



WASHINGTON STATE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION COMPLAINT FORM

(See instructions on the last page.)

Description of Complaint

1. RESPONDENT:

Identify who you are filing a complaint against and provide all contact information you have for them. Give names and titles, if any, for individuals, and the full name of any organization. Please note that the PDC does not enforce federal campaign finance laws or local ordinances.

Example #1: Joe Public, Mayor of My Town,

123 Main Street, Your Town, State, Phone: 555-123-4567, Email: unknown

Example #2: The Political Action Group (instead of P.A.G.), 123 Main Street, Your Town, State,

Phone: 555-123-4567, Email: pag@pag.org, Website: www.PAGwashington.org

"Safer Spokane" -- 2909 S. Howard St. Spokane, WA 99202-1747 ; website: www.saferspokane.org; Facebook: www.facebook.com/pg/saferspokane

2. ALLEGED VIOLATIONS:

Explain how and when you believe the people/entities you are filing a complaint against violated RCW 42.17/RCW 42.17A or Title 390 WAC. Be as detailed as possible about dates, times, places and acts. If you can, cite which specific laws or rules you believe were violated. Attach additional pages if needed. (Note that the RCW 42.17 citation applies to conduct before 2012 and the RCW 42.17A citation applies to conduct on or after January 1, 2012.)

"Safer Spokane" has been acting as an unregistered political committee, failing to disclose to the public its expenditures and contributions on a Spokane ballot measure. The organization's self-describes itself as follows: "Safer Spokane Campaign is an initiative for the people of Spokane." Image 9.

"Safer Spokane" has been actively soliciting funds as a political committee and has not filed as a political committee with the Public Disclosure Commission in violation of RCW 42.17A & Title 390 WAC. Attached is an image from the Safer Spokane Website soliciting funds taken 9/29/17. Marked as image 1. Link to RCW & WAC: <https://www.pdc.wa.gov/learn/publications/political-committee-instructions>

Safer Spokane has been engaged in campaign activities related to Proposition 2 since at the latest, January 2017. It has held regular "campaign" team meetings since then. See Safer Spokane calendar, attached as Image 5 are copies of Safer Spokane's calendar from January - June 2017. Safer Spokane had the expectation of making expenditures or receiving contributions as of January 2017, but concealed its activities from the public and the Commission. Its website includes other pages soliciting political contributions for the "campaign." Images 6 and 7.

Safer Spokane does not identify any funders on its website in violation of RCW 42.17A & Title 390 WAC. Attached is an image from the Safer Spokane Website soliciting funds taken 9/29/17. Marked as image 2. Link to RCW & WAC: <https://www.pdc.wa.gov/learn/publications/political-committee-instructions>

Safer Spokane did not report any expenses or funders during their signature gathering phase from January 2017 until June 12, 2017 when they submitted signatures to the Spokane City Clerk's office. <https://www.inlander.com/Bloglander/archives/2017/06/12/safer-spokane-submits-oil-and-coal-train-initiative-signatures-aiming-at-november-ballot> (image from inlander attached)

"Safer Spokane" expended funds to create the campaign signs shown in its April 23 Facebook posting, or received contributions in-kind for the creation of the posters. Image 10. On May 2, 2017, "Safer Spokane" announced a reception to be held on June 12 to support Proposition 2, but has reported no contributions or expenditures in connection with the event. Image 11.

"Safer Spokane" advocated for the passage of "proposition 6" (sic) on its Facebook page in June 2017. It announced its election kickoff campaign with an event on June 28, 2017, but still failed to register or report its contributions and expenditures. Image 8. Its Facebook page is almost entirely devoted to the ballot proposition.

