

50501 Protests at US State Capitol Buildings on February 5th February 4th, 2025





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Key Takeaways

Activists in all 50 US states are organizing protests on February 5, 2025, under the banner of the "50501 movement," standing for "50 states, 50 protests, one day." The protests aim to oppose President Donald Trump's recent policies and actions. On February 3, organizers <u>partnered</u> with the progressive grassroots organization <u>Political Revolution</u> to expand engagement.

- **Originated on Reddit:** The 50501 movement originated on Reddit but has expanded onto Instagram, Bluesky, Discord, Signal, and multiple <u>websites</u>. The <u>subreddit "r/50501"</u> still serves as a hub for information and coordination. Despite this, organizers have emphasized the decentralized nature of the protests, with local volunteers coordinating events in their respective states.
- **Protest Times:** The protests are planned at state capitol buildings, with <u>times</u> <u>varying by location</u>. Some protests are planned for noon local time, while others are later in the afternoon.
- **Expected Turnout:** Given the movement's rapid growth on social media and its grassroots nature, it is unclear what turnout will be in each state. Interest levels vary by state, with some locations reporting substantial engagement and others still organizing. The decentralized structure means participation will largely depend on local mobilization efforts. Many states will likely have low participation.
- **Goal of Nonviolence:** Organizers have emphasized that the protests are intended to be peaceful. They have outlined guidelines prohibiting violence, unlawful activities, and the bringing of hazardous materials to the events.
- Questions of Legitimacy: The absence of centralized leadership and lack of uniform promotional materials have led to <u>uncertainties</u> about the protests' legitimacy and safety. Some social media users have expressed difficulty finding information about permits or local organizers.

Details

Activists in all 50 US states are planning protests against President Donald Trump's administration on February 5, 2025. Under the banner of the "50501 movement," standing for "50 states, 50 protests, one day," the demonstrations will oppose Trump's policies, particularly those linked to Project 2025, which critics argue threaten



fundamental freedoms and human rights. The protests are planned to be held at various state capitol buildings, and most will begin at noon local time.

The protests, organized primarily through social media and Reddit, lack centralized leadership, with local activists organizing events in their respective states. This decentralization has led to concerns among some social media users about safety, legitimacy, and last-minute coordination. The distribution of differing information, including event start times and multiple versions of promotional materials, have added to the confusion.

Turnout for the protests remains uncertain and will vary by state. The decentralized structure means participation will largely depend on local mobilization efforts. Many states will likely have low participation, but interest continues to grow online. The protests will likely feature groups marching and chanting near state capitol buildings with anti-Trump signs. Organizers have emphasized that all protests are intended to be peaceful and nonviolent. They have outlined guidelines prohibiting violence, unlawful activities, and the bringing of hazardous materials to the events.



Image 1: An <u>example of the graphics being shared</u> on social media platforms to promote the protests on February 5th, 2025.



Social Media Activity

The call for protests on February 5 <u>originated on Reddit on January 25</u>, and the subreddit "r/50501" still serves as a hub for information and coordination. As of 11:30 AM EST on February 4, the subreddit had 59,000 members. The "50501 movement" <u>Instagram account</u> was also created in January and has nearly 8,000 followers. Since <u>partnering with the grassroots organization Political Revolution</u>, the protests' organizers announced the <u>official hashtag "#buildtheresistance"</u>; a new <u>official event platform</u>, which includes information for at least 19 participating events; and a <u>new website titled "Build the Resistance."</u>

Extensive chatter about the protests can be found on X, formerly Twitter. In addition to Reddit and Instagram, the organizers are active on <u>BlueSky</u>, Discord, and Signal. They also maintain private Discord and Signal channels.

