

Protesters decry stay-at-home orders in San Bernardino



More than 125 people with flags and signs rally outside the San Bernardino County Justice Center in efforts to reopen businesses during COVID-19 in San Bernardino on Friday, May 1, 2020. (Photo by Terry Pierson, The Press-Enterprise/SCNG)

By **BRIAN WHITEHEAD** | bwhitehead@scng.com | San Bernardino Sun

PUBLISHED: May 1, 2020 at 1:51 p.m. | UPDATED: May 1, 2020 at 6:10 p.m.

A group of protesters rallied at the San Bernardino County Government Center Friday, May 1, pressing county officials for options to reopen nonessential businesses during the ongoing [coronavirus pandemic](#).

Themed “Reopen San Bernardino County,” the grassroots demonstration at the North Arrowhead Avenue facility in downtown San Bernardino channeled the same message as rallies held in [Orange County](#), Los Angeles and Sacramento.

[Previous](#)



1 of 21

Pablo Hernandez of San Jacinto yells FREEDOM alongside more than 125 people with flags and signs rallying outside the San Bernardino County Justice Center in efforts to reopen businesses during COVID-19 in San Bernardino on Friday, May 1, 2020. (Photo by Terry Pierson, The Press-Enterprise/SCNG)

“There should be options for reopening,” Robin Hvidston, executive director of the anti-illegal immigration group We The People Rising, said by phone Friday. “You can have industries require people to wear masks or take their temperatures before entering the building, social distancing, opening with guidelines.

“You can have the vulnerable populations continue to shelter in place,” she continued, “but not the entire county and not large populations that are out of work and healthy.”

Hvidston, the Republican candidate for the [41st Assembly District](#), said ahead of the rally she would wear a mask and practice safe distancing guidelines while exercising her Constitutional right to peacefully assemble.

And while she acknowledged the blowback [similar rallies](#) in Southern California and around the country have received in recent weeks, Hvidston called the statewide stay-at-home order “disorienting.”

On Friday, the county Board of Supervisors announced it would discuss [lifting some restrictions](#) on low-risk businesses at its meeting Tuesday, May 5. A county coalition focused on the recovery effort is working on a playbook for how to open businesses in a safe manner, according to board Chairman Curt Hagman.

“The isolation is very difficult,” she said. “We hope our county gives us some options. It’s May 1. Let’s start reopening businesses with guidelines and let people get back to work.”