On a "Vote yes" brochure that Safer Spokane distributed at the South Perry Street Fair on July 15, 2017, funders are not identified in violation of RCW 42.17A & Title 390 WAC. Attached is an image of the hand brochure attached, marked as IMAGE3 pg1& IMAGE3 pg2 Please note that on the piece the Proposition is misidentified as prop 6. Spokane County elections later named it Prop 2. Link to RCW & WAC: <https://www.pdc.wa.gov/learn/publications/political-committee-instructions>

"Safer Spokane" failed to file form C3 from January to September in violation of RCW 42.17A & Title 390 WAC. Link to RCW & WAC: <https://www.pdc.wa.gov/learn/publications/political-committee-instructions>

"Safer Spokane" also failed to file any PDC form C4 from January to September in violation of RCW 42.17A & Title 390 WAC. Link to RCW & WAC: <https://www.pdc.wa.gov/learn/publications/political-committee-instructions>

"Safer Spokane" also placed several large billboards advocating a yes vote on Prop 2 on Trent Ave and Indiana Ave that did not list "top 5 donors" in violation of RCW 42.17A & Title 390 WAC an image of the billboard is attached as image 12.

Evidence and Witnesses

3. EVIDENCE:

List the documents or other evidence you have that support your complaint, if any, and attach copies to this form. If you do not have copies, provide any information you have about where you believe the documents or evidence can be found and how to obtain it. Attach additional pages if needed.

Example: Emails between Joe public and Candidate X, attached OR

Joe Public has emails from Candidate X which describe an illegal campaign donation, and Joe Public's phone number is 555-123-4567.

Attached is an image from the Safer Spokane Website soliciting funds taken 9/29/17. Marked as image 1.

Attached is an image from the Safer Spokane Website soliciting funds taken 9/29/17, Marked as image 2.

Attached is an image of the hand brochure attached, marked as IMAGE3 pg1& IMAGE3 pg2
Please note that on the piece the Proposition is misidentified as prop 6. Spokane County
elections later named it prop 2.

Attached is an image from the Inlander Blog, a Spokane blog that covers local news and events,
from their June 12, 2017 story on the signatures being filed with the City Clerk. Image 4.

Attached as Image 5 are copies of Safer Spokane's calender from January - September 2017..
Attached as Images 6 and 7 are copies of campaign contribution solicitation from "Safer
Spokane".

Attached as Image 8 is a screen capture, as of October 3, 2017, of "Safer Spokane" Facebook
page showing campaign activity in June 2017.

Attached as Image 9 is "Safer Spokane's" "about" page from Facebook.

Attached as Image 10 is a copy of a portion of the "Safer Spokane" Facebook page showing
campaign posters promoting the ballot measure.

Attached as Image 11 is a copy of the campaign reception announcement from Facebook for
"Safer Spokane."

Attached as image 12 is an image of a billboard placed in Spokane that does not list top 5
donors.

4. WITNESSES:

List the names and contact information, if known, of any witnesses or other persons who
have knowledge of facts that support your complaint. Attach additional pages if needed.

Example: Jane Public was present when Candidate X spoke to me about the illegal contribution. Jane Public's
address is 123 Main Street, Your Town, USA 12345, and her phone number is 555-123-4567.

Attendees, names unknown, at "Safer Spokane" political committee meetings from January
2017 to-date.

Persons, names unknown, designing, maintaining and updating "Safer Spokane's" website and
its Facebook pages, and "railroad crossing" logo. Printers providing the

Donors, names unknown, who contributed funds to the "Safer Spokane" committee.

Vendors, names unknown, who provided services and goods to the "Safer Spokane" committee.

Certification

In signing this complaint:

- I have provided all information, documents and other evidence of which I am aware;
- If I become aware of additional information, documents or evidence related to my complaint, I will promptly provide it to the PDC; and,
- I am providing the PDC current information on how to contact me, and will promptly update that information if it changes.
- Unless otherwise noted, I agree that PDC may use email instead of U.S. mail for all written correspondence about this complaint.

E-mail address: awhitten@shba.com

Your name (print or type): Arthur Whitten

Street address: 5813 E. 4th Ave Ste. 201

City, state and zip code: Spokane Valley, WA 99212

Telephone number (including area code): 509-532-4990

Oath

Required for all complaints filed with the Public Disclosure Commission:

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that information provided with this complaint is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.*

Your signature _____

Date signed _____

Place signed (city and county)

City

County

Attachments

☒ Check here if you are attaching copies of documentary evidence or extra pages explaining your complaint.

