Speak Out Now! at AC Transit

10/5/2026

Realigned But Not On Time

When the District imposed its service cuts through the Realign Program in 2025, it promised the changes would reduce service to 85% of pre-pandemic levels and make buses more dependable and on time. Instead, buses are now less on time, frequently late, or canceled.

The problem is clear: you can't make buses more on time if the run time itself is too short. The District pretends it needs to investigate further, but any driver will tell you there's nothing to investigate. Many run times are just too short to be made on time. The only thing that needs realigning is the run time, so it matches reality.

Blame the District not the Drivers

In the recent Oaklandside article, District spokespeople keep blaming drivers for late and canceled buses. They cite drivers retiring, leaving, or calling out, and they blame callouts the most.

But sick time is part of the job. It doesn't matter how drivers use it. It's ours, and we can use it as we need. The real problem is that the District keeps staffing too low. Drivers calling in sick shouldn't throw the whole system out of whack. That only happens when the District hasn't hired enough drivers to work the extra board and cover callouts. Stop blaming the drivers. The real problems are the District's run times and the low staffing it created.



It is our work that makes society run!
We have the power to change it!
Get in touch!



speakoutsocialists.org
@sonsocialists

Who Pays: The Super Rich or Us?

Election time is less than a month away, and people can vote to tax themselves to fund the five-county public transit systems or let them face huge cuts. Even if it passes, the present operations of AC Transit, BART, and other systems will not be fully funded.

Earlier this year, another ballot proposal was discussed that some politicians, unions, and even BART management seemed interested in: a 2% tax on the profits of Bay Area companies with more than $5 million in yearly profits. It would have provided steady revenue from those who can afford it, not from people struggling week to week with the rising cost of living.

The Bay Area Council, the association of billionaires, millionaires, and their corporations, was not going to accept that tax. They pushed it on workers who use these systems or do the work to operate them!

So, here we are, between a rock and a hard place. Public transit, an essential service for many and jobs for thousands, is on the line. We can learn from the rich. They understand their class interest and stick together when necessary. But workers, often face the divisions those in power set for us, by race, ethnicity, gender, the company we work for, or the union we are in.

We need to find ways to stand together for ourselves and the next generation's future. Our future doesn't rest on this ballot initiative alone. If it passes, workers should provide the oversight to direct the use of the funds to maintain these systems. If it fails, the it is up to us to unite to make sure the rich have to pay.

Save The Date: Upcoming Events

Their Elections: What to Expect and How to Respond

Wednesday, October 21 at 7:00pm PT (doors 6:45m PT)
Niebyl-Proctor Library
6501 Telegraph Ave • Oakland, CA

Film Showing: When Ice Melts

The story of the grassroots resistance of working people that pushed back and drove out the ICE terror sent to Minneapolis and surrounding areas.

Thursday, October 29, at 6:30pm
Berkeley City College Auditorium
2050 Center St, Berkeley, CA 94704

Speak Out Now
October 5, 2026 @sonsocialists speakoutsocialists.org mail@speakoutsocialists.org (510) 343-9105

Another Example of the Sexual Violence Rooted in Our Society

Last month, a former student at Cornell University in New York filed a lawsuit alleging that she was drugged and raped by seven men who were members of a campus fraternity in 2024. The men reportedly forced her to repeatedly snort ketamine while they raped her, and they sent a group text out to their fraternity with 57 members on it to join in. None of them reported the incident to the police.

Weeks after the incident, the survivor, known as "Jane Doe" in the lawsuit, reported the assault to the university and campus police. In response, the university conducted an investigation that resulted in the expulsion of only two of the men, while the others were merely suspended and had to write essays reflecting on their actions. The local district attorney at the time also declined to pursue criminal charges against any of them even though in her initial report to the police she clearly said, “I can say with 100% confidence I was raped."

The traumatic experience forced Jane to drop out of school, while five of the seven men who assaulted her were allowed to continue their education. In September of this year she filed a lawsuit against the university and the men.

This story confirms what women and survivors already know: sexual violence in this country is constant. One in five women is raped in her lifetime. At universities nationally, one in five female college students say they were sexually assaulted during their years on campus, and most of these assaults go unreported, some for fear of exactly what happened at Cornell. Cornell's own student survey, released in November 2025, found that 35 percent of undergraduate women reported being sexually assaulted during their time there.

The way this investigation was handled shows how the experiences of women are trivialized by those in power. And how many times has a story like this repeated across elite campuses? Young men at elite universities like Cornell are often the children of the wealthy, who have power and financial connections that can get them out of trouble. They can treat women in this way and face no consequences.

This mirrors how society works outside of college campuses. Look at the Epstein network: wealthy elites could sexually traffic young girls for years because they had money, connections, and protection. And predators like those in the Epstein Files don't emerge from nowhere; they go to elite schools for the rich like Cornell. They are raised in a world where they think their wealth and power allows them to do whatever they want.

Cornell has pursued harsher punishments for pro-Palestine student activists than it has for students accused of rape. Since the start of the genocide in Gaza in October 2023, Cornell has both suspended and expelled students from campus for participating in peaceful protests against Israel’s genocide. Cornell’s president has even backed his car into pro-Palestine protestors on campus. In the eyes of Cornell, protesting genocide gets you expelled, while sexual assault gets you an extra writing assignment. We see these same priorities at elite universities across the country.

The culture of male dominance that enables this violence is everywhere. Pete Hegseth, the Secretary of War, is now promoting testosterone screenings in the military. On billboards, in magazines, commercials, TV shows and movies, women's mostly naked bodies are used to sell everything. Advertisers and fashion companies profit from women's bodies. Men absorb these daily messages and are encouraged to see women as objects rather than human beings worthy of dignity.

We live in a male-dominated society that values men's lives over women's, one that accepts and even encourages violence against women. But although men are overwhelmingly the perpetrators, the roots of this epidemic go far beyond individual men. We live in a society where disregard for human life is normal and expected, where workers must sell their labor to corporations just to survive, and where corporations use us up and throw us away. The bosses who run this society have always used discrimination, whether by gender, race, ethnicity or religion, to divide us and protect their control.

But organized together, we can look out for one another. We can band together to punish and stop sexual predators. Ultimately, the fight to end violence against women and win equality for women is simultaneously a fight to build a different society, one where all people, men and women, have control over our own bodies and our own lives and collectively run society in our own interests.