

# Speak Out Now at BART (March 17, 2026)

Once a Year

The yearly Employee Appreciation Day is Wednesday, March 18. BART has postings on its website letting the public know how appreciated BART workers are.

Wouldn't it be something if they had respect for the people who make BART run? Don't hold your breath. It's more important for the people who really make the system run to respect themselves and their co-workers.

## Inspector General – Inspecting What or Who?

The big news for the 2025 end-of-the-year report out of the \$2 million-a-year BART's Office of the Inspector General's was that it recovered \$106,872 in public funds. Is that an efficient use of funds?

Who investigates what happening at BHQ? Who investigates the Inspector? Maybe the money goes into the cartoon that presents the updates from the Inspector General? (*Check it out on the BART website.*)

Here's the summary of the report, from Linked In:

“The OIG is proud to share our Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Report – highlighting a year of independent oversight, transparency, and impact.”

- 74 whistleblower complaints received
- 32 investigations closed
- 106,872 in public funds recovered/pending recovery
- Overtime audit completed; 4 additional audits underway
- Public-facing dashboard launched for real-time recommendation tracking

## *Standing Together Across the Bay* **No Kings or Billionaires!** **No to their Wars!**

We are kept divided in this world, which allows the billionaires and their politicians to rule over us. But working people have more in common with each other than with those who hold power today.

**On Saturday, March 28**, people around the country are going to come together to demonstrate for our future.

Speak Out will have a booth at the demonstration at **Oscar Grant Plaza in Oakland**, in front of City Hall, 12<sup>th</sup> st. station. Look for us at Noon and Join with us on the march to Lake Merritt. Or look for us at **San Francisco**. Or go to [nokings.org](http://nokings.org) and join **one near your home**.

That BART!

BART's publicity campaigns piss more people off than win them over to how great BART is. Spending \$90 million and glorifying the new gates hasn't been a wonderful experience for many passengers.

"Don't tap" like the old days – hold. And then "See Agent." Try again, slowly, back to the window. And again, until, finally, the gates open and IN!

The bugs are being worked out slowly. But will BART learn? First test, then deploy into the system.

## The Land Company!

It's no secret to those who pay attention to BART management that there seems to be confusion at BART HQ about what BART is about. Some think it is a Bay Area Rapid Transit system. Others seem to think it is a Bay Area Real-estate Transfer system.

BART's plans for cuts to the system would eliminate everyone but those without alternative means of transportation. And there are many who need to get to work, school, or other essential destinations. And they would be stuck with the horrible schedules.

There wouldn't be many evening riders going to a show or dinner with the last train out at 9pm. And with the massive layoffs planned, how often would trains drop? Is their goal to shut BART transit down?

Meanwhile, business is booming in the land division. Construction at El Cerrito Plaza is underway as well as at West Oakland. Both stations, like all the other stations where construction is planned, will have parking spaces cut. Will that really increase the number of riders who need to drive to BART?



*Is this how BART Management and the Board look for \$\$\$ to save BART while their building business booms?*



# Speak Out Now

March 16, 2026

@sonsocialists

speakoutsocialists.org

mail@speakoutsocialists.org

(510) 343-9105

## Their Brutal War Shows the Priorities of Their System

This devastating war on the people of Iran by the murderous regimes of the U.S. and Israel has continued for two weeks, hitting over 6,000 locations across Iran, killing over one thousand civilians and displacing an estimated 3.2 million people. They have struck an elementary school for girls, killing at least 170 people, mostly young girls. They have bombed hospitals, power stations, residential buildings, infrastructure and more, devastating entire cities. They have bombed oil depots and refineries, igniting massive fires that sent thick clouds of toxic black smoke over Tehran, a city of 9 million people. As a result, Tehran is being hit with dangerous "black rain" – acidic rain contaminated with toxic chemicals that burn the skin and damage the lungs.

And their killing has not been limited to Iran. Israel has expanded its bombing into Lebanon, killing nearly 700 people in two weeks, about 50 people a day, destroying bridges and whole neighborhoods. Israeli forces have ordered forced evacuations in most of southern Lebanon, displacing over 800,000 people in a small and densely populated city. Israel has bombed families with nowhere to go as they sleep in tents on a beach in central Beirut. Israel claims it is defending itself from Hezbollah, an Islamist political and military organization in Lebanon supported by Iran, but this is a lie. Israel has spent the past three years destroying most of Hezbollah's military capacity since the beginning of the genocide in Gaza. Israel's real aim is to expand its borders, vowing to occupy southern Lebanon indefinitely.

Meanwhile, Trump, Pete Hegseth, and others in the administration brag about their callous destruction of Iran as they waste billions of dollars on this war, on top of the tens of billions the U.S. has already given to fund Israel's genocide of Palestinians. The first six days of this war have already cost over \$11.3 billion. And this war has provoked Iran to block the Strait of Hormuz, where 20% of the world's oil supply passes through, causing oil prices to skyrocket and increasing gasoline and energy costs. As living costs for working people increase, U.S. oil companies stand to make an extra \$60 billion from the increase in oil prices.

While billions of dollars a day go to destroy the innocent people of Iran, the Trump administration is carrying out the largest gutting of social programs in U.S. history, slashing trillions from healthcare, food assistance, education and more to fund \$4.5 trillion in tax breaks for billionaires and to pay for their massive increases in military spending. It's expected that the Trump administration will ask for at least an additional \$50 billion more for this war, and plans to increase the military budget to \$1.5 trillion dollars in 2027.

The Medicaid cuts alone will strip coverage from an estimated 7.2 low-income million people. On top of that, their cuts to health care subsidies from the Affordable Care Act mean that an estimated 4.8 million people that had private insurance will become uninsured. Overall, millions of people face losing access to health coverage. Nationwide, over 700 hospitals, nursing homes, and other facilities face huge service cuts or could shut down altogether from these funding cuts.

The administration is also cutting food assistance, eliminating \$187 billion from SNAP over ten years, the largest cut to the program in its history. An estimated 4 million people, including 1 million children, will have their food assistance slashed or eliminated altogether. Work requirements are being expanded to cut off 2.4 million more people, including older adults, veterans, people experiencing homelessness, and young people. Millions of families who are already struggling to put food on the table will now have even less.

This is the priorities of their system laid bare. They have billions a day for a war to kill innocent people and bomb schools and hospitals, but they have no money for food assistance or healthcare or public transportation or any of the programs that working people rely on.

Working people have nothing to gain from this war. Our enemies are not the people of the Middle East under assault by the U.S. and Israeli military. Our enemies are the politicians and billionaires that work together to defend their system by bombing civilians abroad while gutting the programs that keep people alive at home. We must oppose both the war being waged in our name overseas and the war being waged against us here.