**RCW 9A.72.040 says that "(1) A person is guilty of false swearing if he makes a false statement which he knows to be false, under an oath required or authorized by law. (2) False swearing is a misdemeanor."*

Washington State Public Disclosure Commission

Instructions for Filing a Formal Complaint

➤ **When to use the formal complaint form:**

While this form is not required, its use is recommended when you want to file formal allegations of a violation of the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) statutes or rules. You can find the PDC statutes and rules on the PDC website at www.pdc.wa.gov.

If you have information or concerns about a possible violation but do not wish to file a complaint, please contact the PDC office directly.

➤ **How to submit your complaint form to the PDC:**

- Complete all sections. If you do not have some information, please write “unknown” instead of leaving a blank space.
- Attach copies of any evidence you have - we’ll contact you if we need originals.
- Sign the oath.
- Mail, fax, or email your complaint and all attachments to the PDC.

➤ **If you have more questions:**

If you have more questions about filing a complaint, see the “Frequently Asked Questions about Filing a Complaint” guide available on the PDC’s website at www.pdc.wa.gov under “Enforcement and Compliance.” You may also contact the PDC directly.

PDC Contact Information

MAILING ADDRESS: Washington State Public Disclosure Commission
711 Capitol Way, Room 206
PO Box 40908
Olympia, WA 98504-0908

EMAIL ADDRESS: pdc@pdc.wa.gov

PHONE: 1-877-601-2828 (toll free)

FAX: (360) 753-1112

HOURS: Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., closed on state holidays.

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YES on Proposition 2 !!!

The Safer Spokane Initiative

This ordinance will dramatically reduce the risk of a catastrophic oil train explosion in Spokane.

It will simply require oil companies to reduce the flammability of the Bakken Crude Oil prior to shipment by removing most of the explosive natural gas components (propane, butane, etc.).

- It also reduces the chance of train derailment by requiring that coal shipments be covered.
- Highly flammable Bakken Crude Oil is so volatile that it burns or explodes as a result of nearly every spill. Once the oil is stabilized, which is what we are calling for, it rarely catches fire after a spill.
- The oil and coal railcars are owned by the oil and coal companies, not the railroads. They must be held responsible for the risks they create. **Railroad operations are not impacted by this ordinance.**

[Donate Now](#)[Join The Campaign](#)

information, please click on the "[Join the Campaign](#)" button or call
(509) 981-2307.



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Paid for by Safer Spokane

2909 S. Howard St.
Spokane, WA 99203-1747

Safer Spokane is a 501(c)4 nonprofit organization.
Contributions are not tax deductible.

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Yes on Proposition 6

For a Safer Spokane

(No Brainer Proposition I do not want to be Incinerated)

Proposition 6 is strictly a public safety issue. Any environmental impact is secondary.

Currently 15 to 17 oil trains with over 100 cars pass through Spokane weekly. Each train carries 2,700,000 gallons of highly volatile North Dakota crude. A year ago only 5 oil trains passed through Spokane per week.

A measure of volatility is Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP).

Gulf of Mexico crude has a 3 RVP

Gasoline has a 9 RVP

North Dakota crude has a 11.5 to 11.8 RVP

The Lac-Megantic oil train that exploded near Quebec had an RVP of above 9. A 74 car oil train derailed and exploded killing 47 people, destroying half of the downtown with a blast radius of 0.6 miles. This could happen in Spokane.

North Dakota crude is highly volatile because of the natural gasses (butane, propane, methane) mixed in with the oil.

Stabilization is a simple process of separating the oil from the natural gasses. The oil's volatility is reduced to 3 RVP and can be transported more safely to refineries and ports on the west coast. The natural gasses can be used to produce electricity in North Dakota and added to the nation-wide electric grid.

Natural gas is currently separated from the oil at the end of the line. Proposition 6 would require the stabilization to occur before transport. This is common sense. Stabilize before transport rather than after.

Railroad derailments are fairly common with the following within the last 15 months: Mosier, Oregon; Sandpoint, Idaho; Yakima, Washington; 45 miles south of Seattle, Washington.

There is clearly a lot of confusion about the Safer Spokane Initiative (Proposition 6 on the November ballot), as glaringly evident in Michael Rush's Guest Opinion on May 27th. Allow us to set the record straight.

