



# THE RED PHOENIX

NEWSPAPER OF THE AMERICAN PARTY OF LABOR

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ALL POWER TO  
THE WORKING  
PEOPLE!

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## AMERICAN JUSTICE IN CRISIS



## APL STATEMENT ON THE RITTENHOUSE RULING: ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!



Protesters with the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, November 21st, 2021

### Statement from the American Party of Labor, Nov 22, 2021

The American Party of Labor, alongside all progressive forces in the United States, condemns the outrageous acquittal of Kyle Rittenhouse for the murder of two people and the wounding of another fighting for justice in Kenosha, Wisconsin. The entire nation saw the open miscarriage of justice conducted by the Wisconsin courts, and the obvious bias of judge Bruce Schroeder, the face of calcified racist American "justice." The nationally broadcast bias was even picked up and discussed by the mainstream media, which for decades has been propagating the troubled, scared, and innocent white male killer mythology upon which Rittenhouse's defense rested.

The guilt of Rittenhouse is plain to see, and his comic crocodile tears in court stand in stark contrast to his murderous actions in Kenosha during protests against the police shooting of Jacob Blake. The anger of all progressive people in the United States in the wake of this ruling is justified, but as a party, and as diverse working class people in the United States, we refuse to fall, once again, into the trap of asking different levels of government for justice and protesting for a few weeks, only to retreat back into progressive circles afterwards. In sanctioning this rightist terror garbed as "vigilantism," the government has given a mandate, declaring open season on those who fight for justice – enough is enough!

Our response to the right-wing menace we face in the streets, now with legal backing, must, in turn, be more robust than petitions and marches in urban centers. Even the conviction of one fascist thug will not excise the rot of the capitalist system, the entire machine must be scrapped. To that end, we must assert popular demands to dissolve the corrupt judicial and legislative apparatus, resist the lure of ineffective half-measures, and build independent bodies of and by working people.

**PEACE, EQUALITY  
SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY &  
All Power  
To The  
Working  
People!**



**AMERICAN PARTY OF LABOR.COM**

It is only through the united, organized action of working, oppressed, and revolutionary-minded people that the fascist offensive can be reversed, contained, and destroyed.

**We support the right of all working class and oppressed people to train and defend themselves against fascist violence.**

**We demand the immediate disarming and banning of all fascist, racist, and white-nationalist organizations!**

**Fascists out!**

**¡Fuera fascistas!**

**There is no fascism without capitalism! Abolish the system that enables fascist vigilantism!**



## NOVEMBER 2ND ELECTIONS REVEAL INCREASING DISTRUST IN ELECTORAL SOLUTIONS

**By: Evan Nesbitt, Red Phoenix Correspondent Baltimore, Nov 7, 2021**

In the last week, several local elections have been held throughout the country that saw democrats pushed back in Virginia most notably, and in other elections across the country. In Seattle and New York City, "progressive" candidates saw defeats. The measure to defund the police in Minneapolis was also defeated. The mainstream press has exhausted itself wagging its finger at leftist, progressive sentiment in the country, touting the results of the November 2nd elections as a "return to normal" and a clear sign that the American people reject public disorder and the so-called Biden agenda, and its tepid calls for environmental reformism and basic social democratic measures it quickly abandoned when challenged in congress. The recent elections are not a mandate against radicalism, or a clear sign that the American people do not want things like universal healthcare and free community college education. It's a sign, once again, that workers are disenchanted with democratic compromise and failure.

The ballot measure in Minneapolis was one of the more radical things up for a vote in these latest elections. The Yes campaign of the measure proposed the aforementioned replacement of the Minneapolis Police Department with a civilian-controlled Department of Public Safety, and restricted the \$182,000,000 PD budget to an undetermined minimum. Last year, the city of Minneapolis only spent \$31,000,000 dollars on public housing in comparison to their outfitting of police departments with assault rifles and armored vehicles to overpolice those housing projects. The No campaign was supported by prominent local business interests and was accused of misrepresenting the proposal by the Yes campaign in its media. The final count revealed that 56% of the 143,000 voters voted down the measure. However, there are just under 300,000 Minneapolites of voting age as of the 2020 census, and so, less than half of the voting-age population turned out to vote for the proposal. Basic math shows that when less than half of the eligible population participate in the vote that the victory or defeat of this or that measure is not reflective of the interests of the majority of the populace. Yet again, establishment politicians will say "the people have spoken" while going out of their way to suppress the working class vote on a workday, Tuesday, November 2nd, when working class Americans are historically overworking in the midst of the "economic recovery."

No, as easy as it would be to consign these elections and their turnouts to the chaos of chance or to point the finger at this or that demographic, in the revolutionary sense, there is a singular trend apparent in every election, the lower and lower percentage of people turning out to vote.

In Seattle, moderate Bruce Harrell defeated progressive Lorena Gonzalez with 59.29% of the vote to her 40.41%. These results were particularly relished by corporate pundits given the intensity of the clashes between protestors and the police in the city, as well as Gonzalez's support for community control of the police and for defunding the SPD. A closer analysis of the election betrays an uncomfortable truth for those same reactionary and liberal pundits-of the 490,000 eligible voters in Seattle, just under 250,000 turned out to vote in this city-wide election. That is a turnout of only 51.01%. Similarly in the NYC mayoral race local moderate Democrat and former policeman Eric Adams made history in making himself the second black man to become the mayor of NYC. In New York City, where there are 4.9 million registered voters, no more than 1.2 million New Yorkers cast their vote in the Tuesday election, and of the 969,608 ballots cast in the mayoral election alone, a little more than 30% voted against the Democrat ticket. The overall turnout for all the offices up for grabs amounts to just 24%, this annoying little detail does not frustrate the Wall St. Journal from declaring that, although Mayor Adams will have a hard battle against progressives in his own party (clearly a decisive and clear victory for moderation), that he has a "clear mandate to do so." What a mandate to have less than a quarter of the city behind you!



An election worker counts ballots in Denver, Colorado

In Philadelphia, progressive Larry Krasner secured victory in the DA race which was pinned on the dreaded "woke, white college youth" of the city by media analysts. It's certainly a shame they couldn't turnout in Seattle and New York City, you know, Belltown and Williamsburg, places infamous for the absence of white college youth. No, as easy as it would be to consign these elections and their turnouts to the chaos of chance or to point the finger at this or that demographic, in the revolutionary sense, there is a singular trend apparent in every election, the lower and lower percentage of people turning out to vote.

