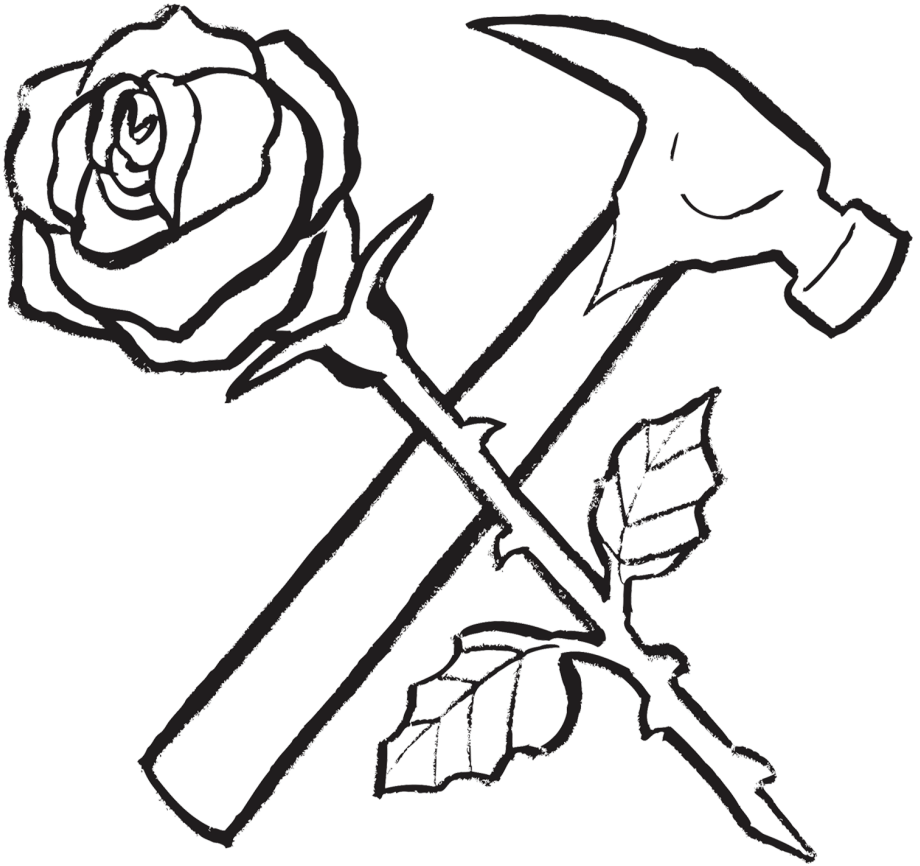


# **LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT**



***THE TOOLS WE HAVE &  
THE TOOLS WE NEED***

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction .....	1
Topline Numbers .....	2
Sample .....	3
Analysis	
<i>Membership</i> .....	5
<i>Finances</i> .....	5
<i>Tools, Tech, and Accessibility</i> .....	10
<i>How can you help?</i>	
<i>What help do you need?</i> .....	16
What Does This Mean For Convention Proposals?	
<i>Funding Locals</i> .....	18
<i>Tech Tools and Accessibility</i> .....	20

# INTRODUCTION

DSA members are having spirited discussions about what Locals need to build socialism in their communities and how our collective resources as a national organization can be distributed to meet those needs. This conversation is critical. Unfortunately, our conversations have been hamstrung by a lack of data provided by the national office. There is also a dearth of information about what Locals have, what Locals don't have, and what Locals are asking for.

At the 2018 Rust Belt Conference, I was running a workshop on Digital Organizing and quickly saw that the tactics and tools we'd been using in Pittsburgh DSA wouldn't work. My comrades in smaller Locals with access to fewer resources weren't just in need of training: they didn't have the tools my Local uses to power our work.

A training on email, database, and fundraising strategies doesn't work when most of the people in the room don't have a database or a payment processor. Of course I realized the training had to adjust, but even more so, I realized I needed to know what tools members are using, what they need, and what we need to do to get them the tools they need. This report is an attempt to fill in those blanks, and share that information so all DSA members and delegates can make better-informed decisions.

For example, Resolution 25 sets a goal of 50% of chapters providing child watch for at least every chapter-wide meeting by August 1, 2020. I think delegates will benefit from knowing 45% of respondents to the survey said they already do. I've heard it said Resolution 83 sets an overly ambitious goal of ADA-compliant meetings by 50% of Locals by August 1st, 2020, and 100% of Locals no later than January 1st of 2021. However, 84% of respondents say they're using ADA-compliant spaces, at least for chapter-wide meetings. My hope is this report can ground our convention discussions in the facts of our organization, from the national to the local level.

If the national organization had conducted this survey, they could have produced a more rigorous and accurate report. However, they did not, so we will work with what we have. I welcome new data or corrections due to the imperfect nature of our sample and data collection through self-reporting.

My comrades who worked on this report and I are not without bias. As detailed in Build's Shared Values, we believe the national organization should listen to the locals and give them concrete support, work to protect the big tent, fight exploitation, and make the organization accessible to all. While we have a perspective and will share it, this report also makes efforts to show our work and the data we're analyzing so everyone can come to their own conclusions.

In solidarity,  
Matt Rubin

# TOPLINE NUMBERS

There's a lot of information in here, so we wanted to pull out a few of the key figures for quick reference and easy access. There's a lot more useful information however, so please keep on reading through!

- We estimate DSA has 41,250 members in good standing.
- The average Local has about 15% of members paying monthly dues to DSA, and nationwide about 20% of members in good standing pay monthly dues.
- The average monthly dues payment is \$14.
- The average annual dues payment in 2018 was \$43.
- 56% of Locals surveyed do not currently get the dues share disbursements, 44% do.
- 29% of Locals surveyed that have bank accounts do not get the dues share disbursements, 71% do.
- 66% of Locals surveyed have bank accounts.
- 11% of Organizing Committees surveyed have bank accounts.
- 50% of the YDSA Chapters surveyed have bank accounts.
- Under our current dues share system the trendline shows that Locals aren't receiving \$300 quarterly until they have about 270 members, and aren't even getting \$300 quarterly between dues share and local donations combined until they have 150 members.
- DSA's current annual member retention rate is 45%.
- When asked what support would be helpful, half of all responses asked for better access to tech tools, with Zoom and a member database being the most commonly mentioned.
- 45% of those surveyed provide childcare, at least at chapter-wide meetings.
- 84% say they use accessible spaces, at least for chapter-wide meetings.
- 28% said they get some materials translated into languages other than English, but only 2% said they make translators available for chapter-wide meetings.

