
Constitution of the Socialist Party of Washington

As adopted by referendum vote, Nov. 15, 1901

Published in *The Socialist* [Seattle], whole no. 70 (Dec. 8, 1901), pg. 4.

Article I — Name.

Section 1. The name of this party shall be The Socialist Party of Washington, and it shall be affiliated with the Socialist Party of America.

Article II — State Committee.

Section 1. There shall be a State Committee, composed of 5 members, at least 3 of whom shall be residents of the place selected for state headquarters, elected at the annual state convention for the term of one year.

Section 2. The State Committee shall elect a chairman, vice-chairman, treasurer, secretary, organizer, and such other officers or assistants necessary to aid in carrying on its work.

Section 3. The State Committee shall represent the party of this state in its relations to the national organization, organize and grant charters to Locals, call state conventions, submit questions to a referendum vote, receive reports from Locals, arrange circuits for speakers, sell and distribute Socialist literature, file tickets nominated at state conventions, and carry on a general propaganda work in the state. It shall report semi-monthly to the National Committee and publish monthly a financial report, together with the proceedings of its meetings. The State Committee shall neither publish nor designate any official organ. Vacancies in the State Committee shall be filled by a general vote of the members in the state upon nominations made by the locals.

Article III — Locals.

Section 1. A local shall consist of 5 or more persons believing in the principles of revolutionary Socialism and holding a charter from the State Committee. The officers of a Local shall consist of an organizer, secretary and treasurer, and such other officers as may be necessary. They shall be elected the first week in January and July for the term of six months. Officers elected at any other time shall serve only for the unexpired term. Local secretaries shall keep the State Secretary fully informed as to the names and addresses of local officers and shall report to the State Committee the general condition of the Local the first week in June and December.

Section 2. Dues — Locals shall pay to the State Committee each month a sum equal to 10 cents for each member in good standing, such money to be raised as the Local sees fit.

Section 3. Any member not in good standing shall take no part in the official proceedings of the party.

Section 4. Pledge of Members — All applicants for membership shall subscribe to the following pledge:

“I, the undersigned, recognizing the class struggle between the capitalist class and the working class, and the necessity of the working class constituting themselves into a political party, distinct from and opposed to all parties formed by the propertied classes, hereby declare that I have severed my relations with all other parties; that I endorse the platform and constitution of the Socialist Party, and hereby apply for admission to membership in said party.”

Section 5. Any member elected to office on the Socialist ticket stands pledged to resign such office whenever called upon by the party organization in the state, county, or district in which he is elected.

Article IV — Headquarters.

Section 1. The location of state headquarters shall be decided by the annual convention.

Article V — Limitation of Members, Etc.

Section 1. No member shall accept any office or position under a capitalist party except those required by law or gained under civil service rules.

Section 2. Any member advocating fusion with any party not representing revolutionary Socialism shall thereby cease to be a member.

Section 3. No person shall become a member of this party who does not sever all connection whatsoever with the capitalist parties.

Article VI — Amendments and Initiative and Referendum.

Section 1. Any question involving a change in this constitution, a question of party tactics, the official act of any state, county, or municipal official of the Socialist Party or his removal from office, the calling of special state conventions, or any other party matter, shall be submitted to a party vote if called for by 5 Locals or by 2 members of the State Committee.

Section 2. All questions calling for a referendum vote shall be submitted by the State Committee without comment.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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