



## King County

### **CITIZENS' ELECTIONS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (CEOC)**

March 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: Nanette Sullivan, Vice Chair: Jayson Todd Morris, Stanley Tsao, Hillary Coleman, Allison Feher, Jeff Manson, Maya Manus, Stuart Holmes, Seth Orr, Quynh Pham, Stefan Sharkansky

**Absent:** Julie Kang

**Special Guest:** King County Councilmember Girmay Zahilay

**Elections Staff:** Kendall LeVan Hodson and Janice Case

**Council Staff:** Erin Arya and Miranda Leskinen

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

CEOC Chair Kyle Vixie called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. Chair Vixie promptly declared the committee in recess until 12:00 p.m. At 12:00 p.m. Chair Vixie called the meeting back to order.

#### **2. Approve January 27, 2021 minutes**

Vice Chair Jayson Todd Morris moved approval of the minutes of the January 27, 2021 meeting. Member Seth Orr seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **3. Director's Report**

King County Elections Chief of Staff Kendall Hodson provided an update on the status of Elections-related bills in the state legislature including SB 5015 concerning fraudulent portrayal of ballot drop boxes and SB 5148 concerning the harassment of election officials. HB 1156 (ranked choice voting) and SB 5182 (eliminating advisory votes) did not pass out of committee prior to the cut off.

Staff is preparing for a small April Election with confirmed ballot measures from the City of Shoreline (approx. 40,113 voters), Shoreline Fire Department (approx. 40,113 voters) and King County Fire Protection District No. 16 (approx. 26,438 voters). Elections will mail approximately 65,000 ballots on April 7 for the election.

The King Conservation District (KCD) by state law is allowed to run its own election but chose to partner with King County Elections. They eclipsed their record for ballots returned. A postcard was mailed to the 1.3 million voters to get the word out. In the end, 116 voted by mail and 98% voted online. There were no problems with missing signatures because voters have to sign online. Members asked about demographics of voters and translations. Kendall noted that KCD did not do translations due to lack of

resources, but that she can check on any requests for translations they have received. Running an election is very expensive so the hope is to remedy this in the next legislative session to allow KCE to run the election.

Member Stefan Sharkansky noted he received a demo of the online system last year and that the signature was a better match when observed, but he felt that an Alternative ID to a signature should be pursued. He noted the person operating the system during the demo was able to look up his ballot. Chair Vixie noted the CEOC would want to speak to this topic in the annual report or in an update. Member Allison Feher noted that the League of Women Voters hosted a candidate forum last week for the KCD election (available via video).

#### **4. Disability and Voting Accessibility in the 2020 Elections**

Vice Chair Morris shared the results of recent analysis by Rutgers University of the 2020 Disability and Voting Accessibility Survey showing that Disabled Americans had less trouble voting in the 2020 elections than in prior years. He also discussed recommendations for making elections more accessible in terms of technology, materials and practices like text to speech, best practices in font choice, the importance vote by mail to the disability community and signature alternatives. Elections staff noted that their Disability Advisory Committee is talking through these challenges. They will share the 2021 plan when it's ready. Chair Vixie noted it is one of the CEOC 2021 priorities.

#### **5. King County Councilmember Girmay Zahilay**

King County Councilmember Girmay Zahilay discussed his roots growing up in District 2 which he now represents and how it shapes the way he serves his constituents. He also talked about the importance of reaching those who are disenfranchised, inspiring young people to run for office, building community resources in new ways like the Youth Achievement Center and the need for more equitable approaches to development in communities like Skyway.

#### **6. General Discussion of the Voter Education Fund**

Committee members held a brief discussion related to an email regarding a PDC complaint sent by Member Sharkansky concerning the Voter Education Fund. Member Sharkansky expressed that he would like the committee to look into and think about the Voter Education Fund program to determine what the committee likes about the program and what revisions should be recommended. Member Hillary Coleman stated she was concerned efforts to limit the Voter Education Fund could amount to voter suppression and stated for the record that she does not support anything that takes away access to voting.

#### **7. Preparations for the April 27, 2021 Election Observation**

Vice Chair Nanette Sullivan will email committee members regarding observing during the upcoming April election.

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

Vice Chair Eliseo Juárez requested further discussion of protocols for bringing issues to the CEOC. It was determined that the chair and vice chairs would meet prior to the next meeting to have that discussion.

### **9. Adjournment**

Vice Chair Morris moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Feher seconded. The meeting was adjourned unanimously at 1:00 p.m.