

PROPOSED ORDINANCE 2005-0348

**SEPTEMBER 7, 2005 STAFF REPORT
ATTACHMENTS 4 - 9**

Support for the \$500,000 Turnaround Team supplemental funding

-Comparison to similar consultative efforts the County has experienced, e.g., Election Center Audit of Elections for County Council - \$350,000 (3-4 months, 4-5 people); Independent Task Force on Elections - \$150,000 (2-3 months, 2-3 people); IT Reorganization Study - \$225,000 (4-6 months, 2 people) v.

Turnaround Team (12-18 months, 4-6 people with potential authority/responsibility for some or all of Elections)

-\$500,000 likely not the total cost of Turnaround Team

-Contracted relationship so \$ in 2005 can be carried over into 2006

Physical location depends on scope of Turnaround Team. Additional leased space may be necessary to support the turnaround team or to support displaced staff to make room for the turnaround team. \$2.50 SF at 1,000 SF, 18 months duration = \$45,000.

Infrastructure costs such as workstations, phones, pcs, other miscellaneous items estimated at \$36,000. Ongoing costs estimated at approximately 1,000 per month = \$18,000

\$140 per hour for 18 months equals 403,000

Summary of Election Issues

2002

In 2002, the Records, Elections and Licensing Services Division (REALS) failed to mail in a timely manner tens of thousands of absentee ballots for the November 2002 general election. The ballots were mailed to voters but this was up to two weeks later than the date required by State law. The reasons for the late mailing, along with other problems within REALS, were summarized and discussed in both the Election Procedures Review of King County report issued by the Office of the Secretary of State in February 2003 and the final report issued by a consultant hired by the Council, Ellen Hansen, in April 2003.

A number of changes resulted. One was a change to the King County Code that requires confirmation of the appointment of both the manager of REALS and the superintendent of elections (Ordinance 14570). In addition, the Council created the Citizens' Elections Oversight Committee (CEOC) via Ordinance 14711.

2003

Several polling places ran out of ballots during the April 22, 2003 special election for the Highline School District. More than one thousand five hundred absentee ballots for vote-by-mail precincts in unincorporated King County were not mailed until four days before the May 20, 2003 election. The director of REALS resigned in the wake of these problems.

Elections professionals were hired by the County Executive to manage the elections section and run the County's elections processes. This leadership team was expected to solve the problems that surfaced in the 2002 and 2003 elections and ensure strict compliance with Federal, State and County laws.

2004

The CEOC issued its report examining the problems that arose from the 2002 and 2003 elections. Recommendations included:

- Managers with elections expertise should be hired;
- Elections should be reorganized as a core component of County government and be funded accordingly;
- Periodic independent oversight should be established;
- All ballot processing should occur in a single facility;
- A formal training plan for employees should be implemented; and,
- A quality assurance program should be implemented.

The 2004 General Election exposed many other problems in the Elections Operations Section. A very close gubernatorial election led to both a machine and a manual recount. The manual recount overturned the results of the governor's election in both the regular and machine counts. The process of conducting both the machine and manual recounts led to the identification of additional problems with King County's elections procedures and practices. For example, absentee ballots were not counted during the regular or machine

recount because voter signatures were not on file in the computer system. Most of these were later tallied as part of the manual recount. After the manual recount, a number of ballots were discovered still in their original envelopes. These ballots were not counted at all. Felons who had not had their voting rights restored were shown to have cast ballots. And, ballots were cast by spouses of deceased voters.

Legal action against King County and other parties, while resulting in an affirmation of the results of the manual recount for the governor's race, brought into question many methods and processes used by the County with regard to the handling of ballots and the counting of votes. The judge in the case was highly critical of the "culture" that exists within the King County Elections Section, noting: "It's inertia, it's selfishness, it's taking our paycheck but not doing the work."

2005

Several different groups were commissioned to review the way the County handles its Elections Operations Section. The Executive appointed the Independent Task Force on Elections which issued its report on July 27th, 2005. The Citizens Election Oversight Committee was reestablished and is currently working on its assessment. And, the Council initiated an independent audit that is being overseen by the Auditor's Office. This report is expected to be complete in October 2005.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS



Department of Executive Services
Finance and Business Operations Division
Procurement and Contract Services Section
206-684-1681 TTY Relay: 711

DATE ADVERTISED: August 18, 2005

RFQ Title: Turnaround Team for King County's Elections Office
 Requesting Dept./ Div.: King County Executive's Office
 RFQ Number: 150-05RLD
 Due Date: September 1, 2005 – no later than 2:00 P.M.
 Buyer: Roy L. Dodman roy.dodman@metrokc.gov, (206) 263-4266

There will be no pre-submittal conference for this RFQ.

