Reformist “Democratic Socialists” Become the Face of US Democrats



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DSA played a major role in the US Democrats' midterm victory, which was portrayed as a big win for "socialism" in America. Will the DSA really defend workers' interests?

Details. The Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) endorsed 164 candidates in the midterms, of whom 107 have won. No DSA-endorsed Senate candidate won, while in the House of Representatives 6 new DSA-members won their race, resulting in 8 DSA-members in the House. At the state level, 54 DSA-endorsed state legislative candidates won.

► Prominent "democratic socialist" officeholders (Bernie Sanders, AOC and Mayor Mamdani) endorsed a large number of "progressive" candidates, many of whom have won. Democrat "socialist" officeholders were uncommon and isolated in the past, but alongside the growth of the DSA's rank-and-file membership, they are becoming a major bloc within the Democratic party.

► Many non-DSA centrist Democrats also adopted practices from the DSA, like focusing on affordability and appealing to workers. However, these same candidates explicitly reject socialism. Michigan Senator El-Sayed believes that capitalism works well to "allocate resources". Furthermore, Texas Senator-elect James Talarico and even DSA member Angie Nixon, who ran to be a Florida Senator, both call themselves "proud capitalists".

► The DSA endorsed leftist streamer Hasan Piker's livestream on the Midterm election. Piker presented the Democratic victory as a big win for socialism, saying that American voters: "wanted to place the interests of the working class over the interests of corporations for once". Piker has consistently argued that supporting DSA-aligned candidates would somehow lead towards socialism.

Context. As discontent with capitalism grows, so does the popularity of left-populist politicians. Politicians who claim to oppose capitalism and put forth reformist campaigns have become increasingly popular. In Brazil, President Lula won his 4th term this year, and in France, Mélenchon is the 2nd strongest candidate in the upcoming election.

► In the US, Democrats embraced a reformist political strategy, aiming to capture the votes of workers angered by their worsening conditions. Working-class Americans, particularly Gen Z youth, disapprove of the current ruling order and are swayed by "progressive" or "socialist" politicians who claim to oppose it. However, once elected, DSA members have often broken with their own campaign promises (like Mamdani and Martinez).

► The national DSA officially calls to replace capitalism with "democratic socialism", but its own members disavow this principle. New York Mayor Mamdani has distanced himself from points of the DSA program, and Los Angeles Mayor Raman seeks to keep capitalism, but somehow "without worker exploitation".

Important to Know. The DSA are typical social-democrats who serve to stabilise capitalism. Their main role is to fool the workers while pretending to help them. They are funded by the capitalist class they denounce, to prevent the development of a genuine communist opposition. This pseudo-"left" wing has become a solid tool within the Democratic Party, rising to become the "face" of the party.

► In the past, “Democrats vs. Republicans” elections were presented to American workers as a way to choose between liberal or conservative management of capitalism. However, as workers generally lose faith in the system, this deception has begun to fail. The two parties now have to campaign as “anti-establishment” or even “anti-capitalist”. This only deepens the illusion of an electoral choice.

► Socialism is impossible without the complete socialization of private property in the means of production and the rule of the working class. Any other rhetoric is mere demagoguery, intended to deceive the workers and compel them to submit to the rule of the capitalists.

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