

THE ORGANIZER

For a Labor Party, For a Workers' International

JUNE ISSUE

Vol. 36, No. 6

SOLIDARITY PRICE \$2

VOTING RIGHTS UNDER ATTACK

"In capitalist society we have a democracy that is curtailed, wretched, false, a democracy only for the rich, for the minority." - Vladimir Lenin, The State and Revolution

The United States has a long history of denying its people basic democratic rights. In the country's early history, most states allowed only white male adult property owners to vote. Women weren't granted the right to vote until the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified in 1920. While the 15th Amendment, ratified in 1870, afforded on paper African American males the right to vote, the ruling class in the South imposed the brutal system of Jim Crow segregation to maintain white supremacy and crush the political power of Black workers. Through poll taxes, literacy tests, lynchings, and daily violence by police and the Ku Klux Klan, millions of Black Americans were effectively stripped of the right to vote for generations. The Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965 was a hard-fought victory of the civil rights movement, won through mass actions such as strikes, boycotts, marches, and civil disobedience. The VRA outlawed many of the most blatant forms of voter suppression and placed federal oversight on states with long histories of racial discrimination. Today, those historic gains are under attack once again.

ATTACK ON VOTING RIGHTS IS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE CRISIS OF CAPITALISM

In a 6-3 ruling, the United States Supreme Court just voted to dismantle Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act—the core provision used for decades to challenge discriminatory congressional district maps and racist state voting laws. Immediately, some state governments moved to impose voter ID laws, slash early voting, purge voter rolls, close polling locations in poor and minority communities, and redraw district lines to eliminate majority Black congressional districts from the map.

These developments are not isolated. They reflect the broader crisis of capitalism, particularly in the United States, and the fear the ruling class has of the growing anger among voters. It is becoming more and more clear that capitalism cannot provide even for people who live in the richest country in the world. Social inequality has reached staggering levels; millions struggle with debt; unaffordable housing keeps hundreds of thousands of people living on the street; healthcare costs skyrocket



people die of treatable conditions; declining real wages and rising prices hit American people with a double-whammy of unaffordability. All of these crises occur while corporations reap record profits, military spending soars to unheard-of levels, and corruption runs rampant in every branch of government.

People are upset, and the political establishment fears this growing anger from below. In response, sections of the ruling class increasingly seek to narrow democratic participation and strengthen the oppressive powers of the state. At the same time as these attacks on democratic rights are occurring, immigrant communities live under constant threat from ICE raids and deportations. University students protesting the genocide in Gaza face arrest, suspension, and expulsion. Protesters face criminalization, repression, and even death, with police violence often ordered by Democratic administrations as well as Republican ones.

(continued to page 2)

(continued from page 1)

THE DEMOCRATS WILL NOT DEFEND DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS BECAUSE THEY DON'T WANT TO

The Democratic Party frequently presents itself as the champion of democratic rights, but when it has any power, it hides behind esoteric rules and procedures to avoid enacting any meaningful legislative protections for voters. After the Supreme Court's 2013 decision stripped away the VRA's requirement that states with histories of racist voter suppression obtain federal approval before changing election laws, Democratic politicians issued endless condemnations and promises while allowing the core protections of the VRA to remain gutted for more than a decade. During that time, Republican-controlled state governments rapidly expanded voter ID laws, purged voter rolls, closed polling places, enacted racial gerrymandering, and restricted early and mail-in voting. Even during the Biden administration, when Democrats controlled both houses of Congress in 2021-2022, the Democratic leadership refused to abolish or override the filibuster in order to pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act or the Freedom to Vote Act. The party denounced felony disenfranchisement laws such as Florida's system requiring former prisoners to pay fines and fees before regaining voting rights, yet failed to stop these laws from disenfranchising large numbers of poor, Black, and working-class voters in the 2024 election. Now, once again, Democratic leaders are calling for the subordination of the current mass uprisings to the fight over the midterm elections, but even if they can overcome the results of their own inaction on voting rights and take back congress, does anyone believe they will actually restore the VRA or enact any basic protections of bourgeois democracy?