Sealed Qualification Submittals are hereby solicited and will **ONLY** be received by

**King County Procurement Services Section
Exchange Building, 8th Floor
821 Second Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104-1598**

Office Hours - 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday

SUBMITTERS MUST COMPLETE AND SIGN THE FORM BELOW (TYPE OR PRINT)

Company Name

Address

City/State/Zip Code

Signature

Authorized Representative / Title

E-mail

Phone

Fax

Prime Proposer SEDB Certification number (if applicable - see Section II, Part 6 of this RFP)

This Request for Qualifications will be provided in alternative formats such as Braille, large print, audio cassette or computer disk for individuals with disabilities upon request.

If you received or downloaded this document in .pdf format, a MS Word copy may be obtained by contacting the buyer listed above. This MS Word document will be transmitted by e-mail.

Sealed qualification submittals are hereby solicited and will be received only at the office of the King County Procurement Services Section at 821 Second Avenue, 8th Floor, Seattle, Washington, 98104 no later than 2 p.m. on the date noted above regarding the creation of a *Turnaround Team for the King County Elections Office*, sponsored by the *King County Executive's Office*. These services shall be provided to King County in accordance with the following and the attached instructions, requirements, and specifications.

Submittal: King County requires the Submitter to sign and return *this entire Request for Qualification (RFQ) document*. The Submitter shall provide *one unbound original and five (5) copies* of the submittal response, data or attachments offered, for *six (6) items* total. The original in both cases shall be noted or stamped "Original".

Questions: Submitters will be required to submit any questions in writing prior to the close of business Wednesday, August 24, 2005 in order for staff to prepare any response required to be answered by Addendum. Questions are best received and most quickly responded to when sent via e-mail directly to the following King County procurement personnel: *Primary* – Roy L. Dodman, Senior Buyer roy.dodman@metrokc.gov / *Secondary* – Cathy M. Betts, Buyer cathy.betts@metrokc.gov. Questions may also be sent via fax or mail to the address above.

SECTION I – GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. King County is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate against individuals or firms because of their race, color, creed, marital status, religion, age, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, or the presence of any mental, physical or sensory handicap in an otherwise qualified handicapped person.
- B. All submitted qualifications and evaluation materials become public information and may be reviewed by appointment by anyone requesting to do so *at the conclusion* of the evaluation, negotiation, and award process. This process is concluded when a signed contract is completed between King County and the selected Consultant. Please note that if an interested party requests copies of submitted documents or evaluation materials, a standard King County copying charge per page must be received prior to processing the copies. King County *will not* make available photocopies of pre-printed brochures, catalogs, tear sheets or audio-visual materials that are submitted as support documents with qualification submittals. Those materials will be available for review at King County Procurement.
- C. No other distribution of qualifications will be made by the Submitters prior to any public disclosure regarding the RFQ, the submittal or any subsequent awards without written approval by King County. For this RFQ all qualification submittals received by King County shall remain valid for ninety (90) days from the date of submittal. All submittals received in response to this RFQ will be retained.
- D. Submittals shall be prepared simply and economically, providing a straightforward and concise but complete and detailed description of the Submitter's abilities to meet the requirements of this RFQ. Fancy bindings, colored displays and promotional materials are not desired. Emphasis shall be on completeness of content.
- E. King County reserves the right to reject any qualification submittals deemed not responsive to its needs.
- F. In the event it becomes necessary to revise any part of this RFQ, addenda shall be created and posted at the King County Procurement web site. Addenda will also be conveyed to those potential submitters providing an accurate e-mail address. If desired, a hard copy of any addenda may be provided upon request.
- G. King County is not liable for any cost incurred by the Submitter prior to issuing the contract.
- H. A contract may be negotiated with the Submitter whose qualifications would be most advantageous to King County in the opinion of the King County Executive's Office, all factors considered. King County reserves the right to reject any or all qualification submittals.
- I. It is proposed that if a selection is made as a result of this RFQ, a contract with a fixed price/prices will be negotiated. Negotiations may be undertaken with the Submitter who is considered to be the most suitable for the work. This RFQ is primarily designed to identify the most qualified firm. Price and schedule will be

negotiated with the "first choice" Submitter; negotiations may be instituted with the second choice and subsequent Submitter until the project is canceled or an acceptable contract is executed.

