

Beware the Trojan Horse

Democratic Socialists have infiltrated the Democratic Party, exciting a dispirited base of young progressives and causing heartburn for the establishment with a single goal in mind: take over the Democratic Party in order to reshape the United States as we know it.

The victories of far-left Senate Democratic candidates like Abdul El-Sayed in Michigan, Troy Jackson in Maine, Peggy Flanagan in Minnesota and others in assorted House districts appear to have awakened the Republican Party but has done little to move the Democratic establishment.

In fact, Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer and House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries continue to describe the Democratic Party as a resilient “big tent” coalition. They insist that uniting this broad base – ranging from moderates to progressives – is essential for lowering costs, protecting healthcare and defeating Donald Trump. Senator Schumer defends his party’s wide-ranging membership, framing ideological diversity as a core electoral strength rather than a liability. Critics and some moderate Democrats argue that embracing far-left policy platforms alienates mainstream voters, while leadership continues to insist that a diverse coalition is necessary to build a winning majority.

Operation Wildfire asks, “At what price is the ‘big tent’? Is it worth destruction of our American way of life? Destroying our Constitution? Or, is this all worth it to stop President Trump and regain power in both chambers of Congress, and eventually put a Democrat in the White House?

Once elected – and some of them will be – will the leadership be able to control them and blend them into the rest of the Democratic Caucus? We think not.

So let’s take a look at the platform of the Democratic Socialists.

The “Workers Deserve More” platform¹ released by the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) proposes deep structural overhauls of the U.S. government and sweeping socialist economic reforms designed to shift power from corporations to the working class.

Government and Structural Reforms

- Abolish the U.S. Senate and the Electoral College.
- Replace the presidency and the Supreme Court with congressional leadership.
- Transition to a multi-party democratic system.
- Grant full voting rights to noncitizens and individuals with criminal records.
- Defund military operations, close overseas bases, and eliminate agencies like ICE.
- Abolish the current prison and policing framework.

Economic and Social Proposals

- Implement single-payer, universal “Medicare for All”.
- Establish a Green New Deal to eliminate fossil fuels and fund climate investments.
- Provide tuition-free public higher education and universal child care.
- Shift large private corporations and essential services into public or social ownership.
- Guarantee jobs, expand retirement benefits, and enact universal paid family leave.
- Institute rent control, expand affordable housing, and pay reparations for slavery.

¹ Democratic Socialists of America, <https://program.dsusa.org/>

Operation Wildfire: Good Things Happen When YOU Vote

After reading the DSA platform, did you feel your taxes going up, your retirement accounts destroyed? Did you feel your liberty and freedom slipping away? Perhaps you felt the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States being ripped to shreds?

Missing the Mark²

On President Trump's visit to Las Vegas to promote tax exclusion for tips, he opened the argument, saying Republicans are "working every day to defend the American Dream for you and your children." But then he claimed "the radical left, the maniacs, they're trying to destroy it with the disaster known as not socialism [but] communism... These are communists." The President suggested Republicans should say that if Democrats prevail, then "you'll have nothing but death, squalor, poverty."

True believers may have cheered but that wouldn't get a single vote. Instead, it showed that he doesn't understand public opinion, how he got elected, or what it will take to win in the midterm elections.

In the RealClearPolitics average of recent polls, President Trump's overall approval rating is 39%. On specific issues, his numbers are worse: handling inflation (31%); Iran (36%); Russia and Ukraine (37%); the economy (37%); foreign policy (38%). He exceeds his overall approval number only on immigration (44%) and crime (45%). Even then, a majority disapprove of his handling of every issue.

The President dismisses bad numbers as "fake polls." But pollsters probably see similar results.

Mr. Trump received 49.8% of the popular vote and a 1.5 point victory in 2024 because about 14% or 15% of voters decided that for all his flaws, they'd still vote for him. Things were better when he was in office, and Kamala Harris was just an extension of the Biden presidency, which no one wanted. Risky, but voting for Mr. Trump was voting for change.

But that's no longer the case. Those reluctant 2024 Trump supporters are crucial to winning in November. How?

Winning Back the Reluctant Voters

- Don't Gaslight Voters. The President claimed in Las Vegas that he produced "the greatest economy we've ever had so far" with "the cost of rent, groceries and other staples ... coming down very fast." Claims that collide with Americans' day-to-day experience got President Biden into trouble and now President Trump, too.
- Screaming "Communist" won't win additional votes. Instead, use a Democratic candidate's own words and policies. Make Democratic candidates eat anything they say that's extreme.
- Don't let Democrats get away with disavowing past outrageous positions. Point out how convenient their changes are. Ask when and why they changed their minds. Raise doubts, suggesting that they're untrustworthy and nothing keeps them from reverting to those extreme views.
- Don't let Democrats escape from dangerous associations. If someone like Hasan Piker campaigned for them or another Democrat on the state ticket, make every Democrat defend every terrible comment Mr. Piker has made. Ask why Democrats would associate with someone like that.
- Republicans must explain why the DSA's agenda won't work and will hurt voters. The DSA doesn't want Americans to have a landlord or mortgage. That means the government would assign your housing and you couldn't accumulate wealth by buying a home and letting it grow in value.
- Force normal Democrats to disavow DSA policies. Yes, that gives some Democrats an opportunity to say they won't abolish ICE, defund the police or close prisons, but that could discourage some of their left-wing supporters from turning out.

² Steps to Defeat Dems and the DSA, <https://www.karlrove.com/article/8-13-26-WSJ?>

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A Washington Post Warning

On July 30, the *Washington Post* released survey results³ that found “less than half of all Americans” said they would be willing to support a Democratic Socialist for President. Although three-quarters of Democrats said they would be open to it, 54% of Independents would “rule out a Democratic Socialist Candidate.”

Those results suggest that if Democratic Socialists take over the Democratic Party, they will have to work hard to educate the electorate about what it means to be a Democratic Socialist – and to persuade voters that they will not bring the end of America’s capitalist economic system.

The paper suggests that “Americans have not reached consensus on what being a Democratic Socialist actually means.” The meaning ranges from concerns about economic equality and a desire for universal health care, to wealth redistribution and outright communism. “No more than 13% of the public coalesced around any singular view of what Democratic Socialism is supposed to mean. But many agreed with the idea that “Democratic Socialism is similar to Communism.”

The *Post* continues that “the defining problem” for the Democratic Party is “how to manage the movement...whose populist appeal and generational momentum it needs but whose principles it does not fully share.” The fate of the Party and, perhaps, of democracy itself, depends on how Democrats solve that problem.

What Can You Do?

- Stick to the facts. Don’t gaslight. Voters know what’s happening in the grocery stores and at the pump.
- Share the DSA platform with family, friends, neighbors and coworkers.
- Use the Democrat candidate’s own words and make sure that you have citations to bolster your statements.
- Select one of the planks in the DSA platform and write a Letter to the Editor of your local paper, illustrating how that won’t work. Encourage others to do the same by choosing another plank.
- Challenge Democratic candidates to disavow DSA policies.
- Apply for a mail-in ballot today and encourage those close to you to do the same.
- Make a plan to vote, whether by mail or in person.

As we continue to celebrate the United States’ 250th birthday, let’s also celebrate the wisdom and forethought of our Founding Fathers. Now is not the time to turn away from their gifts of freedom, self-governance and foundational documents. Those contributions established a free republic and set legal frameworks designed to protect individual liberties.

President Reagan said it best:

“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn’t pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same.”

³ Can Democrats still win if socialists take over their party? <https://thehill.com/opinion/campaign/6012017>