

Speak Out Now at BART (April 7, 2025)

Appreciated?

National Transit Employee Appreciation Day was last month. BART is one of the companies that observes this. How many BART, AC, VTA or workers anywhere were recognized?

And there sure isn't much appreciation shown by Management. Maybe they think it's their day too? Maybe there should be Transit Workers Appreciation Day? Everyone whose check comes from BART is an employee. But the people who are the face of BART are frontline workers.

Most everyone who has worked for a while knows better than to expect anything from BART. But there are passengers who do show their appreciation, some do every day. And others when they get some assistance. Of course it's easier to remember the sh*t that gets tossed at you. And even though it may come at you, usually it's not really about you. A lot of those people aren't especially appreciated either and unfortunately they're just passing it on.

The Fight at VTA – It's NOT Over!

The corporate media showed what side it was on in covering the strike at VTA in San Jose. They made it sound like a wage offer of 11% was meaningful. Actually it was – it was an insult. They didn't talk about living in Silicon Valley on a VTA worker's wage. They didn't talk about the violence that bus drivers have to be on guard for all day long. Or what it's like to clean buses in the winter or clean the daily mess.

They focused on the inconvenience of workers striking. Yes, it creates an inconvenience for those who rely on VTA. They claimed the contract had a "no strike" clause and the union violated that. The union officials have taken this to the courts to decide.

It seems doubtful that a new strike will come out of this. But that doesn't mean this is over, no more than the situation facing BART or MUNI workers or other workers is solved by a contract.

Both Sides of the Border

We are being told that, as Americans we have to look after our interests. This is an old story – "Us" against "Them". Who will pay the price for this trade war?

"Solidarity" – with other workers has been a guiding principle of the workers movement. Both the ATU and SEIU unions have chapters in Canada. We might keep that in mind.

Trump Attacks Government Workers

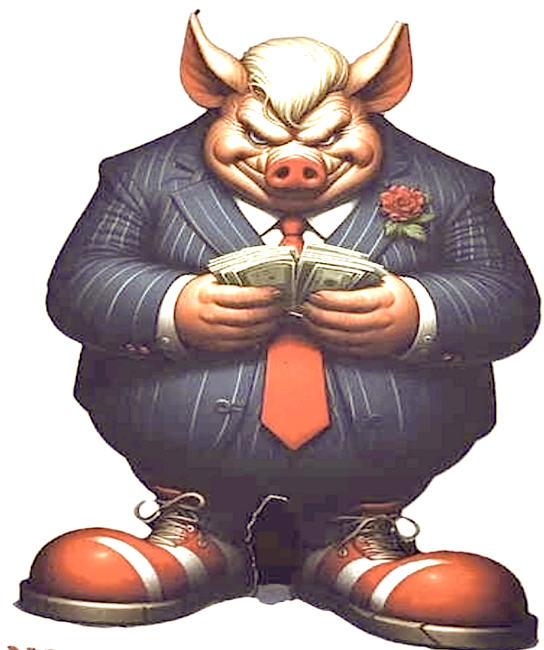
Trump's recent executive order canceled the right of collective bargaining for hundreds of thousands of workers across the government. The order would put an end to their right to union membership.

This goes beyond the issue of wages and benefits. Instead of standing together in the face of attacks, like the mass firings or the new demands imposed by Musk's personal DOGE Squad and other attacks, some workers would be in a union while others would face this alone. Until no one is in a union?

Of course the union officials filed a lawsuit. But we have seen where that goes. And a number of presidents of other unions issued statements opposing Trump's actions. But words are just that – words.

Trump's recent attack on government workers is an attack on all workers. The rights workers have today, that are being eroded by corporations and public agencies, were not won by words. They were won by workers organizing their power and using it. And those fights spread, finally forcing the bosses and their governments to recognize workers' basic rights.

It's OUR Social Security



NOT YOUR PIGGY BANK

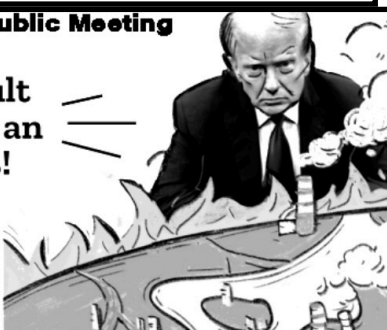
What's Going ON?

Join us for a discussion about the current situation

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





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.

These 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! These 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.

These 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.

These 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.

These 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.