

File a Formal Complaint - Joe Kunzler

[Joe Kunzler](#) (Sat, 11 Nov at 11:01 AM) via Portal [Meta](#)

I believe Alex Tsimerman by going to Sound Transit Board Meetings with the explicit purpose to give his stand-up stump speech may be in violation of the campaign finance caps he placed on himself when he ran for Seattle Mayor in 2017. Tsimerman is continuing this activity in his campaign for US Senate in 2018. Basically, I wonder if using public comment periods to make comments arguably irrelevant to the agenda of the Sound Transit Board to push one's political campaign as Alex Tsimerman has done is within our campaign finance laws.

Tsimerman made multiple public comments in 2016 & 2017 as a Seattle Mayoral Candidate making stump speeches knowing he'd get on a taxpayer-funded Livestream account run by Sound Transit. Within the first thirty seconds of most of his public comment as documented in the attachment, Tsimerman would announce being a candidate for Seattle Mayor. Sometimes Tsimerman would ramble on and on equating Sound Transit boardmembers, employees and the organization to World War II villains; sometimes Tsimerman would give segments of his campaign platform to the Sound Transit Board & Committees' public comment.

What I am asking the PDC to do first is sit back and really consider the monetary value of these public comment hits versus the cap Alex Tsimerman agreed to in his bid for 2017 Seattle Mayor. Please.

Second, there is the clear issue of RCW 42.17A.555. It's pretty damn clear to me Sound Transit staff are being unintentionally co-opted by Tsimerman to use Sound Transit funds for camera equipment and internet hosting to push his campaign message. This is clearly unethical and shows the moral weakness of one Sound Transit Board Chairman Dave Somers who if Sound Transit is found guilty of complicity, the fine should land squarely at the feet of Board Chairman Somers for refusing to act against Tsimerman's outbursts against the urging of at least one autistic person and also one woman of color in Tacoma Mayor Marilyn Strickland. Not Sound Transit district taxpayers and in my case, Sound Transit farepayers from outside the Sound Transit District. It is no secret Sound Transit plays to the edge of campaign finance regulations as well.

One last thing: I doubt very seriously Alex Tsimerman will win any elected office. But Tsimerman's actions are quite frankly a pathway for somebody to co-opt public resources for political campaigns and get free media. Especially as yours truly - not a candidate for elected office - clips Sound Transit meetings and puts those clips on YouTube. The line needs to be drawn somewhere, somehow in today's multimedia world on this kind of campaign activity.

[Joe Kunzler](#) (Mon, 27 Nov at 1:40 AM)

to : pdc@pdc.wa.gov, fox.blackhorn@pdc.wa.gov
Fox;

OK, I have put on YouTube one unlisted (being I don't want to help Alex Tsimerman only those with the link) clip despite recovering from a nasty cold ALL of Tsimerman's rants where he brings his campaign sign, mentions running for Seattle Mayor and then recites his campaign platform: <https://youtu.be/Lz3iNgsoAkg>. It's over a nauseating half hour, I have to tell you. I'm not sharing the link with many people, I gotta tell ya.

All of these YouTube segments are clipped from the below table:

Tsimerman Sound Transit Meeting Appearance	Time Appearing for Campaign	Date of Appearance	Hyperlink
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Exec Committee	1	11/17/2016	https://livestream.com/accounts/11627253/STBoardMeetings/vi
Ops Committee	2	12/1/2016	https://livestream.com/accounts/11627253/STBoardMeetings/vi
Capital Committee	3	12/8/2016	https://livestream.com/accounts/11627253/STBoardMeetings/vi
Board Meeting	4	12/15/2016	https://livestream.com/accounts/11627253/STBoardMeetings/vi
Ops Committee	5	1/5/2017	https://livestream.com/accounts/11627253/STBoardMeetings/vi
Capital Committee	6	1/12/2017	https://livestream.com/accounts/11627253/STBoardMeetings/vi
Board Meeting	7	1/26/2017	https://livestream.com/accounts/11627253/STBoardMeetings/vi
Capital Committee	8	2/9/2017	https://livestream.com/accounts/11627253/STBoardMeetings/vi
Board Meeting	9	2/17/2017	https://livestream.com/accounts/11627253/STBoardMeetings/vi
Board Meeting	10	4/27/2017	https://livestream.com/accounts/11627253/STBoardMeetings/vi
Ops Committee	11	5/4/2017	https://livestream.com/accounts/11627253/STBoardMeetings/vi
Board Meeting	12	5/25/2017	https://livestream.com/accounts/11627253/STBoardMeetings/vi
Ops Committee	13	7/6/2017	https://livestream.com/accounts/11627253/STBoardMeetings/vi
Capital Committee	14	7/13/2017	https://livestream.com/accounts/11627253/STBoardMeetings/vi
Board Meeting	15	7/27/2017	https://livestream.com/accounts/11627253/STBoardMeetings/vi

Total Number of Views

I just find it really questionable that Alex Tsimerman comes to Sound Transit (and other public bodies, like the City of Seattle and King County Government), and uses public comment for his hateful stump speech.

It's also really questionable why Sound Transit does NOT enforce its own published rules for public comment, which as per a slide I've made for my YouTube is below:

From Sound Transit "Rules for Public Comment"

- "Appropriate Topics for Public Comment: Comments must be on an item on today's agenda for final action and must stay on the issue you described on the public comment sign-up sheet."
- "Appropriate Behavior: Out of respect for differing viewpoints and the public comment process, clapping or making noise in support or in opposition to public comments is not allowed. Additionally, personal attacks will not be allowed and may result in the microphone being shut off and being asked to leave the meeting."



One last thing, a lament of sorts, ok? I've even asked Sound Transit Board TWICE in the past 60 days after they finally under an acting Chair in Tacoma Mayor Marilyn Strickland removed him once (YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3BtPmByuKjc>) to at least enforce Mayor Strickland's hate speech ban. Both times I've been interrupted by Sound Transit Board Chairman Dave Somers - the first time is already up on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/TOKIyD0pVCw>. It is beyond time for Sound Transit to STOP ENABLING TSIMERMAN and please STOP INTERRUPTING me for asking them to stand up to this jerk. There are options for Sound Transit to limit public comment to where it isn't abused by Nazis or folks campaigning for office - see the Seattle municipal code used to eject Tsimerman. As a transit advocate, I'd rather spend my public comment time fighting FOR better transit than litigating a campaign against a purveyor of hate speech - and it is my understanding Alex Tsimerman has refiled his bid for US Senate. I also hope you recognize, as I do, Tsimerman's misconduct leaves open the door for public comment to be abused by future (and more credible) candidates for public office.

I just hope your office can please help me stand up to Alex Tsimerman. Especially as Tsimerman has NEVER answered my question why he lobs this gawdawful hate speech.

Very respectfully;

Joe A. Kunzler
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