

**Citizens Election Oversight Committee  
November 16, 2016**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Marilyn Knight, Glenn Avery, Monica Tracey, Chuck Gerring, Emily Willoughby, Ellen Hansen, Frank Radford, Sheryl Moss, Paul Berry, Linh Thai

**Telephone:** Unavailable

**Excused:** Bruce Huang, Sven Kalve

**Absent:** Kristina Swanson

**Elections Staff:** Julie Wise, Kendall Levan-Hodson, Nathan Valderas, Jimi Robinson

**CEOC Staff:** Hiedi Popochock

**1. Call to Order:**

Chair Hansen called the meeting to order at 11:34 am.

**2. Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes of October 12, 2016 were approved, as amended.

**3. Director's Report:**

*General Election Status/Update*

Director Wise provided the CEOC members with materials on the overall ballot return data for the General election and at the ballot drop-off locations. She indicated that there were approximately 90,000 ballots remaining to be counted due to the duplication process of these particular ballots. Director Wise also indicated that there are no races for office that are administered by King County Elections that have reached the mandatory manual or machine recount threshold.

Director Wise announced that Carolyn Busch, the King County Council's Chief of Staff, is a new member on the King County Elections Canvassing Board. Ms. Busch will replace Anne Noris, the former Clerk of the King County Council. Director Wise mentioned that the Board will meet on November 17, 2016 at 1:30.

Mr. Berry requested the number of ballots that were currently being challenged in the General election. Director Wise indicated that she will provide an answer for him.

Director Wise indicated that Elections processed over 100,000 voter registrations for the General election, which is consistent with the number of voter registrations in past General elections in a Presidential Election year. Out of the nearly 1.3 million registered voters, the current turnout rate is at 82 percent, which includes the 90,000 of ballots that

remain to be counted. More than 50 percent of the ballots (530,882 ballots) were returned via one of the 43 ballot drop boxes versus the 48.5 percent returned via USPS mail. Director Wise informed the CEOC members that Elections will analyze the General election ballot return data of the 43 ballot drop boxes to determine if it is feasible to relocate a box or to provide a smaller box at that particular location.

Mr. Radford expressed concern regarding the security of the ballot drop boxes. Director Wise indicated that the host of a ballot drop box may provide video security footage of the box. She stated that there were no reported incidents regarding a breach of a security seal on any of the boxes. She also stated that Elections will continue to have discussions surrounding the security of the boxes.

Director Wise notified CEOC members that she received complaints regarding the Auburn drop box since the area is currently experiencing issues with homelessness. Elections requested assistance from the Auburn Police Department to ensure access to the designated ballot drop box.

Director Wise also mentioned that she received complaints regarding law enforcement providing security of the drop boxes. She stated that some voters felt intimidated by law enforcement being present. She indicated that it is priority to ensure the safety and security of Elections staff and the drop boxes.

Director Wise highlighted that on Election night, Elections posted 615,000 ballots, which is approximately 65,000 more ballots than Elections has ever posted on Election night. She also explained that there was a delay in the 8:15 p.m. posting due to human error. The naming convention of the file to be uploaded to post results was inadvertently changed. The error was identified and Elections staff were able to post the election results prior to 9:00 p.m.

Mr. Gerringer expressed disappointment in the delay of the election results. He mentioned that he attended a political event on election night and the delay of the results reflected poorly on King County at the event. Director Wise indicated that Elections staff practiced the steps to upload results via a thumb drive and a disc. The error in uploading the results was due to the naming convention of the results file being changed. She acknowledged that there should have been alternate staff to validate the naming convention of the results file to avoid the mishap.

Mr. Berry relayed praised from his contacts to Elections staff for the exceptional training that was provided for the election observers.

#### **4. General Election Observation Debrief:**

*Ballard – Glenn Avery*

Mr. Avery indicated that drop-off volume was lower than ever after 6:00 p.m.; presumably due to the addition of the 33 new ballot drop boxes in King County. There were no traffic jams or long lines. There were two state patrol officers present that maintained a modest distance from the drop box until the closing of the box.

*Redmond & Woodinville – Chuck Gerringer*

Mr. Gerringer stated that he visited the Redmond and Woodinville drop box locations during the day. Both locations were well-organized. Redmond had a steady flow. There were many observers. Woodinville location is under-utilized.

*Greenlake - Monica Tracey and Chair Hansen*

Ms. Tracey indicated that due to daylight savings time, the building lights turned on otherwise, the lighting at this location was inadequate and it was dark. She stated that the law enforcement officer assigned to this location also commented that the lighting was poor.

Chair Hansen stated that the law enforcement officer observed that the traffic was backed-up all the way to the five-way intersection on Ravenna. A law enforcement officer may be needed for General elections to direct traffic at that intersection to override the light in order to maintain traffic flow. She also stated that the University District location had a large light to illuminate the area, which would be beneficial to have a similar light at the Greenlake location.

