

# Atlanta DSA 2025 Convention Candidate Bulletin #1

Candidates sorted by position sought and alphabetically

Nate K (they/them)

Position Sought: **Recording Secretary**

Candidate statement:

Hey Comrades! This is Nate humbly asking for your support to be our next recording secretary. I've been an active member and organizer in Atlanta DSA since 2017, when I first got involved after a friend was shot and killed by police. I started the Young DSA chapter at Georgia Tech, then stepped up to lead our chapter's DSA for Bernie 2020 campaign. Since then, I've served the chapter as Recording Secretary and Treasurer, helping steer Atlanta DSA through the pandemic, the George Floyd uprisings, and the Biden administration. Last year, I stepped off the Steering Committee to focus on our campaign to elect Gabriel Sanchez, where I served as Field Director. I organized volunteers and launched canvasses, and together we knocked over 20,000 doors to elect the first-ever Socialist to Georgia's state house.

Today we're facing a world in crisis. Between escalating international wars, climate catastrophe, and rapid increases in the cost of living, liberal capitalism is falling apart at the seams. Now we're up against our biggest challenge yet: a second Trump administration ready to be far more ferocious than the first. I'm a Democratic Socialist and a Marxist because I believe that a better world is possible and that we have the power to win it.

I'm running for chapter leadership because I want to build up Atlanta DSA as a fighting political organization of, by, and for working-class people. As Recording Secretary, I'll keep our chapter minutes and documents well-organized, accessible, and concise, and work to promote a democratic chapter culture of robust political debate and discussion. As a leader, I'll prioritize launching a membership drive to recruit more members and grow our ranks, running our comrade Kelsea for Atlanta City Council, supporting our comrade-elect Gabriel in the state legislature, and organizing member-led unions to build rank-and-file worker power.

I'd be honored to earn your vote! Feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Natalie M (she/her)

Position Sought: **Treasurer**

Candidate statement:

I have been a member of Atlanta DSA for about a year. I am on our Electoral Committee and have helped with the Gabriel, Devin, and upcoming Kelsea campaigns. I also co-authored our most recent bylaws and conduct policy amendments.

I am running to be on the Steering Committee because it's important we have leadership that welcomes a diversity of opinions, experiences, and ideas, as doing so will help create a richer, more inclusive environment. I want to be an individual on the Steering Committee that members feel comfortable coming to to ask questions or share their thoughts. It's crucial that we have clear and transparent communication between our members and Steering Committee, and I know I will be an asset in keeping those lines of discussion open.

In addition to being a meticulous planner, I have lots of experience organizing and being in leadership. Specifically, throughout my academic career I was elected to the executive board of various honors programs and clubs. Those roles very heavily involved logistics—creating event plans, communication, maintaining lists and spreadsheets, as well as financial planning and tracking. These are skills that will help me execute the responsibilities of Treasurer including planning for General Meetings and financial updates, plus our annual Douglass Debs dinner. I attended our chapter's financial planning meeting, and because I am well-informed about the goals and finances of Atlanta DSA, I can lead us to optimize our spending toward these objectives. I also am well-versed in DSA policy locally and nationally after the time I spent recently drafting amendments. All of this will allow me to be a knowledgeable leader in addition to being a great resource for members who might have questions.

Overall, my skills and prior leadership experiences have prepared me to be a competent Treasurer, and hopefully, my time in DSA has shown I would be a Steering committee member people can trust.

Matthew N (he/him)

Position Sought: **At-Large Officer**

Candidate statement:

It has been an honor to serve this past year as Treasurer of Atlanta DSA. During my four years as a member, I have been a member of the Labor Committee, worked on the field team for the Gabriel Sanchez campaign, represented our chapter at the 2023 DSA National Convention in Chicago, and served as Solidarity Captain for the UAW “Stand Up” strike. I have participated in the Starbucks Workers United bus tour, assisted in Delta organizing, attended countless picket lines and solidarity actions, and so much more!

I’m committed to growing our chapter through recruitment of new members and increased fundraising, focusing recruitment efforts on fellow workers, union members, and students.

To be a workers’ party, we must engage in politics and contest power through electoral candidates. I support cultivating cadre candidates from within our chapter such as Gabriel Sanchez and Kelsea Bond. Contesting and winning elections, like Gabriel’s House District 42, will help build DSA, organize constituencies, and help lead the working class to consciousness. It is also a necessity in order to fight the right while they commit genocide, attack trans comrades, harm women, deport our neighbors, and roll back countless rights.

We should invest in encouraging members to join a union, more specifically a reform caucus within that union, and continue to attempt and expand new organizing projects as well.

Supporting reform caucuses, such as the UAWD, has proven to be a recipe for major working class victories. Members should be encouraged to “salt” through strategic programs like WOW and the Rank & File Project. Doing the organizational groundwork of rebuilding our unions will sharpen our political perspective, mobilize a cohesive working class, and ultimately lead to the leverage we need to build socialism.

It would be an honor to serve on our Steering Committee in an At-Large seat, and I hope to be ranked highly on your ballot. Solidarity forever.

