

CITIZENS' ELECTIONS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (CEOC)

Voter Participation Workgroup

September 6, 2023 | 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. | Virtual Meeting

<https://kingcounty.zoom.us/j/81914007560> : Passcode: 774960

Members Present: Chair Jude Ahmed, Stanley Tsao, and Hanna Floss

Absent: Chris Hays

Special Guests:

CEOC Staff: Jonathan Fowler and Terna Wilson

MINUTES

- 1. Call to Order** 2:00 p.m.
Jude Ahmed, CEOC Chair of Voter Participation Workgroup

Chair Jude Ahmed called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM. Motion to approve minutes from July, all present members approved minutes, and minutes were approved as drafted.

- 2. Check-in Question** 2:02 p.m.
Jude Ahmed, CEOC Chair of Voter Participation Workgroup

DETAILS: The check-in question is, "Initial thoughts on voter participation during the primary?"

Jude Ahmed prompted discussion of voter participation in the August primary. Stanley Tsao discussed the differences between mainstream and language community (language breakdown of voters). Jude Ahmed noted that recent voter turnouts have been low, with mention of 31.12% participation.

- 3. Discussion of King County Auditor's 2018 Report and 2021 Follow-Up Report on Elections** 2:07 p.m.
Jude Ahmed, CEOC Chair of Voter Participation Workgroup

DETAILS: Workgroup members will discuss responses to the questions they asked King County Elections and decide whether they'd like to invite the King County Auditor's Office staff to a workgroup meeting to further discuss their election report.

Jude Ahmed prompted discussion of questions that were sent to the auditor's office, what stood out, what was memorable. Hanna Floss recounted learning about process of auditing and mentioned that another workgroup she serves on had questions about frequency of audits.

Members discussed different opportunities to submit ideas to auditors. Hanna Floss suggested workgroup brainstorm questions for auditors, as an opportunity for 2024 workplan. Jude Ahmed discussed constructing recommendations, including security risk assessment and barriers to

voting, for King County to prioritize in next audits. Hanna Floss suggested audits for voter data pertaining to language demographics.

Jude Ahmed asked if someone from King County could join a future CEOC meeting to speak about the 2024 audit process, this was also discussed as a potential action item. Jonathan Fowler proposed having someone join at an upcoming meeting to speak with workgroup.

Stanley Tsao discussed the possibility of County Council taking action in lieu of audit requests, as the timeline of auditing process can be lengthy. Jude Ahmed responded in agreement, considering potential plans for a request of audit of jail system and the barrier to voting rights during upcoming elections.

Jude Ahmed recommends workgroup consider what they want to examine in the voting process and requests for the King County Auditor's office.

4. King County Elections Resources Discussion

2:27 p.m.

Jude Ahmed, CEOC Chair of Voter Participation Workgroup

DETAILS: As requested by the workgroup, King County Elections shared information with the workgroup related to voter participation. The workgroup will share reactions, decide how to proceed with the materials they received, and start discussion on what topic they'd like to focus their committee work on for 2024.

Stanley Tsao prompted discussion of important or urgent topics to focus on before the 2024 elections, and if not, long-term topics to discuss, in terms of audits and more research.

Jude Ahmed explained need for comprehensive plan for jail voting and for King County to dedicate efforts to registering people.

Members discussed ideas for boosting voter turnout via advertisements, fund grantees in relation to organizing, or language diversity inclusion. Members emphasized importance of ensuring voters know the timeline of election processes for 2024 elections. Stanley Tsao proposed requesting King County Elections team to provide presentation, and an engagement plan to explain details of elections, so CEOC can help explain to communities.

Jonathan Fowler notified CEOC members of CEOC workplan draft for next year. Digital action team will be included, and Jonathon Fowler will inform Tania Santiago Pastrana upon return.

Discussed requesting, organizing, and disseminating information about 2024 voting process for citizens and removing that barrier.

Members had questions about language break down of voter participation and would like to investigate a more efficient way for elections to include more languages on ballot, and how to better use the voter education fund. Members also discussed the potential for creating a dashboard for displaying and analyzing data on voter turnout by language.

Members discussed methods of data to capture voter participation. Jude Ahmed noted demographic info can be obtained from census and Dept. of Public Health. Members discussed recommending options to increase voter participation, including expanding King County infrastructure, voter education fund, and building up community. Members would like to meet with King County Voter Education Fund committee. Members would like to meet with Voter Assistant Program to gain understanding of voting education structure.

Members divided duties to review King County Council Code and RCWs.

5. Staff Updates

2:55 p.m.

Tania Santiago Pastrana, CEOC Staffer

Jonathan Fowler noted that the next full CEOC meeting will take place on September 20th. Jonathan Fowler suggests CEOC members highlight questions or urgent items that should be directed to KCE. The next voter participation workgroup meeting will take place on October 4th. Jonathan Fowler notified CEOC members that Tania Santiago Pastrana will return on Monday. Jude Ahmed requested that the meeting minutes be sent out before September 20th.

6. Adjournment

3:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:57 PM.