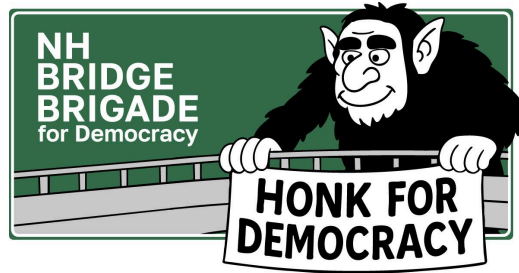


# Caravans for Democracy Handbook



Adapted with sincere thanks from Visibility Brigade

<https://www.visibilitybrigade.com/>

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## Handbook Purpose:

How to organize and run a Caravan—a cold-weather or winter activity of the NH Bridge Brigade for Democracy (NHBBB).

Who can resist a parade? Cars decked out in balloons, streamers, thunderous music, bubbles, and horns! People react to our arrival like Santa Claus coming to town. It's important to bring joy to this fight against fascism because joy fills people with hope—and that's exactly what a Caravan for Democracy is designed to do.

## What Is a Caravan for Democracy?

- 3 to 10 (or more) cars decorated with Bridge Brigade–style messaging and QR codes—showing solidarity with activist groups across the country.
- There are both Statewide Caravan actions (Dec. 13th) and popup, local Caravans.

## Pro Tips:

- Always do a test drive before the event.
- During Statewide Caravans you might encounter other BB Caravaners. Honk and wave like crazy. The more the merrier.
- Place larger vehicles like pickup trucks at the front with Bluetooth speakers for music and sound projection.
- Avoid horn burnout: use portable speakers to play car horn sounds or music playlists. Link to: [Sounds of Honking Horns on Youtube](#).



## Where To Hold a Caravan

Caravans are most effective in areas with a concentration of Democrats and independent voters. It's not about changing minds; it's about activating people who already share our values but haven't yet taken action.

- Democrat-leaning neighborhoods and communities
- High-visibility areas—residential communities
- Main Streets, sports venues, and shopping districts—to jumpstart local democratic infrastructure and combat the assault on American democracy.

This upbeat, high-energy action attracts attention and draws new people into the movement.

## Vehicle Messaging - You Decide...

- Always pro democracy / always non violent
- Never antagonistic eg. 8647
- Sometimes unified messaging
- Sometimes each car creates its own - let your Caravan Team decide



## Initiating a NH Caravan for Democracy Caravan

- Designate a leader
- Minimum of 3 cars for real impact
- Ideal roles for participants:
  - Drivers and co-pilots (co-pilots manage communication and logistics so drivers can focus).
  - Backseat passengers to wave, record video, and play music.
  - Videographers/photographers to capture the event.
  - **Important:** The parade must never appear as a promotion for a specific candidate or official. It represents the NH Bridge Brigade for Democracy—our movement, our message



## Mapping Out a Route

- 100% must pre-plan your route.
- Drive and test the route to ensure safety and flow.
- Provide your route to the other cars in case you lose each other
- During winter many people are in their homes
- Playing louder music, honking horns, and speaking through bull horns should get you good attention — think ice cream truck meets democracy.

## Best Practices for Routes:

- Minimize left turns (UPS does this—it's efficient and safer).
- Avoid red lights and complicated intersections.
- Choose straight, wide roads with **lower speed limits (≤25 mph)**.
- Allow pull-off regroup points if traffic splits the group.
- Check train schedules if crossings exist.

## When to Hold Caravan for Democracy action

- Weekends and daylight hours when most people are home during a residential neighborhood action or in public places.
- Consider times when shopping mall parking lots and ski resorts are busiest.
- Schedule a rain/snow date; avoid icy roads and those expected to have standing water which might damage signs.
- The entire action lasts about 2 hours - from setup to breakdown
  - 20–45 minutes setup
  - 40–60 minutes on route
  - 20–45 minutes breakdown

The goal is to make it 1) impactful and 2) easy to repeat.

## Who Can Participate

**Everyone**—including seniors, parents, and those with mobility challenges—can take part. As always, inclusivity is a core value of NHBBD. It is a great way to get young people and those who would otherwise be uncomfortable standing on a bridge to have some level of anonymity. It takes courage to be an activist.

