

FIGHT BACK AGAINST THE PROPOSED MASK BAN IN LA

Link to this resource: bit.ly/StopMaskBansInLA



List of action items from Paul Hennessy [@we_are_ssd](#) Twitter/X. Original thread can be found [here](#). You can also follow Paul [@paulypandemic](#) on TikTok.

Sample messages by Anna Czosnyka ([@annaczosnyka](#) on IG, [@plzcarethx](#) on Twitter).

Thank you to Nic aka [@TitheGirl](#) on Twitter/X for the addition of fax numbers!

Action Items

1. Wear a well-fitting KN95 or N95 mask in public spaces unless you are unable to do so for medical reasons.

- [3M Aura Masks](#)
- <https://bonafidemasks.com>
- <https://wellbefore.com>

2. [Sign this petition](#) from the [ACE Coalition](#) and Joaquín Beltrán

3. Join Fight for the Future's campaign to fight mask bans

- Sign the petition [here](#)
- [Call Congress](#)
- [Call LA lawmakers](#)
 - *Once you enter your phone number on Fight for the Future's tool, you will receive a phone call at the number you entered. You will also see a sample call script appear on screen.*

4. Contact Mayor Karen Bass

- a) Phone: 213-978-0600
- b) Leave a comment with the Mayor's Helpdesk [here](#)
 - *Select "Leave a General Comment" and enter your Los Angeles home address to proceed. A sample comment can be found below!*

c) Fax a PDF copy of your letter to the City Clerk at (213) 978-1027

- [FaxZero](#) allows you to send 5 free faxes a day online

SAMPLE COMMENT

Dear Mayor Bass,

I am a resident of [location] writing to express my deep concern about the mask ban you've proposed for protestors in LA. I was absolutely appalled to hear your remarks on this matter. Masks are considered medical devices by the FDA. Legislation aiming to criminalize and politicize a medical device would be a shameful infringement upon bodily autonomy and personal rights. Banning masks in any capacity would harm countless individuals including the disabled, chronically ill, immunocompromised and elderly communities, as well as Black folks, Indigenous folks and people of the global majority, who have experienced disproportionate amounts of harm in the ongoing pandemic due to systemic and medical racism.

The First Amendment protects people's right to assemble peacefully, as well as freedom of speech. Banning masks for protestors would be an extremely ableist violation of First Amendment rights for disabled and vulnerable people, and would serve to push them out of the public sphere.

Furthermore, a mask ban in any form will also fuel discrimination, bullying and even violence towards folks wearing masks in non-protest settings, which in turn will further isolate disabled and vulnerable people from society.

It's not just disabled people who would experience the effects of a mask ban. COVID very much still exists and is not only still killing people—over 31,000 so far this year alone in the US—but also long COVID can affect anyone and becomes more likely to be developed with each reinfection. We have seen wastewater data showing that COVID rates are rising around the country this summer, along with hospitalizations. Masking is an incredibly effective and important tool for stopping the spread of COVID, which is considered a Biosafety Level 3 (BSL-3) pathogen by the CDC, and the death and disablement that's caused by the virus.

Additionally, people need to be able to wear masks to protect themselves from other airborne viruses, allergens, smoke and pollution. Everyone deserves the autonomy to be able to mask, disabled or not.

As the Mayor of Los Angeles, you have a responsibility to your constituents' wellbeing. You should be doing everything possible to make sure that Los Angeles is as safe and accessible as possible for all, which should include encouraging masking, especially amidst a COVID surge like the one we are experiencing now. Masking certainly should not be criminalized, regardless of circumstance.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
[your name]

5. Contact LA City Council

- a) Submit a public comment [here](#).
 - *So far as I can tell, there is not a current council file number that should be included, but you can check this by searching the City Clerk's [Council File Management System](#) for the word "mask" and then sorting the results by "last change".*
 - *Please note that once you've submitted your public comment via the portal that you will receive a link in your email that you will need to click in order to validate your submission.*
 - *A sample comment can be found below!*
- b) Call your city council member
- c) Email your city council member
 - *Easy access to city council phone numbers and email addresses can be found [here](#). If you run into trouble with the email icon, try clicking through to your councilmember's website, which should list their address. If you don't know who your city council member is, you can search your address [here](#) to find out.*

SAMPLE PUBLIC COMMENT

I am a resident of [location] writing to express my deep concern about the mask ban Mayor Bass has proposed for protestors in LA. I was absolutely appalled to hear her remarks on this matter. Masks are considered medical devices by the FDA. Legislation aiming to criminalize and politicize a medical device would be a shameful infringement upon bodily autonomy and personal rights. Banning masks in any capacity would harm countless individuals including the disabled, chronically ill, immunocompromised and elderly communities, as well as Black folks, Indigenous folks and people of the global majority, who have experienced disproportionate amounts of harm in the ongoing pandemic due to systemic and medical racism.

