Speak Out Now at Kaiser

A workplace newsletter for Bay Area Kaiser workers

November 5, 2026

BADGE READER ISSUE

Last Wednesday October 28th, the badge readers to open doors and closed access floors were not working at Kaiser Oakland. It was a bit of a kerfuffle to say the least.

When we first became aware of it, everyone was calling on Pharmacy to ask to bring down medications that were needed in a timely manner for patient care. When we understood it wasn't going to be fixed soon, management had us playing security to make sure people that entered the medication rooms were valid folks.

We had to call Engineering to use their keys to get us where we needed to go and had to use the patient visitor elevators for patient care. The situation was so serious that some engineers put in a 13-14 hour shift to help with the situation.

We all deserve a prize for getting our steps in since Kaiser loves to hear what we are doing to stay fit and not have us be patients one day.

"FUND THE HEALTHCARE, NOT THE BOMBS"

Last Tuesday, October 27th, CNA had a demonstration outside of the Kaiser headquarters in Oakland to uplift the ideas that working people want to continue to have a democratic political process.

The speakers highlighted the ongoing wars in Iran and on Gaza, the Trump administration's attacks on working people, and how the midterm election campaigns were mostly funded by billionaires and their friends.

Many organizations went out to support, there was a brass band, fresh tacos and agua's frescas, ice cream, chants and an action demonstration with lights connecting how the issues abroad and current attacks on working people have affected healthcare workers in the crowd. Some of us were able to connect with our coworkers and share a little bit of inspiration for what may come ahead.

VALKYRIES ARE WNBA CHAMPIONS!

What a story! Just in their second year of the franchise's existence, the Golden State Valkyries won the WNBA Championship. It's a testament to the Bay Area how quickly the Valkyries have become an electric team to follow. It's beautiful to see the way Kaiser employees and staff support the team and womens' sports. Hopefully some of us caught the parade too!

RADIOLOGY TECHS DISRESPECTED AND LAID OFF

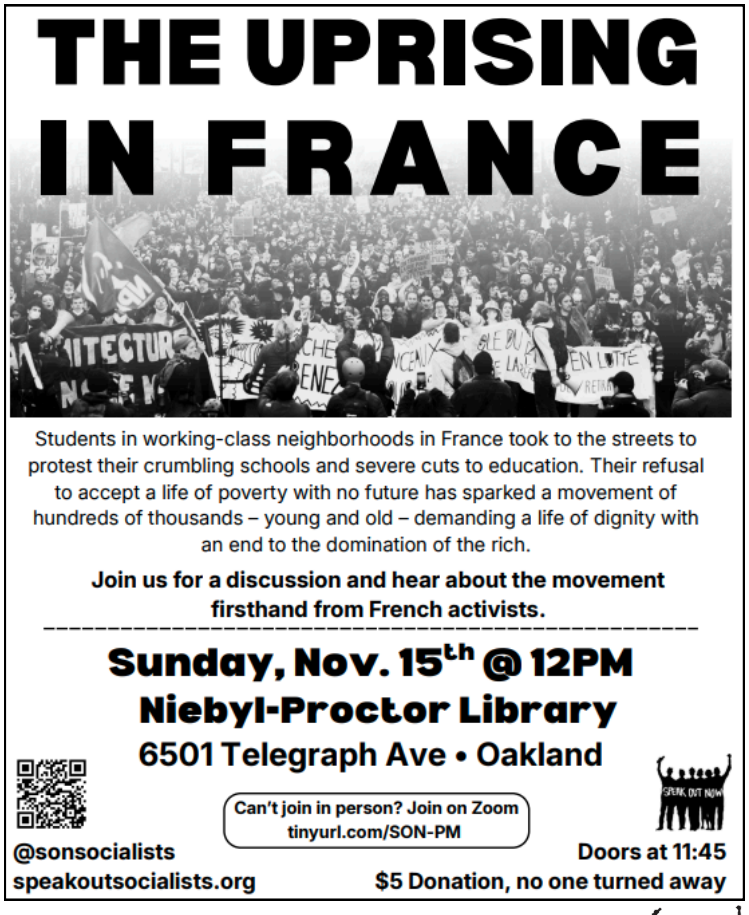
49 radiology techs from the float pool were given layoff notices in late October, and will be laid off December 12th. This is terrible right before the holidays.

These techs fill in and do a majority of the work across the Kaiser Northern California system. How is this going to work? How will this impact the workload for other workers and patient wait times? This is unacceptable!

HAVE YOU FOLLOWED THE MOVEMENT IN FRANCE? COME LEARN MORE

In the last 2 months, 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 on Sunday, November 15, at 12pm in Oakland for a discussion and hear about the movement firsthand from French activists.



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 is 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.