First of all, he was **totally incorrect** is stating that Prop 6 would "**ban railroads from transporting fossil fuels.**" The proposed ordinance would require the oil companies to reduce the flammability (stabilize) of the Bakken crude oil BEFORE shipment, instead of when it reaches the West Coast. To further reduce the risk of derailment, it would also require coal cars to be covered during shipment. These requirements do not directly affect railway operations in any way. Thus, no jobs would be lost in Spokane, especially since the oil and coal shippers, who own the railcars, provide ZERO jobs here.

We actually support the railways and wish to thank them for their ongoing efforts to improve rail safety through frequent inspections and thorough maintenance. We especially appreciate their voluntary reduction of the speed of oil trains through Spokane. We commend BNSF for their successful legal fight before the national Surface Transportation Board to require the coal shippers to encapsulate their shipments, which reduces coal dust 'distribution' by at least 75%. Their evidence that coal dust destabilizes the railway ballast by acting as a lubricant, especially when wet, is very convincing. No word yet whether it contributed to the many derailments in the region during our wet spring.

Therefore, Prop 6 is NOT directed at the railroads. The aim is simply to reduce the danger of a catastrophic crude oil spill/fire/explosion resulting from a train derailment in Spokane. While the citizens of Spokane bear the full risk of injury, death and property destruction, and the resulting economic and civic disruptions, we receive NO benefit from the shipment of highly flammable Bakken crude through our City. This is simply not a fair or reasonable tradeoff.

The State of Texas requires stabilization. The cost has not impeded oil production or transport there. Oceangoing vessels will not accept high volatility crude for shipment. Why should we allow it to 'flow' through the heart of our City?

The Spokane Firefighters Union has endorsed Prop 6 because they know full well that a Bakken crude oil fire is NOT extinguishable, as demonstrated last year by the derailment and fire near Mosier, Oregon. As there, all firefighters can do is attempt to contain the fire and wait for it to burn itself out. One of their nightmare scenarios is flaming oil pouring into the storm sewer system, potentially endangering all people or property between the rail line and the Spokane River.

Is Prop 6 legal? Based on a provision in the National Railway Safety Act that has been upheld upon Federal Appeal, we are convinced that it is.

Based on all of this, we are calling on BNSF and Union Pacific to use their considerable influence to persuade the oil and coal companies to do the right thing and thereby help protect their employees and the communities they serve from a disastrous oil fire.

We believe that anyone who takes the time to study this Proposition with an open mind would support it.

Please vote YES on Prop 6 this November.

