

Speak Out Now at BART (June 1, 2026)

Pollute More and Get Paid

Last week, CARB, California Air Resources Board, followed Governor Newsom's directive and overturned a state program that was aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions by the state's major air polluters. The program called "Cap and Invest" imposed payments on greenhouse gases emitted by major greenhouse gas polluters – oil production and refining being the major polluters. The program has had an impact on the reduction of greenhouse gases over the past 13 years.

Now they will be given about \$2 billion in free emission permits. Not only will that give them no reason to reduce their pollution, but that would have resulted in payments of about two billion dollars a year to the state. The money from this program was used to fund the electrification of public transit, including BART, along with building affordable housing, environmental research, and other programs.

The claim is that big oil was losing money because of the U.S. war on Iran and the rising cost of oil, which means higher prices at the pump for us. Don't feel sorry for the big oil companies. They spent \$10.3 million in the first three months of the year lobbying Sacramento to get this passed. And despite a drop in reported profits (which are often false), Chevron's stock has reached all-time highs.

What more do they have to do to prove that they are engaged in a criminal attempt to destroy our lives and the health of our Earth in their drive for profits?

We're Under Attack

Workers everywhere are being laid off or facing threats of layoffs. Public services are being cut. We can't sit and wait.

It's Up to Us!

It's Our Lives Over Their Profits!

Join our Summer Organizing Campaign

We need to let others know that we refuse to accept the attacks on: Alameda Health Services, BART, AC Transit, MUNI, Public Education and other essential services

Kickoff Meeting

Sunday, June 7, 3pm

Henry Ramsey Jr. Center

2939 Ellis St, Berkeley (Near Ashby Bart)

\$5 donation requested

Between a Rock and a Hard Place

Enough signatures were collected to put the "Connect Bay Area" ballot measure on the November ballot. People in five Bay Area counties can vote whether to increase sales tax by \$.5% (5¢ on \$100), to fund public transit agencies.

And who will make sure this money is used appropriately? It shouldn't be left in the hands of those whose incompetence has led to this situation.

There should be total transparency in how the money is spent. And there should be worker and rider oversight of the entire process of allocating money.

The Money Always Seems to be There

BART Management is patting itself on the back for putting on a show doing the World Cup. It says it will add staff and security, run longer trains, offer "special limited-express service" after midnight for late-night matches, and have extra lighting at key station parking lots to enhance safety for fans returning from evening matches.

How nice of them to find the money for this! If there are parking lots that are not safe, what has prevented them from installing lighting? Daily riders and workers receive the same lack of consideration from management.

Fare Evasion! Who Pays?

In the past weeks, fare machines have had problems. For two days, they were out system-wide, which meant that people were unable to add fare among other things. Since that episode, the system has been up and down. Not only that – bill changers are eating \$5's and \$10's like the Sesame Street Cookie Monster.

There was a lot of finger-pointing, of course, at BART workers to begin with. Was it their fault? Of course not. It seems that it was an "upgrade" led by the trio— MTC, Clipper, and Cubic. Have these people ever taken a computer class? Is BART their testbed for upgrades?

BART management talks a lot about fare evasion because of fare loss. How much \$\$\$ was lost to those free rides, and who is going to pay?



No more crying about fare evasion. Pay up Cubic!



Speak Out Now

June 1, 2026

@sonsocialists

speakoutsocialists.org

mail@speakoutsocialists.org

(510) 343-9105

It Will Take More Than Elections to Respond to Their Attacks

Over the next few weeks and months, most states will finish holding their primary elections before the midterms in November. Of the many candidates running for various positions in their states, many Democrats and a few Republicans and independents have expressed their criticism of the Trump administration. Some talk about the so-called affordability crisis, or the unprovoked war on Iran, or the mistreatment of immigrants by ICE, or raise other critiques as well. Regardless of their different criticisms, all of them point to the elections as the best way to confront the attacks from this administration. But it will take more than elections to stand up to all of these attacks.

Everywhere we look, the attacks on ordinary working people and the poor are escalating both here in the U.S. and internationally. The U.S. war on Iran continues to drag on, causing immense suffering inside Iran, and needlessly wasting billions of dollars. With full U.S. backing, Israel is escalating its assault on Gaza and Lebanon, seizing more territory and costing more lives every day. And the Trump administration has intensified its military threats against Cuba, where the entire population is suffering from a fuel shortage imposed by the U.S.

In response to ongoing bombing, Iran continues to block the Strait of Hormuz, causing economic chaos across the world, especially in oil markets, which has resulted in skyrocketing prices around the world in energy and many other essential goods.

All of this amounts to way more than a so-called affordability crisis. Corporations are making record profits as millions of working families are struggling to get by, and the effects of deepening cuts to vital social services are settling in and becoming impossible to ignore.

Schools and education programs are closing from lack of sufficient funds. Public hospitals and smaller hospitals are facing huge cuts and possible closures in many states. Access to food assistance, housing assistance, and transportation is being slashed. Health care costs continue to increase, forcing millions to go without care. Reproductive rights are under open attack across the country, with the Trump administration pushing to ban abortion medication nationwide.

This goes far beyond mere affordability! Those in power are determined to make it harder and harder for working people just to live. Every program we depend on is being

treated as something to be cut, while the money flows to wars and to the billionaires.

On top this, we are seeing new levels of authoritarian repression and corruption. We see restrictions on voting rights, redistricting efforts to disenfranchise voters of color, the removal of people from the voter rolls, and new restrictions on mail-in voting. There is even a fund with \$1.8 billion that has been set up by the Trump administration to give financial support to far-right groups and individuals who stormed the Capitol on January 6, 2021. It is certainly possible that these groups, along with ICE agents, could be used in November for voter intimidation and further attacks on the population. The fact that this blatant corruption can even happen just shows how corrupt their system is, and how little they really care about justice or democracy.

Alongside all of this, ICE's attacks on immigrants keep intensifying, with mass arrests and deportations carried out without any hearings in the courts. And the Department of Homeland Security is spending billions to acquire and construct new detention facilities to hold more and more people. These facilities are designed to hold immigrants, but we are also seeing the government increasingly target and detain activists who oppose their policies, calling them terrorists or extremists.

Across the board, we are seeing a real escalation of attacks on the whole population in order to serve the interests of billionaires and their corporations. And what are we supposed to do in the face of all of this? We are told that the midterm elections are where we should direct all of our anger and put all of our hope. Regardless of how these primaries play out and whatever happens in November, we can say clearly that the ballot box will not be enough to stand up to these attacks — it will take a lot more.

But we are not powerless. The only way working people have gained anything under this system has been by fighting for it. And when we stop fighting, their attacks escalate, and whatever gains we made can disappear.

Our real power lies not in the ballot box, but in the fact that we do the work to make their system run. And in order to stand up to their attacks, we will have to organize our forces in order use that collective power. We can't wait for November. We must start now to organize for a real fightback to resist their attacks and defend our interests.