



King County

CITIZENS' ELECTIONS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (CEOC)

November 18, 2020 Meeting | 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. | Zoom Conference

MINUTES

Members Present: Chair: Kyle Vixie, First Vice Chair: Eliseo Juárez, Vice Chair: Nanette Sullivan, Vice Chair: Jayson Todd Morris, Stanley Tsao, Jeff Manson, Hillary Coleman, Allison Feher, Julie Kang, Maya Manus, Sheryl Moss, Seth Orr, Stefan Sharkansky

Absent: Quynh Pham

Special Guest: King County Council Chair Claudia Balducci

Elections Staff: Elections Director Julie Wise, Janice Case, William Cavecche, and Margaret Brownell

Council Staff: Erin Arya, Patrick Hamacher and Miranda Leskinen

1. Call to Order

CEOC Chair Kyle Vixie called the meeting to order at 11:33 a.m.

2. Approve October 21, 2020 minutes

Vice Chair Jayson Todd Morris moved approval of the minutes of the October 21, 2020 meeting. Seth Orr seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Approve 2021 CEOC Meeting Calendar

Chair Vixie proposed that all meetings in 2021 be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. via Zoom conference and occur on the following dates: January 27, 2021 plus the third Wednesday in March, May, July, September, October, and November. Vice Chair Morris moved approval of the 2021 meeting calendar as proposed. Orr seconded Motion carried unanimously.

4. King County Council Chair Claudia Balducci

King County Council Chair Claudia Balducci joined the CEOC to thank them for their efforts in 2020. She noted that our capacity has been tested like never before and it looks like our systems stood up beautifully for the people of King County. Voters were able to register their choices and with record breaking early votes.

5. General Election Observation/Feedback

CEOC members shared their observations, experiences and feedback on the General Election and drop box monitoring. Chair Vixie noted the evening scene at Elections HQ was calm and organized. Over 1 million ballots were counted in the machine by 6pm and the traffic plan was working well though the rainy weather provided some challenges, but overall it was a smooth operational process. Vice Chair Morris and Vice

Chair Nanette Sullivan noted the enthusiasm of voters around the ballot drop boxes. Members asked questions based on their individual experiences. Chair Vixie urged members to visit vote centers in the future.

5. Dropbox Monitoring with Microsoft Forms with Committee Feedback

Vice Chair Sullivan presented on the pilot use of Microsoft Forms for Dropbox Monitoring during the General Election. She noted the workgroup's goal for the form is to have an easier way to monitor and save time by doing it in real time through the form. Form questions include identifying the location, if it is accessible - especially at different hours of the day. Would you use this box? Are there hurdles? The CEOC, Municipal League and League of Women Voters all partnered to pilot test the form. Vice Chair Sullivan reported that the pilot looks to be a success being easily accessible and quick to use. The data can be used to ensure geographic diversity in monitoring and learn about lighting, signage, and access suggestions that can be shared with KCE.

6. Director's Report and General Election Opps. Review

Elections Director Julie Wise kicked off her report by expressing pride in her team. She noted record breaking 86.3% voter turnout with 74% of ballots coming in through the drop boxes. Elections HQ was the top ballot box followed by Ballard Library. They saw record breaking turnout on the Monday after ballots were sent out. Elections answered almost 40k calls and emails in October alone.

She noted there were no significant issues to report. USPS delivery was normal. Only 688 ballots were postmarked too late.

She noted a potential recount is likely in LD 5, where the candidates are about 73 votes apart. It will be a roughly 100k ballot manual recount in first two weeks of December. She will share more information via email soon.

CEOC members asked questions of Elections staff on topics such as vote centers, voter intent, website traffic, reconciliation reports and signature challenges.

7. Elections Access for People with Disabilities

Vice Chair Morris presented findings to the Committee from Rutgers University. The voting block of people with disabilities is increasingly large: 38.3 million eligible voters in the U.S. have a disability. The lowest turnout is among those with a cognitive impairment. He shared some of the factors that lead to a disability voting gap including greater social isolation, belief that the system is not responsive to them, difficulty reading the ballot, waiting in line and difficulty accessing voting facilities.

8. Public Rule Updates

King County Elections is due to review or revise its public rules. Elections plans to renew three rules concerning the voter's pamphlet, boundaries and campaign contributions. One rule will lapse since it concerns polling locations and King County no longer utilizes them. First Vice Chair Eliseo Juárez shared that in his review they appear to be minor changes not of concern.

9. KCC Staff Updates (training scheduling, reimbursements)

Erin Arya noted that committee members should be on the look out for emails from staff regarding upcoming trainings and a survey.

10. New Business and/or for Good of the Order

None.

11. Adjournment

Vice Chair Morris moved to adjourn the meeting. Stefan Sharkansky seconded. The meeting was adjourned unanimously at 12:59 p.m.