- J. This RFQ shall be available for use by all King County Departments, Divisions and Agencies. If orders will be placed by the County's Transit Division, the Contractor will be required to sign and comply with the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA)'s required documentation. This RFQ may also be used, as appropriate and allowed, by other governmental agencies and political sub-divisions within the State of Washington.
- K. The contents of the qualification submittal of the selected Submitter shall become contractual obligations if a contract ensues. Failure of the Submitter to accept these obligations may result in cancellation of their selection.
- L. A contract between the Consultant and King County shall include all documents mutually entered into specifically including the contract instrument, the original RFQ *as issued* by King County, and the response to the RFQ. The contract must include, and be consistent with, the specifications and provisions stated in the RFQ.
- M. News releases pertaining to this RFQ, the services, or the project to which it relates, shall not be made without prior approval by, and then only in coordination with, the King County Department of Executive Services.
- N. King County Code 4.16.025 prohibits the acceptance of any bid, proposal or submittal after the time and date specified on the Request for Qualifications. There shall be no exceptions to this requirement.
- O. King County agencies' staffs are prohibited from speaking with potential Submitters about the project during the solicitation.

Please direct all questions to:

Roy L. Dodman / Senior Buyer
(206) 263-4266
roy.dodman@metrokc.gov

or

Cathy M. Betts / Buyer
(206) 263-4267
cathy.betts@metrokc.gov

NOTE: Documents and other information is available in alternate formats for individuals with disabilities upon advance request by calling Mary Lou Allwine at 206-296-4210 or TTY711.

- P. Protest Procedure - King County has a process in place for receiving protests based upon either bids, proposals, submittals, or contract awards. If you would like to receive or review a copy, please contact the Buyer named on the front page of this document or call Procurement Services at 206-684-1681.
- Q. Term Service Requirement

If a contract is awarded based on this RFQ, it may contain the following provision:

Contract Extension

The initial contract period will be for one (1) year from the start date of the contract. The term of the contract may be extended in one (1) year increments for two (2) additional one-year periods for a total contract duration of three (3) years, in accordance with the County's best interest and at the sole option of the County. Prices shall remain firm for the duration of the contract period. Reasonable price changes based on market conditions and price/cost analysis *may* be requested, if such escalations are based on changes in the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers ("CPI-U") for the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton Statistical Metropolitan Area for the preceding calendar year. You may obtain information about the CPI-U in general and the Seattle area in particular by visiting the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics web site at <http://www.bls.gov/cpi/>. In the event the CPI-U (or a successor or substitute index) is no longer published, a reliable government or other non-partisan index of inflation selected by the County shall be used to calculate any adjusted amounts. Requests for any such changes are to be made in writing to the King County's Executive's Office, and approved by the County Executive or his/her designee. Any agreed-to change shall take effect at the time of the contract extension and shall remain in effect throughout the extension period. The parties hereto

recognize that such changes could be increases or decreases in the prices; both parties are entitled to benefit from such price changes.

- R. **Electronic Commerce and Correspondence.** King County is committed to reducing costs and facilitating quicker communication to the community by using electronic means to convey information. As such, most Invitations to Bid, Requests for Proposal, and Requests for Qualifications, as well as related exhibits, appendices, and issued addenda can be found on the King County Internet Web Site, located at <http://www.metrokc.gov/finance/procurement>. Please refer to the "RFPs, RFQs & ITBs / New / Consultants" portion of the site (note: some documents or portions thereof may not be posted on the site. Please note any special messages regarding a particular solicitation). This information is posted at the Web Site as a *convenience* to the public, and is not intended to replace the King County process of formally requesting bid documents and providing the County with contact information for the potential Submitter. Each Submitter bears the responsibility to confirm the completeness and accuracy of all documents pertaining to a given solicitation, including the receipt of all issued addenda.

If a Submitter downloads a document from the Web Site and does not contact the Procurement Office to obtain a hard copy, the Submitter *must* use the "Feedback" (Envelope) button at the bottom of the Web page to convey the Submitter's company name, contact name, mailing address, and phone/fax number to the County. Please note which document/documents were downloaded.

After submittals have been opened in public, the County will post a listing of the consultants submitting qualifications at the King County Internet site. Please refer to the "RFPs, RFQs & ITBs / Awarded / Consultants" portion of the site for a listing, as well as a notification of a final determination.

Unless otherwise requested, letters and other transmittals pertaining to this RFQ will be issued to the e-mail address noted in our files, and after submittal, noted on the first page of this document. If other personnel should be contacted via e-mail in the evaluation of this submittal, or to be notified of evaluation results, please complete the information in the table below.

Contact Name	Title	Phone	E-mail address

- S. Washington State Public Disclosure Act (RCW 42.17) requires public agencies in Washington to promptly make public records available for inspection and copying unless they fall within the specified exemptions contained in the Act, or are otherwise privileged.
- T. Qualifications submitted under this RFQ shall be considered public documents and with limited exceptions qualification submittals that are recommended for contract award will be available for inspection and copying by the public. King County may request an electronic copy of your submittal response at a later time for this purpose. This copy may be requested in MS Word format, and delivered either by e-mail or directly delivered on CD.

