



The *Stare Hat Protester* Jilly Roger pirate flag has become a symbol of protest against corrupt governments, a viewpoint shared by many protesters at Long Beach's "No Kings" Day protest on Oct. 18.

# 'No Kings Day' protesters mobilize nationwide

BY LONG BEACH CURRENT STAFF

Millions of people attended "No Kings" Day protests in major U.S. cities Saturday afternoon, filling the streets with inflatable animal costumes, signs protesting President Trump's administration, people role-playing as former presidents and speakers leading crowds in chants such as "no more kings."

The Long Beach Current covered "No Kings" Day demonstrations in Long Beach, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C.

Growth were mostly peaceful, and protests ended within a few hours, except for LA.

Nearly 2 million people attended the protests today, according to the organizer's press release.

The nationwide protests were a continuation of "No Kings" Day events earlier this June, with millions of people rallying in U.S. cities and small towns. Today, there were over 500 more protests than in June, according to the organizer.

Indivisible Project is the nonprofit behind "No Kings" Day, reaching coast to coast. Leah Greenberg, its co-executive director, said the nonprofit has trained people in safety and de-escalation.

Organizers have also coordinated with cities with luxury National Guard presence, according to several news reports.

**Long Beach**  
A man steps up to a microphone. His voice rings through the sea of colorful signs and cultural flags.

"No Kings 2.0!"

Within seconds, the crowd roared back in unison, their chant echoing and bouncing back and forth through both sides of the street like ocean waves.

"Donald Trump has got to go!"

Growth of hundreds of people in the morning quickly grew to thousands by noon as protesters packed Long Beach's Baby Park and Ocean Boulevard, all the way down to Bluff Park.

The streets echoed with blaring horns into the late afternoon as passing cars turned into amplifiers of solidarity—each horn became a signal of support for the protesters who lined the sidewalks.

The Baby Park protest featured multiple guest speakers, including activist and former NFL player Chris Khase and

Long Beach Mayor Rex Richardson, who beamed with excitement as he witnessed the energy and tenacity from the crowd.

"The crowd to see Long Beach is out here peaceful, embracing themselves, expressing their freedom of speech. Stand up for what matters," Richardson said.

Protesters expressed themselves and their views through an abundance of radiant and eye-catching signs, clothes, chants and costumes, the latter of which played a big part in Long Beach's second showing for "No Kings" Day.

Inflatable costumes have become a symbol of resistance, allowing protesters to confront serious issues with a touch of humor. They gained recent popularity during protest demonstrations against U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents in Portland, Oregon.

Through self-expression, protesters forged a camaraderie, writing in defiance against President Trump and the challenges created by his administration.

Jilly Hinds, a psychology major at GMLB, was one of the protesters across the street from Baby Park. She didn't have a sign, but was given chalk by chance.

"Somebody threw this out of their car as they were driving past, it's a bag of chalk," Hinds said. "It has a sticky note in it that says 'this speech is under attack, spread the word,' so I've been going around and just writing on the sidewalk



Watch video here  
BY SKYLAR STOCK



Protesters gathered at Ocean Boulevard to participate in Long Beach's "No Kings" Day protest on Oct. 18, 2025.



JASON GREEN, Long Beach Current  
Protesters express their viewpoints through signage while marching down Ocean Boulevard in Long Beach City Hall during the "No Kings" Day protest on Oct. 18.

"cause I didn't bring a sign."

Hinds said the light feels more personal to her as a woman.

"I'm a woman, and he doesn't believe in legal abortions," Hinds said. "So, I possibly might not be able to get proper birth control, and he has his power over me, meaning that he has control over my literal body, and there's no law about that for men. So, why should there be one for women?"

Protesters could see her words written in bold letters along the sidewalk, including the most defiant message of the day: "NO KINGS."

Branding the *Stare Hat Protester* Jilly Roger from the popular anime and manga series "One Piece," a flag that has become a global symbol of resistance against governments, Dora White waved it proudly through Baby Park and across the street.

"I chose this flag because there's a movement across the globe of overthrowing governments that aren't for the people, and I think that's exactly what our government needs," she said.

Local resident Derrick Neal garnered attention from the crowd with a sign that stated, "No matter who you are: Latin, Black, Asian, white, etc. We banded together and created the weather."

Neal, who brought his family out to support, said he chose to miss out on watching his usual Saturday college football games to attend the protest.

"A protest of any kind that would bring all people together is positive," Neal said. "Think about this, Los Angeles, San Diego, Santa Barbara — those aren't French names. [Americans] were here first, and then we don't want to talk about that 'Carnival Cruise' [Black people] took to come here and build America."

Neal reiterated his written call to action about the importance of standing together, a sentiment shared by Anthony Bryson, event organizer and executive director of SoCal Uprising.

Bryson's mission with Long Beach's "No Kings" Day protest was to show how the ongoing struggles of many different communities intersect with Trump and his administration's unpopular policies.

"It's great to mobilize, but there has to be intent behind it. What are we doing to really change the narrative and the structure of things?" Bryson said. "So, it's gotta be more than just holding up signs. It's gotta be that call and response; it's gotta be the engagement with community that just takes us to the next level."

