



PLATFORM & CONSTITUTION
Socialist Party USA

*Revised and amended at the
2001 Socialist Party National Convention*

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2001-2003 Platform of the Socialist Party USA

THE SOCIALIST PARTY USA stands for the abolition of every form of domination and exploitation, whether based on social class, gender, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, or other characteristics.

We are committed to the transformation of capitalism through the creation of democratic socialist society. Socialism will establish a new social and economic order in which workers and consumers will take responsibility for and control of production, and the residents will take responsibility for and control of their homes, schools, and local government.

For these reasons we call for social ownership and democratic control of productive resources, for a guarantee to all of the right to participate in societal production, and to a fair share of society's product, in accordance with individual needs.

As we pursue a socialist transformation of society, we join with others in demanding fundamental changes within the existing system. As we build the socialist movement, we organize around a platform committed to our common and interdependent struggles and aspirations.

I. Human Rights

Women

The Socialist Party recognizes that a struggle against habitual male dominance and patriarchy must go hand in hand with any struggle against capitalism. Therefore, we pledge our opposition to all forms of sexism, and demand equality for women in all aspects of life.

1. We support comparable worth laws and affirmative action for women.
2. We believe women should be free to improve their own working lives through unions and other organizations.
3. We support the expansion and full funding of 24-hour childcare facilities, community education to combat violence against women, and the establishment of crisis lines and shelters for women and children in abusive situations.
4. We believe that work at home, including childcare, should be shared to enable women to fully participate in society.
5. We call for one year's paid leave to be shared by new parents or in its entirety by a single parent.
6. We support the rights of all women to birth control information and supplies, and to all reproductive health services (including abortion).
7. We call for the banning of all involuntary sterilizations.
8. We support organizational structure based on such elements of feminist process as rotating leadership, gender balance, and systems for insuring full and open participation in discussion and decision-making.

9. We support links with women's sections of democratic socialist parties and women's rights organizations worldwide.

People of Color

The Socialist Party recognizes the intimate link between racism and capitalism and is committed to the creation of a pluralistic society and the elimination of all forms of discrimination in housing, jobs, education, and health care.

1. We strongly support affirmative action, civil rights, and anti-discrimination laws and programs to end institutional racism.
2. We call for protection of all Native American treaty rights, support for tribal schools and colleges, living wages on Native American reservations, and democratization of power and wealth in tribal governments.
3. We oppose all efforts to declare English an official language.
4. We oppose the police practice of racial profiling.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender

The Socialist Party recognizes the human and civil rights of all, without regard to sexual orientation or gender identity.

1. We call for the repeal of all sodomy laws and anti-lesbian and gay restrictions, and the legalization of same-sex unions or marriages.
2. We are committed to confronting the heterosexism that provides the fertile ground for homophobic violence, and

support all efforts toward fostering understanding and cooperation among persons and groups of differing sexual orientations and identities.

People with Disabilities

The Socialist Party recognizes the human and civil rights of all, without regard to physical or psychological limitations.

1. We call for full enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
2. We call for a network of support for people with physical, mental, and developmental disabilities (including home assistance, recreation centers, guaranteed income, voting access, and quality control in residential facilities) that enable them to be as active as possible, and that fully protect their human and civil rights.
3. We call for the continuation of full Social Security benefits for people with disabilities who are able to work part-time.

Seniors

The Socialist Party recognizes the right of seniors to a dignified life, freed from economic hardship and discrimination in employment and credit. Adequate housing, income, health care and medication, and access to social services should be guaranteed.

1. We support an increase in home service and hospice care for older people so that they can remain independent in the community.

2. We support the formation of publicly funded and democratically controlled senior centers to provide positive opportunities for community involvement.
3. We defend the right of seniors to a generous, publicly funded retirement income.
4. We call for vigorous enforcement of standards for nursing homes, elderly advocates to insure the protection of rights in nursing homes, and a stimulating environment in group home and nursing home situations.

Youth

The Socialist Party believes that a person does not have fewer rights because he or she is a minor.

1. We oppose measures that increase responsibilities and penalties on youth ostensibly to curb crime.
2. We call for an end to military draft registration, and an end to military recruiting in educational institutions.
3. We call for children's allowances in order to satisfy every child's basic rights and needs in a stimulating, empowering, and caring environment.
4. We support the rights of parents, grandparents, and all other caring adults to share in the child-rearing process.
5. We support free, quality, care and education for all children and young people, federally financed and community controlled through democratically elected local boards.

