker's party and win a socialist future. To do this, we need a strong, democratic national organization that is capable of responding to the political moment, fighting back against Trump's fascist regime, building a militant labor movement, and electing Democratic Socialist candidates at all levels of government. We are living in unprecedented times, but the socialist and labor movements are stronger than ever. We can win, but only if we take our responsibility seriously as the largest socialist organization this country has seen in decades. This means DSA needs principled national leadership willing to take a strong stance against the Far-right, and build the left-labor coalition we need to launch a nation-wide strike and run a viable socialist candidate for president in 2028.

Socialism is the best tool we have to defeat fascism. Working people are tired of the status quo and ready for something new. So let's meet the moment! Please vote for me and the rest of the Groundwork Slate to make sure that Atlanta sends a delegation ready to elect experienced national leadership, and build the labor and socialist movements we need to defeat fascism.

## **Kieran B (she/her)**

When I first learned about the DSA, I was hesitant. Frankly, I was scared. But I'm tired; tired of being let down by a government that has never made space for people like me. In DSA, I found a spark of hope, and now more than ever, I'm committed to becoming part of the change I want to see.

Growing up in Missouri, I was often shunned for calling out the racism and sexism I saw in everyday life. I learned to shrink my voice, to give polite, politically acceptable answers. But I'm done with that. I'm no longer that girl. Today, I speak proudly, alongside my fellow workers, women, and comrades, for change not just in Atlanta, but across America.

If elected, I'll be a voice for women of color, a first generation American, and a working-class woman. As a member of Atlanta DSA leadership, I know my duty isn't just to represent myself, but to advocate for our entire chapter. That means uplifting marginalized communities, fighting for inclusion and equity, and demanding accountability from our government.

I'm running with the Rainbow Coalition Caucus because I believe in building a DSA where diversity isn't just welcomed, but it's foundational. I support their resolutions for fair representation through STV delegate elections and oppose efforts to censure Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a critical figure in our movement. Our caucus prioritizes services for those in need and political action on food insecurity, housing, and homelessness, crises too often ignored by mainstream media and establishment politics.

We cannot be a movement that turns away from struggle, we must run toward it. Not for them, not for us, but for everyone.

I'm done with silence. I'm done with half-assed promises from politicians we "support." I want action. And I know DSA is capable of building a better future for all of us.

## **Dan C (he/him)**

The U.S. is at a cliff, risking a collapse into fascism. The only way we can pull ourselves away from that threat is through effective socialist organization, and it is on that understanding that I am nominating myself to be a delegate. I joined DSA in November and have since become part of the Membership Committee, secretary for Socialists in Office, and joined Kelsea Bond's campaign staff. Additionally, I am helping coordinate the in progress relaunch of the Cobb and DeKalb branches. Through this participation, I have been working from recruitment to mobilization to help get folks ingrained in the mass movement we are building.

This is what we need more of: effective recruitment and deployment. The DSA can rebuild the relationship with the working class the Democrats abandoned. DSA has shown it can run successful campaigns, with a socialist win even down here in Georgia, but it has of yet failed to make major inroads with minority communities and win back many of the white working class voters who abandoned the Democrats. We need intentional invitations to these communities through labor, electoral, and social outreach, utilizing our skills gained through other successful projects to bolster a mass movement. As part of this, the DSA needs to be democratic, openly engaging with its members and empowering them to participate in every level of the organization.

To achieve these goals, as a delegate, I will be supporting resolutions such as One Member One Vote which would empower non-delegates to have a voice in who is elected to DSA's National Leadership, so that DSA's direction is based on its actual membership and simply who has the most time to get involved. Also I will support R33, which will put priority on running a Left-Labor aligned candidate for the 2028 presidential election, a strategy that was successful in 2016 and leading up to 2020 in building DSA's membership.

If you want an effective and inclusive DSA, I hope to get your vote and work together.

## **Sydnei C-Q (he/him)**

My name is Sydnei Church-Quijano and if elected delegate, I will bring a unique combination of dedication, leadership, and perspective that makes me well-suited to represent and support our chapter. I would like to build a supportive and inclusive environment where every member feels heard, respected, and empowered to contribute. I approach challenges with a positive mindset and a problem-solving attitude.

My number one goal is to see the chapter improve and grow.

