

Tax Day March



April 16
Los Angeles

All,

Attended yesterday's Los Angeles Tax Day March in downtown LA. News media reported 10-12K attended. Not being a crowd estimator, I was surprised that it was that big. I estimate that 70% or more of the people who attended were over 40, and of those, half were gray hairs. Like the women's march, no presence of organized groups, most signs were homemade, speakers at rally were all elected democratic party people...city councilman, state and US senators.

There were two chants the whole march, 90% of the time we chanted, "show your taxes." The other chant was hey hey, ho, ho Donald Trump has got to go. Different than the women's march where the signs reflected a diversity of issues...immigration, racism, women's rights, etc, 90% of the signs were tax related, Russian puppet, etc. At the women's march, there was a feeling of unity in dissent, an excitement of being together. I did not feel that at all. The only printed signs were from a new group, who also passed out a few leaflets, refusefascism.org. They passed out their signs at the meeting place, and the people who carried them knew nothing of the organization. I saw the same signs on the news at the NY Tax March. The few people I spoke to all said they were

going to be attending the marches called for the next couple of weekends. Also, I saw 2 older Latino working class guys hawking flags that said Resist, and green tee shirts that said Tax Day March, which I think they had produced. At the rally site, there were tables Register Blue, Workers World, and California National Party, the people who want California to secede.

Sally

April 16
Sally,

Thanks for the thorough and informative report. One quick comment: the RCP set up and dominates refusefascism.org.

Jack

April 16

Thanks for the info. Hard to tell what the tenor of it was though other than, what? Did you feel like the lack of togetherness, excitement, unlike the Women's march, brought the rally down? Or what?

Just trying to gauge the whole thing (or as we used to say "grock").

Brian

April 18
New York City

All,

On Saturday my wife, Corine, and I marched in N.Y.'s Tax Day demonstration. My estimate is that the crowd was 10-15,000. I, too, was surprised at the size. The age range, I think, was a little younger than L.A.'s; also, it was overwhelmingly white. There was a sea of homemade signs, and like L.A., their focus was very much on Trump's taxes, with some anti-bombing stuff on the side. The chants we heard were the 'hey, hey, ho, ho...' one plus, 'this is what democracy looks like!'---and, 'lock him up!'

Also, there apparently is some ferment going on in DSA. One member reported that she (and others) agrees with pro-organizational anarchist views and that there is a sharp discussion going on over a flyer (see attachment).

Peace,
Bill

March for Science



April 22
Los Angeles

Hi friends,

Sally, Peter and I attended the Los Angeles March for Science today. I haven't seen estimated numbers yet, but an uneducated guess at about 25,000. Sally said it was much bigger than the Tax Day march.

The makeup of the crowd was generally young, majority white but plenty of people of color, and equally men and women. Lots of creative, nerdy signs. Very peaceful, the organizers went out of their way to promote this as a non-partisan event. It was generally very apolitical and subdued, compared to other marches I've been to recently.

The RCP had a sizeable and vocal presence with their resistfascism.org group, which seemed to include an impressive number of Latinos. There was a walking poster promoting Bob Avakian's book and the "Bob Avakian institute" (that one cracks me up). Much smaller presence of The Party for Socialism and Liberation (whoever they are), CHIRLA, which is the local immigrant, rights group organizing May 1 rally in LA, and we even saw a few UAW signs.

We couldn't hear the speakers, but the mainliners in LA were Lucy Jones, the earthquake guru, and Tom Steyer.



Speaking of climate change, it was 90 degrees in April in LA today.

Love to hear from others. It was great to connect with Sally.

Sandy

April 22

The Party for Socialism and Liberation is a direct descendent of the Workers World Party/Youth Against War and Fascism--sort of a Trotsky-Stalinoid group which loves Assad and every other dictator.

Wayne

May 2

I went to the People's Climate March in Los Angeles on Saturday. It was not as big as the March for Science. It was held in Wilmington, a lower middle class community that is about 10-15 miles south of

the city (in LA terms, not all that far out.). It started at a park and we walked to Tersoro Oil Refinery, 2 miles away. Tersoro is going to expand and start refining tar sands oil shipped from Canada. RefuseFascism was there, and more traditional environmental groups, NRDC, 350.org. The organizers said that they had arranged pick up points in the city to bring people to the march. The crowd was about 70-80% younger than 40, including about 25 middle school and high school Latino kids from the city who belonged to an afterschool program that talked about going green. While it was overwhelmingly white, it had a different character than the downtown marches, much more of a local, community feel. Several of the speakers were indigenous people, talking about the need to cherish and preserve the earth, relating all the Native American struggles. The emcee was a young Latina who was a leader of a Wilmington Community group, fighting the expansion of the refinery. There were speakers from the East Yards Community group in Long Beach, also young Latinos. Jane Fonda spoke, talking about Environmental Justice, this is our revolution, that Trump was responsible for the resistance that was being built, etc. A group of about 50 young people, many dressed in tribal headgear, led the march.

Sally