If a Submitter considers any portion of his/her submittal to be protected under the law, the Submitter shall clearly identify on the page(s) affected such words as "CONFIDENTIAL," "PROPRIETARY" or "BUSINESS SECRET." The Submitter shall also use the descriptions above in the following table to identify the affected page number(s) and location(s) of any material to be considered as confidential (attach additional sheets as necessary). If a request is made for disclosure of such portion, the County will determine whether the material should be made available under the law. If the material is not exempt from public disclosure law, the County will notify the Submitter of the request and allow the Submitter ten (10) days to take whatever action it deems necessary to protect its interests. If the Submitter fails or neglects to take such action within said period, the County will release the portion of the submittal deemed subject to dis-

closure. By submitting qualifications, the Submitter assents to the procedure outlined in this paragraph and shall have no claim against the County on account of actions taken under such procedure.

Type of exemption	Beginning Page / Location	Ending Page / Location

- U. Submitters are urged to use recycled/recyclable products and both sides of paper for printed and photocopied materials, whenever practicable, in preparing responses to this RFQ.
- V. During the solicitation process, King County strongly discourages the transmittal of Company information, brochures, and other promotional materials, other than a address, contact and e-mail information, prior to the due date of proposals. Any pre-packaged material received by a potential proposer prior to the receipt of proposals shall not be reviewed by the County.
- W. Bid Identification Label: Please see the Bid Identification Label on the last page of this document.

SECTION II – PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS AND SCOPE OF WORK.

PART 1 – Introduction

The Office of the King County Executive is seeking to contract with a turnaround team to lead the transition to a new agency culture in King County's elections office, including making critical organizational and operational improvements in the County's elections system. The turnaround team will report directly to King County Executive Ron Sims and is expected to lead the effort to create the new agency culture for twelve to eighteen months.

The Washington State gubernatorial election was one of the closest in our nation's history. The winner was not declared until January 2005, following a second recount of the votes. During the recount process, much attention was focused on King County, Washington's largest county with nearly two million people and almost one million voters (approximately one-third of all voters in the state).

In April 2005 King County Executive Ron Sims appointed ten respected community leaders to serve on the King County Independent Task Force on Elections, and challenged its members to: 1) recommend short- and long-term strategies to improve the County's elections processes; 2) help restore public trust and confidence in the County's elections system; and 3) produce a set of recommendations that could help build a foundation for King County to have a model elections system in the country.

In July 2005 the Task Force issued its Report and Recommendations to the King County Executive. The Task Force found that the culture of the Elections Section is the greatest challenge to ensuring elections that are fair, accurate and reliable. To achieve the goal that each vote cast is accurately counted, the organizational culture of the elections office must be transformed. Therefore, the most urgent and immediate of the Task Force's fifteen recommendations is the proposal that King County contract an outside organization with expertise in organizational "turnarounds" to lead the transition to a new agency culture.

Specific areas that the turnaround team is expected to address include: facilitate an organizational environment that ensures rigorous compliance with elections laws, policies and procedures; improve employee morale, accountability and ownership; strengthen communications between management and staff, and between the Elections Section and key constituents, including the public-at-large; provide for operational controls and quality assurance processes that identify and address inevitable human errors before they undermine the elections system; refine existing or develop new employee training and certification programs; provide for equitable treatment of all employees; and ensure that the leadership structure has the skills and resources needed to achieve the public's interests and King County's goals.

Please see the following items from the King County Independent Task Force on Elections, all of which are dated July 27, 2005 and are included as part of this RFQ:

- Attachment A - Letter from Task Force chairperson Cheryl Scott to King County Executive Ron Sims;
- Attachment B - Task Force Report and Recommendations to the King County Executive;
- Attachment C - Task Force Technical Report and Recommendations to the King County Executive.

These items may be obtained in electronic form (.pdf format) either at the King County Procurement Website listed in Section I, or by contacting the Buyers listed in Section I. These documents are available via e-mail.

PART 2 – Scope of Services

The turnaround team's services are expected to be needed for 12-18 months. The team is required to lead the transition to a new agency culture, including making critical organizational and operational improvements in King County's elections office. From the day the turnaround team is in place, it will be fully engaged in the cultural, leadership, management and operational issues of the Elections Section, and will be expected to routinely meet with and update the Executive on what it is finding and the steps it is taking to achieve the public's and the County's goals.

Within ninety days of being contracted, the team must submit to the King County Executive and the Independent Task Force on Elections a turnaround plan that identifies the cultural, leadership, management

and operational improvements that are needed and recommends strategies for implementing them. The plan must also define the outcomes that will be accomplished and the organizational culture that must exist for the turnaround team to be able to exit and be replaced by the agency's leadership team. Specific, measurable and attainable goals to be accomplished by the end of each quarter during the time that the turnaround team is in place, and the performance indicators that will measure progress in achieving those goals, are also expected to be included in the plan.