# SAMPLE

This report is based on 116 submissions<sup>1</sup> from 108 different local groups (collectively referred to as “Chapters+” in this report), with 8 Locals that had duplicate submissions from different people.<sup>2</sup>

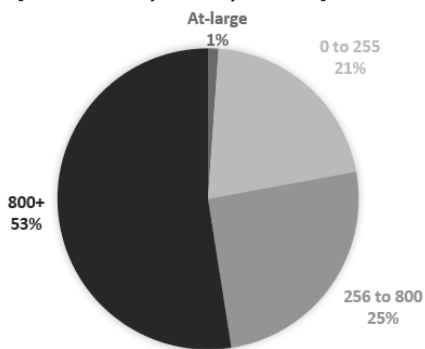
We received submissions from 81 Locals, 3 Branches, 18 Organizing Committees, and 6 YDSA Chapters from 40 different states, representing approximately 54% of Locals, 35% of Organizing Committees, and only 8% of YDSA Chapters.

Collectively, the Locals, Organizing Committees, and YDSA Chapters that participated represent approximately 75% of DSA members in good standing.

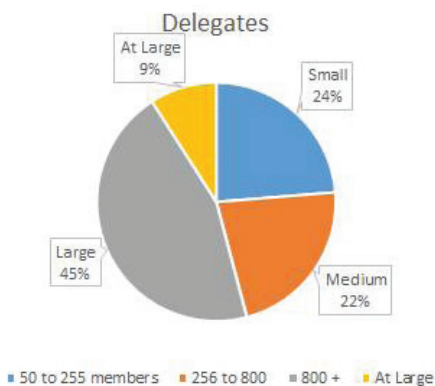
For a comparison of the distribution of responses across Local size, below we have a chart showing the distribution of our responses, and a chart made that a fellow delegate posted on Twitter, showing a breakdown of the delegates by At-Large and Local size. While it uses a different classification of small, medium, and large Locals, it is a helpful point of reference for the distribution of delegates at the convention and the Locals they represent.

*Note that the chart begins at 50 members, because it was produced using a breakdown of the Temporary Delegate Roster, and delegate apportionment was based on rounding up to the nearest multiple of 51.*

**Figure 1. Distribution of Members Represented by Survey Participants**



**Figure 2. Delegate Apportionment Distribution**



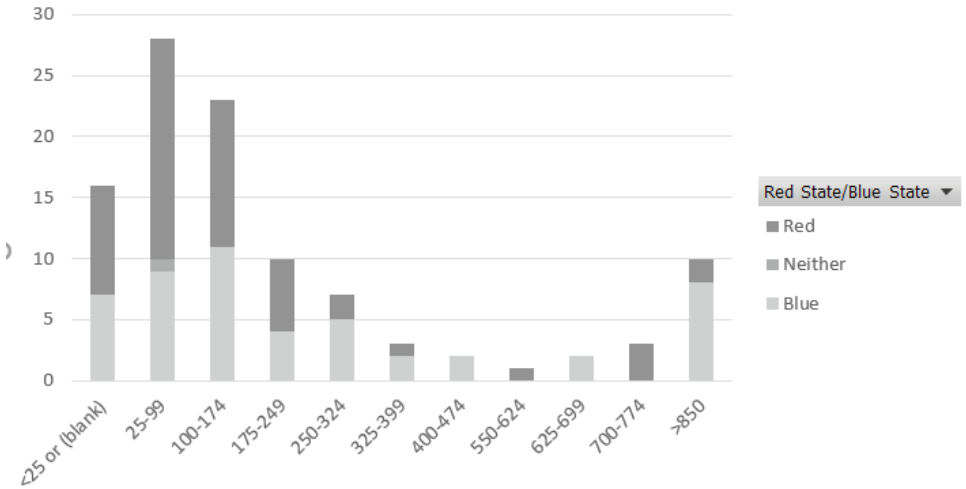
*Chart by Twitter user @andsern*

1 We received 117 submissions, but one respondent later changed their mind about their participation in this survey, requesting their response be removed, and another member of their Local later completed the survey instead.

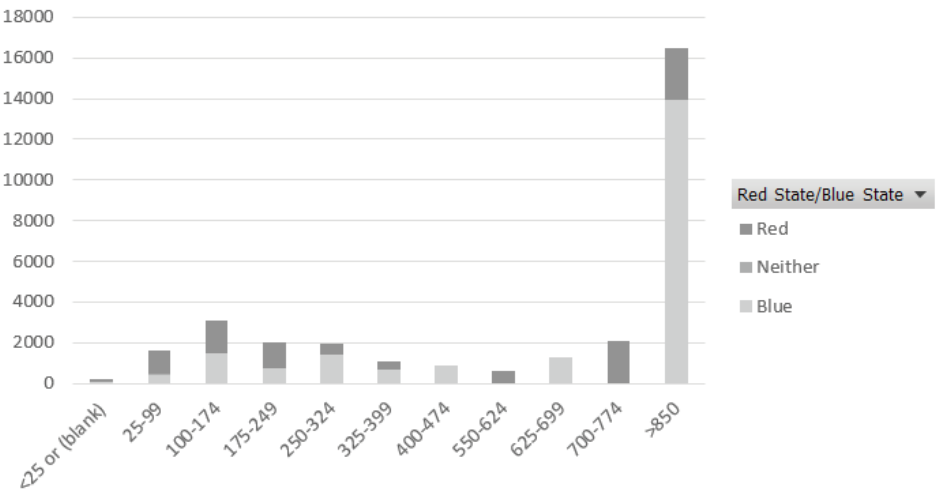
2 We will not be publishing the raw data at this time and do not intend to do so without permission from chapters and members who participated in the survey.