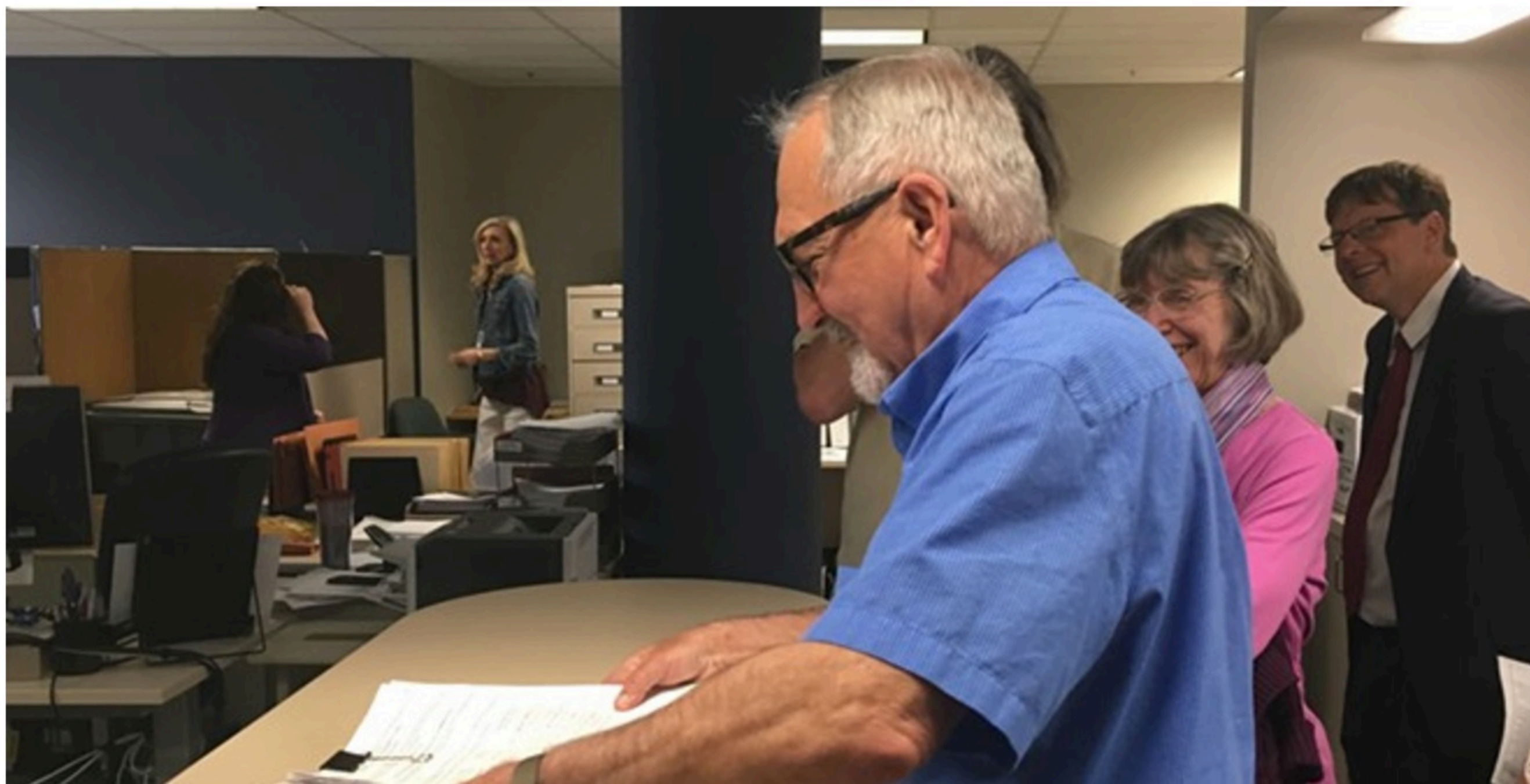
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Monday, June 12, 2017

NEWS

Safer Spokane submits oil and coal train initiative signatures, aiming to get on November ballot

Posted By [Samantha Wohlfeil](#) on Mon, Jun 12, 2017 at 4:16 PM

[click to enlarge](#)

1 of 6
Page 5
10/3/20

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Apr 2017 60

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SaferSpokane April 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4 6:30PM Rev. Dr. King's "Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence" Community Building Lobby, 35 W. Main. Meet at 6 p.m. to get signatures	5 7:18PM Movie: 1964 at Garland Theater 8:45 to get signatures	6 7:30PM DFA Training Moran Prairie Library Meet at 7 p.m. to get signatures	7 5PM First Friday Downtown	1
8	9 3PM - 4:30PM Safer Spokane Team Meeting	10 4PM - 5:30PM Safer Spokane Team Meeting	11 7PM - 9PM Spokane NAACP Monthly Meeting Community Building Lobby Gather at 6:30	12	13	14 12PM - 2PM Tax Day Rally Gather at the Community Building, 35 W. Main. at 11:30 a.m. for signatures
15	16 4PM - 5:30PM Safer Spokane Team Meeting	17 7PM - 9PM Spokane NAACP Monthly Meeting Community Building Lobby Gather at 6:30	18	19	20 7AM - 9AM Morning Sidewalk Town Hall in front of Morris Fundraiser 9PM - 8PM Town Hall with or without CaitlyMcMorrisRogers	21 10AM Earth Day Booth 9 a.m. Set up 4PM - 4AM Science March Spokane
22	23 Earth Day (cont) Riverfront Park	24 4PM - 5:30PM Safer Spokane Team Meeting	25	26	27	28 9AM - 5PM Mento Plant Sale Gather at 8:30 12:00PM - 2:00PM Climate Rally Spokane City Hall Plaza Gather at 11 am

