

Citizens Election Oversight Committee
June 17, 2015

MINUTES

Members Present: Ellen Hansen, Chuck Gerring, Bruce Huang, Sven Kalve, Marilyn Knight, Sheryl Moss, Frank Radford, Monica Tracey, Emily Willoughby

Elections Staff: Sherril Huff, Kim van Ekstrom, Dale Hartman, Rene LeBeau, Nathan Valderas, Julie Wise

CEOC Staff: Katherine Cortes

1. Chair Hansen called the meeting to order at 11:35 am.
2. The minutes of February 11, 2015 were approved.
3. Director's Report:

Technology Projects: Elections IT Service Delivery Manager Dale Hartman distributed a draft Executive Summary for Elections' Technology Plan, which will be transmitted to Council by September 1 in response to a 2015-2016 budget proviso.

Elections continues to anticipate go-live for the replacement elections management system (EMS) on December 7, 2015 (following the 2015 general election), for use in the February 2016 special election. Elections identified some gaps during their quality assurance process which they will reconcile with the print vendor (K&H) and others before deployment. Dale agreed to send a follow-up email with additional information on these gaps.

August 4 Primary Election Preparation: Director Huff reports that voter's pamphlets are nearly ready.

Based on Disability Access Board recommendations, Accessible Voting Center hours will be extended to include the Saturday prior to elections and until 7pm on the Monday prior to elections at three locations.

Annual Elections Conference: Forty-seven King County Elections employees participated in the annual Washington State Association of County Auditors elections conference at Sea-Tac in early June. KCE Voter Services supervisor Kortney Kinzer was recognized for her work promoting voting accessibility.

Strategic Plan Progress: Kim van Eckstrom pointed CEOC members to a handout (included in the Director's Report) on the Elections Strategic Plan work. She indicated that because of the ambitious scope of the work, some elements were moving more slowly than staff might expect or desire.

Be Informed Campaign: Snohomish County will continue to partner with KCE on this campaign. For this year only, new partners will back specific ads designed by KCE: Seattle to publicize the new City Council districts, and the Public Disclosure Commission to provide information about itself as a resource.

Voter Survey: KCE will soon be conducting its quadrennial statistically valid telephone voter survey of approximately 700 registered voters. The previous version included about 40 questions. Kim requested that the CEOC propose 3 questions, by July 17, for inclusion, and agreed to follow up with a link to the previous survey. The contract survey administration firm will inform a decision of whether to use cell phones and other protocol decisions. Members discussed the possibility of contributing questions about barriers to voting, including drop box availability and single-stamp purchase options.

4. Legislative update – Sheryl Moss and Rene LeBeau reported that House Bill 1919 passed, changing the deadline for filing resolutions and shortening the timeline for election certification for special elections, a change supported by KCE.

For next year, KCE expects to support legislation to move the deadline for online and in-person voter registration closer to Election Day (to 11 days prior). This year, legislation was proposed to allow day-of-election registration, but KCE opposed this on the grounds that current elections information systems cannot support same-day registration. The Secretary of State's office is conducting a statewide study of system options to enable same-day registration and other policy changes, such as pre-registration for 16- and 17-year-olds. Dale Hartman serves on the statewide Steering Committee for this study.

Sheryl reported no news on the 2016 Presidential primary. Both the House and Senate budgets include funding, but the statewide Democratic organization says it will not use the results. If held, the Presidential primary would likely take place on a date in March.

5. Observation opportunities – The Logic and Accuracy Test for the August 4 primary election will take place on July 21 at 1pm. The full observation schedule was distributed.

A member queried whether KCE was currently considering compensation for elections observers from the political parties, as in the past. Director Huff indicated that it was not currently under consideration, and Sheryl Moss noted that no other Washington counties pay observers.

6. Limited English Proficiency Outreach – Staff presented a brief overview of Proposed Ordinance 2015-0214, sponsored by Councilmember Rod Dembowski, and also noted the recent publication of recommendations in the City of Seattle's Immigrant Voting Task Force Report.

There was discussion of why PO 2015-0214 did not restrict the number of LEP community members used to set a threshold for translation of materials to citizens of voting age. Staff reported CM Dembowski's interest in expanding the data sets that could be used to identify need in various language communities, and agreed to send information to CEOC members on the federal translation rules (Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965) as well as on costs as described by KCE Budget and Finance Officer Bill Adams. Director Huff noted that the Department of Justice will produce Section 203 determinations next year, based on American Community Survey data.

Director Huff was asked whether KCE was consulted and whether she supported the proposed ordinance. She reported that KCE likes the spirit of the legislation, and believes it has aspects which are understandable and required. KCE had raised a concern about

additional costs to other jurisdictions, and whether these could be recovered, but felt comfortable with the Prosecuting Attorney's Office's interpretation.

CEOC members expressed concern at not having sufficient time or information to respond effectively to the proposed ordinance.

Rene LeBeau reported that KCE is on track to submit the first of four reports on current Limited English Proficient (LEP) outreach activities in response to a 2015-2016 budget proviso by June 30.

7. Good of the Order –

- A member requested to receive the Director's Report and other materials printed two-sided.
- Sheryl Moss reported that the Secretary of State's office is conducting an election review of King County during the primary, which is ramping up in July. If CEOC members see Secretary of State staff observers, please email any questions or input to Sheryl rather than approaching them during their observations.

8. The next meeting will be September 16. As usual, there will be no August meeting to allow CEOC members to devote time to primary election observation.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Katherine Cortes