In pursuit of that goal, I am involved in many things. I have been an electoral committee organizer since 2023, participating in the votes to endorse both Gabriel for State House and Kelsea for City Council. I am deeply involved in both campaigns. I am one of the most frequent canvassers, translated material to Spanish, and helped organize the canvassing operations for the Kelsea Campaign. I was on the ground during the Stop Cop City campaign and collected nearly 100 signatures for the petition to put it on the ballot. I have also recently helped organize marches and rallies and subsequently created the Collective Action subcommittee to organize even more!

If elected, I will go as an immigrant, representing other immigrants, who are underrepresented. Those who are right now feeling the brunt force of the Trump administration's repressive policies. I will go as someone deeply involved in this chapter's electoral work and understands what kind of changes are needed at the national level to help our chapter succeed even more. I will go as someone who has experienced this before, having been to the 2023 DSA National Convention. I want to see DSA do more to fight Trump, become more democratic, and bring socialism to the masses. That is what I will do if elected and I hope to earn your vote.

## **Mason C (he/him)**

My name is Mason Cochran, and I am nominating myself to run for the position of delegate to attend the 2025 National DSA Convention as part of the Rainbow Coalition Caucus slate. I am a passionate and consistent organizer and have been since 2023 when I began working seriously with the Atlanta DSA and its membership committee.

As a delegate, I am primarily interested in ensuring the chapter sends a diverse group of working-class Atlantans to steer the organization in a manner that contributes positively to our movement.

I will support sensible resolutions such as a ban on AI for creative work within DSA, formalizing caucuses, or a resolution to make the organization more accessible for languages other than English. Additionally, I will support resolutions that contribute to the increasing influence of DSA within the United States broadly

by way of coalition-building, especially with more liberal groups. I fundamentally believe that the DSA is not presently in a position to tackle these issues alone. And if we are to become a true party for the working class, we need to be as accessible and appealing to the working class. This also includes measures to increase community engagement through mutual aid.

As an elected delegate, I will not support resolutions that hinder the work of our soon-to-be or currently elected members. This includes a resolution that would force people to run on a third-party/independent ballot line to receive an endorsement, or a resolution to censure AOC. Further, I won't support measures that make organizing more difficult in rural or red states. Such as resolutions advocating for an immediate dirty break with the Democratic Party. I think such measures are ineffective and will only work in deeply progressive areas, if at all.

In conclusion, I am incredibly excited for the potential to be sent as a delegate, and hope I have secured your vote.

## **Julia F (she/her)**

My name is Julia Falgout. I am nominating myself to be a delegate in the Rainbow Coalition caucus at the 2025 National DSA Convention, where I will work to advocate for the inherent worth of all people. Though I am new to the Rainbow Coalition, in 2018 I was voted to be a young adult delegate for the United Methodist Global Young People's Convocation in South Africa. During GYPC, our young adult delegation wrote and debated on issues that continue to shape the future of our church. I collaborated with other young progressive voices to propel legislation that highlighted the voices of young people within our global body at our larger United Methodist General Conference body meeting.

As a delegate at the National Convention, I will vote to raise up the voices society has for too long deemed 'unworthy' and has turned their backs on. I fully support the Democracy for All proposal to Convention. I support the expansion of voting rights to non-citizens, formerly incarcerated people, and the currently incarcerated. My work in ministry with those who are marginalized by society continually reinforces this simple but powerful notion that all people have inherent worth and should be allowed to freely participate in our society. This should include but not be limited to expanding voting rights to the incarcerated, formerly incarcerated, non-citizen residents, and people under the age of 18.

I will not support any resolution that seeks to censure AOC from the party. Doing this would shatter the hope she brings to those who've lost hope, therefore causing insurmountable harm to this vibrant organization.

As we look towards what our future can look like in 2028 and beyond, I will work in Atlanta and beyond to create a broader coalition that represents the beautiful diversity of our society. I invite you to elect me to help us get to this more people-centric, diverse coalition.

## **Bianca G (she/her)**

My name is Bianca (she/her), and I'm an organizer on our Political Education Committee, as well as a member on our Electoral Committee and the Kelsea Bond Campaign.

I'm a DSA member because I believe it's vitally important that we take action against the atrocities of the federal administration, and fight for our working class. If chosen to represent our Atlanta chapter at the

national convention I will vote to focus our efforts on fighting fascism and electing a socialist as president. I believe it's also critically important that we as an organization operate democratically in all aspects and strengthen our ranks in order to make change.

