

Citizens Election Oversight Committee
January 10, 2018

MINUTES

Members Present: Ellen Hansen, Marilyn Knight, Bruce Huang, Frank Radford, Monica Tracy and Emily Willoughby

Elections Staff: Nate Valderas, Janice Case and Susan Wilson

CEOCC Staff: Hiedi Popochock, Erica Newman and Marka Steadman

Special Guest: Mike Alvine

1. Call to Order

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

2. Meeting Minutes

The minutes of November 15, 2017 were approved as amended.

3. Director's Report

February Special Election

Deputy Director Valderas provided CEOC members with materials that outlined the upcoming February 13, 2018, special election. He noted that it is fairly large for a Special Election, covering 18 jurisdictions and 34 ballot measures with about 750,000 active voters. A voters' pamphlet for the participating jurisdictions will be provided. All 55 of the drop-off locations will be open on January 5, 2018. In response to a question about the need for observers at the drop-off locations, Ms. Case offered to put together a list. It was noted that the highest turnout is usually on Election Day or the day prior.

The logic and accuracy test for the ballot tabulation system will take place at 1:00 on January 30th.

An insert detailing the five closest drop boxes for each voting jurisdiction, the mail-in option and accessible voting options will be included with ballots. A sample was provided. Accessible voting options will be open at Elections Headquarters, the Elections Annex in Seattle and at the Bellevue Regional Library.

There will be about 85 temporary employees working in ballot processing. A voter turnout of 34% is expected.

Elections Legislative Priorities

Deputy Director Valderas explained the Department's 2018 legislative priorities as follows:

- Simplify registration
 - Move to same day registration to encourage higher voter participation. This will not create any new work, it will just change the scope and timing of existing work. In regard to duplicate registration, all counties will be on the same system so they will know if someone is already registered in another county – it will be immediate feedback. The legislation lays out the requirements for voter registration centers.
 - Encourage 16 and 17 year olds to register by making it available in schools.
- Representation for all through proportional voting
 - Allow local jurisdictions to decide whether they want an at-large or by-district election, thereby also protecting minority groups from election system discrimination.
- Simplify ballot return
 - Allow implementation of prepaid postage in lieu of additional ballot boxes if individual jurisdictions determine that is more beneficial to their constituents.
 - Allow acceptance of electronically returned ballots in lieu of hard copy materials.
 - Allow those with disabilities and overseas/services voters to use a stamp or electronic signature to sign their ballot.
- Make it fair for all jurisdictions
 - Have the state pay their share of election costs in all election years, not just odd numbered years.
- Make participation in primaries more convenient
 - Work with legislators to find a May or June Primary date

In response to a question about the remote voting program, it was noted that this program will cater to those who are unable to get in to vote (e.g., shut-ins, hospitalized patients, assisted living clientele, etc.). An Elections Department representative will go to them to assist them with voting. Ms. Case will get a copy of the Criteria to Chair Hansen.

Discussion ensued regarding whether there might be fewer school district levies if McCleary gets resolved.

4. CEOC Annual Report

A copy of the Annual Report on King County Elections for the Year 2017, dated February 2018, was distributed. Several minor grammatical changes were recommended. It was recommended that an item be added under "1. Election Observations" commending the Department of Elections for implementation of new procedures that have reduced the need for ballot duplication from 23% to 5.5%. It was noted that that number is now down to 0.7%. Chair Hansen would like assistance with creating a clause D, to include cost saving measures.

5. Update on CEOC's Mission/Goals/Membership

Chair Hansen reported that Director Wise had submitted a proposed ordinance to make changes to the composition of the CEOC. The requested changes would include putting together an advisory committee. She noted that this would certainly help with outreach. The CEOC believes that forming an advisory committee would be in Director Wise's purview. Chair Hansen noted that in response to a request for clarification, Councilmember Gossett said that the CEOC is an oversight committee as opposed to an advisory committee and, agreed with the CEOC that the committee should be more diverse to reflect the diversity of the county.

Changes to the composition of the CEOC

At today's subcommittee meeting, it was recommended that the CEOC consist of 16 members who have experience in elections, 15 of which would be voting members. Members would represent the following areas:

- 1 – Academic institution
 - 1 – The disabled community
 - 1 – Technology
 - 1 – King County Democrats
 - 1 – King County Republicans
 - 1 – Jurisdictional (either small city, taxing district or school district)
 - 2 – Limited English speaking communities
 - 5 – At-large (Criteria will be developed)
 - 1 – Municipal League
 - 1 – League of Women Voters
- 1 Ex-officio member – Secretary of State's Office

The difficulty of filling current vacancies on the CEOC was noted.

Members discussed the role of the CEOC and at what level they should be involved in decisions and oversight. Mr. Radford stated that it can't be the CEOC's role as it is not an advocacy group. It is not our role to advocate for certain portions of the community. Our role is to advocate for the entire community.

Chair Hansen suggested that there should be an election for officers either annually or every two years. She reminded CEOC members to not speak on behalf of the CEOC, unless the members have delegated one to do so, or if the CEOC prepares a response as a group. Chair Hansen highlighted the importance of CEOC member attendance.

Ms. Popochock will type up her notes from the subcommittee meeting and distribute them to committee members.

6. CEOC Operational Procedures

Chair Hansen indicated that these items would be addressed at the next meeting. It was suggested that "Training" be included as a topic.

In discussion regarding the role of the CEOC, it was noted that the 2008 Charter contains the current rules and procedures. Ms. Popochock will transmit copies of that Charter to members. Further discussion involved whether to wait until the County Council makes their decision regarding the makeup of the CEOC and the need to have some of these details outlined for community outreach.

Mr. Radford noted the need to have someone in charge of coordinating additional training and working with the Secretary of State.

7. Other Business/Good of the Order

Ms. Popochock addressed the need for each member to complete the financial disclosure forms that had been distributed.

Election Day for the Special Election in April is April 24th

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.