II. Human Needs

Health Care

The Socialist Party stands for socialized medicine — a health care system based on universal coverage, salaried doctors and health care workers, and revenues derived from a graduated income tax.

1. We support a single-payer National Health Program with full standard and alternative medical and dental coverage for all, publicly funded through progressive taxation, and controlled by democratically elected local boards.
2. We call for a health care system that emphasizes preventive care, respects patients' privacy, gives special attention to the needs of the physically and mentally disabled, and conducts treatment and research unimpaired by sexism, racism, or homophobia.
3. We call for full funding for AIDS research.
4. We call for the management of heroin addiction other than replacing it with an addiction to methadone.
5. The Socialist Party would re-fund community mental health services so that low-cost or no cost treatment is available on a voluntary basis, with patients' rights respected.
6. The Socialist Party opposes involuntary incarceration without due process for treatment, except in the most extreme cases.

Housing

The Socialist Party recognizes the right of all people to high quality, low cost housing.

1. We call for large-scale public investment in the construction of low cost, scattered site, community-based, high-quality housing.
2. We call for rent control for all rental units, and the right of tenants to organize.
3. We support the formation of housing cooperatives and nonprofit land trusts, the adoption of advanced and cost-cutting technology in building, and the rehabilitation and weatherization of existing housing.

Education

The Socialist Party recognizes the right of students of all ages to a free, quality education in a safe and supportive environment, and of all school employees to good wages, benefits, and working conditions.

1. We call for full and equal funding of public education, for free tuition at the post-secondary level, and for an end to all public funding and subsidizing of private schools.
2. We support public childcare starting from infancy, and public education starting at age 3, with caregivers and teachers of young children receiving the same training,

wages, and benefits as teachers at every other level of the educational system.

3. We oppose tying teachers' pay to student performance, forcing schools within a system to compete against each other, selling on-campus advertising in order to raise funds, and the increasing dependence of post-secondary institutions on corporate funding.
4. We call for fewer students per teacher.
5. We call for vigorous affirmative action programs so that each public institution of higher education reflects the community at large in terms of race/ethnicity, gender, and economic background.
6. We support multicultural, multilingual, experimental education at all levels.
7. We call for an egalitarian educational system with teaching methods that accommodate the wide range of teaching and learning styles, and that provides all students with the means to obtain the post-secondary education they desire.
8. We support student input into curriculum formation and in the hiring and dismissal procedures of school personnel.
9. We call for student representation on school boards.
10. We call for opportunities for lifelong self-education, with retraining programs and transitional financial support for workers displaced by We call for student representation on school boards.

11. We call for free and open access to information, including the public ownership of all large databases, so that access cannot be restricted to those able to pay transaction fees.

Transportation

The Socialist Party calls for extensive publicly owned mass transit systems in both urban and rural areas, at no or minimal cost to the users.

1. We call for government-subsidized programs to expand safe routes for foot and bicycle paths.
2. We call for the creation of fully funded high-speed rail transportation systems between cities, with fares set low enough to be a viable alternative to the use of the automobile.
3. We call for pedestrian ways, which exclude vehicles from the downtown area of cities and towns, accessible by mass transit.
4. We call for an end to the expansion of the interstate highway system in conjunction with the reduction of combustion engine/auto based transport.
5. We support all types of federally funded insurance designed to increase the pool of those insured, to combat profit motivated price gouging, and to prevent racial and geographical profiling, and gender and class discrimination that is inherent in the insurance industry.

III. Civil Rights

Bill of Rights

The Socialist Party is committed to the rights of free speech, free press, free assembly, freedom of religious choice through the separation of church and state, the freedom of personal privacy, and the right to a safe and healthy environment.

1. We call for the abolition of the covert operations of the Central Intelligence Agency and of the political activities of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
2. We oppose so-called anti-terrorist measures and criminal code reforms that restrict legitimate dissent.
3. We call for an unconditional amnesty program for undocumented people who should be accorded the same civil rights that other members of society possess.
4. We defend the rights of immigrants to housing, education, health care, jobs, and civil, legal, and political rights.
5. We call for the abolition of the death penalty.

Legal Justice

The Socialist Party recognizes the right of all people to equal treatment under the law, and to a humane criminal sanction system based on prevention, restitution, and rehabilitation rather than vengeance, forced labor, and profits for the prison-industrial complex.