Ms. Tracey stated that the Elections' atomic clock was off by 45 seconds at the drop box location. She indicated that Elections staff resorted to their cell phones for the accurate time.

*Kingsgate & Kirkland – Frank Radford*

Mr. Radford was at the Kingsgate location in the afternoon and everything went well. There was an issue at the location when the parking lot filled up and the Elections staff were on break. He indicated that he had to collect the ballots. The Kirkland City Hall location was problematic due to it being under construction. There was a construction dumpster located on the same side as the drop box. Mr. Radford mentioned that there was a law enforcement officer directing traffic and Elections staff was really good. He indicated that one voter/observer came to the location to return his ballot after the 8:00 p.m. deadline. Elections staff still collected the ballot per state law and placed it in the red bag per Elections protocol. Mr. Radford stated that he explained the process of collecting ballots after the 8:00 p.m. deadline to the voter/observer. Mr. Gerringer suggested that observers should have a name tag or badge that identifies the person as an observer. Chair Hansen mentioned that a name tag or badge for observers would be up to the political party.

*Redmond & Kirkland on November 7<sup>th</sup> – Marilyn Knight*

Ms. Knight indicated that the Kirkland location did not have a lot of activity. The Redmond location had a steady stream of vehicles coming through in the early afternoon. She praised the law enforcement officer and Elections staff for their great work at the Redmond location. She also stated that two observers were present.

*Highpoint, Fairwood, Beacon Hill, Skyway, New Holly, Rainier & Renton Health Center on November 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> – Paul Berry*

Mr. Berry stated that New Holly campus was the only location that voters were unable to drive-by and drop-off their ballot. This location required voters to get out of their vehicle.

The signage was not as visible as it could have been. The Beacon Hill and Highpoint locations are on side streets and created traffic back-ups in the arterials. All other locations went well. Mr. Berry suggested that the signage to direct voters to the drop boxes should be larger.

#### *New Holly – Linh Thai*

Mr. Thai suggested that the New Holly drop box be moved to the Safeway, which may allow ample parking and ease of traffic flow in and out of the parking lot. He recommended keeping the box at New Holly for one additional year to obtain baseline data and then re-evaluate location. Mr. Thai also stated that the community was very excited to have the drop box at New Holly. The community was in a celebratory mood. The closing process went smoothly. Mr. Thai recognized Elections staff in their increased language outreach efforts.

#### *SeaTac, Renton Headquarters & Burien – Emily Willoughby*

Ms. Willoughby stated that Elections staff was not present at the SeaTac location when she drove by a couple of times. She indicated that unbeknownst to her, Elections staff took lunch breaks even if it meant leaving the drop box unattended. She stated that there were only two employees at the SeaTac location. Director Wise indicated that there should have been more than three people there to cover breaks and meal periods. Ms. Willoughby also indicated that additional lighting, similar to the lighting used at the UW location, would be useful. She stated that there was a lot of activity at the Burien drop box location. Some voters were confused on where the slot of the drop box was located to drop their ballot. She suggested placing a red arrow on the box or a 'drop it here' sign on the box.

Ms. Willoughby expressed concern about the observers and CEOC members that were present at Elections headquarters having to ask their various questions to one particular person that was working at that time. There were times when the person was unavailable. Director Wise indicated that observers/CEOC members may ask any lead or manager any questions that they may have.

*UW Seattle, Lake City, Broadview, Ballard, Greenlake on November 7<sup>th</sup> – Chair Hansen*  
Chair Hansen stated that it was great that the UW location had reserved parking spaces however, the signage did not indicate that the reserved parking spaces were for voters to drop-off their ballot. The signs for the reserved parking spaces should indicate 'ballot parking only'. Additional signs are needed at the UW and Broadview locations to direct people to the drop boxes. Chair Hansen commended all the Elections staff at the various locations.

#### *Secretary of State's Office Comments*

Ms. Moss stated that the state-wide elections experienced the same issues – duplication and adjudication of ballots. The state is current with counting ballots with the exception of the ballots that are going through the duplication and adjudication processes.

## 5. Other Business/Good of the Order:

### *CEOC 2016 Annual Report*

CEOC members highlighted a few items for the 2016 Annual Report:

- Transition to new leadership
- Increased transparency between Elections and the CEOC
- Tabulation System Replacement Project Coordination
- Expansion of Ballot Drop Box Locations – UW drop box accomplishment
- Increased observation and drop box opportunities
- Expanding community outreach for existing languages
- Added two new languages to voter materials

### *2017 CEOC Meeting Schedule*

Chair Hansen suggested to continue the same CEOC meeting frequency as in 2016.

### *2017-2018 Elections Budget*

Ms. Popochock indicated that the budget for Elections was approved by Council as proposed by the Executive. The budget included funding for the replacement of the tabulation system.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Hiedi Popochock