The Executive will ask the Independent Task Force on Elections to review and comment on the turnaround plan; once the Task Force has provided its comments and the Executive has approved the plan, the process of implementing it will begin. That is expected to be around January 1st, 2006.

Because the turnaround team will likely be contracted around the time of the September 20th, 2005 Primary Election, the turnaround team is expected to initially assess the situation, and base the turnaround plan it proposes on that assessment. The findings and recommendations of the King County Council-appointed audit team and the recommendations of the Citizens Elections Oversight Committee (CEOC) will become available this autumn and should assist the turnaround team in developing the plan.

While this assessment phase is underway, the team will have the authority to recommend to the Executive immediate actions that need to be taken to address urgent issues and correct problems that are obstacles to achieving the County's long-term goals.

While the plan must be tailored to the specific issues, interests and concerns that the turnaround team identifies through its assessment, the Executive believes the plan should include such elements as: 1) a clear, compelling, long-term vision that is aligned with the public's values and interests; 2) the specific, measurable and attainable goals and strategies that will produce a new organizational culture; 3) a comprehensive strategic business plan that improves the operations of the elections system and promotes accuracy and accountability; and 4) job descriptions that reflect current needs, and strategies to place the right people in the right jobs.

The Executive expects the turnaround plan to be a three or four-year action plan, and the team to manage its implementation for the first 12-18 months. During that time, the turnaround team will report directly to the County Executive. The Executive will hold the team accountable for accomplishing the plan's goals and strategies, and will meet frequently with the team to ensure that the outcomes are what were expected. As the goals are achieved that were expected to be met before the team exits, the Executive and turnaround team will work together to plan for the team's departure. As one of the turnaround team's final duties, it will oversee the process in which the leadership team is put in place.

Finally, the County Executive expects that the turnaround team will involve the employees and stakeholders of the Elections Section in helping to implement the plan. The plan must identify strategies to capitalize on the talent that is present in the elections office while increasing employee "ownership" and accountability, and to build public trust and confidence in King County's elections system.

PART 3 – Products and Deliverables

The products and deliverables expected of the turnaround team are identified in Part 2 of this Section. The methods by which the turnaround team reports to and updates the County Executive on progress in changing the Elections Section's organizational culture and by which it provides the products and deliverables will be negotiated between Executive and the team once the team is contracted.

PART 4 - Submittal Format

The submittal shall consist of the following: a letter of interest; a detailed description of the firm's qualifications; resumes of all staff that will be assigned to serve on the turnaround team; and information that:

- Demonstrates the firm's expertise in assisting public, private and/or non-profit organizations as an outside, independent group to create a new agency organizational culture;
- Demonstrates that the turnaround team has knowledge of the issues described in the Scope of Services, particularly in the areas of leadership, management, cultural change and elections administration;

- Outlines the personnel assignments for these issues and the staff members' qualifications;
- Identifies three references for whom you have performed similar services within the last five years, including names and phone numbers; and
- Estimates the cost of the turnaround team's services for twelve months.

PART 5 - Evaluation Criteria

Submittals will be ranked according to the following criteria:

- Demonstrated expertise and success in leading public, private and/or non-profit agencies to create organizational cultures that are characterized by candor, fairness, trust, customer service, openness, accessibility, accountability, inclusiveness, equity and accuracy. (50 points)
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively with elected officials, citizens, public servants at various levels of government and the representatives of such groups as community associations, political parties, bargaining units, special interest or advocacy groups and the media. (30 points)
- Knowledge of and familiarity with King County's and Washington State's elections policies, procedures, requirements and programs, including the administration of elections. (20 points)
- SEDB Certification – see Part 6 below (10 points)

PART 6 – King County Contracting Opportunities Program

The purpose of the King County Contracting Opportunities Program is to maximize the participation of Small Economically Disadvantaged Businesses (SEDB) through the use of rating points in the award of King County competitively bid contracts for the acquisition of technical services. The program is open to all firms that are certified as an SEDB by King County's Business Development and Contract Compliance Office.

A "Small Economically Disadvantaged Business" (SEDB) means that a business and the person or persons who own and control it are in a financial condition, which puts the business at a substantial disadvantage in attempting to compete for public contracts. The relevant financial condition for eligibility under the Program is set at fifty percent (50%) of the Federal Small Business Administration (SBA) small business size standards using the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS), and an Owners' Personal Net Worth less than \$750K dollars.

A "Certified Firm" means a business that has applied for participation in King County's Contracting Opportunities Program, and has been certified as an SEDB by the King County Business Development and Contract Compliance (BDCC) office. Information about becoming a Certified Firm, as well as a list of Certified Firms, may be obtained by visiting the King County's Contracting Opportunities Program Website address: <http://www.metrokc.gov/exec/bred/bdcc/program/kccontractopp.htm> or contacting the BDCC office at (206) 205-0711.

