



# Speak Out Now

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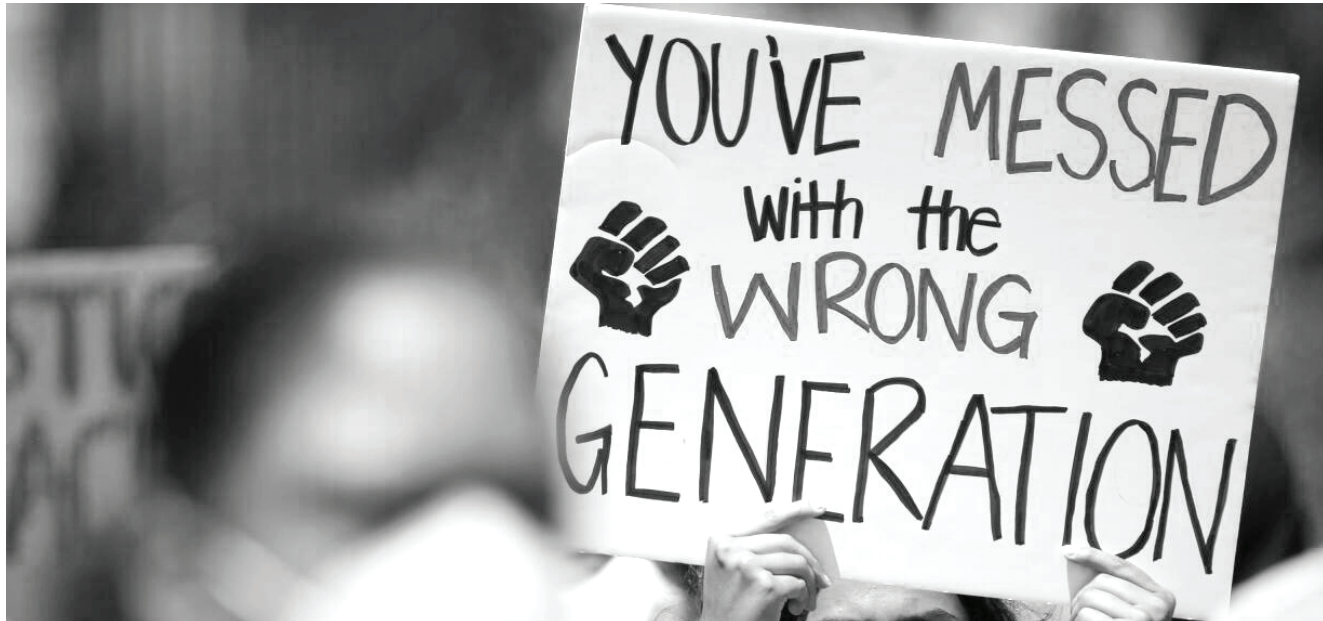
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## Elections 2024: We Need To Organize Our Forces

The November election is quickly approaching. Donald Trump and J.D. Vance for the Republicans will face off against Kamala Harris and Tim Walz for the Democrats. With all the issues facing us, and Trump's 2020 attempt to overturn the election, many are pinning their hopes and fears for the future on the outcome.

Trump and his allies have put forward terrifying perspectives, promising mass deportations of immigrants, further restrictions on access to abortion, more attacks on LGBTQ+ people, police crackdowns on protests, restructuring the civil service to be politically obedient to Trump, and massive tax cuts for the rich. The environmental protections that supposedly exist will be further gutted by an administration that denies global warming. And last but not least, with the world only a hair-trigger event away from a major war in Eastern Europe, Asia, or the Middle East, Trump's erratic, irrational behavior is risky to say the least. We can understand why some people would vote for Harris if only to stop him.

The Democrats, however, have brought us to this place. They have presided over massive inflation that has impacted the lives of most people, while the wealth accumulated by billionaires and their corporations has skyrocketed. In California and other states, they are using the recent Supreme Court decision to criminalize homelessness, harassing people with nowhere to go. They have governed the border with policies straight out of the Trump administration playbook, punishing migrants desperate to survive. Their environmental protections are insufficient to slow the global climate crisis. They have brought the world to the brink of war, supporting Israel's genocide against the Palestinians, and carried out military maneuvers in the South China Sea while continuing to arm Taiwan against China. Harris may pretend she is a



little different, appearing to distance herself from Israel's prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu. But she was Biden's vice president, and defended his policies in the Middle East.

