

## JAN. 6<sup>TH</sup> PLUS SUPREME COURT RULINGS = DEMOCRACY IN DANGER



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Shaye Moss, witness, Jan 6 hearings.  
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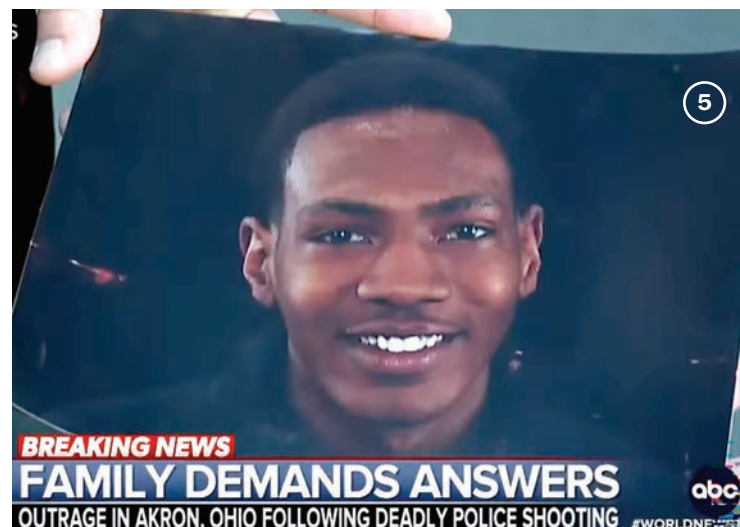
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# People's Tribune is Your Paper!

"You don't want to miss the People's Tribune. It's our story, told in our own words!" said a reader. And it's true. The PT opens its pages to everyday people out here fighting for their lives, for a society where our needs — not corporate needs — are fulfilled. Send us your stories, ideas, and info; leave at

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— *The Editors*

## PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE

The People's Tribune is devoted to the understanding that an economic system that doesn't feed, clothe, house, or care for its people must be and will be replaced with a system that meets the needs of the people. To that end, this paper is a voice of millions of everyday people who are fighting to survive in an America in crisis. It helps build connections among these fighters and the awareness that together, we can create a whole new society and world.

Today, technology is permanently eliminating jobs. Our needs can only be met by building a cooperative society where we the people, not the corporations, own the technology and the abundance it produces. Then, everyone's needs will be provided for.

We welcome articles and artwork from those who are engaged in the struggle to build a new society that is of, by and for the people. We rely on readers and contributors to fund and distribute this paper.

The People's Tribune, formerly published by the League of Revolutionaries for a New America, is now an independent newspaper.

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Facebook: [fb.com/peopletrib](https://fb.com/peopletrib)  
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**Publisher:** People's Tribune  
ISSN# 1081-4787

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## Students Demand Action On Gun Violence



PHOTO / STUDENTSDEMANDACTION.ORG

On May 26, students walked out of schools across the country to protest the lack of action on gun violence. This was followed June 11 by the March for Our Lives, which was marked by events in more than 450 places in this country and elsewhere in the world. Below are quotes from some who spoke at events in various cities.

**Trevon Bosley**, a Chicago gun violence survivor and March for Our Lives board member, addressed the June march in Washington, DC. He listed the names of some people shot and killed in Chicago, including his brother Terrell who was shot while at church for a band rehearsal, and said, "These deaths were not

due to anyone doing anything wrong, but people living their lives every day just like you do...I'm speaking for more than just Chicago. I'm speaking for the places that are often left out of the conversation about gun violence. Places where Covid-19 was not our first introduction to mass death and overcrowded hospitals; places where poverty rates were already high and living paycheck to paycheck is the norm; communities where school systems are underfunded and state penitentiaries are over-filled, where politicians are overpaid and anti-violence programs are under-resourced, where police officers are overtly racist and our so-called justice system rarely

holds them accountable, places where all lives supposedly matter, but Black and Brown lives are taken on a daily basis."

**Jazmin Cazares** is the sister of Jackie Cazares, a nine-year-old who was killed at Uvalde, Texas, on May 24. At the march in Austin, Texas, Jazmin, 17, said, "I am unbelievably angry, but I'm not going to turn my anger into hate. I'm going to channel that anger. I'm going to create some real change....I have no way to express how I feel, how hurt I feel, and the hurt everybody in Uvalde feels. I'm doing this for you, sister. If you can see me, I'm doing this for you. You will be remembered. I promise you."

**Northwood High School students in Irvine, California**, during the May 26 walkout, wrote, "We refuse to accept a country where gunfire can ring out at any moment, whether it's while grocery shopping at a supermarket in Buffalo, New York, at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, at a party in San Bernardino, or at graduations across the country. Enough is enough. No more thoughts and prayers."