Because those categories don't tell us too much about Local or political distribution, here's a couple other looks at the distribution of survey participants. The first shows the number of responses we received broken down by membership size, and the second shows the membership size represented by the responses we received broken down by membership size. Both charts are split by red and blue states, as determined by the 2016 Presidential Election.

**Figure 3. Distribution of Responses from Chapters+ by Membership Count and Red or Blue State**



**Figure 4. Distribution of Membership by Size of Participating Chapters+ and Red or Blue State**



# ANALYSIS

## Membership

Based on analysis of the responses and publicly available data, our estimate is that:

- DSA has 41,250 members in good standing.<sup>1</sup>
- The average Local has 15% of its membership paying monthly dues to DSA.
- At least 25% of people who have been members at some point in the last two years are no longer members in good standing.

Based on the methods of calculating these estimates, as detailed in Appendix A, we would guess the actual number of members in good standing to be lower and the actual percentage of members in arrears to be higher.

According to DSA staff on pre-convention calls, the average monthly dues payment is \$14, and the average annual dues payment is \$43.

DSA staff also shared that the annual member retention rate is 45% as of sometime in 2018, but they weren't sure what it would be now. This figure was obtained just before this report was headed to the printer, so we were not able to incorporate it into our analysis. We include it to note that this number suggests that our estimates are rough and optimistic.

These numbers paint a picture of a smaller DSA than we're accustomed to hearing about, but not so precipitous a drop that we need to panic. We believe that an honest assessment of these numbers and trends is necessary to iterate on our ideas around institutional organizing. We invite you to examine this data and use it in conversation with each other. Ask hard questions about what we've done right and what we've done wrong, and have conversations about your ideas with comrades you know and comrades you don't know. The best way we can build something better is by asking these questions and doing the work together.

## Finances

There's a lot of debate about what DSA should do to support Chapters+, but it's all rooted in personal experiences and anecdotal evidence. We hope to advance that conversation by providing a broader view supported by data.

---

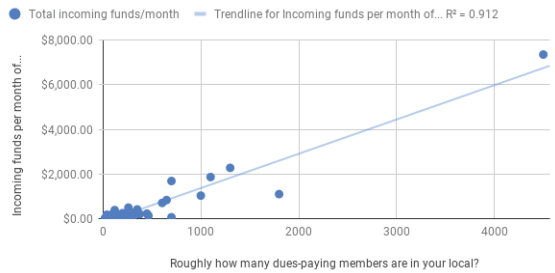
1 For more information on this number, please see Appendix A in the full report at [www.dsabuild.org/report-infrastructure](http://www.dsabuild.org/report-infrastructure).

## Total Income by Local Size

Below is a chart showing the trend of total income for 67 Locals that provided both average monthly donations and average quarterly dues share of 20% of members' monthly dues.

The trend here is not altogether surprising: the bigger your Local is, the more money your Local has. What's rather startling is the extent of the inequality. Additionally, there is variation in the performance of Locals in fundraising. Locals above the trendline would be locals outperforming in fundraising for their size compared to the trend, and Locals below are underperforming.

**Figure 5. Incoming Funds per Month (Dues Share + Fundraising) vs. Membership**



We can also see that there is variation in the performance of Locals in fundraising. Locals above the trendline would be locals outperforming in fundraising for their size compared to the trend, and Locals below are locals underperforming.

*Sample: Figure 5 is based upon the answers of the 67 Locals for whom we have responses on membership, average monthly fundraising, and average dues share disbursement.*

Because Locals with over 500 members are a bit of an exception, and not necessarily the focus of conversations about how best to support smaller and rural and suburban Locals, Figure 6 is the same graph focused on Locals with fewer than 500 members.<sup>1</sup>

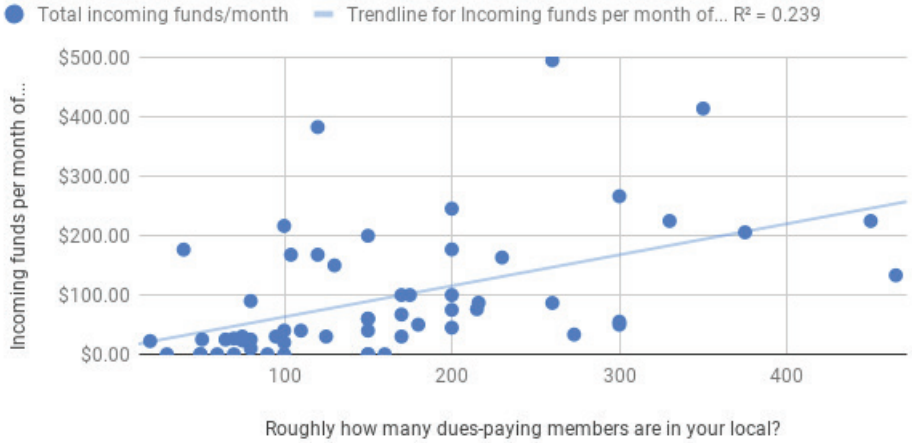
Among small to mid-sized Locals, there is great variation in the level of funding, but the overall trend is that Locals have very little funds until they reach roughly 100 members, at which point they start raising more funds.

Figure 7 shows how the overall trends play out in smaller Locals: Plenty of Locals bring in little to no money. Looking at the trendline, the typical Local is not raising \$100 per month in total until they have about 170 members. Following the trendline further, the typical small to mid-sized Local would not be raising \$200 per month until they have about 375 members.

<sup>1</sup> To view Figure 6, see the full report at [www.dsabuild.org/report-infrastructure](http://www.dsabuild.org/report-infrastructure).



