

## Why the filibuster must go



By N. Myhand & T. McAninley

If our democracy is to survive, the filibuster must end now. Since 1841, the filibuster has been used by the minority party to subvert the power of the majority party to govern. The U.S. Constitution requires a simple majority vote in both houses of Congress to pass legislation, with a few rare exceptions: impeachments, expulsion of members, overriding a presidential veto, ratification of treaties, and constitutional amendments.

Historically, the filibuster was used to block popular legislation that would have benefited society as a whole, including when Southern politicians defeated Reconstruction legislation after the Civil War. In later years, they obstructed bills which would protect the voting rights of Black Americans, as well as anti-lynching, fair employment, voting rights, and other critical civil rights protections. Currently, the filibuster rule is being used to prevent

- Raising the federal minimum wage to \$15/hour;
  - Passage of all provisions of H.R. 1 / S. 1, the For the People Act; and
  - Full restoration of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.
- These pieces of legislation would strengthen our democracy by protecting the constitutional guarantee of the right to vote and by increasing the possibility of “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” for all.

Many who argue for preservation of the filibuster

insist that its loss would be calamitous for the majority party if and when they become the minority party. California’s Sen. Dianne Feinstein offers this as her rationale for preserving it. We suggest instead that all parties will be strengthened by passing legislation that protects the rights of their constituents to participate in the democratic process and encourages them to see the value in casting their vote for their party of choice.

The current wave of voter suppression bills crafted

### T H I S W E E K :

- **Why the filibuster must go**
- **Tucson wins the fight for \$15**
- **U.S. bans Communist journalist from traveling to Nicaragua**
- **Afghanistan’s Taliban circulate ‘kill list’ targeting LGBTQ people**
- **Apoyo a la indexación salarial y las prestaciones sociales**

READ MORE NEWS AND OPINION DAILY AT [WWW.PEOPLESWORLD.ORG](http://WWW.PEOPLESWORLD.ORG)

and passed in states nationwide is cause for dismay.

In 2020, we saw the highest voter turnout in over a century. But by May 2021, 389 restrictive election laws were introduced in 48 states. The For the People Act and the full restoration of the 1965 Voting Rights Act would undermine those

**51 votes placed justices on the Supreme Court for life, justices who are now undermining voting rights. Surely, 51 votes should be enough to save our democracy and the lives of the poor and low-wage workers in peril.**

attempts to exclude people of color and poor people of all backgrounds from full participation in our democracy. Now is the time to act in defense of the poor and low propensity voters who have become skeptical about whether their needs and concerns really matter to those making policies, since those policies serve to create and maintain poverty.

Wealthy elites clinging to minority rule actively undermine American democracy and our nation's highest court. The surge of voter participation in 2018 and 2020—including among poor voters—created Democratic majorities in the House and the Senate, electing candidates who want to move the country forward.

These results took many years of organizing, done in the hopes that politicians would embrace policies that enjoy popular support, such as universal access to healthcare, comprehensive immigration reform, and investment in sustainable infrastructure.

Yet none of these policies have been enacted because of an extremist minority in the Senate

using the non-constitutional filibuster to block constitutional and popular mandates to establish justice and provide for the welfare of the population.

When our democracy, the rights and lives of the poor and of low-wage workers are in peril, it is morally indefensible, constitutionally inconsistent, economically insane, and a grave form of political malpractice to talk of compromise with these extremists. Fifty-one votes were used to place justices on the Supreme Court for life, justices who are now undermining voting rights. Fifty-one votes can be used to save and strengthen our democracy.

This fight is not about Black or white. We are witnessing attacks on people of every race, income, gender, ability, and identity. We are united in our shared struggles. Suppressing the vote is a tool of upward wealth distribution. We are battling autocracy but also confronting the possibility of descending further under the rule of an economic oligarchy.

Forward together, not one step back!

---

## Tucson wins the fight for \$15

By Joe Bernick

**D**eating a well-financed campaign by big employers, Tucson voters last week overwhelmingly decided to enact a \$15-an-hour minimum wage for the city. The current Arizona state minimum wage is \$12.15 an hour.

The corporate-owned media has been trying to portray the Nov. 2, 2021, elections as a big victory for Republican politics, but they are doing so with scant evidence. They are ignoring places like Tucson, where the Republican Party is even afraid to run candidates.

