Citizens Election Oversight Committee
June 20, 2018

MINUTES

Members Present: Monica Tracey, Sheryl Moss, Ellen Hansen (appeared by phone), Emily Willoughby, Frank Radford, Marilyn Knight, Bruce Huang, and Linh Thai

Elections Staff: Julie Wise, Nate Valderas, Janice Case, and Margaret Brownell

CEOC Staff: Hiedi Popochock and Erica Newman

Special Guest: NONE

1. Call to Order

Marilyn Knight called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m.

2. Meeting Minutes

Chair Hansen moved approval of the April 11, 2018 minutes. Seeing no objections the minutes were approved.

3. Director's Report

Candidate Filing
Julie Wise, Director, King County Elections, proudly announced that the Election's team received compliments for providing exceptional customer service during a stressful time for candidates. To date, 213 candidates have filed, and half of those candidates filed online. A total of 1,710 PCO's were filed this year; over 95% online. The candidate with the most votes in the primary election will appear first on the General Election ballot; the candidate with the second highest number of votes will appear second. If a primary election is not required for an office, the candidate names will appear on the general election ballot in the order determined by the lot draw (random order).

Audits
King County
The King County Auditor's Office conducted an audit of the 2017 general election that included an extensive examination of policies, processes, and procedures. A report of their observations and findings is complete and is scheduled to be presented to the King County Council's Government Accountability and Oversight Committee on Tuesday, July 10th. The report contains recommendations that align with previously existing internal work plans and Elections will implement updates to the process.

State of Washington
King County Elections requested the first elections focused cyber security audit in the state by the Washington State Auditor late in 2017. The audit has three major phases.

Phase I, application and network penetration testing; Phase II, critical security controls assessments; and Phase III, critical security controls testing of processes. Fieldwork is complete for phases 1 and 2. Phase 3 testing should be completed before the end of July 2018, and the report should be available by the third quarter of 2018. KCIT provides much of the Elections infrastructure, server-support, and will review the overall risk assessment and collaborate on a response to any audit findings. This work will begin in late July and continue through the end of the year. Elections IT implemented remediation actions for some initial findings, ensuring all hardware has regularly scheduled vulnerability and scans.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
King County Elections is excited to be the first Elections infrastructure review in the nation. Elections met with DHS in 2017 to complete the requested review of the physical security of election materials and our building. Elections looks forward to meeting with DHS at the end of June to review the report and recommendations.

Voter Education Fund Awardees
Thanks to the King County Council's approval of funding in the 2017-2018 budget, and in collaboration with Seattle Foundation, this is the third year of the Voter Education Fund. Elections received 72 applications this year, and hard decisions were made that to reach the $460k joint funding amount. The primary focus remains on limited English speaking communities, as well as organizations that serve other underrepresented communities. For example, convicted felons, low-income youth, veterans, people experiencing homelessness and other underserved communities. With the help of others from the office of Equity and Social Justice, community members, and Seattle Foundation, there were 33 voter education fund awardees.

Awards
King County Elections was nominated for awards from the National Association of Counties Achievement Awards, American Association of Political Consultants (AAPC) Pollie Awards, Campaign and Elections Magazine: Reed Award

Secretary of State's Election Modernization Project
The project to replace the state and counties voter registration and election management systems officially began last week at the annual Washington State Elections Conference. Elections is working on a new name for the project, and has identified individuals, roles, and responsibilities. The state is currently in contract negotiations with BPro. BPro has a developed product that has been implemented and is in use in multiple states. The BPro Team has a Washington State tie and team that will serve Washington State well. There is a tight timeline for this project, but all are working together to ensure a successful, timely implementation in the spring 2019.

Primary Preview
Elections projects a 40% turnout. The ballot will include King County, Proposition No1., Federal Race for one U.S. Senate seat, Federal races for four U.S. House of Representative seats, State Legislative races, South King Fire and Rescue, Proposition No.1, District Court NE Electoral District.

4. Debrief on Prepaid Postage

Elections will be collecting data with the help of researchers from the University of Washington to conduct a study on prepaid postage. Washington State law requires 86 drop off ballot locations, there are currently 60 drop off locations, and Elections continues to work to improve the number of drop off locations.

5. Debrief on meeting with Councilmember Gossett

CEOC is ready to submit the letter of transmittal that was drafted by the subcommittee. Chair Hansen and Marilyn met with Councilmember Gossett to share their recommendations. Councilmember Gossett would like to see one position reserved for an individual of African American descent.

6. Other Business/ Good of the Order

The next CEOC meeting is August 15, 2018.

7. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:53 p.m.