



PHILLY SOCIALISTS

Philly Socialists is a new political organization committed to creating a just and sustainable future for ourselves and our planet. We fight to extend and deepen democracy within our society — to transform our political and economic system into one befitting of basic human dignity.

Our Projects



Teaching English in el Centro de Oro

Free English Classes for Immigrants

There are more than 200 million immigrants worldwide. Though they are some of the most dynamic and driven members of society, they are often met with hostility and hardship. Socialists believe that all humans have the same rights regardless of where we are born. Chief among those is the freedom to travel anywhere you desire in order to pursue a better life.

Immigration laws divide families. They pit worker against worker. Only an international movement of immigrants and non-immigrants will end the exploitation of both.

Philly Socialists have been providing free English classes for the past two years, with the intention of beginning to build a foundation of trust and mutual respect between these communities.

César Andreu Iglesias Community Garden

We are working together with residents in the Fairhill neighborhood of North Philadelphia to start a community garden. We are provisionally calling the project the César Andreu Iglesias Community Garden in honor of the Puerto Rican journalist, novelist and communist activist.

Philly Socialists believe the people must practice seizing the means of production (including land and infrastructure) and productively employing these resources using our labor power, without aid or support from capitalists or the corporate state.

Putting vacant land to use in the community -- as gardens, playgrounds, parks, etc., shows both our allies and our enemies that land and resources can be put to use productively by the people, *the only thing holding us back from a better life are the landlords and big developers.*



Neighborhood children play beside a garden bed on site

GED Tutoring

Education is a human right; essential not only for unlocking improved employment options, but also for the creation of an educated and democratic citizenry. This fall, the West Philly branch has launched a GED tutoring program at the Blackwell 52nd Street Public Library.

We have four subject teams, for math, science, English, and social studies. We are looking for volunteers to plan lessons and help tutor.

If you want to enroll in the program, it is free. We are looking for students!

Solidarity Network

The West Philadelphia Solidarity Network is working with tenants to fight slumlords and workers to fight bad bosses. And we're winning!

Slumlords use every advantage they have over tenants—money, lawyers, the threat of putting someone out of their home—to keep rents flowing in while they avoid fulfilling their responsibilities to maintain their properties.

Our city is also plagued with bosses who withhold wages, refuse over-time pay, fire workers without justification, and engage in other abuses.



Want to get justice from a bad boss or slumlord?

Contact us: westphillysolidarity@gmail.com | 484-383-4923

Our Values

Philly Socialists attempts to draw from what is best in the three great Socialist traditions: communism, anarchism, and social democracy. We identify as internationalists, democrats and egalitarians. We reject sexism, racism, homophobia, chauvinistic nationalism and imperialism.

Science ... Prove it

Science is our guiding methodology. We reject all dogma and orthodoxy, seeking instead to encourage critical thinking among the masses.

Human rights ... Everybody matters

The rights of the people are the supreme law. The fulfillment of basic human rights is the responsibility of any legitimate government.

Democracy ... Everyone decides

Democracy is a fundamental desire of all people. Democracy is a process and a set of institutions which rests on this foundation of individual and collective rights and liberties. Disagreement is a fundamental right, and a social good.



Socialists join a march on Market Street with Occupy Philly

We are not... a political theory debate club.

We don't waste precious meeting time discussing abstract political ideas removed from our daily work. There is a time and a place for these sorts of discussions, but the bulk of our energy is focused on running our programs and campaigns. Ideas without action are worse than useless.

We are not... a sectarian party-line organization.

We share values and willingly choose to unite in undertaking concrete projects. People's opinions on issues of strategy, tactics and policy are their own to hold and advocate for as they wish. We embrace multiple political tendencies, and strive to be a "big tent." There is no 'party line' that people are supposed to support no matter what.

We are not... a do-gooder nonprofit.

We understand that the demand to provide essential services for everyone is not an "apolitical" issue. The quality and quantity of services to the most oppressed communities, as provided by the government or the non-profit industrial complex, is never enough and never will be enough. In fact, government and corporate funding for these programs are gutted year after year. Any attempt to provide necessities of life for the people is fundamentally a political struggle, which means we must prepare for a fight if we are to win even the most basic welfare rights.



Benefit show for the Philly Socialists



Socialists speak out against student debt at a teach-in at Temple University

We are... focused on real, concrete work with tangible results.

The provision of essential services to communities neglected by the government and the capitalists is a top priority for us. Our members also engage in political campaigns, run educational programs, and host cultural and social events.

We are... a movement centered around a set of shared values.

Socialists believe in freedom, democracy, the right to a decent human life for every person. There will be disagreements on the best way to enact these beliefs, but our values are the common ground we share.

We are... explicitly political.

We are unashamed in our advocacy for a particular ideology. We call this ideology socialism. We have different ideas of what this means, but identification with this tradition is the lowest common denominator for joint participation and cooperation. We see the promotion of socialism not as a weakness, but as a strength, providing us with a measure of organizational unity, clarity, and direction.



Group photo at our Summer Leadership Retreat

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facebook.com/PhillySocialists

Website: PhillySocialists.org
(under development)