



King County

CITIZENS' ELECTIONS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (CEOC)

October 19, 2022 Meeting | 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. | Zoom Conference

<https://kingcounty.zoom.us/j/88175904767> | Passcode: 1598

Members Present: Chair: Eliseo Juárez, Vice Chair: Jayson Todd Morris, Hanna Floss, Linda Grez, Tyson Hartman, Jude Ahmed, Kathy Sakahara, Mike Flood, Hillary de la Cruz, Stanley Tsao, and Dr. Jason Frederick Lambacher

Absent: Stuart Holmes, Julie Kang, and Mathew Patrick Thomas

Special Guests: N/A

Elections Staff: Deputy Elections Director Janice Case, Kendall LeVan Hodson and Jerelyn Hampton

Council Staff: Sherrie Hsu, Angelina Pogosian, and Tania Santiago Pastrana

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

Chair Juárez called the meeting to order at 11:31 a.m.

2. Approve September 21, 2022 minutes*

Member Kathy Sakahara moved approval of the minutes as amended of the September 21, 2022 meeting. Member Hanna Floss seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously as amended.

3. CEOC New Member Introduction

King County Council recently appointed Dr. Jason Frederick Lambacher to fill the academic institution CEOC vacancy. Chair Juarez welcomed Dr. Lambacher.

4. Director's Report

Kendall LeVan Hodson gave the Director's Report on behalf of Elections Director Julie Wise. Voters should see their ballots by October 24th. If voters don't receive a ballot, they should call King County Elections to get a replacement.

There are two new ballot boxes including one at Woodinville City Hall and another one in Seattle's Uptown Neighborhood.

King County Elections recently launched a service for voters to receive updates via email and text message about their ballot in various languages. Voters can sign up online to get notifications.

King County Elections is currently helping community members in custody vote. The program is funded using state funds. In addition, election staff held various events to talk to youth about their voting rights, including outreach at the Judge Patricia H. Clark Children and Family Justice Center.

Kendall LeVan Hodson shared that in the past, CEOC members had served as official election observers which requires a two-hour training. After the November election, King County elections offered to do a standalone observer training.

5. Update from King County Elections Regarding Ballot Rejection Rate Audit

State Auditor's Offices conducted an audit on ballot rejection rates in 10 counties in February. The main finding was that for the 2020 general election, the county where the ballot was cast, seemed to be the most significant factor in the rejection rate. The State Auditor reviewed actual signatures that were accepted and rejected throughout the counties and didn't find evidence of biased decision making. They validated that the counties were following laws and procedures.

Below are the recommendations that came out of the audit, as well as King County Election's accomplishments in implementing these recommendations:

- **Educating voters on the importance of ballot signatures and the matching process** - King County Elections implemented a voter educational page in the voter pamphlet, added language to ballot insert on ballot signatures, added information on their website, and targeted digital ads for areas who particularly have challenges.
- **Increase the rate that voters will cure their ballot** – King County Elections does email/text push notifications in various languages and sent surveys to voters who had challenges.
- **Using data to implement a data tracking process** – King County Elections has utilized data for years to inform outreach efforts.
- **Increasing voter education and outreach efforts** – King County Election executed specific trainings related to signatures.
- **Collecting several signature samples from voters** – King County Elections executed a Signature Update Project which allows voters to provide an updated signature.
- **Develop written policies that reflect state law and county practices** – King County Elections are regularly updating as needed.

6. Discuss November 2022 Election Observation Responsibilities

King County Code tasks CEOC to monitor the general elections to observe if proper procedures are followed, to report on any problems that are observed or come to light, to recommend corrective actions on problems that may arise and to ensure that any problems that arise are discussed in an open and public manner. The committee shall report to the council in a timely way on any significant problems that might occur or on any serious concerns the committee may have. For the November 2022 election, King County Elections offered to do a virtual drop box training and to escort CEOC members interested in observing ballot processing.

7. Discuss Draft 2023 Content Calendar and Meeting Schedule

CEOC members discussed their draft 2023 Content Calendar. The purpose of the content calendar is to create a road map on items that will inform the CEOC meeting agendas in 2023. CEOC unanimously passed a motion to approved the 2023 meeting dates and plan to vote on the content calendar at the November 2022 meeting.

8. Discuss the November CEOC Chair and Vice Chair Election

Per the CEOC bylaws, at the November CEOC meeting members will vote for the next Chair, Vice

Chair of Voter Participation, and Vice Chair of Election Monitoring. Staffer Santiago Pastrana will email CEOC members instructions on how to apply. Chair Juarez encouraged members to apply.

9. KCC Staff Update

Staffer Santiago Pastrana shared that CEOC currently has two vacancies including the position for the registered voter and the Vietnamese speaking community position. King County Council is in the process of considering an applicant to fill the registered voter position. Staffer Santiago Pastrana reminded CEOC members to respond to the End of Year Survey by Friday, October 28th.

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

CEOC members discussed ideas on how to conduct virtual meetings including doing a live transcription or turning on cameras during the meeting.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at about 12:48 pm.