1. We call for free, quality, legal and court services with skilled and experienced attorneys of choice for all.

2. We call for the prosecution of the criminal activities of politicians, corporate managers, and other privileged individuals rather than the over-enforcement of minor infractions by working class individuals.
3. We call for the expansion of community release programs and other alternatives to prisons, and for a moratorium on new prison construction.
4. We call for support services for prisoners and prisoners' families to reduce ostracism, maintain family ties, and provide for non-degrading visitation policies.
5. We call for Citizen Oversight Boards for police departments, with full investigative powers regarding police brutality.
6. We call for community response services for crime victims.
7. We support federal buyout programs for arms, federal safety standards and licensing for gun ownership, and prohibiting weapons whose sole purpose is not hunting or self-protection.
8. We call for the decriminalization of victimless crimes including substance abuse, and the decriminalization of marijuana.

IV. Political Structure

The Socialist Party stands for political activity independent of the two major corporate parties. We view electoral activity an important component of the struggle for fundamental social change. Participation in elections (local, state and national) is a valuable means of clarifying our position on a wide range of issues, of broadly disseminating our principles and programs, and of asserting and reaffirming our commitment to the democratic process.

Grassroots Democracy

We call for the overhaul of the Constitution of the United States in order to achieve a diverse legislative body.

1. We call for ballot access laws that give all political parties a fair chance to have their candidates appear on the ballot.

2. We support the introduction of proportional representation at every level of government.
3. We call for full representation for the U.S. territories of Guam and Puerto Rico, all Native American reservations, and the District of Columbia.

Fair Election

The Socialist Party supports the public financing of candidates for public office as long as this funding extends to the candidates of alternative political parties.

1. We call for the closing of the loophole sanctioned by the Supreme Court under which candidates can spend an unlimited sum of their personal wealth on their own campaigns.
2. We call for equal access to media for all political parties.

V. Agriculture

The Socialist Party envisions a system of organic agriculture based on farming cooperatives.

1. We support agricultural worker cooperatives, and oppose large corporate factory farms that lower food quality, cause profound damage to the environment, push farmers off the land, cruelly treat animals, and wreck small town culture.
2. We call for a farm price support system that guarantees farmers a return on the full cost of production. We call for low-cost loans, grants, and technical help to farmers including help to shift farm production from non-essentials to staple foods and fibers. We encourage the reintroduction of hemp farming.
3. We support the right of farmers and farm workers to organize unions for good wages, housing, and working conditions (including the right to be protected from pesticides).
4. We support the right of farmers and farm workers to be included in negotiating contracts with canneries as well as growers.
5. We support land use planning to protect farmland from suburban sprawl.

6. We encourage plant diversity, and oppose the creating, patenting, and licensing of life forms.
7. We call for the labeling of artificially genetically altered food, and the banning of genetically altered seeds to make them sterile.
8. We call for the democratic control of agricultural research and the complete testing of agricultural products.
9. We support inspections of domestic and imported agricultural products to make sure they meet U.S. standards for food safety, and environmental and worker protection.
10. We call for country-of-origin labeling on agricultural products.
11. We call for the reassessment of all international trade negotiations in light of workers', farmers', consumers' and environmental interests.
12. We call for the production of agriculturally produced and environmentally sound alternative fuels to reduce our dependence on petroleum.
13. We support research toward the elimination of the use of pesticides.

VI. Animal Rights

The Socialist Party recognizes the rights of animals to lives free from unnecessary pain and suffering, and the responsibility of people to protect those rights.

1. We support the spaying and neutering of pets to prevent the massive extermination resulting from overpopulation.
2. We oppose entertainment that causes pain to animals.
3. We call for the banning of the fur trade.

4. We support greater inclusion and enforcement of the Endangered Species Act.
5. We call for a ban on animal experimentation for product development, and support products that are not tested on animals.
6. We oppose factory-farming practices of over-crowding, drugging, and otherwise cruelly treating animals, practices that are inhumane and that impair the quality of the food thus produced.

VII. Environment

Environmental Justice

The Socialist Party recognizes that the mechanisms in capitalism that oppress and alienate humans are the same mechanisms that destroy the environment.

