

Mexicans vote on how they think AMLO's government is doing



By Eric A. Gordon

As he promised when he assumed office in late 2018, Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador (AMLO) held an unprecedented national referendum earlier this week to allow Mexican voters the opportunity to weigh in on how they feel his Morena government is dealing with the problems of the country.

Elections are run by INE, the National Electoral Institute, which is government funded but politically independent. Therefore, as in the U. S., it matters a great deal how the election will be managed from state to state. Results, to be formally confirmed on Wednesday, are expected to vary widely depending on how the referendum was conducted in that state.

Aguascalientes is controlled by PAN (Partido de Accion Nacional), which will make all the difference in how the returns will be counted and reported.

I have been here for almost a week and have seen no posters on the streets of the city and have heard little on the news concerning the referendum. There's been no visible or audible voter promotion. No voter information was sent to voters about when and where to vote. Only a day or two before the referendum date was a website and telephone number announced so that citizens could learn where to show up. The number of voting precincts were sharply reduced from the last elections for governors and federal and state officials.

National news channels affiliated with the right wing continue to grant exaggerated coverage to crime stories as if to constantly remind viewers how ineffectual the AMLO administration has been, while censoring positive news about advances in other areas such as healthcare, education, the fight against corruption and labor abuse.

Conversations with friends, relatives and strangers, including the proverbial reporter's taxi driver, indicated a widespread apathy about the

T H I S W E E K :

- **Mexicans vote on how they think AMLO's government is doing**
- **Oil spilled as section of overturned shipwreck separated**
- **UCW backs Miranda Schubert for Tucson city council**
- **Apoyo para abrir un camino hacia la ciudadanía**
- **Israeli forces open fire on Palestinians protesting against settlement**

READ MORE NEWS AND OPINION DAILY AT WWW.PEOPLESWORLD.ORG

referendum. It's just politics as usual, many said, the same old corruption no matter who's in power, and a referendum will change nothing.

To be sure, the absence of candidates and political parties from this single-issue ballot no doubt suppressed the enthusiasm for voting, according to

Turnout lower than expected in a nationwide referendum.

an INE official I interviewed off the record.

AMLO has made the rooting out of corruption the centerpiece of his presidency. Already the extravagant pensions and privileges of former presidents and high government officials have been eliminated or significantly reduced.

But now the midterm referendum has been framed as a measure to allow for criminal prosecution and effectively do away with legal impunity as the country's parting gift to the highest officeholders.

On a visit out of the city earlier this week I did manage to spot a dramatic poster showing portraits of five past presidents in a lurid noir black and white format as one might see in a crime weekly of the 1940s. Across each one's eyes a white band listed the most prominent assault, state robbery or scandal for which their administration is remembered. But this was a rare sighting. Overall there was little or no referendum publicity to be seen, and there was no great national debate about the issue.

An extremely low turnout was expected in

Aguascalientes, though it needs to be emphasized that the picture might look very different in other states governed by Morena.

Final referendum results was announced on Wednesday. Already some voters are skeptical about their authenticity. The ballot boxes in looked unsecured and vulnerable to tampering.

The complete text of the referendum reads (in this reporter's translation) as follows: "Do you or do you not agree that the appropriate action should be taken, within a constitutional and legal framework, to initiate a process of bringing to light the political decisions made in past years by political actors, directed toward the guarantee of justice and rights for the possible victims? Yes or No?"

The referendum serves as a bellwether on the AMLO government even if it is not a recall election as such. Shall the nation pursue ever more democratic measures that Morena is promoting, and does the movement still enjoy the popular support it won in the historic 2018 election?

Oil spilled as section of overturned shipwreck separated

By Associated Press

Pollution response teams on Saturday worked to contain oil that was discharged after demolition crews finished cutting away the sixth of eight sections of a giant cargo ship that tipped over off the Georgia coast nearly two years ago.

The oil could affect the water and beaches around St. Simons and Jekyll islands, Georgia Coastal Health District spokesperson Sally Silbermann said.

The sixth section of the cargo ship was separated late Friday, said Michael Himes, a spokesperson for the U.S. Coast Guard Unified Command. On Saturday, a pilot steered the sixth section away from the rest of the Golden Ray's half-submerged wreckage, The Brunswick News reported.

That leaves just one more cut before the dwindling remains are completely removed.