## Figure 7. Total Incoming Funds Per Month (Dues Share + Fundraising) vs. Membership (Under 500 Members), Trendline Adjusted



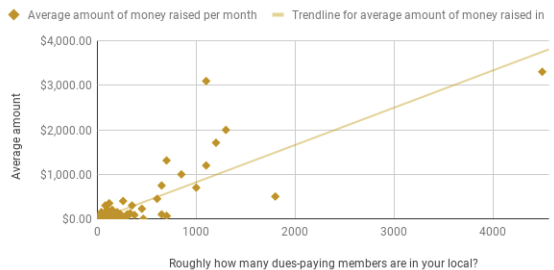
Sample: Figure 7 is based upon the answers of the 58 Locals with under 500 members for whom we have responses on membership, average monthly fundraising, and average dues share disbursement.

Certainly, there are Locals outperforming that trend, but there are also plenty underperforming the trend. **This distribution of performance across Locals indicates widespread funding challenges, which are not the result of a lack of skill, knowledge, or commitment by individual members.** Rather, the challenges are systemic across DSA.

## Fundraising by Local or Organizing Committee Size

What does local fundraising look like? If the donor base is local members, there is a ceiling to how much can be raised per member, unless a local has a wealthy benefactor or two. If the donor base is DSA more broadly – as we’ve seen with convention fundraisers – it becomes a competition to create the most marketable swag or the most effective messaging. The limited nature of our donor base is likely to be an ongoing challenge, and solutions based entirely on raising more funds from local members will continue to frustrate smaller chapters without affluent members.

### Figure 8. Funds Raised Per Month vs. Local or Organizing Committee Size

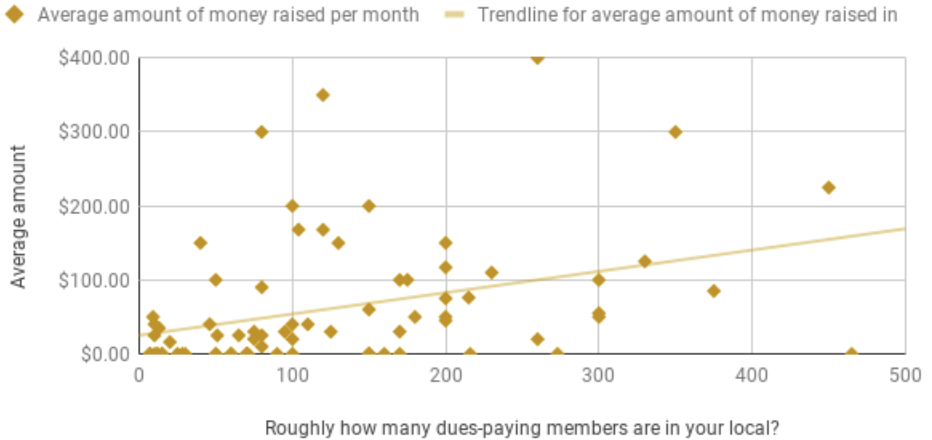


Sample: Figure 8 is based upon the answers of the 73 Locals and 16 Organizing Committees for whom we have responses on membership and average monthly fundraising.

Results of Local fundraising are uneven, but there is a trend that the larger the Local, the more funds they raise. This calls the question of who DSA's donor pool is both locally and nationally, and what fundraising looks like at the local level.

Once Locals pass 500 members, they tend to become big outliers in funding, but even those Locals have a fraction of the resources of our largest Locals.

**Figure 9. Funds Raised Per Month vs. Local or Organizing Committee Size (Under 500 Members)**



*Sample: Figure 9 is based upon the answers of the 59 Locals and 16 Organizing Committees for whom we have responses on membership and average monthly fundraising.*

In many Locals, fundraising is nonexistent. Nearly every Local with fewer than 100 members is raising less than \$50 per month, and the average Local doesn't reach \$100 per month in fundraising until they are over 200 members strong.

If we assume that \$100 per month is a baseline to fund basic chapter needs, and fundraising is the way to get there, Locals with fewer than 100 members will need to scale up their fundraising operations exponentially.

### *Dues Share Disbursements by Local Size*

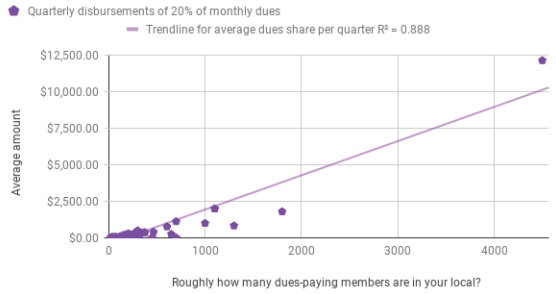
Figure 10 is a graph of the quarterly disbursements of 20% of dues paid on a monthly basis by a Locals' members compared with Local size.

The dues share system's distribution of funds closely mirrors that of local fundraising, and reinforces the existing distribution of resources and

membership. The inequality displayed in these charts also shows us how members in larger Locals have a vastly different experience with dues sharing than small and mid-sized Locals.

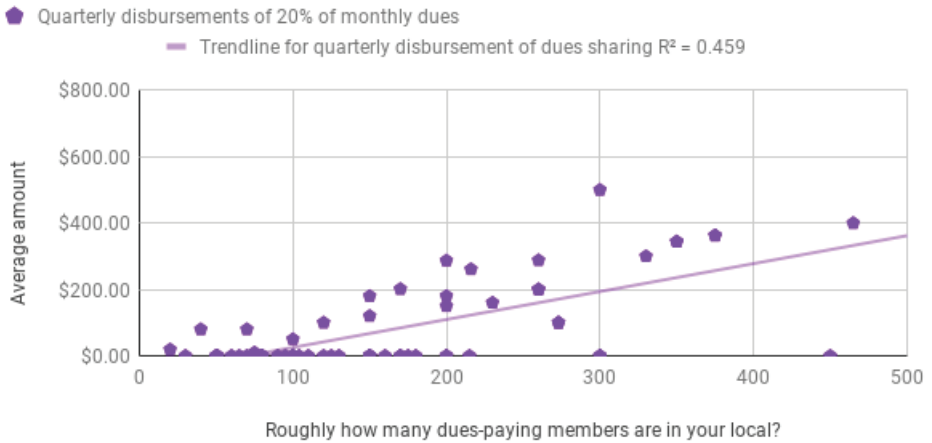
Looking more closely at the dues share distribution for smaller and mid-sized Locals, many Locals are not receiving dues share reimbursements at all. Overall, only 44% of Locals surveyed receive anything at all.

