

Citizens's Elections Oversight Committee

October 12, 2016

MINUTES

Members Present: Paul Berry, Chuck Gerringer, Ellen Hansen, Sven Kalve, Marilyn Knight, Sheryl Moss, Glenn Avery, Monica Tracey, Emily Willoughby

Telephone: Frank Radford

Excused: Bruce Huang, Linh Thai, Kristina Swanson

Elections Staff: Julie Wise, Kendall Levan-Hodson, Nate Valderas, Jimi Robinson, Sonja Rowland

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

Minutes:

The minutes of August 10, 2016, were approved.

Director's Report:

Director Wise introduced Jimi Robinson, the new IT director. Mr. Robinson spoke about his previous experience as a teacher, working for SNOPAC and 911.

General Election Planning: Director Wise said there were more than 1.2 million registered voters in King County. The estimated forecast of returned ballots is 80% or just over 1 million ballots. Elections expects a 42% return at the drop boxes, which equals 425,000, over 200,000 on Election Day alone.

Ballots will be mailed on October 19, with 43 BDOLs open on the following day. BDOLs will be available 24 hours a day until 8 p.m. on Election Day, Nov. 8.

Ballots will have a new stub with the message: I voted, in lieu of a sticker.

Ballots in the county will be available in five languages: English, Korean, Vietnamese, Chinese and Spanish. Facebook ads will run in all these languages.

King County has 30 ballot measures, 9 state and 21 local, and 130 candidates.

For this election, the election office, most days, will have two shifts starting on Oct. 31, 6 a.m.- 2 p.m., and 6 p.m. – 2 a.m.

A new results app is available on the web, which will be more user friendly, and has been rigorously tested. Write-ins will also appear on the results page.

Ballot Drop Boxes: All 43 drop boxes are in place. Voters will be able to locate the drop boxes nearest them through their phones. Staff and police protection will be at the BDOLs Nov. 7 and 8. Director Wise and Deputy Director Levan-Hodson will drive to all drop boxes to see that signage is properly placed.

Elections Security: Ms. Moss reported that the Secretary of State's office has been working with Homeland Security and the FBI, and will continue to do so throughout the election. Washington is at little risk for several reasons: In addition to the Secretary of State's voter registration database, each county has its own local registration systems, our tabulation systems are not on the internet, and there are multiple layers of results on the websites.

Budget: Elections took a cut of \$800,000 in a \$38 million budget. This will be handled by reducing the number of short term employees and collecting from the various taxing districts.

Tabulation Replacement Project Update: Ms. Rowland reported that Elections is reviewing four proposals, and hopes to finish the review by the end of October. The proposals are from Clear Ballot, Dominion, ES&S and Hart. Although King and Pierce counties explored going together on a proposal, it has been decided that each will pursue their own system.

Language Services and Community Engagement: There is an increase in interest in languages. Election Ambassadors representing Ukraine and Philippines as well as others are going into communities.

Ms. Moss said that 82-83% of those eligible are registered to vote. Statewide there are 4.2 million, including 50,000 new registrations. New statewide records were set on three separate days.

Some voters are concerned about not getting their ballots postmarked in time.
Message: put it in drop box on election day, rather than mailbox.

Observation Opportunities

A list of observation opportunities was distributed.

The next meeting will be **November 16, the third Wednesday.**

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Knight