



# ADDITIONAL MEETING MATERIALS

Employment & Administration Committee  
July 1, 2025



## King County

# Metropolitan King County Council Employment and Administration Committee

### STAFF REPORT

<b>Agenda Items:</b>		<b>Name:</b>	Erica Newman
<b>Proposed No.:</b>	2025-0178 2025-0179 2025-0180 2025-0181	<b>Date:</b>	July 1, 2025

### SUBJECT

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

- Reappointment of Mike Flood, as the representative from a nonpartisan organization active in King County that evaluates candidates and ballot measures, for a three-year term ending July 31, 2028.
- Reappointment of Christopher Hays, as a registered King County voter, for a three-year term ending July 31, 2028.
- Reappointment of Kathy Sakahara, as a representative from a nonpartisan organization active in King County that provides elections information to the public, for a three-year term ending July 31, 2028.
- Appointment of a candidate as a representative sponsored by a nonpartisan organization in King County that promotes equality and the advancement of Black or African Americans, to fill an unexpired term ending September 30, 2025, and to a new three-year term ending July 31, 2028.

### BACKGROUND

In May 2006, Council adopted Ordinance 15453, which established the CEOC and added a new chapter King County Code (K.C.C).<sup>1</sup> The ordinance allows the Chair and Vice Chair of the Council to solicit nominations to the Committee.

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<sup>1</sup> The ordinance allowed for twelve committee members and the CEOC duties and membership representation are outlined in K.C.C. 2.53

**Ordinance 17273.** In March 2012, the Council adopted ordinance 17273, to comply with the additional language requirement that was placed on King County by Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act, which required political subdivisions to provide alternate language ballots and voter education materials if there were more than ten thousand or over five percent of the total voting age citizens who were members of a single minority language group with limited English language proficiency. Following the results of the 2010 Census, the County amended the CEOC membership representation to include a representative of the Vietnamese-speaking community and a representative from each of any other language minority community for which the Director of the Bureau of the Census determines by publication in the Federal Register that King County is required to provide minority language assistance under Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act. The ordinance also outlined the process for filling vacancies on the CEOC.

**Ordinance 18795.** In September 2018, the Council adopted ordinance 18795, which updated the CEOC's membership composition from twelve to sixteen members. 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". The ordinance also outlines the CEOC's tasks and support provided by staff within the Department of Elections.

**Ordinance 19823.** In June 2024, Council adopted ordinance 19823, which added new CEOC guidelines under the King County Code.<sup>2</sup> The new guidelines are as follows:

- At least twenty-eight days before any election, the department of elections shall request from the citizens' elections oversight committee a list of committee members designated as observers.
- At least a reasonable time before any election, the department of elections shall notify the citizens' elections oversight committee of when ballot processing will begin and shall request observers from the committee for the processing of ballots at the counting center. The absence of observers from the committee will not prevent the processing of ballots.
- The department of elections shall notify the citizens' elections oversight committee of opportunities to observe official logic and accuracy tests for each vote tallying system to be used at elections.
- The department of elections shall notify the citizens' elections oversight committee of opportunities to observe recounts.

The ordinance amended language regarding the CEOC's membership. The ordinance outlines the composition of the CEOC as listed below.

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<sup>2</sup> K.C.C. 2.16

1. *One representative sponsored by a nonpartisan organization active in King County that evaluates candidates and ballot measures, such as the Municipal League;*
2. *One representative sponsored by a nonpartisan organization active in King County that provides elections information to the public, such as the League of Women Voters;*
3. *One representative from the disability community;*
4. *One representative sponsored by either a junior taxing district or a city with a population of under twenty thousand;*
5. *One representative of the Chinese-speaking community;*
6. *One representative of the Vietnamese-speaking community;*
7. *One representative of the Spanish-speaking community;*
8. *One representative from the Korean-speaking community;*
9. *One representative from each of any other language minority community for which the Director of the Bureau of the Census determines by publication in the Federal Register that King County is required to provide minority language assistance under Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act;*
10. *Two King County registered voters who are not representatives of any of the groups listed in subsection A.1. through 9. and 11. through 16. of this section;*
11. *One representative from the King County Democratic Party;*
12. *One representative from the King County Republican Party;*
13. *One ex officio, nonvoting representative from the Office of the Secretary of State;*
14. *One representative sponsored by an academic institution and has knowledge of elections;*
15. *One representative who has experience in technology; and*
16. *One representative sponsored by a nonpartisan organization in King County that promotes equality and the advancement of Black or African Americans, such as the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle.*

Also, the ordinance updated the process for filling vacancies on the CEOC that included the following changes:

- Except the positions for the King County Democratic Party and the King County Republican Party, vacant positions shall be advertised at a minimum in the county's newspaper of record.
- Except for the ex officio position, members are required to reside in King County. However, members, who during their tenures on the committee temporarily live outside the United States but maintain King County as their residences, may continue to serve on the committee during their temporary absences from the county.
- The representative from the King County Democratic Party and the King County Republican Party are not eligible to serve as the chair of the committee.