1. We call for public ownership and democratic control of all our natural resources in order to conserve resources, preserve our wilderness areas, and restore environmental quality.
2. We call for placing financial responsibility on private companies for cleaning up their own toxic wastes.
3. We call for requiring manufacturers to contribute to research and development of new technologies for cleaning up and preventing future toxic wastes.
4. We oppose any policies that encourage corporations to place local municipal landfills, toxic waste disposal sites, or incinerators in minority communities.
5. We call for legal action against any U.S. corporation that violates any U.S. environmental laws in the operation of facilities overseas.

Worker Protection

We support the creation of a Superfund for Workers that would pay a worker's full wages and health insurance as well as necessary educational and/or retraining costs if that worker loses a job due to environmental transition, downsizing, corporate dismantlement, or capital flight.

Natural Resources

We support a policy of no clear cutting in commercial forestry, a ban on commercial cutting in old-growth forests, and an environmentally sound timber policy that takes into account the historical ecology of the region.

1. We call for endangered species protection that focuses on habitat-centered protection for plants and animals.
2. We support the democratic management of grazing lands, safe drinking water, and stringent air pollution standards.

Environmental Policy

We oppose nuclear power projects and call for the immediate decommissioning of all nuclear power plants, a ban on the export of nuclear technology, and any efforts to use nuclear technology in space.

1. We support large-scale environmental restoration efforts.
2. We support the recycling of glass, metals, plastic, paper, and chemicals, and creating markets for recycled materials.
3. We call for reforestation programs that will include preservation of an ecological balance in existing forest areas.
4. We support mass development of solar technology and other renewable, non-polluting energy sources.
5. We call for shutting down waste incinerators, and phasing out landfills. We also support Research and Development efforts into recycling technology.

Energy

We call for municipal ownership and control of energy plants, in a non-profit and decentralized system that assures the most careful use of natural resources.

1. We call for the development of alternative energy sources including solar, geothermal, wind, hydropower, and biomass.
2. We call for a sliding-scale index, which is in favor of low-income people to ensure that all people have access to utility services.

VIII. Foreign Policy

Disarmament

The Socialist Party stands for unconditional disarmament by the United States and supports an international treaty outlawing all weapons of mass destruction.

1. We call for an immediate cut of 50 percent in the military budget, followed by additional cuts, with the aim of rapidly reducing the military budget to less than 10 percent of its current level, with the budgetary savings redirected to essential social services.
2. We call for the disbanding of NATO and all other aggressive military alliances, and the closing of all overseas bases.
3. We call for the abolition of the Central Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, and all other institutions of covert warfare.

4. We call for an end to U.S. arms sales throughout the world.
5. We call for the environmentally safe destruction of the military's supply of nerve gas and other chemical and biological weapons.
6. We call for massive jobs program for towns and cities where military bases are closed.

International Solidarity

The Socialist Party recognizes the power of the workers of the world to establish a global society based on democracy, equality, freedom, justice, and worker and community control.

1. We call for close working relations with like-minded democratic socialist organizations, and dialogue with all left organizations whether mass social democratic parties or small left-wing formations.

2. We support secular democratic states, assuring equal rights to every citizen and resident in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
3. We support movements in every country that work for the above principles.
4. We reject any unilateral intervention by the U.S. in the affairs of other countries.

World Peace

We call on all citizens of the world to fight the U.S. military-industrial complex, as mandated by the Nuremberg principles, by conscience, and by a vision of a just and peaceful world.

1. We call for the allocation of most tax generated national revenue to essential social services such as health care, education, housing, and mass transit.
2. We call upon all parties and groups to engage in serious negotiations to produce a lasting peace, which protects the rights of all groups and parties to self-determination.
3. We support the democratic forces of opposition against tyranny everywhere.
4. We call for the U.S. to end its domination of the United Nations, and to pay off its debts to that organization. We call for an end to veto power in the UN, and an end to permanent membership on the Security Council.

IX. Labor

The Socialist Party stands for worker control of all industry through the democratic organization of the workplace, for the social ownership of the means of production and distribution, and for international solidarity among working people.

Unions

We support the right of any number of interested workers in a workplace to form a union and bargain with their employer, with no limits on the subjects upon which employees and unions may bargain with employers.