**Mia Tretta**, a survivor of a 2019 high school shooting in Santa Clarita, California, organized a walkout at her school, tweeting, "I'm sorry I couldn't do my homework, I was planning a life-saving revolution."

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# 'femme energy is our liberator'

By Samantha Herrera

birthing bodies are unimaginably complex. yes, we're beautiful gods/goddesses or whatever. we're also swollen footed farting machines that have to wake up every 3 hours to pee an unsatisfying amount of pee. and that's the easy stuff. we're fast tracked on trauma healing journeys so we don't replicate the cycles of violence in our families and our world. we doubt our abilities to parent well while navigating jobs and a world where our bodies our not ours. not in the streets, not in the courts. where capitalism grinds on and works to grind us down.

while on a walk a few weeks ago i

thought that maybe women like being pregnant because all of a sudden people treat you well - like you matter and deserve respect. a feeling most of us aren't used to. i've felt unsafe when navigating public spaces alone since i can remember. since i was a kid. it is how i (we) learned to exist and survive in a femme body. while still in this thought- that pregnancy was a protection - i was harassed and followed, 7 months pregnant- made again to feel unsafe in my body. a body that just wanted to travel down the street on a warm day and think.

we are robbing the world of girls and womens and femmes minds. forced to devote brain energy to safety. we could

be using it on art, liberation, abolition. but depending on the privilege we individually possess we often/always have to devote it to vigilance.

and yet still, with all of this, there is SO MUCH power and brilliance in femme bodies and brains. we are power despite what they try to strip from us - in the streets, in some of our homes, in the government. they are trying. and we are still here.

so this is a pep talk to me. that we'll have abortions and babies when we choose to. that our future sees femme energy as our liberator. that there is hope.

Samantha Herrera



## Roe vs Wade: 'We won't go back'

Women, men and huge numbers of youth are in the streets across the country in uncompromising fight for women's rights and for government to act in the people's interests. After centuries of oppression and fighting for equal rights, women are letting the powerful know: "We won't go back."

Women can't be equal if they don't have human rights.

As the late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, said, "The decision whether or not to bear a child is central to a woman's life . . . [It] is a decision she must make for herself. When government controls that decision for her, she is being treated as less than a fully adult human responsible for her own choices."

With her words, Ginsburg summed up one monumental thing at stake today - whether women are fully adult human beings with hu-

man rights.

In one horrible expression of this truth, a woman wrote, "It has been 16 years, but I can still hear myself begging my mother, my doctor, not to make me do this, please don't make me do this. I was raped when I was 17 years old. I was forced to give birth to a baby when I was 18 years old. My baby died when I was 19 years old."

The massive assault on women threatens everyone's rights. And, as in the fight for voting rights, people of color and particularly Black Americans, are assaulted first. The overturning of Roe also means that other rights could be on the chopping block next, such as LGBTQ rights to have intimate relationships, the right to contraception, and the right to interracial marriage. Where will it end?



San Jose, CA

PHOTO / DONATED



Chicago

PHOTO / SARAH-JI, LOVEANDSTRUGGLEPHOTOS.COM

The assault is not only by conservatives. America's corporations have been huge financial contributors to anti-abortion laws and to putting justices in place who would overturn Roe v. Wade. The list includes Google, Coca Cola, Amazon, AT&T, Citi, CVS and Walmart. Fearful of a powerful women's movement, they can't allow women's 'rights' and pro-worker legislation to stand in the way of their profits, and their power.

We the people demand a democracy that serves the people, not the corporations, a society where everyone has rights. And, we won't accept anything less.

One immediate demand from the movement is that government must pass the Women's Health Protection Act of 2022, which would make abortion legal nationally. Biden and the corporate Democrats must not squander this opportunity to act.



Chicago

PHOTO / SARAH-JI, LOVEANDSTRUGGLEPHOTOS.COM

# The Poor March on Washington to Demand They be Heard



PHOTOS / WASHINGTON, DC, BECKER1999

On June 18, more than 150,000 people from over 40 states participated in the Mass Poor Peoples and Low-Wage Workers' Assembly and Moral March on Washington and to the Polls. Millions more streamed the event online. The six-hour event was sponsored by the Poor People's Campaign and hundreds of co-sponsoring organizations.

A diverse selection of speakers

testified about the impact of poverty and related issues on their lives. The topics included inadequate health-care, gun violence, immigration, environmental justice, voting rights, housing and food insecurity, the war economy, workers' rights, prisoners' rights, and much more.

The assembly adopted a seven-point plan for specific actions leading up to the fall midterm elections

to press the government for radical policy changes.