### **ANALYSIS**

Proposed motions 2025-0178, 2025-0179, 2025-0180, and 2025-0181 would confirm the reappointments and appointment to the CEOC. As outlined under K.C.C. 2.53, 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 below, lists the current membership of the CEOC and the organization or constituency they represent.

**Table 1: CEOC Membership as of June 2025**

<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION/CONSTITUENCY</b>
<b>Mike Flood</b>	representative sponsored by a nonpartisan organization active in King County that evaluates candidates and ballot measures, such as the Municipal League
<b>Kathy Sakahara</b>	representative sponsored by a nonpartisan organization active in King County that provides elections information to the public, such as the League of Women Voters
<b>Carolyn Stevens</b>	Disability community
<b>LeAnn Blanco</b>	representative sponsored by either a junior taxing district or a city with a population under 20,000
<b>Stanley Tsao</b>	Chinese-speaking community
<i>Vacant</i>	Vietnamese-speaking community
<i>Vacant</i>	Spanish-speaking community
<b>Julie Kang</b>	Korean-speaking community
<i>Vacant</i>	representative from each of any other language minority community for which the Director of the Bureau of the Census determines by publication in the Federal Register that King County is required to provide minority language assistance under Section 203 of the Voting

MEMBER	ORGANIZATION/CONSTITUENCY
	Rights Act
Hillary De La Cruz Christoper Hays	registered King County voters
Hanna Floss	King County Democratic Party
Mathew Thomas Vice Chair, Election Monitoring	King County Republican Party
Stuart Holmes	ex officio, nonvoting representative from the Office of the Secretary of State
Jason Lambacher	representative sponsored by an academic institution and has knowledge of elections
Tyson Hartman	representative who has experience in technology
Vacant	representative sponsored by a nonpartisan organization in King County that promotes equality and the advancement of Black or African Americans, such as the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle.

### Reappointments.

**Proposed Motion 2025-0178** would reappoint Mike Flood to the CEOC as the representative sponsored by a nonpartisan organization active in King County that evaluates candidates and ballot measures, for a three-year term ending July 31, 2028. The Municipal League Foundation provided a letter designating Mr. Flood as its representative. Mr. Flood has served on the CEOC since 2022 and serves as a board member of the King County Municipal League, Camp Patriot, and Empower Youth Network. Mr. Flood previously served as a board member of the Lt. Governor's Washington State Leadership Board, and many other community organizations.

**Proposed Motion 2025-0179** would reappoint Christopher Hays to the CEOC as a King County registered voter, for a three-year term ending July 31, 2028. Mr. Hays has served on the CEOC since 2022 and is a graduate of the University of Washington who has interned with the Washington State Legislature and worked with the National Conference of State Legislatures. Mr. Hays is passionate about accessible voting, ensuring the transparency of elections, and preserving the integrity of the election process.

**Proposed Motion 2025-0180** would reappoint Kathy Sakahara to the CEOC as a representative sponsored by a nonpartisan organization active in King County that provides elections information to the public. The League of Women Voters of Seattle King County (LWVSKC) submitted written correspondence designating Mrs. Sakahara as its representative. Mrs. Sakahara is a retired professional and has served on the

CEOC since 2022. Mrs. Sakahara previously served as a Lead Lobbyist and partnered with legislative leadership, Secretary of State, auditors, the Washington Voting Justice Coalition, and leading advocates for voting rights, campaign finance reform and election security.

### Appointment.

**Proposed Motion 2025-0181** would appoint a candidate to the CEOC as a representative sponsored by a nonpartisan organization in King County that promotes equality and the advancement of Black or African Americans, to fill an unexpired term ending September 30, 2025, and to a new three-year term ending July 31, 2028.

The position has been vacant since August 2024. The Council provided notice of the vacancy and accepted applications to fill the position from April 4, 2025 through May 2, 2025 and one application was received. The Employment and Administration Committee intends to interview the candidate, Latasha Mae at the July 1, 2025 meeting.

### AMENDMENT

**Proposed Motion 2025-0181.** An oral amendment would be required to insert the name of the appointee on line 6, line 20, and line 26 of the proposed motion, and to insert the name of the sponsoring nonpartisan organization in King County that promotes equality and the advancement of Black or African Americans on line 6 and 27 of the proposed motion.

An oral title amendment would be required to insert the name of the appointee on line 1 of the proposed motion.

### INVITED

- Latasha Mae, Applicant for appointment to the CEOC

### ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Motion 2025-0178
2. Proposed Motion 2025-0179
3. Proposed Motion 2025-0180
4. Proposed Motion 2025-0181