“They're going to shake your hand and hug you while they stab you in the back”

Workers speak on outcome of US midterm elections: “The Republicans show you the knife ... the Democrats hug you and stab you in the back”

WSWS Reporting Team
16 November 2026

World Socialist Web Site reporters spoke with a number of workers after the US midterm elections about how they saw the vote, which brought major gains for Democratic Party candidates in federal, state and municipal races.

Behind the vote, which was a massive rebuke to the Trump administration, lies intense social anger over the spiraling cost of living, war, social inequality and the assault on democratic rights. However, there is a vast gulf between the hopes and aspirations of workers and the actual policies that the Democrats, a party of Wall Street and the banks, will advance.

WSWS reporters spoke with three workers at Amazon facilities in Oklahoma City and Dallas in the days after the midterms. All three expressed deep hostility toward both big business parties and little confidence that the new Congress will do anything about the social crisis workers face.

“Prices for food are up; gas is sky high, and we have no housing. Our infrastructure is falling apart,” one worker said. “I think the people that are in control are not even really worried about the working class. I think they’re into the single percent financial status. I think they’re more concerned about themselves than us.”

A self-described Democrat from a conservative family, the worker added, “I’m not happy with any of them. And it’s been going down for decades now.” On the mood after the election, the worker was blunt: “This is maybe a tiny victory, but everybody’s celebrating and all this. Let’s see what’s going to get passed.”

Another worker, who started at Amazon during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, said the Democrats might engage on social issues, “but whenever it comes to any economic issues or any issues that are going to help lower class … they’re nowhere to be found.”

Asked whether he agreed with the WSWS assessment that the Democrats are a capitalist party, the worker replied, “I do. I think they’ve been bought by capitalists for quite some time now. They’re not the worker parties of the stories I heard from my parents.”

Recalling elderly coworkers who were forced to work through the pandemic, the worker said, “If we’re the richest country in the world, those people shouldn’t have to be spending their remaining years toiling away in Amazon.” Asked what he thought about socialism, the worker said, “It’s something I think about all the time, and I do support it.”

A third, younger Amazon worker who went through the public schools in Oklahoma City said, “I noticed as a young adult that it’s leaning more into a fascist state because of our capitalism.” The worker continued, “I don’t choose to work at a corporation like this, but I have to do what I have to do. Currently there are no better opportunities that I could grasp at my level.”

The worker said political discussions like these are common inside the facility: “We spend a lot of time here. We got a lot of time to talk.”

The same sentiments were expressed by workers across regions and industries. Several autoworkers in the Detroit

© World Socialist Web Site

area also shared their thoughts on the election results.

Steven, a Stellantis worker at the Sterling Heights Assembly Plant, said, “It’s going to be very interesting to see a clash between what people thought they were voting for and what they get. They’re going to realize this is no different than if they voted for Republicans. It’s going to be the same thing with the Democrats. They just package it differently.

“Workers don’t want to fight in these wars, and they don’t want to sacrifice their livelihoods either. A lot of them are just working and talking behind the scenes. They don’t want to lose what they got, but they’re going to lose more if they don’t fight. We’re already working whatever overtime we can to pay the bills. But our partners still have to help, because nowadays you need another consistent income to make it.

“There was a time when this type of job would be worked by your dad or husband, and everyone else was good. But that all changed when they cut autoworkers’ wages in half during the 2009 bankruptcy. They never cut the cost of living in half. Instead, that just kept going up. We had to just make do with what we had.

“I feel the one thing that most people are starting to pay a certain amount of attention to is the political climate in this country. They want change, and they’re told there are just two political choices in this country. But it’s the same thing. They are just two different versions. One of them is showing you the knife they’re going to stab you with, and you can see it right there in front of you. The other one, they’re going to shake your hand and hug you while they stab you in the back. So it’s different, but it’s the same knife. The only thing that is different is how they are going to go about stabbing you.

“Either way, their agendas are in a hidden place. The Democrats are using different language now to get your vote, but most people, especially the working class, don’t think any of this is really going to have any positive effect on their lives.

“I read what the early socialist Eugene Debs said in 1912 about how no self-respecting wage worker should give his support to either of these corrupt capitalist parties. It’s crazy that was said 114 years ago. It’s so relevant now. Somebody in 1912 said what we confront in 2026, even though there has been so much change in technology and society since then. It still is the same fight. Behind the scenes people are talking and getting fed up. There is a growing sentiment that we need a general strike to cripple the economy and shut the country down.”

Another Stellantis worker, Dan, said, “The Democrats are going to have to put money out there, because if they don’t, people are going to start to look to build a workers’ party.”

Richie, a trucker from New York, said of the vote, “I’m not really surprised. It was already reported on social media and around politics that the Democrats were going to get a majority in the House and in the Senate. But I didn’t have my hopes up, because I know that they’re both bourgeois parties. Even though the Democrats are a little bit sympathetic to the workers, they really do not deliver on their promises.

“It’s just been a whole heap of disappointment with the Democrats. We really need an actual left-wing party. The Democrats are not that.

“The workers are angry at what’s happening in Iran. Especially the truckers who have to purchase their own diesel.

“The average worker cares about affordability. They care about inflation. They care about not having to pay more for everyday things like gas and groceries.

“We have no options. It’s a duopoly. It’s either blue bourgeoisie or red bourgeoisie. It either the blue backers of Israel or the red ones. There’s no real left-wing party in this country. There’s no workers’ party.”

A member of the Springfield, Massachusetts, Postal Workers Rank and File Committee gave the following statement summing up the tasks ahead: “The results of the 2026 midterms demonstrate that working-class Americans are deeply dissatisfied with the direction this country is going in. But a change in which the Democratic Party controls Congress is not a victory for the working class. Regardless of which major party is in the White House or Congress, working people and families continue to face skyrocketing inflation, stagnant wages, attacks on workers’ rights and an economic system that prioritizes corporate profits over human needs.

“Our task as workers cannot end at the ballot box. We must build solidarity, organize our workplaces and develop a genuine working-class movement capable of overcoming the power of corporate interests. Real change will not be handed down by politicians. It must be built collectively, from the ground up, by the working people themselves.”

To contact the WSWS and the Socialist Equality Party visit:

wsws.org/contact

© World Socialist Web Site