In the aftermath of the 2020 US Presidential Election, Joe Biden made history by securing the largest popular vote of any candidate in history, but this is dimmed by the fact that his party still lost seats in the Senate and in the House, and only 65% of the eligible electorate turned out to vote overall. "Eligible" is the key word there, as 5.2 million adult Americans were disenfranchised by felony charges, a great many of those charges matched to the War on Drugs, at the same time, 3.5 million American citizens likewise cannot vote owing to the fact that they live in US "territories" that is over 8,800,000 Americans that cannot vote due to direct disenfranchisement and we cannot calculate how many millions more are disenfranchised indirectly by voter ID laws that add unnecessary time, red tape, and expenditures to the voting process that working class Americans do not have just to tick a box after standing in the line for far too long. What is also lost on the reformists and the Biden administration as it attempts to champion "democracy," is that Donald Trump lost the popular vote by a margin of over 3,000,000 votes in 2016 and still won, compare that to the coordinated sabotage of Bernie Sanders' primary bids in 2016 and 2020, one wonders what democracy these columnists are so proud of.

While the media tirelessly seeks to analyze the results of the election, and cynically devise the "pathways to power" through various demographics, they expose something important for working class activists in the US, the sheer lack of interest of working class people in US elections, in the wake of the George Floyd movement and the COVID-19 pandemic that saw the middle class shelter away and the working class thrown into the greatest danger. It is THIS reality, these trends and polls, this activity and independent organization that sends the capitalist press frantic in their drive to cast some kind of redeeming light, some form of validation for the system that built them up. The solution to the problems we face as a country will not be found in the ballot box or in the endless cycle of media analysis, but in revolutionary organization and working class solidarity, that slow, decades-long process by which the ruling class is challenged and swept aside. Our voices and truths, outside of media punditry, are the first weapons in that struggle.



**PEACE,  
EQUALITY,  
SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY**



## WORKING CLASS WOMEN IN TEXAS REJECT ANTI-ABORTION LAW



A pro-choice rally in Austin, August 2021

By: Ian Cox, Red Phoenix Correspondent Texas Sep 6, 2021

On September 1st the reactionary SB8 bill otherwise known as the “heartbeat law” that was passed by the Texas state congress in May of 2021 finally went into effect. SB8 is one of the most openly patriarchal attempts to repress women’s reproductive rights in the United States as it effectively bans all abortions to a six week time period, which for most women is not even long enough to know they are pregnant. Kendall Burran (22) a server from Lufkin, Texas said that “the six week time limitation on abortions is unrealistic and does not allow anyone enough time to handle an unwanted pregnancy. Most women would be four weeks pregnant before they miss their first period. Assuming they have regular cycles. That only leaves two weeks to legally end an unwanted pregnancy.” As a note, 85% of abortions performed in the state of Texas happen after the six week period allotted by SB8. Kendall continued by saying that “two weeks is not enough time for anyone to confirm the pregnancy, schedule an abortion, and save up or raise the \$300-\$800 for the procedure itself.”

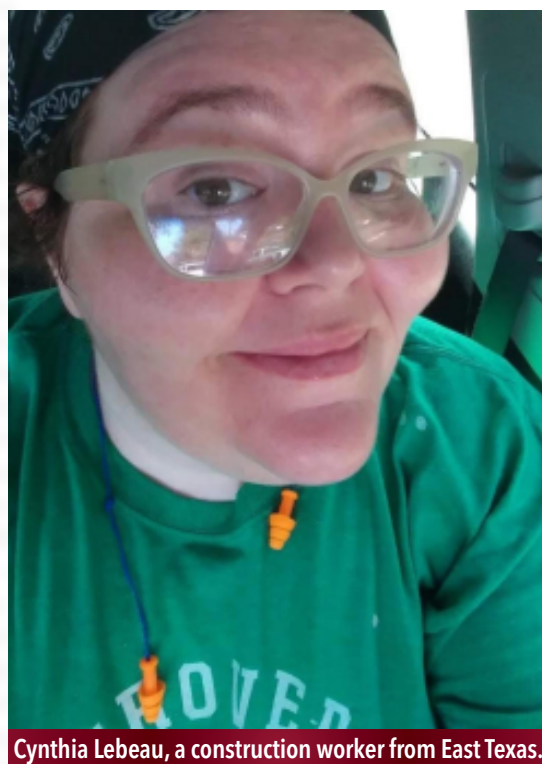
The attack on women from SB8 doesn’t stop there. As the bill is written it allows for “private civil citizens” to play the leading role in enforcing the legislation. This means that anyone in the state of Texas can sue any person seeking reproductive health rights within the state after the six week limitation has ended. Cynthia Lebeau (40) a construction worker from the East Texas area told the Phoenix, “any woman who obtains an abortion has to live in fear. This also means that women will have to live in fear of appearing to maybe have an abortion due to false allegations. Our neighbors should not be reporting other people’s health choices to the police.” Cynthia also stated that “women will not go to get prenatal services out of fear. Women will be afraid to go in for check-ups if they have managed to get an abortion after the six week period for fear of being found out and sued.”

Another damaging aspect of the reactionary SB8 law is its racist implications towards the oppressed nationalities that exist within the state of Texas; primarily the Chicano(a) and African-American communities who already suffer from a lack of medical resources in their communities. K.O. Ray (24) a bakery worker also from Lufkin, Texas said that “SB8 will make an already limited resource in our communities more difficult to find. With the systemic racism that exists in the US and especially in Texas people of color are likely going to be targeted more often” by the “private civil citizens” that are to play the leading role in this law’s enforcement.

And it doesn’t stop there. SB8 also allows for the prosecution of people who have “knowingly [engaged] in conduct that aids or abets the performance or inducing of an abortion” that is performed after the six week time limit. This includes people who might offer to help pay for the medical costs of the procedure or drive/taxi a patient to a clinic to have the procedure performed. This prosecution can occur “regardless of whether the person knew or should have known that an abortion would be performed or induced.” This line in SB8 exists for two reasons (a) to make women feel unsafe and isolated in asking for help in receiving their reproductive rights and (b) to scare people away from helping women in need for fear of being sued up to \$10,000.

