

# TOWARD AN ECONOMIC JUSTICE AGENDA

## *An Introduction*

For the complete text of the EJA see [www.dsausa.org/pdf/economic\\_justice\\_agenda.pdf](http://www.dsausa.org/pdf/economic_justice_agenda.pdf)

**A**s activists of the democratic left, we fight for universal health care, Social Security, labor rights and a fair minimum wage.

*The Perspective of  
Democratic Socialists of America*

Visit our Web Site [www.dsausa.org](http://www.dsausa.org)

Progress on any of these fronts requires bucking the vision that rules both Republic and Democratic parties: small government, low taxes, and worship

of the market. Programs that the people of the USA cherish the most, such as Social Security, are legacies of a vastly different vision—one of social and economic solidarity—that today is hardly ever voiced clearly.

DSA believes that to have a real impact the broad progressive left needs more than a good set of legislative programs; we need to be able to fit those programs into a social democratic economic framework that can be described simply, and then shared and advocated by a large number of people. Therein lies the creation of a movement.

*A decent modern society requires a strong role for government, which in turn needs sufficient revenues to fulfill its obligations. With those revenues, government can initiate and maintain programs that promote equality and the general welfare. However, government is not enough; a vibrant civil society in the form of independent working class institutions must complement and safeguard the public institutions. Finally, our national economy is intertwined with the global economy and the health of the planet. Therefore, a progressive agenda must include attention to the environment, global institutions and trade.*

Thus the Four Pillars of an Economic Justice Agenda:

- **Progressive taxation and major cuts in wasteful military spending to provide necessary public revenue;**
- **Universal social insurance programs and high-quality public goods;**
- **Powerful democratic labor and social movements capable of achieving equity in the labor market; and**
- **Global institutions that advance labor and human rights and provide for a sustainable environment.**

This is only the barest of outlines. Follow the link to the complete document where each of these Pillars is fleshed out and related to specific proposals and programs. **A few examples are also given on the reverse side of this flyer.**

The Economic Justice Agenda is not an all-inclusive blueprint for social and economic justice, and we do not consider it the final word on the subject. It is a work in progress. Its strength lies in identifying

the four pillars that we believe can form the basis for a coherent way of thinking about a just economic policy. That would be our contribution toward a program for a progressive electoral majority in Congress that can reverse the growing inequality that corporate power has instituted over the past three decades, and restore the public's faith in democratic government based on liberty, equality, justice and solidarity.

# The Four Pillars

*See the complete document for more details on these and other examples*

- **Progressive taxation and major cuts in wasteful military spending to provide necessary public revenue:**  
Restore taxation to the levels in effect before the Reagan administration.
- **Universal social insurance programs and high-quality public goods:**  
Provide single-payer universal health insurance, and expand public initiatives in childcare, elder care, pension security, as well as, primary, secondary and higher education.  
  
Regulate finance and investment (as was done with the Glass-Steagall Act), control interest rates (forbidding usury), provide election protection, end pollution, strengthen oversight of workplace health and safety, guarantee net neutrality, break up the concentration of media ownership.  
  
Invest in green jobs, clean and sustainable energy, clean water, public transportation infrastructure, publicly financed election campaigns.
- **Powerful democratic labor and social movements capable of achieving equity in the labor market:**  
Enact the Employee Free Choice Act – which restores the right of workers to organize unions and to bargain collectively – as part of a broader effort to rebuild a powerful labor movement capable of achieving equity in the labor market.
- **Global institutions that advance labor and human rights and provide for a sustainable environment:**  
Implement a U.S. foreign and trade policy that promotes global institutions that advance labor, environmental, and human rights, regulate transnational corporations, and allow small farmers worldwide to earn a living in their own homelands.

## Change the USA. Join the DSA!

Yes I want to join DSA; enclosed are my dues of:

Supporting \$65       Introductory \$35

Low Income \$20       Student \$20

(Dues include subscription to *Democratic Left*)

Send me more information about DSA!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Send to DSA: 75 Maiden Lane, #505, NY, NY 10038