



Yes! to Affordable Groceries Coalition Surpasses 1,000 Members
I-1634 Garnering Support in All Corners of Washington

Spokane, WA, July 17 – After submitting more than 360,000 signatures to the Office of the Secretary of State and [launching a statewide campaign](#), the Yes! to Affordable Groceries coalition today announced that more than 1,000 Washington businesses, organizations and individuals are actively supporting and organizing on behalf of Washington State Initiative 1634. The November 2018 ballot measure prohibits any new, local taxes on groceries.

Zach McBournie, owner of The Buzz Pizza & Lounge in Spokane signed on to the campaign and became the one thousandth member of the coalition. Mr. McBournie noted the rising cost of living and the ongoing burden on businesses from taxes and regulations as reasons he is now actively supporting Initiative 1634.

“Owning a business has its challenges and the recent tax increases have definitely not made that any easier. Any other tax increases, especially on groceries, would not only affect our costs of certain items, but would increase the prices that the people in our community pay every day for groceries. That is why I joined to be the 1,000th member of this coalition to protect three of the things I treasure most: my business, my community, and my growing family” said Zach McBournie.

Local and statewide organizations are engaging in this coalition and raising their voices within their communities to prospectively stop an attempt to tax food and beverages, similar to what has already been implemented in Seattle. Initiative 1634 gives voters an opportunity to take a stand to bring fairness to our tax structure, to protect jobs and neighborhood businesses, and to prevent excessive taxation on what we eat and drink every day.

Since the coalition was founded in Spring 2018 with initial support from the Washington Farm Bureau, the Washington Food Industry Association, the Joint Council of Teamsters No. 28, and the Korean American Grocers Association, the coalition has been boosted by major statewide partners from labor, agriculture, and associations representing businesses of all sizes. These organizations include Greater Spokane Incorporated, Better Spokane, and Hospitality Association leaders locally.

Here’s a quick glimpse at a few of the members of our diverse and growing coalition, which includes 102 business leaders and owners from Spokane. A full list of coalition members is available [here](#).

Paid for by Yes! to Affordable Groceries, supported by the Joint Council of Teamsters No. 28, Washington Farm Bureau, Washington Food Industry Association, and Korean-American Grocer’s Association of Washington, and sponsored by the American Beverage Association. Top 5 contributors: Washington Food Industry Association; The Coca-Cola Company; PepsiCo, Inc.; Dr Pepper Snapple Group, Inc. and Red Bull North America. PO Box 50705, Bellevue, Washington, 98015.

- Ajmer Thandi, Mission Food Mart
- Ben Poffenroth, Madeleines Café
- Christopher Pitotti, Tom Sawyer Country Coffee
- Kevin Roark, The Bargain Giant
- Marilyn Sansere, Garland Pub & Grill
- Sheila Evans, Iron Goat Brewing
- Sherri Davey, Heavenly Special Teas
- Surjit (Mike) Singh, Hillyard Grocery

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