**Figure 10. Quarterly Dues Share vs. Local Size**



*Sample: Figure 10 is based upon the answers of the 73 Locals for whom we have responses on membership and dues share.*

**Figure 11. Quarterly Dues Share vs. Local Size (Under 500 Members), Trendline Adjusted**



*Sample: Figure 11 is based upon the answers of the 63 Locals with fewer than 500 members for whom we have responses on membership and dues share.*

The trend among smaller and mid-sized Locals shows that the dues share system largely excludes chapters with fewer than 100 members.

The discussion around redistribution or chapter stipends often cites Locals obtaining a bank account as the hurdle for implementation. However, when we removed Locals without bank accounts from our chart, we saw that many Locals -- including some mid-sized Locals with hundreds of members -- were still not receiving anything in dues sharing. The bank account question is relevant, but there are more challenges preventing Locals from receiving dues sharing, and these issues are not isolated to smaller Locals.

# Tools, Tech, and Accessibility

In addition to questions about finance, this survey asked comrades about how their Chapter+ works and the tools they use. This information can be helpful for making decisions, designing trainings, and learning about new tools we didn't know about before!

We broke these results into Tech Tools, Absentee Voting, and Accessibility<sup>1</sup>, but we recognize that these matters are interrelated. For example, many accessibility practices benefit from tech tools, and absentee voting can be a good practice for accessibility.

## Tech Tools

**Figure 15. Tech Tool Usage**

<b>Tech Tool</b>	<b>Chapters+</b>	<b>% of Chapters+</b>
Email Blasts	91	83%
Internal Discussion Platform	84	77%
Shared File System	59	54%
Central Database	46	42%
Online Voting	39	36%
Video Conferencing	36	33%
Peer to Peer Texting	26	24%
Mass Texting	23	21%

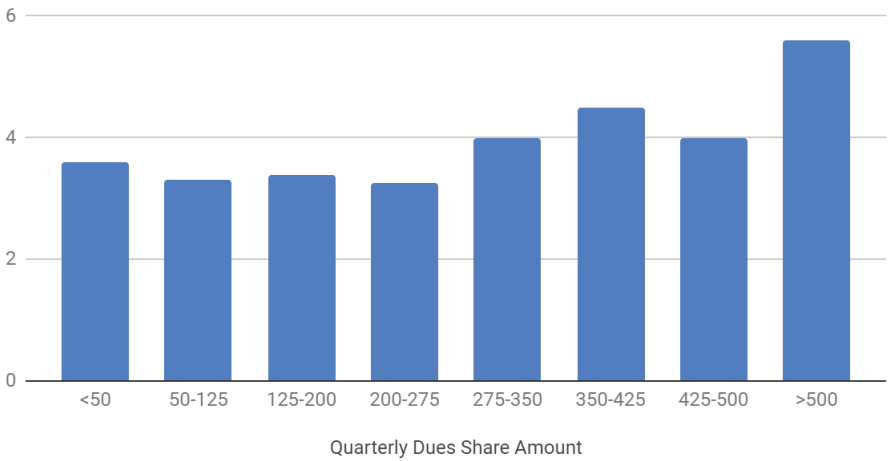
Most Chapters+ report having some basic tools for their organizing. Email blast tools and internal discussion platforms are by far the most common, which is not surprising given the easy and widespread access to free and free-up-to-a-point tools, such as MailChimp and Slack. Peer-to-peer texting and mass texting were the least commonly used, which is also not surprising given the costs associated with these tools.

Many Chapters+ find all of these tools essential to organizing, so the relatively low usage for databases, online voting, video conferencing, and shared file systems is concerning. Many of these tools have free options that Chapters+ could be introduced to and trained to use.

---

<sup>1</sup> For more information on fundraising, social media, and video conferencing tools Chapters+ are using, please see the full report at [www.dsabuild.org/report-infrastructure](http://www.dsabuild.org/report-infrastructure).

**Figure 16. Tech Tool Usage by Dues Share Amount**



*Sample: Figure 16 is based upon the responses of the 88 Chapters+ for whom we have a number on the amount of their quarterly dues share. Note: this includes YDSA Branches, Organizing Committees, and Branches, which would all have \$0 in quarterly dues share.*

Figure 16 shows the average number of tech tools Chapters+ reported having, categorized by their average dues share amounts. The overall trend shows some minor variation among Chapters+, but mostly, it becomes clear that Chapters+ are not investing more into tech tools until they have over \$500 quarterly dues share.

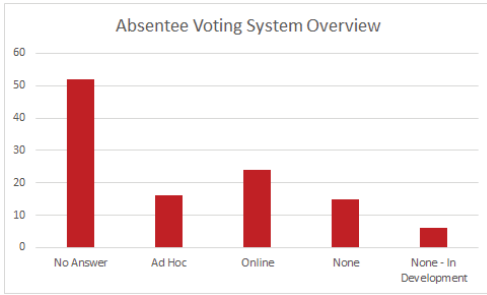
The survey also asked “*What forms of material, financial, or tech infrastructure does your chapter not have that would be helpful for your chapter?*”, and about half of those responses mentioned a need for better tech tools, especially Zoom accounts and a centralized member database.

Tech tools are one of the most common requests, while also being much less used until Locals are getting over \$500 in their quarterly dues share. It seems that more immediate needs are being filled first, while the need for tech tools remains top-of-mind.

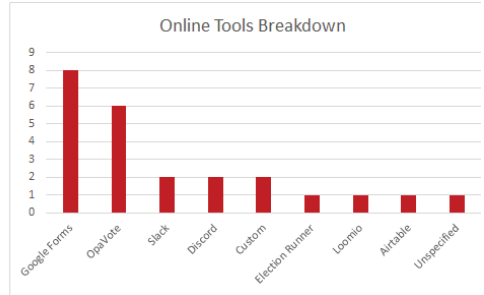
### *Absentee Voting*

We asked respondents to describe how their absentee voting system works if they have one, since there have been a number of different approaches across the organization. Figures 17 and 18 show absentee voting methods across the DSA.

