



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**September 25, 2018**

**Ordinance 18795**

**Proposed No. 2018-0366.1**

**Sponsors Gossett**

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to the citizens' elections  
2 oversight committee; and amending Ordinance 15453,  
3 Section 3, as amended, and K.C.C. 2.53.021, Ordinance  
4 15453, Section 4, as amended, and K.C.C. 2.53.031,  
5 Ordinance 15453, Section 5, and K.C.C. 2.53.041 and  
6 Ordinance 15453, Section 6, as amended, and K.C.C.  
7 2.53.051.

8 PREAMBLE:

9 The current citizens' elections oversight committee was established in 2006 by the  
10 King County council in Ordinance 15453. The citizens' elections oversight  
11 committee serves as a significant resource and asset to King County voters, the  
12 King County council and the department of elections in its role of providing  
13 oversight and advice on conducting elections in King County. The work of the  
14 committee increases transparency, credibility and community engagement of  
15 elections.

16 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

17 SECTION 1. Ordinance 15453, Section 3, as amended, and K.C.C. 2.53.021 are  
18 each hereby amended to read as follows:

19 A. Committee membership shall include:

- 20           1. One representative from a nonpartisan organization active in King County  
21 that evaluates candidates and ballot measures, such as the Municipal League;
- 22           2. One representative from a nonpartisan organization active in King County  
23 that provides elections information to the public, such as the League of Women Voters;
- 24           3. One representative ~~((of an independent research and policy institute))~~ from the  
25 disability community;
- 26           4. One jurisdictional representative from a junior taxing district or a city with a  
27 population of under twenty thousand;
- 28           5. One representative of the Chinese-speaking community;
- 29           6. One representative of the Vietnamese-speaking community;
- 30           7. One representative of the Spanish-speaking community;
- 31           8. One representative of the Korean-speaking community;
- 32           9. One representative from each of any other language minority community for  
33 which the Director of the Bureau of the Census determines by publication in the Federal  
34 Register that King County is required to provide minority language assistance under  
35 Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act;
- 36           ~~((8.))~~ 10. Two King County registered voters who are not representatives of any  
37 of the groups listed in subsection A.1. through ~~((7.))~~ 9. and ~~((9.))~~ 11. through ~~((11.))~~ 16 of  
38 this section;
- 39           ~~((9.))~~ 11. One representative from the King County Democratic Party;
- 40           ~~((10.))~~ 12. One representative from the King County Republican Party;
- 41           ~~((11. One representative from the Washington state Democratic Party;~~
- 42           ~~12. One representative from the Washington state Republican Party;))~~

43           13. One ex officio, nonvoting representative from the Office of the Secretary of  
44 State; (~~and~~

45           ~~14. One ex officio, nonvoting representative from the Washington State~~  
46 ~~Association of County Auditors.))~~

47           14. One representative from an academic institution who has knowledge of  
48 elections;

49           15. One representative who has experience in technology; and

50           16. One representative from a nonpartisan organization in King County that  
51 promotes equality and the advancement of blacks or African Americans, such as the  
52 Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle.

53           B. The process for filling vacancies on the committee is:

54           1. The chair of the council shall notify councilmembers of vacancies on the  
55 committee and shall direct council staff to develop a job description and list of  
56 qualifications for committee members, as well as an application form;

57           2. The open positions shall be advertised at a minimum in the county's  
58 newspaper of record;

59           3. The chair of the council shall direct council staff to develop administrative  
60 procedures for accepting applications. All applications shall be forwarded to all county  
61 councilmembers. Applications shall also be forwarded to the citizens' elections oversight  
62 committee for review and the committee may provide feedback to the employment and  
63 administration committee;

64           4. The employment and administration committee shall review applications, and  
65 may interview applicants. By majority vote, the employment and administration

66 committee shall appoint members to the citizens' elections oversight committee; and

67 5. Appointments shall be confirmed or rejected by the full council by motion.

68 C. When the Director of the Bureau of the Census determines by publication in  
69 the Federal Register that King County is no longer required to provide minority language  
70 assistance under Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act to a language minority community,  
71 the term of the committee member representing that community expires and committee  
72 membership representing that community is no longer required.

73 D. ~~((All m))~~Members should have, but not be limited to:

74 1. A working knowledge of local or state government elections operations and  
75 management, demography, technology and organizational management;

76 2. A strong commitment to an accountable, transparent, well-managed and  
77 efficient elections operation in King County; and

78 3. A willingness to commit the time necessary to attend committee meetings and  
79 activities.

