

‘This is America’

‘No Kings’ protests against Trump bring a street party vibe to cities nationwide

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON —
Protesting the direction of the country under President Donald Trump, people gathered Saturday in the nation’s capital and communities big and small across the U.S. for “No Kings” demonstrations that the president’s Republican Party disparaged as “Hate America” rallies.

With signs such as “Nothing is more patriotic than protesting” or “Resist Fascism,” in many places the events looked more like a street party. There were marching bands, a huge banner with the U.S. Constitution’s “We The People” preamble that people could sign, and demonstrators wearing inflatable costumes, particularly frogs, which have emerged as a sign of resistance in Portland, Oregon.

Locally, Indivisible Grand Junction organized the rally that was held at the corner of Main Street and Spruce Street.

Like the rally in June, Saturday’s rally drew a huge crowd.

According to a news release from the Grand Junction Police Department, it worked closely with organizers to help ensure participants could safely and peacefully exercise their rights.

Traffic was minimally impacted in the downtown area for a short time. Personnel with the Grand Junction Fire Department responded to two medical calls. No incidents of violence or arrests were reported in connection with this event, the release stated.

“We appreciate the cooperation of event organizers, participants, and community members in helping ensure a safe and peaceful day for everyone.”



People are signing a giant Constitution as they take part in a “No Kings” protest Saturday in Seattle. The rally was one of more than 2,700 held across the U.S. to protest President Donald Trump’s administration.

The atmosphere at the rally was very laid back with protesters wearing frog, and penguin costumes as well as some sporting butterfly wings. The costumes were meant to poke fun at the “terrorist” characterization of protesters.

Those attending the rally had numerous signs supporting the No Kings cause as well as protesting ICE and American flags were prevalent. Like the protests across the nation, there was a bit of a party vibe downtown with attendees doing the Cha-Cha slide dance and singing some songs.

The protests planned in Colorado are part of more than 2,700 events nationwide.

“Together, residents in Colorado and millions across America will send a clear and unmistakable message: we are a nation of equals, and our country will not be ruled by fear or force,” organizers said in a statement Friday morning.

According to the Colorado Sun, Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser called on Coloradans to turn out “en masse” Saturday to protest Trump’s use of the military in American cities.

“Don’t be afraid to show up. But we’ve also got to be peaceful,” Weiser, who is running for governor, said in an interview with Kyle Clark earlier this week.

“Do not engage. Do not escalate. If we can keep calm, be peaceful and be orderly, we are going to be able to keep the rule of law in our Republic,” he said.

State Rep. Chris Richardson, a Republican representing Adams, Arapahoe, Cheyenne, El Paso, Elbert, Kit Carson and Lincoln counties, called Weiser’s encouragement to attend the protests a



Photos by LARRY ROBINSON/The Daily Sentinel

Protesters on Saturday listen to organizer Mallory Martin with Indivisible Grand Junction, wearing a frog costume, before marching through downtown Grand Junction during a “No Kings” protest against President Donald Trump and his administration.

“mistake of judgment, tone and stewardship.”

“In a tense national moment, constitutional officers should lower the temperature, not escalate it,” Richardson said on a post on X. “We can defend federalism, civil liberties, and due process through courts, legislatures, and measured executive action. Making street politics the first resort erodes confidence in institutions and normalizes confrontation as a political tool.”

Richardson said he was not asking anyone to stay silent.

Saturday’s rallies were the third mass mobilization since Trump’s return to the White House and came against the backdrop of a government shutdown that not only has closed federal programs and services but is testing the core balance of power, as an aggressive executive confronts Congress and the courts in ways that protest organizers warn are a slide toward authoritarianism.

Trump himself was spending the weekend at his Mar-a-Lago home in Florida.

“They say they’re referring to me as a king. I’m not a king,” Trump said in a Fox News interview that aired early Friday, before he departed for a \$1 million-per-plate MAGA Inc. fundraiser at his club.

Later Friday a Trump campaign social media account mocked the protests by posting a computer-generated video of the president clothed like



Protesters march through downtown Grand Junction during a “No Kings” protest against President Donald Trump and his administration on Saturday.

a monarch, wearing a crown and waving from a balcony.

People packed into New York City’s Times Square, Boston Common and Chicago’s Grant Park; outside state capitols in Tennessee and Indiana and a courthouse in Billings, Montana; and at hundreds of smaller public spaces.

Many protesters were angered by attacks on their motives. In Washington, Brian Reymann said being called a terrorist all week by Republicans was “pathetic.”

“This is America. I disagree with their politics, but I don’t believe that they don’t love this country,” Reymann said, carrying a large U.S. flag. “I believe they are misguided. I think they are

power-hungry.”

More than 1,500 people gathered in Birmingham, Alabama, evoking and openly citing the city’s history of protests and the critical role it played in the Civil Rights Movement two generations ago.

“It just feels like we’re living in an America that I don’t recognize,” said Jessica Yother, a mother of four. She and other protesters said they felt camaraderie by gathering in a state where Trump won nearly 65% of the vote last November.

“It was so encouraging,” Yother said. “I walked in and thought, ‘Here are my people.’”

In San Francisco hundreds of people spelled out “No Kings” and other phrases with their bodies

on Ocean Beach. Salt Lake City demonstrators gathered outside the Utah State Capitol to share messages of hope and healing after a protester was fatally shot during the city’s first “No Kings” march in June.

“Big rallies like this give confidence to people who have been sitting on the sidelines but are ready to speak up,” Democratic U.S. Sen. Chris Murphy said in an interview with The Associated Press.

While protests earlier this year — against Elon Musk’s cuts and Trump’s military parade — drew crowds, organizers say this one is uniting the opposition. Top Democrats such as Senate Minority

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‘It smacked us pretty good’: Utility reeling from fires hopes for FEMA help

By DENNIS WEBB
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In late September Gov. Jared Polis wrote President Donald Trump seeking a major disaster declaration in Rio Blanco County that could result in Federal Emergency Management Agency funds being made available to help the county recover from this year’s Lee and Elk fires.

Of \$27.5 million in initial damages, Polis outlined from the fires and subsequent mudslides, \$23.7 million is attributed to losses suffered by a single entity,

the White River Electric Association.

“It smacked us pretty good,” said the electric cooperative’s general manager and CEO, Alan J. Michalewicz.

“Ultimately that was the worst thing you could think of happening and it happened for White River Electric as well as White River’s electrical system.”

The fires torched White River poles, conductors and other infrastructure,

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Poles supporting Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association power lines burn during a wildfire in Rio Blanco County this summer.



Photos courtesy of WHITE RIVER ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION
Power lines lie on the ground after wildfires burned in Rio Blanco County this summer.