Vote for the SEP in the Victorian election! Build a socialist movement against war, austerity and dictatorship!

Socialist Equality Party (Australia)
25 November 2026

We appeal to workers and youth to vote for the Socialist Equality Party (SEP) candidates in this Saturday's Victorian state election, to signal your support for a genuine socialist perspective against the program of war, austerity and attacks on democratic rights defended by every other party.

The SEP's candidates, Morgan Peach and Peter Byrne, are standing for the upper house in the Northern Metropolitan Region, encompassing some of Melbourne's key working-class suburbs, including Broadmeadows and its surrounds. Due to anti-democratic electoral laws, the SEP's name does not appear on the ballot paper.

To vote for the SEP, place a 1 in the box for Group B above the line on the Legislative Council ballot paper (the larger ballot paper). The SEP opposes compulsory preferencing and is not directing preferences to any other party. **The electoral laws, however, require voters to number at least four other boxes above the line—2, 3, 4 and 5—in order of their own preference.**

But the SEP's campaign goes far beyond votes and polling day. We are standing in this election as part of the fight to build a socialist movement of the working class, against a capitalist system that is hurtling towards the abyss.

The official election campaign has been dominated by lies and banalities. It has been a conspiracy of silence on all of the fundamental issues facing workers and young people.

Chief among them is the reality that this election is being held amid the opening shots of a world war.

The SEP has been alone in sounding the alarm. In our campaign we have centrally raised the utterly criminal character of the US war against Iran, which fascistic President Donald Trump has repeatedly threatened to "annihilate." That is part of an extension of the barbarism of the US-Israeli genocide of Palestinians throughout the Middle East.

We have warned that the Ukraine conflict is, in reality, a war of the US and NATO against Russia, posing the real danger of a nuclear catastrophe in Europe. And as horrific as that war is, from the standpoint of the strategists of American imperialism and their allies, it is a stepping stone to an even greater war targeting their main rival, China.

The official parties have blacked out the war that is underway because they are part of it. Labor, with the backing of the Liberals and One Nation, is actively participating in all of the US-led wars, and its central program is to complete Australia's transformation into a staging base for war against China, involving a massive expansion of the military and US basing.

The Greens, whatever their occasional criticisms of this or that war, collaborate every day with the federal Labor government. Their greatest aspiration is to join it in a coalition.

How can war be stopped? Millions of people around the world demonstrated against the genocide in Gaza, but their opposition was subordinated to appeals to the very governments, including the federal Labor government, that were supporting Israel.

The struggle against war requires a political perspective that addresses its source in the capitalist system and the relentless competition for profits, markets and resources. Against the competing interests of the capitalist powers, the SEP advances a program based on the common interests of workers internationally and the socialist reorganisation of society.

The eruption of imperialist militarism is a response to the immense economic crisis, marked by inflation, government debt and an enormous speculative bubble in the financial markets. While they are waging war against their rivals, governments are attacking the social conditions of the working class, to make them pay for the crisis of capitalism and for the massive sums being devoted to military spending.

That is at the centre of the Victorian election. While making phoney promises to the population, both major parties are pledging massive cuts to social spending to

© World Socialist Web Site

service the state's mounting debt, projected to reach $200 billion by 2030.

"I'm a pro-business, financially responsible Premier," Labor leader Ben Carroll proclaims, as he boasts that he has already been reducing the debt by $1 billion every month. The Greens make mouse-like noises about the cuts, while declaring they would work with an incoming Labor government. With the Liberals and One Nation declaring that they too will slash public spending, this is a four-way commitment to austerity.

In other words, whichever parties form government, they are going to carry out sweeping cuts to public healthcare, education, the public sector and other vital services, all of which are already in crisis after 13 years of Labor governing in the interests of the banks and the corporations. The savage assault on the National Disability Insurance Scheme by the federal Labor government, involving kicking hundreds of thousands of disabled people off any support, is a warning of what is to come nationally and in every state and territory.

Around the world, this program of war, austerity and authoritarianism is encountering growing opposition. Millions of workers and young people have engaged in strikes and mass protests in France, Italy and other European centres over recent months. In Australia, there have been major struggles by teachers, healthcare workers and other sections of workers, against increasingly unbearable conditions and real wage cuts amid soaring inflation.

There is massive hostility to the official setup, which is why the two-party system is in a historic crisis. And there is a growing anti-capitalist sentiment among broad layers of workers and youth. The critical question is how to take it forward.

The SEP has exposed the campaign of the Victorian Socialists (VS) as a fraud. VS, the electoral front of the fake-left Socialist Alternative, is peddling the lie that a "better, fairer" Victoria can be achieved through the election and pressure on the incoming parliament. It is claiming that Labor and the Greens are a lesser-evil and is directing voting preferences to them.

Like the populist posturing of the Greens, this is a political trap, aimed at diverting opposition back behind a parliamentary establishment that is not offering reforms but social counter-revolution. VS speaks not for the working class, but for layers of the upper-middle class, who want to advance their own privileges within a parliamentary setup and a capitalist system that is at war with the working class.

The SEP states bluntly: There is no "lesser-evil." The election will resolve absolutely nothing for the working class.

There is widespread concern over the rise of the far-right One Nation, which is being promoted by sections of the ruling class such as mining billionaire Gina Rinehart. But Labor is responsible for One Nation. It has created the social misery upon which these far-right demagogues prey, and has spearheaded the assault on immigrants, which is also One Nation's signature policy.

What is posed is the need for a break with the entire political establishment and the development of an independent movement of the working class. The SEP fights for the formation of rank-and-file committees in every workplace and neighbourhood, to defeat the sellouts enforced by the trade union bureaucracy, to unite workers across industries and to prepare mass industrial and political action. Establishing such committees is the only means of developing a struggle against the massive cuts that are to come after the Victorian election, which will be enforced by the unions, whichever parties form government.

Above all, the lesson of history is that mass anger and militant struggle is not enough. The working class must build its own revolutionary party, based on the perspective of abolishing capitalism, establishing workers' power and placing the banks and the corporations under public ownership. Under conditions of a global economy and society, this can only be an international struggle, uniting workers the world over in opposition to the nationalism promoted by all of the capitalist governments.

We are living in revolutionary times. History has once again posed before the working class the alternatives of socialism or barbarism, but this time the very future of humanity is at stake, given the immense danger of nuclear war and the existential threat of climate change. We appeal to all those who want to fight for a future: Vote for the SEP's candidates! Study our program! Join the SEP and take your place in the fight for socialism!

Authorised by Cheryl Crisp for the Socialist Equality Party, Level 1/457-459 Elizabeth Street, Surry Hills, NSW, 2010, Australia.

To contact the WSWS and the Socialist Equality Party visit:

wsws.org/contact

© World Socialist Web Site