Immediately after SB8 went into effect in Texas many liberals around the country including US President Joe Biden stated that the “law blatantly violates the constitutional rights established under Roe V. Wade” and that his administration is

“deeply committed to the constitutional rights established in Roe v. Wade” yet no bourgeois-liberal politician has offered any type of viable resistance to SB8 in Texas. Women are at this point left to bear the full weight of this repressive law and the struggle against it. Kendall Burran added that “SB8 was not created in a democratic fashion, if it was it would more accurately reflect the views and concerns of working class women here in Texas. Working



Cynthia Lebeau, a construction worker from East Texas.

class women want, need, and deserve affordable and accessible reproductive healthcare” and that “tons of people will have to stand up, speak up, and attend protests to make their voices against this law heard.”

The fact that SB8 passed against the will of most poor and working class women and went almost unopposed by liberal politicians makes it more than clear that the bourgeois-democratic system that represents the capitalist class here in Texas and the US for that matter has no interest in ending the real struggles women face or aiding women in their struggle for reproductive rights as capitalism itself is intrinsically tied to the exploitation and oppression of women. It will take mass women’s movements, grassroots organizing, and a real systemic overhaul that capitalism cannot handle to solve the issues women face. For now though, women in Texas are left with few optimal choices other than struggling to end the repressive measures enacted by SB8. Any and all progressive and revolutionary forces in Texas and the US need to be standing in solidarity with the struggle of working women in Texas as they fight for liberation and the freedom to control their own bodies.



## STRIKETOBER 2021: ANOTHER CHAPTER IN THE US LABOR STRUGGLE



Workers at a Kellogg's plant in Battle Creek, Michigan. The Kellogg's strike was one of many notable strikes in October which inspired the term "Striketober."

**By: Bobby Gallagher, Red Phoenix Correspondent Ohio, Oct 30, 2021**

*Bobby Gallagher is a union organizer and member from Youngstown, Ohio, and member of the American Party of Labor's Labor Commission.*

Though the October strikes that garnered national and international media attention were not the largest strikes the country has seen even in recent years, and despite 2020 national union membership accounting for only 10.8% of the work force, #striketober showed that labor still stands on its feet to fight here in the belly of the beast. Across all industries, workers are standing up together to fight for living wages, fair benefits, and better conditions. Organization efforts at workplaces across the country continue to struggle against resistance from employers and capitalists. Multiple large companies have faced strikes after extending unacceptable contracts to workers. Historically, organized labor has been one of the greatest sources of power for workers, and today the U.S. labor movement is once again becoming militant in their tactics and taking a leading role. As capitalism rots, organized labor will have to continue its struggle and wield its power for gains in more than just the workplace.

One of the foremost challenges to organized labor is the simple lack of access to it. Without a union to represent the collective interest of the workers,

a disorganized workplace can not effectively wield its power. But there must be efforts to rebuild the collective hammer of organized labor. From small business owners to the ultra-rich, capitalists are conscious of the threat unions pose to their ability to exploit the working class for profit. At Starbucks in Buffalo, NY, corporate stooges were sent in when organization efforts took off. Though the executives claim that they were sent to supervise a hastily announced remodel, meetings filled with anti-union propaganda are held during shop closures. However, the NLRB has ruled in favor of the workers, and 3 Buffalo Starbucks stores will vote to unionize. The votes will be counted December 9th. Whether efforts are successful or not, they stand as examples for workers to follow. The workers involved at Starbucks have faced such intense harassment from corporate union-busters that some workers left meetings shaking. But despite that, these amazing organizers and workers continue the struggle, toe to toe against the capitalists.

As workers have struggled to be represented by unions, organized labor has flexed its muscle across multiple industries. Unions are aided by nationwide and local support and are enabled to strike for better conditions. Strikes have continued to go on, with another Kaiser Permanente location authorizing a strike, and teachers in Coshocton, Ohio are threatening a strike. With the current

strikes, there is an air of solidarity among working class people across the country. Many strike funds are healthy, and many workers have been holding the line for weeks through bitter weather and resistance from employers. They give a great example, one which will hopefully be followed and built upon as we continue. The actions mentioned are just a small portion of those currently being waged, with action also taking place at John Deere and Kellogg's plants as well.

Electoral politics has failed to represent workers interests nationwide. Still, workers must realize the power that withholding their labor has. Not only can it win gains in the workplace, but it can pressure the state for political change. All over the world, workers are standing up and must continue to stand up. Organization efforts and direct action can usher in a new era of American workers' power. All American workers can unite in this struggle and include many more in the future. All workers have a part to play, as we struggle for a better world. Too often the US left has balked to engage or enter into labor struggles, because of the notion that they are moderate or impotent. It falls to us, radical working class people, to change that. Organized labor holds one of the keys to that better world—support organized labor in their struggle! Their struggle is ours!



# APL LABOR COMMISSION: AN AUTHENTIC LABOR MOVEMENT CANNOT BE BUSTED BY CORPORATIONS



**From the APL Labor Commission, Nov 30, 2021**

On November 29th, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) ordered a new vote for the Amazon workers of Bessemer, Alabama after finding that Amazon employed illegal union-busting methods to successfully undermine the union drive. From 2016 to 2017, 41.5% of union drives collapsed under illegal anti-union measures from their employer company.

Despite being one of the largest and most high-profile companies to have been exposed in union-busting, Amazon continues to claim that all workers are free to join a union.

A decisive victory was claimed by Amazon in the defeat of the unionization efforts in April, despite the 56.2% (3,264 workers) who did not vote. As soon as April 29th, objections were filed regarding Amazon's conduct during the elections, such as indications of surveillance of the ballot box, and putting a mailbox in the parking lot of the site after the ballots were being cast elsewhere. Littler Mendelson, one of many anti-union legal firms, is contracted by Amazon to produce copy-and-paste statements and provide legal consultation for discouraging union organizers, is also working for Starbucks where three of its branches in Buffalo, NY are attempting to unionize, and are currently in the

"The most exploited workers in the United States must organize, must demand the improvement of their worsening conditions, so that if nothing else, they establish connections with other workers, expose the real character of their employers and become more acutely aware of the class struggle inherent to their lives."

voting process.

Retail employees in the United States who have not received hazard pay, the proper protective wear, paid sick leave or adequate benefits are seeing that the practices and pay of multi-billion dollar companies are too appalling to accept. By October, an additional five million service employees had exited the workforce. The reality is that the United States is undergoing an unofficial, unorganized labor boycott. People can see that union workers have a greater collective voice in the workplace, are paid more, cannot be fired at will, and receive qualitative benefits and time off. The workers are pursuing just those interests of their class when they organize and strike and win major concessions in John Deere, Nabisco, and the nurses of Kaiser Permanente, despite significant numbers

of those involved not wanting to compromise for too little and hold out even longer. Even after Bessemer, the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store union reported over 1,000 employees in Amazon plants nationwide contacted them about union drives at their locations.