Photos by Paul Becker/Becker1999 via flickr.com/people/21426642@N07, Edited by S. Young

Again and again, workers and young people are told that the only realistic strategy is to vote Democrat to stop an even worse candidate from taking office. But this strategy has produced only deeper demoralization and a steady rightward drift in both major political parties. The far right is growing because they claim to make people's lives better and they give people scapegoats such as immigrants to blame for their issues. But this is not the only reason. The far right grows because the Democrats refuse to offer any actual solution to the crises facing working-class people. And while the electorate bounces back and forth between what each side believes is the "lesser of two evils," our democratic rights are being slowly stripped away during swings to the Republicans, and not replaced during a swing to the Democrats.

Ultimately, the people in control of the Democratic Party care very little about voting rights. Sure, they may want certain rights protected so they can win elections, but they too fear voter uprisings by their own rank-and-file, and so have proven time and time again that they would rather lose elections to Republicans than to their own left-leaning base. Today, the defense of democratic rights requires independent mass action, and a party that truly

represents the will of the working class—a party that wants expanded voting rights, because it truly represents the will of the majority of people. The path to forming such a mass labor-based political party starts with running independent labor and community candidates at the local and state level. These candidates would be accountable to working people rather than wealthy donors and corporate elite. We support the work of Labor and Community for an Independent Party, a group that seeks to run independent candidates, and to push within unions to break from the twin parties of the bosses once and for all.

Time to Build Independent Working- Class Political Power

The struggle for democratic rights cannot be separated from the fight against capitalism. The Supreme Court's recent attack on the Voting Rights Act is a warning: rights that are not defended and safeguarded through mass struggle will continue to be stripped away. The answer is not lesser-evil politics or endless appeals to the Democratic Party leadership. The answer is independent political action rooted in the organized power of the working class and oppressed communities.

INTERVIEW WITH E.J. ESPERANZA ON BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP

E.J. Esperanza is an immigrant rights attorney in California and a signatory to the November 8, 2026,
Call for an International Convention Against War and Exploitation.

Could you explain what is at stake with the Supreme Court ruling on birthright citizenship?

On April 1, 2026, the highest court in the United States -
*the Supreme Court - heard arguments challenging President Trump's executive order to eliminate birthright citizenship for children born in the United States to immigrant parents. The issue is a grave one, getting at the heart of the founding document of the American republic: the interpretation of the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which says: "All persons born ... in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States ...". The case hinged on the meaning of "subject to the jurisdiction thereof," with the Trump administration putting forward a radical-right and fringe legal theory that children born in the United States to undocumented immigrants are not "subject to the jurisdiction thereof" and thus can be denied citizenship. Even the most conservative justices on the Supreme Court seemed skeptical during oral argument, though little can be expected from such an anti-democratic institution that is historically and presently responsible for condoning attacks against workers, women, and the oppressed.

To understand the meaning of the litigation, one must understand the history of the Fourteenth Amendment, which was adopted in 1868 after the bloodiest war on U.S. soil - the Civil War - that freed former slaves. The Fourteenth Amendment, at least in letter, guaranteed citizenship to former slaves and their children for the first time in American history. Of course, the letter of the Fourteenth Amendment has never been realized. Black Americans continue to struggle to be treated as equal citizens in the United States. One must only look at the mass incarceration of Black people (where slavery is still legal inside prisons) and the disproportionate poverty, unemployment and exploitation rates, and police violence and murder that befalls the Black community viz-a-viz their white counterparts - in large part, condoned by the same Supreme Court which long ago abandoned reconstruction and reparations for former slaves.

(continued on page 4)



Photos by Selena N. B. H. via flickr.com/photos/24532534@N02/15004359436, photosmash via
Getty Images, and by Jonathan McIntosh, edited by S. Young



Photo by Jonathan McIntosh, edited by S. Young

(continued from page 4)

Could you explain why this question is not an issue that only concerns immigrants, but the whole labor movement - especially seeing what happened in Minneapolis and the demonstrations of March 28?

