

Speak Out Now at Highland

October 21st, 2026

The Facts: ICE at Highland Hospital

On Friday, October 16, at approximately 4:30 PM, ICE agents transported an individual in custody to Highland Hospital. According to information received by ACILEP, two ICE agents dressed in plain clothes were accompanying the individual at the hospital.

Staff and AHS leadership have collaborated to improve AHS policy. However, patients in civil detention are still being treated as if they are in criminal detention. AHS is not following its own policy on patients in immigration custody. SEIU has not yet said anything about the situation.

Alameda sheriffs are directly assisting ICE agents at the hospital which is in total conflict with sanctuary city policies. The hospital parking garage is not supposed to be used for ICE agent parking.

It is also clear from events this weekend that staff were not appropriately trained to respond to ICE. Workers are concerned that AHS is failing to comply with SB81, and not serving our most vulnerable patients. Training AHS staff and administration on how to respond to ICE is not optional under SB81, and staff must be trained immediately.

Community Rapid Response

How did so many residents of Alameda County show up to condemn ICE presence so quickly? It's thanks to the ongoing community organizing efforts to build Rapid Response Networks. Every day people sign up to be trained to be legal observers, documenting ICE presence and alerting the county and their neighbors when there are threats of abductions. It's a strategy that developed during the mass protests against ICE last summer in LA and that was further put to the test in Minnesota earlier this year.

The Trump administration announced a "45-day surge" in ICE activity throughout California just weeks ahead of the midterm elections, causing a lot of fear in immigrant communities. Legal observers are tasked with calling the Alameda County Rapid Response Hotline to report ICE sightings and verify they are real. If they are, families of people being detained are notified and legal counsel is requested.

With all the chaos, it's important to have accurate information and not spread more confusion and fear. It's also important to show we won't accept ICE terror as normal and let them kidnap our neighbors without resistance!

Have you seen ICE activity? Anyone can call the Hotline at: (510) 241-4011

Workers Demand "ICE Out of Highland"

Highland workers sent a letter to Alameda Health System leadership this weekend demanding that AHS follow hospital policy and state law to protect the patients in our care.

Workers outlined many concerns, including that AHS administration did not follow its own protocol for patients in ICE custody. AHS failed to verify the legal validity of the detention, and then allowed the patient's legal rights to be repeatedly violated throughout their admission.

Workers noted that AHS administration has failed to provide state-mandated training for staff about how to respond to ICE in the hospital, leaving workers unprepared and a vulnerable patient unprotected.

Workers demanded that the administration address their concerns, as this is a situation that is actively harming a patient, and needs to be remedied to protect future patients in our care.

James Jackson, AHS CEO, wrote a shallow, boilerplate response to the letter without addressing any of the workers' concerns. He falsely claimed that protocols and laws were being followed despite ongoing evidence to the contrary.

We have a commitment to keep our patients safe and we will keep fighting to protect them!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Their Elections: What to Expect and How to Respond

Democrats say voting for them is the only way to stop Trump's attacks, but they can't even guarantee the election's results will be upheld, let alone stop the attacks. Join us for a presentation and discussion about organizing ourselves.

Weds Oct 21 @ 7:00pm PT (doors 6:45m PT)

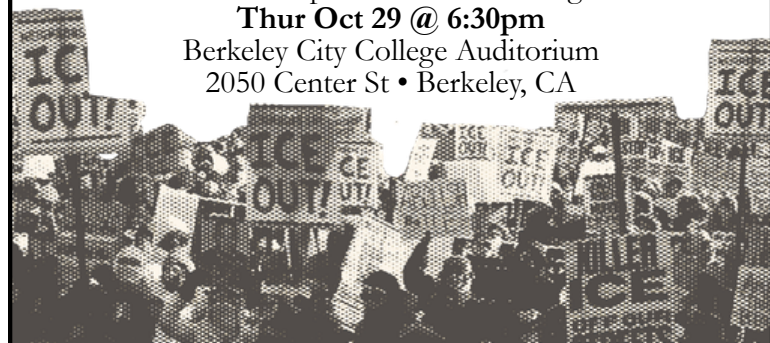
Niebyl-Proctor Library
6501 Telegraph Ave • Oakland, CA

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.