1. We call for recognizing a union based on cards signed.
2. We call for the democratic control of all unions by their membership, and independent of employer domination and influence.
3. We support efforts to organize all workers, particularly workers in the service industries, enlisted personnel in the Armed Forces, and the difficult to organize (including students, home workers, homeless people, prison inmates, and the unemployed).
4. We support militant, united labor action including secondary strikes and boycotts.
5. We support the right of first-time and part-time workers to full benefits.
6. We call for the repeal of all repressive labor legislation such as the Hatch Act, the Taft-Hartley Act, the Landrum-Griffin Act, and all the so-called "right-to-work" laws.

Worker Control

We call for workplaces free from discrimination and harassment based on gender, race, ethnicity, age, sexual

orientation, or physical or mental disability.

1. We support the right of workers to hold shop meetings on company premises, elect their immediate supervisors, and administer health and safety programs through the formation of shop councils.
2. We call for full disclosure of corporate plans to close and relocate plants, a punitive tax on runaway industry, and compensation for the workers and communities affected by plant closings.
3. We support the right of workers, consumers, and communities to information on plant safety, hazardous wastes, toxic substances, and the quality of goods and services.

Internationalism

We call for the international organization of labor as the only way of combating the exploitation of workers in a global economy based on the transnational corporation.

1. We call for international labor standards, including the unrestrained right to organize labor unions and a 30-hour work week at no loss of pay, with six weeks annual paid vacation, and one year parental leave for new parents at no loss of seniority.
2. We support the use of secondary boycotts, hot cargo agreements, and sympathy strikes to defend workers' rights worldwide.
3. We support the right of all workers to organize irrespective of job titles and responsibilities, citizenship status, method of payment, or sector of the economy where employed.

X. Economics

The Socialist Party stands for a fundamental transformation of the economy, focusing on producing for need not profit, with the goal of a new society without social classes, and without exploitation based on class, race, or gender.

1. We call for a minimum wage of \$12 an hour, indexed to the cost of living.
2. We support the provision of a livable guaranteed annual income for those outside the work force.
3. We call for a full employment policy and programs.
4. We call for all financial institutions to be socially owned and operated by a democratically-controlled national banking authority, which should include credit unions, mutual insurance cooperatives, and cooperative state banks, in order to meet the diversity of local and regional needs and the needs of various sectors of the economy.
5. We call for a steeply graduated income tax, and a maximum income of no more than ten times the minimum.
6. We oppose the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization as instruments of oppression throughout the world.
7. We support restoring and increasing federal grants to democratically controlled local and state governments.
8. We oppose balancing the federal budget at the expense of funding basic human services.
9. We call for a National Pension Authority to hold the assets of private pension funds, and a levy against corporate assets for any pension fund deficits.
10. We call for increased unemployment compensation.
11. We support a program of massive federal investment in both urban and rural areas for infrastructure reconstruction and economic development.
12. We call for the elimination of subsidies and tax breaks that benefit corporations and wealthy households at the expense of working people.
13. We call for the creation of new jobs through the formation of worker- and community-controlled cooperatives, for the purpose of providing quality housing, health care, education, food, and clothing for all.
14. We call for Social Security, health, disability, and unemployment insurance to be paid for by a steeply graduated income tax and by a steeply graduated estate tax. We oppose such regressive taxes as the payroll tax, sales tax, and “sin” tax.
15. We support tax benefits for renters equal to those for homeowners.
16. We support the use of any federal budget surplus on human services rather than tax cuts that will only benefit the rich.

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Constitution of the Socialist Party USA

ARTICLE I: Name

The name of this organization shall be the Socialist Party of the United States of America, hereinafter called “the Party.”

ARTICLE II: Purpose

The purpose of the Party is to establish by democratic means a new society based on democratic socialism in which democracy is extended from politics to the economy and where the production of goods and services is based on human need instead of private profit, a society in which all exploitation has been abolished and where human rights will come before property rights.

ARTICLE III: Membership

Section 1: Every person who is a resident or citizen of the United States, its territories, commonwealths, or possessions, who subscribes to the principles of the Party, shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2: Persons may indicate their membership in a Party state affiliate, in such manner as provided by law for individuals to indicate membership in a political party. A member in good standing is a member that has remitted dues to the party and has signed the state in Section 3 below. Members in arrears in their membership dues for six months or more are no longer in good standing. Members not in good standing shall not be entitled to hold party office nor vote in any Party election or referenda, except as permitted by law.

Section 3: Every applicant for enrollment as a member in good standing of the party, shall sign the following membership application: “I, the undersigned, desiring to bring about by democratic means a new society based on democratic socialism, hereby apply for membership in the Socialist Party of the United States of America and subscribe to its principles.”