## Is This Legal?

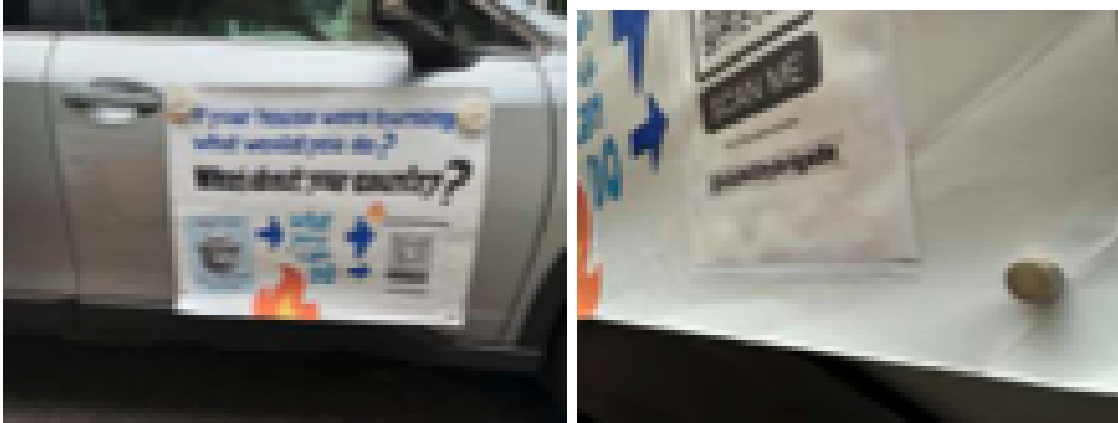
- Caravan actions are what John Lewis called “Good Trouble.”
- There is no permit needed at the state level. We won’t be shutting down roads or need an escort, therefore it’s not a parade and not regulated by parade laws.
- Driving is legal. We’re driving. We have rights as a driver.
- Make sure vehicles are legal and all drivers have a valid license.
  - No expired tags, or licenses or broken lights
- Make sure vehicle decorations & signs do not obstruct drivers view
- Be mindful of local noise ordinances
- Participants accept personal liability. Avoid giving law enforcement an excuse to pull anyone over. Ensure all vehicles are in compliance with the laws
- Be mindful of local noise ordinances, but don’t let fear silence democracy.
- Each participant accepts personal liability as in other NHBBB actions.
- If approached by police, remain respectful but vague about the route.
  - “Sorry, Sir / Mam, we don’t have any particular route in mind,” all the while hiding the map!!!

## Designing Your Vehicles Messages and Signage

- Use short 4–5 word messages. Large, bold, and easy to read.
- Use white lettering on black backgrounds for best visibility.
- Display large QR CODES (also found later in this document) on both sides of every car. By driving slowly, folks will be able capture the QR code with their phones.
- Magnetic signs are ideal, but light weight poster boards with magnets or painter’s tape works fine for 25 mph or less.
- Mix handmade and printed signs to keep it lively and human.
- Decorate with balloons, streamers, and symbols of joy—but secure everything well.



## Use <<Strong>> Magnets to Fasten Homemade Signs:



## Staging Area and Setup

Municipal lots, Park & Rides are good areas for assembly. Arrive early to decorate, assign roles, and check safety. If no public lot is available, request use of a church or synagogue lot supportive of democratic values.

Assign staging volunteers to arrive 15–30 minutes early, wearing high-visibility vests. Ensure:

- Cars are decorated together for consistency.
- QR codes are visible.
- Bluetooth devices and music are ready.
- Hazard lights are on before rollout.

Afterward, regroup for a group photo, video chant, and organized breakdown.

## Best Practices

### Vehicle Preparation

- Ensure magnetic signs stick properly.
- Secure all decorations. If anything falls off mid drive, pull over immediately when safe, to remedy the situation
- Keep hazard lights on.
- Use liquid chalk only on windows, it might not come off of body paint.

## **Caravan Roles**

### **Driver**

- Follow traffic laws and keep 15 feet between cars.
- Maintain 6–8 mph speed.
- Do not use your phone.

### **Co-Pilot**

- Holds route maps and stays on Slack or Signal.
- Do not use Google Maps during the event. It may give different directions from car to car causing confusion. Go old school and use a paper map. Know your route.

### **Passengers**

- Manage music and energy.
- Use of noise makers: bullhorns, cowbells, trumpets, and other creative devices.
- Wave, cheer, record footage.