The so-called “Blue Wave” that progressives had hoped would sweep the country in November 2020 when Trump was ousted, did not materialize nationwide, but it did happen here in Tucson. The Republicans took such a beating in Pima County last year that the local business interests tried a different strategy for the elections this time in Tucson, the county's largest city.

Instead of running candidates as Republicans, the Chamber of Commerce had a stealth campaign with one candidate running in the Democratic primary in Ward 3 and another running as an independent in Ward 6. Voters were not fooled.

Three Democrats won, including moderate incumbents Steve Kozachik and Richard Fimbres. Longtime progressive environmental activist Kevin Dahl was elected to the open Ward 3 seat, defeating independent Lucy Libosha and a far-right Republican who managed to get on the ballot without his party's support. Another three city council members and the mayor will be elected in 2023. All six council members and the current mayor are Democratic. A proposition to raise the salaries of city council members failed by an extremely narrow margin.

The Fight for \$15 Act, meanwhile, will not only raise the minimum wage to \$15-an-hour by 2025 but also create a city office for enforcement to offer protections against wage theft, shaving off time from workers' shifts, and other tricks used to exploit the poorest working people. Tipped workers' wages will increase from \$9.15 to \$12-an-hour, and all raises will continue to be adjusted for cost of living increases.

The stage is now set for the 2022 midterm elections with redistricting and a large number of state legislators retiring or running for higher offices.

**Republicans are afraid to even run candidates here.**

# U.S. bans Communist journalist from traveling to Nicaragua for elections



By Steve Sweeney

**A**re you or have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?" U.S. authorities infamously asked those entering the country during the Cold War. Nowadays, the questions may have changed, but the intention is the same—to keep out undesirables.

It seems that I am one of those undesirables—as well as a Communist—finding myself banned from transiting through the U.S. on my way to Nicaragua. "Travel unauthorized," my ESTA application rejection email said. ESTA is the Electronic System for Travel Authorization, the pre-travel form required of all foreign nationals entering the United States from countries listed on the U.S.' Visa Waiver Program. They don't tell you why you're rejected.

But I wear my U.S. ban as a badge of pride, slightly amused that the world's biggest imperialist power somehow sees me, the international editor of a socialist daily newspaper in Britain, as a threat. There's also an irony in blocking a journalist trying to get to Nicaragua to report on the elections there—when the U.S. makes such a hue and cry about press freedom in that country.

What's more surprising is I'm writing from Mexico City airport where I've been held since Friday evening. I expected to arrive in the Nicaraguan capital Managua Monday morning, with meetings planned with the head of the country's electoral board.

But by chance, two others being held here are Nicaraguan, making their way back for the weekend.

Nec, introduces himself as a businessman in perfect English is heading to Managua to sort out "payroll issues," while Francisco visits family in Spain.

Neither were in any doubt about who would win Nicaragua's elections. To them, it was a foregone conclusion that Daniel Ortega and the Sandinistas would score a comfortable victory.

"He [Ortega] is a good president," Nec tells me, admittedly taking me by surprise. "He's got the country running again. Things were bad a few years ago [during the coup], there was a lot of violence. But now it is peaceful—well, mostly."

This was perhaps best exemplified when the reactionary Allianz XL selected former Contra terror leader Oscar Soblavarro as its candidate. Unsurprisingly, the Supreme Electoral Council did not ratify the party's candidacy.

"The opposition wants to take us back to the dark ages," Francisco says. "But luckily they have few supporters, mainly the rich."

Cristina Robleta, a Sandinista supporter and election volunteer, agrees. She told the Morning Star she was happy to take part in the "historic elections."

"There is not the repression that some media and journalists claim. Before [the revolution], we didn't have the freedom to vote for 45 years under the Somoza dictatorship. But thanks to the Sandinista National Liberation Front, we now have the freedom to elect our president."

**Morning Star International Editor Steve Sweeney was blocked from transiting through the United States on the way to Managua.**

## LOCAL NEWS

LOCAL CONTACT

contact@peoplesworld.org

### Afghanistan's Taliban rulers circulate 'kill list' targeting LGBTQ people

By Combined Sources

The religious fundamentalists of the Taliban who now rule Afghanistan have established a "kill list" targeting the LGBTQ community in Afghanistan, Canadian NGO Rainbow Railroad said, and is ramping up persecution.