The plan includes these demands and proposals: that Congress acknowledge the suffering of the 140 million poor and low-wealth people in the country, and treat this as an emergency; that Congress commit to supporting legislation reflecting the priorities of the Third Reconstruction Agenda developed by poor

and low-wage communities; that President Biden hold a Poverty Summit with poor people and commit to an Executive Action Plan to Eliminate Poverty in 2022; that there be massive mobilization and outreach to pressure elected officials to address the needs of the poor; that there be a nonviolent moral direct action in Washington in September with 5,000 poor and low-wealth

individuals, religious leaders, and 100 economists; that the campaign launch an immediate effort to register and educate poor communities to vote for candidates who commit to a Third Reconstruction Agenda; and a call for the poor to vote in historic numbers in November.

For more information, go to [poorpeoplescampaign.org](https://poorpeoplescampaign.org)

## End an Immigration System that Sets Migrants Up to Die

From the Editors, *People's Tribune*

Below is a shortened version of the full statement at <https://bit.ly/3ItuxB5/>

The People's Tribune and our sister publication *El Tribuno del Pueblo* extend their deepest condolences to the families of the 53 people who died in the sweltering heat in a trailer truck outside of San Antonio, Texas, on June 27. Sixty-seven people were abandoned by smugglers in the trailer with no air conditioning or water, and the temperature in the trailer reached 150 degrees, according to official reports. Several survivors suffered injuries such as brain damage and internal bleeding.

This was the deadliest such incident in US history. The 40 males and 13 women who died had their dreams, to go to school, to work, to build homes for their mothers, shattered. Among the dead were two brothers, two sisters, a young couple in their twenties, and two cousins and best friends 13 years old. The dead came

from Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador.

Last year, at least 650 people died attempting to cross the US-Mexico border, the highest number since an international agency began tracking those statistics in 2014. The deaths of the thousands of migrants who have perished trying to cross the border over the years are the result of an unjust immigration system that denies the humanity of migrants and puts the focus on money for fences, drones and arms in the name of "securing the border."

"Human beings are dying in rivers, canals, deserts, mountains, and now even in unsafe trailers meant for cargo transportation. Migrants, refugees, and entire families are using more distant and dangerous routes to come to the United States," says Fernando García, executive director of the Border Network for Human Rights. "These deaths are the result of containment actions, anti-immigrant repression and summary deportations that have not changed



Memorial to the 53 people who died after crossing the border and being abandoned in a trailer parked near San Antonio, TX, June 27.

PHOTO / LEIGH WALDMAN, KSAT

under the current administration despite the promises of a new turn to anti-immigrant policies promoted and materialized by previous federal governments."

While we put the responsibility for these deaths on the Biden administration and its discriminatory and racist immigration policies against defenseless migrants, we, the American people also need to take responsibility. As Carlos Marentes of the

Border Agricultural Workers Project said, "What we must ask ourselves in the midst of widespread consternation is how to prevent it. Pope Francis gave us a clue when he spoke about the meaning of the word solidarity. He said [in October 2014], 'Solidarity...is thinking and acting in terms of community, of everyone's life....'"

The People's Tribune and *El Tribuno del Pueblo* promise to contin-

ue exposing the inhumanity of this system, and most importantly to keep providing a platform for those activists and organizations that are waging the fight for a society where no human being is illegal.

As we take to the polls in the coming months we must vote for candidates that commit themselves to creating an immigration system that is humane and non-racist. This will be solidarity in practice.

# We want the stories of those who are fighting for a new society!

There's thousands of groups and individuals out here, fighting poverty, for the Earth, for housing, public education, for equality and an end to racism, police and gun violence, for food, clean water, for immigrant, women, LGBTQ rights, for Black and Brown lives, for unions, for de-

mocracy, and more. People are joining community groups and organizations and, in many cases, the groups themselves are coming together to fight together for our very lives. If there are groups in your community coming together around life-or-death issues, we would love to

hear about it. We would like to open our pages to you or your group to share your story of the unity you are building and your visions of a world that cares for everyone. E-mail stories to [peopletribune@gmail.com](mailto:peopletribune@gmail.com) — *The Editors*



Climate protest, NY.

