



King County

CITIZENS' ELECTIONS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (CEOC)

October 18, 2023 Meeting | 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. | Virtual Meeting

Members Present: Chair: Eliseo Juárez, Vice Chair: Jude Ahmed, Vice Chair: Mathew Patrick Thomas, Hanna Floss, Kathy Sakahara, Stuart Holmes, Chris Hayes, Dr. Jason Frederick Lambacher, Hillary De La Cruz, Mike Flood and

Absent: Stanley Tsao, Julie Kang and Tyson Hartman

Elections Staff: Director Julie Wise, Janice Case, Margaret Brownell and Mark Hinds

Council Staff: Sherrie Hsu, Jonathan Fowler, Terna Wilson, and Tania Mondaca

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chair Juárez called the meeting to order at 11:33 a.m.

2. Chair Update

Chair Juárez shared that Vice Chair Jayson Morris recently stepped down from CEOC. He thanked Vice Chair Morris for his commitment and leadership. Per the CEOC bylaws, the election to select a new Vice Chair of Best Practices will be held at the November CEOC meeting and staff will email instructions on how to become a candidate. Staff will also email members of the Best Practices workgroup to see if anyone would be willing to help lead the end of year report draft for their workgroup.

2. Approve September 20, 2023 minutes

Member Sakahara moved approval of the September 20, 2023 meeting minutes. Vice Chair Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Director's Report including the November General Election Overview

Director Wise shared that 1.4 million ballots were in route to King County voters. If voters do not receive their ballot, they should call King County Elections (KCE) to replace their ballot. KCE is expecting a 45% turnout for the November General Election. October 30th is the deadline to get a ballot in advance. However, voters can also register at voting centers which open on Saturday, November 4th in various locations including Bellevue, Federal Way and Lumen Field. The vote early day is taking place on October 26th. Also, voters can now request materials in Russian and Somali.

KCE recently had a ribbon cutting ceremony with Councilmember Jeanne Kohl-Welles celebrating the opening of a new drop box located in the Crown Hill neighborhood. Also, the drop box previously located at Bothell City Hall is now moved to the Bothell Library. There are about 45,000 King County voters who have subscribed to receive ballot alerts. Voters who signed up receive reminders to vote and updates as their ballot makes it through the process.

KCE is processing a petition for the City of Renton regarding the raise of the minimum wage. The Renton City Council would have to act and it could be potentially placed on the February 2024 ballot.

Director Wise also shared information regarding the 2024 precinct alterations including timeline on when the public can give public comment.

Member Hays asked how the signature verification system works. Director Wise shared that her communications team is working on a presentation, and she'll share information soon.

4. King County Elections IT, Database, and Cyber Security Systems Overview

IT Division Director Margaret Brownell and Systems and Security Engineer Mark Hinds from KCE gave an overview about Elections IT, database and cyber security system. The presentation included an overview on how internal network staff are connected to VoteWA and how staff use VPN connection to ensure staff accounts are secure.

5. CEOC Workgroup Vice Chair Report Out

Chair Juárez asked vice chairs to give an update on workgroup progress on drafting their portion of the end of year report which are due to the Chair on Wednesday, October 25th. Chair Juárez's goal is to email CEOC members a draft of the end of year report prior to the November CEOC meeting. Vice Chair Ahmed, Thomas and Member Sakahara shared updates on their workgroup draft.

6. End of Year Survey Results

CEOC members were asked to take several minutes to complete the online survey during the meeting. Survey results will be used to inform the CEOC 2024 workplan.

7. Discussion of Draft 2024 CEOC Workplan

Staffer Mondaca shared the draft 2024 CEOC workplan which highlights topics and activities CEOC would like to accomplish in 2024. Member Hartman shared his support for the lunch and learn activity. Vice Chair Ahmed asked how the workplan aligns with workgroup recommendations and timeline. Chair Juárez responded that topics on the workplan can be moved up. Vice Chair Thomas recommended adding a presentation to learn about the legislative process to change King County Code. Member Floss asked how CEOC can encourage more members to observe an election. Staffer Mondaca flagged that the workplan proposes having observation training for all CEOC members in July 2024 so that more members would be eligible to participate in observation activities. Member Floss recommended considering creating an observation sign-up process so that CEOC members can track which members are observing an election and what activities they are participating in.

8. KCC Staff Update

Staffer Mondaca shared her new last name and work email address.

9. New Business and/or for Good of the Order

CEOC members and Chair Juárez briefly discussed the recent resignation of Vice Chair Morris. Chair Juárez thanked Vice Chair Morris for his service to the CEOC.

Vice Chair Thomas made a motion so that the end of year report could include the Election Monitoring Workgroup recommendation of King County Council considering code to make CEOC a notified partner with King County Elections. The topic was tabled for the November CEOC meeting.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at about 1:11 pm.