



King County

CITIZENS' ELECTIONS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (CEOC)

May 18, 2022 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: Jayson Todd Morris, Linda Grez, Tyson Hartman, Stuart Holmes, Julie Kang, Quynh Pham, and Stanley Tsao

Absent: Hillary Coleman, Allison Feher, Maya Manus and Nanette Sullivan

Special Guests: David Kuennen, Engagement, Assistance, and Training Team Lead for the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), Department of Homeland Security

Elections Staff: Elections Director Julie Wise and Deputy Elections Director Janice Case

Council Staff: Erin Arya, Tom Goff, Sherrie Hsu, and Tania Santiago Pastrana

1. Call to Order

CEOC Chair Kyle Vixie called the meeting to order at 11:31 a.m.

2. Approve March 16, 2022 minutes

Vice Chair Jayson Todd Morris moved approval of the minutes of the March 16, 2022 meeting. Member Linda Grez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Member Updates

Member Tyson Hartman introduced himself as the new member filling the technology background vacancy. Member Hartman has been a technology consultant for 30 years. He is interested in creating a stronger and better voting system.

Member Quynh Pham is stepping down as the Vietnamese-speaking community representative. She was thanked for her services on the committee. Member Pham thanked the committee and will let staff know if anyone is interested in filling the vacant position.

4. Presentation from the Department of Homeland Security on Election Security

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) is a part of the Department of Homeland Security. David Kuennen is the Engagement, Assistance, and Training Team Lead for CISA.

CISA's mission is to ensure the security and resiliency of critical infrastructures in the United States, including election security. There is a total of 10 CISA regional offices. Washington state is part of Region 10. Across the nation, CISA has partnered with over 3,200 local jurisdiction and private sector organizations. Between October 2022 and September 2021, CISA provided over 500 vulnerability scanning services and Cyber assessments. They also provided over 50 exercises for state and local election officials.

In March 2021, two reports were released regarding the 2020 election and foreign interferences. Both reports found that despite broad interference, there is no evidence that anyone prevented votes in a timely manner or altered any technical aspects of the 2020 election. See report names below.

- **Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security:** The Foreign Interference Targeting Election Infrastructure or Political Organization, Campaign, or Candidate Infrastructure Related to the 2020 US Federal Elections
- **National Intelligence Council:** The Foreign Threats to the 2020 US Federal Elections report was released from the National Intelligence Council.

Ransomware attacks are no longer hypothetical risk. States are not alone in keeping elections secure. There is also an increase in domestic extremists that have threatened cyber security, target election offices and spread misinformation. Domestic extremists are engaging in violence as was seen on the January 6th assault on the capitol.

CISA is addressing threats in various ways including:

- Information sharing
- Conducting risk analysis reports
- Physical security walk through of election offices
- Cybersecurity services
- Albert Sensors
- Administering office web domains of .gov to improve cybersecurity and trust
- Produce risk analysis reports focused on various topics including mail-in voting
- Train staff on active shooter and de-escalation tactics
- Voter education, especially about misinformation. Note that CISA has info sheets, graphic novels and a virtual game combating misinformation.

CISA encourages anyone to report any threat or fraudulent activities to the DOJ Elections Task Force, as well as their local government and law enforcement agency.

Vice Chair Jayson Todd Morris: How are you complying with the ADA? If we wanted more information, how can we request it?

David Kuennen: We do our best to comply with all federal laws. Let us know if we are failing in that regard.

Chair Kyle Vixie: Could you send us the links and your contact information?

David Kuennen: Yes, I will share some slides, links, and contact information.

Member Tyson Hartman: You covered a lot on your presentation. How does the greater public learn more about your work?

David Kuennen: As part of our national public outreach, our leadership talks to media. However, the main work we do is to support state and local officials in the background. We also do reports like the two we did last March.

First Vice Chair Eliseo Juárez: We see many communities, especially those with language barriers, experience voter suppression and misinformation. What are you doing to make sure that the trusted messengers you are using are diverse enough to relay information?