## **Craig G (he/him)**

Comrades! Brothers, sisters, and friends I've yet to meet. My name is Craig Gibson. I am a Pan-Africanist and Socialist, a member of the Afro-Soc Section, the Rainbow Coalition Caucus, and the Poli-Ed Committee. And I'm nominating myself to run as a delegate for the 2025 National DSA Convention. No matter if you're a man or woman, black or white, anything outside or in-between, we are all plagued by the demons of western imperialism. And we gather under the tent of the DSA united in the belief that a war can't be fought on just one front but must be fought on all fronts.

As a delegate, my interests would be focused on laying down the groundwork to ensure the backbone of this movement is solid as steel. To foster a community that doesn't just stand on politics, but on camaraderie.

In a time when immigrants stand as the most persecuted group in the country, the development of a Multilingual DSA doesn't just expand our demographics but gives us the ability to better communicate with and defend those people. Banning AI in the creative process ensures we can find and uplift artists and creatives. And we must keep the pressure on Amazon, a notorious employer who has shown time and time again that they're not only aware of the sentiments at their warehouses, but downright terrified. I end on this. This country is on fire. Our home crumbles at its foundations, not because of one man, not because of one party, but because of classic bipartisanship. Joe Biden and Democrats like him spent the past 12 years crying for the return of a strong Republican Party, the party of Ronald Reagan. Now we must deal with the consequences of those foolish desires.

The bricks that built this burning home we find ourselves trapped in were laid by Democrats and Republicans hand in hand. It's time we asked ourselves: what did we really expect? It's time we ask ourselves what the way forward really looks like.

I'm asking you not to support me, but to join me in finding that path.  
Thank you.

## **Spencer H (he/him)**

My name is Spencer Heaberlin, I have been a DSA member since January 2025., and I am running as a part of the Rainbow Coalition slate. While I have not been here long, I have done a lot, working with the Membership and Electoral committees and the Kelsea Bond campaign. I am now working as an administrative assistant in local government, and have previously worked as a campaign organizer. I have worked with many different organizations, and have seen what works for getting shit done, and what doesn't.

The DSA has had great success as a political and labor organization, and has great potential as a part of a mass movement to change this country, but it needs to develop more efficient and more resilient systems to do so. As a delegate, I will advocate for the resolutions that have worked on a local level. I will vote in favor of forming a national resource library and of standardizing branding. I will vote in favor of labor and electoral practices that have shown results, like running on the Democratic ballot line. I will not

support a resolution to censor AOC, as she has consistently voted progressively in office, and she has brought us new, driven members, and given us greater legitimacy. I will always vote in favor of being more democratic, and being more ambitious.

Our organization is growing, and now is the time to do more, like doing mutual aid, running more races, and supporting more unionization drives. I will support efforts to build a socialist culture, like branches and sections. I will never support democratic centralism, or any form of authoritarianism in DSA, as it would kill our momentum as a people-led organization and movement.

Ultimately, we need to be a more professional organization, with clear bylaws and a clear mission statement. We need to continue to grow, and will only do so by presenting a reasonable face to the public. We are regular people, who want a better world and are willing to fight for it.

## **Leonardo H (he/they)**

I have been involved with Atlanta DSA for over two years now, and during that time I have developed a lot as an organizer and admire all of the wins we have been able to accomplish together. During this time, I helped to start YDSA at GSU, which has grown to be one of the largest YDSA chapters in the country. I was elected to Atlanta DSA Steering Committee in 2024 and soon after became co-chair, making me the youngest person to ever hold the position. During this time we achieved so many powerful wins, including electing the first open socialist to office in Georgia, strengthening our connection with labor organizers and growing our chapter through membership events. Through this, I have become very familiar with Atlanta DSA and our membership, and I feel confident to represent our chapter at convention. One of the things that I am most proud of our chapter for, is our ability to have real impact in Atlanta politics and be champions for working class people in this city. Through a multifaceted approach, focusing on both electoralism and labor organizing, I think we have been able to create real change and have organizing spaces for everyone. I would love to represent Atlanta and our vision for the future at convention.

## **Jonathan H (he/him)**

I would like to represent the Atlanta chapter at the National Convention because I believe this chapter kicks ass and I want the rest of the chapters to understand that we are cooler and better than they are.

