



King County

Metropolitan King County Council Committee of the Whole

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item No.:	5	Date:	June 12, 2017
Proposed No.:	2017-B0123	Prepared by:	John Resha

SUBJECT

Appointment to fill the vacancy in the position of state representative for the 46th Legislative District.

SUMMARY

Proposed Motion 2017-0270 (Att. 1) would make an appointment to fill the vacancy in the position of state representative for the 46th Legislative District. The Committee of the Whole is holding a briefing on the proposed legislation prior to referral to committee in order to potentially expedite the appointment process at the regular County Council Meeting on the afternoon of June 12, 2017.

BACKGROUND

The 46th Legislative District includes all or parts of the communities of Laurelhurst, Wedgewood, and Maple Leaf in northeast Seattle and the cities of Kenmore and Lake Forest Park. The boundaries of the district are shown in the attached map (Att. 2).

The former state representative for the 46th District, Representative Jessyn Farrell, resigned effective June 1, 2017 to pursue a bid for City of Seattle Mayor. This has created a vacancy in the position of state representative for the 46th District.

As King County's legislative authority, the Council is responsible for making an appointment to fill the vacancy. Washington Constitution, art. II, § 15 (Att. 3).

The appointee must be from "the same political party as the legislator or partisan county elective officer whose office has been vacated, and shall be one of three persons who shall be nominated by the county central committee of that party." Washington Constitution, art. II, § 15 (Att. 3).

The Council must make the appointment "within sixty days after the vacancy occurs." Washington Constitution, art. II, § 15 (Att. 3).

The person appointed by the Council will serve until certification of the election of a successor in November of 2016. RCW 29A.24.171 (Att. 4)

THE NOMINEES

In accordance with the state constitution, the King County Democratic Central Committee (KCDCC) has nominated the following candidates to fill the current vacancy:

1. Javier Valdez;
2. Melissa Taylor; and
3. Nigel Herbig.

The nominees are listed in order of KCDCC's preference. As described in a June 11, 2017, communication from Bailey Stober, KCDCC chair (Att. 5):

The candidates are presented in rank order as they were voted for and nominated by those members of the KCDCC residing and serving in the 46th Legislative District, and subsequently unanimously ratified by the King County Democratic Central Committee. You should consider the ranking as the preferred order in which the Democratic Party wishes you to consider these candidates.

Background information on the nominees, consisting of their resumes and the questionnaires they completed for the nomination process, is included in these materials as Attachments 6 through 8.

THE SELECTION PROCESS

As described in the communication from Mr. Stober (Att. 5), ninety credentialed Democratic precinct committee officers (PCOs) of the 46th District participated in the district caucus to choose the nominees for the potential state representative appointment. The PCOs conducted five rounds of voting.

In the first round of voting, candidates received votes as follows:

Javier Valdez	35 votes
Melissa Taylor	15 votes
Nigel Herbig	20 votes
Laurie Lippold	11 votes
Betsy Walker	6 votes
Lelach Rave	1 vote
Jill Geary	1 vote
Oliver BenHaim	1 vote

The second round of voting, between the top two vote getters of round one, determined the first nominee as follows:

Javier Valdez	51 votes (Selection: Nominee 1)
Nigel Herbig	38 votes

The third round of voting, candidates received votes as follows

Melissa Taylor	27 votes
Nigel Herbig	30 votes
Laurie Lippold	16 votes
Betsy Walker	6 votes
Lelach Rave	5 vote
Jill Geary	2 vote
Oliver BenHaim	1 vote

The fourth round of voting, between the top two vote getters of round three, determined the second nominee as follows:

Melissa Taylor	43 votes (Selection: Nominee 2)
Nigel Herbig	40 votes

The fifth round of voting, candidates determined the third nominee as follows:

Nigel Herbig	45 votes (Selection: Nominee 3)
Laurie Lippold	22 votes
Betsy Walker	6 votes
Lelach Rave	3 vote
Jill Geary	3 vote

AMENDMENT

In its current form, the proposed motion has a blank for the name of the person to be appointed. The blank would need to be filled in by amendment of the motion. It is expected that the motion to amend will be made orally.

INVITED

1. Javier Valdez
2. Melissa Taylor
3. Nigel Herbig

ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Motion 2017-0270
2. Map of 46th Legislative District
3. Washington State Constitution, art. II, § 15
4. RCW 29A.24.171
5. Email from King County Democratic Central Committee
6. Javier Valdez– background information
7. Melissa Taylor– background information
8. Nigel Herbig– background information