"This is a really scary time to be in Afghanistan," spokesman Kimahli Powell said. "We now know for sure the Taliban has a 'kill list' circulating, identifying LBTQI+ persons."

He said the Islamist group, that regained power in August following the two-decade-long U.S. occupation, had gained the information by paying close attention to the names of people that human rights groups were helping to evacuate.

The Taliban's current policy on homosexuality remains unstated, although reports suggest that the group will implement a strict interpretation of sharia law that could mean the death penalty for those who fall foul of it.

Rainbow Railroad, established in 2006, has helped over 1,600 at-risk LGBTQ people flee violence and persecution. The organization gained worldwide attention in 2017 when it facilitated the escape of over 100 people from the anti-gay purge in Chechnya. Currently, it is consumed with pleas for help from Afghanistan.

"I can guarantee you already right now, that the number of requests we will receive this year will spike," Powell said. He noted that Rainbow Railroad has already received 700 requests from the country and identified at least 200 more people "in need of immediate evacuation."

## En apoyo a los proyectos de ley de indexación salarial y rescate de prestaciones sociales

By JOSÉ MALCALÁ

La Central Unitaria de Trabajadores de Venezuela (CUTV) inicio este jueves 4 de noviembre desde la Plaza Caracas en la capital venezolana, la jornada de recolección de firmas de la población en apoyo proyecto al proyecto de Ley de Indexación Salarial y de Las Prestaciones Sociales.

En estos momentos los trabajadores y trabajadoras de la administración pública están recibiendo una bofetada a su dignidad con un pago miserable de aguinaldo» expresó Pedro Eusse secretario sindical nacional del Partido Comunista de Venezuela PCV y secretario general de la CUTV.

Eusse plantea que en la actualidad los trabajadores venezolanos son víctima del atropello a sus derechos laborales, asegura que hay un paquetazo de tilde neoliberal impuesto por el gobierno nacional "la cual contribuye a que los patronos sobre exploten a los trabajadores y se destruyan todos los derechos laborales. Esto es como un paquetazo neoliberal, que hoy día lo presentan como un pacto de élite entre el gobierno y la derecha"

El también coordinador general del Frente Nacional de Lucha de La Clase Trabajadora (FNLCT), informo que de manera simultánea en diversas inspectorías del trabajo de varias entidades del país se encontraban desarrollando las jornadas de protesta y recolección de firmas.

Pedro Eusse explicó que la primera propuesta consiste en presentar un Proyecto de Ley denominado "Escala Móvil de Salarios y Pensiones indexado a la Canasta Básica" "amparado en el artículo 91 de la Constitución, el cual establece que debe existir un salario digno y suficiente para garantizar

condiciones dignas de vida".

El segundo proyecto de ley consiste en el "Rescate y revalorización de las prestaciones sociales".

Eusse indica que "debido a la hiperinflación y de las dos reconversiones monetarias, las prestaciones sociales desaparecieron; percibimos unas prestaciones sociales devaluadas, por ello exigimos que sean recalculadas para que sirvan al trabajador, y a su familia, en función de hacer frente a la dramática situación económica que vivimos. Y no olvidemos que las contrataciones colectivas fueron desmontadas desde el propio Ministerio del Trabajo", cuestionó.

El dirigente sindical informo que el proyecto de ley será consignado ante el parlamento venezolano a través de la diputación de la Alternativa Popular Revolucionaria y el Partido Comunista de Venezuela PCV, representado por el secretario general del CC-PCV Óscar Figuera, en los primeros días del mes de diciembre de este año.

Venezuela está pidiendo una reestructuración integral de la deuda internacional a raíz de la pandemia.

El presidente Nicolás Maduro dijo que más de 130 millones de personas se habían sumido en la pobreza durante la pandemia.

Estados Unidos ha confiscado directamente activos venezolanos en Estados Unidos y confiscado envíos de petróleo iraní vendido a Venezuela. El Banco de Inglaterra también tiene que renunciar a los \$ 1.8 mil millones (£ 1.3 mil millones) de oro venezolano que posee.

"Exigimos una vez más el fin del bloqueo económico, financiero y comercial contra nuestro pueblo", dijo Maduro.

NATIONAL CONTACT

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