PHOTO / ERIK MCGREGOR

## 'My 23 Days at Parker Elementary'

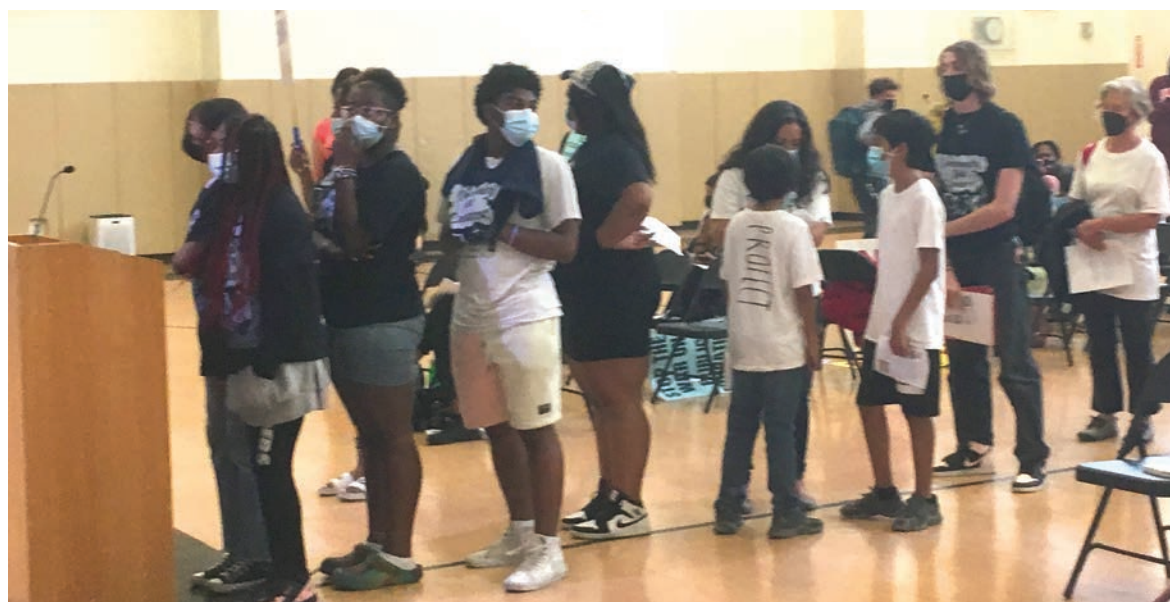
*Parker Elementary School parents occupied their school after its closure by the Oakland, California Unified School District [OUSD]. Despite massive youth protests, the board is closing, shrinking, or merging 11 schools by 2024. Excerpts below are from student Jasionna, who spoke at an OUSD meeting about her days at Parker. See her full statement at [peopletribune.org/2022/06/my-23-days-at-parker-elementary/](https://peopletribune.org/2022/06/my-23-days-at-parker-elementary/) — *The Editors*.*

My name is Jasionna . . . I've been at Parker for the liberation for 23 days . . . I did not believe that people were actually sleeping in the school. My little sister . . . transferred to Parker K-8 earlier . . . because . . . she and another student and their mom got into an altercation. The mom jumped out of her car while my sister was walking . . . and she was hitting her constantly . . . My mom called OUSD and they didn't do anything . . . This is why she moved to Parker. She started coming home every day with a smile on

her face . . .

Here at the liberation, I've taught an art class . . . gotten to learn how to roller skate . . . see different people and interact . . . Occupying the school is a good idea . . . Where are we going to go if we don't? . . . A lot of schools, not just Parker, are getting closed. If we don't fight back, there won't be any more public schools in Oakland. They . . . are going to turn them into charter schools. . .

I went to my first school board meeting and I got to see the ugliest people. . . They didn't have a sense of humor . . . were rude, and . . . don't care about children . . . only about their money and taking it away from kids. They like being racist — they are taking a school away from a Black and Brown community. Especially Josh Daniels [School Board Legal Counsel]. He's the most racist . . . He comes to Parker every week and takes pictures of little kids. He locks up our kitchen so we can't eat. He takes all our funding. He sends



Teachers, parents, and lots of kids line up to demand that the Oakland, California school board reopen closed public schools.

PHOTO / DONATED

14 people here to put chains on our gates . . . We are never going to stop until we get our school back.

*Background:* Oakland closed over 20 schools in the last 20 years, while

opening over 40 charter schools. . . the school board has eliminated neighborhood schools in the impoverished Flatlands, though students in the affluent hills still can walk

to school. Closing schools forces students to . . . walk through gang territory and past professional child sex-traffickers.

## 'The Walking Man:' Beloved Homeless Man Set on Fire

By Sarah Menefee

for Joseph Kromelis

a homeless man 75 known around the North Side of Chicago as The Walking Man (and much beloved) was doused with gasoline and set aflame and burned nearly to death in his bedroll while he slept near Trump Tower that's all: set on fire in his bedroll next to Trump Tower this is my poem from the front of the War on the Poor today on Memorial Day



Joseph Kromelis, a beloved homeless man known as "Walking Man," second from left, with his family. A stranger stood over 75-year-old Joseph while he slept on Lower Wabash Ave., in Chicago, pouring gasoline on him and then igniting it with a lighter, burning him over half of his body.