The significance of the Trump administration's attempt to end birthright citizenship is to create a class of second-class persons, by taking away citizenship and rights from the children of immigrant workers. If approved by the Supreme Court, the end to birthright citizenship would deny citizenship rights to more than 200,000 newborn persons every single year. This would create a dual legal labor regime that would super exploit and oppress not only immigrant workers (which is already the practice, as migrant workers do not enjoy the same rights as citizens) but also the super exploitation of their children despite them being born in the United States. For generations, this would create a pool of millions of cheap and exploitable laborers at a time of economic crisis in the United States.

We hear many Democrats saying, "Wait for the November elections to beat Trump." What do you answer to those you say that the solution can come from the Democrats?

The Democrats plea for the midterms is another false promise, as the Democrats themselves have created the modern mass deportation machine that the Trump administration inherited from his Democratic predecessors: President Clinton, Obama, and Biden - all Democrats who are responsible for the largest deportation machine in the world.

We must heed the lessons of the historic immigrant strikes of the spring of 2006, culminating with the historic mobilizations of May 1, 2006, where over 10 million undocumented workers shut down major economies in the United States demanding equal rights. In the end, the movement and the labor unions were co-opted by the Democratic Party which, back in 2006, said the same thing they say today: that things will change if workers vote for them in the midterms. But what happened in 2006? The Democrats won the midterms and then in 2008 the Democrats won the presidency under Obama. What did the Democrats do when they had full control of the federal government? Obama and the Democrats carried out a shameful and record number of deportations, with 3 million immigrant families deported during Obama's presidency, something which President Biden continued, and which even Trump has been unable to achieve. No immigrant worker – or any worker in general - should trust the false lies of the Democratic Party today - which like the Republicans - serve the interest of the ruling class.

**The Supreme Court is made up of nine unelected justices who serve on a life-time basis, and which today is made up by a majority of conservative justices (six conservative justices, three of which were appointed by President Trump himself). The Supreme Court throughout its history has condoned the exploitation of workers and has upheld the interest of the ruling class.*



Photo by David Stanciu, edited by S. Young

ICE EXPANSION THREATENS THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

After Environmental Assessment Ducks Key Issues

by R.M. Solano

For three years, the San Francisco (SF) Bay Area has not had an immigration detention center, allowing the region to largely escape the sweeping ICE raids seen elsewhere. This is no accident. Advocates spent years ending immigration detention contracts at three Northern California facilities, understanding that where detention centers exist, ICE arrests increase.

Mass immigrant detention is a tool for Trump's control. Expanding detention advances several administration goals: providing scapegoats to a political base facing economic insecurity, keeping immigrant labor vulnerable to hyperexploitation, and enriching capitalist private prison owners.

FCI Dublin Moves Closer to ICE Detention

The reprieve the Bay has enjoyed is in jeopardy. In 2024, the Federal Correction Institution (FCI) Dublin closed after more than 100 women sued the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) over staff sexual violence. In early 2025, reports emerged that ICE was touring the shuttered prison, signaling interest in taking it over. By the end of 2025, BOP informed the city of Dublin that it planned to transfer the property to the General Services Administration (GSA), which manages federal property. Under the Trump administration, GSA created an "ICE Surge Team" to identify new detention spaces.

Before transferring the property, federal law required BOP to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) analyzing the environmental impact of closure and transfer. Yet, BOP's
(continued on page 6)



Photo by Millie Phillips. Edited by S. Young

WHO WE ARE

The Organizer is the publication of Socialist Organizer, the U.S. section of the Organizing Committee for the Reconstitution of the Fourth International (OCRFI), which has sections in over 30 countries. Socialist Organizer is a multi-racial, multi-gender, working-class organization that aims to organize the working-class and all the oppressed to abolish capitalism, a system based on the private ownership of the means of production, which is leading humanity and the planet to destruction.