David Kuennen: We know that misinformation is occurring in various languages. We made a commitment to Congress to translate more of our products. We want to make sure we have diverse voices when we have events and conferences. Diverse voices not just by ethnicity but also by size of governments.

Member Linda Grez: Looking forward to reviewing slides. You mentioned the Community Intelligence Assessment Report, will you send us the link?

David Kuennen: Yes

Vice Chair Jayson Todd Morris: Can you tell us about the election security library?

David Kuennen: It's our website where all our resources can be found.

Vice Chair Jayson Todd Morris: What can we do as volunteers to make sure we are on top of things?

David Kuennen: You can encourage people to be part of the process and vote. Go the extra mile and be an observer. Be messenger of what you saw.

Kendall Hodson: Thank you for all that you do. We benefit greatly from CISA's resources.

David Kuennen: I talked to Jon Richeson before this call. We have a great partnership with King County.

5. Director's Report

Kendall Hodson provided the Director's report. King County Elections kicked off the signature updating project which is expected to end before the mid-term election. On May 9th, about 22,000 letters were mailed out. Each week after that, between 10,000-15,000 letters will be mailed out. The letters are pink. Signature challenges disproportionately impact certain communities. King County Elections is first starting with areas with the highest challenge rates.

Next week, King County Elections is having 7 new staff members from the King County Jobs and Housing Program (JHP). This is a program from the Executive which assists people who are unhoused find services and employment opportunities. They will be assisting with the signature update project.

King County Elections is continuing to explore different signature options for voter pamphlets. Signing voter pamphlets doesn't work for everyone. King County Elections is working with the US Digital Response Partnership to think through all the research and outreach that is needed to determine the pros and cons of alternatives to signing pamphlets.

Note that King County Election staff are starting to do more outreach opportunities and in-person events.

On May 9th, King County Elections received a petition regarding approval voting in Seattle. Approval voting is an alternative method of voting where voters are able to select all candidates they approve of. Voters can select as many candidates as they'd like. It would go

on the ballot in November. Signatures are being verified now. If there are enough valid signatures, the City of Seattle would need to pass a resolution instructing King County Elections to put the proposal on the general election ballot.

Chair Kyle Vixie: What about text messages for curing signatures? How is that progressing?

Kendall Hodson: This is one proposal we are interested in moving forward.

First Vice Chair Eliseo Juárez: What efforts are you undertaking on the education piece to receive these changes?

Kendall Hodson: Nothing concrete on reaching out to voters yet. Consulting with us before something gets put on the ballot is appreciated. We share with other jurisdictions on what is working or not working.

6. Candidate Filing Week Update

King County Elections staffer Janice Case gave the update regarding candidate filing week. There has not been any issues reported. Most candidates are filing online. Monday was the busiest filing date but are expecting another rush for candidates who file at last minute. King County Elections is updating the Who Has Filed page every hour. Previously, the website was updated only twice a day. In addition, their data visualization library now includes information on how many people have filed, date, and method of filing.

On Friday at 5 pm there will be a draw to determine the ballot order. It will be live streamed on Facebook and available on YouTube.

Chair Kyle Vixie: A couple years ago there were challenges with filing week. The CEOC wrote a letter to Secretary of State Kim Wyman addressing CEOC's concerns and shared the letter with the King County Council. Staff should send that letter to new CEOC members. Julie Wise informed us that our concerns have been addressed.

7. Bylaws Update

Chair Kyle Vixie went through the suggested bylaw updates. Vice Chair Jayson Todd Morris moved approval of the bylaw updates. Member Julie Kang seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Proposed Ordinance No. 2022-0180 Regarding the Election Calendar

The update was given by Sherrie Hsu, Senior Legislative Analyst from King County Council.

Ordinance No. 2022-0180 was introduced by Chair Claudia Balducci last Tuesday. Councilmember Kohl-Welles is a co-sponsor. The ordinance was referred to the Committee of the Whole. It has not been heard in committee yet.

