

Speak Out Now! at AC Transit 4/7/2025

AC "Now Hiring"... Maybe Not?

For months AC Transit has been supposedly hiring new drivers. But look around, there have been some new hires, but not that many.

Many companies have been recently caught posting open positions just so they can tell workers they are hiring people when they have no intention of doing so. The job postings are just for show. This pressures workers to accept the short staffing, and management can say: "we know you are short staffed, and we are doing every thing we can to fix it."

Is this happening at AC? Are these now hiring billboards and postings just for show? Does AC have any intention of actually hiring many new hires?

AC Board is Threatening More Cuts

The AC Transit board says the budget deficit is now as high as \$45 million, and they say they will be "finding efficiencies within our operations to reduce costs." We know what this means: they are planning cuts to workers and cuts to service. This means as the contract expiration approaches, the District is getting ready for a fight.

To stand any chance against these threats, AC workers would have to start getting ready too. The District wants to send the message that more cuts are coming, which will impact riders and AC workers. That means there is an opportunity to try to unite riders and drivers and other AC workers together. We can see from the VTA strike, that just going out on strike may not be enough. Outreach to the community, community support, and support from other workers is important to carry out a strong fight.

VTA Strike: Called Illegal By Judge

Workers in ATU 265 at Valley Transit Authority (VTA), which operates the light rail and buses in the South Bay, were on strike for almost three weeks. The company kept refusing to agree to the union's demand of wage increases of 18% over three years to help cover the rising cost of living. VTA management eventually offered 11% over three years, but they refused to agree not to discipline workers who went on strike. And they added a demand to cut back on overtime pay, which workers rely on to make enough money to live. So, it looked like the strike was going to keep going.

But VTA tried to challenge the legality of the strike in court, arguing it violated the no strike clause in the contract. Ultimately, the judge ruled in VTA's favor against the workers, and called the strike illegal. And workers went back to work.

Even though this has been a blow against the workers. It doesn't mean things are over. Workers can regroup to build up their forces, and use this as an opportunity to reach out to the community and develop more support.

The bosses will always try to use the courts to their advantage. Our strength as workers has never been in the courts. Our power lies in the fact that that we do the work to make society run. Our strength comes from organizing as broad a fight as possible. The strike may be over for now, but that doesn't mean the fightback has to end.

A Speak Out Socialists Public Meeting

**Trump's Assault
on the Planet is an
Assault on Us!**

**Sunday, April 13 at 4pm
2727 California St.
Berkeley**



**We do the work to make society run.
We need to organize!
Get in touch with us!**



speakoutsocialists.org



@sonsocialists





Speak Out Now

April 7, 2025

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Over 1 Million Protest in Defiance of Trump's Attacks

On Saturday, over one million people took to the streets in over 1,400 different cities across the country in all 50 states (and in some European cities, too), in a clear rejection of the onslaught of attacks and mass chaos of the Trump administration.

Massive demonstrations with over 100,000 people took place in Washington, D.C. and New York City. There were large protests ranging from several thousand to 10,000 or more in Atlanta, Austin, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Detroit, Los Angeles, Minneapolis and more. Many large metropolitan areas had protests in multiple cities with thousands of attendees, like in the Bay Area, Houston, and St. Louis.

The protests weren't just in big cities, but also took place in small cities, and suburban and rural towns across the country, even in some Republican strongholds in Iowa, Florida, Idaho and others.

These demonstrations were the largest single-day protests since Trump's return to office in January — and for many places, they were the largest demonstrations to take place since the widespread protest movement that rocked the country in 2020 following the murder of George Floyd.

The rallying cry of the protests was “Hands Off” — hands off everything! The protests included people from all walks of life — young, old, and many who protested for their very first time. Protestors showed up with homemade signs opposing every aspect of the Trump administration, condemning attacks on Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare, Education, Veterans Affairs, National Parks, the Post Office, and more.

Outrage was also focused at Elon Musk, whose DOGE program has largely been in charge of the mass firing of thousands of federal workers, and the gutting of many federal programs and departments.

Protesters overwhelmingly condemned the administrations blatant attacks on immigrants, on reproductive rights, on free speech, on trans people,

and the increased repression against activism. And there was a clear opposition to the Trump administration's renewed support of Israel's blatant escalation in its genocidal assault on Palestinians.

The demonstrations were called by various groups and non-profits, many that have ties to the Democratic Party. And many demonstrations featured speakers linked to Democratic politicians, who are doing their best to try to channel these protests into revitalized support for the Democratic Party, warning people that the only way to stop Trump is to vote for them.

The Democrats will certainly try to co-opt these movements in order to get themselves elected, but that doesn't mean they will succeed. For many, the Democrats have also been exposed as the same loyal defenders of this system as Trump. Both Obama and Biden have deported more immigrants than Trump. The Democrats are just as responsible for supporting Israel's genocide, for cutting social services, for defending bosses against workers — all while increasing military spending and providing bail outs to the biggest banks and corporations.

Throughout all of these demonstrations, there was a clear expression of a growing sentiment — that our lives are under attack and it is up to us to fight back; that we can't sit back and wait for the courts, which Trump has been willing to openly defy; that we can't wait around for more empty promises from the Democrats; that our future depends on us and our efforts alone. These demonstrations further confirmed that sentiment, and showed us that we are not alone in our opposition, but are quite numerous.

Demonstrations like these give us a glimpse of the kind of power we have if we continue to organize our forces. We have the power not just to defy their attacks and defend our lives, but to bring an end to this system that only benefits the billionaires, and to fight for a world that represents the vast majority of humanity.