**Figure 17. Absentee Voting System Overview**



**Figure 18. Absentee Voting Tools Breakdown**



*Sample: 35% of Chapters+ detailed an absentee voting method in text answers, and only 30 checked the box to indicate having an online voting system in the “Please check all that apply to your chapter, branch, or organizing committee” question.*

35% of Chapters+ detailed an absentee voting method, with roughly a third of those using completely ad-hoc systems like texts or emails to steering committee members. There is extreme variation in the tools used online, ranging from informal services such as Slack and Discord, to voting specific tools like Loomio and Opavote, all the way to custom built web portals. While some chapters expressed a cost burden from their voting service, a far larger number answered that their primary need was direction on the best tool to use and how to implement it. The responses reveal an opportunity and a need to implement specific trainings or facilitate resource sharing that chapters need.

## Accessibility

We believe it should be a goal of our organization to be accessible to parents, caregivers, children, poor people, people with disabilities, and non-English speakers, and our survey is only touching the surface of how DSA Chapters+ are performing at accommodating those needs.

As we go through this section, we want to acknowledge that this report itself falls short on many of the accessibility practices we hope to see DSA live up to.

84% of Chapters+ report meeting in ADA accessible spaces, at least for chapter-wide meetings. While we acknowledge the limitations of the ADA requirements, this benchmark is encouraging!

However, the survey failed to collect information about how many Chapters+ are holding *all* meetings in ADA accessible spaces.

Additionally, it is quite possible that able-bodied comrades filling out the survey may have assumed their meetings are ADA accessible and be wrong. Anecdotes from comrades with disabilities across the organization suggest that it is unlikely that 84% of all DSA Chapters+ are holding all meetings in ADA accessible spaces.

**Figure 19. Accessibility Practice Participation**

<b>Accessibility Practice</b>	<b>Chapters+</b>	<b>% of Total Respondents</b>
Meet in ADA accessible spaces, at least for chapter-wide meetings	92	84%
Make childcare available for meetings, at least for chapter-wide meetings	49	45%
Materials & communications in languages other than English	28	26%
Video conferencing participation in meetings an option	21	19%
Use image descriptions on digital media	18	17%
Have captions on videos we post, at least some of the time	12	11%
Make translators available for meetings, at least for chapter-wide meetings	2	2%

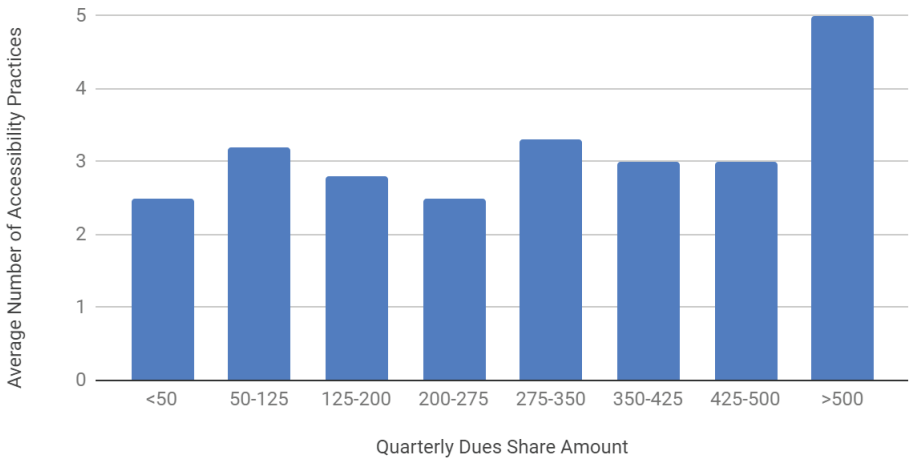
*Sample: Figure 19 is based upon the responses of all 109 respondents.*

45% of Chapters+ provide childcare at least for chapter-wide meetings, but again the construction of the survey limits how informative this is.

Less than one-fifth of Chapters+ have options to participate or observe meetings through video conferencing, and only 17% and 11% of Chapters+ are using image descriptions on images or captions on videos. These shortfalls mean hurdles to participation for many of our comrades with disabilities.

DSA Chapters+ are performing worst at making translators available for meetings, with only 2% participating.

**Figure 20. Accessibility Practices by Dues Share Amount**



*Sample: Figure 20 is based upon the responses of the 88 Chapters+ for whom we have a number on the amount of their quarterly dues share. Note: this includes YDSA Branches, Organizing Committees, and Branches, which would all have \$0 in quarterly dues share.*

Much like Figure 16, Figure 20 shows the average number of accessibility practices Chapters+ reported having, categorized by their average dues share amounts.

Also like Figure 16 showed for tech tools, the overall trend shows some minor variation among Chapters+, but mostly, Chapters+ are significantly increasing their accessibility practices after they are getting over \$500 quarterly dues share.

However, unlike tech tools, tools to improve accessibility practices were not the most commonly asked for assistance in this survey, though requests for help in this area did come up.

The similarity to the trend with tech tools shows that, across both accessibility practices and tech tools, Chapters+ are not able to substantially invest in acquiring more tech tools and into accommodating comrades' participation until they have reached a certain level of funding.

When it comes to comrades with disabilities, comrades who speak languages other than English, parents, and other people who might need some accommodation to participate, the trend seems to be that their needs do not receive attention until the basic needs of the organization overall are met. This may be expected -- DSA Chapters+ will overall have fewer resources until they have more money -- but the impact of not prioritizing accessibility is excluding people from our organizing.



