

Respondent Names
Unknown parties concerning their advocacy signage supporting SCFD4 August 5th Prop 1 Ballot Measure
Complainant Name
Morgan Davis
Complaint Description
<p>Morgandavis360</p> <p>Fri, 27 Jun 2025 at 6:03 PM</p> <p>Complaint about City of Snohomish refusing to remove blatant illegal temporary political signs hiding their sponsors' names.</p>
What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?
Please reference my long email thread that Carolyn Jones replied to just a short while ago. It shows photos as evidence of the violations.
List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found
See recent Carolyn Jones email relating to the evidence found in my email thread.
List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them
Chief Don Waller, SCFD4 and Heather Thomas, city of Snohomish administrator
Certification (Complainant)
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.





Description:

External Email

Hello PDC enforcement,

At the top of this email thread is shown 2 evidentiary photos of illegal political signs clearly showing no sponsor as required by 2025 state law. This thread should be attached as evidence to my formal complaint filed last week. You gave no reference number to the complaint but I am the complainant and unknown individuals are the ones responsible for withholding the sponsor's name or committee name.

Please assign a complaint number for future reference and correspondence.

Morgan Davis. complainant.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Morgan Davis** <morgandavis360@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Jun 27, 2025 at 8:35 PM

Subject: Fwd: Fwd:

To: Jerry Cornfield <jcornfield@washingtonstatestandard.com>

Cc: David Clay <dcclay2@comcast.net>, Mauch, Wendy <wendy.mauch@co.snohomish.wa.us>, garth.fell@snoco.org <garth.fell@snoco.org>, Fell, Garth <Garth.Fell@co.snohomish.wa.us>, PDC Support <pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov>, Chief <Chief@snohomishfire.org>, Judith Kuleta (Council) <kuleta@snohomishwa.gov>, Jon Bauer <jbauer@heraldnet.com>, Michael Whitney <michael.tribune@snoho.com>

Hello Jerry,

Here's a news tip for your Washington State Standard.

Please read this whole email thread carefully. For the August 5th Primary Election, the city of Snohomish streets are filled with illegal political signs. State law requires the sponsor's name at the bottom of the sign; yet the city attorney, Emily Guildner, thinks they are legal and won't direct their removal or repair with stickers showing the sponsor's name.

I would compare this with an election ballot without a signature. It is an illegal ballot until it is signed. Same with a contract. It is not legal until it is signed.

David and I filed a complaint with PDC but we are not hopeful the illegal signs will be removed by the city. The biggest problem is the sponsors of these illegal signs are unknown. I asked FD4 Chief Waller and FD4 Prop 1 Pro Committee member councilwoman Judith Juleta if they had any idea who was behind these signs. So far no response from them. Same with the Everett Herald--no interest in the story. The local Tribune editor acknowledged the problem, but couldn't commit to doing a story for his readers.

Since you are based in Olympia and close to the PDC, we're hoping you could inform your readers with this newsworthy story brewing in the city of Snohomish.

Truly,

Morgan Davis, longtime advocate for government and election transparency.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Morgan Davis** <morgandavis360@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Jun 27, 2025 at 4:59 PM

Subject: Re: Fwd:

To: David Clay <dcclay2@comcast.net>, PDC Support <pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov>, Brooke Eidem <Eidem@snohomishwa.gov>, Nova Heaton <heaton@snohomishwa.gov>, Heather Thomas <thomas@snohomishwa.gov>, Emily Guildner <EmilyG@snohomishlaw.com>, Chief <Chief@snohomishfire.org>, Linda Redmon (council) <redmon@snohomishwa.gov>
Cc: aspen.anderson@heraldnet.com <aspen.anderson@heraldnet.com>, Newstips_Heraldnet <newstips@heraldnet.com>, Jon Bauer <jbauer@heraldnet.com>, Michael Whitney <michael.tribune@snoho.com>, Karen Guzak (Council) <guzak@snohomishwa.gov>, Cedric Atkins <atkins@snohomishwa.gov>, Koi Simpson <k.simpson@snohomishwa.gov>, David Flynn (Council) <flynn@snohomishwa.gov>, Tom Merrill (council) <merrill@snohomishwa.gov>, Maygen Hetherington (Council) <hetherington@snohomishwa.gov>, Felix Neals (Council) <neals@snohomishwa.gov>, Judith Kuleta (Council) <kuleta@snohomishwa.gov>, Lea Anne Burke (Council) <l.burke@snohomishwa.gov>, Kelly Wright <kwright@rockisland.com>

Yes, David, I'd be happy to help. More complaints filed the better.

I went to the PDC website by googling WA PDC and then scrolled down to click on "Rules and Enforcement" and then scrolled down to click on "Enforcement" and then scrolled down to click on "File a Complaint".

What irks me is the city attorney Emily Guildner ruling the City can't get involved in the content or wording of political signs. No, it's not about the content. It's about the lack of the bare minimum to meet the legal requirements for a political sign.

Compare it to a contract that lacks a signature even though the content is not at issue. How in the world can a citizen know who the sponsor of the sign is when it's hidden from public view. No, these signs are all illegal and therefore violate the City's own definition of a legitimate political sign allowed by its sign code.

On Fri, Jun 27, 2025 at 3:17 PM David Clay <dcclay2@comcast.net> wrote:

Would you please forward me the PDC e-mail address to file a campaign sign violation?

Thank you Morgan.