Section 4: Applications for enrollment as a member in good standing of the party, shall be acted upon by the local organization or the local executive committee, subject to review by the local organization.

Section 5: Applications for enrollment as a member in good standing of the party at-large, shall be acted upon by the National Secretary or National Action Committee, subject to review by the National Committee in unorganized states, and by state committees in organized states.

ARTICLE IV: Organization

Section 1: State organizations may be chartered by the National Committee upon the application of one or more locals in a state. For purposes of chartering state organizations, the District of Columbia, Guam, the US Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and all other lands under the jurisdiction of the United States of America shall be considered states.

Section 2: Local organizations may be chartered by the State Executive Committee, or the State Convention, upon the application of five or more members in an area. A copy of the completed charter application must be filed with the National Office.

A local organization may apply to the National Committee for a charter if:

- (a) The next meeting of the State Executive Committee is not scheduled within three months subsequent to the filing of a copy of the completed charter application with the National Office.
- (b) The local organization has not received a response from the state organization within three months of filing a copy of the completed charter application with the National Office, and the local in formation has made a good faith effort to notify the state organization of its desire to charter, and provide written notice to the state organization of intent to apply with the national committee.

Section 3: Where there is no state organization, or where the state organization is non-responsive or non-functional, the National Action Committee has the authority to charter local organizations.

ARTICLE V: Administration

Section 1: The affairs of the Party shall be administered by the National Committee, the National Action Committee, and the Party’s officers and subcommittees.

Section 2: National referenda, national conventions, and National Committee decisions and policies shall take precedence over conflicting state and local decisions. In all other respects, state and local organizations shall have full powers.

Section 3: State organizations hold their authority subject to the National Committee which grants their charters and may for cause revoke that charter after a hearing. Revocation of a state charter may be appealed to the National Committee and the national convention.

Section 4: Local organizations hold their authority subject to the State Committee or the National Action Committee, whichever grants their charter. Local charters may be revoked for cause after a hearing. Revocation of a local charter may be appealed to the State Committee, National Action Committee, and National Committee.

ARTICLE VI: Political Action

Section 1: The decision to run state and local candidates under the banner of the Party shall be left to the discretion of the state and local organizations.

Section 2: In the absence of Socialist Party candidates, members as individuals may vote for, endorse, or support candidates of other political parties. Members as individuals may run for political office as candidates of other political parties only with the approval of the National Committee, and of the state or local organization, with the exception of political parties previously approved by the National Convention or the National Committee.

Section 3: State and local organizations of the Party may run candidates for political office in other political parties only with the approval of the National Committee.

Section 4: State and local organizations of the Party may endorse, support, or form joint party tickets with similar independent political parties only with the approval of the National Committee.

Section 5: State and local organizations of the Party may endorse, support, or run candidates for non-partisan political office.

Section 6: State and local organizations of the Party shall not merge with any other political party or political group.

ARTICLE VII: Finances

Section 1: National dues policy shall be set by the National Committee. State and local organizations may set their own dues rates.

Section 2: No applicant shall be enrolled as a member in good standing of the Party without payment of the specified dues unless exemption is granted by the National Action Committee or the National Committee.

Section 3: The National Committee shall establish policies for the National Office to maintain the membership roles consistent with the provisions of Article III.

ARTICLE VIII: National Conventions

Section 1: The national convention of the Socialist Party shall have final authority in all matters of principles, policies, constitution, and national platform, all subject to referendum.

Section 2: National conventions shall be held in every odd-numbered year, the time and place to be determined by the National Committee. Special conventions may be called by a majority vote of all National Committee members or by referendum. Special conventions are limited to those purposes set forth in the special convention call.

Section 3: The National Committee shall establish policies for the National Office to maintain the membership rolls consistent with the provisions of Article III.

- (a) The National Committee shall determine the total number of delegates to the convention. Delegates shall be apportioned on the basis of total Party members in good standing. Delegates must have been members of the Party at least six months preceding the convention. The six months membership requirement may be waived by a majority vote of the National Committee or the national convention in cases where a local has no available candidate or candidates for delegates with six months membership in sufficient number to fill the delegate seats to which they are entitled.