As the Democrats try to win over more conservative voters, Harris continues to promise that the U.S. will never stop supporting and funding Israel. She has sworn to the big oil companies that she will never ban fracking. The Democratic convention featured speeches by prominent billionaires, while denying any Palestinians the right to speak. The Democrats have little to show for themselves, and are hoping that fear of Trump will be enough to get them elected.

We can understand why people might vote for Harris and Walz in order to try to stop Trump and Vance. We can also understand that some people might vote for Trump, attracted by how he seems to attack establishment politicians like Harris, and how he reminds people that the Democrats have been in office nearly 12 of the last 16 years, while people's lives have not gotten any better or have gotten worse.

Whatever the outcome, there will be a crisis in

November, especially as Trump and Vance promise not to accept the election results if they lose. But we don't have to accept these choices.

If we count on elections, we can't expect anything different than the downward spiral we've been living through. The Democrats promise to represent working families, while they openly defend the rich and powerful. And the Republicans use hate and fear of immigrants to try to weaken our forces by pitting us against each other.

Both parties represent the wealthy elite who fund them. Both parties manage a system that wrecks the planet, wages imperialist wars, and attacks immigrants and the poorest among us. With or without a second Trump administration, the far-right turn of the Republicans will continue, and the Democrats are powerless to stop it.

We can and must do better. We don't have to wait for elections. Regardless of who wins this November, we can organize ourselves, at work and in our communities, to demand wage increases, funding for schools and other things we need, as well as opposing their wars and their destruction of the Earth's environment.

## Only We Can Make the Changes We Need

In election years, many people ask themselves: what will this person or party do for me? Or, what will they do for our country? And political campaigns answer with a bunch of promises of things they probably will never do.

There are many things that we all need: jobs that pay a living wage; affordable quality housing; healthy food and clean water; guaranteed health care for everyone, including reproductive health care; quality education; freedom from violence; an end to wars; and much, much more.

But what stands in our way of achieving any of these is not the whims of some politician, but the very system of capitalism itself, which prioritizes profits over the lives of working people. We have only been able to win important concessions from this system when we fight for them.

This happened in the 1930s, when mass workers' movements and strikes forced President Roosevelt to implement reforms known as the New Deal. It happened in the 1960s and 1970s,

starting when masses of young people, women, Black people, Latinos and other people of color led movements that forced President Johnson to make reforms known as the Great Society. Even

In these cases, these reforms were passed only after mass social struggles in the form of strikes and mass protests challenged the business-as-usual of the capitalist system. To make their society governable again, these politicians were forced to make some changes.

They didn't make these changes because they wanted to. They made them because they were forced to — by the power of social movements coming from our workplaces and in the streets. When we've won social struggles, politicians often try to take credit for our victories. But we can't afford to be distracted by the fear-mongering and false promises of these elections. There is no need to line up behind the promises or the threats of any politician.

We don't need to settle for whatever crumbs they may throw our way. We are the majority. We make society run in every way imaginable. And we have the power to make the changes we need — not just to achieve small victories, but to change the whole system.



President Nixon was forced to give in to the pressure of social movements and create things like the Environmental Protection Agency and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

# The Democratic Party: Where Movements Go to Die

The Democratic Party tries to appear like the party of change and progress. But they've held the presidency for 12 of the last 16 years, and they've controlled many state and local governments for decades, overseeing the very policies that have brought us to this point. They sometimes pass small reforms, or give a sympathetic speech, but in the end, nothing really changes.

Whenever there are protests or social movements, the Democrats are there to tell people to stop protesting, to get out of the streets, and direct all of their energy back into the ballot box to get Democrats elected. Powerful and popular movements end up dead and buried and the Democrats stay in power. The Democratic Party is the graveyard of social movements.

When regular people were outraged that billions of dollars were being spent on wars, while we couldn't afford medical bills, presidential candidate Barack Obama told people to put that energy into getting him elected. And it worked, and the protests stopped. Then, as president, he increased the military budget and gave trillions of dollars to the banks as millions of people lost their homes. And he passed a healthcare bill that enriched medical and insurance companies, while

millions of people remained in medical debt.

It's the same strategy every time. Ever since *Roe v. Wade* was overturned, and there have been major protests, the Democrats have worked hard to channel that energy back into elections, telling people to vote for them, to donate to them, and that they will fix everything. But for years, Democrats promised they would pass legislation to make abortion access a federal law, and they never did. And now they are promising to do it again as we approach another election.