PHOTO / ABC7CHICAGO.COM

See Block Club Chicago article about this tragedy at: <https://bit.ly/3Rf09kS>

# Speakers from Occupy the PGA in Benton Harbor, MI

By Cathy Talbott,  
People's Tribune

On May 28, Reverend Edward Pinkney and the Benton Harbor Community Water Council hosted "Occupy the PGA," protesting the corporate takeover of the predominantly Black impoverished Rust Belt city on the shoreline of Lake Michigan. Through use of a corporate backed law, the Emergency Manager Act, the Whirlpool Corporation was "legally" able to steal the public assets from the residents of Benton Harbor to build a signature PGA golf course and resort for the rich, by removing many of the town's poor. Pinkney was one of the first to warn Michigan communities of the Emergency Manager (dictatorship) law that has allowed corporate shills to kick out elected officials in financially strapped cities in order to swoop in and privatize their public assets. Today he is a leader in the fight to get toxic chemicals, including lead, out of the water.

Below are excerpts from speakers at the "Occupy the PGA" protest:

**Reverend Pinkney:** We have to make sure we're standing up, doing what's right for everybody. This is not a Rev. Pinkney event. This is for you...everything is about the future of our children. That's our foundation. We can't go nowhere without



1. Flint Water warriors supporting Benton Harbor protest.



2. (R) Rev. Edward Pinkney, Organizer of the PGA protest, President of the Benton Harbor Water Council, fighter for the poor and against corporate corruption. (L) Bishop Jefferson, water warrior and fighter for clean water in Flint, is speaking at the protest.

3. Symbolic coffin represents the long fight for democracy in Benton Harbor.

4. Norris Maben (see sign in photo), was a young Black man killed by Benton Harbor police.

PHOTO/STILLS FROM VIDEOS BY RANDALL DIBBLE

our children. We can no longer sit around and say everything is all right...we have to learn to work together. When we fight, we win.

**Bishop Jefferson:** [I'm here from Flint] because it's important for us to stand together...to show a united front. See, they didn't care about us being sick...hungry...about our status, our jobs. We ain't stopping until we come out with victory for all! We ain't scared...God bless you, my friends.

**Claire McClinton:** I'm proud to

stand here today with the residents of Benton Harbor. You've been there for us in the poisoned, occupied city of Flint...yet today we remain poisoned. The water crisis is not over.

I appreciate the speech concerning the corporate and financial beneficiaries of disasters. That's how capitalism works. 'Don't let a disaster go unexploited' is this system's motto...we know the Emergency Manager Law was designed to come into predominantly minority cities to steal and privatize public assets.

The cities taken over were not only majority 'minority' with double digit poverty rates but [taken because they wanted] the assets!

We're at the end of a fraudulent settlement in Flint... [now it's] about those with vision that can see into the future...we've got to reorganize this society on the basis of humanity...one of the things we've learned the hard way is to know who our friends are and who is our enemy.

We don't have a favorite candidate. All we have is the interests of

the people...We want you to hear our plan. We're telling YOU...we want water affordability in Flint...We want an end to shut-offs...We want to know your plan to guarantee we don't get set up again for corporate takeover of our city. We want you to...fight like hell to get rid of the "dictatorship law" that drove us into this toxic disaster that both Flint and Benton Harbor are facing today. So that's our plan...our vision on the road to reorganizing society on the basis of humanity. Thank you all.

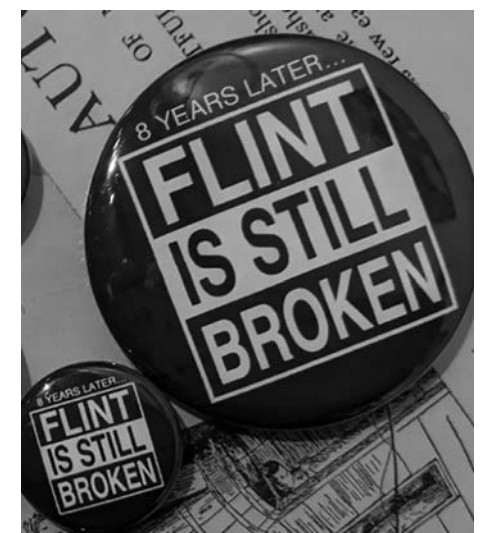


## Charges Dropped Against Officials Over Flint Poisoning

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel shocked the Flint community and the nation when she dropped criminal charges against former Gov. Snyder and Company in 2019, claiming charges needed a fresh start. Now in 2022, the state's Supreme Court unanimously ruled that the one-man Grand Jury used to indict these culprits by the AG was illegal! Since the decision allows prosecutors to send the cases back to the lower court, Snyder and Co. are poised to argue that the charges be dropped altogether. Justice

