



## King County

### CITIZENS' ELECTIONS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (CEOC)

November 17, 2021 Meeting | 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. | Zoom Conference

#### MINUTES

**Members Present:** Chair: Kyle Vixie, First Vice Chair: Eliseo Juárez, Vice Chair: Jayson Todd Morris, Hillary Coleman, Allison Feher, Linda Grez, Stuart Holmes, Julie Kang, Jeff Manson, Maya Manus, Quynh Pham, Stefan Sharkansky and Stanley Tsao

**Absent:** Vice Chair: Nanette Sullivan

**Special Guests:** Colleen Overton and Leslie Christensen, Washington Secretary of State's office

**Elections Staff:** Deputy Director Janice Case, Robin Blake and Kendall LeVan Hodson

**Council Staff:** Erin Arya, Patrick Hamacher and Sherrie Hsu

#### **1. Call to Order**

CEOC Chair Kyle Vixie called the meeting to order at 11:31 a.m.

#### **2. Approve October 20, 2021 minutes**

Chair Vixie read for the Committee edits to the minutes submitted by Member Stefan Sharkansky. Chair Vixie also read his proposed addition for inclusion. Vice Chair Jayson Morris moved amendment and approval of the minutes of the October 20, 2021 meeting. Member Sharkansky seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **3. Approve CEOC Calendar for 2022**

Chair Vixie read for the Committee the proposed 2022 meeting schedule that was previously emailed to the Committee. Under the proposal the Committee would meet the third Wednesday of the month from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm in January, March, May, July, September, October and November. Time for training would be held in February and April.

Member Julie Kang moved approval of the 2022 CEOC Calendar as proposed. First Vice Chair Eliseo Juárez seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **4. Letter to Council Regarding Transportation Reimbursement**

Chair Vixie updated the Committee on the status of transportation reimbursement from the Council for monitoring activities. Chair Vixie noted that the Committee received incorrect information two years ago that observing elections is a reimbursable activity. Chair Vixie read the proposed letter to Council to the Committee that was previously emailed. Member Manus proposed signing the letter listing all members or signing as the CEOC and editing the first sentence to include "following up on the 2020 CEOC Annual Report." Member Sharkansky noted there are observers from the public so if not everyone can get to a drop box it likely won't diminish oversight of the drop box.

Member Kang moved approval of the letter as amended (changing the first sentence, editing to dated law and listing the names and representation of the members). Member Manus seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **5. Director's Report (with Recall Election update)**

Kendall LeVan Hodson provided the Director's report. The General Election was held on November 2. The launch of the data visualization dashboard tool was a big development this election. She shared that signature challenges could be in the drop boxes so the team is being deployed to make sure they have them.

She noted three races will go to recount including Newcastle City Council Position 6 which stands at a 7-vote difference. Fewer than 150 votes and less than ¼ of the percent of total votes for both candidates.

Ballots were mailed today for the recall election. The Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center is serving as a vote center in the district. Renton headquarters is also open as a vote center. KCE projects 50% turnout. LeVan Hodson noted that charges appear on the ballot as well as the statement from the candidate. They also include an insert with general information.

Member Manson asked about state redistricting and how it impacts the Council approval of the new precincts which would need to be finalized before filing week. LeVan Hodson will ask the Elections GIS team for an update and get back to Committee by email. Member Sharkansky offered praise for the ballot processing exception tool. Vice Chair Juárez inquired if rejected ballot information could be added to the website.

### **6. Election of Officers**

Per the bylaws, Chair Vixie passed the gavel to ex-officio member Stuart Holmes for the election of officers. The following candidates for officer positions each made a short statement:

- Kyle Vixie - chair
- Jayson Morris – vice chair of best practices
- Eliseo Juárez – vice chair of voter participation – Excited and honored to continue this role.
- Note there were no candidates for vice chair of election monitoring.

Member Holmes called for a vote by acclamation of the slate of candidates. The slate was approved by the Committee. Member Holmes passed the gavel back to Chair Vixie.

### **7. Address Confidentiality Program + Secretary of State's Office Update**

Member Stuart Holmes provided an update on Secretary of State office operations with Secretary Wyman departing for the Biden Administration and Governor Inslee appointing State Senator Steve Hobbs to the position. Member Holmes is the acting elections director. The Secretary of State position will be on the ballot next year.

Colleen Overton and Leslie Christensen from the Secretary of State's office provided a briefing on the Address Confidentiality Program. The program began in 1991 and is the first of its kind in the nation. More than half of enrollees are children. The program works best when enrollees relocate from a currently public address. Eligibility is set by the Washington State Legislature. The program is available to Washington residents who are targets of stalking, domestic violence, trafficking or sexual assault. In 2011, the ACP expanded to include criminal justice employees who have been threatened or harassed because of their work. Currently, the ACP serves more than 4,500 Washingtonians. Enrollees must renew every four years in order to remain in the program.

Member Hillary Coleman noted that enrollment can be difficult and limited in her experience working with individuals experiencing homelessness.

Member Tsao asked what happens to voter registration when a participant comes up for renewal. Ms. Christensen answered that when the participant comes up for renewal, the SOS sends them a form to renew their participation. If they leave the program, they would need to register as a mainstream voter. Participation expires and needs to be renewed every four years. The average length of enrollment is six to seven years.

## **8. CEOC Content Calendar 2022**

Chair Vixie reviewed the proposed 2022 CEOC Content Calendar as emailed to the Committee prior to the meeting. Members shared their requests for updating and finalizing the content calendar:

- Member Manus asked for updates in January and March on the status of implementing redistricting. She also requested a deep dive into community efforts with voting at one of the training days and an update on the implementation of HB 1078 community custody implementation.
- Member Sharkansky asked for more discussion of alternatives to signatures for ballot envelopes.
- Member Coleman asked to discuss disproportionality that has spurred efforts to increase access for disengaged communities. What is the landscape, what are the trends and what goals does the county have to make voting access more equitable.
- First Vice Chair Juárez requested the committee spend time educating itself on issues like ranked choice voting, democracy vouchers for us to build our own technical ability to weigh in when it meets with elected officials. He also requested more discussion of the King Conservation District (KCD) elections and the proposal from the state board to allow KCD elections to move onto regular ballot.

Chair Vixie noted he will add the requested topics in the month that best fits. Member Coleman moved approval of the 2022 Content Calendar. Member Quinn Pham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **9. Districting Process Update**

King County Council Initiatives Director Patrick Hamacher provided an update on the King County redistricting process. He shared that the Committee is the final arbiter of the districts. Council appoints four members and then those four members appoint a fifth member to serve as chair. The Committee conducted more than 20 targeted outreach sessions. Next, they proposed initial draft maps, held town hall meetings and now are working to combine the drafts into a single draft map. He reviewed the statutory deadlines the Committee must follow and showed comparison maps of the current draft maps and the current Council district boundaries.

## **10. KCC Staff Updates**

Due to time constraints, staff will send updates to members by email.

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

Vice Chair Morris remarked that King County is fortunate to have the elections system that we do. He noted in Alabama, elections are not as open, convenient or accessible. He said it is an honor to serve on the CEOC.

## **12. Adjournment**

Vice Chair Morris moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Manus seconded. The meeting was adjourned unanimously at 12:58 p.m.