What I lack in tenure (I joined less than a year ago), I make up for in passion and work ethic: I've volunteered extensively for the Gabriel Sanchez and Kelsea Bond campaigns, led workplace roundtables, drafted chapter resolutions, and currently serve as an organizer on the electoral committee and one of two Co-Chairs in the SIO subcommittee. I'm experienced in public speaking and use a lot of interpersonal skills for my job, so I think I am suited to represent us well at the chapter convention. Thank you for your attention.

## **Jess H (she/her)**

Hi, I'm Jess! I've been a member of ATLDSA since the fall of Roe in '22 and on electoral committee through Jan '25, during some big moments of our chapter's electoral work, including the SCC campaign, decriminalizing abortion in Dekalb, and Gabriel's victory. I've been canvassing, signature-collecting, phonebanking, and building community with DSA for 3 years. But I was radicalized long ago! Before I had the words of socialism, I knew a better world was possible when my dad took me to anti-Iraq war, trans

rights, and pro-Palestine protests in childhood. I carried signs to impeach Bush in 2006. I'd carry signs to impeach Trump today if it hadn't already happened twice without repercussion. How do we meet this moment of backsliding democracy/full-fledged fascism the likes of which 9-yr old me could never imagine we'd be fighting decades later?

We elect a passionate team of delegates to represent the interests of southern chapters & purple states! I seek your support because we need intersectional feminist voices at convention. Maybe someone who works in women's health at a time when threats to bodily autonomy & public health are at record highs? My priorities include repro rights, diversity & transparency within DSA, environmental justice, and funding community, not cops. My prior activism includes volunteering at Planned Parenthood, SPARK, and Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition, advocating for decrim bills and safe injection sites.

I'm running with RCC because I believe an inclusive, resilient group of working class people creates space for all regardless of background or capacity. Folks stay committed and minimize burnout when there's camaraderie, community, and genuine friendship to sustain the work. We can't be socialists in a capitalist hellscape without support. Building a coalition of people who care for each other is how we grow the movement. It's how we grow appeal, campaigns, dues, & the revolution. This is people-powered; I truly care about our people.

## **Owen H (he/him)**

I have been a member of ATLDSA since November of 2020. In that time I have participated in numerous electoral canvasses, set up a substantial number of electoral/labor benefit concerts, and have taken part in the rank and file organizing work for the labor committee. I have also set up multiple educational events as a part of the Poli Ed committee. I think that with fascism on the rise the DSA must be well organized and prepared to meet this threat. To this we need to focus on organizing workers, particularly Amazon workers, since they represent one of the largest logistics providers in the US and have a huge amount of economic power. I also think that we should be running more candidates, like Kelsea, who remain principled and accountable to the party. I also think we should be prepared to fight back against attacks on immigrants, trans people, and workers through direct action. I want the DSA, on a national level, to fight to improve material conditions, and gain power for the working class. This is not possible if we weaken our organization in this time. We have a big fight ahead of us, and I intend to go to the national convention to make sure that we are prepared.

## **Steven I (he/him)**

I am new member to DSA as of this year and since getting involved in the work to elect Kelsea Bond, I have a strong desire to help make the DSA into a progressive political machine. The dedication to pushing progressive politics and socialist values from the people who have been working on this campaign have shown me that this is the best path forward for the DSA. I identify with the groundwork coalition and plan to vote for resolutions that will further the efforts to position the DSA to do more political work as well as the broader effort to clarify stances at the national level being pro those who would advance progressive politics in the US.



## **Nate K (they/them)**

The United States is in a severe crisis. Neo-fascists control the White House, and Democratic leadership is asleep at the wheel. DSA must seize the moment by challenging the establishment and running insurgent primary campaigns across the country! I'm running for delegate with Groundwork, a national caucus of Marxist Democratic Socialists, to advocate for shifting DSA's strategy towards mass politics and prioritizing the fight against fascism.

This August, we have a historic opportunity to transform national DSA from a disconnected patchwork towards a genuine mass party of the multiracial working class: an organization in the millions, that anyone whose values align with ours can easily hear about, understand, support, join, and learn to organize in. I'm running for delegate to fight for a DSA for all members and all people.

I'm currently our chapter's Recording Secretary and Electoral Committee Co-Chair. I helped elect Gabriel Sanchez as the first socialist in Georgia's State House, and now I'm organizing voter outreach to elect Kelsea Bond as the first socialist on Atlanta City Council.

