

Washington State Domestic Extremism & Mass Violence Task Force – June 12, 2026

Public Comments – Received by June 11, 2026 at 5pm PST

Sharon Damoff	Dear Domestic Extremism and Mass Violence Task Force members, My understanding is that one of the main purposes of your task force is to present a report to the governor, but the task force itself doesn't seem to be working on the report. Last summer, the draft report was submitted without it being worked on in task force meetings, so it appears it was AG Office staff who actually wrote it. As I pointed out to you in my September 2025 comment, that draft report was shockingly biased, in that it failed to list even a single incident of violence coming from the left, though it is obvious that in our state, the vast majority of violence does come from the left. It comes from Occupy, BLM, antifa, trans activists, pro-Hamas/anti-semitic activists, pro-abortion activists, anti-Tesla activists, anti-ICE activists, anti-initiative activists, and more. I cannot overstate how biased it is that the draft report failed to mention any of those. I hope the final report corrects that shocking dishonesty and lists several of the many, many instances of violence from the left. Violence from the left is what is happening now. Just yesterday, I saw new videos of initiative signature-gatherers being assaulted and having signature sheets stolen. I also want to point out that it has now emerged that the so-called "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville, VA, in 2017 was partially funded and organized by someone being paid by the lefty Southern Poverty Law Center. So an event we have been repeatedly told was a white-supremacist rally was actually manufactured by the left. The SPLC was also funding the KKK and neo-Nazi groups. In other words, there is so little white supremacy, it has to be manufactured by the left. They WANT there to be racism and violence, so they fund it and make it happen. The current Democrat candidate for Senate from Maine had a Nazi tattoo on his chest for 18+ years, until he recently got it tattooed over, but Democrats are sticking with him. I realize those last two examples are not from WA, but our state is one of the prime bases for antifa, and the CHOP/CHAZ BLM disaster from 2020 made our area world famous in a bad way. Seventy-year-old lefties have been radicalized to protest the Snohomish GOP office every week for two years. Lefties from young to old have been radicalized. Whatever final report is produced, it will be disgraceful if it fails to mention any of this. Your task force has spent a year and a half hearing presentations from outside presenters. What was all that for if in the end, all that is produced is an embarrassingly biased report in your name? I hope that over the next six months, the draft report
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	will be significantly revised, and a fair report will be produced. Thank you, Sharon Damoff
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Sue Lani Madsen	The agenda for June 12 indicates you will be hearing from a panel organized by the Project for Civic Health. This is hopeful news. As State Co-Coordinator (Red) for the Braver Angels Washington Alliance, along with my Co-Coordinator (Blue) Sharmin Banu, we hosted Lt. Governor Denny Heck at our statewide Braver Angels retreat in 2022. Braver Angels is on the same page with the Project for Civic Health. America needs a resurgence of civil civic engagement and courageous citizenship. Over a year ago I submitted comments as an individual, criticizing the Task Force appointments as unbalanced and not representative of the state as a whole. I write again this month as an individual, not presuming to speak for the organization without input from my counterpart providing political balance in leadership. No conflict, no great mystery, Sharmin is simply on vacation and unavailable this week. My observations are inspired by my experience with Braver Angels. The secret to Braver Angels success in building trust across political divides is deliberately balancing political perspectives at every level of leadership, in the carefully balanced attendance at our national convention, and in the balance between participants in our successful program of Common Ground workshops on contentious issues. This balance is something the Task Force does not have and as a result is set up to fail. It's problem that has been pointed out from the start by many citizens. However, it's not too late to make a course correction. The timeline on the final report could be extended. A series of Braver Angels Common Ground Workshops organized with political balance could be used to test the Task Force draft products. The result would be a report focusing on objectives and actions which have cross-partisan support instead of becoming yet another target driving more partisan polarization.
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Marc Lein	Dear Members of the Washington State Domestic Extremism and Mass Violence Task Force,I am writing as a concerned Washington resident regarding the composition and credibility of the Task Force’s advisory inputs and partnerships.As you know, the Southern Poverty Law Center has faced longstanding criticism for its hate group designations, data methodologies, and potential ideological biases. In April 2026, the U.S. Department of Justice obtained an 11-count federal indictment against the SPLC in the Middle District of Alabama, charging the organization with wire fraud, bank fraud, false statements to a federally insured bank, and conspiracy to commit money laundering. A superseding indictment has since added further details. The charges center on allegations that the SPLC used millions in donor funds to pay informants embedded in extremist groups, while allegedly misleading donors and banks about these practices. cbsnews.com The SPLC has pleaded not guilty and maintains the actions were legitimate intelligence-gathering. Regardless of the final legal outcome, these serious allegations raise profound questions about the organization’s integrity, transparency, and suitability as a reference or partner in efforts to address domestic extremism.Task Force members and affiliated organizations (such as the Western States Center and PERIL) have documented past collaborations, fellowships, or resource-sharing relationships with the SPLC. Given the Task Force’s important mandate to develop a “public health” approach to preventing extremism and mass violence, it is essential that your work maintains the highest standards of neutrality, evidence-based analysis, and public trust.I respectfully request that the Task Force:Publicly review and disclose any current or past formal/informal ties, use of SPLC resources, or collaborations. Issue a clear statement renouncing reliance on SPLC data, designations, or guidance pending resolution of the federal case (and, at minimum, committing to independent verification of any such materials). Prioritize balanced, non-partisan sources in your research and recommendations to avoid even the appearance of ideological skew. Washingtonians deserve extremism prevention efforts grounded in verifiable facts and broad public confidence, not organizations facing active federal criminal allegations of this nature.Thank you for your service on this Task Force and for considering this request. I would appreciate a written response outlining your position on this matter. I am happy to provide additional information or attend any public comment opportunities.
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