Speak Out Now at BART (November 4, 2026)

The Vote Is In

Voters across the Bay Area voted to approve the RTM, the Regional Tax Measure, to keep public transit in the Bay Area running. Instead of taxing the rich and their corporations, politicians put us in this situation to tax ourselves. This means our sales tax will increase a half-cent on the dollar.

This tax may raise as much as $1 billion a year. An estimated $310 million will go to BART. Who will decide how this money will be used? The way it is set up, the money will go to the same management. Why?

If doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result is a definition of insanity, then this is insane. Putting the same management in charge of these funds and expecting a different result makes no sense.

Oversight and Transparency

According to BART management, the amount of money to be received from the RTM will not be enough to address the current deficit. So, that means cuts - either cuts in services or cuts in personnel. Who will decide where the cuts will come from?

Will we see cuts from the party department or whatever it is called, that organizes things that, at most, 5000 people might participate in each year? With an average weekday ridership of more than 220,000, is that worth the time and effort?

There are more than enough things that BART can get good publicity out of: like adding extra trains for the celebration of the Valkyries, Bay to Breakers, New Year's Eve, and other big events. And getting people to Warriors games, music events, and gatherings where a drink or a joint or two can be involved is a great public service. People don't have to drive.

When people are trying to get to work, an event, or an appointment, they are looking for reliability, not a fun train system. That should be the focus.

So, before a nickel of this new money is spent, there should be real oversight and transparency of spending. An impartial accounting agency could be hired, paid for by the rich who didn't get taxed or the unions, and report to an oversight committee made up of front-line workers and passengers. Then real priorities could be established, and before there is a discussion of layoffs, an evaluation of who is necessary to OPERATIONS, and who isn't should be determined.

Pass this on or leave in in the break room

Who Decides?

BART keeps an accurate count of how many passengers enter and exit the stations and when. So, estimating the number of cars per consist (train) shouldn't be very difficult. So, why does it come as a surprise to Train Operators that they operate trains of different lengths at the same time during the week?

BART management has made a big deal out of saving money by running shorter trains, but sometimes passengers can almost feel like royalty, with a whole car to themselves. Who is making the decisions?

Fare Machines & Safety

What do malfunctioning fare machines have to do with Station Agent safety? Plenty! When the machine eats a person's money when they are trying to add fare, it can be a real problem, not just for the person who is now out $10 or $20 or more.

It can be a problem for the Station Agent, which can mean leaving the booth. And filling out paperwork for the loss is of no help at the moment, nor is writing a pass that isn't going to be any help on AC or MUNI.

THE UPRISING IN FRANCE



Students in working-class neighborhoods in France took to the streets to protest their crumbling schools and severe cuts to education. Their refusal to accept a life of poverty with no future has sparked a movement of hundreds of thousands – young and old – demanding a life of dignity with an end to the domination of the rich.

Join us for a discussion and hear about the movement firsthand from French activists.

Sunday, November 15 @ 12:00pm

(doors open at 11:45)

Niebyl Proctor Library

6501 Telegraph Ave • Oakland, CA

$5 donation requested, no one turned away

Can't join in person? Join on Zoom: tinyurl.com/SON-PM

Speak Out Now
November 3, 2026 @sonsocialists speakoutsocialists.org mail@speakoutsocialists.org (510) 343-9105

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.