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CLERK
KING COUNTY COUNCIL
King County
Citizens' Election Oversight Committee

June 25, 2018

The Honorable Joe McDermott
Chair Metropolitan King County Council
516 Third Avenue, Suite 1200
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Chair McDermott:

On behalf of the members of the Citizens' Election Oversight Committee (CEOC), I am pleased to transmit this draft of our proposal for an update of Chapter 2.53 of the King County Code relating to the CEOC.

During the summer of 2017, discussions at CEOC began about the relevance of the CEOC. Is there any longer a need for an oversight committee? If there is a need, should there be a change in the most recent ordinance establishing the CEOC, Ordinance 15453 of May 9, 2006? Should there be a change in the membership?

A subcommittee of the CEOC was appointed to examine these issues. The subcommittee included Ellen Hansen, CEOC chair, Marilyn Knight, CEOC vice chair, Frank Radford and Monica Tracey, current members of the CEOC, Paul Berry, former CEOC member, and Mike Alvine, retired King County Council central staff member who was assigned to staff the CEOC.

The subcommittee met several times to examine these issues. Once we agreed on the need for the CEOC, we worked on updating both the King County Code and the membership, to better address the current needs in the Elections Department. Many things have changed since the 2006 ordinance was drafted. Elections is now in Renton in a building designed to meet its needs. We now have an elected Director of Elections. And overall, our elections are running smoothly.

Some members of the subcommittee also met twice with Councilmember Larry Gossett, once in November of 2017, to gauge his view on the relevance of the CEOC and its value to the Council, and again on April 24th of this year to discuss our draft proposal for CEOC membership. Councilmember Gossett said he believed there was indeed a need for the CEOC, and he felt other members of the Council did as well.

Therefore, we are presenting to you our recommendations to update Chapter 2.53 of the King County Code and membership criteria. We look forward to talking with you and answering any questions you may have about these recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ellen Hansen".

Ellen Hansen, Chair, King County Citizens' Elections Oversight Committee

Cc: Metropolitan King County Councilmembers
Dow Constantine, King County Executive
Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff to the King County Council
Shannon Braddock, Chief of Staff to the King County Executive
Melanie Pedroza, Clerk of the Council
Julie Wise, Director, Department of Elections
Members, Citizens' Elections Oversight Committee