

# Speak Out Now at BART (September 16, 2025)

## That's Democracy?

A couple of weeks ago, the future of BART, AC Transit, Caltrain and MUNI were in doubt. Governor Newsom was hesitating to sign-off on the \$750 million dollar state loan to Bay Area transit agencies that the state legislature had approved. He signed off the day after the deadline. And the crisis was postponed.

This is what their democracy looks like. One person can decide whether to use our tax dollars to fund essential services like public transit.

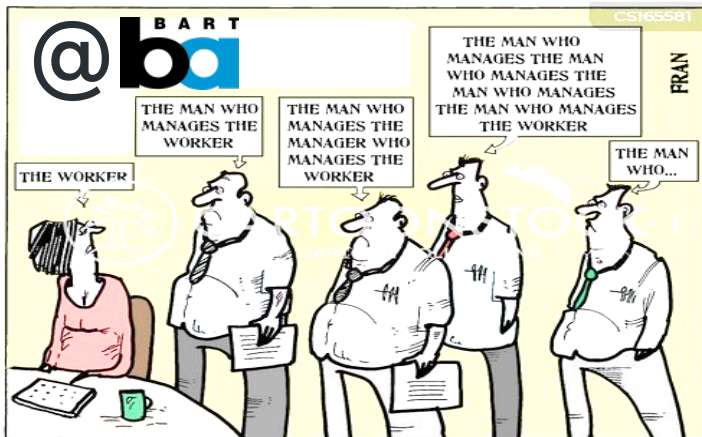
The situation of public transportation across the U.S. reflects the priorities of those who are in power. They know that for their economy to function people need to get to work, and go places to spend money that puts more money in their pockets, so it is necessary. But unlike cars, running on gas, it's not a direct money maker. They would prefer to have our tax dollars go directly into their pockets to support their businesses.

No wonder they hate mass transit. It shines a bright light on the realities of their so-called democracy.

## Over-Supervised?

Does it seem like there is more supervision than ever? There are the Tuesday Management strolls through the system. And when there are emergencies, some show their skills at putting up caution tape at the gates and standing around.

Maybe things would go a lot better if some who believe their job is to manage people would ask what they can do to make things to function better.



## Respect

System Service workers have to deal with what passengers leave behind and the occasional remark from a passenger who is looking for something to complain about. But the main challenge can be supervisors that believe their job is to find something that they think needs cleaning. And they can act in an arrogant and insulting way. They don't give a thought to the size of the station and the impossibility of everything being cleaned at once.

So, a job that can seem thankless is now more difficult. Who says "thank you" in appreciation of a clean station? That can have an impact on the morale of a worker.

Aside from being respectful toward workers, what would make sense for organizing the work in System Service? How about having those who do the work and some foreworkers discuss what the needs are and how to reorganize the schedules would be a start.

## BART in the News

No news is often good news as far as BART management is concerned. The news is not usually about how many people had a good ride on BART to a Valkyries game, or a concert or other things going on. The news is when BART has a problem.

Recently there have been a lot of problems: the electrical problem in the Transbay tube; the "computer problem" that shut the system down on a Friday; the electrical fire at San Leandro, and other less dramatic delays. So, BART isn't viewed as being reliable.

There's probably a lot of finger-pointing going on among managers of various departments. The first question is whether what those who supervise from BART HQ really know about the system. How in touch are they with those who work on the trackways, in system control and other areas of the system?

It's obvious that the system is in need of major repairs. But money alone isn't enough. It's a matter of knowledge and experience. And, just because they have long titles and more zeros on their pay checks doesn't mean they have a real understanding of the workings of this complex system.

## Stop the War on the People of Palestine! No Genocide in Our Name!

The U.S. has backed Israel's occupation of Palestine and the most recent war on the Palestinian people. The systematic starvation of the people of Gaza and the escalating massacre is genocide, supported with our tax dollars.