If elected, I'll advocate for resolutions that:

- Build a left-labor coalition with unions and progressives to run a socialist candidate for President of the United States in the 2028 Democratic primary
- Democratize DSA with a One-Member-One-Vote system to empower members to directly vote on DSA's national leadership and federal endorsements
- Launch a national priority campaign to fight fascism and embed DSA in the vibrant popular resistance movements against the Trump administration's attacks on immigrants, people of color, women and queer people
- Reinvigorate the labor movement with a multifaceted strategy to reform bureaucratic unions and support new organizing at corporate titans like Amazon and Starbucks
- Grow DSA into a mass organization that spans all 50 states and truly reflects the diversity of the multiracial working class

I'd be honored to have your vote!

## **Natalie M (she/her)**

Hi All, my name is Natalie and I am your current Atlanta DSA Treasurer and Co-Chair of the Operations Committee. I am interested in being a delegate at the National Convention because I think it will be a great opportunity to learn more organizing skills to bring back and improve the chapter, as well as being an impartial vote on resolutions.

In my time as Treasurer I have facilitated the transition to a credit union instead of a bank, revised our financial policies, updated our record keeping system and set a chapter budget. A lot of progress has been made, but we also have room to grow. I am hoping to learn more from other chapters and national leaders about creating the best financial system for us and specifically want to dive more into fundraising and setting up a fundraising system.

As Co-Chair of the Operations Committee I am spearheading lots of projects to make chapter information clear and accessible for any and all members. This entails creating new materials and systems which is

not a small or easy task. I am hoping to find additional resources and models at Convention that will help me continue to expand this work locally.

I also am an independent vote at convention - I will vote for candidates and resolutions based on their integrity not their affiliations. I am in favor of both electoral and mutual aid work and would like to see both priorities reflected in the things I vote for. Clear policies, communication and information is a main concern of mine and I plan to vote in a way that will foster a more organized and transparent space going forward. Finally, finding solidarity in other fem members has been crucial to my wellbeing in this organization. Creating an environment where all minorities can find a safe place where they are heard and seen is critical to our success, and I will prioritize voting for candidates and resolutions that push our organization in that direction.

## **Jean M (she/her)**

While I'm new to Atlanta DSA, I'm not new to working towards a world built on our common values. I grew up low income and taught for 3 years in Title I schools after graduating college. I loved teaching and building a tiny island of inclusion and solidarity in my conservative area, but ended up leaving because of my worsening disabilities. I have spent the last few years fighting disability and race discrimination at work and from the state, and want to join DSA efforts to do so. I have always been a joiner and one to ask for change from the inside. I already work on the chapter operations committee and have joined the national tech committee hoping to support moves to keep pushing DSA forward in efficiency and security. I am focused on making DSA more accessible, more inclusive, and more prepared for hard work ahead.

## **Jordon M (he/him)**

Since November, many of us have wondered how we got into this age of Trumpism. And since then, I have been working as a member of DSA to untangle that very question. I have found that tepid liberalism and constant centrism have degraded this nation's politics and moved us to the far right. It has led me to believe there has to be another way to combat far-right ideologies.. I have worked in the DSA to spread the message of socialism to as many people as possible To push socialism as an alternative through tabling, hosting events for interested potential socialists, and spreading our socialist message through social media, this has led me to believe there is a deep interest in progressive ideologies.

People whom I would speak to at tabling events, in particular, would be very excited to hear about what the DSA is trying to do and would be very supportive. One guy even thanked me for stopping him to talk about the ATLDSA because he'd been very interested in the progressive ideas he had heard from Bernie, but had not heard in recent years. It's part of my drive to fix that and keep progressive ideas in the national consciousness.

At the National Convention, I hope to vote for Resolutions that will continue that work on a national scale. I will support resolutions that include looking for someone to run as a DSA candidate for president, as well as resolutions to create resources such as the Socialist Shadow Cabinet. I will also be voting against resolutions that go against a national-scale agenda. Resolutions such as the move to censure AOC, who is our strongest socialist, win by far, and another that would force DSA to endorse candidates to run as an independent, hamstringing candidates that would be disadvantaged by running as an independent. We need to be an organization that gives hope to people who have given up on politics.

If you agree with me, then I hope you'll give me your vote so we can continue to grow the DSA together.

