

WORLD SOCIALIST PARTY APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

The World Socialist Party of the United States, as a companion party within the World Socialist Movement, is committed to the immediate abolition of capitalism and the establishment of a truly democratic, socialist form of society. Accordingly, membership in the World Socialist Party requires a general understanding of the principles of socialism and agreement with the movement's Object and Declaration of Principles. It is unlikely that a worldwide system of production designed to satisfy human needs rather than the tyranny of profit will come about except through the conscious and deliberate action of a majority committed to these principles.

The following eight statements make up a terse review of the areas of most importance to the Movement; after reading them carefully, indicate in the space provided how and why you may agree or disagree. While we recognize, naturally, the room for differences of opinion, a satisfactory grasp of socialist principles and their implications is essential for joining our movement. Your admission to the party hinges on the overall quality of your socialist awareness, not on whether you give the "right" answers, and this Application will serve to demonstrate the soundness of your understanding, with a follow-up interview to help clarify any outstanding questions.

Following each statement, please indicate your opinion (AGREE or DISAGREE) and explain in some detail. Please be aware that understating your views may risk jeopardizing the Application. Try not to be too brief.

THE WORLD SOCIALIST PARTY OF THE UNITED STATES

OBJECT

The establishment of a system of society based on the common ownership and democratic control of the means and instruments for producing and distributing wealth by and in the interest of society as a whole.

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

The Companion Parties of Socialism hold that:

- Society as at present constituted is based upon the ownership of the means of living (i.e., land, factories, railways, etc.) by the capitalist or master class, and consequent enslavement of the working class, by whose labor alone wealth is produced.
- In society, therefore, there is an antagonism of interests, manifesting itself as a class struggle between those who possess but do not produce, and those who produce but do not possess.
- This antagonism can be abolished only by the emancipation of the working class from the domination of the master class, by the conversion into the common property of society of the means of production and distribution, and their democratic control by the whole people.
- As in the order of social evolution the working class is the last class to achieve its freedom, the emancipation of the working class will involve the emancipation of all mankind, without distinction of race or sex.
- This emancipation must be the work of the working class itself.
- As the machinery of government, including the armed forces of the nation, exists only to conserve the monopoly by the capitalist class of the wealth taken from the workers, the working class must organize consciously and politically for the conquest of the powers of government, in order that this machinery, including these forces, may be converted from an instrument of oppression into the agent of emancipation and overthrow of plutocratic privilege.
- As political parties are but the expression of class interests, and as the interest of the working class is diametrically opposed to the interest of all sections of the master class, the party seeking working class emancipation must be hostile to every other party.

The companion parties of Socialism, therefore, enter the field of political action determined to stand against all other political parties, whether alleged labor or avowedly capitalist, and call upon all members of the working class of these countries to support these principles to the end that a termination may be brought to the system which deprives them of the fruits of their labor, and that poverty may give place to comfort, privilege to equality, and slavery to freedom.

COMMENTS BY APPLICANT

You are invited to note any amplifications or reservations about these statements. Use an additional sheet for this purpose if necessary.

Your signature below will indicate your agreement and desire to join the World Socialist Party. Please complete the following section legibly. The WSP(US) does not share this information with anyone outside the party without the applicant's permission.

Signed _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____

Street Address or P.O. Box _____

City, State and ZIP _____

Contact me by: U.S. mail email phone

Admitted by (Sec'y)

Date Admitted

Date of Birth* _____

**This information will not affect the applicant's chances of admission one way or the other; it is requested only for the sake of facilitating interaction with him or her.*

The World Socialist Party reserves the right to conduct an interview with the applicant.