### **Behavior Protocols**

- No profanity or obscene gestures.
- Keep messaging clean, positive, and inclusive.
- Do not respond to people yelling negatively towards your caravan.

### **Police**

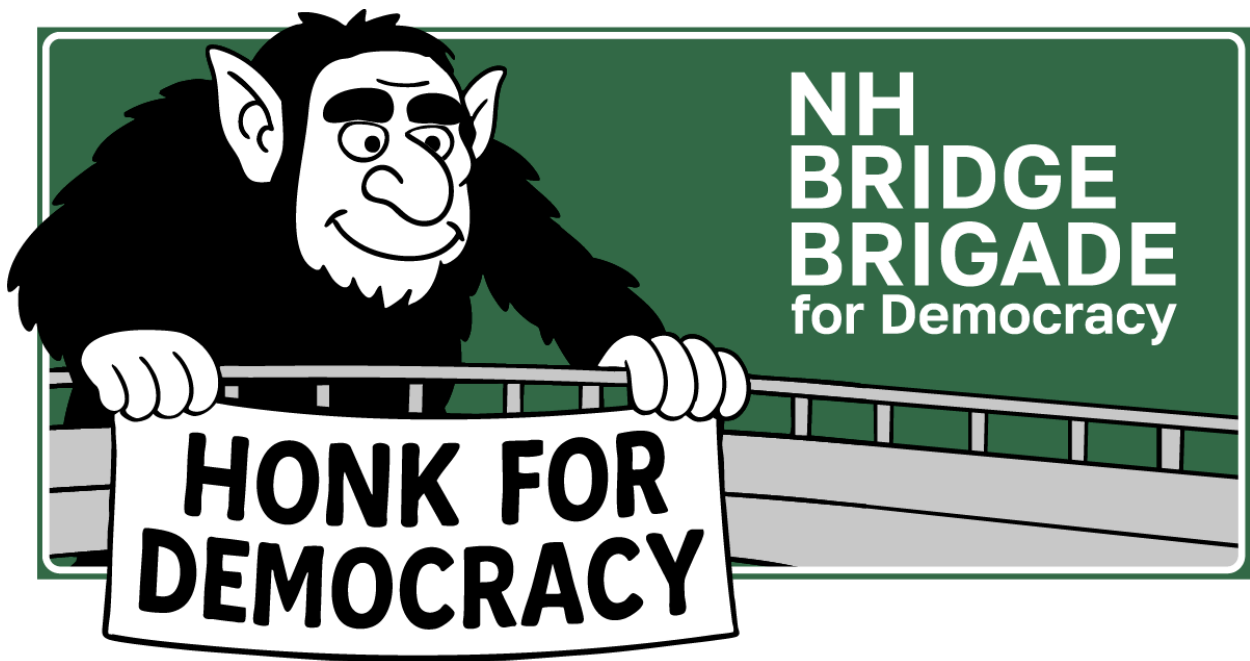
- No need to notify them beforehand.
- Follow all traffic laws.
- If stopped, comply respectfully.
- Turn off phone location to avoid showing a “traffic jam” on Google Maps.

### **Safety**

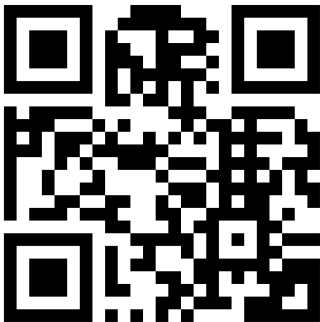
- If any decorations shift or fall off the vehicle, pull over as soon as it is safe to do so to address the issue.
- In case of an accident, remain to resolve it.
- If people around you become upset - drive away immediately. Scatter.

## Logistics and Products

- [Colored Liquid Chalk Markers for Windows](#) (don't use this on the body of the vehicle)
- [Posterboard from Michaels.](#)
- Small STRONG magnets, or even magnetic adhesives might be effective
- For vehicles with non-steel siding, suction cups with hooks through a banner with grommet holes can also be used.
- Perhaps put [NHBBB.org](http://NHBBB.org) or NH Bridge Brigade for Democracy spelled out - so people know which movement you are with.
- Here's a copy of our logo you can use.



- Here is a QR Code that links directly to the NHBBB Website:



- Consider a coffee holder like this one (pictured above) to place on the outside of your door. You will need to add some extra foam rubber to avoid scratching your car's finish as well as small bungees to secure the speaker in place.