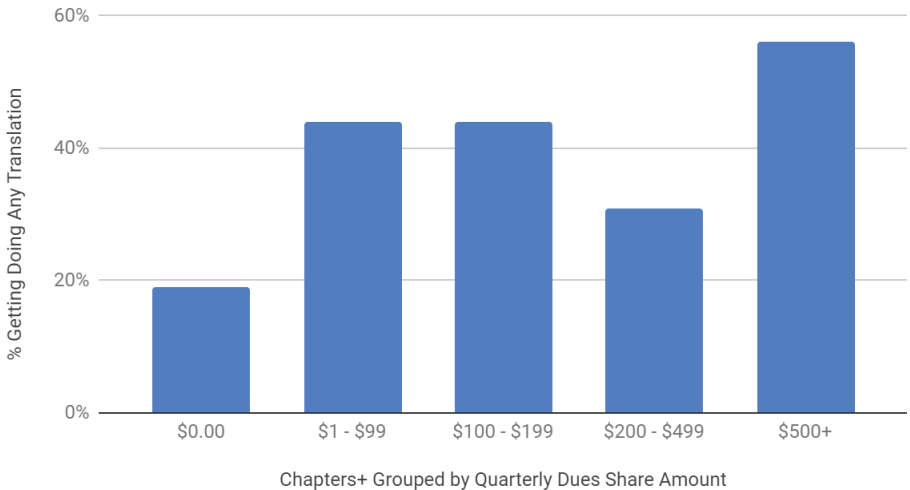
## Translation

The survey asked “If your chapter, branch, or organizing committee has materials translated and/or uses interpreters, could you tell us more about that, and what languages?”, and we had 38 responses (35%) to the question.

Out of the Chapters+ responding to this question, 6 use live translators, 5 have “most/significant portion” of their materials translated, and 20 only have “some” materials translated.

While most translation is Spanish, there were some Chapters+ working with ASL translators, and Hmong and Somali were mentioned as well, in addition to other, unspecified languages.<sup>1</sup> Many of those who’ve been able to provide translation or get materials translated reported doing this through working with members or allies in the community.

**Figure 25. Translation by Quarterly Dues Share**



*Sample: Figure 25 is based upon the responses of the 88 Chapters+ for whom we have a number on the amount of their quarterly dues share. Note: this includes YDSA Branches, Organizing Committees, and Branches, which would all have \$0 in quarterly dues share.*

Much like Figures 16 and 20, Figure 25 shows the commitment to getting materials translated increases significantly after Locals have over \$500 in quarterly dues share disbursements.

---

<sup>1</sup> For a detailed breakdown of Translation by Language and more, see Figure 24 in the full report at [www.dsabuild.org/report-infrastructure](http://www.dsabuild.org/report-infrastructure).

# ***How can you help? What help do you need?***

The survey ended with two final questions: “What forms of material, financial, or tech infrastructure does your chapter have that you think would be important or helpful for other chapters to have?” and finally, “What forms of material, financial, or tech infrastructure does your chapter not have that would be helpful for your chapter?”

## **What forms of material, financial, or tech infrastructure does your chapter have that you think would be important or helpful for other chapters to have?**

*Sample: Out of the 116 respondents, 31 answered this question, with 4 coming from Organizing Committees, 1 from a YDSA Chapter, and 26 from Locals.*

10 responses included some member’s previous experience being invaluable: 3 responses mentioned previous tech or design experience. 1 response mentioned “a retired Steering Committee member who’s available during weekdays.” 3 responses mentioned lawyers being invaluable, largely for helping to navigate the incorporation process. This is a typical response for this category:

“Having a corporate attorney on our steering committee has been the only thing that made the incorporation process even remotely possible for us. I can’t imagine how other chapters are safely & confidently navigating that process. Not every chapter has one, but it’s something chapters within the same state should help each other out with.”

One response from a small rural Local with fewer than 150 members, but with one of the most effective fundraising programs, discussed having set up a fund to support newly formed Locals in the area:

“We maintain a fund for the establishment of nearby chapters. At the time a nearby chapter forms a recognized organizing committee, incorporates with the state, and gets a credit union account, we give them a grant of \$500.”

3 responses mentioned having a Zoom account is helpful. 2 responses mentioned childcare programs. 7 responses mention some kind of tech setup that made their work easier. 4 other responses mentioned having hardware that was useful, such as a projector, PA system, or even a truck owned by the Local.

## **What forms of material, financial, or tech infrastructure does your chapter not have that would be helpful for your chapter?**

*Sample: Out of the 116 respondents, 71 answered this question. 10 from Organizing Committees, 2 from branches, 3 from YDSA chapters, and 56 from Locals.*

33 out of 71 responses mentioned access to better technology. The most common technology being asked for was tied between Zoom accounts and a centralized member database.

14 responses mention money being useful to continue operation. 5 responses mentioned burnout from members covering things out of pocket. 6 mentioned the maintenance cost of technology. 4 responses mentioned lacking a bank account.

*“We literally do every bit of organizing manually, out of our own pockets. We’ve raised maybe \$60 in the last 6 months. We are a small chapter. Our largest meeting in 2+ years was 23 members. Most meetings are about 15-18 members. Most of us with very little disposable income to invest in printing/materials/meeting-spaces/snaxis etc.”*

14 responses mentioned lacking capacity or expertise to set up infrastructure beyond google groups and google drive. 5 responses mentioned basic organizing guides. 3 were looking for help streamline new member onboarding. 2 responses mentioned help with budgeting. 6 responses requested help to make their literature accessible for multiple languages.

2 of the 7 responses from chapters larger than 1,000 members reported needing no additional infrastructure. Chapters with 250 members or less frequently reported needing help with printing services, organizing training, and help setting up internal discussion platforms.

Worries about information security only appeared among chapters with less than 500 members.

*“We need a website, but a website that would be secure and have some kind of login for members only because we have Proud Boys stalking our every move and crashing events.”*

# WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR CONVENTION PROPOSALS?

## Funding Locals

This data and analysis allows for a more clear-eyed discussion of convention proposals, particularly those focused on distributing resources to Locals.

**C/B Amendment #2: Local Stipends (Pass the Hat)** would ensure that every Local gets \$100 per month, or \$300 quarterly.

