

Democratic Socialists believe that both the economy and society should be run democratically to meet human needs, not to make profits for a few. Following are concrete ways to make our society more democratic and our lives better.

## ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Humans are the keystone of many ecological systems, and the ways we act shape the physical world around us. To build the best, healthiest environment for us and our descendants, OC DSA supports all efforts to mitigate the worst effects of climate change and create sustainable societies. This includes subsidizing renewable energy on a large scale, defunding dirty energy, including stricter environmental standards in trade deals, moving towards “greener” transportation systems, reducing pollution, and expanding our national park system for all to enjoy.

Locally, we see the importance of ensuring the health of our ecological systems through the years of drought and fires that have wreaked havoc on our communities. OC DSA therefore..

- Opposes the Poseidon project. The proposed desalination plant could destroy our coastal ecosystems while the county foregoes cleaner, cheaper alternatives - all to make money for a small group of people at the expense of everybody else.
- Supports active measures to reduce the harm done by wildfires. This includes the resumption of controlled burns on a larger scale and the halting of real estate development in canyons vulnerable to fire.
- Supports expanded recycling programs, increased CRV charges for beverage containers, and widening the CRV fee to other types of recyclable material.
- Calls on each city to develop a plan to become carbon neutral. This includes investment by county and city governments into renewable energies, including solar and wind.
- Calls on each city and county to divest from “dirty energy.”

## BASIC PUBLIC SERVICES

The United States has the wealth to provide the basic necessities of life to all of its citizens with plenty of resources to spare. As we have the ability to support everyone, it is unconscionable that artificial shortages are created in services like housing and healthcare for the profits of a few. OC DSA therefore...

- Supports a single payer, or “Medicare For All,” program that would guarantee basic healthcare as a right for every Californian and every American. Such a system should also contain costs through the elimination of insurance company profits, through the use of state bargaining power to lower drug prices, and through the aggressive use of antitrust policies in the medical and pharmaceutical sectors.

- Supports both rent control and new, incrementally denser, construction to make housing more affordable. We also support a “Homeless Bill of Rights” that would better protect our homeless neighbors.
- Supports a truly universal, publicly funded educational system, from preschool through college. We also call on the state of California to control educational costs by investigating administrative bloat and the practice of universities hoarding excess cash.
- Supports universal childcare, longer maternity and paternity leave, and expansion of welfare benefits to all mothers.
- Supports the preservation and expansion of Social Security and disability benefits.
- Supports a stronger public transportation system, not through streetcar boondoggles, but through increased frequency of high use bus lines, more rapid bus lines, and a prioritization of walking, biking, and public transit in the high density areas of Orange County.

## ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY

Democracy does not mean showing up to vote once every four years, it means ordinary people having control over their own lives and their society. Political freedom means little if the day to day lives of most Americans are spent in authoritarian environments. OC DSA therefore...

- Supports any effort to reduce income inequality, which has been shown to reduce life expectancy and a host of other quality of living standards while concentrating political power in the hands of a few. We support highly progressive income tax rates, eliminating the cap on the payroll tax, introducing a financial transactions tax, repealing or reforming Proposition 13, raising the minimum wage, and providing adequate public job or income support to those at the bottom of the income spectrum.
- Supports increased workplace freedom, including easier unionization, elimination of subsidies for large businesses, an expedited regulatory process for, and public investment in, worker run businesses and co-ops, and a right of first refusal given to a company’s workers when it is put up for sale.
- Supports the long term goal of reducing the work week, and fighting against exploitative overwork, as productivity continues to increase.
- Calls on lawmakers to criminalize wage theft, the practice of illegally withholding wages from employees. If workers steal from their employers, it is considered a criminal offense. It should also be considered a criminal offense for employers to steal from their workers.
- Supports antitrust enforcement that would make it easier for workers to start their own businesses and cities to build on a diverse economic base, rather than as company towns.
- Calls on cities to invest their money in local banks and credit unions to build the resiliency of our local economies.

- Supports strict regulation of the FIRE (Finance, Insurance, Real Estate) sectors of the economy to prevent another devastating financial crisis and to force investment back into the real economy.
- Supports debt forgiveness and easier bankruptcy laws. These are necessary for personal freedom and a dynamic economy.
- Supports fee, interest rate, and total interest caps for credit cards and other loans.
- Supports strong wage, labor, and environmental standards as part of any international trade deals.
- Supports net neutrality and efforts to treat utilities as common goods.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE & EQUALITY

We believe that everyone, regardless of race, gender, religion, sexuality, ability, or country of origin, is entitled to freedom and dignity. We strongly oppose any effort to discriminate against, or demonize, anyone based on their personal characteristics. We also believe that everybody has the same rights to participate in our political system and should be treated fairly by the state. OC DSA therefore...

- Supports automatic voting registration, the creation of a national holiday on general election days, and state holidays for primary elections. We also support the retention of paper ballots to keep confidence in the fairness of our political system.
- Supports efforts to continuing to close the wage gap between men and women.
- Supports ensuring and expanding women's access to reproductive and other health services.
- Supports the rights of transgender and non-binary individuals to necessary healthcare and other services.
- Stands with any people in marginalized social groups against all forms of bigotry such as, but not limited to, racism, sexism, anti-lgbt sentiment, xenophobia, and ableism.
- Calls on the state government to hold local governments accountable to the recently passed sanctuary state bill. We also support the abolition of ICE and an easy to navigate pathway to citizenship, with priority given to children and refugees.
- Supports police and sheriff oversight boards, staffed by members of the community and given actual power and authority over police and sheriff department policies and procedures.
- Supports a reallocation of duties currently performed by police that could be better handled by EMTs, social workers, etc.
- Supports matching public defender funds with district attorney funds to ensure fair trials.
- Supports a shift from punitive justice to restorative justice, including the abolition of capital punishment.
- Supports the decriminalization of drugs and the streamlining of the criminal record expungement process.

## FOREIGN POLICY

American foreign policy has too often been a nexus of aggressive wars and massive institutionalized corruption. We believe that a safer world is only possible when international cooperation becomes the first priority, and war is the last resort. It is also possible to defend the United States at a far lower cost, and to reroute that money towards more productive ends. OC DSA therefore...

- Supports de-escalation in all current conflicts.
- Supports an audit of the Pentagon, with a special focus on massively expensive boondoggles such as the F-35 and outdated aircraft carriers.
- Supports a repeal of the Authorization of Military Force, which gives the President far too much leeway to send troops wherever he or she wishes.
- Supports the closing of Guantanamo Bay. We unequivocally condemn the use of torture.
- Supports any and all steps towards a nuclear weapon-free future, including de-proliferation, disarmament, and a rejection of the first strike paradigm.
- Supports the transfer of military funding, research, and development to civilian goals.
- Calls on the United States government to cease aiding and abetting Israel in its ongoing conquest of the Palestinian West Bank.
- Calls on the United States government to cease aiding and abetting Saudi Arabia in its criminal war against Yemen.
- Calls on the United States government to honor the nuclear deal it signed with Iran in 2015.