We fight to end white supremacy, patriarchy, and all forms of bigotry. We fight for a clean break with the capitalists, including the Democratic Party, and promote a Labor Party based on the trade unions and communities of the oppressed and for an Independent Black Working Class Party linked to the struggle for a Labor Party. Our aim is to establish a workers' government and create a worldwide socialist economy run democratically by and for the vast majority of humanity: working people.

JOIN US!

You can contact us at:

WEBSITE

<https://socialistorganizer.org/contact/>

MAIL

P.O. Box 1782
New York, N.Y. 10025

EMAIL

theorganizer@earthlink.net
Tel. 415 216 5346.



Juneteenth: Fight for Freedom

The Emancipation Proclamation was signed January 1, 1863, but enslaved people in the Confederacy didn't have freedom. The proclamation was only as strong as enforcement. Texas was last to free enslaved people:

General Order No. 3 from Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger June 19, 1865

"The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor. The freedmen are advised to remain quietly at their present homes and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts and that they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere."

Our country reversed the Voting Rights Act. There is increased racially-motivated terrorism. Corporate parties target Black Americans.

The struggle for equality, freedom, and reparations continues.

Buffalo Unites with **PRIDE**

In a city still grieving the Tops massacre and struggling with the strong presence of ICE, the City of Good Neighbors took to the streets by the 1000s to celebrate Buffalo Pride and support LGBTQ Buffalonians. Unions participated with 1199SEIU members, UAW Region 9 and Buffalo Newspaper Guild marching down Elmwood Avenue.

"We are celebrating our neighbors and who they are, their individuality and their uniqueness," - Terrin Godfrey, parade-goer.



(continued from page 5)

December letter already indicated that BOP would issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), meaning the outcome was predetermined even before the EA was released.

EA Leaves Significant Gaps and Paves the Way for an ICE Takeover

The EA published on May 1, 2026, assesses only whether closing the property would have any environmental impact. The analysis compares the property in its current dormant state under BOP caretaker status with the proposed action of formally closing it. But this comparison ignores the foreseeable next stages: transfer, sale, redevelopment, and detention. These developments could create substantial environmental and community impacts, yet the EA avoids meaningfully analyzing them.

Additionally, the EA itself leaves significant gaps. The EA acknowledges issues such as massive underground storage tanks full of potential environmental contaminants such as diesel, but concedes that BOP does not

know the location or condition of these tanks! However the report does not recommend any remediation of these concerns. Likewise, the EA identifies significant data gaps in faulty sewage pipes, possible unexploded ordnance, radiation concerns, and other contaminants, yet does not recommend any further action.

In addition to the FCI Dublin site, GSA also awarded a contract to a developer to build an ICE training facility and processing center in Gilroy, the southern gateway to Silicon Valley. Community members are pushing their local officials to block this plan, noting that the area is not zoned for this use. Such a center would facilitate ICE's logistical operations to arrest people in the Bay Area and transfer them to the detention centers in Central California.

