

Eagle Forum Report

founded by Phyllis Schlafly

200 W. Third St., Ste. 502 • Alton, IL 62002 • (618) 433-8990 • Eagle@EagleForum.org • EagleForum.org

October 2026

Volume 10/Number 10

DSA: Destroying the Success of America

UNDER OATH WITH CROSSED FINGERS

by Kristen A. Ullman, JD, President, Eagle Forum

Here's an old joke that may not be a joke anymore: Did you hear that all newly elected politicians have to take an updated oath of office?

It's now called the Hypocritic Oath . . .

This old joke may become a reality soon. Several Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) members have won primaries for the November 2026 midterm elections, and several of them in deep-blue districts are almost certain to be elected to Congress. If these Democratic Socialists are elected, they will be required to pledge allegiance to and vow to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. The problem lies in their party platform, which calls for relegating the Constitution to the scrap heap of history.

Nicholas Giordano, writing in *The Federalist*, asks the crucial question, "Today, Americans face an unprecedented constitutional question. What happens when candidates for public office belong to an organization that rejects the constitutional order? If elected, how can these individuals honestly swear a sacred oath to support and defend the Constitution when their own organization calls for its

replacement?"

The Constitution makes clear in Article VI that all Senators and Representatives (as well as state legislators and federal and state executive and judicial officers) "shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution."

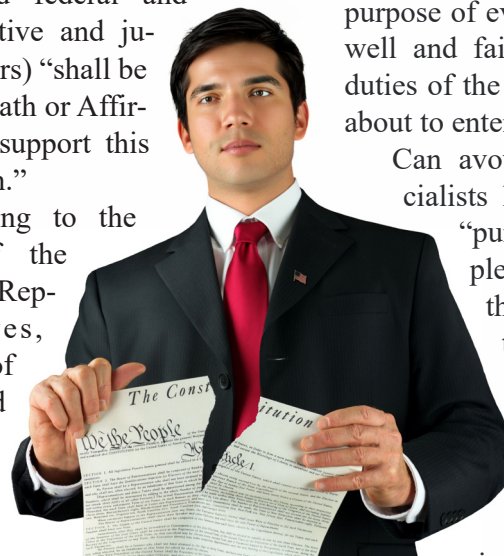
According to the *History of the House of Representatives*, "Oaths of office and allegiance have been features of government for centuries. When the United States were colonies of Great Britain, officials swore allegiance to the king. Colonial and state legislatures also created oaths that required members to swear allegiance to the state and often profess a belief in God as well. Today, Members of the House take an oath to uphold the Constitution in a group swearing-in on the House Floor on the opening day of a new Congress."

The current oath has not changed since 1966. It reads, "I do solemnly

swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God."

Can avowed Democratic Socialists honestly and without "purpose of evasion" pledge their allegiance to the Constitution? Does their platform "support and defend" our founding document or intend to destroy its very nature?

The DSA Platform is full of shocking and downright wacky provisions such as abolishing the police and prisons, providing free reproductive (abortion) and gender-affirming (genital mutilation) care for all, defunding the Department of War and eliminating the functions of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, giving mass amnesty for all illegals, and ending visa caps and quotas. While these ideas are crazy, they are not necessarily uncon-



(Continued on page 2)

stitutional. What is most troubling, and should prevent its adherents from honestly taking the oath of office, are their calls to:

- *Replace the President and Supreme Court with an executive and judiciary chosen by and subordinate to Congress*
- *Expand the House of Representatives and abolish the Senate*
- *Abolish the Electoral College*

Many members of Congress have proposed amendments to the Constitution, but there is a big difference between reform and replacement. What the DSA platform proposes is not mere amendments to that order but an overturning of the very structure of the federal government and replacing it with a new framework. Eliminating the separation of powers and the vital checks and balances would be undemocratic and lead us into tyranny. These planks in the DSA platform would do just that.

The Constitution organizes our federal government in a system made up of three branches. The legislative branch (Article I) that spells out how Members are elected, their terms, their powers, and their jurisdiction for lawmaking. Article II sets up the executive branch, independent from the legislature but tasked with enforcing the laws that are passed by both Houses of Congress and signed by the President. The Judicial branch (Article III) is to consist of a Supreme Court and any inferior courts that Congress deems necessary. This separation of powers can be likened, albeit crudely, to the children's game of "rock, paper, scissors" because while each branch has unique functions, they are each restrained by the "checks and balances" on their powers. The drafters did not want to repeat the monarchical system in which

the King reigned supreme, nor did they want to vest all power in the legislature or judiciary.

Justice Antonin Scalia explained that what makes the United States unique is not our great Bill of Rights, but the separation of powers. While testifying before Congress in October 2011, Scalia said:

So the real key to the distinctiveness of America is in the structure of our government. One part of it, of course, is the independence of the judiciary. But there's a lot more. There are very few countries in the world, for example, that have a bicameral legislature. . . . Very few countries have two separate bodies in the legislature equally powerful. Very few countries in the world have a separately elected chief executive. . . . the Europeans don't even try to divide the . . . two political branches, the legislature and the chief executive. In all of the parliamentary countries the chief executive is the creature of the legislature. There's never any disagreement between them and the prime minister When there's a disagreement they just kick him out. They have a no confidence vote, a new election, and they get a prime minister who agrees with the legislature.

