

DSA Fort Worth Electoral Endorsement Policy

Section I. What is a DSA Fort Worth Endorsement

A DSA Fort Worth Endorsement is an agreement between the chapter and an endorsed candidate to make the campaign a chapter priority and define a working relationship with the candidate. In order for the chapter to promote and engage in campaign-related activities such as organizing canvasses, the candidate must be endorsed by the chapter.

DSA Fort Worth considers two types of endorsements: Cadre Endorsements and Non-Cadre Endorsements.

Cadre Endorsement

Candidates who are members of DSA Fort Worth with significant DSA organizing experience. DSA Fort Worth plays a leading role in their campaigns and the candidate commits to an ongoing relationship with the chapter while in office.

Cadre Candidates are expected to adhere to the following:

- Remain a DSA Fort Worth member in good standing throughout the duration of their campaign run, and if elected, candidacy.
- Identify publicly as a “democratic socialist” on all literature, scripts, and materials regardless of ballot line.
- Present their campaign as a DSA Fort Worth project and consistently direct their base to join and participate in DSA.
- Cross-endorse other DSA Fort Worth endorsed candidates.
- Use office to build movements and fight capitalism while moving working-class interests forward.
- Accept no donations from corporations, corporate officers, corporation-backed front groups (such as PACs or Super PACs), big landlords, or police unions.
- Commit to the National DSA platform and any DSA Fort Worth platform adopted by the chapter.

- Maintain general activity in DSA Fort Worth by attending General Meetings as often as they can.
- Where permitted by their legislative body, form openly socialist caucuses to coordinate bloc voting and advance socialist politics using DSA branding.
- Join DSA Fort Worth Socialists in Office initiatives.

Non-Cadre Endorsement

As our chapter expands its electoral work in Tarrant County, there will be instances where we may ally ourselves with non-Cadre candidates. In such cases, there may be candidates that the chapter desires to collaborate with and support. However, the chapter should consider candidates that align with our principles to a significant extent.

Endorsement Preference

In the case that a Cadre Candidate and a Non-Cadre Candidate are both seeking endorsement in a single race, the chapter will prioritize the Cadre Candidate over the Non-Cadre Candidate.

Additional Notes on Endorsements

Members of the chapter may run for office without a DSA Fort Worth endorsement; however, we do encourage them to apply.

Members may not campaign as representatives of DSA Fort Worth for any candidate not endorsed by the chapter. Members may support non-endorsed candidates in a personal capacity, but must not present themselves as chapter representatives or suggest any connection between the campaign and DSA Fort Worth.

Non-endorsed candidates shall not associate their campaign with the chapter or the national organization.

In the case that a candidate applies for endorsement but is rejected, the DSA Fort Worth Electoral Working Group may still vote among itself to recommend the candidate on voter guides; however, the candidate will not receive the benefits of an endorsement.

Section II. Consideration of Endorsement

DSA Fort Worth typically takes endorsements on a first-come, first-served basis. Cases where this may not apply include when the chapter is strategically working with a DSA Fort Worth Cadre Candidate.

Once the chapter endorses a candidate in a specific race, it cannot endorse another candidate later on for the same race.

For certain races, the DSA Fort Worth Electoral Working Group defines an endorsement window to allow the chapter to consider multiple candidates at the same time.

Section III. Endorsement Process

Apply

Candidates apply via a form on the chapter website, which covers contact info, the seat they're contesting, social media/campaign links, and confirmation that they've read this policy. DSA Fort Worth will acknowledge confirmation of receipt within one week.

Previously endorsed candidates must reapply for each new campaign.

Questionnaire

Once the chapter processes the application, a representative will work with the candidate to further explain the endorsement process and send the candidate the chapter's Candidate Questionnaire.

The Candidate Questionnaire is a list of questions that DSA Fort Worth will use to determine alignment with a candidate. Candidates do not have to fill out every question, nor does alignment necessarily correlate to an endorsement.

Answers to the questionnaire will be distributed to DSA Fort Worth members to help members make an informed decision when considering potential endorsements.

Nomination

Once the candidate returns the Questionnaire, the chapter's membership will be informed of the answers. Chapter members will then nominate candidates based on these responses.

At least 5 members in good standing must nominate a candidate to advance the endorsement process to a General Meeting. Once this threshold is met, the Candidate Forum is scheduled for an upcoming General Meeting or scheduled Special Meeting within 60 days.

Candidate Forum

At the Candidate Forum, candidates have the opportunity to present themselves to the chapter for consideration of endorsement. Members will address the candidate with questions and the candidate will speak about their campaign and positions.

Endorsement Vote

An Endorsement Vote is then considered at a General Meeting. To be endorsed by DSA Fort Worth, a candidate must receive a simple majority vote of the General Meeting.

Section IV. Hard Disqualifiers

The following positions or commitments automatically disqualify a candidate from receiving or maintaining a DSA Fort Worth endorsement.

- Supporting cooperation with ICE or DHS in immigration enforcement
- Opposing abortion rights or reproductive healthcare access
- Opposing LGBTQIA+ rights
- Supporting U.S. military expansion
- Supporting the privatization of public services
- Accepting contributions from for-profit corporations, corporate PACs, real estate developers, professional landlords, or law enforcement unions
- Opposing labor unions or collective bargaining

In addition, candidates shall be anti-Zionist in accordance with the 2025 National Convention Resolution [R22: For A Fighting Anti-Zionist DSA](#) as well as the [Anti-Zionism resolution](#) passed by DSA Fort Worth in 2024

A candidate who meets any of the above criteria will not be advanced through the endorsement process. If a hard disqualifier is discovered after an endorsement has been granted, it triggers mandatory endorsement review outlined under Section V of this policy.

Section V. Endorsement Accountability and Withdrawal

Upon endorsement, DSA Fort Worth will encourage open communication between itself and the endorsed candidate. If an endorsed candidate is found to be in violation with the endorsement policy, the chapter may then consider whether to withdraw endorsement.

Review Process

- If a candidate is found to be in violation of this policy, or if they are found to be consistently engaging in undemocratic or disruptive behavior, DSA Fort Worth may vote to disaffiliate and withdraw the candidate's endorsement.
- In order for such a finding to be made, a DSA member must formally prefer written charges against the candidate in question to the DSA Fort Worth Steering Committee which will set the date of a DSA Fort Worth Meeting for deliberations on the charges.
- The candidate in question must receive a copy of the written charges and notice of the meeting a minimum of two (2) weeks before that meeting takes place.
- Withdrawal of endorsement from a candidate requires a two-thirds vote of a DSA Fort Worth General Meeting.

If a candidate's endorsement is withdrawn by DSA Fort Worth, all DSA Fort Worth campaign activity must cease immediately and a public statement must be issued by the chapter noting the withdrawal.

Reinstatement

A candidate whose endorsement has been withdrawn may not seek reinstatement in the same race. They may seek endorsement in a future race by initiating a new endorsement process.

Section VI. Amendments

This policy may be amended by a simple majority vote of the General Body at a General Meeting.