Working alongside Bryson was event organizer and children's provider Tom Engberg.

Engberg's voice trembled with tears streaming down her face as she spoke, pouring her heart into the message she hoped every protester would take with them.

"I hope they hear that they're not alone," Engberg said. "That we are all in this fight together, and keep going... it's just heart-breaking. I get exhausted [because] there's just too many people sitting on the sidelines. Everybody needs to be up and out and doing something to resist, because we can't let this happen."

Starting at Baby Park, Bryson took the lead as protesters marched their way down Ocean Boulevard, through the streets of Downtown Long Beach and onto the steps of Long Beach City Hall for one final, powerful demonstration to end "No Kings" Day 2.0.

"No one is better than anyone else. We all have unique talents, but when we come together, we can play like a beautiful orchestra," Bryson said before thanking the crowd for their support.

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ANGELA OSORIO / Long Beach Current  
Thousands of people attended the 'No Kings' Day protest in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 18. Many protesters came from D.C., Maryland and other neighboring states.



JORGE HERNANDEZ / Long Beach Current



JORGE HERNANDEZ / Long Beach Current  
A demonstrator showcases a crafted Baby Trump during the No Kings Rally on Oct. 18.



DELFINO CAMACHO / Long Beach Current

A female officer revealed to be a snitch by a protester identifying LAPD holds the line in front of the LA Federal Building during the evening portion of the Oct. 18 No Kings Day 2LA protest was in full swing in the afternoon. While the protest day was relatively peaceful an evening gone way into night police would clash with protesters later past 7 p.m.

Protesters carrying signs and flags gather outside LA City Hall during the 'No Kings' Day protest before marching through the streets of downtown Los Angeles on Oct. 18.

Los Angeles

The demonstration began around noon, with protesters blocking off access to Spring Street and Temple Street with vans and trucks.

What started as a small gathering blossomed into large crowds centered in front of Los Angeles City Hall and Gloria Molina Grand Park.

The large crowds, with many people waving creative signs and adorned in colorful costumes, congregated peacefully with music and food vendors available throughout.

Protesters and organizers said the plan was for the crowd to march from City Hall to the Federal Building on Temple and Los Angeles Street at 2 p.m.

Yalinda Jimenez, an LA activist who protests at the Federal Building weekly, said she saw a total of eight white vans carrying National Guard troops arriving at the Federal Building around 1:10 p.m.

A Current reporter observed four state armies, all full of National Guard troops.

Crowds continued to grow and peacefully assemble until 2 p.m., when the march to the Metropolitan Detention Center was set to start.

Around 2 p.m., a large truck fully equipped with speakers and a large stage for music parked in front of City Hall.

A live band played music before speakers took the mic in anticipation of the march.

"If you want to see a real hate America's only, just look at the White House," they said.

"We raise our voices, we raise our signs and we raise our fists and say, 'Thank you, we will march for you, we will stand beside you, we will honor you,'" a protester said in front of LA City Hall, in recognition of undocumented citizens who fear attending these protests.

Around 2:45 p.m., protesters began their march toward the Metropolitan Detention Center.

Protesters could be heard chanting, "ICE out of LA," marching on Aliso Street over the 101 freeway.

After the demonstration made its way back to LA City Hall, protesters spoke to the Los Angeles Police Department officers on Alameda Street, making a stance on ICE activity.

"We're all part of the community," one protester yelled. "I'm a teacher, man. You're a police officer, you're supposed to protect us. Why do you not get it?"

About an hour later, the LAPD ran over a protester at

Alameda Street and Commercial Street.

A LAPD officer told the Current they did not know anything regarding the incident. They tried to send help, but the person reportedly left, the officer said.

On Alameda Street and Commercial Street, the LAPD began using force against protesters standing behind yellow tape, pushing a woman back with a baton.

Police also began recording protesters with a cell phone, stating it was for reference purposes to prove activity that took place, not to be used for media or to find protesters.

As the sun began to go down, one protester used an app on his phone to identify LAPD officers and their salaries, announcing the officers' information to surrounding individuals.

Washington, D.C.

Hundreds to thousands of protesters gathered on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C., marching toward the U.S. Capitol, chanting "No more kings" and "Free ICE."

Protesters held signs opposing President Trump and his administration's actions, including the increased presence of ICE, restricting measures and the deployment of the National Guard.

Sen. Bernie Sanders made a special appearance, giving

a speech protesting against tax cuts to the wealthy President Trump's Our Big Beautiful Bill, the government shutdown and more, with the audience responding in cheers.

D.C. resident Harmony Dale said it was her first time attending a protest.

"There's just so much going on these days, it's hard to sit home and not be participating," Dale said. "I just disagree with what a lot of this administration is doing."

Marika Stokker, an urban developer from the Netherlands, said she arrived in D.C. yesterday and her son, who lives in the city, invited her to the protest.

Stokker was drawing live sketches of the event. "People should be [others] hear their voices," Stokker said.

Elany Williams, Guce Lawson, Juan Gomez, Mikiela Price, Charlotte LeClerc, Shira Reed, Delfino Camacho, Dana Estrella, Fabiola Garcia, Jorge Hernandez, Angel Prullon and Angela Oros