

# *Speak Out Now! at AC Transit 8/24/2026*

## **District Budget Hides the Cuts to Drivers**

The District is stepping up its scare campaign ahead of the November vote on SB 63, the "Connect Bay Area Act," which would raise sales tax by half a cent in Bay Area counties to increase funding to transit.

AC Transit is putting out budget numbers on what it will cut if the bill fails: a 16% service reduction and up to 300 layoffs, mostly drivers, to close their \$53 million budget gap. But that's not the whole story.

Labor costs make up about 68% of the budget. Cut \$53M from the budget, and 68% of that — \$36.3 million — comes out of labor costs. Fewer service hours means fewer hours for drivers, cut through some mix of layoffs **AND** reduced overtime.

The District's budget only saves money by taking money away from drivers! That needs to be clear, not buried in the language of "reducing service."

## **Drivers and Riders United!**

No matter how much the District's cuts to service and fare increases try to pit riders and drivers against each other, we have to resist this. The cuts the District is proposing would cut service to riders and would pay for it by cutting money to drivers. Together we are both under attack by their budget proposals. The only way we can resist their continued cycle of cuts, especially if the bill doesn't pass, is if drivers and riders are on the same side, united together.

**READ BETWEEN  
THE LINES**

**SERVICE CUTS**

**=**

**CUTS TO DRIVERS**

**AND CUTS TO RIDERS**

**It is our work that makes society run!**

**We have the power to change it!**

**Get in touch!**



[speakoutsocialists.org](https://speakoutsocialists.org)  
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## **Come In or Call Out?**

It was strange when we got an automated voice message from the GM. Of course we should make efforts to come to work, that's what we do every day. But this job puts a burden on our body and our soul. If it were easy to make it to work every day, we would have nearly 100% attendance.

We already do the best we can. These are our sick days, and we can use them how we see fit. Management can save its phone call messages to tell us something useful, like how there won't be any changes to our health insurance.

## **Newsom Protects Oil Profits Over Transit**

In 2023, Newsom signed a law promising a penalty tax on oil refiners for gouging us at the pump with excessive prices and profits. He even said he was "beating big oil." But once it was passed, he has done everything in his power to delay it, and in 2025, his own appointees at the California Energy Commission agreed to delay it for another at least five years — while refiners pocketed around \$1.50 a gallon in profit.

A tiny 25-cent penalty on these massive corporations' super oil profits — that we pay for at the pump — would raise about \$2.8 billion a year, something the state government already agreed to do! That money would be more than enough to help fund public transit in the state, and way better than this increase in sales tax that we would have to pay for.

It couldn't be any clearer that this is a government for the corporations and not working people.

**SPEAK OUT SOCIALISTS**

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# Speak Out Now

September 7, 2026

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## 9/11: 25 Years of Terror Waged by the U.S. on the World

This week marks 25 years since the 9/11 attacks, which tragically killed many innocent civilians in the U.S. In response, the U.S. government used the attacks of 9/11 as an excuse to flaunt the power and domination of the U.S. empire, and launch their so-called "War on Terror." They wanted to show the world they could disregard international norms and invade, destroy, and occupy countries of their choosing, with little consequence.

First, the U.S. invaded and occupied Afghanistan for two decades, installing a puppet government, and establishing major military bases there. The U.S. occupation did nothing to help the Afghan people, and helped push the country into a permanent war zone.

After Afghanistan, the U.S. government, under President George W. Bush, fabricated intelligence in order to invade and occupy Iraq. They announced false links between the 9/11 attacks and the regime of Saddam Hussein in Iraq, and falsely claimed that his regime had weapons of mass destruction, posing an imminent threat. The U.S. got rid of Saddam Hussein, established permanent military bases in Iraq, and tried unsuccessfully to install a new government that would do the bidding of the U.S.

Through their "War on Terror," the U.S. unleashed an unimaginable level of devastation on the region, completely destroying infrastructure, schools, and communities to the point where these regions have never recovered. According to the "Cost of War Project," U.S. wars in these regions since 2001, have resulted in the death of about 4.6 million people, displaced at least 38 million people, and cost U.S. taxpayers at least \$8 trillion dollars.

The so-called U.S. War on Terror has never stopped, it has only expanded. It has been the excuse for a steady rise in military spending, increasing with every administration since 9/11. And today, the U.S. continues to use the excuse of "terrorism" to expand its power and domination around the world, and to repress anyone who speaks out against them. Under the guise of fighting terrorism, the U.S., under both Biden and Trump, has continued to fully fund and support the genocide of Palestinians in Gaza carried out by the Israeli military.

Since returning to power, Trump has focused on asserting U.S. economic and military dominance in South America in the face of growing competition from China. With no evidence, the U.S. claimed Venezuela was run by

"narco-terrorists" and invaded and captured its president, Nicolás Maduro. Venezuela sits atop the largest proven oil reserves on Earth, much of it barely developed. The U.S. is now working with former members of Maduro's government to give U.S. companies access to this oil and the massive profits that will come with it.

And just eight weeks after kidnapping Maduro, the U.S. along with Israel, launched its war on Iran. Since then, some 6,000 or more Iranians have been killed and tens of thousands injured, alongside major destruction of Iran's nuclear energy, military and civilian infrastructure. The war has cost the U.S. an estimated \$113 billion, and has driven oil prices up by over 40%, squeezing household budgets and pushing up inflation across the U.S. and much of the world. More than six months into this war, there is still no clear end in sight, with constant threats of escalation coming from the Trump administration. Despite being a war intended to show the power of the U.S. military to dominate the Middle East, this war has shown its weakness, as Iran has continued to attack U.S. allies and military bases and has maintained control of the Strait of Hormuz, through which about 25% of global oil shipments pass.

In addition to their wars of terror abroad, the Trump administration is carrying out another war of terror on the population, and anyone who speaks out against them. As ICE terrorizes immigrants and invades our communities, ordinary citizens who try to oppose ICE and protect their communities are being labeled as "domestic terrorists." Students and workers who stand in solidarity with the people of Palestine are called "terrorist sympathizers" and have lost their jobs, visas, and faced deportation. And those who organize to oppose data centers in their communities — which drain power and water resources, increase energy prices, and pollute cities — are now being labeled terrorists as well. The administration labels those who oppose them as terrorists in order to intimidate people into silence.

So this week, when we are bombarded by the media about 9/11, let's be clear on who the real terrorists in our world are: the U.S. military, backed by both Democratic and Republican politicians, serving corporations and their profits, which has unleashed misery on the people of the Middle East and the world for the last 25 years and counting. Their whole system is nothing but a reign of terror on the entire world.