for Flint though not DEAD, is very much on life support.—People's Tribune, Flint Correspondents  
"Eight years after the deadly Flint water crisis began, the state's Supreme Court has thrown out charges against former Governor Rick Snyder and eight other former officials for their complicity in the public health emergency. [In a scheme to privatize Flint's water] Snyder's administration made the decision to switch the city's water source from the Detroit system to the Flint River

as a cost-saving measure and then failed to protect residents from the resulting lead and bacterial poisoning in the majority-Black city. 'It really feels like justice is becoming an illusion for Flint residents,' says Nayyirah Shariff, director of Flint Rising. 'No one is being held accountable, no one is seeing justice, no one is seeing reparations in Flint,' adds her fellow activist and Flint resident, Melissa Mays." — **From Democracy, Now! interview:** <https://bit.ly/3uPxDd1>



# Jan. 6 Plus Court Rulings = Democracy in Danger

## From the Editors

One witness described “slipping in blood” as she tried to stop the frenzied lynch mob that stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. Others described being hounded relentlessly simply for doing their duty as poll watchers and public officials on Election Day 2020.

If anyone doubted that American democracy – however partial and imperfect – is in danger, the stunning events of June 2022 are a loud wake-up call.

Since they began on June 9, the hearings of the U.S. House committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol have proven that Donald Trump and his cronies carefully planned a violent coup to overturn the 2020 election results.

And if that were not evidence enough that this country is headed toward full-blown fascism, just days later, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a series of rulings on guns, abortion, Miranda rights, and the environment which destroyed fundamental rights and turned the country backward.

When a president who lost the

popular vote in 2016 can stack the Supreme Court with right-wing zealots and then attempt a violent coup in 2020 with impunity, the crisis of democracy has reached the breaking point.

This situation is compounded by a crisis of the two-party system. Open fascists have taken control of the Republican Party while the corporate wing of the Democratic Party refuses to act boldly against fascism. The corporate hacks at the top of the Democratic Party had no plan of how to respond to the overturning of Roe v. Wade. They simply issued opportunistic fundraising appeals after the Supreme Court decision.

It’s time for bold action – not “moderation.”

People all over America are demanding that the U.S. Justice Department prosecute Donald Trump and his accomplices for their coup attempt. Trump has to be jailed, and barred from ever running for president again. All members of Congress who supported the coup attempt have to be expelled from Congress. The para-military groups who served as the shock troops on Jan. 6th need



Jan 6 coup attempt at U.S. capitol.

PHOTO/VIDEO STILL, NYTIMES

to be investigated and broken up, especially their units in the U.S. military.

The American people want to break the stranglehold which right-wing zealots have on the U.S. Supreme Court. Some are advocating that it’s time to expand the Court. And that all Supreme Court justices who lied during their confirmation hearings about their views on Roe v. Wade or who aided the coup plotters

must be impeached.

The Senate filibuster, a shabby parliamentary trick devised by 19th century slave-owners to preserve their domination, has to be abolished completely.

Activists know that none of this will be possible without tremendous pressure from the grassroots. The massive street protests following the Supreme Court’s overturning of Roe v. Wade point the way. We also

need a massive voter turn-out in November in support of progressive candidates. The only way to thwart the attack on voting rights is to vote. The Republican Party has become an openly fascist party. It cannot be allowed to win control of Congress in November.

Let’s mobilize millions. Let’s block those trying to bring outright fascism to America!

## What’s REALLY going on with gas prices!

In the first quarter of this year, the top five oil companies alone—Shell, ExxonMobil, BP, Chevron, and ConocoPhillips—brought in more than 300 percent more in profits than in the first quarter of 2021.

That is a total of more than \$35 billion in profits in just three months. This is on top of the subsidies they receive, around \$20 billion a year in direct government subsidies.

Corporate control of energy is the single greatest force behind the horrific inflation we are seeing. Government pretends inflation is somehow an Act of God, something that cannot be avoided like hurricanes and droughts. In fact, it is a policy – a choice – that operates like a hidden tax on working people. Yet this “tax” is sponsored by private industry, not government.

No wonder that 2021 was the most profitable year ever for US corporations.