The 3,695-metric-ton (4,073 U.S. tons) mass of steel is hanging suspended by tension wire from the arching rafters of the 255-foot-tall (85-yard-tall) VB 10,000. The VB 10,000 and its load sit inside the 1-mile-perimeter environmental protection barrier that surrounds the salvage site.

The Golden Ray, carrying more than 1,400 ve-

hicles, overturned after leaving the Port of Brunswick along the Georgia coast on Sept. 8, 2019. Harbor pilot Jonathan Tennant and about two dozen crew members on board were rescued and survived.

The removal of Section 6 will leave about 153.5 feet of shipwreck still in the St. Simons Sound. Section 6 is bound for a dismantling site on the East River in Brunswick, where it will join the 3,640-ton Section 3. Each of the four remaining sections will be cut up into about a dozen smaller pieces at the location, loaded onto a barge and transported to the Modern American Recycling Services facility in Gibson, Louisiana.

Maritime engineers suspect these four middle sections suffered the brunt of any structural damage when the Golden Ray overturned on its port side Sept. 8, 2019, while heading out to sea with its cargo. The four outer sections were all transported via barge whole and directly to the MARS facility on the Louisiana Gulf Coast. Cutting to remove Section 6 started July 22.

The Unified Command advises mariners to steer clear of the perimeter safety zone, which has been increased from 150 yards to 200 yards.

The Unified Command advises mariners to steer clear of the perimeter safety zone, which has been increased from 150 yards to 200 yards.

Arizona's United Campus Workers backs Miranda Schubert for Tucson city council



By Josh Bacopulos

In a big step for organized labor in Arizona, United Campus Workers—the union representing graduate students, staff, and faculty at Arizona State University and the University of Arizona—entered the political arena with the endorsement of Miranda Schubert for Tucson's Ward 6 city council seat.

Schubert is the only union member, queer person, woman, and self-described democratic socialist running for Ward 6 in the primary on Tuesday, Aug. 3. Schubert decided to run for office following her experience organizing with UCW and CAJUA (Coalition for Academic Justice at the University of Arizona). Schubert told *People's World*, "UCW showed me that we can do scary things like push back against power if we stand in solidarity!"

Schubert is running on a progressive platform which seeks to address the concerns of thousands of Tucson residents. In conversations with voters, Schubert notes, "Housing affordability is at the top of the list; this goes for people in the affluent neighborhoods, as well as the low-income areas."

If elected, Schubert listed steps the city council should take to alleviate the rising costs of housing.

"I'm interested in things like adaptive reuse of old buildings, such as schools that have closed, as well as looking at our zoning and land use to support more density and infill development." Schubert noted that city-owned land should be used to create affordable and quality housing. The solutions

Schubert proposes are applicable not only to Tucson but also to the whole state of Arizona.

Homelessness is a major issue in Arizona, with more than 10,000 going unhoused in the Grand Canyon State on any given day. In tackling these issues, Schubert advocates a care-based approach rather than punitive measures. She is pushing for more access to union jobs with high wages and benefits, improvement of public transportation, and an increased supply of housing—as opposed to the alternative of increasing the staffing of police departments to deal with homeless persons.

Schubert is set to take on incumbent Steve Kozachik, the once Tea Party Republican turned Democrat. Although Kozachik has switched parties, his financial donors support Republican legislation. His donors include auto dealer tycoon Jim Click, who has also contributed to Donald Trump and Ted Cruz, and FreedomWorks, a conservative think tank which advocates against removing the filibuster.

Schubert's campaign heralds a new era of progressive politics in Arizona.

As Schubert correctly noted, "The time has come to be more innovative about how local levers of power can work for the people, by providing more access to housing that's affordable, addressing the climate emergency, restructuring public safety and investing more funds in social services and public works, and encouraging economic development that centers union jobs, sustainability, and social and racial justice."

In a big step for organized labor in Arizona, the union representing graduate students, staff, and faculty in the state has entered the political arena.

LOCAL NEWS

LOCAL CONTACT

contact@peoplesworld.org

Israeli forces open fire on Palestinians protesting against illegal Nablus settlement

By Morning Star

Israeli occupying forces opened fire on Palestinian civilians in Nablus on last week as part of a violent crackdown amid growing opposition to plans to build an illegal mountain settlement.

The Palestinian Red Crescent said that at least 8 civilians had been shot and more treated for the effects of tear gas inhalation.

