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The Election Showed People's Hopes, What Will It Take to Win Them?

The midterm elections showed that most people in the U.S. do not accept the chaos that Trump's policies have unleashed on our lives, from ICE terror, to skyrocketing prices, wars, corruption, and more. The message is unmistakable: people want change!

Overwhelmingly, people voted against the status quo. In fact, these were many of the same issues that pushed people to vote against the Democrats two years ago: skyrocketing prices, rising debt, ongoing wars and support of genocide, corruption, and a bunch of broken promises. Control of Congress has flipped in the past three midterms. And after each of these elections, the problems remain. The Democrats and Republicans don't have the exact same policies, but they both defend the same system, which is rigged against working people.

And people will keep voting against the party in power as long as things remain the same. This wasn't just a vote against all the attacks of the Trump administration. This was a vote for change, a hope for something better. People want to be able to afford their lives. Working people want time to spend with our families. We want an end to their ICE terror. We want an end to billions of tax dollars going to endless wars and genocide and billionaires. We want that money to pay for what we need: health care, housing, education, transit, and more. The wealth of this society is enormous and there is no reason workers should have to pay for the greed and destruction of this system.

But what has been the response of the Trump administration to this massive defeat in the elections? To double down on everything he has been doing! Trump announced that he is installing Stephen Miller as his Chief of Staff. Miller is the most far-right member of Trump's inner circle, the architect of Trump's policy of ICE terror. He set the ICE thugs loose on city streets to kill people with impunity and laid siege to entire cities. Miller has supported slashing funding for Medicaid, childcare and public schools. Miller will now coordinate policy for the whole government, including the largest military in the world. And Trump has repeatedly warned that he will veto any bill Congress passes that tries to stop his policies.

And within the Democratic Party, the current leaders of the party in Congress, Chuck Schumer and Hakeem Jeffries, are refusing to give way to younger and more progressive Democratic politicians. They are threatening the new Congresspeople that don't support them. These are the same politicians who have supported the genocide in Gaza, the war in Iran, and have offered only timid opposition to the massive expansion of ICE. And they are the same politicians that fully supported Joe Biden's agenda, which was so unpopular that it paved the way for Trump taking power two years ago.

The Democratic Party is not a force for change. Real social change has only come from powerful social movements. The ballot box can show what people want and what people are against. But it is not how we win.

It is only when masses of people have taken to the streets through strikes, sit-ins, protests, boycotts, and more that any significant social change has been won. In the past, these struggles made it impossible for business as usual to go on. It was only when the police couldn't stop these movements and politicians couldn't derail them that the government had no choice but to give in to some of their demands. It isn't the ballot box that makes history – but working people, leading our own struggles.

Both Democratic and Republican Party politicians are there to defend the power of the wealthy to control the wealth of society. They want to convince us that elections are the only things we can do to improve our situation. The Democrats will soon be telling us to wait until 2028 so they can control the Presidency. But they will never go against the power and wealth of those who rule over our society. That's who they defend.

The midterms showed us that the vast majority of working people want the same things. But now it is up to us to wage the struggles to bring those changes about. Our world holds enormous wealth, more than enough for everyone to live a decent life. But what stands in our way of getting what we want is a tiny class of parasites who grow richer every year, while plunging working people deeper into hardship. We don't have to accept any of this.

No matter what is happening in their game of politics and elections, the power to struggle for what we need is in our hands, any time we choose to use it along with the millions of others who suffer the same problems. We are the ones who do the work, and we shouldn't be waiting for them to solve the problems they created! Our labor keeps their system running, so we deserve to control how that wealth is used, and who it is used for. It is regular working people who bring about the changes we want, not the politicians.