## **Matthew N (he/him)**

As the Co-chair of Atlanta DSA serving in my second term on the Steering Committee, I take great pride in representing our chapter on a daily basis. It would be an honor to be selected as a delegate to the organization's national convention. I have been a member of DSA since 2020 and an active cadre of ATL-DSA for the majority of that time. I currently serve on the Labor Committee and spent 2024 as your chapter treasurer. In addition to labor, I have also been heavily involved in our electoral campaigns and the creation of our Socialists in Office Committee. I am part of the Cuba Solidarity Working Group nationally and hope to travel on the upcoming delegation to Cuba this fall. As a delegate for the 2023 convention, I was awakened to the importance of national DSA politics. The decisions made by the convention body will have ramifications for the organization as a whole, affecting each and every chapter across the country - Atlanta DSA most importantly. I am running for convention delegate because I believe DSA can become a workers' party strong enough to contest state power at the highest levels. One that will be the driver of change that can reach a critical mass capable of dismantling capitalism. We can win by demonstrating to millions of ordinary people that a socialist analysis and a mass, democratic organization are the keys to fighting the right. At convention I will prioritize resolutions that strengthen our links to labor, create a plan to fight fascism, and democratize DSA. The 2025 DSA National Convention will be one of great consequence and it would be a privilege to be able to help steer the course of our organization on behalf of Atlanta DSA. I sincerely hope you will rank me high on your ballot along with other members of the Groundwork slate. I believe in our vision of socialism in the 21st century under the banner of democratic socialism. Revolutionary times may be on the horizon and now is the time to lay the groundwork for that socialist future.

## **Nnamdi O (he/him)**

My name is Nnamdi Onyeije, I have been aligned with DSA since 2019 through Georgia Tech YDSA, and have been a member of Atlanta DSA since 2023. During my time in ATLDSA I have primarily worked with the Electoral Committee. I volunteered with the Gabriel Sanchez campaign and currently volunteer with the Kelsea Bond campaign. I also work with the AfroSoc Committee helping to organize events and outreach to grow the chapter's BIPOC population. I want to be a delegate for the 2025 national convention so that I can influence the national organization to make a stronger push during the 2028 presidential election for the acceptance of left-wing policy positions like Medicare For All and overturning Citizens United.

## **Marco O (he/him)**

Hi comrades. I've been an ATL DSA member since 2020, and I'm currently the Electoral Committee secretary and an organizer on the Operations Committee, which I chaired from 2021 until this year. I'm also treasurer for the Kelsea Bond campaign and was a canvass shift lead on the Gabriel Sanchez campaign. I represented our chapter as a delegate at the 2021 and 2023 Conventions, and I'm excited to go again this year because it's an important responsibility that I take seriously. Along with other ATL DSA comrades, I co-authored resolutions which were adopted at the 2023 Convention. This year, I'm looking forward to going to Convention to vote for resolutions that will continue growing our electoral and labor work, like running a socialist for President in 2028, as well as common-sense structural reforms like expanding the size of the National Political Committee (NPC) and moving to a one member, one vote

system. I plan to vote for NPC candidates who will support chapters and the national staff and focus on capitalists and fascists as our biggest enemies. I've spent the majority of my free time the past five years doing DSA organizing because I believe we are the vehicle for the change we want to see. I think we've done a lot of great work locally, and we have a chance at this Convention to do some of that on the national level. I'd be honored to have your vote!

## **Brian R (he/him)**

My name is Brian Ramirez, and I'm proud to serve as the co-chair of Atlanta DSA. I'm running to be your delegate to the National Convention because I believe in a DSA that listens to its members, grows with intention, and fights like hell for working people.

When I stepped into leadership, the first thing I did was listen. Members told me they felt disconnected, especially those outside the city and members of color. So I helped launch AfroSOC to create an intentional space for Black and Brown comrades to lead, organize, and feel seen. I'm also working to bring back branches so that members beyond Atlanta's urban core have real access and power in our chapter.

Before this, I co-founded and chaired the Georgia State University YDSA chapter. We grew it into the second largest in the country, with over 100 dues-paying members and campaigns that made real change, like getting free menstrual products on campus by collecting over 1,000 signatures in just two weeks.

Outside of DSA, I knock doors, win campaigns, and organize at the Georgia State Capitol. I've supported our electeds like Gabriel Sanchez and work full-time in electoral and legislative advocacy, building bridges between our movement and elected officials.

