

COMMITTEE TO DEFEND **TOM ALTER**

Committee to Defend Tom Alter Advisory Board

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- Catarina Kissinger, Texas State Employees Union, CWA Local 6186 (organizer for Texas State University & communications coordinator)
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- Bill Fletcher, Jr., standing4democracy.org
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- Alejandro Bodart, Buenos Aires Legislator (MC) for the MST-FITU (Left Front Unity), International Socialist League coordinator
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- Coalition for Action in Higher Education
- Benjamin Balthaser, Professor of English, IU-South Bend
- Bruce Levine, Professor Emeritus of History, Univ. of Illinois @ Urbana-Champaign
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- Alejandro Vilca, National Congress member (PTS-FITU)
- Marcela Marcela Pagano, National Congress member, Journalist
- Victoria Tolosa Paz, National Congress member (Union por la Patria)

- **Esteban Paulon, National Congress member (Encuentro Federal), Ex President, Argentine Federation of Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Trans**
- **Mike Taber**
- **Nancy Rosenstock**
- **Kimberly Vargas Teamsters LGBTQ Caucus NE DIRECTOR/TEAMSTERS LOCAL 1150 PRIDE PRESIDENT**
- **Charles Post, Professor of Sociology, Graduate Center-CUNY**
- **Alan Wald collegiate prof emeritus U of Michigan**
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- **Julie Greene, Professor of History, University of Maryland**
- **Ian Rocksborough-Smith, University of the Fraser Valley**
- **Axel Fair-Schulz, Associate Professor of History, State University of New York at Potsdam**
- **Alexandra Finley, Professor of History, University of Pittsburgh**
- **Bruce Levine, Professor Emeritus of History, University of Illinois**

JOIN US NOW IN THE FIGHT TO WIN!!

Campaign Toolkit

Who We Are: The Committee to Defend Tom Alter is a coalition of socialists, trade unionists, activists and organizers committed to defending free speech and the right to dissent.

Campaign Strategy: On October 13th, Texas State University summarily fired Tom Alter for exercising his free speech rights at a Socialism conference. Tom was fired because he is a Socialist. His termination is an expression of MAGA McCarthyism's attacks on the Left, on DEI, on immigrants, migrants, Palestinians, trans and queer people, and anyone who dissents from the current regime.

Since September, we have been organizing to defend Tom and all oppressed people's right to speak and dissent. Our campaign work is divided into the areas below. We invite you to join any of these committees by contacting the committee organizers listed below.

Campaign Themes: The Campaign is built around these themes which should be amplified in all of our messaging and writing. 1. Defending and reinstating Tom Alter to his position at Texas State. 2. Defending Free Speech and Academic Freedom. 3. Defending Academic Workers Rights. 4. Building Union support for free speech and the right to dissent. 5. Defending the right of Socialists to speak and organize.

Committee to Defend Tom Alter Committee Structure

1. **Building the Campaign Committee: Committee Chair Bill Mullen**
bill.mullen2@gmail.com

We seek to add signatories to our **Statement in Support of Tom Alter**. Please sign and circulate this widely:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdxhF3eaBaXaWUaSP3df0OBUUnvaGFYgTz6Ms5DL2_WJBFnjw/viewform

We also seek to expand the **Committee to Defend Tom Alter Advisory Board**. **Advisory Board** members play a key role in developing strategy for the campaign. The Board is open to both individuals and organizations. Sign and circulate here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSexiRNvKdoz4zMYZdCbV23jrzbhtygawwjbQZm6wBCUS5bktA/viewform>

2. Labor and Union Committee. Committee co-chairs

labor4tomalter@proton.me The Campaign for Tom Alter has support from the Texas State Employees Union, Communication Workers of America, and the American Association of University Professors. We seek to broaden union participation through statements, resolutions and fundraising. For help coordinating these efforts in your union reach out to the co-chairs of this committee.

3. Tours and National Events Committee. Committee: Justin Akers-Chacon akerschacon@gmail.com The Committee is planning a national speak out event the week of November 3rd and will be coordinating a national speaking tour for Tom Alter with stops in Chicago, New York, the Bay Area and other locales. If you are interested in bringing an event to your community, reach out to the chair of this committee.

4. Media and Social Media Committee. Committee Co-chairs John Kirkland jayleslie57@protonmail.com and Bill Mullen bill.mullent2@gmail.com This committee is responsible for creating print and social media content for the campaign. We need writers and designers to help create and manage content.

5. Fundraising Committee. Chair Kim Gasper-Rabuck. krabuck@yahoo.com Tom Alter and his family are now without an income and health insurance. This Committee will manage a GoFundMe account for the Alters and create materials to broaden this fundraising campaign by reaching out to academic workers, unions and other organizations for support.

Resources for the Campaign:

GoFundMe for Tom Alter and Family: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-free-speech-reinstate-dr-tom-alter-now>

October 14th Press Release on Alter Termination (see below)

Linktree Resources for the Campaign: <https://linktr.ee/DefendTomAlter>

Web: <https://defendtomalter.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61581629577807>

Email: defendtomalter@proton.me

Statement of Dr. Thomas Alter

Issued 10/13/25

I stand in opposition to Texas State University's attack on democratic rights that are protected by the Texas and United States Constitutions as well as the academic freedom that was once the hallmark of Texas higher education.