(b) i: All delegations to the National Convention shall have equal numbers of men and women, except:

1. Odd-numbered delegations may have one more man or woman, and
2. Single-person delegations are exempt.

ii. Any delegation which fails to achieve gender parity [as defined in (b) (1) above] shall have the delegation's total number of votes reduced to the size of a balanced delegation (the equal number of men and women, plus one) by the Credentials Committee, unless the Credentials Committee is persuaded that the state/local has made a good-faith effort to meet the gender requirements.

(c) Where there is a state organization, the state organization shall conduct delegate elections. If minorities exist, they shall be guaranteed representation by proportional representation. State organizations shall also send delegates on the basis of male/female parity.

(d) Where there is no state organization, locals shall elect their delegates through the same procedure.

(e) The National Action committee shall conduct elections among members at large where there is no state or local organization. The National Action Committee shall attempt to ensure female/male parity among the at-large delegates.

(f) The National Action Committee shall fix the amount of the registration fee.

Section 4: The national convention shall elect the National Chair or Co-Chair of the Party.

(a) Vacancies in the office of National Chair shall be filled by the National Committee.

(b) The term of office for the National Chair shall be for the interval between regular conventions.

Section 5: The national convention shall elect two National Vice-Chairs of the Party.

Section 6: The national convention may nominate candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States.

(a) It shall require a two-thirds vote of those delegates who are present and voting to nominate such candidates.

(b) Nominations shall be made after the adoption of the national platform.

Section 7: The national convention or the National Committee shall determine the site of the National Office.

ARTICLE IX: National Committee

Section 1: The National Committee shall be the governing body of the Party, with authority to set policies and direct actions in accordance with national convention decisions.

Section 2: The National Committee shall consist of all National Committee members, the National Chair or Co-Chairs,

and the National Vice-Chairs. Members of the National Committee must have been members of the Party or its merged affiliates at least one year preceding the convention. Female/male parity shall be required on the National Committee.

Section 3: The term of office for National Committee members shall be the interval between regular conventions.

- (a) Vacancies in the National Committee shall be filled by the alternate receiving the highest vote in the previous convention.
- (b) In the event a member is unable to attend a meeting of the National Committee, that member may designate an alternate to take said seat for that meeting.
- (c) If a member of the National Committee fails to designate an alternate, an alternate shall be seated by the National Committee in the order of the election of alternates.

Section 4: National Committee meetings shall be called at least once every six months except by two-third consent of all National Committee members.

- (a) Special meetings of the National Committee may be called by a majority mail vote of the total membership of the National Committee.
- (b) A quorum of any National Committee meeting shall be at least half of all National Committee members.
- (c) The National Committee may take action by mail vote. A motion put to a mail vote of the National Committee is considered passed if approved by a majority of the total membership of the National Committee.
- (d) A motion put for a mail vote must be sent to National Committee members within three weeks after receipt by the National Office. The deadline for return of the ballots to the National Office shall be three weeks after they are mailed from the National Office. If statements pro and con are submitted with the ballots, approximately equal space shall be both sides.

Section 5: The National Committee shall be elected by the national convention at which time the number of members of the National Committee shall be determined. Each nominee for National Committee member or alternate shall appear before the convention and make a statement on his/her goals for the National Party in the next term.

Section 6: The National Committee shall elect the National Secretary, National Treasurer, Editor, and any other officers that it deems advisable.

- (a) The National Committee shall fix the salaries of the National Secretary and any other officers.
- (b) The National Secretary, National Treasurer, and any other officers may be removed from their offices at any time by majority vote of those National Committee members voting.
- (c) The National Secretary, National Treasurer, and any other officers shall be under the supervision and authority of the National Action Committee and the National Committee.

- (d) The National Secretary shall supervise the activities of the national organization. This office shall consult, work with and be under the supervision of the National Action Committee and the National Committee on all Party matters, such as principles, policies, activities and problems within the National Office and the national organization.

Section 7: Recall. Any National Committee Member(s) may be removed from office by a Referendum, as provided in Article XI.

ARTICLE X: National Action Committee

Section 1: The National Committee shall establish a National Action Committee that shall be responsible for the carrying on of Socialist Party business affairs and the application of Party decisions between the meetings of the National Committee.

Section 2: The National Action Committee shall be composed of the National Secretary, the National Treasurer, Editor, and such other members as the National Committee shall designate who are willing and able to attend regular meetings, at least bimonthly, in a location in or near the site of the National Office.