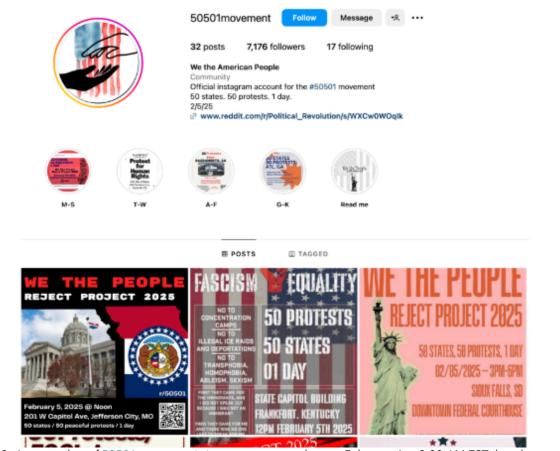


Image 2: A screenshot of <u>50501movement's Instagram page</u> taken on February 4 at 9:38 AM EST that shows nearly 7,000 followers. (Source: Instagram)



DEMANDS

Donald Trump and his administration need to address to the American people and own up to his lies and acknowledge the harm caused by his administration. Our coalition calls for immediate actions to rectify the injustices perpetuated by current leadership and to restore integrity and fairness to our political system. We demand transparency, accountability, and the prioritization of human rights and equality. Our requests include the resignation or removal of Donald J. Trump from the presidency, thorough investigations into his appointees, scrutiny of Elon Musk's governmental role, the repeal of oppressive executive orders, and the enforcement of robust laws against hate speech. We also advocate for the reinstatement of diversity, equity, and inclusion frameworks to ensure that all citizens are treated with dignity and respect.

Requests:

- · For Donald J. Trump to step down or be removed from the presidency through impeachment or other means.
- · Conduct mass investigations into politicians appointed by Donald J. Trump.
- Investigate Elon Musk's role within the US government and take appropriate action if any federal or state laws are found to be violated.
- · Overturn or rescind executive orders that infringe on citizen and human rights.
- · Strengthen laws on hate speech, including banning displays of Nazi propaganda or salutes.
- · Reinstate diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) frameworks to promote better conditions for all citizens.

Image 3: <u>The list of demands</u> posted by a "r/50501" subreddit moderator, "honeydoulemon," on Reddit. (Source: Reddit)

Permits

According to the subreddit, organizers in the following states have shared information related to <u>permits required for their respective protests</u> (updated on February 4 at 9:00 AM EST):

• Alabama: Permit acquired

• **Arizona:** No permit required, verified by state employee

• California: Permit acquired, verified by official website

Colorado: Permit acquiredHawaii: No permit needed

• Idaho: Permit acquired, verified by official calendar

• Illinois: In the process of acquiring a permit

• **lowa:** Missed the deadline for permits, will protest on the sidewalk

• Kentucky: Clarifying with organizer

• Maine: Permit acquired, submitted by Kennebec County Dems

Maryland: <u>Permit acquired</u>



- **Massachusetts:** No permit required, will meet on red bricks in front of the State House
- Michigan: Permit acquired
- Missouri: No one is available to issue a permit, will protest on the sidewalk
- **New Jersey:** No permit required
- New Mexico: No permit required, will meet at Santa Fe plaza and march to the State Capitol
- North Carolina: Permit acquired
- **Ohio:** Permit obtained for Cleveland protest, in the process of applying for Columbus
- Oregon: No permit needed
- **Pennsylvania:** Permit acquired for Harrisburg; no permit acquired for Pittsburgh, will protest on the sidewalk
- South Carolina: Permit acquired
- **Tennessee:** No permit, will protest on the sidewalk
- **Texas:** Missed the deadline for a permit, will protest on the sidewalk
- Washington: Permit acquired, verified by official calendar

States not included in the list had not provided the organizers with updated information regarding their permits at the time of writing.

Assessment

Analyst did not identify any specific, credible, imminent, real-life threats or calls for disorder or physical violence at the 50501 protests. However, the protests pose several risks, including potential confrontations with counter-protesters or law enforcement and the possibility of bad actors infiltrating them to incite violence or discredit the protesters. Because of their decentralized nature, the protests could be disorganized, and safety concerns are heightened by the lack of official permits in some locations and last-minute planning.

Turnout is difficult to predict, as online engagement has been high, but logistical challenges, misinformation, and safety concerns may hamper real-world mobilization. If participation is widespread and peaceful, the protests could serve as a significant show of opposition to Trump's policies. However, if turnout is low or if violence occurs, the protests could be dismissed or used to justify crackdowns on future demonstrations.