

## What is DSA?

We are a **national activist organization** of over 37,000 members (the largest socialist organization in America since WWII) organized in nearly 300 community- and campus-based chapters in all states, including 3 organizing committees in Montana. **We may be a small organization, but we are fighters. And when we fight, we win!**

DSA believes that both the **economy and society should be run democratically to meet human needs, not to make profits for a few.** At the root of our socialism is a **profound commitment to democracy, as a means and an end.** DSA's members are **building progressive movements for social change** while establishing an **openly democratic socialist presence** in American communities and politics.

DSA has more than quintupled in size since the last election mainly because of our work in the Bernie Sanders campaign and our principled and consistent resistance to Trump. **We are not a political party, nor are we part of the Democratic Party** (two common misconceptions). Lots of people, primarily young people who are being politicized by the structural effects of the Great Recession, are looking for an activist alternative with a long-term and overarching vision. They are turning to DSA. **You, too, can join by going to:**

<http://dsausa.org/join>

In Bozeman, we are focusing on Medicare for All and electing local progressive candidates. We're on **Facebook** or sign up on our **sign-in sheet**.

## We are socialists because:

1. we have a **moral and ethical critique of capitalism** (as a system of organizing society based on exploitation and domination of the many by the few);
2. we have a **vision of a world beyond capitalism**, a world without the exploitation of person by person—socialism;
3. we have a **long-term strategy** of how to get from here to there—through democratic fights for “**non-reformist reforms**,” by **building the power** of truly democratic organizations and parties;
4. we have an agent (a **united working class**) that we believe has the interest and ability to carry out that transition, especially when all oppressions within and between the working class and its members (racism, sexism, etc.) have been eliminated by **democratically organizing with each other for power**.

As a democratic activist organization opposed to the often inherited power and privilege of concentrated wealth, we choose to work on “non-reformist reforms” that meet all of these criteria:

1. they should **materially improve** working and poor people's lives;
2. they should give working and poor people **a sense of their own power**; and
3. most importantly, they should **alter the relations of power**.

The primary campaign that demonstrates all three in action is **Medicare for All**.



## BZN DSA

Bozeman Democratic Socialists of America

[bozemandsa@gmail.com](mailto:bozemandsa@gmail.com)

<http://bozemandsa.org>

### Meetings

1st Thursdays, 6:00 PM

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
325 N 25th Ave

### Reading Group

3rd Mondays, 6:00 PM

Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks  
1400 S 19th Ave

**Check for more events  
on our website!**



## Introduction

The Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) is the largest socialist organization in the United States. Bozeman DSA members are building progressive momentum for Montana, in coalition with other local groups for social change, while establishing an openly democratic socialist presence in our community.

At the root of our socialism is a profound commitment to democracy. As we are unlikely to see an immediate end to capitalism tomorrow, DSA fights for reforms today that will weaken the power of corporations and increase the power of working people. For example, we support reforms that:

- decrease the influence of money in politics
- empower ordinary people in workplaces and the economy
- restructure gender and cultural relationships to be more equitable.

We are activists committed to democracy as not simply one of our political values but our means of restructuring society. Our vision is of a society in which people have a real voice in the choices and relationships that affect the entirety of our lives. We call this vision democratic socialism — a vision of a more free, democratic and humane society.

On our web site at

<http://bozemandsa.org>

you can find out about Bozeman DSA, our politics, structure and program. DSA's political perspective is called *Where We Stand*. It says, in part,

*We are socialists because we reject an international economic order sustained by private profit, alienated labor, race and gender discrimination, environmental destruction, and brutality and violence in defense of the status quo.*

*We are socialists because we share a vision of a humane international social order based both on democratic planning and market mechanisms to achieve equitable distribution of resources, meaningful work, a healthy environment, sustainable growth, gender and racial equality, and non-oppressive relationships.*

Please contact Bozeman DSA at

[bozemandsa@gmail.com](mailto:bozemandsa@gmail.com)

to help us in our ongoing efforts to build a better and more just world for all.

## FAQ

### (Frequently Asked Questions)

Q: Is DSA a political party? Will joining change how I'm registered to vote?

A: DSA is not a political party, but a non-profit activist organization. Joining DSA will have no impact on how you're registered to vote or who you can vote for!

Q: What issues is the Bozeman DSA working on?

A: We are organizing local members to develop strategies for the following issues affecting Bozemanites and all Montanans:

## Local issues

- Rent control
- Raising minimum wage
- Protections for women in the workforce
- Ending the exploitation of public lands
- Education
- Bozeman for the many not the few
- Medicare for All