I've seen what's possible when we fight together, and I want to carry your voice into every debate, vote, and decision at the Convention. I'd be honored to represent you!

## **Jan R (she/her)**

My name is Jan Rivers and my pronouns are she/her.

I've been a member of Atlanta DSA since 2020 when I realized we need a whole new plan because the status quo was failing us.

I have worked as a protest marshal/ deescalator, collected signatures for Stop Cop City, and canvassed for the Gabriel Sanchez State Rep and the Kelsea Bond for City Council campaigns. I recently gained chapter approval as a Harassment and Grievance Officer.

I worked for the City of Atlanta until I was laid off in April where I was a NAGE/PACE union member and recruited several others to join the union as our environment grew more toxic.

The convention will be a new experience for me so I'm excited to join the policymaking, networking, and general idea sharing we need for growth and progress in harnessing the power of the working people. We know we have the power, now we need to invite others in to recognize this and build community and the movement to take back having a say in how our resources are used.

I would be very glad to represent Atlanta DSA at the convention and hope for our chapter's support.

## **Gabriel S (he/him/el)**

Hey it's Gabriel Sanchez, State Rep. for GA HD 42. I am running for delegate for the DSA National Convention, running with the Rainbow Coalition Caucus Slate. I have been representing our chapter in GA politics to fight for the working people of Georgia. Now I want to represent you all at the national convention to ensure we can meet this moment.

I have been a proud DSA member since 2020, being on the Electoral committee and Steering committee, and being a delegate to the convention twice, including as Delegation Chair in 2021. We are at a crossroads in this country, with fascism at our door. We have to strengthen DSA and have a plan to fight back against the fascists. We must show that the best way to fight Fascism is to present people with a Democratic Socialist alternative. In order to do that, we have to make sure our organization is prepared and united in this effort. That is why I'm running for delegate.

We need to continue the growth in our chapter, and that includes diversifying. We must recruit, train, and have in leadership roles more people of color & more women. If we are serious about building a multi-racial working class movement, we must be intentional in that work. I'll be supporting measures at the national level to support diverse recruitment initiatives to help make this happen.

We must also continue our excellent electoral, labor programs, and operational programs. We need to have the support from national while also having the flexibility to use the strategies that fit our chapter specifically. I will make sure to support any resolutions that can help our chapter's core programs while also opposing any unnecessary mandates from national that could hinder our progress.

Our task as DSA is to fight for the people. If there ever was a moment to do so, this is it. I know if we work together in solidarity to organize our communities, we can do it. So I would love to represent our chapter at the national convention to best prepare us for this moment.

## **Ryan S (he/him)**

Hey there, I'm Ryan and go by he/him pronouns. I've been with our Atl chapter for well over a year now and have been active with our Labor & Electoral work.

Over the course of the Gabriel Sanchez for HD42 campaign last year I put well over 200 hours of work into cutting the turfs & knocking doors, calling members for turnout and HD42 voters, assisting with fundraising calltimes, and assisting with numerous major events for the campaign. Since then I've also lightly been involved with the Kelsea Bond for Atl City Council campaign.

For my labor work I've also taken a job and been with Starbucks for a full year with the intent of talking to my co-workers and forming a Union there (aka ""salting""). While my efforts with my own store ultimately failed, I still support our Union efforts, and have shown up for & helped run numerous other endeavors; such as talking to other nonunion Starbucks employees & Customers, a Heat Training for Service workers that was reported on in the AJC, our Socialist Jobs Faire last year, several picket lines and rallies for Amazon, Delta, and CWA, marching with Labor in Pride and MLK, and even being asked to join the Labor Committee for a brief period.

I'd like to bring my strong support to our National Convention for Labor, Electoral, Solidarity with Palestine, as well as how we tackle the broader topics like supporting socialist candidates, fighting the fascism at our doorstep and the Capitalists simultaneously supporting it and ripping away at workers rights.

## **Chris S (he/him)**

Comrades, I'm Chris Strickland, seeking your support as DSA National Convention delegate during these critical times when ""fascism"" has become a daily reality. The current administration has weaponized ICE against communities, corporate powers have infiltrated public institutions, and universities face suppression of diversity initiatives.

As a Steering Committee officer, AfroSocialists + Socialists of Color organizer, ATLDSA member since 2021, father, university employee, and Rainbow Coalition Caucus representative, I understand what's at stake.