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Jun

2017

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SaferSpokane
June 2017

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1					1 12:00PM - 1:30PM Planned Parenthood Rally CMR's office 10 N Post	2 12PM - 10PM ArtEast 2017! 5PM First Friday and VOLUME Music Festival Downtown, 5 p.m. to Late	3 9AM Manito Plant Sale Gather at 8:30 a.m. 10AM - 10PM ArtFest 2017! 12PM VOLUME Music Festival Downtown, -- Noon to Late
4	4 10AM - 5PM ArtFest 2017!	5 4PM - 5:30PM Safer Spokane Campaign Team Meeting	6 X	7 6:00PM - 7:30PM Trumpcare & the CBO hosted by 'Where's Cathy' at the Downtown Library.	8 X	9	10 12PM Pride Parade and Event Downtown - Noon to late Gather at 11:30 am.
11		12 DEADLINE TO SUBMIT PETITIONS 4PM - 7PM Petition Celebration	13 6:00PM - 8:00PM EUSE Local Candidate Community Meeting	14 X	15	16	17 1:30PM - 2:00PM March for Racial Justice at Liberty Park, 162 S Spokane St.
18		19	20	21	22 12:00PM - 1:00PM Day of Action to Prevent a State Government Shutdown Parkview Early Learning Center, 5122 N Division	23	24 10:00AM - 2:00PM Reclaim the 5th District Voter Outreach Campaign AF-CIO, 510 S Elm
25	25 4:00PM - 5:00PM Taking the Lead on Climate Change at Unitarian Universalist Church.	26 X	27	28 6PM - 7:30PM Safer Spokane: Volunteer and Supporter Thank You and Election Campaign Kick-off at the Iron Goat Brewing Company 1302 W Second Ave. Spokane WA 99201	29	30	

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6 of 6



Help Make Safer Spokane A Reality

\$ 27

Ten Bucks

27 Bucks

Supporter

Superstar

Custom Amount

First Name

Last Name

Email Address

This is a secure SSL encrypted payment.

XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX

Security Code / CVC

Name On Card

MM/YY

Address Line 1

Address Line 2

City

Zip / Postal Code

United States

Occupation

Employer

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2909 S. Howard St.
Spokane, WA 99203-1747

Safer Spokane is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization.
Contributions are not tax deductible.

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Image 6



Join the Campaign

Please fill out the form below to join our email list and receive volunteer opportunities and campaign updates!