Thur Oct 29 @ 6:30pm

Berkeley City College Auditorium
2050 Center St • Berkeley, CA



 **speakoutsocialists.org**

IG: @sonsocialists





Speak Out Now

October 19, 2026

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The 2026 Midterms: The Best Democracy Money Can Buy

The amount of money poured into the elections by the super-rich keeps growing. This midterm election is no different, with billionaires projected to spend \$11.6 billion by election day, the most in U.S. history.

Elon Musk has already spent \$366 million of his own money, not only paying for ads but funding paid canvassers who go door to door trying to influence voters to vote for far-right Republicans across the country who are aligned with Trump. The top 50 individual donors have poured more than \$2.3 billion into midterms, with Republican-leaning donors giving about \$1.54 billion and about \$590 million from Democratic-leaning donors.

In total, the Democrats and Republicans are spending close to the same amounts in this election. Of the top ten candidates running for Congress who've spent the most money, nine of them are Democrats. Billionaires have also poured money into different state ballot measures, trying to block those that would raise their taxes to fund social services, and trying to pass ones that benefit their interests.

To the wealthy, democracy just means the freedom to spend their wealth to get the outcomes they want, whether it's on candidates or ballot measures. They may favor Republicans or Democrats in different elections, but either way, they know that both parties will defend their interests.

At the same time, as billionaires try to get things to go their way, the Trump administration has been maneuvering to tilt the elections in its favor. Over the past two years, it has pushed to give the federal government more power to interfere in elections, bypassing the authority of individual states. It has tried to rewrite voting rules by executive order, demanded states' voter data, and pressured state officials to remove voters, threatening states who refuse with prosecution or lost funding. It has gutted the agencies that oversee elections, raided election offices, refused to rule out deploying federal agents on election day, and laid the groundwork to dispute the results. The courts have blocked some of these moves, but the administration keeps pressing forward to get around them.

And recently, the administration has begun using ICE terror as tool to intimidate voters. For example, there has been increased ICE activity in Central California, with over 100 migrant workers detained in Fresno and Bakersfield. This area includes one of the closest Congressional races in the country, and is in a poor,

majority Latino district, with many agricultural workers, and over two-thirds of the residents receiving Medicaid — the most of any district in the country. There are reports of ICE going to people's houses, setting up random traffic stops, and going to workplaces.

It is no coincidence that the administration is deploying ICE into immigrant communities before the elections. The Trump administration is deeply unpopular because of its policies, including supporting Israel's genocide of Palestinians, terrorizing immigrant communities, waging war on Iran, driving up the cost of living, cutting \$1 trillion from Medicaid over the next decade, catering to billionaires, and jacking up military spending. There have been similar reports of increased ICE activity coming from other states with close races, like Texas and Arizona, and many other states are anticipating similar ICE activity heading into the elections. The Department of Homeland Security has launched a surge in baseless voter-fraud investigations in nine states while also pressuring states to purge voters from the rolls.

What all of this adds up to couldn't be clearer. The Trump administration is doing what it can to intimidate voters and restrict turnout in order to influence the election, and is preparing to possibly contest the election results afterwards if they don't win. And those behind Trump intend to enact even more cuts to our social services, and transfer even more money to billionaires, and the military. They know the population is opposed to these policies and they are trying to intervene in the elections and intimidate us into silence.

The Democrats certainly try to position themselves as an opposition to Trump. And it is easy to see why some people might see a vote for Democrats as a way to vote against the worst of Trump's agenda. But we won't change our situation with just an election. Standing up to their attacks requires more than just voting.

Regardless of how these midterms play out, it will take a much larger social struggle to defend our interests. There is more to democracy than the voting booth. The working class is the majority of the society and it is our work that makes this system run. Workers democracy includes voting, but it also means organizing in our workplaces, schools and neighborhoods to defend each other from all of their attacks. That's the kind of democracy we need to defend.