

Speak Out Now at BART (January 20, 2026)

It's a New Bid - Reset the Clock?

For some, there's no real change with the new bid. For others, it's like daylight savings time on steroids – going from opening to closing or first train out or last train.

For some station agents, it's a new station, new passengers, and a new routine. For some Train Operators, it can be a whole new run, with new challenges for getting breaks. Or, maybe Yard Duty.

And in the offices where decisions are made regarding what happens on the lines? Any significant changes there? Just another day.

Upgrade or Down?

When there's a problem in the system, it's usually an electrical, mechanical, or a human problem. Now there is a permanent Service Alert due to the inability to upgrade the software on the fare machines.

Really? There was no long-term testing of this before making the big announcement? What was the hurry? The Super Bowl? The FIFA World Cup? Well...it doesn't look very good if that was the motivation.

But aside from not having all fare machines synched the first day of the year, they sure didn't have any problem collecting the fare increase.

Alameda Health System Alert

The Alameda Health System is the main public healthcare system in the S.F. East Bay. The most familiar names are: Highland Hospital (with the main level 1 trauma center in the area), John George Psychiatric Hospital, and there are two other smaller hospitals, wellness centers, rehabilitation centers, and more, all together 13 different institutions providing healthcare for the uninsured or underinsured residents of Alameda County, and anyone who needs it. The saying "*An Injury to One is an Injury to All*" is so true as with this attack.

Hospital management announced and began layoffs without consulting with workers or the unions. As a result, many essential units are not only understaffed. They are lacking staff! Workers in the system have been organizing against this and they need our support.

There needs to be a big turnout when the meeting to discuss the funding of this essential system is to be held by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, 1221 OakSt #536, Oakland. **Use the QR code** to get information and send it to people you know to keep updated. Written comments can be submitted online.



It's a New Year

2026 didn't begin as "just another year." It began with threats of ICE surges and real ones in Minneapolis-Saint Paul; the kidnapping of Nicolás Maduro, the president of Venezuela, and his wife, Cilia Flores; the threat to take over Greenland with U.S. forces. All that and the challenges we face every day.

For some, there was an impulse to turn the news off. But there's no turning this off. There's no escape. The events of the day are on us.

As a recently deceased Bay Area newsman, Wes "Scoop" Nisker, used to say, "*If you don't like the news, go out and make some of your own.*" Let's make this our year – not theirs.

This Friday, January 23, could be a start. People in Minneapolis-Saint Paul are calling for a Day of Truth and Freedom in the face of the ICE invasion, that has left one person dead and at least one wounded by gunfire. No one goes to work or school, or shopping. All stand together to reclaim their city from the ICE occupation. This call comes from the organizing efforts of unions, community groups, churches, other organizations, and many individuals.

There may be demonstrations called in support around the country and in the Bay. Time to put on our walking shoes?

ICE

Ice on the rails is one thing. TO's know how to handle that. But ICE, as in heavily armed, masked men in the system, is another thing altogether. Station Managers (Station Agents) are responsible for the safety of passengers, as are Train Operators. Workers across the country have been facing this for months now, and some have gotten organized in their workplaces and neighborhoods.

Come to a discussion and presentation with people who have been involved in organizing in the schools, hospitals, and neighborhoods in the Bay Area.

We Can Organize to Defend Ourselves
Sunday, February 1, 3-5 pm. (Doors open at 2:45)
Henry Ramsey Jr. Center, 2939 Ellis Street, Berkeley (Near Ashby BART) \$5 Donation, (no one turned away for lack of funds)

As Gil Scott Heron said: "*Nobody can do everything, but everybody can do something.*"



Speak Out Now

January 16, 2026

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2026: It's All of Us vs. the Billionaire Class

2026 has begun with the Trump administration escalating their brutality against the population and increasing their threats to the world. They are drawing a line in the sand: it is the tiny class of billionaires and those who protect them on one side, and the rest of us on the other. Which direction things continue to go depends on us.

The administration has sent some 3,000 masked and heavily armed federal agents to Minnesota, mainly to terrorize the people of Minneapolis. They are grabbing people off the streets with no warrants, taking them to unknown locations. People, including pregnant women, have had their car windows smashed, been pulled from their vehicles, slammed to the ground and arrested as ICE agents knelt on their necks. ICE has battered down doors in the middle of the night and taken people away. ICE has brutally kidnapped people, including children, in schools, workplaces, and restaurants. They have attacked documented and undocumented immigrants and citizens.

On January 7, responding to an ICE presence in their neighborhood, people came outside, blowing whistles. Renee Good, a 37 year-old woman and U.S. citizen, and her wife were in their vehicle as federal agents surrounded them. When Good tried to drive away, an agent shot her three times at pointblank range in the head. Good, a mother of three, was left in her car bleeding out. This was a clear murder, and the officer, known to have far-right views, can be heard saying "F-ing bitch" after he kills her.

Since the killing, Vice President J.D. Vance and the entire Trump administration have defended the officer's blatant murder of Good. They are sending a very clear message that no one is safe, and that federal agents have a clear license to brutalize and even kill those who protest. They want to call ICE protestors "domestic terrorists" for refusing to accept this state-imposed terror. The only terrorists here are the federal agents terrorizing the population and the government that backs them.

Already, on January 14, ICE shot another person in Minneapolis in the leg while trying to arrest him. Once kidnapped by ICE, people are taken to horrific detention camps, crowded into cages, often with no food or water or access to medical care. Officially, there have already been dozens of people who have died in ICE custody in the last year. But the real number of deaths is likely much higher.

These raids have nothing to do with going after criminals or violent people. This is a blatant show of force in order to intimidate people into silence. They are going after immigrants to try and divide the population and target anyone who resists. The Trump administration is even threatening to invoke the Insurrection Act and send military troops to Minneapolis. This is clearly part of their strategy. They want to attack the population, provoke a response, and then use that to send in the military to frighten everyone into submission.

Their show of force here in the U.S. parallels their escalation of violence and threats around the world too. They showed us this when they sent Special Forces into Venezuela to kidnap Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro in early January. They pretend they were doing this to fight drug dealers, but really they just want to open up Venezuela to U.S. oil companies, which they have already begun to do. They are now threatening to take over Greenland too. And they are again threatening to bomb Iran to weaken the regime and get it to bend to U.S. interests since Iran has been a longtime thorn in the side of U.S. imperialism in the region. The U.S. has claimed to be on the side of Iranian protestors, saying they will come to their aid if the regime continues to respond with violence. What hypocrisy! How can this administration pretend to care about protestors in Iran as it brutalizes and even murders protestors against ICE in this country?! And it has been U.S. sanctions on Iran that has helped push their economy into crisis.

We are the only ones who can stop this. There is no one else — not the courts, not the mayors, and certainly not the Democrats, most of whom have voted to expand the budget of ICE and the Department of Homeland Security over the years as they gutted funding for social services.

We cannot be intimidated into silence. Our protests must continue. We need to grow our numbers, bringing more and more people into the streets. And ultimately, we will have to go even further. The power we have is that it is our labor that makes their system run. And as long as their system is able to function, as long as it is business as usual, they will continue their attacks. But if we are organized and determined enough, we can bring their system to a halt. They've made the stakes very clear in 2026: it's all of us versus them!