



ADDITIONAL MEETING MATERIALS

EMPLOYMENT & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE



Metropolitan King County Council Staff Report

Committee:	Employment and Administration Committee		
Agenda Item:	4	Analyst:	Sherrie Hsu
Proposed No.:	2026-0212	Meeting Date:	September 1, 2026

OVERVIEW

TOPIC: A motion confirming the reappointment of Jason Lambacher to the Citizens' Elections Oversight Committee as a representative sponsored by an academic institution and who has knowledge of elections.

BACKGROUND

The current Citizens' Elections Oversight Committee (CEOC) was established by the King County Council in May 2006.¹ The mission, membership, responsibilities, and appointment process for the CEOC are outlined in King County Code (K.C.C.) chapter 2.53.

Mission. The mission of the CEOC is to "help King County maintain public confidence in elections." County code directs the CEOC to make recommendations to the Council to "improve performance of the King County elections division" and to "help ensure that accountability and performance of the elections division is provided in a transparent manner that is meaningful to the residents of King County."

Membership. The CEOC includes 16 positions that 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.

The membership composition was last updated in September 2018, when the Council increased the membership from 14 members to 16 members and changed the composition of the CEOC membership. Table 1 lists the current membership of the CEOC and the organization or constituency they represent.

Responsibilities. The responsibilities of the CEOC are to review reports on elections and recent legislation affecting elections; conduct oversight of the implementation of new standards or procedures for elections; monitor elections and canvassing board meetings;

¹ Ordinance 15453

and submit a report to the Council on its observations, findings, and recommendations each year by February 1.

Appointment process. In case of vacancies, the Council Chair notifies all councilmembers of vacancies, and open positions are posted in the county's newspaper of record (other than the positions representing the King County Democratic Party and the King County Republican Party, as these positions are designated by the parties). 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.

2024 Code Updates. In June 2024, the Council made code changes that added requirements for King County Elections to notify the CEOC for observation opportunities; added a policy that the King County Democratic Party representative and King County Republican Party representative would not be eligible to serve as CEOC Chair; eliminated a requirement to post vacancies for the positions representing King County Democratic Party or King County Republican Party in the newspaper (these positions are designated by the parties); and added a requirement that CEOC members, except for the ex officio member, live in King County.²

Table 1: CEOC Membership as of August 2026

Member	Organization/Constituency
Christopher Hays Chair	Registered voters
Mathew Patrick Thomas Vice Chair, Election Monitoring	King County Republican Party
John Rodriguez Vice Chair, Best Practices and Participation	Spanish-speaking community
Steve Cho	Korean-speaking community
Hillary De La Cruz	Registered voters
Mike Flood	Representative sponsored by a nonpartisan organization active in King County that evaluates candidates and ballot measures, such as the Municipal League
Hanna Floss	King County Democratic Party
Corin Goodwin	Disability community

² Ordinance 19823

Member	Organization/Constituency
Tyson Hartman	Representative who has experience in technology
Stuart Holmes	Office of Secretary of State
Jason Lambacher	Representative sponsored by an academic institution and who has knowledge of elections
Latasha Mae	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
Cynthia McNabb	Representative sponsored by either a junior taxing district or a city with a population under 20,000
Minh Duc Nguyen	Vietnamese-speaking community
Kathy Sakahara	Representative sponsored by a nonpartisan organization active in King County that provides elections information to the public, such as the League of Women Voters
Stanley Tsao	Chinese-speaking community

APPOINTEE INFORMATION

Proposed Motion 2026-0212 would confirm the reappointment of Jason Lambacher to the CEOC as a representative sponsored by an academic institution and who has knowledge of elections, for a three-year term expiring September 30, 2029. Mr. Lambacher has served on the CEOC since 2022³ and is a political scientist and lecturer who teaches American Government with a focus on voting rights and democratic institutions at the University of Washington (UW) Bothell. Mr. Lambacher has a letter of support from UW Bothell.

ANALYSIS

Staff have not identified any issues with the proposed appointment. It appears to be consistent with the requirements of the County Code.

INVITED

- Jason Lambacher, Appointee to the CEOC

³ Appointed to a one-year staggered term through September 30, 2023, and then a three-year term through September 30, 2026.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Motion 2026-0212
2. Application materials (distributed separately)