

**Citizens Election Oversight Committee
June 14, 2017**

MINUTES

Members Present: Ellen Hansen, Marilyn Knight, Sheryl Moss, Frank Radford and Emily Willoughby

Telephone: Monica Tracey

Excused: Bruce Huang, Kristina Swanson, Sven Kalve and Linh Thai

Elections Staff: Julie Wise, Nate Valderas, Kendall Levan-Hodson and Janice Case

CEOC Staff: Hiedi Popochock

1. Call to Order:

Chair Hansen called the meeting to order at 11:32 am.

2. Chair Opening Remarks:

Chair Hansen announced that the CEOC has had three resignations. CEOC members Paul Berry, Glenn Avery and Chuck Geringer have all resigned. She also welcomed back Sheryl Moss, Emily Willoughby and Hiedi Popochock.

3. Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of April 12, 2017 were approved.

4. Director's Report:

Director Wise provided CEOC members with materials that summarized information pertaining to the Primary election and the new state-mandated ballot drop boxes. Director Wise also prepared a PowerPoint presentation for the meeting and will e-mail the presentation to the members who were unable to attend the meeting or teleconferencing. The presentation included the seven topics below.

Candidate Filing

Director Wise indicated that there are 336 offices up for election in 2017 which resulted in a record of 634 candidate filings. Ninety-four percent of candidate filings were completed online without incident. Of the 634 candidate filings, 210 will be in the Primary. The city of Seattle mayoral race has 21 candidates.

Primary Election

Director Wise stated that the Elections projects a 38 percent voter turnout for the Primary election which equates to approximately 490,580 ballots. The election will include 34 jurisdictions, 54 offices and 4 ballot measures which includes a county-wide

measure - Cultural Access sales tax. There will be two voters' pamphlet editions for the Primary. The logic and accuracy test will be on Tuesday, July 18. The Primary election will be on August 1.

Ballot Drop Boxes

Director Wise explained the impact of Senate Bill (SB) 5472 that passed in the State Legislature which requires one drop box per 15,000 registered voters and one drop box in each city, town and census-designated place with a post office. She stated that King County will have to add 43 ballot drop boxes to the existing 43 ballot drop boxes, totaling 86 boxes. Director Wise indicated that the effective date of the bill is July 23 and it would be difficult to deploy all 43 new ballot drop boxes in that short amount of time. The additional ballot drop boxes will be implemented in three phases starting in the 2017 Primary which will have an additional 13 ballot drop boxes. Elections has finalized the locations for the 13 new boxes. The 2018 Primary election (second phase) and the 2019 Primary election (third phase) would each have 15 ballot drop boxes added. Director Wise stated that the new boxes will cost approximately \$500,000 and an ongoing operating cost of approximately \$600,000. Director Wise provided CEOC members with a map of the existing and the 13 new ballot drop box locations for the Primary election, a matrix of the 13 new ballot drop box locations and a listing of the 56 ballot drop box locations.

Ms. Moss indicated that the State has not provided any guidance to counties in implementing SB 5472.

Accessible Voting Pilot

Director Wise described the Mobile Accessible Voting Pilot Program which will be traveling to various locations such as the Washington Talking Book and Braille Library and the Seattle Central Library starting on July 24 thru July 31. The accessible voting centers located at Bellevue City Hall and Union Station will be open on Election Day only. The Elections headquarters will be open July 12 thru August 1.

Voter Education Fund

Director Wise stated that 2017 marks Elections' second year partnering with The Seattle Foundation in providing voter education grants. She indicated that over \$400,000 (combined) is available for grant funding in 2017. The applications for the grants doubled in 2017 compared to 2016. Sixty applications were submitted and 30 grants were awarded to organizations. Director Wise indicated that Elections focused on organizations that work to reduce inequities in voting access, limited English-speaking communities, people with disabilities, low-income youth, veterans, the homeless and individuals who have been convicted of a felony and had their voting rights restored.

Lanyards

Ms. Case indicated that Elections has added a new color (red) to their lanyards in order for observers to easily identify managers, supervisors and lead staffers to ask questions. Ms. Case described what the various colors of the lanyards represent - a purple lanyard signifies full-time and non-supervisory staff; a green lanyard signifies temporary staff; an orange lanyard signifies an observer; a pink lanyard signifies media; a blue lanyard signifies visitors and yellow signifies contractors.

Election Security

Director Wise reminded CEOC members about her e-mail on June 6, 2017 explaining the NSA incident on an election vendor in Florida. She asked CEOC members if there were any questions regarding the incident. Director Wise clarified that this incident targeted voter registration systems, not tabulation systems. She further explained that the vendor that was targeted is not currently utilized in Washington State. King County has safeguards in place to protect voter information. Ms. Moss indicated that the State is working with the Department of Homeland Security as there have been unsuccessful attempts to compromise the voter registration system at the State level. She mentioned that the Secretary of State's Office will continue to work with Department of Homeland Security on cyber security.

Tabulation System

Director Wise indicated that the implementation of the new tabulation system is going well. She stated that the new system will be utilized in the Primary election. Director Wise mentioned that the Clear Design (a module in the Clear Ballot system) ballots would be similar to the current ballots but improved, for example, the candidate names will be bolder. She also mentioned that the new large scanners can scan up to 12,000 ballots an hour and 5,400 ballots for the small scanners. The old system processed approximately 1,500 ballots an hour for 16 scanners. Elections staff will be conducting a demonstration in July that the CEOC members will be invited to attend.

5. Recess:

The meeting went into recess at 12:25.

The meeting was called to order at 12:31.

6. CEOC Vacancies and Future:

Chair Hansen provided a brief history of the CEOC and highlighted that the current membership of the CEOC does not reflect the current demographic of King County. She solicited feedback from CEOC members in regards to the importance of the CEOC in providing oversight and other functions.

- Ms. Willoughby indicated that oversight over elections must remain.
- Mr. Radford stated that the CEOC needs to revisit its mission and goals as well as review the CEOC charter. He believes that these elements should be updated.
- Ms. Tracey mentioned that there are times when oversight is necessary and believes it is relevant to continue this work.
- Ms. Knight agreed that the mission and membership should be reviewed. She stated that the CEOC provides a sounding board for Elections and the community.

Mr. Radford motioned for a strategic planning team to be formed to review the CEOC's mission, goals and charter. The team will compose of a representative from the CEOC, Council and Elections. Ms. Knight seconded the motion. Motion carried – 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Chair Hansen stated that she will e-mail members to form the Strategic Planning Committee.

7. Other Business/Good of the Order:

Director Wise announced that ballots for the Primary election will be mailed on July 12.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:02 pm.