Under our *current dues share system* the trendline shows that Locals aren't receiving \$300 quarterly until they have about 270 members, and aren't even getting \$300 quarterly between dues share *and* local donations combined until they have 150 members.

**We do not believe that Amendment 2: Local Stipends and Resolution 55: Grassroots Fundraising are in opposition or mutually exclusive.** We believe these proposals do different things and can exist together. However, since proponents of Resolution 55 have presented it as a competitor to Pass the Hat, we worked out the math to see how they compare.

Under the system proposed by **Resolution 55: Grassroots Fundraising**, chapters would get 30% of monthly dues for the first 50 monthly dues payers. In order to get \$100/month, a Local would need to have 24 monthly dues payers at the current average payment of \$14 per month. **At today's average across Locals of 15% of members paying \$14 in monthly dues, a Local would need 160 members to get to \$100 per month in dues sharing under Resolution 55.**

What if the rate of monthly dues payers...	Rate of Members Paying Monthly Dues at an average of \$14/month	Members Needed to get \$100 per Month with Resolution 55
Stays the same	15%	160
<b>Doubles</b>	30%	80
<b>Triples</b>	45%	53
<b>Quadruples</b>	60%	40
<b>Quintuples</b>	75%	32

You may be thinking, that we can also increase the average monthly donation from \$14, so let's run those numbers too! Let's take a look at some scenarios...

<b>Members Needed to get \$100 per Month with Resolution 55</b>				
If the monthly dues payer rate was...	If the average monthly dues payment was...			
	\$14 (current)	\$20	\$25	\$30
15% (current)	160	111	89	74
30%	80	55	44	37
45%	53	37	30	25
60%	40	27	22	19
75%	32	22	18	15

In order for Resolution 55 to provide financial support to new Locals at the same rate as Pass the Hat, a new Local with 15 members would need to increase the current average of 15% of members paying monthly dues by 400% to 75%, and increase the current average monthly dues payment of \$14 by 114% to \$30.

However, the issue with this funding model as a path to more support for smaller Locals is that it depends on smaller and new Locals working magic that the organization has yet to do, and does nothing to redistribute the inequality of resources across Locals shown earlier in charts like Figure 5 and 9.

Once again, it's important to reiterate. **Pass the Hat is not mutually exclusive or in competition with Resolution 55. These proposals accomplish different things with different strategies, and they can exist together.**

# Tech Tools and Accessibility

The trend across tech tools and accessibility metrics is clear: funding and dues share proposals won't get DSA where it needs to go on tech tools and accessibility. Locals will work to meet the most basic functions of an organization with the funds they get, and tech and accessibility are not being addressed seriously until Locals are getting over \$500 in quarterly dues share, and even then they often fall short. (See figures 16, 20 and 25)

**Accessibility should not be optional.** Our organization must be accessible to parents, caregivers, children, poor people, people with disabilities, and non-English speakers. All of these forms of making our organizing accessible to all must be a priority.

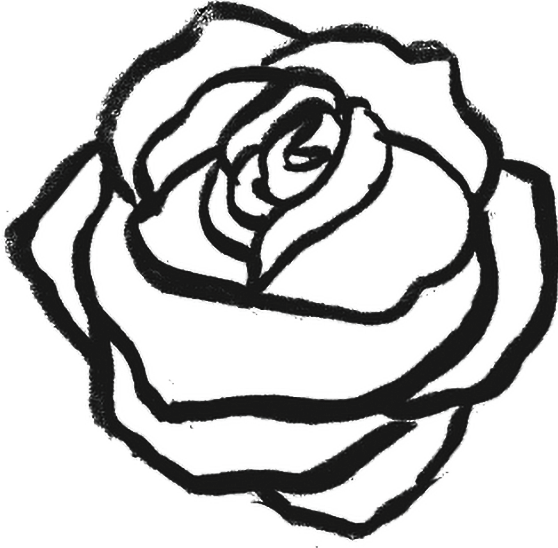
Of particular note here are the numbers around accessibility to non-English speaking members. We are an organization that fights for the collective liberation of the entire working class. Our organizing must reflect that. When our organizing is not translated, it inherently excludes people who don't speak English or are deaf: people who are disproportionately impacted by the systems of oppression we seek to fight.

As we've found in this report, when people who can participate in inaccessible systems are given very hard choices about what to prioritize, with little to no resources for how to improve on accessibility, they are less likely to choose accessibility until they have at least \$500 quarterly.

When we asked "*What forms of material, financial, or tech infrastructure does your chapter not have that would be helpful for your chapter?*", it was clear that members see a need for tech tools. Our research shows that usage is uneven and **chapters with fewer resources are much more likely to make do without essential tech tools that could make their local work more effective.**

**We believe Resolution 83: Support the Locals and Make DSA Accessible to All is the approach to take for tackling these challenges.**

DSA must listen to Locals in deciding how to tackle these challenges, but the organization can mobilize national resources to provide tools for tech and accessibility to Locals, so that even the smallest Local does not need to choose between tech, accessibility, and other organizing needs.



*Read the full report, including  
analysis of YDSA, OCs, and more:  
[dsabuild.org/report-infrastructure](https://dsabuild.org/report-infrastructure)*

**Data Collection:** Finch (Middle Tennessee), Matt R. (Pittsburgh),  
Rachel R. (Binghamton), Zachary T. (Pittsburgh)

**Writing:** Aaron B. (Southern Maine), Elim G. (SF), Erika P. (Lincoln),  
Finch (Middle Tennessee), Matt R. (Pittsburgh)

**Editing:** Adam (Chicago), Dave (Philadelphia), Elim G. (SF), Erika  
P. (Lincoln), Lloyd G. (Ann Arbor), Ravi A. (Long Beach), Rachel R.  
(Binghamton), Sauce (North Bay), Yesi (San Diego), Zac E. (RRV)

**Charts:** Matt R. (Pittsburgh), Sauce (North Bay)

**Layout:** William J. (Omaha)

**Cover Design and Illustrations:** Roxy (Central Florida)

Made with solidarity and donated labor.

**Build**   
dsabuild.org