The number of workers that have left the workforce altogether and the union members who have favored continuing the strikes for better contracts, indicate an understanding from the working class that the meager concessions to unions are not enough. However, the most exploited workers in the United States must organize, must demand the improvement of their worsening conditions, so that if nothing else, they establish connections with other workers, expose the real character of their employers and become more acutely aware of the class struggle inherent to their lives. The Labor Commission of the American Party of Labor supports the unionization drives in Bessemer and Buffalo, encourages the workers of Amazon and Starbucks to beware any attempts of corporate sabotage and defends the right of all workers to freely associate.

**To join our commissions, visit here:**

**Or visit the APL website at:**  
<https://www.americanpartyoflabor.com/join-the-apl>



**Don't Wait! Join Today!**  
**Only the People Liberate Themselves!**

## APL LGBTQIA+ COMMISSION: VIGILANCE AGAINST THE VANGUARD OF REACTION!

By the APL LGBTQIA+ Commission, Oct 04, 2021

In September of 2021, the State Legislature of Texas attempted to pass some 40 bills attacking the health and privacy of transgender youth. With bills attacking, in particular, the ability of trans youth to access healthcare, declaring initiatives such as HRT, hormone suppressors, and gender reassignment surgery to be "child abuse". Curiously the Legislature does not keep these scruples of the well-being of children, as it prohibits trans students from participating in public school extracurricular sports, and forces them to play in the teams and activities according to the gender on their birth certificate, and not as such they identify as. One Senator (Swanson) has attempted six times in this session to pass legislation of state preemption on nondiscrimination clauses for LGBTQ people in matters of employment, housing and public accommodation. This contradicts the will of 70% of Texans who support protections against discrimination for LGBTQ people according to the Public Religion Research Institute. Some bills also propose "religious exemption" from marriage ceremonies of same-sex couples. There has even been a proposed bill to criminalize positive HIV status. These bills are joined by Senate Bill 8, a passed bill which is perhaps the furthest reaching ban on abortions that does not even include exemptions for rape and incest for those women seeking contraceptive options.

The LGBTQ Committee of the American Party of Labor resolutely condemns the abhorrent attacks

on civil liberties on sections of the masses of the people and applauds the defeat of the predatory transphobic and homophobic bills in the state legislature. They are denounced as denying vital healthcare to young transgender people in Texas and open wide the doors for discrimination and social cannibalism against intersex students in extracurriculars and even cisgender, heterosexual students for simply wearing nail polish and gender nonconforming people generally.

As Marxist-Leninists we reaffirm the demand to protect the individual liberties, health (physical and mental), and safety of transgender youth and queer people generally. We condemn this chauvinistic attitude of the state legislature and expose it as hypocritical that the reactionary dotards squawk incessantly of "liberty and personal freedom" against public measures to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, including the absence of mask and vaccine mandates, and suing local governments for passing such mandates, and yet they enjoin in such frenzied and baseless attacks on the civil liberties of LGBTQ people and women. The undemocratic rags that are the desire of the Austin abominations in the legislature and of Governor Abbott do not represent the will of the people of Texas, it serves only to divide the people, to excuse their criminal neglect in the face of the COVID pandemic and pander to reactionary sentiment as validation of the wretched, rotting system that keeps them and their capitalist pimps in plume. SB-8 is already being challenged before federal courts and public

pressure ensured the defeat or paralyzation of the anti-LGBTQ bills. **THIS. IS. NOT. ENOUGH.** These laws must not even be conceivable and the people, the proletariat, that class to which most queer folk belong to, must remain vigilant, not only in Texas, but in every state where the bourgeoisie lean on social chauvinism to save themselves and their system, a system that must be exploded so that all working people can live in freedom, health, and the full expression of all they have to give the world.

Until this system is destroyed, however, it falls on us to let our discontent be known to the monsters who decide our law. It falls on us to show the world our anger in the face of these bills, and even the reality that they would be considered. It falls on us to dismantle this system, because as it stands, those who control it now would see you or the queer folk in your community that you love be husks of their true selves. For you and your class's sake, the LGBTQ+ commission of the American Party of Labor, and the APL at large, calls on you to demonstrate your discontent.



## NAARPR: AHMAUD ARBERY: A PEOPLE'S VICTORY FROM THE PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT!



Statement  
released on Arbery's verdict by NAARPR  
Executive Director Frank Chapman:

"We agree that the murder of Ahmaud Arbery was a 'modern day lynching.' We stand united with the Arbery family and our community in their demands for justice. The lynching of a Black man by white supremacists was on trial and in a very real sense this was a people's victory brought about by the people's movement. The jury finding all the perpetrators guilty of murder was a people's victory. It was not proof that the system works.

What we need to focus is that the struggle works and that when we fight, we can win. The verdict was a people's victory despite the fact that originally a racist prosecutor refused to prosecute this case; despite defense counsel's use of blatant racist appeals to the jury of eleven white people and one Black person; despite all this the jury found

these white supremacists' murderers guilty.

As freedom fighters in the struggle against racist and political repression we celebrate what happened in Georgia, a deep South former slave state. And yet this is but a small step in a country which has consistently refused to pass an anti-lynching law for the last hundred years, as U.S. Congress which even now is sitting in silence on the George Floyd bill and the John Lewis Voting Rights bill. We must continue to fight for justice and equality because the verdict of guilty in Georgia stands in the shadow of the Rittenhouse acquittal and leaves a white supremacist social order rooted in slavery and genocide in tack."

-Executive Director, Frank Chapman. National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, Nov 29, 2021



# FROM THE APL WOMEN'S COMMISSION: COVID-19 AND PREGNANCY

**A Report by the American Party of Labor - Women's Commission, Sep 22, 2021**

To learn more about joining Commissions of the American Party of Labor visit the APL website at [AmericanPartyOfLabor.Com](https://AmericanPartyOfLabor.Com)

## Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way we think about our personal health and safety. Research articles into the acute effects of COVID-19 are coming out every month, and new investigatory focus has largely shifted to the long-term effects of COVID-19 infection. However, a large gap in the literature remains: impact of COVID-19 infection on pregnant people. This gap includes best practices in perinatal and postnatal care for mothers infected with COVID-19. This report aims to provide general health and safety information on COVID-19 infection for pregnant people, as well as resources and legislation that may help in managing the financial aspects of COVID-19 infection.