The above are excerpts from a People’s Tribune article on gas prices and inflation by Steven Miller. Read the full article at:

<https://peoplestribune.org/2022/06/gas-prices-and-inflation-whats-really-going-on/>



## Akron Community Demands Justice for Jayland Walker

### by Kobe Ballin

*Editor’s Note: Outrage is growing in Akron, Ohio, after police officers killed Jayland Walker, a 25-year-old Black man, on June 27 after what was supposed to be a stop for traffic and equipment violations. Walker suffered more than 60 gunshot wounds. The Akron police chief admitted that Walker was unarmed at the time he was shot. Below is a statement posted online, reprinted with permission, by Kobe Ballin.*

Akron Police Department really shot and killed Jayland Walker all out of frustration because they couldn’t apprehend him on foot for the simple fact that he was faster than them so they unloaded all of their clips on this young man as the alternative option. This is SICK.

Justice for Jayland Walker.

As Jayland Walker laid there FULLY DEAD after being shot 60+ times the Akron police then preceded to even HAND CUFF his DEAD BODY!!!! Jayland had no CRIMINAL

BACKGROUND AT ALL. Not to mention he was only getting pulled over for a TRAFFIC VIOLATION!!!

This country is truly ruined beyond repair and it’s sad to see that this is how my children and me will

be spending the rest of our days on this. If you look closely [at the police video] you can see that he was shot so many times at a rapid rate (90 + shots) his body is jumping and shaking from the impact of

all of the bullets. All 8 of those cops deserve to be buried UNDER THE PRISON. I’m in complete disbelief. #JusticeForJayland.



Jayland Walker, 25 killed by Akron police, shot 60 times.



VIDEO STILLS / ABC WORLDNEWSTODAY

# 'We Are Not Afraid,' says Progressive San Francisco D.A., Ousted by Billionaires

By Sarah Menefee

SAN FRANCISCO, CA — After a fear-based campaign bankrolled by billionaires and corporate interests and financiers, the recall against San Francisco's reformer District Attorney Chesa Boudin was successful, even as he fulfilled campaign promises. He brought to justice cops who murder unarmed people, reformed the bail system, went after wage theft and other crimes against workers, and decriminalized certain victimless crimes.

"The right-wing billionaires outspent us three-to-one" said Boudin.

Reflecting on what he accomplished in office, Chesa Boudin addressed his supporters. These are some of his words:

"We have already won because we are part of a national movement that recognizes we can never incarcerate our way out of poverty. We have already won because we have shown San Francisco and the world that we do not need to rely on fear mongering or exploitation of tragedy to build safety. We have already won

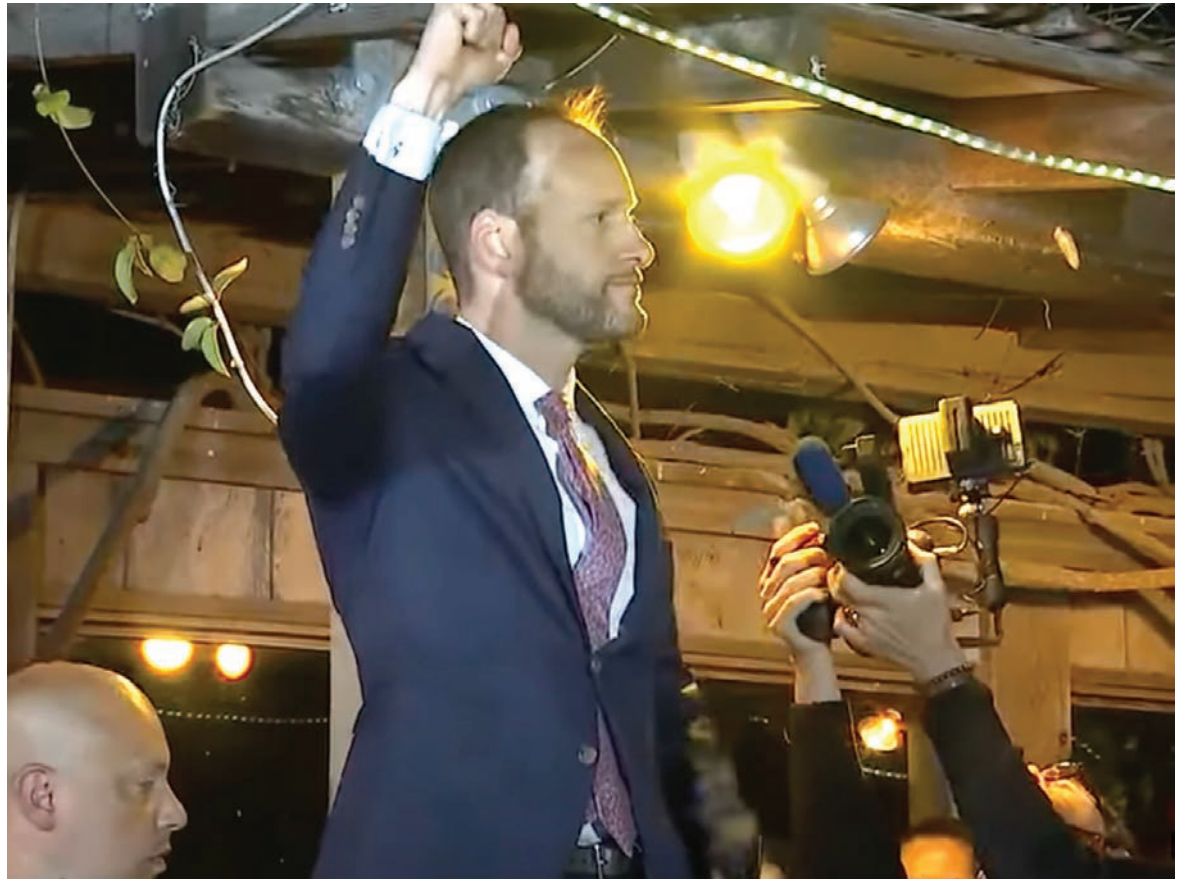
because our juvenile incarceration population fell by 50% and our adult jail population fell by 40%. And as our state prison population out of San Francisco County fell by 30%, our crime rates stayed flat or declined. We have already won because instead of resorting to mass incarceration, we resorted to mass referrals to drug treatment programming and mental health services.