Jun 27, 2025 2:51:05 PM Morgan Davis <morgandavis360@gmail.com>:

Hello PDC Support,

Please read this email thread carefully.

I would like to file a formal complaint for a PDC investigation into all the illegal temporary political signs in the city of Snohomish. There must be dozens of them illegally placed throughout the city. The city attorney Emily Guildner ruled they don't violate the city's sign code even though it's obvious they violate state law. Emily rules they are legal political signs even though they show no sponsor.

I need your help in making these illegal signs become compliant, even though they show no sponsor to contact.

Please confirm receipt of this complaint and advise the next step?

Truly,

Morgan Davis, concerned citizen for more transparency in government.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Morgan Davis** <morgandavis360@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Jun 27, 2025 at 2:28 PM

Subject: Re: Fwd:
To: Merritt Weese <merrittsno8@gmail.com>

I disagree. If a street sign in the city ROW is not a legal political sign, it violates the city's sign code and Brooke's code enforcers would have every right to remove the illegal sign as if it were for promoting a barbershop or other business.

This new law is intended to give the public transparency on who is promoting the candidate or ballot measure. Otherwise, without enforcement, no one would obey the law.

On Fri, Jun 27, 2025 at 2:03 PM Merritt Weese <merrittsno8@gmail.com> wrote:

I've never heard of any city enforcing PDC requirements or removing signs solely due to PDC compliance issues so this is an expected response.

It's between the PDC and sign sponsors.

On Fri, Jun 27, 2025 at 1:27 PM Morgan Davis <morgandavis360@gmail.com> wrote:

Thank you Heather for your reply. First, I assumed you had Emily Guildner, city attorney, confirm all these political signs are illegal. Second, you seem reluctant to have Nova collect them and be made available to the sponsors to pick them up and repair them with stickers as prescribed by state law.

Leaving them in place without noting their sponsors is unethical and promoting selective enforcement and only encourages more violations from scofflaws.

The sooner public works gathers them up the better chance the sponsors will be able to repair them to bring them into compliance well before the August election.

Please confirm again your position is to leave the illegal signs in place until after the election?

On Fri, Jun 27, 2025 at 12:54 PM Heather Thomas-Murphy <thomas@snohomishwa.gov> wrote:
Morgan,

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. However, the City does not remove political signs unless they are obstructing maintenance needs or if they have fallen over. Any signs that need to be removed for those purposes are brought to the Public Works yard to be claimed. We notify the local precincts and League of Women Voters of this process, and that candidates or volunteers can come to the Public Works yard to claim any signs. I had this flagged as an item that I need to send the reminder to the precincts so I will add this complaint that was filed with the City as something they need to address.



Heather Thomas-Murphy

City Administrator
(360) 282-3194 direct
(425) 359-9645 cell
www.snohomishwa.gov

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From: Morgan Davis <morgandavis360@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, June 27, 2025 12:35 PM

To: Nova Heaton <heaton@snohomishwa.gov>; Cedric Atkins <atkins@snohomishwa.gov>; Koi Simpson <k.simpson@SnohomishWA.gov>; Brooke Eidem <Eidem@SnohomishWA.gov>

Cc: Emily Guildner <EmilyG@snohomishlaw.com>; Linda Redmon (Mayor)

<redmon@snohomishwa.gov>; Heather Thomas-Murphy <thomas@snohomishwa.gov>; PDC

Support <pdc@pdc.wa.gov>; Michael Whitney <michael.tribune@snoho.com>; Chief

<Chief@snohomishfire.org>; Newstips_Heraldnet

<newstips@heraldnet.com>; aspen.anderson@heraldnet.com; Jon Bauer <jbauer@heraldnet.com>;

Kelly Wright <kwright@rockisland.com>; Judith Kuleta (Council) <kuleta@snohomishwa.gov>; Tom

Merrill (council) <merrill@snohomishwa.gov>; Karen Guzak (Council) <guzak@SnohomishWA.gov>;

David Flynn (Council) <flynn@snohomishwa.gov>; Felix Neals (Council) <neals@snohomishwa.gov>;

Maygen Hetherington (Council) <hetherington@snohomishwa.gov>; Lea Anne Burke (Council)

<l.burke@snohomishwa.gov>; Mauch, Wendy

<wendy.mauch@co.snohomish.wa.us>; garth.fell@snoco.org; Fell, Garth

<Garth.Fell@co.snohomish.wa.us>

Subject: Fwd:

CAUTION : This email originated from outside the City of Snohomish.

Subject: Illegal political signs cluttering the streets of Snohomish

Good afternoon Nova, city public works, and Brooke, Cedric, and Koi, city code enforcement team:

Shown below are photos of just 2 political signs that are in violation of current PDC laws. Almost all the political signs popping up all over Snohomish are similarly in violation of the law. I'll forward you the PDC link outlining the requirement that political signs must clearly show its sponsor. (Old, used signs must have a sticker showing the sponsor.)

There was a large, almost billboard-sized "YES! EMS" erected near the Second Street on-ramp that WSDOT has already removed.

Nova, please have your public works team remove all the illegal political signs from the streets of Snohomish. Treat this email as my formal complaint.

Hoping to get a reply soon,

Morgan Davis, concerned citizen.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Maddie Graham <maddie.m.graham917@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Jun 27, 2025 at 11:27 AM

Subject:

To: Morgan Davis <morgandavis360@gmail.com>

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