## Health & Safety

The CDC reports <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/pregnancy.html> "pregnant and recently pregnant people are at an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19—including illness that requires hospitalization, intensive care, or a ventilator or special equipment to breathe, or results in death—compared with nonpregnant people. Additionally, pregnant people with COVID-19 are at increased risk for preterm birth and might be at increased risk for other poor pregnancy outcomes." It is recommended that all people over age 12 receive the COVID-19 vaccine, including people who are pregnant or breastfeeding. There have been almost zero cases of COVID-19 infection with severe symptoms amongst vaccinated pregnant women.

Though the COVID-19 vaccine itself cannot penetrate the placenta, newborn infants may still receive COVID-19 antibodies through either antibodies that have traveled through the placenta or the vaccinated parent's breast milk. Children under age two cannot receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

Fortunately, it is very difficult (<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/COVID-19/Pages/Having-a-Baby-While-Positive-For-COVID-19.aspx>) to transmit COVID-19 to a newborn infant, even if the mother is carrying the virus and/or unvaccinated. In the known cases where infants have contracted COVID-19, only one case did not recover.

COVID-19 infection is far more dangerous for the pregnant parent than it is for the infant, especially if the pregnant parent is unvaccinated. There have been many heart-breaking stories (<https://www.kxan.com/investigations/pregnant-texas-mom-on-oxygen-months-after-covid-19-battle-had-i-gotten-vaccinated-i-wouldnt-be-in-this-position/>) about the severe symptoms faced by unvaccinated pregnant people who contract COVID-19, including weeks-long hospital stays and pregnancy complications (<https://www.newsweek.com/unvaccinated-21-year-old-woman-emergency-c-section-catching-covid-grayson-bakes-utah-1619095>).

Data on birth and infant outcomes from mothers with COVID-19 can be found at this url <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#pregnant-birth-infant>.

## Hospital Protocols

When pregnant parents are admitted to the hospital to give birth, they receive a rapid COVID-19 test regardless of vaccination status. Those who test positive are placed in isolation rooms, either in the ICU or elsewhere depending on hospital room availability. Though the isolation rooms maintain full COVID protocol, partners may still be present for the birth. After birth, parent and baby remain in the hospital for at least two days where they are re-tested and monitored for symptoms. If both appear healthy, they are released and

instructed to quarantine for two weeks.

## Legislation

On the federal level, maternity needs during the pandemic have only been minimally addressed by our legislative leaders. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) required some employers to provide paid sick leave or family and medical leave specifically related to COVID-19, which included extending these types of leave to workers who were unable to find childcare for their minor dependents. However these provisions expired after December 31, 2020, and have yet to be renewed or extended.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 provided additional employer tax credits for paid leave that employers voluntarily provided to their employees, but only through March 31, 2021. This bill did not place any requirements on employers to participate. It did, at least, provision funds for maternal care for patients within the Indian Health Services through September 30, 2022. But ever since April of this year, there have been no additional protections for workers who are pregnant or who are on parental leave, regardless of the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic has continued to ravage the workforce nationwide. Although some states have enacted their own laws to provide resources for employers and employees, the need for federal legislation is clearly evidenced by the number of workers who are still falling through the cracks and struggling to survive after losing wages, housing, and health coverage.

## Resources & Support

If you are pregnant and test positive for COVID-19, seek non-emergency medical attention as soon as possible. Inform your obstetrician/gynecologist about any current or prior COVID-19 infections so they may better monitor the health of you and your child.

There are many federal social programs you may be eligible for. The Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Families, and Children (WIC) <https://www.fns.usda.gov/wic> is currently providing additional resources for families affected by COVID-19. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/> supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program is also available. When speaking with an eligibility consultant, be sure to ask if you are eligible for any other programs.

Head Start services is a special federal child care program for children between ages 3 and 5 with varying needs. Locate more child care opportunities at <https://childcare.gov/>.

Information regarding COVID-19 and pregnancy, as well as links to online support groups can be found at this url <https://everymothercounts.org/covid-resource-hub/>.

Please contact your local city/state/tribal health department for latest information about safety precautions/regulations as well as community resources.





## GENDER, GENDER ROLES, AND THE UNITY OF THE WORKING CLASS [1/2]

**By The APL LGBTQIA+ Commission, Dec 11, 2021**

To find out more and learn how to join the American Party of Labor's organizing commissions please visit: <https://www.americanpartyoflabor.com/join-the-apl>.

"Marxist-Leninists are not conservatives. On the contrary, they are the most progressive of people. Resolute fighters against all that is backward and outdated." -Enver Hoxha

There is an absence of principled, Marxist-Leninist analysis on gender, gender norms and sex in the present discourse, even as LGBTQ+ movements take leading roles against emergent fascist movements. This has damaging implications for the communist movement at large, creating a vacuum where all manner of reactionary ideas come to the fore, and distorts the dialectical materialist and revolutionary class conception of these scientific, social structures. To that end, it's necessary to put forth a scientifically socialist analysis on biological sex, gender identity, and gender norms throughout the productive stages of history, their differences and the necessity to expose reactionary ideology posing as communism that would divide the working class movement. The American Party of Labor stresses the importance of solidarity and unity of all strata of the working class, building towards a mass movement which alone can resolve the crises of capitalism.

In the vein of these "revolutionary" distortions, similar to the vulgar, reactionary analysis of gender, gender roles and biological sex, it is essential to establish the lines of separation for each on the basis of dialectical and historical materialism. In a broad sense, sex can be defined by the biological assignment of ones reproductive and observable characteristics at birth, assignments which are not binary (either male or female) and include a variety of attributes, such as those assigned male at birth, those assigned female at birth, and intersex individuals with varying observable characteristics. Before we define gender identity and gender roles, we need to first understand the historical context of gender.

In prior stages of human development, with a more or less undeveloped understanding of science, these societies tended to assert moral idealism dependent on the establishment of social concepts such as gender identity and roles stemming from a rudimentary grasp on sex. Upholding these assertions reinforces the dominant class ideology of a given time. In slave society, the patriarchy emerged alongside private property rights and the enslavement of individuals as a means of social control, alongside the submission of women to control the inheritance of the established property



Members of the APL march on May Day, Chicago, IL

and the defense of social privileges.