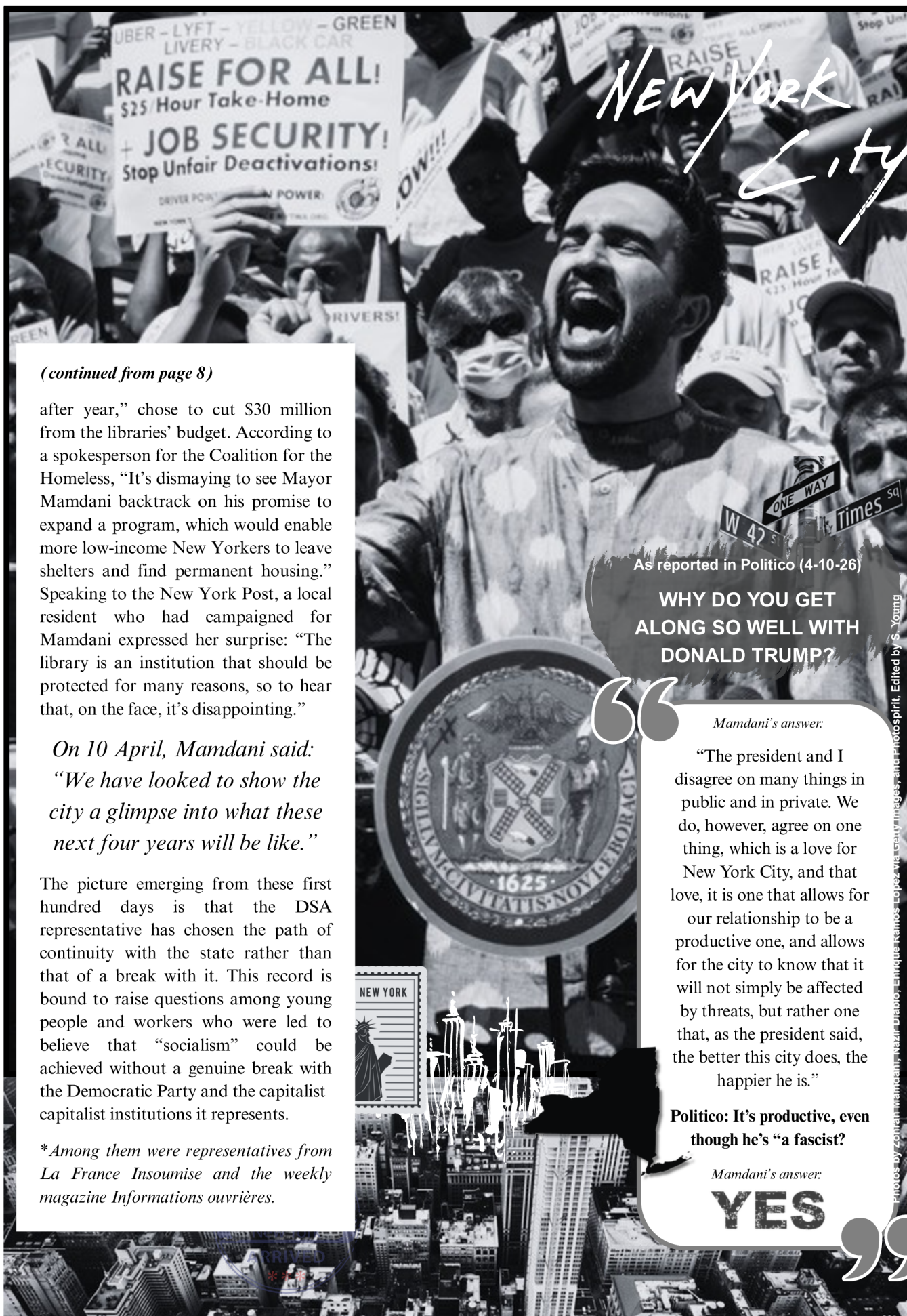
The Bay Area Pushes Back – FCI Dublin Must Be Demolished

Bay residents and others nationally are writing public comments to the BOP during the 30-day comment period, arguing that BOP should demolish the decrepit prison and clean up the land. The community does not want this

polluted site with decaying buildings to become another cage and site for abuse.

While BOP should take these comments seriously, further legal action may be needed to stop the expansion. Communities across the country have successfully used environmental law to block detention expansion.

The Bay will continue to organize against Trump's mass deportation agenda, which serves capitalist interests. The threat of mass detention extends beyond immigrants alone. As the state expands its carceral apparatus, it increases its power to criminalize dissent, suppress working class demands, and sacrifice human freedom and environmental health for profit. Only through organized resistance rooted in working-class solidarity can stop the expansion of detention and repression in the Bay Area and beyond.



