



## King County

### CITIZENS' ELECTIONS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (CEOC)

May 17, 2023 Meeting | 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. | Zoom Conference

**Members Present:** Vice Chair: Jayson Todd Morris, Vice Chair: Jude Ahmed, Vice Chair: Mathew Patrick Thomas, Hanna Floss, Tyson Hartman, Kathy Sakahara, Stuart Holmes, Mike Flood, Chris Hayes, Linda Grez, Dr. Jason Frederick Lambacher, and Julie Kang

**Absent:** Chair: Eliseo Juárez, Hillary De La Cruz and Stanley Tsao

**Special Guests:** N/A

**Elections Staff:** Director Julie Wise, Deputy Elections Director Janice Case, Kendall LeVan Hodson, Angela Kubota, Margaret Brownell, Kristina Rose, and Dave Wilson

**Council Staff:** Sherrie Hsu, Jonathan Fowler, Isaiah Artis, and Tania Santiago Pastrana

### AGENDA

#### 1. Call to Order

Dr. Jason Lambacher called the meeting to order at 11:47 a.m.

#### 2. Chair Update

Jonathan Fowler gave the chair update on behalf of Chair Juárez. Fowler introduced himself as a new CEOC staff member. He gave updates on CEOC Vice Chair Committees. Committees plan to have their first meeting in the coming weeks. There are no CEOC meetings scheduled in June, July, or August. However, CEOC members will take a fieldtrip in July to the K&H printing mail vendor for King County Elections (KCE).

#### 3. Approve March 15, 2023 Minutes

Member Lambacher moved approval of the minutes of the March 15, 2023 meeting. Member Mathew Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

#### 4. Director's Report

Director Julie Wise reported on Candidate Filing for King County Elections. Candidate Filing Week is described as the week all positions up for election this year are opened and allowed to be filed for.

Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup> was the last day that a vacancy in an elected position would cause an office to file during regular filing. Any elected positions within county, city, or special purpose district that had a vacancy would have to file that vacancy during regular filing to be open for candidates to file for this week.

At the time of this report, there has been a healthy current of candidates filing for an array of positions across King County. The numbers comparison to last year were comparable

to the filing numbers of previous years in the first two days of filing.

## **5. King County Elections 2022 Annual Report Overview**

Director Wise covered the 2022 King County Elections Annual Report that would be submitted to the King County Council.

The priority of maintaining a fair and equitable election process for all King County elections has been a vocal concern of constituents in recent election cycles. Questions and responses to public concern about the elections process has been vital to maintaining public belief in the elections process. Providing as much clarity and information regarding elections and its processes has been vital in maintaining that trust in the fairness that the system guarantees.

Elections has hosted observer visits for the public to further provide clarity and promote a fair and equitable voting processes to the constituents of King County.

To increase ballot returns, text and email reminder for ballot alerts have been officially implemented in King County.

Elections has almost completed responding to approximately 150 public records requests. Common questions and concerns in public records requests include ballot signatures as well as who is eligible to vote and where they are located.

## **6. Candidate Filing Week Discussion**

King County Elections Staff Member Angela Kubota covered the candidate filing workshops that took place in October 2022, January 2023, and April 2023. These workshops were meant to make the candidate filing process less intimidating for interested candidates.

Candidate filing week is May 15-19<sup>th</sup>. May 22<sup>nd</sup> no later than 4:30 p.m. is the last day for candidates to withdraw.

333 offices are up for election this year. 354 candidates have filed so far as May 17<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.

Local voters' pamphlet key dates include May 15 – May 26<sup>th</sup> where they are allowed to submit a photo as well as descriptions and resume to be put onto the voters' pamphlet.

Legislative Update – the passing of SB 5182 means candidate filing is moved to the first Monday of May giving more time for processing and intake of candidates as well as more time for voters' pamphlet creation.

**Julie Kang:** What demographic information is tracked about the people who file for candidacy?

**Angela Kubota:** Yes, the information is collected and will be available publicly, race and ethnicity is not tracked but other information including gender and age are included.

**Mathew Thomas:** How are candidates ordered on the voters' pamphlet?

**Julie Wise:** Through a random numbers generator online keeping fairness.

## **7. Overview of King County Elections IT, Database and Cyber Security Systems**

Item will appear on the next agenda.

## **8. Update on the Implementation of HB 1078 Custody Bill and Jail Voting Efforts**

King County Elections Staff Member Kendall LeVan Hodson presented on HB 1078 and what its implementation meant for jail voting efforts. From 1889 to 2009 anybody convicted of a "heinous crime" would have their right to vote taken away. Washington is one of 21 states to automatically restore voting rights for people once they leave incarceration.

HB1078 created a very clear line for who is eligible to vote in upcoming elections. Two education and registration in-person events took place inside the King County Adult Detention Center in Seattle to inform and help eligible people who are incarcerated register to vote.

**Hanna Floss:** What languages are offered in the education and registration sessions at the jail?

**Kendall LeVan Hodson:** The main languages encountered, Spanish, Vietnamese, Japanese, and Mandarin all have translated ballots and pamphlets in those native languages. In the event there is someone who has language needs beyond the most common categories the staff identifies the best fit for the situation on hand usually including technology that can translate to the person's needs.

## **9. Voter Education Fund Grants**

Director Wise spoke on recent investments of over a million dollars in voter education funds, specifically for those most marginalized. \$5,000-10,000 will be spent for specific events to further engage with the community and provide necessary voter education for social equity.

## **10. GIS Overview of Redistricting and Precincts**

King County Elections Staff Member Kristina Rose elaborated on redistricting and precincts. Every 10 years after the US Census Federal, State, County, and Local district boundaries are adjusted. Due to Covid in 2020, the Census deadline was pushed back to 2022. The maximum precinct size is 900 voters and every 10 years the new precinct lines need to be drawn to not exceed those 900 voters per precinct. The updated maps and data can be found on the King County website.

## **11. KCC Staff Update**

Jonathan Fowler reminded CEOC members to check their emails regularly and to complete their online training if they hadn't already done so.

**12. New Business and/or for Good of the Order**

**13. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at about 12:46 p.m.