Exploring this scientific development, as matriarchal society was succeeded by patriarchal society, from prehistoric humanity moving into slave society, Engels wrote in his work, *Origins of the Family, Private Property, and the State*:

"Mother-right has given way to father-right; increasing private wealth has thus made its first breach in the gentile constitution. A second breach followed naturally from the first. After the introduction of father-right the property of a rich heiress would have passed to her husband and thus into another gens ["a gen" to mean "a family"] on her marriage, but the foundation of all gentile law was now violated and in such a case the girl was not only permitted but ordered to marry within the gens, in order that her property should be retained for the gens."

Everything is fluid, everything changes. This is the dialectical understanding of society. It begins with accepting that social conventions serve a given historical stage of human development, reflecting the understanding and prejudices of the ruling classes of each stage, utilized to their service. The societal development of different peoples around the world contrasted heavily from the strict individualism of the European ruling class. From the European accounts of the enslavement of African peoples and the colonization of the Americas, we can see that the European imperialists were dumbfounded at the self-determination of the women, the state of the family, and the absence of organized religion. Father Lallemant commented on the Wendats in 1644:

"I do not believe that there is any people on earth freer than they, and less able to allow the subjugation of their wills to any power whatever – so much so that Fathers here have no control over their children, or Captains over their subjects, or the Laws of the country over any of them, except in so far as each is pleased to submit to them" (*The Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents*, Volume 28, Page 47).

Obviously, in the overarching sense, the culture of the empire uprooted the domestic and implanted itself in foreign soil to serve its role as the tried and true method of social control. Which led to, among other factors, the establishment of a global structure of imperialist domination and the successful birth of the capitalist system. From the conception of gender and subsequent development of roles as a measure of social domination, the changes and growth from one societal stage to another exposes the separation of gender from biological sex, as well as a more expansive and nuanced reality pertaining to gender.

Gender identity is understood as one's internal alignment or relationship with gender as a cultural concept, whereas gender expression describes one's outward gendered presentation. Gender roles are those cultural expectations of performance and the responsibilities assigned to particular genders, such as men being providers and women being housekeepers. As our understanding of gender grows, so too does our critique of gender norms.

(continued on page 10)



## GENDER, GENDER ROLES, AND THE UNITY OF THE WORKING CLASS [2/2]

(continued from page 9)



**Non-conforming** people, in capitalist society, drenched as it is in layers of austerity and exploitation, are obstructed from pursuing corrective measures for the reassignment of their gender such as hormone replacement therapy and reassignment surgery. These affirming treatments are held hostage by for-profit, overly expensive healthcare plans—an obstruction worsened by the discrimination that non-conforming individuals face today in employment, housing and credit, buttressing the “normal” exploitation of all wage workers. This is accompanied by the no-less insidious degree of hate crimes and domestic abuse that exist for non-conforming people, in particular youth, in today’s decaying cultural landscape of individualism and ignorance permeated by endless distortions of non-conforming people in capitalist press, media, platforms. This is a political and ideological stance shared even by some so-called “revolutionary” and “progressive” forces as the transphobic-dominated activist groups and parties.

In all progress, small evolutionary changes precede societal revolutionary upheavals. It is from this we can observe the challenging of gender norms even in the backwards cultures of feudalism from individuals such as Joan of Arc and the challenging of gender identity itself from high-profile cases such as that of Eleanor Ryekener, a trans woman persecuted in the late 14th century in England. Put simply, in times of crisis, the labor and initiative of women was exploited even by the feudal nobility. Of course, in the case of Joan of Arc, her tactical mind and patriotic initiative was recognized and used by French nobility during the Hundred Years

War, and disposed of thereafter in Joan’s execution for “heresy” – that is, her donning of men’s clothing to escape sexual violence from clergymen.

To ensure the defense of the gender roles of the time of the ruling man over the submissive woman, any challenge to the crudely-understood gender identities of feudalism threatened the legitimacy of the rulers – so then all instances of open or outed non-cisgender identity was viciously prosecuted in Medieval European society, as seen in the case of Eleanor Ryekener. That was the system of small-holding peasants—in this late day of capitalism, all persons find themselves either wage slaves to the monopoly capitalists or in mortal peril of becoming one. In this culture, the validity of patriarchal gender norms has no base. Heightened scientific understanding allows for correction of gender identity for gender-queer individuals—the proletariat has no use for the rigid and rusted notions imposed by the European aristocracy and bastardized by the genocidal capitalist class on a world just as diverse as it is exploited.

In the same way as the capitalist must obscure, invent and dissuade the workers from economic and political education for their own survival, so too do they vest their interest in the creation of artificial divisions in the working class by promoting superstition and dismissing the validity of genderqueer people, the vast majority of which are proletarian. The liberation of the proletariat therefore is married to the liberation of women, from the gender norms co-opted by capitalism from feudalism, and to the liberation of all society from the prejudices derived from misunderstandings of gender, race, and class. Only the united working-class has historically proven triumphant. In the same sense as the class struggle under capitalism is simplified, so is the association of the laboring class on an intersectional basis – a peasant tied to his land in Holland might not even have had awareness of transgender identity, while a steel-worker in Pittsburgh can watch a speech of a trans rights activist on their smart phone at his lunch break. This is not to hint at the “superiority” of the capitalist system or to dismiss the fact that prejudices take time to break down, but assert instead that capitalism begins digging its own grave by educating and linking together those it enslaves.

On the other side, the strawman of the ignorance

fanned by capitalist pundits and politicians, are the performatively liberal “activists” that bring race, gender and gender norms to the spotlight, while excluding class. This puts the discourse in the awkward position of radical liberals supporting Pete Buttigieg on the virtue of his gay identity, who coasted through the last primary on electoral “irregularities” and promised nothing of substantive change to a nation in the midst of the capitalist crisis. We can not abide our racial, gender, and sexual identities to become a tool of the ruling class to permit and ensure its domination over all workers, world-wide. No, a scientific understanding is needed that touches on the nuances and connectedness of each – of class, of gender and of race – building a proletarian intersectionality that does not hold any identity over the other in importance. A revolutionary must not heed the wicked hucksters who divide the working class by demanding either the dismissal of the class struggle, or the abandonment of whole strata of the revolutionary proletariat.

