## STAFF REPORT

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| **Agenda Items:** | 4-7 | **Name:** | Sherrie Hsu |
| **Proposed No**.: | 2022-01792022-01812022-01892022-0193 | **Date:** | May 24, 2022 |

**SUBJECT**

The proposed motions would confirm the following appointments and reappointments to the Citizens' Elections Oversight Committee (CEOC):

* Appointment ofHanna Floss, representing the King County Democratic Party, to fill an unexpired term ending July 31, 2024;
* Appointment ofKathy Sakahara, representing a nonpartisan organization active in King County that provides elections information to the public, to fill an unexpired term expiring July 31, 2022 and a new three-year term ending July 31, 2025;
* Reappointment ofEliseo Juarez, representing the Spanish-speaking community, for a three-year term ending July 31, 2025;
* Reappointment ofLinda Grez, as a jurisdictional representative from a junior taxing district or a city with a population of under twenty thousand, for a three-year term ending May 26, 2025.

**BACKGROUND**

The current Citizens’ Elections Oversight Committee (CEOC) was established by the King County Council in May 2006, under Ordinance 15453.[[1]](#footnote-1) Duties and membership for the CEOC are outlined in King County Code chapter 2.53.

In September 2018, [[2]](#footnote-2) the Council took action to update the membership of the CEOC. In addition to increasing the number of and changing the composition of CEOC members, the ordinance changed the mission of the committee to “help King County maintain public confidence in elections.”

Under King County Code chapter 2.53, sixteen members represent named types of organizations or sectors of the community, including two at-large King County registered voters, and one ex-officio, nonvoting member representing the Secretary of State’s office. Under the Code, appointments and reappointments to the CEOC are subject to review by the Employment and Administration Committee, who make a recommendation to the full Council for final confirmation, via motion.

Table 1 lists the current membership of the CEOC and the organization or constituency they represent. Other than the two positions proposed to be filled today, there are three additional vacancies: a representative from an academic institution with knowledge of elections (open since 2018), a representative from the King County Republican Party (open since 2022), and a representative from the Vietnamese-speaking community (open since 2022).

**Table 1: CEOC Membership as of May 2022**

| **Member** | **Organization/Constituency**  |
| --- | --- |
| **Kyle Vixie**Chair | Registered voters |
| **Eliseo Juárez**Vice Chair, Voter Participation | Spanish-speaking community |
| **Jayson Todd Morris**Vice Chair, Best Practices | Disability community |
| **Hillary Coleman** | Registered voters |
| **Linda Grez** | Jurisdictional representative |
| **Tyson Hartman** | Representative who has experience in technology |
| **Stuart Holmes** | Office of Secretary of State |
| **Julie Kang** | Korean-speaking community |
| **Maya Manus** | Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle |
| **Nanette Sullivan** | Municipal League Foundation |
| **Stanley Tsao** | Chinese-speaking community |
| *Vacant* | Nonpartisan organization in King County that provides elections information to the public, such as League of Women Voters |
| *Vacant* | King County Democratic Party |
| *Vacant* | King County Republican Party |
| *Vacant* | Academic institution with knowledge of elections |
| *Vacant* | Vietnamese-speaking community |

**APPOINTMENT APPLICANT INFORMATION**

*Appointments.*

PM 2022-0179 would appoint Hanna Floss to the CEOC as a representative of the King County Democratic Party. Ms. Floss has been an election observer coordinator for the King County Democrats since 2017 and has attended trainings provided by King County Elections. Ms. Floss has also tracked legislation and attended redistricting commission meetings as a member of the public. Included in Ms. Floss's materials is a designation letter from the King County Democratic Party.

PM 2022-0181 would appoint Kathy Sakahara to the CEOC as a representative of the League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan organization active in King County that provides elections information to the public. Ms. Sakahara has served on the board for the League of Women Voters and worked on issues relating to voting rights, campaign finance reform, and election security. The League of Women Voters has designated Ms. Sakahara as its representative.

*Reappointments.*

PM 2022-0189 would reappoint Eliseo Juarez to the CEOC as a representative of the Spanish-speaking community. As noted in Mr. Juarez's application, he has spent over a decade working with community on advocacy, political campaigns, such as voter registration and reducing barriers to voting; and has served on the Commission on Hispanic Affairs and Washington Commission for Judicial Conduct.

PM 2022-0193 would reappoint Linda Grez to the CEOC as a jurisdictional representative from a junior taxing district or a city with a population of under twenty thousand. As noted in Ms. Grez’s application, she has extensive knowledge of local and state elections processes from decades of community organizing experience and leadership roles, including as a former Commissioner from 2008-2019 for the Si View Metropolitan Park District. The Si View Metropolitan Park District has provided a letter of support for Ms. Grez's appointment as the jurisdictional representative to the CEOC.

**ANALYSIS**

Staff has not identified any issues with the proposed appointments and reappointments. They appear to be consistent with the requirements of the County Code.

**INVITED**

* Hanna Floss, Applicant for appointment to the CEOC
* Kathy Sakahara, Applicant for appointment to the CEOC
* Erin Arya, Staff Liaison to the CEOC

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Proposed Motion 2022-0179
2. Proposed Motion 2022-0181
3. Proposed Motion 2022-0189
4. Proposed Motion 2022-0193
1. Previously, Council had created a CEOC in July 2003 (Ordinance 14711) and a CEOC in April 2005 (Ordinance 15157); each met for one year and produced a report with recommendations. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Ordinance 18795 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)