First Name

Last Name

Telephone Number

Street Address

Apt/Suite

City

State

Zip Code

Email Address



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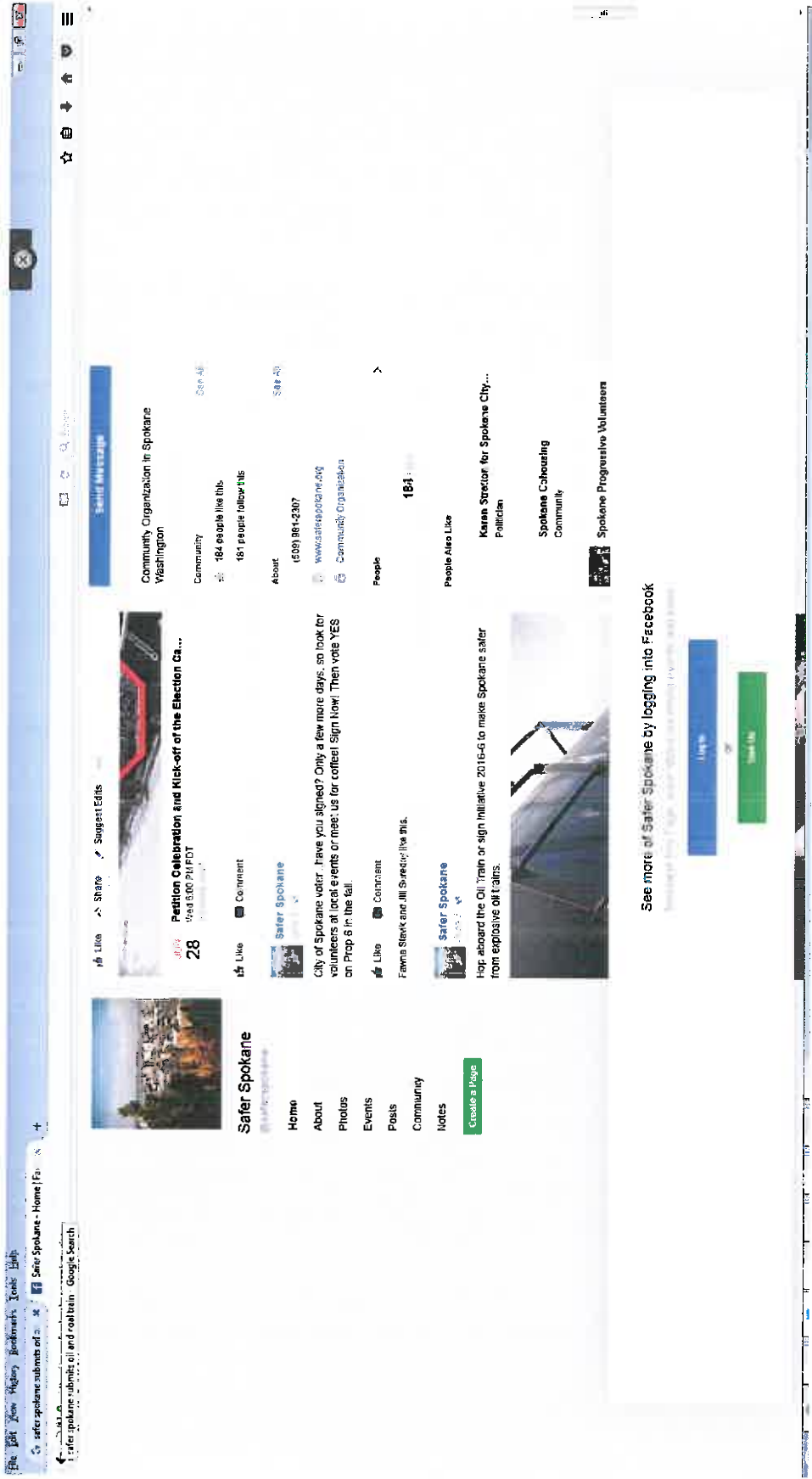
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@safer Spokane

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CONTACT INFO

- Call (509) 981-2307
- jeecitizen@gmail.com
- http://www.safer Spokane.org

MORE INFO

About

Oil trains are endangering our lives and drinking water. Coal trains are spreading dust and rocks on private property. We are sharing solutions, join us.

Community Organization

STORY

The Safer Spokane Campaign is an initiative for the people of Spokane. We are working to get enough signatures to put it on the ballot for the next City of Spokane election.

This is a beginning! Only signatures of registered voters living in Spokane will count toward the "required number to put it on the ballot. Once this is passed in Spokane, the idea can spread to other municipalities.

Volun... See More

Suggest Edits

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Facebook © 2017

page 9

Facebook interface showing the profile of Safer Spokane. The page includes a cover photo, a profile picture, and a bio. The bio states: "Safer Spokane is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to reducing gun violence in Spokane. We are currently seeking volunteers for our upcoming gun buyback event." The page also features a list of posts, including a post about a gun buyback event and a post about a gun buyback event. The page is viewed on a desktop browser, with the address bar showing "facebook.com/safer.spokane".

Facebook interface showing the profile of Safer Spokane. The page includes a cover photo, a profile picture, and a bio. The bio states: "Safer Spokane is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to reducing gun violence in Spokane. We are currently seeking volunteers for our upcoming gun buyback event." The page also features a list of posts, including a post about a gun buyback event and a post about a gun buyback event. The page is viewed on a desktop browser, with the address bar showing "facebook.com/safer.spokane".

Image 10



**Vote ☒ YES
on Prop-2**

**Spokane Firefighters
Endorse Proposition-2**

Photo by JEFFREY SPURGEON

Emerald