The First Amendment protects people's right to assemble peacefully, as well as freedom of speech. Banning masks for protestors would be an extremely ableist violation of First Amendment rights for disabled and vulnerable people, and would serve to push them out of the public sphere.

Furthermore, a mask ban in any form will also fuel discrimination, bullying and even violence towards folks wearing masks in non-protest settings, which in turn will further isolate disabled and vulnerable people from society.

It's not just disabled people who would experience the effects of a mask ban. COVID very much still exists and is not only still killing people—over 31,000 so far this year alone in the US—but also

long COVID can affect anyone and becomes more likely to be developed with each reinfection. We have seen wastewater data showing that COVID rates are rising around the country this summer, along with hospitalizations. Masking is an incredibly effective and important tool for stopping the spread of COVID, which is considered a Biosafety Level 3 (BSL-3) pathogen by the CDC, and the death and disablement that's caused by the virus.

Additionally, people need to be able to wear masks to protect themselves from other airborne viruses, allergens, smoke and pollution. Everyone deserves the autonomy to be able to mask, disabled or not.

As the City Council of Los Angeles, you all have a responsibility to your constituents' wellbeing. You should be doing everything possible to make sure that Los Angeles is as safe and accessible as possible for all, which should include encouraging masking, especially amidst a COVID surge like the one we are experiencing now. Masking certainly should not be criminalized, regardless of circumstance. I'm calling on you to do all that you can to deter any type of mask ban from being implemented.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
[your name]

6. Email LA Tourism at tourism@lacity.org

SAMPLE EMAIL

I am a resident of [location] writing to express my deep concern about the mask ban Mayor Bass has proposed for protestors in LA. I was absolutely appalled to hear her remarks on this matter. Masks are considered medical devices by the FDA. Legislation aiming to criminalize and politicize a medical device would be a shameful infringement upon bodily autonomy and personal rights. Banning masks in any capacity would harm countless individuals including the disabled, chronically ill, immunocompromised and elderly communities, as well as Black folks, Indigenous folks and people of the global majority, who have experienced disproportionate amounts of harm in the ongoing pandemic due to systemic and medical racism.

A mask ban in any form will also fuel discrimination, bullying and even violence towards folks wearing masks in non-protest settings, which in turn will further isolate disabled and vulnerable people from society.

I had [plans to visit/hopes of visiting] Los Angeles soon, but as long as this mask ban is being considered, I will have to cancel my plans due to concerns for [my own health/the health of my loved ones/in solidarity with the disabled community]. If the mask ban passes, I will withhold all

future visits until it is repealed.

In promoting tourism in Los Angeles, it is necessary to consider safety and accessibility for all. I'm calling on LA Tourism to do all that you can to deter any type of mask ban from being implemented.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
[your name]

7. Contact LA County Board of Supervisors

- a) Submit a comment to a board meeting.
 - *The board meets every Tuesday and allows for public comment call-ins. Meeting agendas can be found [here](#) and instructions on how to participate can be found [here](#).*
 - *In addition to demanding that they push back against the proposed mask ban, please be sure to call out Lindsey Horvath for standing with Infowars extremist, Adam King.*
- b) Call and email your supervisor
 - Hilda Solis:
 - FirstDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov
 - 213-974-4111
 - Holly Mitchell:
 - HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov
 - 213-974-2222
 - Lindsey Horvath:
 - ThirdDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov
 - 213-974-3333
 - Janice Hahn:
 - fourthdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov
 - 213-974-4444
 - Kathryn Barger:
 - kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov
 - 213-974-5555
 - *If you don't know who your city council member is, you can search your address [here](#) to find out.*
- c) Fax the Board of Supervisors at (213) 620-0636
 - [FaxZero](#) allows you to send 5 free faxes a day online

8. Call into the LA County Public Health Commission

- To call into a meeting: 844-291-6364

- Access: 3699012
- *They meet on the 2nd Thursday of every month. You can learn more on their site [here](#).*
- *In addition to demanding they condemn Mayor Bass' mask ban proposals, demand that they reinstate masks in healthcare as well.*
- General contact number: (213) 288-7752
- Email: PublicHealthCommission@ph.lacounty.gov

9. If you live somewhere that has not yet proposed a mask ban, write to your representatives preemptively to demand that they not investigate implementation in your area.

SAMPLE MESSAGE

Dear [elected official],

I am a constituent of yours residing in [location]. I'm writing to express my deep concern about the mask bans that have been proposed in various locations around the country and to preemptively call upon you to do everything in your power to ensure that a mask ban does not get put into effect in [city/state].