The DSA's call to eliminate the bicameral legislature, to destroy the independent executive and judicial branches and to make them subordinate to an expanded House would not reform our system but thoroughly obliterate it. They are proposing to throw out the key elements of Articles I, II, and III of our Constitution.

Merrill Matthews, the Texas state chair of Our Republican Legacy, wrote in The Hill, "I submit that any political candidate who supports

essentially canceling the first three Articles in the Constitution cannot truthfully say he or she will support and defend the Constitution. To take the oath would be to commit perjury."

Nicholas Giordano also asks, "Is the constitutional oath a meaningful safeguard or is it nothing more than hollow words? If the constitutional oath means anything, anyone who belongs to and advocates for an organization that seeks to replace the Constitution should never assume office."



Under our Constitution, Article I, Section 5, "Each House shall be the Judge of the Elections, Returns and Qualifications of its own Members." In practice, as soon as a state certifies the congressional election and the Clerk receives credentials, the winner is a *Member-elect* with the right to be sworn in. Both the House and Senate do have the power to exclude newly elected members by a majority vote, but it seems extremely unlikely they would do so. Whether or not the Democrats regain the majority, they will not refuse to seat DSA members who will caucus with them.

The job of Americans across this nation, then, is to educate our fellow citizens about the dangerous and destructive DSA platform, and the threat to our very system of government. We must hold their feet to the fire. We must expose and reject those who cannot honestly pledge to support and defend the greatest Constitution in the history of mankind. 

TWO ARE BETTER THAN ONE

by Joshua Arnold is a senior writer at *The Washington Stand*.

Our style is to make the D-NY small: in a recent interview, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) evaded a question asking for her opinion on a call to abolish the U.S. Senate, which the Democratic Socialists of America recently adopted in their platform. “I’m not running for any larger office presently,” Ocasio-Cortez answered irrelevantly. “That is, of course, a constitutional question.” The interviewer followed up, “But, you support the institution of the Senate itself, as part of the Constitution?” Again, Ocasio-Cortez chose to dodge and weave, “I mean, we’ve all got our complaints. I don’t support the filibuster. I don’t support elements of the institution that we know were founded on Jim Crow.”

It’s understandable why public officials punt on no-win questions. If Ocasio-Cortez condemned the plan, she would break with her DSA allies; if she endorsed it, she would provide further fodder for her many domestic critics to further undermine her reputation with “middle America.”

Reporters should ask tough questions of ambitious politicians, such as asking them to endorse or repudiate the extreme positions held by candidates they have endorsed.

Last month the DSA’s National Political Committee approved a platform titled “Workers Deserve More!” Among the radical agenda items in the document, the DSA expressed its desire to “abolish the Senate.”

The term “radical” is appropriate here because any attempt to abolish the Senate would strike at the very root of the U.S. Constitution. The Senate is established in Article I, Section 3 as one of two legislative branches, and its duties are men-

tioned throughout the whole document, so that abolishing it would require amendment to nearly every part. Even the process for amending the Constitution (Article V) would have to be amended, where it requires all amendments to win the approval of “two-thirds of *both* Houses,” as well as three-quarters of the states.

Rightly did Ocasio-Cortez protest that abolishing the Senate “is, of course, a constitutional question.” By contrast, the leftist plan to abolish the Electoral College seems downright cosmetic.

Yet even a proposition so radical as abolishing the Senate forms only one small part of the DSA platform. They propose “to win the battle for democracy, draft a new constitution, and create a democratic socialist republic.” (It’s unclear whether they mean “win the battle” in the metaphorical sense or, if so, how they plan to accrue the supermajority needed to fundamentally rewrite the Constitution.)

These claims are not hyperbole; the DSA endorses immediate action. “We need a new political system,” their platform declares. “Abolish the Electoral College. Replace the President and Supreme Court with an executive and judiciary chosen by and subordinate to Congress.” Elsewhere, they add, “Replace the two-party system with a multi-party democracy. Expand the House of Representatives, implement proportional representation and ranked choice voting in all elections.”

There is a precedent for the DSA’s vision in the government of Sri Lanka, the only country in the world officially known as a “Democratic



Socialist Republic.” Besides the name, Sri Lanka’s government bears more than a passing resemblance to the DSA proposal. Like the DSA plan, its Parliament is “unicameral” (only one chamber); and the Parliament has multiple political parties; representatives are chosen by “proportional representation” (a party receiving X% of the vote gets X% of the seats). At 226 representatives for 23 million people, Sri Lanka also has a higher representation per capita than the United States; the U.S. House of Representatives would need to expand to roughly 3,000 seats to match the same proportion, which would fulfill yet another item from the DSA platform. (The only notable difference is that the president has power over the legislature, not the other way around.)