Sadly, we must admit that in certain sectors of the “Marxist-Leninist” and working class movement a reactionary bourgeois position on the questions of biological sex, gender identity, gender norms, and gender roles has developed in the absence of an in-depth materialist study of these issues. These reactionary sections of the working class movement idealistically push the modern bourgeois and eurocentric understanding of gender as a metaphysical truth, ignoring the vastly different historical stages of development gender has gone through and is going through, often times claiming that gender-queer people are “idealists,” trying to “bend reality to their will.”

Nothing could be further from the truth. Any given person’s expression or outward presentation of their gender may not conform with the social expectations of their gender. The social consciousness of individuals, stemming from their social being, establishes that their consciousness too, is materialist in essence, expressed in performance and perspective. They also ignore the vast cultural differences in gender roles, norms, and identities that have developed in a nonhomogeneous fashion historically and globally. In essence, these backward sections of the working class, “Marxist-Leninist” movement serve the reactionary, trans-exclusionary idealists by pushing the same metaphysical understanding of gender onto the masses of exploited people. It is the working class who do not benefit in any way from the continuation of these constructs or in the artificial, cannibalistic division of their own class to the undisturbed rule of the capitalists that does not discriminate in its exploitation of all producers.



## **DESPAIR WILL BE ENDED ONLY BY THE BROADEST UNITY OF THE PEOPLE!**

**By Louie B. Parker, Dec 12, 2021**

No matter what characterizes the January 6th events, it was clear that the Jan. 6 will be utilized as a platform for more attacks on socialist, anarchist and progressive activists, oppressed nationalities, women, LGBTQ+ communities, and the working class in general. It has reached the point in which, today, we have larger police budgets, a general crusade on so-called "wokeness," aimed not only at radical liberal activists, but at newly forming movements out of the George Floyd movement, and general socio-economic and political dissent.

In this context the verdict over Kyle Rittenhouse shows (as the families of victims and everyone else openly sees) that the judiciary may allow radicalized right-wing people, fascists or religious fanatics to hunt people who protest on the streets. This verdict may have the same effect that the Charlottesville attack had. Therefore, it has to be responded by the masses of youth and working class in the same way the Charlottesville attack was responded. Remember how country-wide protests sparked at that time. Even then, there were countless fascist massacres and raids on oppressed races, nationalities, ethnicities and religious communities.

The reaction to the verdict will determine what is going to be at the next level. Because fascistic networks are not organizing secretly anymore. Unfortunately, they are much more open and confident. It is going to be a new step in their murderous carrier path. Historically, the Jan. 6 raid was a heads-up for this movement to tell the capital "I am here for you."

That is to say; we have a raging monster which's rope loosened a bit more in the era of Trump. So what then? Because it keeps happening. The fascist movement is nothing without the support of capitalists and their state. While we are chasing the monster, we have to see what/who encourages it, the same forces that transform babies into fascist monsters. This perspective must push us towards organizing and uniting the advanced forces of peace, labor, and democracy under the leadership of the working class.

However, the verdict of Ahmed Arbery demonstrates if people stand united they can succeed in bringing justice. The mass media presented it as the US justice system acting according to the objective values of the judicial processes. And how about the many black and brown people shot to death with no justice? Hence, the Arbery verdict is a result of peoples' cooperation and united struggle. One should not forget that when the verdict of Rittenhouse is the US administration with all their bourgeois rotten institutions showing its club to general peoples' struggles, the Arbery verdict is an expression of their fear from people.

Comrades, the clouds of despair and hopelessness may only be resolved by the unity of working class and peoples' movements. In order to fight against the fascist's monstrous ideas, conscious of them and the enabler state and law enforcement, we have to build the broadest unities in every local based around the demands that has been shaped during the George Floyd protests. The most important of these are defund the police, and distribute public services. Besides that, specifically police unions and law enforcement in general have to be investigated in every local by the unified group composed of workers' unions, public leaders, journalists, and lawyers. Because the Jan. 6 investigation showed us again that white supremacist networks have more place in the law enforcement than one may expect.

**Let's organize every local a place to condemn this shameful verdict. Fascist paramilitaries and their enablers are afraid of nothing, but the people's justice.**

## **PRIMER: THE DEBT CEILING, ITS HISTORY, AND ITS CONSEQUENCES IF IGNORED**



**By Andrew E. Oct 9, 2021**

*Andrew E. is an economics student in Massachusetts, and member of the American Party of Labor.*

The debt ceiling is, in essence, a limit for the U.S. Department of the Treasury's borrowing agreed upon by the U.S. Congress. Before the debt ceiling, congress would have to authorize every individual instance of borrowing the Treasury did. As the United States was preparing to get involved in World War I, Congress decided that it would be best to authorize the Treasury to borrow on its own, so long as they don't go above a that agreed limit, or ceiling. The debt ceiling originally separated between types of borrowing, such as bonds or bills, but then later in 1939, the ceiling was expanded to all means of the Treasury's borrowing. So the debt ceiling as we currently know it is born.

Recently, the Treasury had announced that they've been using "extraordinary measures" to keep borrowing below that limit, and that their figurative tightrope would snap on October 18th. This means that on the 18th, the Treasury will have to start prioritizing certain payments, and may be unable to fulfill some previously agreed-upon payments and obligations, which could include food assistance, social security, and veteran's benefits, all of which are part of our already lack-luster means of assisting the working class. The Treasury will have to make these choices, and eventually totally abandon the proletariat of the U.S., unless Congress votes to raise the previously mentioned debt ceiling.

Luckily, Senate leaders have agreed to vote on an extremely short-term debt ceiling increase. This deal, which raises the ceiling by \$480 billion, would bide time for the Treasury to make payments, until a shaky estimate of December 3rd. This is because Democrats want to focus on Biden's 'Build Back Better' agenda (instead of ensuring the security of the downtrodden by substantially raising the debt ceiling), and it is assumed that Republican leaders don't want to be blamed for yet another financial crisis.

Worry lies in the fact that a deadline of December 3rd could overlap with discussions over budget resolutions, which in recent years have been quite contentious. Gridlock over the previous budget resolutions famously impacted 800,000 federal employees, putting many out of jobs. If the U.S. Congress similarly comes to a stalemate over the debt ceiling, it would spell a frankly apocalyptic reality for many U.S. proletarians, as Social Security, paychecks to federal employees, veteran's benefits, Child Tax Credits, and food assistance could all come to a screeching halt.