Masks are considered medical devices by the FDA. Legislation aiming to criminalize and politicize a medical device would be a shameful infringement upon bodily autonomy and personal rights. Banning masks in any capacity would harm countless individuals including the disabled, chronically ill, immunocompromised and elderly communities, as well as Black folks, Indigenous folks and people of the global majority, who have experienced disproportionate amounts of harm in the ongoing pandemic due to systemic and medical racism.

As we have unfortunately seen already, a mask ban in any form would also fuel discrimination, bullying and even violence towards folks wearing masks, which in turn will further isolate disabled and vulnerable people from society.

It's not just disabled people who would experience the effects of a mask ban. COVID very much still exists and is not only still killing people—over 31,000 so far this year alone in the US—but also long COVID can affect anyone and becomes more likely to be developed with each reinfection. We have seen wastewater data showing that COVID rates are rising around the country this summer, along with hospitalizations. Masking is an incredibly effective and important tool for stopping the spread of COVID, which is considered a Biosafety Level 3 (BSL-3) pathogen by the CDC, and the death and disablement that's caused by the virus.

Additionally, people need to be able to wear masks to protect themselves from other airborne viruses, allergens, smoke and pollution. Everyone deserves the autonomy to be able to mask, disabled or not.

As [a/the] [role] of [location], you have a responsibility to your constituents' wellbeing. You should be doing everything possible to make sure that [city/state] remains as safe and accessible as possible for all, which should include encouraging masking, especially amidst a COVID surge like the one we are experiencing now. Under no circumstance should criminalization of masking be considered. I'm counting on you to make our [city/state] as safe and accessible, and to ensure that a mask ban does not get implemented.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
[your name]

10. If you live somewhere where a mask ban has been passed, write to your representatives to demand that they repeal the ban.

SAMPLE MESSAGE

Dear [elected official],

I am a constituent of yours residing in [location]. I'm writing to you in regards to the mask ban that was recently passed here in [city/county/state], about which I am quite frankly appalled. Mask bans do not keep us safe. In fact, they do exactly the opposite.

Masks are considered medical devices by the FDA. Legislation that criminalizes and politicizes a medical device is a shameful infringement upon bodily autonomy and personal rights. The mask ban that has passed in [city/county/state] will harm countless individuals including the disabled, chronically ill, immunocompromised and elderly communities, as well as Black folks, Indigenous folks and people of the global majority, who have experienced disproportionate amounts of harm in the ongoing pandemic due to systemic and medical racism.

Banning masks in any capacity is a violation of the rights of Americans. The First Amendment protects people's right to assemble peacefully, as well as freedom of speech. Banning masks for protestors flagrantly disregards these civil liberties, encourages more racist police surveillance and violence, and serves to push disabled people out of the public sphere.

It's not just disabled people who will experience the effects of a mask ban. COVID very much still exists and is not only still killing people—over 31,000 so far this year alone in the US—but also long COVID can affect anyone and becomes more likely to be developed with each reinfection. We have seen wastewater data showing that COVID rates are rising around the country this summer, along with hospitalizations. Masking is an incredibly effective and important tool for stopping the spread of COVID, which is considered a Biosafety Level 3 (BSL-3) pathogen by the CDC, and the death and disablement that's caused by the virus.

Additionally, people need to be able to wear masks to protect themselves from other airborne viruses, allergens, smoke and pollution. Everyone deserves the autonomy to be able to mask, disabled or not.

As [a/the] [role] of [location], you have a responsibility to your constituents' wellbeing. You should be doing everything possible to make sure that [city/county/state] remains as safe and accessible as possible for all, which should include encouraging masking, especially amidst a COVID surge like the one we are experiencing now. The criminalization of masking will result in more disablement and death. I'm counting on you to fight to repeal [location]'s mask ban as soon as possible for the safety and accessibility of your constituents.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
[your name]

11. Join MaskTogetherAmerica's digital letter writing campaign to the Biden / Harris admin as well as your reps [here](#).

Additional Resources

- COVID Advocacy NY anti-mask ban toolkit: bit.ly/StopMaskBanNYAction
- [Fight for the Future's NY calling tool](#)
- Long COVID Justice anti-mask ban toolkit: tiny.cc/resistmaskbans
- [How to Call Your Elected Officials](#) from [Autistic Self-Advocacy Network](#)
- Find your local mask block:
 - maskbloc.org
 - [COVID Action Map](#) (on IG [@covidactionmap](#))
 - [COVID Advocacy Groups spreadsheet](#) (on IG [@covid_advocacy](#))