

# SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY 2016 CANDIDATES

## Alyson Kennedy for U.S. president ■ Osborne Hart for vice president!

### ALYSON KENNEDY

Alyson Kennedy grew up in a working-class neighborhood in Indianapolis. She was attracted to political action in high school as she watched TV coverage of workers and youth who were Black battling racist cops and KKK thugs across the south and overturning Jim Crow segregation. She moved to Kentucky, where she was part of the fight to desegregate Louisville public schools in 1975.

A socialist and trade union fighter for more than four decades, Kennedy, 65, is a member of the Socialist Workers Party's National Committee. She was the SWP candidate for vice president in 2008 and for U.S. Senate from Illinois in 2010.

She has worked in coal mines in Alabama, Colorado, Utah and West Virginia. She joined the United Mine Workers in 1981. Kennedy was part of the first wave of women who worked as underground coal miners, helping to break down the division of labor by sex and strengthen working-class solidarity. She became part of the Coal Employment Project, a group that championed women's fights to get hired in the mines and fight harassment on the job.

From 2003 to 2006 Kennedy was among those in the front ranks of a union-organizing battle at the Co-Op coal mine outside Huntington, Utah. The miners there, mostly immigrants from Mexico, fought for UMW representation to win safe working conditions, an end to abuse by the bosses and improved wages, which started at \$5 an hour. They



*Alyson Kennedy for president*

won widespread solidarity and set a powerful example of how to fight.

In 2014 Kennedy went to Turkey to meet with coal miners there and help them get out the truth in the U.S. and elsewhere about their fight against deadly working conditions imposed by the owners with government complicity. A mine explosion in the town of Soma had killed more than 300 miners. She also met with a representative of the Kurdish-based People's Democratic Party, bringing solidarity to the Kurds' fight against national oppression across Turkey, as well as in Syria, Iraq and Iran.

Kennedy has also worked in plants and mills organized by the United Steelworkers, UNITE HERE as a garment worker, and other unions. She has been active for decades in the fight to defend a woman's right to choose abortion and has helped defend clinics from rightist attempts to shut them down.

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*Osborne Hart for vice-president*

### OSBORNE HART

Osborne Hart, whose father was a career soldier, spent his youth travelling around the world with his family. Since getting involved with the civil rights movement in the 1960s, Hart has been a lifelong fighter for Black rights. He's joined struggles against police brutality and school segregation and the movement to bring down apartheid in South Africa and free Nelson Mandela.

He was politically active in the 1970s in the fight to end Washington's war against the peoples of Vietnam and Indochina.

Hart joined the Socialist Workers Party in the mid-1970s and for

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OF WORKING PEOPLE

## ALYSON KENNEDY *Continued*

Kennedy marched with members of the Chicago Teachers Union on strike against a bitter assault by city officials in 2012, walked picket lines with United Steelworkers locked out by Honeywell Corp. in Metropolis, Illinois, in 2010 and again in 2014, as well as with United Auto Workers members on strike last year against Kohler Inc. in Wisconsin. She joined protests in Kentucky, West Virginia and St. Louis by union coal miners fighting attempts by Patriot Coal bosses to use bankruptcy to tear up union contracts.

She has been active in the fight against Washington's wars, from protests against the war in Vietnam to speaking out against the bloody aggression in Iraq and Afghanistan.

She's been a stalwart in demonstrations against the cop killings of Laquan McDonald, Rekia Boyd, Quintonio LeGrier, Bettie Jones and many others, as well as actions over years demanding the release from prison of men tortured into making false

confessions by Chicago cops.

She traveled to Kanab, Utah to join protests by ranchers there against government restrictions and to solidarize against the cop killing of Leroy Finicum who was buried there after being shot dead by Oregon State Police for participating in ranchers' protests in eastern Oregon.

## OSBORNE HART *Continued*

decades has been part of helping to build and strengthen the labor movement. He's lived in Atlanta, San Francisco, New York, Detroit and now Philadelphia and has worked in industry, including as a meat packer, loading trucks in a TJX warehouse, at Walmart and on the railroad.

He joined in defense of United Steelworkers-organized oil refinery workers forced on strike in 2015, demanding workers control over safety to counter bosses' speed-up drives, job cuts and attacks on unions.

Hart, 63, ran for mayor of Philadelphia in 2015. He

participated in protests against cuts in Medicare, demanding free, government-funded medical care for all; against police brutality and in solidarity with workers fighting concession demands by steel giant ArcelorMittal. He explains the Democrats and Republicans are the parties of the bosses and bankers and his party, the Socialist Workers Party, is of and for the working class.

Over the past five years, Hart has joined in building protests in Philadelphia against the drive by state and city governments to slash funds for public education, with massive layoffs and spiraling class sizes. These moves have been accompanied by assaults on teachers' and other school workers' wages, pensions, health care and their unions.

Hart is active in the fight against government attacks and discriminatory laws against undocumented workers, protests against deportations and backed efforts to organize the unorganized wherever they are from.

He's spoken out in defense of the Cuban Revolution, demanding Washington end its 55-year-long economic embargo of the island and return the territory containing the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo to Cuba. He points to the Cuban Revolution, how workers and farmers there transformed themselves and their country, and their selfless internationalism, are an example and inspiration to workers worldwide.

He calls for the immediate release of Oscar López, a fighter for Puerto Rican independence framed up and jailed in the U.S. — much of it in solitary confinement — for more than 34 years.

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#### Don't organize around who you're against, fight for what you're for!

- I want to get involved! Contact me so I can join in campaigning for the working-class alternative, Socialist Workers Party candidates Alyson Kennedy for president and Osborne Hart for vice president.
- Enclosed is my contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_.  
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- I would like a 12-week subscription to the *Militant* newspaper.  
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