- (a) The National Action Committee shall meet on call by the National Secretary, or by a majority of its members at such times as it may designate.
- (b) A quorum for any meeting shall consist of a majority of the National Action Committee, provided that at least one National Officer or National Committee member is present.
- (c) All actions and decisions by the National Action Committee shall be subject to mail vote of the entire National Committee, upon the request of any member of the National Committee.

ARTICLE XI: Referenda

Section 1: The National Committee and the National Secretary shall submit to a referendum vote of the members:

- (a) Any matter acted upon by a national convention when requested to do so by any petition signed by at least 25% of the total delegates seated at the convention. Such petitions shall be submitted to the National Committee within three days after the convention adjourns. If such a petition is to submit a convention action to a referendum, the signers may submit an alternative proposition for a vote if such alternative proposition was offered at the convention.
- (b) Any question, motion, resolution, or constitutional amendment if submitted to the National Committee and endorsed by at least three locals in at least three states or by three state organizations having a total membership of at least 20% of the National Committee members.

- (c) Any question, motion, resolution, or constitutional amendment proposed by at least one-third of the National Committee members.

Section 2: Referendum proposals shall be circulated to the members and shall be open for endorsement for thirty days. If there are not sufficient endorsements after thirty days, the matter may not be raised for another six months. Members shall be notified of such results.

Section 3: If a national convention is to be held within six months, no question shall be submitted to a referendum except a vote to postpone the convention.

Section 4: For the purposes of this article, the term “membership” shall mean total members in good standing as herein provided.

Section 5: Referenda shall be submitted without preamble. Comment not to exceed three hundred words both for and against the proposition may accompany it. The National Office staff shall make great effort to obtain pro & con statements to accompany every referendum ballot.

Section 6: Vote returns in any referendum shall be in the National Office no later than twenty-one days after the mailing date of the ballots.

Section 7: Only Party members who have been members in good standing at the time of the call for at least three months may vote in the referendum.

Section 8: For a referendum vote to be approved, it must receive either: 1) a majority vote of the total national membership in good standing, or 2) a two-thirds vote of those members returning ballots, provided 30% of the membership return ballots.

Section 9: Whenever a matter has been submitted to referendum, no referendum on the same issue shall be held for at least one year.

ARTICLE XII: State Organization

State organizations shall consist of one or more locals, the state committee, and officials as determined by state conventions.

Section 1: State organizations may use a different party name, providing the motion to change the state party name is approved by the state convention by a two-thirds vote of those delegates present and voting.

ARTICLE XIII: State Conventions

The method and timing in the calling of state conventions shall be determined by the state organizations themselves.

ARTICLE XIV: Local Organizations

Section 1: Local organizations shall consist of all members residing in the area designated in its charter.

Section 2: Applications for membership shall be acted upon by the local executive committee, subject to review by the local organization. Local organizations shall have full power over the admission, transfers and expulsion of members, subject to appeal to the state committee, National Action Committee, and the National Committee.

Section 3: Applicants for membership and transfers may join whichever local organization is most suitable for their place of residence and activities, subject to the jurisdiction of the local organizations concerned.

Section 4: Local organizations shall keep membership and finance records and may hold public meetings, forums, classes and other functions.

- (a) Local organizations shall represent the national organization and the state organization in the area assigned for their jurisdiction.
- (b) Local organizations may run candidates for public office, representing the area in their jurisdiction.

Section 5: Local organizations shall elect an executive committee and it shall consist of the local chair, the local secretary, local treasurer, and any other elected officers.

- (a) The term of office for local officers shall be determined by the local.
- (b) The local executive committee shall be responsible for carrying on the Party’s business affairs between membership meetings of the local organization.

ARTICLE XV: Youth Affiliate

Section 1: The Young Peoples Socialist League of the United States of America (hereinafter called “YPSL”) shall be the Party’s youth affiliate.

Section 2: The YPSL shall be an independently constituted affiliate of the Party and shall be subject to the Party’s regulation and policies.

ARTICLE XVI: Miscellaneous

States and locals may be organized to coordinate the work of the Party, to perform any duty or function required by state, county, or local election laws.

ARTICLE XVII: Amendments

This constitution may be amended by national conventions by a two-thirds vote of those delegates present and voting, or by a majority vote of the votes cast in referendum as provided herein. Amendments passed during a National Convention go into effect at the adjournment of the Convention.

Socialist Party USA

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