In the evaluation of proposals, ten points will be allotted for SEDB participation. King County will count only the participation of SEDBs that are certified by King County at the date and time of proposal submittal. After tabulation of the selection criteria points of all prime submitters, ten (10) points shall be added to the score of all proposals that meet at least one of the two following sub-criterion:

1. If the Prime submitter is a SEDB firm that anticipates performing work for the entire contract unassisted and includes the SEDB certification number on page one of this submittal.
2. If the Prime submitter is not an SEDB but will use SEDBs for at least 5% of the total contract labor hours in the work to be performed in this contract, and who complete the following table and include it in their proposal submission:

SEDB Certification Number	Sub-Consultant Name	Contact Name / Phone	Work to be performed	Percentage of Total Hours

SEDB participation shall be counted only for SEDBs performing a commercially useful function according to custom and practice in the industry. A commercially useful function is defined as a specific scope of work for which the SEDB has the management and technical expertise to perform using its own workforce and resources.

SECTION III - NONDISCRIMINATION AND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

If a contract is awarded from this Request for Qualifications, it will contain the following contract language:

PART 1: NON-DISCRIMINATION

- A. King County Code Chapters 12.16, 12.17 and 12.18 are incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein and such requirements apply to this Contract; provided however, that no specific levels of utilization of minorities and women in the workforce of the Consultant shall be required, and the Consultant is not required to grant any preferential treatment on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin in its employment practices; and provided further that, notwithstanding the foregoing, any affirmative action requirements set forth in any federal regulations, statutes or rules included or referenced in the contract documents shall continue to apply.
- B. During the performance of this Contract, neither the Consultant nor any party subcontracting under the authority of this Contract shall discriminate nor tolerate harassment on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, nationality, creed, marital status, sexual orientation, age, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability in the employment or application for employment or in the administration or delivery of services or any other benefits under this Contract.
- C. The Consultant shall, prior to the commencement of the work and during the term of this Contract, furnish the County, upon request and on such forms as may be provided by the County, a report of the affirmative action taken by the Consultant in implementing the terms of this section. The Consultant will permit access by the County to the Consultant's records of employment, employment advertisements, application forms, other pertinent data and records related to this Contract for the purpose of monitoring and investigation to determine compliance with these requirements.
- D. The Consultant shall implement and carry out the obligations contained in its Affidavit and Certificate of Compliance regarding equal employment opportunity. Failure to implement and carry out such obligations in good faith may be considered by the County as a material breach of this Contract and grounds for withholding payment and/or termination of the Contract and dismissal of the Consultant.
- E. The Consultant shall comply fully with all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, executive orders and regulations that prohibit such discrimination. These laws include, but are not limited to, RCW Chapter 49.60 and Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- F. During the performance of this Contract, neither the Consultant nor any party subcontracting under the authority of this Contract shall engage in unfair employment practices. It is an unfair employment practice for any:
 1. Employer or labor organization to discriminate against any person with respect to referral, hiring, tenure, promotion, terms, conditions, wages or other privileges of employment;
 2. Employment agency or labor organization to discriminate against any person with respect to membership rights and privileges, admission to or participation in any guidance program, apprenticeship training program, or other occupational training program;
 3. Employer, employment agency, or labor organization to print, circulate, or cause to be printed, published or circulated, any statement, advertisement, or publication relating to employment or membership, or to use any form of application thereof, which indicates any discrimination unless based upon a bona fide occupation qualification;
 4. Employment agency to discriminate against any person with respect to any reference for employment or assignment to a particular job classification;
 5. Employer, employment agency or a labor organization to retaliate against any person because this person has opposed any practice forbidden by KCC Chapter 12.18 or because that person has made a charge, testified or assisted in any manner in any investigation, proceeding or hearing initiated under the provisions of KCC Chapter 12.18;

6. Publisher, firm, corporation, organization or association printing, publishing or circulating any newspaper, magazine or other written publication to print or cause to be printed or circulated any advertisement with knowledge that the same is in violation of KCC Chapter 12.18.030C., or to segregate and separately designate advertisements as applying only to men and women unless such discrimination is reasonably necessary to the normal operation of the particular business, enterprise or employment, unless based upon a bona fide occupational qualification; and/or
7. Employer to prohibit any person from speaking in a language other than English in the workplace unless:
 - a. The employer can show that requiring that employees speak English at certain times is justified by business necessity, and
 - b. The employer informs employees of the requirement and the consequences of violating the rule.