NEW YORK
City

(continued from page 8)

after year,” chose to cut \$30 million from the libraries’ budget. According to a spokesperson for the Coalition for the Homeless, “It’s dismaying to see Mayor Mamdani backtrack on his promise to expand a program, which would enable more low-income New Yorkers to leave shelters and find permanent housing.” Speaking to the New York Post, a local resident who had campaigned for Mamdani expressed her surprise: “The library is an institution that should be protected for many reasons, so to hear that, on the face, it’s disappointing.”

*On 10 April, Mamdani said:
“We have looked to show the
city a glimpse into what these
next four years will be like.”*

The picture emerging from these first hundred days is that the DSA representative has chosen the path of continuity with the state rather than that of a break with it. This record is bound to raise questions among young people and workers who were led to believe that “socialism” could be achieved without a genuine break with the Democratic Party and the capitalist capitalist institutions it represents.

**Among them were representatives from
La France Insoumise and the weekly
magazine Informations ouvrières.*

As reported in Politico (4-10-26)

**WHY DO YOU GET
ALONG SO WELL WITH
DONALD TRUMP?**

Mamdani’s answer:

“The president and I disagree on many things in public and in private. We do, however, agree on one thing, which is a love for New York City, and that love, it is one that allows for our relationship to be a productive one, and allows for the city to know that it will not simply be affected by threats, but rather one that, as the president said, the better this city does, the happier he is.”

**Politico: It’s productive, even
though he’s “a fascist?”**

Mamdani’s answer:

YES

Photos by Zoltan Mamdani, Nazir Dabir, Enrique Ramos Lopez via Getty Images, and Photospirit. Edited by S. Young

THE FIRST 100 DAYS of New York's 'Socialist' Democratic Mayor



By Nelly Mary

The below article is republished from The Workers' Tribune in France. Since its publication, Mamdani has faced public outcry over his austerity proposal to defund public libraries in New York City—going against his own campaign promises. At the time of this publication, a rank-and-file movement has forced Mamdani to retreat. He has since promised to restore funding for public libraries. This pressure from below has widened the debate within the Democratic Socialists of America about the limitations of running candidates within a ruling-class party. This notwithstanding, Mamdani has not withdrawn his endorsement for incumbent Governor, Kathy Hochul, who has opposed increasing taxes on the rich in New York state. Without new revenue and as long as he remains within the confines of the Democratic Party, Mamdani will have to carry out the capitalist agenda of austerity and budget cuts. It's noteworthy that there is an independent working-class movement from below that is ready to fight Mamdani on these issues. — Ed. Note.

“**Zohran Mamdani the candidate might not recognize Zohran Mamdani the mayor**”
(Politico, 4-10-26)

On 4 November, Zohran Mamdani was elected mayor of New York. The “social” campaign of the candidate from the DSA (Democratic Socialists of America), the “left” wing of the Democratic Party, had sparked enthusiasm among workers and young people who aspire to block the reactionary and anti-worker policies implemented by both Trump and his Democratic predecessors. Immediately after his election, his supporters around the world declared: “Socialism has won!”*

But very quickly, the promises made by the “socialist” Mamdani came up against his refusal to challenge the system of private ownership of the means of production. Respectful of bourgeois institutions, Mamdani bound himself to adhere to the rules of a balanced budget (expenditures equal to revenue). To fund increases in certain municipal budgets, he approached his Democratic colleague Kathy Hochul, Governor of New York

State, asking her to authorize tax increases on the wealthiest individuals. In line with the Democratic Party’s stance, Hochul – who has received Mamdani’s official support for her re-election next November – refused. Faced with this refusal, Mamdani opted for austerity measures. “The budget crisis we inherited compels us to take an all-of-government approach and use every tool at our disposal to meet the legal mandate to balance the budget, including achieving efficiencies and cutting waste,” said his spokesperson.

The man who had made a name for himself with his campaign slogan “Freeze the rent!” has therefore finally announced that he would restore budgetary balance by scrapping a housing support scheme he deemed too costly. The man who had declared: “As Mayor, I’ll end this absurd budget dance that keeps our beloved libraries in limbo year

(continued on page 7)