Israeli soldiers were also alleged to have assaulted and injured a young Palestinian man during the protests against the construction of Givat Eviatar, an illegal outpost on Mount Sabih near the village of Beita in the occupied West Bank.

Settlers are refusing to leave the Palestinian land, despite a compromise agreement being struck with the Israeli government last month following a court order ruling they must vacate the 50 illegally built prefabricated homes.

But under the deal, the strategic outpost will instead become an Israeli military base, a move provoked with widespread anger.

Israeli soldiers have shot dead a number of Palestinians as they suppress demonstrations that have taken place.

On Wednesday Shady Sleem became the latest victim after he was shot dead by Israeli forces in the West Bank village, the Palestinian Ministry of Health confirmed.

Some 475,000 Israeli settlers live in the occupied West Bank, which is home to around 2.8 million Palestinians.

Israeli settlements are illegal under international law and have continued to expand as world powers offer little other than mild rebukes.

El Apoyo de la Senadora Baldwin y Congresista Moore para Pasar un Camino a la Ciudadanía

By Voces De La Frontera

Este fin de semana, Voces de la Frontera reaseguro los compromisos de la Senadora Baldwin y Congresista Gwen Moore para apoyar un permanente camino a la ciudadanía para millones de trabajadores esenciales inmigrantes y familias a través del proceso de reconciliación presupuestario en el Congreso. Este compromiso fue bienvenido por la comunidad inmigrante que atendieron las series, organizado por Voces de la Frontera en Milwaukee, Green Bay, y Madison, que están afligidos después de la decisión de la corte federal de terminar parcialmente el programa DACA.

DACA protege a inmigrantes traídos a los EEUU de niños de deportaciones y les provee permisos para trabajar. Esta decisión pone un alto a la aprobación de nuevas aplicaciones de DACA, solamente permitiendo que los actuales recipientes renueven su estatus. Más de 600,000 Dreamers están inscritos en el programa a nivel nacional, con 6,540 jóvenes en Wisconsin actualmente en el programa. Se estima que 20,000 Dreamers en Wisconsin son elegibles para recibir DACA. Muchos estudiantes de preparatoria y universidad, padres y trabajadores esenciales han estado esperando por meses para que sus aplicaciones sean aprobadas. Estos jóvenes están en riesgo de ser deportados, separados de sus familias, y no pueden trabajar para proveer a su familia.

Yareli Suarez, una recipiente de DACA de Milwaukee, una estudiante de enfermería en su tercer año en Cardinal Stritch, atendió y habló en el foro de Milwaukee. Suarez dijo, "DACA nunca fue y nunca será una solución permanente, es algo provi-

sional. Este ataque contra DACA va a continuar al menos de que haya un camino a la ciudadanía que incluya a todos. Necesitamos presionar a la Administración de Biden y los representantes de Wisconsin para hacer un mejor trabajo y no aprobar ningún proyecto de ley que no incluya un camino a la ciudadanía.

A principios de este mes, Senadores Demócratas publicaron el Proyecto de ley Presupuestario de trabajos de Biden que incluye fondos para un camino permanente para la ciudadanía para millones de inmigrantes. Las encuestas demuestran un apoyo amplio de los Republicanos, Demócratas, e Independientes a nivel nacional para una reforma migratoria, y defensores de los derechos de los inmigrantes le están urgiendo Biden y a los Demócratas en el Congreso que pasar Ciudadanía para Todos este año.

La Senadora Tammy Baldwin dijo públicamente "Hoy, estamos en una coyuntura crítica y yo creo que tenemos que aprovechar esta oportunidad para pasar una reforma migratoria comprensiva. Mientras que el congreso trabaja para avanzar una propuesta de reconciliación presupuestaria, Yo continuare a apoyar el avance de una reforma migratoria."

La congresista Gwen Moore También declaró que "Bajo la administración de Biden tenemos una oportunidad histórica para crear una reforma migratoria con camino a la ciudadanía para Dreamers, TPSianos, trabajadores agrícolas, y trabajadores esenciales a través del proceso de reconciliación. Estoy contenta con los informes que los Senadores Demócratas están trabajando de buena fe para lograr esto."

NATIONAL CONTACT

Editorial: (773) 446-9920 Business: (212) 924-2523
Email: contact@peoplesworld.org