PART 2: REQUIRED SUBMITTALS

- A. All Consultants entering into a contract or agreement with King County valued at \$25,000 or more shall, after the Submitter receives written notice of selection, submit the following:
 1. A Personnel Inventory Report on the form provided by the County.
 2. An Affidavit of Compliance demonstrating the Consultant's commitment to comply with the provisions of KCC Chapter 12.16.
 3. A Sworn Statement of Compliance with 12.16 from any labor union or employee referral agency that refers workers or employees or provides or supervises training programs from whom the Consultant obtains employees.
- B. The County will not execute any agreement or contract without prior receipt of fully executed forms listed in subparagraph A above.
- C. Assistance with the requirements of this Section and copies of Chapters 12.16, 12.17 and 12.18 are available from the Business Development & Contract Compliance (BDCC) Section, phone (206) 205-0700.

PART 3: NONDISCRIMINATION IN SUBCONTRACTING PRACTICES

- A. Compliance with Initiative 200. In accordance with the provisions of Washington Initiative 200, no County Minority and Women Business (M/WBE) utilization requirements shall apply to this Contract. No minimum level of M/WBE sub-consultant participation or purchase from M/WBE certified vendors is required and no preference will be given by the County to a Bidder, Submitter or Proposer for their M/WBE utilization or M/WBE status. Provided, however, that any affirmative action requirements set forth in any federal regulations or statutes included or referenced in the Contract documents will continue to apply.
- B. Non-Discrimination. During the term of this Contract, the Consultant shall not create barriers to open and fair opportunities to participate in County contracts or to obtain or compete for contracts and subcontracts as sources of supplies, equipment, construction and services. In considering offers from and doing business with sub-consultants and suppliers, the Consultant shall not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex, age, nationality, marital status, sexual orientation or the presence of any mental or physical disability in an otherwise qualified disabled person.

During the performance of work performed under any Agreement resulting from this RFQ, neither the consultant nor any party subcontracting under the authority of the agreement shall discriminate or engage in unfair contracting practices prohibited by K.C.C. 12.17.

- C. Record-Keeping Requirements. The Consultant shall maintain, for at least 6 years after completion of all work under this contract, records and information necessary to document its level of utilization of M/WBEs and other businesses as sub-consultants and suppliers in this contract and in its overall public and private business activities for the same period. The Consultant shall also maintain, for at least 6 years after completion of all work under this contract, all written quotes, bids, estimates or proposals submitted to the Consultant by all businesses seeking to participate on this Contract. Consultant shall make such

documents available to the County for inspection and copying upon request. If this contract involves federal funds, Consultant shall comply with all record keeping requirements set forth in any federal rules, regulations or statutes included or referenced in the contract documents.

D. Open Competitive Opportunities. King County encourages the utilization of minority owned businesses ("MBEs") and women-owned businesses ("WBEs")(collectively, "M/WBEs") in County contracts. The County encourages the following practices to promote open competitive opportunities for small businesses including M/WBEs:

1. Attending a pre-bid or pre-solicitation conference, if scheduled by the County, to provide project information and to inform M/WBEs and other firms of contracting and subcontracting opportunities.
2. Placing all qualified small businesses attempting to do business in King County, including M/WBEs, on solicitation lists, and providing written notice of subcontracting opportunities to M/WBEs and all other small businesses capable of performing the work, including without limitation all businesses on any list provided by the County, in sufficient time to allow such businesses to respond to the written solicitations.
3. Breaking down total requirements into smaller tasks or quantities, where economically feasible, in order to permit maximum participation by small businesses including M/WBEs.
4. Establishing delivery schedules, where the requirements of this contract permit, that encourage participation by small businesses, including M/WBEs.
5. Providing small businesses including M/WBEs that express interest with adequate and timely information about plans, specifications, and requirements of the contract.
6. Utilizing the services of available community organizations, Consultant groups, local assistance offices, the County, and other organizations that provide assistance in the recruitment and placement of small businesses including M/WBEs.

Further, the County encourages small businesses, including M/WBEs, to participate in the following practices to promote open competitive opportunities:

1. Attending a pre-bid or pre-solicitation conference, if scheduled by the County, to receive project information and to inform prime bidders/proposers of contracting and subcontracting capabilities.
2. Requesting placement on solicitation lists, and receipt of written notice of subcontracting opportunities.
3. Utilizing the services of available community organizations, Consultant groups, local assistance offices, the County, and other organizations that provide assistance in the recruitment and placement of small businesses and M/WBEs.

E. Sanctions for Violations. Any violation of the mandatory requirements of the provisions of this Section shall be a material breach of contract for which the Consultant may be subject to damages and sanctions provided for by contract and by applicable law.

PART 4: REQUIREMENTS DURING WORK

A. Site Visits

King County may at any time visit the site of the work and the Consultant's office to review records related to actual utilization of and payments to subcontracting firms. The Consultant shall maintain sufficient records necessary to enable King County to review utilization of subcontracting firms. The Consultant shall provide every assistance requested by King County during such visits.