**Come to a presentation and discussion with activist and journalist Nora Barrows-Friedman.**

**Sunday, September 21 @ 4pm PT**

**Judge Henry Ramsey Jr. Center**

**2939 Ellis Street, Berkeley, (Near Ashby BART) \$5 donation**

**Also live online on Zoom - info at: [speakoutsocialists.org/](http://speakoutsocialists.org/)**



# Speak Out Now

September 15, 2025

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## Kirk's Murder Reflects the Violence of is Society

Last week, far-right media personality and organizer Charlie Kirk was gunned down at a university in Utah. Kirk and his well-funded organization, Turning Point USA, rose to prominence over the past decade by holding campus events billed as debates on "free speech" and the state of U.S. politics and society. Kirk used these events to expand and solidify support for his organization by bullying and humiliating young people who questioned or challenged him.

Kirk spewed racist and right-wing views, claiming that colleges have become centers of left-wing politics that are brain-washing young people and undermining what some call "traditional values". Kirk made racist attacks on Black people and affirmative action. He claimed that immigrants and Jewish people, are "replacing" white people in the U.S. And his vicious attacks on LGBTQ people are well-known.

He became a face of far-right ideology. He was a key organizer, bringing young people into Trump's presidential campaign. Trump is canonizing him as an American hero and will honor him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor that the government can give to a civilian. He ordered that flags be flown at half-mast across the country. Trump doesn't want to miss any opportunity to unify his base against those who disagree with him and whom he blames for Kirk's murder. Kirk's memorial will be a spectacle, held at the Arizona Cardinals NFL stadium, with a capacity of over 63,000 people.

Trump and the Republicans have made Kirk into a martyr. They are using this as an excuse to further repress the population – to go after those who stand against the hatred Kirk spread. Since Kirk's death, many prominent Republicans have stated that they are "at war" and will do everything in their power to punish those on the left that they claim are responsible for this. People have been fired from their jobs and harassed for being critical of Kirk in the face of this celebration of his political activity.

is call for organized violence is all too familiar. It is the violence that runs throughout the society. And those who are actively opposing the masked ICE agents that are terrorizing and abducting immigrant workers and families, and the occupation of our cities by National Guard troops, are being targeted by those who are maintaining this order. People are accused of being antisemitic by both

Democratic and Republican politicians for opposing the genocide of the Palestinian people in Gaza, who are being starved and bombed to death with full support of the U.S.

is is the open violence of this system. e violence many face each day doesn't just come from the barrel of a gun. It is the violence of poverty or the threat of slipping into poverty – the threat of wages steadily falling below the cost of living, or the violence of being laid off or fired. And the new federal and state budgets guarantee the lack of access to health care, food and subsidies for housing for millions of people.

ose in power claim that there are people that are supposedly taking things at our expense – often people who are a different race, or have a different sexual orientation, or country of origin, or religion. Some people mistakenly believe that violent actions are the only way to respond. As a result, there are mass shootings of people at religious gatherings or in areas where people of specific races or nationalities live. And the tragic shootings of children at school has become commonplace. And like the man who shot and killed Kirk, some wrongly believe that killing individuals will have a political impact. In addition to Kirk, a number of elected politicians, both Democrats and Republicans, have been shot and some killed. is is the violence this society has created.

ere is a war here at home against the majority of us, the working class. It is a war that breeds fear and creates divisions. It is a war that attempts to silence us, for fear of being attacked for standing up for what we know is right. It is a war that tells us that our only choice is to depend on either the Republicans or Democrats, when neither party represents our interests. ey exist to maintain the system that creates the problems we face – a system that is run in the interests of a tiny billionaire class.

e challenges we face may seem impossible to confront. But the solutions begin in our daily lives. As workers, we are the ones who make this society run, e divisions that separate us are maintained to keep us weak. To deal with the challenges and chaos we confront, we can and must look to ourselves – our families, friends, co-workers, our neighbors and other like-minded people.

en we can stand together and defend ourselves.