With the Black Lives Matter movements against police brutality, the Democrats promised all sorts of changes if they got reelected. But once they did, nothing changed, and the killing of Black people by the police has continued.

And they're using the same method today as hundreds of thousands of people have been demanding an end to Israel's genocide. Vice President Harris says that a vote for her is a vote for a ceasefire. But meanwhile her administration continues to provide Israel with the weapons to carry out this massacre.

And when the Democrats can't stop a movement by redirecting it back into the elections, they won't

hesitate to block it with violence and intimidation. At every level, from police commissioners to senators, Democratic politicians have been willing to suppress free speech, criminalize protests, and impose harsh sentences on those who speak out.

No matter their campaign speeches and their endless promises to fix things, like the Republicans, the Democrats defend the capitalist system, which is the cause of the problems we face.

## THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY: GRAVEYARD OF MOVEMENTS



# The Republican Party: Stoking Fear and Division

The Republican Party claims to represent working-class families, blaming Democratic Party elites and migrant workers for inflation, low wages, and any other problem facing workers. Especially since Trump, the Republican Party stokes racist fears of immigrants more brazenly than the Democrats. While the Democrats say voting for them will solve everything, the Republicans sow divisions in the population, pitting workers against each other using racism, sexism, and hatred against LGBTQ+ people and others.

Recently Trump and vice presidential candidate J.D. Vance have doubled down on their dangerous and debunked claims that legal immigrants, who have played by the capitalists' rules, are eating people's pets in Ohio. This is only inciting further violence against immigrants in many communities. Meanwhile, Republican governors are shipping immigrants to other states for political theater, and deporting thousands of immigrants fleeing political violence and environmental crises that

the U.S. government and the ruling class have helped create.

The Republicans have also packed the Supreme Court and lower courts to wage an unrelenting war against reproductive health care. By overturning *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court has ended federal protection of abortion and birth control and allowed state legislatures to cancel abortion access in nearly half the country, putting thousands of pregnant people's lives at risk. Many courts and state legislatures have banned gender-affirming care for youths in 26 states, and passed hundreds of anti-LGBTQ+ laws across the country.

The Republicans lead the charge to defund our libraries and schools, diverting public funds to religious private schools, banning books, censoring curricula, and firing teachers who teach about the history of racism in the U.S., LGBTQ+ identity, and other issues.

Republicans plan to use Project 2025 — a 922-page right-wing policy proposal — with plans to

strengthen the power of the presidency, pass a federal abortion ban, further erode labor rights, and more. Trump has continued to say he won't accept the election results if he loses. Republicans have organized to kick thousands of Black people off the voter roles in swing states like Georgia and Pennsylvania, and have strategically placed people in election posts with the power to block the certification of election results. They are preparing to contest the election and use the courts to try to put Trump in office to carry out their agenda.

The problem is deeper than Trump. The Republicans have continued their attacks on workers without Trump in office. By playing on people's anger and fears, they try to misdirect workers into attacking each other instead of the ruling class. Republicans, like the Democrats, will never represent the interests of working people — they only serve the rich capitalist elite, who profit off our hard work and misery.

### Where We Stand

The world we live in today is increasingly ruled by prejudice and fear, under a system of widespread violence and war, where exploitation and oppression are the rule, with the many dominated by the few. The name of this system is capitalism.

### The Force For Change Exists Today

Everywhere, working people's labor makes society run. Working people have the power to bring this system to a halt and bring about the changes needed. Like slavery, feudalism and other systems that enriched the minority at the expense of the majority, capitalism's removal is long overdue.

### We Stand For Socialism

- A world based on peaceful collaboration and international cooperation of working-class people – not the exploiters who rule today.
- The common ownership and sharing of the world's resources and

productive capacity.

- An egalitarian and democratic government, organized and controlled from the bottom up.
- Protection of the world's ecological systems, putting science to work to sustain life, not destroy it.
- A society where human relations are based on respect, equality and dignity of all peoples, not racism, sexism, homophobia, or other prejudices.

### Who We Are

We believe the international working class is the social force that can transform society and create a new world. But to do so, revolutionary organizations must be built in the working class. For this reason our group aims its activity primarily at workplaces, where struggles have the most potential to transform the world. Our newsletters are a tool to begin this work. What a handful of people decide today can determine our future. Join us to work for a better future – that is both necessary and possible.

**Get in touch with us if you want to fight for a better world.**

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