

**Citizens Election Oversight Committee
June 18, 2014**

MINUTES

Members Present: Ellen Hansen, Paul Berry, Chuck Gerring, Bruce Huang, Sven Kalve, Marilyn Knight, James Rigby, Emily Willoughby

Excused: Sheryl Moss, Frank Radford, Linh Thai, Monica Tracey, Carolyn Weikel

Elections Staff: Sherril Huff, Sandy McConnell, Julie Wise, Kim van Ekstrom, Rene LeBeau

CEOC Staff: Mary Bourguignon

1. Chair Hansen called the meeting to order at 11:32 am and made introductions. She asked to add an item to the agenda to discuss members' new King County emails.
2. The minutes of April 9, 2014, were approved as presented.
3. Director's Report: Sherril Huff provided a summary of the April 22 special election, noting that turnout was 39 percent and that ballot processing had gone well. She summarized the items that would be on the primary ballot and noted that Elections is projecting a 38 percent turnout. She noted that Elections recently took delivery on new Pitney-Bowes sorting machines, which will be used for the first time during the primary election. These sorting machines are expected to nearly double envelope sorting speed. She invited CEOC members to observe the new machines being tested.

Ms. Huff then summarized the 2014 WSACA Elections Conference, which was held in early June in Spokane and included presentations from national and local experts. She noted that Washington State has received national recognition for both turnout and elections technology, and that King County has been called out as a leader.

Ms. Huff noted that the standardization of elections technology was identified as an issue of concern at the conference, and that to increase the level of standardization Elections has signed a contract with DFM Associates, a California company that currently provides elections management software to approximately two-thirds of the state's counties. This new contract would replace Elections long-standing contract with Elections Systems & Software (ES&S).

4. Observations of Special Elections: Mary Bourguignon reported on the Election Day visit and tour of the King County Council's Government Accountability and Oversight Committee. She thanked Ms. Huff and staff for welcoming Councilmembers on a busy day and noted that the tour was helpful in acquainting the Council's newest members with ballot processing logistics and procedures. Ellen Hansen, Emily Willoughby, and Paul Berry reported on their observations. Ms. Willoughby and Mr. Berry expressed a slight concern about the potential for complacency on the part of Elections staff and encouraged Ms. Huff to ensure that staff remains vigilant and careful even though ballot processing has been successful.

Chair Hansen asked about the replacement of the Magnuson Park ballot dropbox with a van, expressing some concern that the vans are staffed for limited hours making them less accessible to voters. Ms. Huff noted that in the case of Magnuson Park, the removal of the dropbox had been requested, and that in general local communities have been requesting that dropboxes be removed. She noted that the City of Redmond has asked that its dropbox, which is currently located at Redmond City Hall, be removed. She noted that, overall, 80 percent of ballots are returned by mail and that the vans have been very popular, with voters wishing to return their ballots in person. She also briefly discussed the new state law that requires that if a voter is in line at a dropbox and still completing a ballot at the closing time, the dropbox must remain open until the voter is finished voting.

5. King County Email Addresses: Chair Hansen asked if members had been able to access their new King County emails. All indicated they had but said it was difficult to have to check a second email. Mary Bourguignon offered to check with the Council Clerk to learn if it would be possible to send a non-substantive message to members' personal email accounts alerting them when a message had been sent to their King County address.
6. Election Calendar and Observation Opportunities: Chair Hansen noted that the purpose of the June meeting is to help members prepare for observations during the primary election season. Elections staff noted that dates will be sent to members within a week. The Logic and Accuracy Test has been set for July 22, and members are encouraged to attend.
7. Reappointments to CEOC: Mary Bourguignon noted that the reappointments of Paul Berry, Bruce Huang, and James Rigby will be considered by the Council's Employment and Administration Committee on June 23. If approved, these reappointments would then be considered by the full Council. The members will not need to be present, as these are reappointments.
8. Other Business. Bruce Huang noted that he attended the National Voting Rights Pacific Northwest Regional Hearing at the University of Washington Law Library and was able to talk about King County election practices.
9. Remaining meeting schedule for 2014: September 10, October 8, November 12

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Bourguignon