



## King County

### CITIZENS' ELECTIONS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (CEOC)

March 15, 2023 Meeting | 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. | Zoom Conference

**Members Present:** Chair: Eliseo Juárez, Vice Chair: Jayson Todd Morris, Vice Chair: Jude Ahmed, Vice Chair: Mathew Patrick Thomas, Hanna Floss, Hillary de la Cruz, Tyson Hartman, Kathy Sakahara, Stanley Tsao, Stuart Holmes, Mike Flood and Chris Hayes

**Absent:** Linda Grez, Dr. Jason Frederick Lambacher, and Julie Kang

**Special Guests:** N/A

**Elections Staff:** Director Julie Wise, Deputy Elections Director Janice Case, Kendall LeVan Hodson and Kim Steeter

**Council Staff:** Sherrie Hsu, Carmela Ennis, Isaiah Artis, and Tania Santiago Pastrana

### AGENDA

#### 1. Call to Order

Chair Juárez called the meeting to order at 11:31 a.m.

#### 2. Approve January 15, 2023 minutes\*

Member Hanna Floss moved approval of the minutes of the January 15, 2023 meeting. Vice Chair Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

#### 3. Director's Report

The April election is taking place on April 25<sup>th</sup>. The ballots are going out on April 5<sup>th</sup> and military overseas ballots will be mailed on March 24<sup>th</sup>. The ballot will include King County Proposition No. 1 - Crisis Care Centers. King County Elections (Elections) is expecting a 33% voter turnout.

Regarding candidate filings, there are 332 offices up for election with many first-time candidates applying. Most candidates file online. The Elections website is a great resource to learn about the candidate filing process. Elections is also hosting a series of candidate filing workshops to help make it a less intimidating process for interested candidates.

#### 4. Voter Registration Overview

Elections did an overview of voter registration. This included information on who can register, how to register, deadlines to register, notices sent to registered voters, address maintenance and tracking of deceased voters.

#### 5. Language Access at King County Elections including Rollout of Somali and Russian Languages

Elections did a quick overview of federal and county laws that impact language access in King County. This includes King County Ordinance 18086 and 18665 and Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Ordinances 18086 and 18665 are language access guidelines that impact all King County agencies including Elections. Elections has staffers who specialize in specific languages and translate election materials including community media programs and outreach. Support for language access in

the community is provided through Voter Education Funds. Elections is in the process of creating voting materials translated in Russian and Somali for the 2023 primary election. They are also working on legislation to codify these two languages in King County Code.

**Chair Eliseo Juárez:** This makes me reflect if our designation is serving us to make recommendations to the Council. Should we grow our body by two seats or have a larger fix that we need to make? I'm sure KCE will be involved moving forward.

#### **6. King Conservation District Election and Legislative Update**

Elections gave an update on the legislative session bill regarding King Conservation District (KCD) elections. There was not good movement on House Bill 1567 to change KCD to a regular election.

#### **7. CEOC Draft Recommendations Letter Regarding King Conservation District Elections**

Chair Juárez drafted a letter addressed to the King County Council with recommendations from CEOC regarding KCD elections. CEOC members did not have any edits to the letter. Vice Chair Thomas moved a motion to approve the draft letter and direct CEOC staff to submit the letter to the Council Clerk. Member Sakahara seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **8. Discussion and Potential Approval of Vice Chair Workplans**

The three CEOC Vice Chairs each shared their workplan proposals for their committees. Member Floss moved a motion to approve Vice Chair Workplans. Member Sakahara seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **9. KCC Staff Update**

CEOC staff, Santiago Pastrana, reminded CEOC members to complete their online training if they haven't already done so. The deadline was extended to Monday, March 27th.

Moving forward CEOC meetings will be conducted via Zoom webinar. Santiago Pastrana will send out new calendar invitations to CEOC members and instructions on how to login to Zoom webinar.

Ruth Woo Fellow Isaiah Artis was introduced to CEOC members.

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

**Mathew Patrick Thomas:** Chair, you run a great meeting! We are part of something making a difference.

**Chris Hays:** I know we talked about digital voter ability for the disability community. Is there any movement?

**Director Julie Wise:** Unfortunately, we aren't seeing movement this session. But I'm confident that we could have a workgroup on the topic and make some headway in the interim. We'll bring it back again for the next legislative session.

#### **11. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at about 12:57 p.m.