

**Citizens Election Oversight Committee
January 11, 2017**

MINUTES

Members Present: Marilyn Knight, Glenn Avery, Chuck Gerringer, Ellen Hansen, Frank Radford, Sven Kalve, Paul Berry, Bruce Huang

Telephone: Sheryl Moss, Monica Tracey

Excused: Linh Thai, Emily Willoughby

Absent: Kristina Swanson

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

CEOC Staff: Hiedi Popochock

1. Call to Order:

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

2. Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of November 16, 2016 were approved.

3. Director's Report:

February Special Election

Director Wise provided CEOC members with materials on the February Special Election that summarized information regarding the jurisdictions participating, the approximate number of registered voters participating, the ballot measures, and the dates that the drop boxes and accessible voting centers would be open, etc.

- a. Accessible Voting Centers. Director Wise stated that Elections will have a discussion with the King County Council in 2017 regarding the cost-benefits of having accessible voting centers open for every election. The current three locations are under-utilized and it can cost approximately \$2,000 per voter to operate an accessible voting center.
- b. Pre-Paid Postage Pilot. Director Wise indicated that the Elections will be piloting pre-paid postage for the February Special Election since this particular election will be small. This pilot will serve as a test for what the pre-paid process would look like and how the process works through the U.S. Postal Service. Director Wise stated that the King County Council, the County Executive and registered voters are interested in learning more about pre-paid postage. Elections estimates the pre-paid postage pilot to cost under \$10,000. Ms. Moss indicated that there is interest in pre-paid

postage at the state level, although it would come with an estimated cost of one million dollars per year for each primary and general election.

- c. Community Partnerships and Language Services. Director Wise provided the CEOC members with highlights of the Limited English Speaking Pilot Program. Twenty-two community-based organizations reached 27,000 limited English speaking voters, collectively. There were 2,300 new limited English speaking voters registered, which also includes the new voters registered from the Elections' Ambassador Program. The King County Council approved on-going funding in Elections' 2017-2018 budget to continue the program. Director Wise recognized Cherry Cayabyab, a limited-term employee who assisted with the program in 2016, for her outstanding work. Director Wise indicated that Elections will continue to work with the Seattle Foundation to also provide funding to leverage the department's on-going funding for the program.
- d. Section 203 Voting Rights Act. Director Wise indicated that the federal government is requiring King County to provide voting materials in Chinese and Vietnamese. King County Code requires the Department of Elections to provide voting materials in languages that have a population threshold over 10,000 in King County. Recently, Elections has translated voting materials in Korean and Spanish. Director Wise mentioned that Elections is collecting data from King County's Public Health and Office of Equity and Social Justice, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the city of Seattle's Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs to determine which populations have reached the threshold. Director Wise stated that Tagalog is also close to reaching the 10,000 threshold.
- e. Tabulation System Project Update. Director Wise stated that the two vendors (Clear Ballot and Dominion) for the tabulation system project will be on-site to provide system demonstrations. Clear Ballot provided its first demonstration on February 10. Mr. Gerringer, a CEOC member on the project team, attended an earlier Clear Ballot demonstration. He indicated that Clear Ballot is a browser-based system that is very innovative and creative. He stated the Clear Ballot provided sufficient responses on how its system would respond to various scenarios such as a recount for a gubernatorial election. Mr. Gerringer did mention that there are questions regarding the company's long-term viability. Mr. Berry, also a CEOC member on the project team, indicated that the Clear Ballot architecture uses off-the-shelf hardware and can be updated as needed assuming it would be certified. Mr. Berry stated that the software would be dependent on the relationship between Clear Ballot and King County, which would be included in the contract, if the Clear Ballot solution is selected. Mr. Berry further stated that the accessible voting units of the system is strictly a ballot marking system. The system could print an actual ballot that could be counted by the tabulation system.

Mr. Robinson indicated that Multnomah and Pierce Counties have selected the Clear Ballot solution.

4. CEOC 2016 Annual Report Review:

CEOC members participated in a lengthy discussion in editing their draft of the 2016 CEOC Annual Report. Some of the edits are outlined below. The report highlights the positive relationship between Elections staff and the CEOC as well as the CEOC's increased participation in major initiatives in Elections such as the expansion of the ballot drop boxes and the tabulation system replacement project. Ms. Popochock will incorporate the feedback received from CEOC members for the annual report and will send another draft to CEOC members for final review. The report is due to Council by February 1.

- a. Chair Hansen will revise the language in section one (Election Observations) to inform the Council of the CEOC's increased participation in observations in 2016.
- b. Mr. Berry provided language to include in section two, subsection B, (CEOC role) that explained the role that he and Mr. Gerringer played on the project team of the tabulation replacement system project.
- c. In section three, subsection A, (Voter Concerns), add language that describes the technical issue Elections experienced surrounding the online candidate filing form for Precinct Committee Officers.
- d. In section three (Communication and Outreach), add a subsection that highlights the focus groups that were conducted as well as a subsection that describes the Ambassador Program and CEOC member participation.

5. Other Business/Good of the Order:

Elections Annual Conference

Ms. Moss indicated that the annual conference will be held in the last week of June (June 26-30).

CEOC Member Resignation

Mr. Berry indicated that he would be resigning from the CEOC as the Washington State Democratic Party representative within the next month.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Hiedi Popochock