## **The American Party of Labor is...**

a revolutionary working class organization. Our aim is to abolish the capitalist system and replace it with a socialist, working democracy, a system based on the principle laid out by Marx, "from each according to his ability, to each according to his need." There can be no true freedom or democracy, we argue, when billionaires have more wealth than the bottom 90% of Americans.

### **Who Can Join? How Do I Get Involved?**

Every working person who is open to our plan for change, agrees with our Program and Platform and is over the age of 18 is welcome to join.

To look at our joining procedure, activity, membership FAQ, and more: please visit:

**bit.ly/JoinTheAPL**

You can find everything that you should know about us here, and you can contact us and connect to members in your area.

If we don't have a presence in your city, we'll get to know you and help you establish one.

## **Why be Marxist-Leninists in the USA in the 21st century?**

There is an important fundamental difference between Marxism and other so-called anti-capitalist or "third way" theories. Marx, unlike many thinkers of his day, did not just see a problem with capitalism that could be mitigated. Instead, he and his compatriots analyzed capitalism itself to understand how the system worked. Marx's ideas for revolution are based off of that analysis, and the experiences of the struggles in Europe of 1848. Solutions to the problems of capitalism can only be reached by understanding and observing the system itself, textured with the political reality of the country and historical struggles. This is why we think revolutionary history is worth talking about, and making part of our platform.

Regarding the regulation of capitalism and emergent social democratic reform movements, it is not uncommon that capitalist states restrict the private sector for various reasons. The problem is that political power is still stacked in favor of the ruling class, they have every avenue and all the resources necessary undo reforms and regulations. What truly led to the collapse of the socialist bloc was not that these countries pursued communism, which was ultimately too radical, but rather that these nations pursued market style reforms until they had more or less become capitalist countries. As we have seen in the US, liberal victories are short-lived.

Today, social democratic movements would have us do much the same, if not less – regulate capitalism, nationalize some industry, and try to maintain a welfare state- without expropriating the ruling class, without giving the nation a clear direction for the future, and worst of all, without putting the working class in power. We cannot face climate change, resurgent fascism, police brutality, the exploitation of oppressed nations, and the threat of American imperialism around the world without a revolutionary, centrally organized movement.

## **How is the American Party of Labor Different From Other Organizations?**

**An Anti-Revisionist, Internationalist Party:** The American Party of Labor is a dedicated anti-revisionist party, opposed to concessions to capitalists, and critical of all imperialist actions by the US, Russia, and China. The APL is an observer member in the International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organizations (ICMLPO), and participates in the international anti-revisionist struggle.

**A Party of Working Class People:** The American Party of Labor is made up of workers fighting for workers rights. Many of our members are in active union and unionization struggles, and we all do our political work after clocking out.

**A Party of Equals:** The APL is active in the fight for the rights of women, oppressed nations, the LGBTQIA+ community, and immigrants, and for the community control of police departments. In 2019, the APL was a founding member in the National Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression.

**Forever Anti-Fascist:** We take the anti-fascist legacy of the Marxist-Leninist movement. Members of the American Party of Labor are dedicated anti-fascists, and active in movements against the Far-Right on college campuses, and the barbaric treatment of immigrants at the border.



**"In the relations of a weak Government and a rebellious people there comes a time when every act of the authorities exasperates the masses, and every refusal to act excites their contempt."**

**- John Reed**



**Legalize Workers - No More Detentions, No More Deportations, Abolish I.C.E.!**

**Guaranteed Work and a Livable Income!**

**Socialized Healthcare For All!**

**Nationalized Healthcare!**

**Free Education For All!**

**Equal Rights, Pay, and Housing For All!**

**End All Wars of Aggression!**

**Abolish Private Prisons, Free All Political Prisoners!**

**No Platform for Fascists!**

**Abolish Profit Made By the Exploitation of Labor!**

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### **Our General Line.**

1. The American Party of Labor comes from and represents the American working class. From time to time and place to place there may be individuals who are admitted to the Party who do not have a working class background, or are not currently considered to be working class by Marxist-Leninist ideology and principles. Such individuals are exceptions to the general rule, as they have in effect transcended their class through conscious application of Marxist-Leninist ideology.

2. The American Party of Labor maintains that value in society is produced by human action within the material world. That is to say, value is created by the consumption of labor power. The working classes, which have only their labor power to sell for their daily sustenance, therefore make production possible. We call for the reorganization of society to provide the means of production to the working class to be administered either under an elected or selected management or collectively through a council system.

3. The American Party of Labor demands the abolition of private property and that all means of production be in the hands of the working class. Profit under capitalism is extracted surplus value from the consumption of labor power and constitutes a theft from the working class by the capitalist ruling class. Under our system, the working class will be paid the full value of their production less the necessary deductions to support the state and its various cultural, economic and social support projects.

4. The American Party of Labor demands that all oppressed nations within the context of the American Empire, including, but by no means limited to, Indigenous peoples, Native Hawaiians, Guamanians and Puerto Ricans (within the context of Puerto Rico), be given national self-determination as to whether or not they wish to remain in the American socialist state, which shall be constructed on the remnants of the United States. We call for the end of the so-called commonwealth system in all U.S. imperial possessions. The nations in these political organizations should either choose to become a U.S. state or an independent country.

5. The American Party of Labor demands the cancellation of all current debt held by developing countries to the U.S. These loans were not made with the intention of helping the people of these countries, but rather to enslave those countries with debt.

6. The American Party of Labor is a party against all imperialism. We are opposed to all wars of aggression on the world stage and all other threats of war and military intervention. We call for the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. troops from abroad. We stand shoulder-to-shoulder with all occupied peoples and with all nations living underneath neo-colonial regimes. We call for the end of foreign aid to Israel, Colombia and other outposts of capitalist and imperialist aggression.

7. The American Party of Labor is an internationalist party. All peoples around the globe struggling for their emancipation from their own systems of exploitation are our allies. We extend our hands to all revolutionary organizations guided by Marxism-Leninism worldwide and to national liberation movements of exploited peoples of all countries because our cause is one and the same.

8. The American Party of Labor demands the U.S. withdrawal from NATO and other imperialist alliances.

9. The American Party of Labor stands fully against the militarization of the U.S.-Mexican border. It supports the rights of immigrants and the ending of neo-liberal policies in other countries, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean, that drive sustenance farmers off their lands and to the United States due to a lack of economic opportunity in their native countries.

10. The American Party of Labor has a more generalized list of our demands and positions in a separate document called the Party Platform.