

#SubPrimedDaily Toolkit

All Day

10/11 - 10/12



PATRIOTIC
MILLIONAIRES

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Wednesday, October 11 - Thursday, October 12

Amazon is one of the largest employers in America with nearly 1.5 million workers. The company is notorious for mistreating its employees in its pursuit of wealth and success; it's been caught short-changing its employee's paychecks, instituting grueling warehouse conditions, engaging in strict monitoring practices, and erroneously taking away employee benefits.

Amazon, like most companies, has multiple constituencies it serves: customers, employees, shareholders, and community members. Right now, it is failing virtually all of those groups in its short-sighted attempt to wring out every last drop of profits from a mistreated workforce, to the extent that internal research warns the company is running out of people willing to work in its warehouses.

For true long-term success and stability that benefits all those groups, Amazon should create a healthy working environment for its employees. Caring for your workers isn't just the *right* thing to do, it's the smart long-term business decision.

Please join us as we take a stand with Amazon workers as they fight for fair wages and the right to organize during the next #PrimeDays! Below you can find talking points and graphics to help craft your #subprimeddaily messages.

How to use this toolkit:

You may notice that this toolkit looks slightly different than the ones you usually receive from us. Twitter's recent announcement that they will be cracking down on "copy-paste" content has necessitated the change. This toolkit does not contain sample tweets for this reason— we encourage you to create custom tweets using the talking points and key facts below. Please get in touch with Brittany Van Pelt (brittany@patrioticmillionaires.org) if you would like customized, pre-written content. We are happy to help!

Talking Points:

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- **Gig workers aren't even considered employees of their companies.**
 - 62% of gig workers reported losing earnings at least once because of "technical difficulties clocking in or out," and 30% of gig workers reported using food stamps. ([more here](#))
 - Gig workers from profitable digital platforms face even *worse* pay and treatment compared to other service-sector workers. And because they're not considered employees, these workers don't even have the right to launch campaigns for fairer treatment in the first place. ([more here](#))
 - Because gig workers are not traditional W-2 employees of the companies they work for, they are not entitled to the same workplace protections that standard employees receive, like minimum wages, overtime pay, unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, paid sick days, anti-discrimination protections, and the right to a union. ([more here](#))
- **Although Amazon Gig workers make above the federal minimum wage, their pay does not take into account other job requirements such as gas funding or lack of breaks during their minimum working block.**
 - Amazon pays drivers per block that they deliver. For Amazon Flex Drivers (those who deliver Prime Day packages), the base pay is \$18/hr, with surge pay blocks up to \$35/hr. For Amazon Fresh Drivers (those who deliver food on behalf of the company), the base pay is between \$18-\$25/hr depending on location and need. ([more here](#))
 - Gas prices in the U.S. increased almost 49% for regular gas and more than 55% for diesel in the first six months of 2022. No adjustment to Amazon's gig driver pay was made to account for this cost increase i. ([more here](#))
 - Amazon initially advertised that 100% of tips would go to drivers but secretly changed this policy in 2019 so that the tips would cover the base pay. They didn't notify customers or drivers of this change ever since about a third of every tip has been taken away from drivers to meet their promised base pay. ([more here](#))
 - Amazon was sued in 2021 and ordered to pay back \$61.7 million for stealing a third of every tip. The lawsuit also claims that they reduced their labor costs by using tips to meet the promised \$18/hr minimum pay. ([more here](#))

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- Ex: If Amazon's base rate in the particular location was \$12, and the customer left a \$6 tip for the driver, then Amazon paid the driver only \$12 and used the full customer tip of \$6 to reach its minimum payment of \$18 to the driver.
- **Jeff Bezos pays barely a fraction of taxes compared to the average American.**
 - Most Americans dutifully pay their fair share in taxes every year, but America's billionaires do not. From 2007 and 2011, Jeff Bezos paid \$0 in federal income taxes, and from 2014 to 2018, he paid only 0.98% of \$99 billion in new wealth. ([more here](#))
 - While Jeff Bezos is the second wealthiest man in America, he is nowhere near the second highest *earner* in America: Most of Bezos's fortunes are tied up in stocks, bonds, and other assets, whose growth in value goes completely untaxed until he sells them. ([more here](#))
- **Instead of celebrating its growing workforce, Amazon uses unlawful union-busting tactics to threaten workers who want to unionize.**
 - Unions are beneficial not only to workers but also to local businesses and economies. More money in the hands of working people as a result of collective bargaining means more money circulating in local economies. A million dollars split between 1,000 workers is spent much more efficiently than a million dollars sitting in a billionaire's bank account. ([more here](#))
 - Support for labor unions is at a 50-year high, with one poll finding that no less than 68% of Americans approve of unions. ([more here](#))

Articles:

- [Regulators Accuse Amazon of Singling Out Union Organizers for Discipline](#), New York Times
- [Teamsters members and national leaders march on Amazon HQ, escalating union campaign](#), GeekWire
- [Starbucks and Amazon accused of dragging their feet on union contracts](#), The Guardian
- [The US has a ruling class - and Americans must stand up to it](#), The Guardian

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- [Billionaires Should Pay Taxes on Their Income Every Year Like the Rest of Us](#), Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy
- [St. Peters Amazon employees call for \\$10-an-hour raises, better working conditions](#), Saint Louis Post-Dispatch
- [More than 700 Amazon Workers at UK warehouse stop work to protest pay](#), PBS NewsHour
- [9 Ways To Imagine Jeff Bezos' Wealth](#), New York Times
- [Tech billionaires lost \\$315 billion in 2022 and it genuinely doesn't matter](#), VOX

Graphics:

[DOWNLOAD ALL HERE](#)

IT TAKES AMAZON
4 SECONDS
TO MAKE \$52,000.
IT TAKES
AN AVERAGE
WORKER
A YEAR
TO MAKE \$52,000.

**WE STAND
WITH THE
AMAZON
LABOR
UNION.**

**IT'S TIME FOR
AMAZON
TO STOP
BLACKMAILING
AND FIRING
WORKERS
FOR WANTING
TO UNIONIZE.**

IF JEFF BEZOS CAN AFFORD A \$500
MILLION YACHT AND FANCY
MULTIMILLION DOLLAR HOMES
ALL OVER THE WORLD,
YOU KNOW WHAT?
HE CAN AFFORD TO PAY WORKERS
AT AMAZON DECENT WAGES,
DECENT BENEFITS, AND PROVIDE
GOOD WORKING CONDITIONS.
@BERNIESANDERS



**75% OF
AMERICANS
SUPPORT
AMAZON
WORKERS'
UNIONIZING.**

SOURCE: COMMON DREAMS

**AN AMAZON
EMPLOYEE
EARNING \$15/HOUR
WOULD HAVE TO
WORK FOR
6,410,256 YEARS
TO MAKE THE \$200
BILLION THAT JEFF
BEZOS IS WORTH.**

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