The ordinance would place a charter amendment on the November ballot to move several election offices from odd years to even years including the King County Executive, King County Assessor, King County Director of Elections, and the nine King County Councilmembers. The proposal would change the current term to 3 years. This means

current terms would end either in 2026 or 2028 instead of 2027 and 2029. After that, the terms would again be 4 years.

The last regular meeting to adopt this ordinance is July 19th. It's tentatively set to be briefed in the Committee of the Whole on June 1st but the agenda isn't finalized until the week before the committee meets. The Committee of the Whole meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month.

First Vice Chair Eliseo Juárez: Is there concern of people voting only on the front page?

Sherrie Hsu: I don't have an answer for this question at this time.

Kendall Hodson: I don't have a great answer at this time either. What I will say is that we've seen races that do this just fine. Operationally we'll be fine.

Sherrie Hsu: This is definitely a question that comes to mind but it's not clear to me at this point.

Member Linda Grez: Do you ever do any focus group research? I would hate for people to lose interest for local elections at the end of a ballot.

Sherrie Hsu: We don't develop focus group research. That would be either led by Councilmembers or the Executive.

Chair Kyle Vixie: How might this impact the need for a second page in the ballot envelope due to increased ballot length? What would the environmental impacts potentially be if more paper is utilized?

Kendall Hodson: There is a printing cost for more pages.

Janice Case: It would not change our postage rate.

First Vice Chair Eliseo Juárez: Would there be additional staffing changes?

Janice Case: Our storage space would double. Staffing needs would change in different processes.

Chair Kyle Vixie: What about time costs for recounts?

Janice Case: We aren't sure yet about recount but it'll likely be longer.

Kendall Hodson: This is all speculative at this point. There is no guarantee that it would create a two-page ballot.

Janice Case: Measures take up a lot more space.

Chair Kyle Vixie: Want to make sure the council is aware so they can make their decisions.

Member Julie Kang: It's important to get the information out to the community especially in other languages.

9. New Member Recruitment Update

CEOC was created 3 years ago. The July meeting is the CEOC's 3rd birthday. As a result, there will be some term expirations coming up this summer. In addition, there are some vacancies due to life changes. Currently, CEOC is advertising for four vacancies including the King County Democrat Party Representative, the King County Republican Party Representative, the representative from a non-partisan organization active in King County that provide voter information, and the academic representative who has knowledge about elections. Staff sent a press release to multiple local papers requesting applications be

submitted by May 16th for priority. The applicant from the King County Democrat Party is Hanna Floss. From the League of Women Voters, the applicant is Kathy Sakahara.

CEOC needs to advertise the vacancy for the Vietnamese speaking community position. Quynh Pham has offered to help find a replacement. Nanette Sullivan has left her position at the Municipal League of King County. There will likely see a change there. Finally, there are reappointments coming up and staff will get in contact with those impacted.

First Vice Chair Eliseo Juárez: We previously had a conversation about the validity or necessity of party representatives on this body. For the most part our body represents different constituents vs. ideologies. Now is the perfect time to address this due to the vacancies in the two political seats. We should come up with a statement or at least have a conversation amongst us. We also need to have a conversation about the academic seat. Since I've been on the board, that position has been vacant. I would like an opportunity for us to discuss this and an opportunity to go to Council to change the composition of the CEOC body.

Chair Kyle Vixie: You, me, Erin Arya and Tom Goff can talk about this offline. Worth discussing how this can be approached. We do not have a quorum right now. Is there a quorum? This is informal feedback at this point.

Erin Arya: We do not have a quorum.

10. KCC Staff Update

The new King County Chief of Staff has started her position. Chief of Staff Stephanie Cirkovich will be invited to a CEOC meeting to introduce herself. King County Council staff are still meeting remotely and on a come-in as needed bases. Council hybrid meetings will likely start next month.

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

N/A

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at about 12:58 pm.