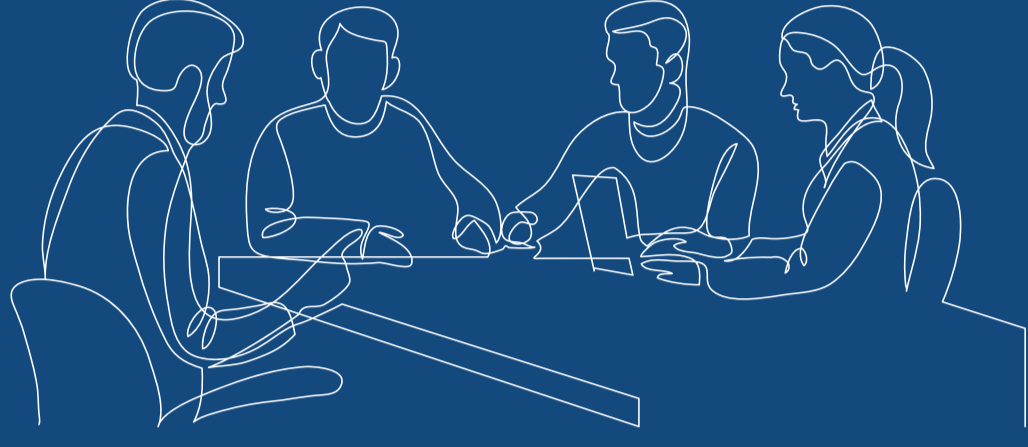


HOW TO ORGANIZE A PROTEST



Create a team!

Having co-organizers helps keep everything on track, makes sure all tasks are done, and avoids burn out by sharing the load.

Review the new anti-protest law:

HB1 – contact CAIR-FL for a Know Your Rights on this new law to ensure that your protest stays within the legal boundaries.



Choose a date!

If this falls in line with a national/international day of action or a local event that is subject to your protest, make sure your location is secured. And begin organizing ASAP to provide enough time to promote your protest.



Choose a location!

Scope out places in your area that are busy (for exposure purposes) and/or relevant to the reason for the protest. E.g. Palestine protest in a busy park in downtown, BLM protest in front of the police department/city hall, teachers union in front of the school board.



Choose a route!

If you are marching, choose a safe route off the roads that will give you exposure.

* If you want to march on the streets, contact the local police department ahead of time to coordinate road closures. Blocking traffic without permission is a violation of Florida's anti-protest law so you must coordinate with the police department for this purpose.



Choose a time!

You should choose your time depending on your purpose. If you are protesting a government official's policies, choose a date and time the person is in the office. You can verify this by calling the respective office. If it's for exposure and education, a busy time during a weekend in the respective location can help with that.



Choose speakers!

Your speakers should stick to the cause at hand and should be vetted before providing a platform. You do not want a speaker at your protest who is inciting violence, hate, or speaking opposite of your cause. You are liable for what your speakers say, and the reactions caused by them. Be sure to allow only those you trust or are designated speakers to have the microphone to avoid any issues.

WHAT YOU NEED



Flyer! Create a flyer with the date, time, location, and subject as clear as possible. Create this with enough time to promote, usually 1-2 weeks ahead of the event.



Law enforcement person of contact! This person is the designated person to interact with law enforcement should they come to the protest, have questions about the event, or are needed to coordinate a street march.



Media person of contact! This person is the designated person to interact with media and answer any questions, do interviews, and coordinate their attendance. Also, your whole team should be knowledgeable of all media talking points.



Legal observers! Legal observers are trained volunteers, law students, and/or attorneys who attend your event as a neutral party to take notes on what occurs between protestors and law enforcement. Legal observers will not intervene but will use their notes for later review. Also note that legal observers cannot engage in the protest, so be sure your legal observers are there to observe and not participate.



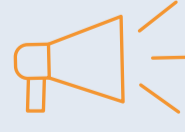
Safety marshals! Safety marshals are trained volunteers whose purpose it is to ensure the safety of the crowd. Safety marshals look out for instigators that try to make the crowd rowdy, keep the crowd within the safety margins of the protest location, e.g. stay on the sidewalk and off the street, and are the outside barriers of the march to ensure the crowd stays together and away from traffic/cars.

- Use vests, bandanas, or another visible symbol for the crowd to recognize who is a safety marshal.
- Make sure all your safety marshals are aware of the marching route. Coordinate signals on how to control the crowd, e.g. slow down, march faster, stop and wait, or use walkie-talkies.



Medics! Medics are trained volunteers that assist in medical emergencies such as dehydration or injuries that do not require transportation to a hospital. The medic team should provide their own materials.

- If expecting a big enough crowd, you should have a tent with a table and chairs for the medic team to utilize for anyone who is in their care.



Sound system/megaphones! Depending on your expected turnout, having a microphone and speaker system is helpful to amplify voices for a big crowd. Multiple megaphones are necessary when marching to keep chants throughout the crowd as the sound can drown out from only one megaphone.

- If using a non-portable sound system that needs to be plugged in, even if a public forum, you may need a permit. Check your city's website for this information.



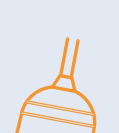
Water! This is Florida. It's hot. Standing in the sun for hours is difficult. While people may bring their own, it's a good idea to have cases of water to pass out as well.



Signs! Many people will bring their own signs but for those that don't, provide signs and/or a sign making station for people to make their own at the event.



CAIR-FL Know Your Rights Cards and contact information! You want to ensure your crowd is aware of their rights and do's and don't's at a protest to mitigate as much risk to their safety as possible. CAIR-FL has Know Your Rights When Protesting cards that you can pass out to the crowd.



CLEAN UP CREW! The organizing team and/or designated volunteers need to clean up water bottles, signs, etc. that were from the protest to avoid littering charges by the city. Also, it's good manners to clean up after yourself. 😊