

## **Candidate Statement, Jasyn Brackett**

I am running for the Steering Committee because I want to empower our working groups and our membership as much as possible. I believe that the working groups should be the focus of our organization, and I feel that we are at our best when the working groups are active in our community. Additionally, when our membership is empowered, I believe that this is how we can function most democratically.

If you want to our chapter make progress in our neighborhoods, to impact elections, to combat capitalism on multiple fronts, to lead by example so that other San Diegans will want to join DSA, and to have a good time while doing it all, then let me know what I can do to help. When we have solidarity, we will win.

## **DSA San Diego Steering Committee Candidate Questionnaire, Jasyn Brackett**

Democratic Socialists believe that both the economy and society should be run democratically to meet human needs, not to make profits for a few. We are a political and activist organization, not a party; through campus and community-based chapters DSA members use a variety of tactics, from legislative to direct action, to fight for reforms that empower working people. Do you agree? If no, explain.

*I agree wholeheartedly with DSA's platform, ideas, and methods.*

Will you have the time and energy to make a significant commitment to the Steering Committee given the other commitments in your life?

*Yes, I will. I fully understand the time and energy needed to make our chapter as effective as it could be, and I'd be proud to serve on the Steering Committee to serve our members.*

Why did you join DSA?

*I joined DSA because I firmly believe that capitalism is an oppressive, entrenched, and immoral system upon which to base our society. Combating capitalism, to me, is the only way to achieve freedom in its fullest and most legitimate form. Specifically, democratic socialism is a crucial component to realizing this freedom, as opposed to a centralist socialist system.*

What other organizations do you belong to or have belonged to that influence your identity as an activist/organizer? Do you currently hold office within any other organization(s)? If yes, which organization(s)?

*None.*

If elected to Steering Committee, what are some areas upon which you'd like to focus?

*My main focus would be very straightforward: to give as much agency and power to our working groups, and to our membership at large. I would look forward to working on building a system through which we could run as many decisions through our membership body as possible.*

*I would also take great pride in crafting the bylaws for our chapter. I understand the necessity of this work, and I would look forward to crafting bylaws to*

*empower each member of our chapter.*

What ideas do you have to ensure that Steering Committee decisions are made democratically?

*I would propose that communication between the membership and the Steering Committee be far more open than it currently is, and believe that communication could be done one two ways.*

*First, is that the Steering Committee be available by a linked email account, and members can send emails to the Steering Committee as they see fit. I would say that no topic is too significant or cumbersome if any member of our chapter has an issue that they believe can be assisted with the aid of the Steering Committee.*

*Second, I would propose that five-to-ten minutes of each general meeting be devoted to communication between members and the Steering Committee. I am a firm believer that these in-person interactions would be beneficial for all.*

*I also believe that periodic (perhaps quarterly, or monthly) updates to the membership from the steering committee would assist in keeping our membership more engaged. Examples of some of these updates could include: working group projects and contacts, financial reports, outreach materials, and more.*