

## **Candidate Statement, Marge Kealey**

I have been a political activist my entire life. As a senior citizen, I have seen it all and will not stop fighting until they shut the lid on my coffin. I have been involved with progressive politics in San Diego county for over 50 years and continue to have many contacts in the progressive community. . As a Californian and citizen of the planet, I place the well-being of the people as my highest priority. I believe in the values of community, empathy, equality, tolerance, opportunity, and the common good of the interdependent world we share

I am most concerned about:

1 GETTING BIG MONEY OUT OF POLITICS, Corporations are artificial entities, and not entitled to Constitutional protections as persons. I oppose the undue influence of corporations on our political process

2 UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE Health care is a basic human right. Government should work to improve our overall health, while assuring access to high-quality, affordable care for everyone

3 UNIVERSAL EDUCATION The backbone of our democracy is a free, universal public school system (pre-K through post-secondary), designed to educate informed, reasoning, and thoughtful persons who are critical-thinking lifelong learners prepared to participate in our society

4.ECONOMIC SECURITY FOR THE LOW AND MIDDLE CLASS POPULATION. Income inequality is the driving issue of our time I am committed to a sustainable economy with strong communities based on living-wage jobs, tax fairness, and shared prosperity. Every worker must have the right to organize and bargain collectively to determine their pay, benefits, and working conditions.

## **DSA San Diego Steering Committee Candidate Questionnaire, Marge Kealey**

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.

Yes

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

*Only if I have advance notice of meetings. I have lots of energy and can focus on DSA. However, I do have many other commitments but, I can always find time to give to each one including DSA*

Why did you join DSA?

*I am a Red Diaper Baby. I have been exposed to progressive ideas and movements my entire life. I walked my first picket line when I was 9 years old. DSA is the only realistic Socialist organization in the US with the most potential to increase membership and reach out to those dissatisfied with the 2 party political monopoly.*

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)?

*North County Latino Democratic Club, PDA, Progressive Democrats of San Diego, Berniecrats, ACLU, 76<sup>th</sup> Assembly progressive slate ADEM. Our Revolution, True North... Vietnam Veterans Against War, and Iraq Vets against the War, American Humanist Society, Grassroots.org, Field Support Rep for the San Diego County Reg.of Voters.*

*No offices at this time. I have held presidencies of North San Diego County Genealogical Society, and San Diego Jewish Genealogy Society. During my years of teaching at Oceanside High School I was actively involved in the migrant ed program, an early member of La Raza and held the position of faculty union rep, for both the AFT and the CTA.*

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

*Voter Registration*

*Involving more activity in North County*

*Health Care*

*Creating criteria for indorsing political candidates at the local, regional, and national level.*

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

*Open discussion. Be accepting of any ideas and be willing to debate them in a civil manner. Bringing all major decision back to the general membership for their input and approval.*