To be clear, my termination is part of a broader political attack being carried out by the authoritarian far-right to crush democracy and democratic institutions in the United States in general and Texas in particular. But the charges leveled against me by the Texas State University administration do not stand up to the facts; I have truth on my side and I look forward to my day in court.

My termination, in clear violation of my First Amendment rights to freedom of speech, association, and of assembly brings shame, embarrassment and a heavy blow to the academic reputation of Texas State University. This hurts not only faculty, staff, current students and alumni but the San Marcos community as well.

This fight did not start with me and it does not end with me. I want to thank my unions, the Texas State Employees Union, American Association of University Professors, and Texas-AFT; the broad coalition of democratic rights supporters in the Committee to Defend Tom Alter; the Texas State chapter of the Young Democratic Socialists of America; Socialist Horizon; and all those who value basic democracy.

Love and Solidarity,
Tom Alter

COMMITTEE TO DEFEND
TOM ALTER

Contact: Committee to Defend Tom Alter Email: defendtomalter@proton.me Web: <https://defendtomalter.org/> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61581629577807> Phone: Bill Mullen, coordinator, 765-430-1312; bill.mullen2@gmail.com

Texas State Terminates Professor for Protected Speech; Major Unions and Civil Liberties Groups Vow to Fight Back

SAN MARCOS, Texas (October 14, 2025) — Texas State University President Kelly Damphousse has terminated Professor Tom Alter for engaging in protected political speech as a private citizen, the Committee to Defend Tom Alter announced today. The decision represents a direct assault on the First Amendment and academic freedom.

In a public statement released after his firing Alter said: “My termination, in clear violation of my First Amendment rights to freedom of speech, association, and of assembly, brings shame, embarrassment and heavy blow to the academic reputation of Texas State University.” Alter also commented: “To be clear, my termination is part of a broader political attack being carried out by the authoritarian far-right to crush democracy and democratic institutions in the United States in general, and in Texas in particular. But the charges leveled against me by the Texas State administration do not stand up to the facts. I have truth on my side and I look forward to my day in court.”

Because of his termination Alter’s lawsuit against Texas State seeking his reinstatement will now go forward.

The Texas State Employees Union, American Association of University Professors, Texas AFT, and Texas AFL-CIO have condemned the termination and pledged full support for Dr. Alter’s legal challenge. Civil liberties organizations nationwide are rallying to overturn this precedent-setting case.

“This is violation not only of academic freedom, but the basic constitutional protection of free speech under the First Amendment,” said Bill V. Mullen, coordinator of the Committee to Defend Tom Alter. “If this can happen to Tom Alter, it can happen to anyone. That is why there is a growing campaign to defend Dr. Alter, because if he loses his right to free speech, everyone’s right is at risk.”

An Unconstitutional Termination

Dr. Tom Alter, a tenured history professor, was terminated for speaking at a political conference on his own time as a private citizen. The proceedings began after far-right provocateur Karlyn Borysenko posted secretly recorded and selectively edited videos from the September 7 Revolutionary Socialism Conference demanding his firing.

The First Amendment protects political speech made as a private citizen. Texas State’s termination constitutes retaliation against speech unrelated to Dr. Alter’s employment and sets a dangerous precedent threatening academic freedom nationwide.

Labor and Civil Liberties Coalition Mobilizes

Major labor organizations including the Texas State Employees Union, American Association of University Professors (AAUP), Texas AFT, and Texas AFL-CIO are backing Dr. Alter’s fight.

Civil liberties organizations, faculty groups, and student organizations across the country have mobilized in support.

Timeline of Events

- September 7: Alter speaks at Revolutionary Socialism Conference as private citizen
- September 8: Borysenko posts manipulated videos demanding firing
- September 10: Texas State terminates Alter without due process
- September 26: Court orders proper procedures
- October 13: Damphousse terminates Alter

"This struggle did not begin with me, it will not end with me," Dr. Alter said. "The struggle for free speech will continue regardless of the outcome. If it is positive it will be a victory that will strengthen the struggle to defend hundreds others being attacked, fired and persecuted for their ideas. If it is negative, we will be on the front line of that struggle nonetheless."

Urgent Call to Action

The Committee calls on all supporters to take immediate action:

Contact President Damphousse to condemn this unconstitutional termination:
president@txstate.edu, 512-245-2121

Sign the petition at <https://defendtomalter.org/>

Share on social media: #DefendTomAlter #FirstAmendmentTXST

Dr. Alter's legal team stands ready to vigorously challenge this termination. This case represents a pivotal moment in the fight for academic freedom and constitutional rights in higher education.

We will not allow political extremists to dictate who can teach at our universities. We will not accept this attack on the First Amendment.

About the Committee to Defend Tom Alter: The Committee is a coalition of faculty, students, staff, union members, and community supporters dedicated to protecting academic freedom and free speech rights.