Speak Out Now! at AC Transit

11/04/2026

Voters Approve RTM — Now It's Time to Spend that Money!

Bay Area voters passed the Regional Transit Measure (RTM). No one was happy that it increases our sales tax by half a cent per dollar. It would have been much better to tax wealthy corporations, but we were forced, with little choice, to either see massive cuts to our transit systems or pay more in sales tax.

Now that it has passed and AC and other agencies have more money, who is supposed to decide how it is spent? It's the same incompetent AC management whose mismanagement created the budget problems in the first place.

But now they have an extra $55 million per year. That is money to hire more drivers and fix every run time so runs can be made on time, including taking every single break. They will have run out of excuses for ignoring what workers have demanded for years. And when they don't spend that money the right way, it's up to the workers and riders to come together and make them. We can't expect an incompetent group of useless managers to change on their own. It's up to us to force them to do what the workers and riders demand!

A BBQ Doesn't Fix Anything!

AC management keeps blaming late buses on drivers who call out, so they promised a BBQ to whichever district has the fewest call-outs for a week.

Free BBQs are nice, so no complaints there. But management needs to drop its absenteeism crusade. Workers call out for a number of reasons. We could be sick, given all the illnesses going around this season. We could be tired from the horrible schedules they design for us. Or we need the time to take care of whatever we need to take care of. The point is, we have sick days, and we can use them however we want.

If they want to fix on-time percentages and reduce cancellations, they should hire more drivers and fix the schedules and run times. Now that you have your RTM money, you have no excuses to keep things as they are. Stop blaming drivers for your own incompetence!

We Don't Need Another Run Time Survey

Whenever politicians pretend to care about an issue, they propose a useless survey to look like they are doing something. It's no different at AC with the District. After weeks of complaints from riders and drivers, a couple of news articles, and Board meetings with angry public comments, the District has pretended to respond. They want drivers to send in reports about their run times, traffic, and average speed.

This is a complete waste of time! The District already has all of that data from the Clever system for every single bus on every single run for every single day. They just want drivers to waste their time sending in data, or not, so they can pretend they are doing something and later say not enough drivers sent in their reports.

The District knows why many of the runs are late: it designed them. It has all the information it needs. If the runs are late, it's not the fault of the drivers. It's the fault of the District, which keeps pushing these meaningless run times.

THE UPRISING IN FRANCE



Working-class students in France have protested their crumbling schools and education, and have sparked a movement of hundreds of thousands of people demanding a life of dignity and an end to the domination of the rich. Join us for a discussion with activists from France.

Sun, Nov. 15 @ 12PM at Niebyl-Proctor Library
6501 Telegraph Ave • Oakland

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



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Speak Out Now
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Midterms: A Widespread Rejection of Trump, But Now It's Up to Us

The Midterm Elections took place this week and the Democrats are now set to take control of Congress in January. The results represent a clear rejection of the Trump administration's policies by the population — a clear statement of opposition to ICE, cuts to social services, the war in Iran, the skyrocketing cost of living, and the chaos the Trump administration has unleashed.

Looking more deeply into some of the results, they showed just how massive the opposition to Trump and Republicans runs, even in more traditionally Republican areas. For example, Kansas, a long-time Republican stronghold, elected its first Democratic senator since 1932. This comes as no surprise as Kansas has seen one of the largest increases in the average price of gas in the country, with a 53% increase since the Iran War started.

In other places like Texas, majority-Latino counties that voted for Trump in 2024 swung sharply back toward Democrats. This was in part a clear rejection of ICE and its racist attacks on immigrant communities.

These results came despite the billions of dollars Republicans poured into these races, and despite Republican efforts to suppress the vote and spread false claims of voter fraud.

These results show a widespread opposition to the Trump administration and the social and economic situation we are facing. But we still need to be clear about what's coming, and what the Democrats will or won't do.

Trump's record Medicaid cuts will still take effect soon, leading to millions becoming uninsured, and could lead to public hospital closures and budget cuts across the country to the hospitals that treat the most Medicaid patients. ICE is already on our streets fueled by a massive budget and will not stop terrorizing immigrants. And they have billions of dollars to acquire and build more detention centers. Billions of dollars are still pouring into AI and data center construction across the country, sucking resources away from our communities, and threatening many jobs.

On top of this, the Iran war has no end in sight, with the U.S. threatening further strikes. And the Trump administration is working to pass a military budget of around $1.5 trillion dollars for next year. While some Democrats may express opposition to that figure, they still support large military budgets, and many are not opposed to the war on Iran or the continued genocide in Gaza. The Democrats have no solution to reduce the price of gas which has skyrocketed since the U.S. war on Iran. The truth is the Democratic Party will have some small ability to block or frustrate aspects of Trump's agenda through their control of Congress, but they don't have solutions to the multitude of social crises we face. And Trump has already said openly to the media that he intends to use the power of executive order and the presidential veto to get around the Democratic control of Congress.

What this means is that even though this election shows a widespread opposition to the Trump administration and its policies, it's not going to be the Democrats and Congress that will be the force to push back.

The only way to fight the escalating attacks waged against us is to organize our own forces. When ICE comes to terrorize our neighborhoods, it's not Congress that is going to do anything — it's us. The same goes for every other attack waged by this administration.

This couldn't have been made more clear than during the massive ICE operation carried out in Minnesota last January. It wasn't the Democratic mayor of Minneapolis or the Democratic Governor that stood up to ICE terror in the streets. It was the massive, organized resistance of working people across the region. In neighborhood after neighborhood, ICE couldn't make a move without being monitored, followed, and confronted in the streets, which culminated in a day of mass strike involving over one hundred thousand people. That's where our real strength lies: in the collective, mass action of working people.

The Democrats certainly don't support many of the Trump administration's policies, but they represent the same system that defends the interests of billionaires and corporate profits over the interests of working people. In the face of all of these problems, no one, including the Democrats, is coming to save us. It's up to us.

These election results confirm that there is a widespread opposition to this administration and its attacks. Their world is not the world that most people want to live in, one that sacrifices the lives of ordinary people for the profits of the billionaire class. But to actually stand up to these attacks and to fight for a world that truly represents the interests of most people, this election is not enough. This will take a much bigger fight, one that relies on the collective organized power of working people. That is the struggle we still have to wage.