Our path forward requires:

- Building a mass, multiracial, multicultural coalition modeled after Fred Hampton's Rainbow Coalition
- Strengthening mutual aid programs that demonstrate socialist values while meeting community needs
- Diversifying our movement's praxis by integrating perspectives from historically marginalized communities

We face a system where the Supreme Court has legalized bribery and placed the President above the law. To confront this, DSA must deepen its community roots and nurture an organizational community hospitable to people of color while connecting with allied movements to coordinate effective resistance against fascist trends. As your delegate, I'll advance a strategic vision that recognizes our political moment's gravity and builds broad-based power through intersectional coalition work. I ask for your support to represent these values at the convention, shaping a DSA that meets this historic moment with solidarity, inclusivity, and revolutionary spirit.

## **Trevor T (he/him)**

I'm Trevor. I'm a member of the Political Education and Steering. I've been a member of the Atlanta DSA in some capacity for years and have maintained relationships with members from across the spectrum of the political left. As a member of Groundwork, I think the party should make room for a diverse array of perspectives by putting the work first and maintaining a horizontalist structure where different theories of change don't impede any members ability to engage with the work and the chapter and members can volunteer for the work they find most meaningful and effective. That's why I'm proud to be running for delegate on the GW slate!

## **Josh T (he/him)**

I'm a dedicated member of Atlanta DSA and a seasoned community organizer with nearly a decade of experience in mass movement-building. I joined DSA in 2015 when we were just 8,000 members nationwide, and have helped strengthen our political development and build safer, more democratic

internal structures, serving in key roles including on the Steering Committee, as Chair of the Political Education Committee, and as Chapter Harassment Grievance Officer. Outside the chapter, I work full-time as a Community Organizer with the Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights, empowering immigrant communities through our ICE-Free Zone (Know Your Rights) and ICE Chasers campaigns. I also promote our democratic socialist values under the Gold Dome as the Legislative Communications Intern for our chapter's elected Socialist in Office, State Representative Gabriel Sanchez. I organize with the Atlanta People's Campaign, the nonviolent direct action wing of the Stop Cop City movement born from the Referendum Campaign, where I helped lead canvasses and fundraisers that gathered over 116k petition signatures for a direct democracy style referendum on Cop City, and led several actions targeting City Council when they refused to accept them, including releasing hundreds of thousands of ping pong balls into the chamber. My background is deeply shaped by antifascist and abolitionist organizing, especially after being shot with rubber bullets by police during a BLM protest in 2020, permanently damaging my eyesight. On a national platform, I will represent ATL DSA by centering mass movement strategy, coalition work, and co-governance, building labor power, electing socialists like Gabriel Sanchez and Kelsea Bond, and boldly fighting the uniquely American fascism we face. We have nothing to lose but our chains, and a world to win.

## **Shannon Y (he/him)**

We need a presence in the minds of the public. We also need a national organization for prospective candidates to grab onto. We can get both at the same time if we step into the void that both parties have left us: the Democrats and the Green party. Not the Republicans, since however uncomfortably, they have a perfect avatar for the fulfillment of boundless capital in Donald Trump and the many fascists yet to come in his name. There is no such singularity among the Democrats, since they run on big money, and big money always runs in the wrong direction. The Green Party forms a different pattern: broadcasting an alternative without creating a viable path to success. They remind the public of their existence every four years before fading into obscurity again; their spoil-and-run tactics leaving the public to fall back under the tender mercies of the duopoly they so despise. We can become what both the Democrats and the Green Party should have been: an organization of workers for economic freedom. Or we will become what all loser political entities become: irrelevant and despised, if thought of at all. I regularly canvass and phonebank for Kelsea Bond, because I believe in electing people who also believe in good things fighting on behalf of their communities and earning their trust. And she should have allies both in government and out. When I joined the Hands-off protest, I wanted them to know of ATL DSA; that we stand with them for a world better than what they came out against. As I handed literature to marchers on their way home, I knew we didn't need to ask these people what they wanted because we were already what they've been asking for. And while DSA has done well to set up pockets around the country, we need a national space for a national presence. I will call on DSA leadership to step into that space with us, the disorganized progressive masses crying out for a structure to hold onto in this indefinite storm. I am Shannon Young, for DSA national delegate.