Brian R (he/him)

Position Sought: **At-Large Officer**

Candidate statement:

Hey friends!

I'm Brian Ramirez, and I'm running for an At-Large Officer position. My journey with DSA began in late 2022 when I co-founded the Georgia State University YDSA chapter and served as its chair until April of this year. During that time, we grew the chapter to over 100 dues-paying members, making it one of the largest in the country.

I was a lead organizer for the University of Georgia's Palestinian solidarity encampment, and I've knocked countless doors for candidates like Gabriel Sanchez, helping secure his victory in the Democratic primary.

Currently, I work full-time in electoral politics and legislative advocacy, which puts me at the Georgia State Capitol, which will allow me to work with our current—and hopefully future—Socialist elected officials to advance progressive policies in our Republican-controlled legislature.

I am an organizer through and through and I've dedicated myself to building power for working people. I want to bring my experience, skills, and commitment to growing ATL DSA and supporting our movement here in Georgia.

Josh T (he/him)

Position Sought: **At-Large Officer**

Candidate statement:

I'm a dedicated member of Atlanta DSA and a seasoned community organizer with nearly a decade of experience in mass-movement building. Since 2015, I've worked tirelessly to empower communities and advance the fight for justice.

As a chapter member, I've led Atlanta DSA's Political Education Committee, organizing panels, film screenings, reading groups, and discussions to foster collective learning and growth. In 2021, I was elected to the Steering Committee, where I helped grow membership and sustain organizing efforts through the pandemic. Since then, I've served as HGO, establishing and refining our grievance process to ensure a safe and supportive environment for all members.

Outside of DSA, I work full-time as a Community Organizer with the Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights, focusing on empowering immigrant communities & combating xenophobia through campaigns like ICE-Free Zone and ICE Chasers. I'm also involved with the People's Campaign, a branch of the Stop Cop City movement born from the Referendum Campaign, using bold actions—like our recent demonstration at City Hall—to hold power accountable.

As an organizer who joined when DSA had only 8,000 members nationwide, I've seen our growth and the incredible potential to build the strongest socialist movement in U.S. history. I'm running to ensure Atlanta DSA continues building labor power for workers and strengthening electoral strategies to elect and co-govern with leaders like Kelsea B and Gabriel Sanchez.

This next year is going to be crucial for us. I will ensure DSA takes a strong, fearless approach to defending the rights & lives of all marginalized communities—immigrants, women, lgbtq+,

Palestinians, Muslims, people of color—by empowering them & standing in solidarity. Together, we can defeat the fascist creep and create a future defined by equity, solidarity, & justice. We have nothing to lose but our chains—and everything to win by organizing together.

Trevor T (he/him)

Position Sought: **At-Large Officer**

Candidate statement:

Howdy, Partner! I'm Trevor, and I'm running to be an At-Large member of the Steering Committee.

I became a member of the Political Education Committee because I believe that everybody, on some level, understands that our cause is righteous and that there's nothing insane about being radical when radical change is what's necessary. Everybody understands that the cruelty of the modern American system is failing and that a fresh, compassionate, and rational system is necessary, but they lack the material analysis to explain how and the historical context to explain why.

I want to expand the membership base and prevent burnout by creating an organizing environment that can unite diverse political perspectives and personal backgrounds into the sort of united and coherent coalition that won us a minimum wage, an 8-hour workday, Social Security, protected activity, and so much more.

History shows us that political evolution and class struggle isn't finite but a continuous struggle that follows material conditions in real time however they evolve. We need a membership that's ready and able to react no matter how much and in whatever way they're involved as individuals. We need to form the united coalition that won all of these victories in the past if we are going to face the decaying husk of liberalism and the grotesque cruelty of fascism that aim to control our future and dictate by fiat what is and isn't politically feasible. We need a Steering Committee that can meet new members where they are and turn them from new members to volunteers to comrades.

The failure of the flailing old guard of the Democratic Party is a tragedy that's given rise to a pernicious new American Fascism, but it in turn presents us an opportunity to build a new opposition that offers real change and speaks to the actual needs of the American working class. We need a Steering Committee ready to rise to that occasion and I think I'd be a great member to help meet that challenge.

Deonta W (he/him)

Position Sought: **At-Large Officer**

Candidate statement:

I'm Deonta. I've been a part of the ATLDSA Communications Committee for three years. I'm running to be an At-Large Officer for the Steering Committee. I'm running because I feel that, as a member of the Comms Committee, having a bird's-eye view of the other committees and the Atlanta chapter in general will allow the Comms Committee to serve them better. Also as a person who keeps a close eye on labor issues across the country, I can provide a viewpoint of ATLDSA's efforts in the context of what's going on across the US.

In the three years that I've been on the Comms Committee, I've created graphics that support the Ansley Mall Starbucks and Howell Mill Starbucks unionizing efforts. I've also created the logo for DSA's national Medicare 4 All committee.

If elected I'll do my best to help build the chapter and set the tone for 2025.