DEFEND THE RIGHT TO PROTEST

Stand With Kshama Sawant

AGAINST THE RIGHT-WING RECALL!

ENDORSED BY 43rd LD Democrats!

KSHAMA SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN

Unite Against the Right-Wing Recall

STOP THE RIGHT-WING RECALL EFFORT!

Last summer, in Seattle and across the country, 20 million people protested to demand justice for George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and the thousands of other victims of police killings. These peaceful protests against racist police brutality were themselves met with brutal police violence. The police and the political establishment have yet to be held accountable, while in stark contrast, more than 14,000 protestors were arrested nationally.

One Seattle City Councilmember, Kshama Sawant, stood unambiguously with the Black Lives Matter movement, as she has with other social movements and working people throughout her seven years in office. Now big business and the right wing are attempting to remove Kshama, and **it is no accident that two of the three charges are for her role in Black Lives Matter.** This attack is part of a broader assault on democracy which includes 81 anti-protest laws currently being introduced around the country.

Big business's goal is not only to overturn Kshama's re-election, but also the historic victories she has helped lead: **the $15 minimum wage, the first-in-nation ban on teargas, rubber bullets, and other "crowd control weapons," landmark renters rights laws like the Right to Counsel, and the Amazon Tax** to fund affordable housing and Green New Deal programs.

Far-right-wing *Breitbart* magazine, billionaire Trump donor Martin Selig, new Amazon CEO Andrew Jassy, Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan, Right-Wing Radio Host Jason Rantz, and Airbnb CFO (& former Amazon VP) Dave Stephenson all agree on one thing: they want Seattle's only elected socialist gone.

But we can't let that happen. Join us in defending the right to protest and our voice for working people in Seattle City Hall!

"I stand with Kshama and our community against the recall attempt. As a City Councilmember, she has built movements and helped win Seattle's $15 minimum wage and progressive taxes to fund affordable housing and the Green New Deal. She has also won funding for restorative justice, and successfully fought for renters' rights. **This recall attempt is unfounded and harmful for our city."**

GIRMAY ZAHILAY
KING COUNTY COUNCILMEMBER

Q&A

Who is behind this?

The right-wing recall is backed by **the area's corporate elite, including Airbnb CFO David Stephenson, Merrill Lynch Senior VP Matt Westphal, former Boeing CEO and Republican, Frank Shrontz,** along with members of three of the five Washington State families described by *Forbes* as "billionaire dynasties," the McCaw, Pigott, and Nordstrom families.

Big business and the right wing lost to Kshama in 2019 and desperately want a do-over. They are now using the courts and their deep pockets to try to undo a democratic election. The recall's campaign manager said they seek to avoid a high-turnout November election and want a low-turnout special election instead—**this is voter suppression by another name.**

Washington recall campaigns have often been highly politicized and the law unequally applied. Seattle's last elected socialist, Anna Louise Strong, was driven from office by a recall campaign in 1918 for her links to unions and opposition to World War I.

Has the court ruled Kshama guilty?

No. In fact, **Washington courts do not judge the truth of charges in recall cases,** and Kshama will never be allowed to testify against dishonest claims. **Kshama did not break the law.** The charges attack her for doing what she was elected to do: fight unambiguously for working people.

What are the charges?

CHARGE #1: Councilmember Sawant agreed to attend a protest in Mayor Durkan's neighborhood at the invitation of families of the victims of police violence. **The march was organized in response to the brutal crackdown against protesters overseen by Durkan, and lack of justice for the 28 people killed by Seattle police since 2011.** Kshama did not "lead" the protest, as is dishonestly claimed, but spoke there in solidarity.

CHARGE #2: Kshama helped organize a masked Black Lives Matter rally at Seattle City Hall for one hour during last summer's historic movement. This set the stage for passage of the first-in-nation ban on tear gas and other "crowd-control weapons" the following week. **What's stunning is the court ruled on the basis that this anti-racist rally was "not city business."** We disagree. This unjust ruling is an attack on the right to protest and BLM.

CHARGE #3: Kshama spearheaded the successful fight for the historic Amazon Tax, including helping organize a conference in January 2020. The recall charges that this represented improper use of city resources because of the future Tax Amazon ballot initiative, which didn't exist until two months later. **This sets a dangerous precedent and effectively criminalizes elected representatives helping to build movements.** Meanwhile, several politicians who loyally serve big business, including Mayor Durkan and the COVID-denying Sheriff, John Snaza (who refused to enforce the mask mandate), recently had recall campaigns against them dismissed by the same court.

HOW IS THE RECALL RIGHT-WING?

The recall campaign is right-wing in its very essence: it is an attack on the right to protest, on Black Lives Matter, and on Seattle's only elected socialist. Two of the three charges against Councilmember Sawant are for her protesting in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement, with the recall making the racist allegation that this amounted to promoting "lawlessness."

The recall has been racking up donations from wealthy Republicans and Trump donors like billionaire Martin Selig, venture capital director Dennis Weibling, digital marketing CEO Vidur Luthra, and online casino founder Greg Eneil. **Right-wing publication *Patriot Journal* has proudly described the recall effort as a "Republican movement," while far-right-wing *Breitbart* magazine has called for Kshama's twitter account to be silenced, along with Colin Kaepernick's.** Silencing our city's most progressive Councilmember is precisely what this recall effort is designed to do.

WE STAND WITH KSHAMA!

- ★ **43rd LD Democrats and 28 community organizations, including...**
- ★ **15 unions:** Seattle Education Association, UFCW 21, UAW 4121, Teamsters 117, SEIU 6, SEIU 925, Book Workers Union, and more.
- ★ WA Senator Rebecca Saldaña, Author & Linguist Noam Chomsky, Former Seattle City Councilmember Mike O'Brien, Urban Planner & 2017 Mayoral Candidate Cary Moon, Sr. Pastor at New Hope Baptist Church Rev. Dr. Robert Jeffrey, Sr., and many more.

... along with 400+ rank-and-file union members!

KshamaSolidarity.org

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