
Constitution of Local St. Louis of the Social Democratic Party of America (Adopted August 5, 1900)

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Section 1. This Local is organized under and governed by the national constitution of the Social Democratic Party of America, whose national headquarters are located at Springfield, Massachusetts, and is also subject to the provisions of the state constitution of the Social Democratic Party of Missouri.

Section 2. Its officers shall be a chairman, a secretary, a treasurer, and an organizer, elected at the first meetings in January and July, to serve a term of six months.

Section 3. The members of this local shall be divided into branches for convenience in propaganda work.

Section 4. Each branch shall elect a chairman, a secretary, a treasurer, and an organizer, at the first meetings in January and July, to serve a term of six months.

Section 5. The organizers of the branches, together with the officers of the Local, shall constitute the City Central Committee. the officers of the Local shall be the officers of the City Central Committee.

Section 6. The City Central Committee shall carry on the campaign and agitation work and shall carry out all instructions of the Local.

Section 7. All referendum votes submitted by the state and national organizations shall be taken by the Local instead of by the branches, and all other business pertaining to the national and state work shall be transacted by the Local or by the City Central Committee.

Section 8. The branches shall devote their attention solely to propaganda and organization work in their respective localities.

Section 9. The secretary of the City Central Committee, who shall also act as financial secretary, shall obtain dues stamps from the State Secretary at the customary rate and sell them to each branch at the rate of 15 cents each.

The quarterly stamps for which a Socialist paper is sent shall be furnished at 10 cents each. The secretary of each branch shall report the names and addresses of all its members before the beginning of every quarter and shall purchase from the city secretary, at the same time, one quarterly stamp for each member.

Branches shall charge members 25 cents for monthly stamps.

Section 10. Anyone declaring himself a Socialist may, upon receiving a majority vote of a Branch, or of the Local, and paying the first month and first quarterly dues (35 cents) become a member of the party.

All such admissions of members shall be reported immediately to the city secretary, together with money to cover the dues.

Whenever new members are admitted by the Local, the city organizer shall immediately assign them to their proper branches.

Section 11. The Local shall meet at least once every month, at such time and place as it may determine.

Section 12. The order of business of the Local shall be as follows:

1. Roll call of members.
2. Reading of minutes.
3. Election and installation of officers.
4. Application and election of new members.
5. Reports of officers and committees.
6. Communications and bills.
7. Unfinished business.
8. New business.
9. Remarks for good of the movement.
10. Adjournment.

This order of business may be temporarily changed or suspended at any time by a majority vote.

Section 13. Any officer of the Local or of a Branch and any officer or member of the City Central Committee who shall be absent from three consecutive meetings without previously notifying the secretary in writing shall be deemed to have vacated his office and a new election shall take place at once to fill such vacancy.

Section 14. The City Central Committee shall meet at least twice a month.

Section 15. When any member becomes indebted to his branch for three months dues he shall be notified of the fact by the secretary and when he becomes indebted for four months' dues his name shall be withdrawn from the roll, without action by the Branch, and he shall remain suspended until such indebtedness is paid. But he shall not be charged with dues for months during which he is suspended.

Section 16. All officers of the Local and of the Branches shall be subject to the imperative mandate.

Section 17. This constitution may be amended by a majority vote of the members present at a meeting of the Local, provided such amendment shall have been proposed and read before the previous meeting.

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Note.

Amendments providing for the election of a chairman at each meeting of the Local have been proposed and will be voted on at the next business meeting on the first Sunday in February [1901].

Edited by Tim Davenport

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