

## Preparing To Protest

Given the current political climate in the United States with citizen outrage growing and patience running thin, we thought it a good idea to remind everyone that our protests are inclusive, joyful, loving, and **committed to nonviolence**. Please take a few moments to review this message and plan ahead for a successful and peaceful event!

The sun in Taos can be intense. Be sure to wear sunscreen, a hat, carry plenty of water, and have your ID with you. Wear comfortable clothing. And bring an American flag if you have one.

Know your rights:

Protestors have the right to assemble. Take time to familiarize yourself with your legal rights before attending. <https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/protesters-rights>

**Police rules: Stay on the sidewalks, cross the street with the light and only at designated crosswalks, and do not block street traffic or pedestrian traffic on the sidewalks.** Keep off private property. Be aware of your surroundings and have an exit plan in place.

If faced with counter-protesters, stay calm, smile or wave, then ignore. **DO NOT ENGAGE** or raise your voice. Let your signs do the talking. Keep a safe distance. Start a chant, de-escalate the situation if you feel comfortable or just walk away with others if it continues. It is NOT recommended that protesters sit down if there are confrontations.

Counter protesters also have free speech rights and we march to protect everyone's constitutional rights. Police must treat protesters and counter protesters equally. Police are permitted to keep antagonistic groups separated but should allow them to be within sight and sound of one another. When you are lawfully present in any public space, you have the right to photograph anything in plain view, including the police. Please remember that the police are our friends and neighbors, who are doing an important job. Treat them with respect.

If detained by law enforcement, stay calm. Do not argue, resist, or obstruct the police. Immediately ask for an attorney. You have the right to remain silent.

If you feel your rights have been violated by law enforcement:

When you can, write down everything you remember, including the officers' badge, patrol car numbers, and law enforcement agency. Get contact information from witnesses. Take photographs of any injuries. Once you have all of this information, you can file a written complaint with the agency's internal affairs division or civilian complaint board.

Lastly, be proud! Protesting is your right. Take pride in raising your voice for what matters!