

**Citizens Election Oversight Committee
February 8, 2017**

MINUTES

Members Present: Ellen Hansen, Marilyn Knight, Glenn Avery, Sven Kalve, Sheryl Moss, Frank Radford, Monica Tracey

Telephone: Bruce Huang

Excused: Chuck Gerringer, Kristina Swanson, Linh Thai, Emily Willoughby

Elections Staff: Julie Wise, Kendall Levan-Hodson, Jimi Robinson, Nate Valderas, Kafia Hosh

CEOC Staff: Mary Bourguignon

1. Call to Order:

Chair Hansen called the meeting to order at 11:30 am.

2. Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of January 11, 2017 were approved.

3. Director's Report:

Director Wise noted that the Elections Office was closed on Monday, February 6 due to the snowstorm. Many other County offices were closed that day. She noted that Monday had been the deadline for in-person voter registration for the February Special Election, so that deadline was extended one day.

February Special Election

Director Wise summarized progress with ballot returns for the February election, which includes measures for the City of Maple Valley and the Shoreline School District. She noted that the Logic and Accuracy Test was completed successfully.

Pre-Paid Postage Pilot. Director Wise recapped the experience with the pilot on providing pre-paid postage. She noted that so far, 7,000 ballots have been returned by mail compared with 2,400 by drop box. Less than 5% of mailed ballots have been stamped, indicating that voters are aware of the pre-paid postage. Director Wise noted that Elections staff is using the pilot as a way to test logistics with the Post Office: so far, the staff has determined that 98% of mailed ballots have a postmark and that 74% have arrived in the office within two days of a postmark.

CEOC members asked how Elections will address the postage issue in the next election. Director Wise noted that this issue will be considered to ensure that it is clear to voters whether or not they need to use postage.

2016 Elections Annual Report. Director Wise shared Elections' annual report with the CEOC. It is required to be transmitted to Council. Highlights include the addition of two new languages (Korean and Spanish); the most ballots ever processed during the Presidential election, which necessitated working in two shifts; the most ballots ever returned to drop boxes, with 43 boxes total meaning 91% of voters now have a drop box within three miles; civic engagement in partnership with the Seattle Public Schools; a new and improved format for web-based election results; new branding of Elections materials and envelopes; a new blog and social media presence; and the successful community-based organization partnership program with the Seattle Foundation, which led to 2,300 new requests for language assistance. Director Wise also called attention to employee development, commending her staff for the number who have pursued certification as an elections official.

Tabulation System Project Update. Director Wise noted that demonstrations are underway for the two vendors (Clear Ballot and Dominion) that were selected to compete for the project. While the demonstrations are occurring, Elections is working with King County IT on contract details, including a requirement that source code be placed in escrow, to ensure that Elections has access to the programming should the company not succeed. Director Wise notes that she anticipates a final decision following the demonstrations and that the selected new system will be run in parallel for the April election. Chair Hansen thanked Mr. Berry and Mr. Gerringer for their service on the project team.

Legislative Update. Ms. Moss and Director Wise provide an update of elections-related legislation currently being considered by the Legislature.

2017 Priorities. Director Wise discussed Elections' priorities for the coming year: the Tabulation System Project; a VOIP phone upgrade; the pre-paid postage pilot; additional marketing and voter outreach; the community-based organizations outreach project; work with King County IT to standardize processes and procedures, and to review the voter file, filing applications, and other technology needs; follow up with Council on the limited-English population initiative; and a revisiting of Accessible Voting Centers.

4. CEOC 2017 Priorities:

Chair Hansen noted that she will be presenting the CEOC 2016 Annual Report to the Council in mid-February.

She provided a copy of the CEOC 2016 Work Plan and led a discussion of how the work plan could be updated for 2017. She will circulate a draft with members' suggestions for review at the April meeting.

5. Other Business/Good of the Order:

Members expressed their well wishes for CEOC staff Hiedi Popochock and her new baby. Ms. Popochock is currently on parental leave.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Bourguignon