Sri Lanka has enjoyed regular elections and peaceful transfers of power since its independence in 1948. The effects of the DSA platform are evident. The nation has devolved into a “majoritarian democracy,” where one dominant ethno-religious group dominates the unicameral legislature with no check on its power. As a result, the minority Tamil people resorted to guerrilla warfare, and sparked an armed struggle that lasted from 1983 to 2009 and claimed over 100,000 lives.

“Publius” (either James Madison or Alexander Hamilton) in *Federalist* no. 62 sketches four “purposes which are to be answered by a senate” in the American system. First, “a second branch of the legislative assembly ... must be in all cases a salutary check” against plain, old-fashioned corruption. “It doubles the security to the people, by requiring the concurrence of two distinct bodies in schemes of

(Continued on page 4)

usurpation or perfidy.” Publius argues that the tendency of public officials to “forget their obligations to their constituents, and prove unfaithful to their important trust,” is less present in a republican government but still present.

Second, Publius observed “the propensity of all single and numerous assemblies to yield to the impulse of sudden and violent passions,” of which examples “might be cited without number.” The best corrective, he proposed, was a body free from the same propensity by being “less numerous” and possessed of “great firmness,” which he argued was conveyed “by a tenure of considerable duration.”

Third, another potential weakness of republican government was the incompetence of inexperience. Because the whole body of legislators in the House of Representatives is liable to turnover every two years, it could lead to “a want of due acquaintance with the objects and principles of legislation,” without another body that could supply greater experience in the process of lawmaking.

Fourth, “a rapid succession of new members” would inevitably lead to “mutability in the public councils,” which would create instability in public policy. A Senate keeps policy stable over time.

Publius also pointed out that the different compositions of the House and Senate were evidently “the result, not of theory,” but of “compromise” between large and small states, who each refused to give up their sovereignty to the others. There never would have been a “United” States had the Constitution not found some way of satisfying the interests of both a Rhode Island and a Pennsylvania.

“In a compound republic, partaking both of the national and federal character, the government ought to be founded on a mixture of the prin-

ciples of proportional and equal representation,” Publius suggested.

The DSA’s idealized version of “representation” never says what it plans to do with the various states. In fact, besides endorsing “statehood for Washington D.C.,” it says nothing about states at all. Do they become mere provinces of a national whole? Do they retain their limited sovereignty? Can they keep their own individual characters, legislatures, and laws? That omission in itself is a fatal flaw that shows their ideas have only been worked out in theory, not in practice.

The complications with the DSA’s grand vision explain why, in the short term, Rep. Ocasio-Cortez, as an incumbent representative, chose to voice her support for abolishing the filibuster — an achievable goal — instead of abolishing the Senate — the destruction of our Constitution.

Ocasio-Cortez echoes a long line of leftist criticism of the filibuster. A Brookings Institute spokeswoman testified before Congress in 2010 that the Senate created the filibuster almost by accident. “The House and Senate rulebooks in 1789 were nearly identical. Both rulebooks included what is known as the ‘previous question’ motion,” Brookings senior fellow Sarah Binder testified. “The House kept their motion, and today it empowers a simple majority to cut off debate. The Senate no longer has that rule on its books.”

However identical their rulebooks might have been, Publius’s 1788 article makes clear that the whole point of the Senate was to show a more deliberative, stable character than the House, one which preferred extended debate to rapid action. “The improbability of sinister combinations [in corruption] will be in proportion to the dissimilarity in the genius of the two bodies,” Publius wrote.

The Senate history explains that “The tactic of using long speeches to delay action on legislation appeared in the very first session of the Senate. On September 22, 1789, Pennsylvania Senator William Maclay wrote in his diary that the ‘design of the Virginians . . . was to talk away the time, so that we could not get the bill passed.’” Filibusters became an increasingly reliable obstruction tactic because the Senate had no mechanism to end debate until 1917, when it adopted the “cloture” rule “at the urging of President Woodrow Wilson . . . to end a filibuster against the Treaty of Versailles,” the guide continues.

How ironic that opponents of the filibuster smear it as a relic of “Jim Crow” when in fact the “cloture” motion was backed by the president who re-segregated the government. The process can be used by all parties. The point of mechanisms like the Senate and the filibuster that slow government down is to keep the majority from steamrolling over minority interests without due consideration.

How ironic that minorities like avowed socialists want to destroy the very tools that protect their freedom in America. The genius of America’s Constitution has endured for 237 years. The DSA wants to blow it up and start from scratch — do they really think they can do better? 

This article was originally published at *The Washington Stand*. Used with permission.

<https://washingtonstand.com/article/no-we-should-not-abolish-the-senate>

EAGLE FORUM

President: *Kris Ullman*

Report Editor: *Cathie Adams*

Yearly membership \$25.00

**Mail, call 618-433-8990, or
subscribe online**

Extra copies available:

1/\$1, 50/\$20, 100/\$30