

Speak Out Now at BART (February 18, 2026)

@ BART ADA Means What?

BART supposedly prides itself on serving everyone. There is access for people with various disabilities or restrictions. There are elevators and escalators, when they are functioning. There are often braille instructions, which are not always properly placed., so difficult to find.

There are stations with entrances that lead to booths that have never been opened after the station was remodeled. And there is little or no information in braille for those who are sight-impaired. And it can be a challenge for those with other disabilities to get information regarding where or how to get assistance. How about staffing all the booths?

BART's CYA Memos

The recent BART memo, "ICE Agents & Arrests in the BART System", says that it is "In response to concerns about potential ICE activity..." Whose concerns? This memo has nothing to do with passenger safety. It's a CYA (Cover Your Ass) memo, to be waved if ICE or Border Patrol agents enter BART property.

It says that BART is going to be "tracking on any known events" and "plan for ensuring the safety of the BART system." The last paragraph says, "It is important to remember that the Federal government has sufficient resources and the authority to manage its own mission."

Yes, they have resources – for what? Have they ever heard of Minneapolis? Two people were executed in broad daylight. Another man was shot in the leg. Others have been shot and killed in other parts of the country. Thousands have been abducted. One, a bus driver for Metro Transit (Minneapolis), was abducted by ICE on his way to work. He was detained for more than a month, in Iowa and Nebraska, and released with no explanation.

What is BART's safety plan? People working in the stations are supposed to stand by and observe? The people of Minneapolis developed their safety plan. And it didn't depend on the politicians, other officials, or the police.

BART management has its own way of seeing things – heads either in the sand or up their ass.

No Longer the Fiscal Cliff - It's End Times

BART Management presented its picture: line cuts and stations closed if the people of the Bay Area don't vote to tax themselves on everything they buy for the next 13 years to keep BART and other Bay Area transit agencies running. The Board suggested that BART management seek other alternatives and come back with another plan.

How many people and hundreds of hours went into coming up with this plan for BART's extinction? It's the same old approach. Tax or raise fares. That sure hasn't worked up to now. And what has the Board been doing?

BART isn't the only public agency facing this. The public schools are facing massive cuts, and the Alameda Healthcare system, which includes Highland Hospital, John George, and other essential facilities, is facing layoffs and cuts which are a matter of life and death. Public services, including transit, are on the chopping block.

It's the same line over and over: "The money isn't there. If those who are lounging in their offices up there at BHQ would think or do some research, it would point to solutions. There's money in the Bay Area, and everyone knows it. The billionaires brag about how little they pay in taxes while they fatten themselves on the taxes that we pay.

For the rest of us, from the moment we walk out the door, we're taxed - gasoline, tolls, riding public transit, everything we buy. And the money we use has already been taxed.

Where would the billionaires be if workers who make this system run brought it to a stop? They would get a glimpse of the future they could face. The downtown stations and bus lines they depend on to get people to work would be closed. Those trying to get to work would be stuck on the highways and bridges.

The billionaires have people who can do the math. What will those shiny metal and glass buildings be worth without public transit? It's time for them to pay up.

A dream? Maybe now. But it's better to work toward a dream than live in their nightmare.



Events in the coming weeks:

Come to the public hearing to *Oppose the layoffs in the Alameda Healthcare System!*

**Feb 25, 3pm Alameda Board of Supervisors
Fifth Floor, Room 512, 1221 Oak Street, Oakland**

Speak Out Celebration

International Women's Day

**Sunday, March 11, 11:30am - 1:30pm \$5 Donation
Snacks, Entertainment, Conversation & More
Get information from your Speak Out person**



Speak Out Now

February 16, 2026

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Their Attacks are Just Beginning – But Our Fightback is Too!

This week, the Trump administration announced that the ICE surge in Minneapolis is ending, and that their nearly 3,000 federal agents who have spent the past two months terrorizing the Minneapolis region are being sent back to their home bases or other cities.

The fact that ICE is pulling out of Minneapolis in this way is a victory. The only reason they are doing this is because of the resistance they've been met with in Minneapolis and across the country. While Democratic Party politicians try to make headlines for criticizing Trump and ICE, it was ordinary people and not the Democrats who were the decisive force that confronted ICE head-on.

In response to the ICE terror – especially after federal agents murdered both Rene Good and Alex Pretti on video – organizing in the Minneapolis and across the country swelled. People were able to find a place to put all of their anger. It was the two Fridays of mass mobilizations under the banner “No Work, No School, No Shopping” that brought out tens of thousands of people in Minneapolis. It has been the organizing in neighborhoods, workplaces, and schools in Minneapolis to patrol for ICE and mobilize in large numbers wherever ICE showed up. In several neighborhoods in the Minneapolis region, neighbors set up barricades to keep ICE out and to patrol everyone who went in and out of their neighborhoods. Minneapolis police have been sent out to break up these barricades, but often neighbors have just rebuilt them after the police leave. For days, there have been regular protests in front of the Whipple Federal Building outside Minneapolis.

Because organizers in Minneapolis refused to back down and continued building their numbers – sparking similar actions across the state and country – the Trump administration has now decided to scale back its surge in the Minneapolis area. This can be celebrated and is a glimpse of the power we have when we rely on our own forces and defend ourselves.

But even though this surge in Minneapolis is ending for now, we can't believe that there has been any real change in the Trump administration's priorities. They want to appear as if they are scaling back, but in fact, they are preparing for intensified attacks on immigrants and the rest of the population. In fact, the director of ICE, Todd Lyons, told

Congress this week during testimony that ICE “is only getting started.”

As ICE reduces their surge in Minnesota, they are spending over \$38 billion to acquire warehouses across the country to expand their detention center capacity. They have already acquired about 25 warehouses. Most of the buildings can hold about 1,500 people, and some can hold as many as 10,000. Currently there are about 73,000 people in detention centers in the U.S., up from about 40,000 when Trump began his second term.

The conditions inside these facilities are meant to torture people. Already over 30 people have died in these horrible conditions. There has been a measles outbreak in a facility in Texas. And ICE has been sending all pregnant minors they abduct to a horrific facility in Texas, where they have no access to medical care or abortion services. Some are rape victims as young as 13. Their attacks on immigrants and many citizens have not stopped, and they continue to hire more and more agents. Meanwhile, the money to fund this ICE terrorism has been paid for by massive cuts to our healthcare, education, and other social services. So now is not the time to slow down, but to increase our efforts to organize our forces even more.

The people of Minneapolis have shown us what needs to be done. We cannot stand up to all of their attacks alone. We can't rely on the Democrats to do anything. We cannot wait around for elections that won't protect us. The administration is attacking the majority of us all at once. We see struggles of teachers and students for more funding for their schools. And we see health care workers fighting for better working conditions for themselves and their patients who are facing record health care costs. We see attacks on the unhoused population in every major city. We see access to reproductive health care disappearing across the country. We see our voting rights under attack.

We need to follow what Minneapolis has showed us. We cannot fight all of these battles alone, one by one. Our power depends on us coming together, fighting all these battles at the same time, like a closed fist. We may be on our own, but we are not outnumbered. Together we can fight not just their attacks, not just the Trump administration, not just the billionaires, but their whole system of exploitation.