"We have two San Francisco's. We have one that billionaires want to be a playground for the rich and powerful. And we have another one that is the history we are all proud of. When we stand up in court, when we fight for justice, it is not just about protecting the rich and powerful.

"It is about protecting everybody in this great city of St. Francis. And that is something that we are all going to continue to fight for.

"And so I want to ask all of you to repeat after me for a minute. We are not afraid. Justice, justice, justice is on our side. It's on our side. Our cause is righteous. Our cause is righteous.

"And we have already won."



Chesa Boudin, speaking to supporters after his recall as San Francisco District Attorney, says they are part of a movement that recognizes we can never incarcerate our way out of poverty. VIDEO STILL / FOX NEWS

## People with Disabilities Shunned, Driven into Poverty. Medicare For All May Help?

By Curtis Harris

CHICAGO, IL — I am Curtis Harris. I am from Chicago. I am a black person who works with the Disability Committee of the Illinois Single Payer Coalition. I am active with other disability groups like the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities and the Racial Justice Organization of Access Living.

I have faced discrimination due to my disability in employment, housing, and healthcare. Many people with disabilities face discrimination due to disability, race, gender and sexual orientation. People with disability come in many varieties including diverse physical, mental, cognitive and sensory categories.

People with disabilities have a very high rate of unemployment, higher than most other groups. Many people with disabilities try to survive on SSI which is \$841 a month. This is when the poverty level for an individual is pegged at \$1,133 a month. Thus millions of people with disabilities are forced into abject poverty!

Housing is a huge problem for people with disabilities. Their income is often below the lowest apartment rental rates forcing them into substandard housing, crowding together, homelessness or forced into abysmal institutional settings. A few lucky ones may live in subsidized housing but may have waited 10 years to get in. Many rental agencies do not want people with disabilities.

Being institutionalized against one's wishes is very common. About 3,000,000 people live in these institutions, often paid for by Medicaid. A large number of residents would prefer to live in the community but cannot get the support to do so. Institutional living has always been a smelly dangerous experience, but during the pandemic was the most dangerous place of all.

As disability health advocates we support a universal, high quality, equitable system of health care called Medicare for All. This universal system operates successfully in dozens of countries and gets better results

than the US for profit system. In the US 45,000 die each year due to lack of insurance. People with disabilities rely on Medicaid but face barriers to care like providers who refuse to take it, we are given poor quality care due to low reimbursement rates and face stigma that comes with a program for the poor. Medicaid that drops, when you become employed has been a big barrier to employment.

In our advocacy, we have had some success. We not only want people with disabilities to get the same healthcare as everyone else but also to have a national program of long-term care for all who need assistance included in Medicare for All.

The current bills in the House and the Senate have added long term care to their Medicare for All bills. This is due to our advocacy! However, we want to make sure that access to home and community services are top priority over institutional care. Building a caring society that addresses the needs of children, seniors, people with disabilities, and



Curtis Harris, a disability health advocate, says millions will be lifted out of poverty with passage of Medicare for All. PHOTO / DONATED

all others who struggle needs to be our goal.

Millions of people in the US, including many people with disabilities, would be lifted out of poverty

by the passage of Medicare for All. We say Everybody IN, Nobody Out! Health care for All NOW!