80 E. ~~((Except for the member representing the Washington State Association of  
81 Auditors, a nominee or appointee to the e))~~Committee members shall not hold elective  
82 public office or be a candidate for election to public office, other than as a precinct  
83 committee officer.

84 F. Except for the ex officio member((s)), members shall serve three-year terms.  
85 ~~((However, the representatives representing the groups under subsection A.6, 10. and 11.  
86 of this section appointed in 2006 initially shall serve one-year terms and the  
87 representative representing the group under subsection A.1, 2, 8. and 9. of this section  
88 appointed in 2006 initially shall serve a two-year term.))~~ The ~~((E))~~ex officio member((s))

89 serves at the pleasure of ~~((their))~~ the member's office~~((or association))~~. ~~((The member~~  
90 ~~representing the Vietnamese-speaking community shall serve a three-year term that~~  
91 ~~begins on the date of appointment to the committee and expires December 31, three years~~  
92 ~~after the appointment.))~~ Any other members that may be added as required by Ordinance  
93 17273 and under Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act shall serve three-year terms that  
94 begin on the date of appointment to the committee and expire December 31, three years  
95 after the appointment.

96 SECTION 2. Ordinance 15453, Section 4, as amended, and K.C.C. 2.53.031 are  
97 each hereby amended to read as follows:

98 The mission of the committee is to help King County ~~((restore and))~~ maintain  
99 public confidence in elections. The committee shall make recommendations to the  
100 council to:

- 101 A. Improve performance of the department of elections ~~((division))~~; and
- 102 B. Help ensure that accountability and performance of the department of  
103 elections is provided in a transparent manner that is meaningful to the residents of King  
104 County.

105 SECTION 3. Ordinance 15453, Section 5, and K.C.C. 2.53.041 are each hereby  
106 amended to read as follows:

107 A. Before undertaking its other responsibilities identified in this chapter, the  
108 committee shall elect officers and adopt administrative procedures consistent with this  
109 chapter.

110 B. To accomplish its responsibilities as outlined in this chapter, the committee  
111 shall complete the following tasks:

112           1. Review recent reports on elections and recent legislation that affects elections  
113 standards, procedures, equipment and technologies;

114           2. Conduct oversight of the implementation of new standards or procedures for  
115 elections as mandated by federal, state or county legislation;

116           3. Monitor the special, primary and general elections and canvassing board  
117 meetings to observe if proper procedures are followed, to report on any problems that are  
118 observed or come to light, to recommend corrective actions on problems that may arise  
119 and to ensure that any problems that arise are discussed in an open and public manner.  
120 The committee shall report to the council in a timely way on any significant problems  
121 that might occur or on any serious concerns the committee may have;

122           4. Meet at least quarterly; and

123           5. Submit a report to the council on its observations, findings and  
124 recommendations regarding the special, primary and general elections by February 1 of  
125 each year by filing eleven copies of the report with the clerk of the council for  
126 distribution to all councilmembers.

127           SECTION 4. Ordinance 15453, Section 6, as amended, and K.C.C. 2.53.051 are  
128 each hereby amended to read as follows:

129           A. The council shall provide for appropriate staffing of the committee.

130           B. County staff in ~~((the department of executive services and))~~ the department of  
131 elections shall provide information requested by the committee in a timely manner.

132           ~~((C. By March 31, 2009, the citizens' elections oversight committee shall  
133 evaluate the extent to which county elections operations have changed or improved over  
134 the previous four years and whether there is a need for an ongoing elections oversight~~

135 ~~committee. This evaluation shall be submitted to the clerk of the council. The council~~  
136 ~~shall then make its own determination on the need for an ongoing elections oversight~~  
137 ~~committee.))~~  
138

Ordinance 18795 was introduced on 7/30/2018 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 9/24/2018, by the following vote:

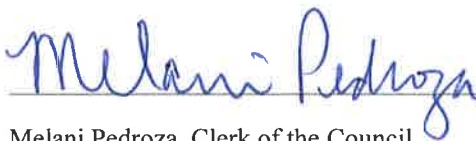
Yes: 9 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn,  
Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski, Mr. Upthegrove, Ms. Kohl-Welles  
and Ms. Balducci  
No: 0  
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Joseph McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:

  
Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

2018 OCT -4 PM 2:19  
CLERK  
KING COUNTY COUNCIL

RECEIVED

APPROVED this 3 day of OCTOBER, 2018.



Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: None