



Jim West (jimwestphoto.com)

HOW THE LABOR MOVEMENT CAN MAKE SURE TRUMP LEAVES OFFICE

Donald Trump and Republicans have:

- Refused to commit to respect the results of the election
- Attacked mail-in voting
- Tried to sabotage US Postal Service
- Suppressed the votes of millions of eligible voters
- Claimed that a Biden victory is only possible if the vote is “rigged”
- Instructed armed fascists to “stand by”

This won't be a normal election night.

- Mail-in balloting means we won't know the winner on Nov. 3.
- Democrats are voting by mail in higher numbers than Republicans, so most ballots counted after Nov. 3 will be for Biden. Trump will try to stop those ballots from being counted.
- In the days after Nov. 3, Trump and his allies will spread false claims of “fraud” and may appeal to the far-right SCOTUS majority for help.

Potential outcomes of Nov. 3

1. Trump wins outright in undebatable election results.
2. Trump declares victory despite not all ballots being counted; appeals to courts to halt the count.
3. Trump declares victory despite losing the Electoral College count.
4. Biden wins, and Trump leaves, but most of our problems remain. We have to put enormous pressure on Biden and the 1% to get what we need.

How would we know it's a coup attempt?

- The government halts the vote count.
- Republican state governments appoint Trump electors who disregard the votes in their states.
- Someone who did not get the most votes in the Electoral College system is declared the winner.

Lessons from Florida, 2000

- The Democrats appealed to the courts, promising that judges would be impartial. They weren't.
- The right wing went on the attack. It mobilized supporters around the narrative "Gore is trying to steal the election."
- We now know that Gore won Florida,* but it's too late.

*See Jon Schwarz, "Democrats Should Remember Al Gore Won Florida in 2000 — But Lost the Presidency With a Pre-emptive Surrender," *The Intercept*, Nov. 10, 2018

Regular
people have
stopped
coups.



BOLIVIA: After a coup in 2019, protesters carried out strikes and road blockades, forcing the regime to hold fair elections in October 2020

We have the
collective
power to
stop a coup.



Charles Krupa / AP



Western Massachusetts Area Labor Federation

640 Page Blvd. Springfield, MA 01104
Phone: 413-732-7970 Email: organizer@wmalf.org

RESOLUTION:

LABOR MUST DEFEND DEMOCRACY AND OPPOSE AUTHORITARIANISM:

A CALL FOR PREPARATION OF A NATIONAL GENERAL STRIKE

Whereas, the Western Massachusetts Area Labor Federation, AFL-CIO is committed to the defense of democratic rights and the institutions of democracy regardless of party affiliations in our nation, and;

Whereas, the strengthening of democratic institutions is vital for confronting the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate emergency, white supremacy, the drastic inequality of wealth and power, and other crises facing our country and the world, and;

Whereas, the current President of the United States of America, Donald Trump, and Vice-President Mike Pence, have consistently refused to state publicly that they will respect the outcomes of the election and, in the case of their loss, concede their offices, and;

October 19, 2020

(continued):

Whereas, the presidency of Donald Trump has been a disaster for the labor movement, the nation and the world, posing extreme risks to the historic institutions of democracy in our nation which may require more widespread and vigorous resistance than at any time in recent history, and;

Whereas, the most powerful tool of the Labor Movement in our history has been the power of the General Strike, and;

Therefore, now be it resolved that the Western Mass Area Labor Federation, AFL-CIO stands firmly in opposition to any effort to subvert, distort, misrepresent or disregard the final outcome of the 2020 Presidential elections, and;

Therefore, be it finally resolved that the Western Mass Area Labor Federation, AFL-CIO calls on the Massachusetts State and National offices of the AFL-CIO, all affiliate unions, and all other labor organizations in the United States of America to prepare for and enact a general strike of all working people, if necessary, to ensure a Constitutionally mandated peaceful transition of power as a result of the 2020 Presidential Elections.

Hundreds of labor unions have pledged to “take whatever nonviolent actions are necessary up to and including a general strike to protect our democracy...”

Seattle MLK Labor Council, 10/21/20

Truthout, 10/22/20 →

NEWS | ECONOMY & LABOR

Labor Prepares for Last-Minute General Strike If Trump Tries to Steal Election



JARED RODRIGUEZ / TRUTHOUT

BY

Candice Bernd, TRUTHOUT

PUBLISHED

October 22, 2020

This article has been updated to include reported details of a national call with AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka that took place on October 22.

The 100,000-member MLK Labor Council, an AFL-CIO regional body

What we can
each do
right now

Take the “Choose Democracy” pledge:
<https://choosedemocracy.us/>

Talk to our co-workers

Form small groups for post-election
rallies, marches, and picket lines

Email us to stay connected

Some of the above slides are adapted from United Teachers Los Angeles (utla.net). Thanks UTLA!