PART 5: COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973, AS AMENDED AND THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990

The Consultant shall complete a Disability Self-Evaluation Questionnaire for all programs and services offered by the Consultant (including any services not subject to this Contract) and shall evaluate its services, programs and employment practices for compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended ("504"), and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"). The Consultant shall complete a 504/ADA Disability Assurance of Compliance prior to execution of a contract.

SECTION IV - GENERAL CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS

PART 1: TERMINATION CLAUSES

- A. This Contract may be terminated by the County without cause, in whole or in part, upon providing the Consultant ten (10) calendar days' advance written notice of the termination.

If the Contract is terminated pursuant to this Section IV, paragraph A: (1) the County will be liable only for payment in accordance with the terms of this Contract for services rendered prior to the effective date of termination; and (2) the Consultant shall be released from any obligation to provide further services pursuant to the Contract.

- B. The County may terminate this Contract, in whole or in part, upon five (5) calendar days' advance written notice in the event: (1) the Consultant materially breaches any duty, obligation, or services required pursuant to this Contract, or (2) the duties, obligations, or services required herein become impossible, illegal, or not feasible.

If the Contract is terminated by the County pursuant to this Subsection IV(B) (1), the Consultant shall be liable for damages, including any additional costs of procurement of similar services from another source.

If the termination results from acts or omissions of the Consultant, including but not limited to misappropriation, nonperformance of required services or fiscal mismanagement, the Consultant shall return to the County immediately any funds, misappropriated or unexpended, which have been paid to the Consultant by the County.

- C. If expected or actual funding is withdrawn, reduced or limited in any way prior to the termination date set forth above in Section II or in any amendment hereto, the County may, upon written notice to the Consultant, immediately terminate this Contract in whole or in part.

If the Contract is terminated pursuant to this Section IV, paragraph C: (1) the County will be liable only for payment in accordance with the terms of this Contract for services rendered prior to the effective date of termination; and (2) the Consultant shall be released from any obligation to provide further services pursuant to the Contract.

Funding under this Contract beyond the current appropriation year is conditional upon appropriation by the County Council of sufficient funds to support the activities described in this Contract. Should such an appropriation not be approved, this contract will terminate at the close of the current appropriation year.

- D. Nothing herein shall limit, waive, or extinguish any right or remedy provided by this Contract or law that either party may have in the event that the obligations, terms and conditions set forth in this Contract are breached by the other party.

PART 2: INDEMNIFICATION AND HOLD HARMLESS

- A. In providing services under this Contract, the Consultant is an independent contractor, and neither the Consultant nor its officers, agents or employees are an employee of the County for any purpose. The Consultant shall be responsible for all federal and/or state tax, industrial insurance, and Social Security liability that may result from the performance of and compensation for these services and shall make no claim of career service or civil service rights which may accrue to a County employee under state or local law.

The County assumes no responsibility for the payment of any compensation, wages, benefits or taxes to, or on behalf of, the Consultant, its employees or others by reason of this Contract. The Consultant shall protect, indemnify and save harmless the County, its officers, agents and employees from and against any and all claims, costs and/or losses whatsoever occurring or resulting from 1) the Consultant's failure to pay any such compensation, wages, benefits or taxes; and 2) the supplying to the Consultant of work, services, materials and/or supplies by Consultant employees or other suppliers in connection with the performance of this Contract.

- B. The Consultant further agrees that it is financially responsible for and shall repay the County all indicated amounts following an audit exception which occurs due to the negligence, intentional acts or failure for any

reason to comply with the terms of this Contract by the Consultant, its officers, employees, agents and/or representatives. This duty to repay the County shall not be diminished or extinguished by the prior termination of the Contract pursuant to the Duration of Contract, or the Termination section.

- C. The Consultant shall protect, defend, indemnify, and save harmless the County, [and the State of Washington (when any funds for this Contract are provided by the State of Washington)] their officers, employees, and agents from any and all costs, claims, judgments, and/or awards of damages, arising out of or in any way resulting from the negligent acts or omissions of the Consultant, its officers, employees, and/or agents. The Consultant agrees that its obligations under this subparagraph extend to any claim, demand and/or cause of action brought by or on behalf of any of its employees or agents. For this purpose, the Consultant by mutual negotiation, hereby waives, as respects the County only, any immunity that would otherwise be available against such claims under the Industrial Insurance provisions of Title 51 RCW. In the event that County incurs attorney fees and/or costs in the defense of claims, for damages within the scope of this section, such fees and costs shall be recoverable from the Consultant. In addition King County shall be entitled to recover from the Consultant fees, and costs incurred to enforce the provisions of this section.

Claims shall include, but not be limited to, assertions that the use or transfer of any software, book, document, report, film, tape, or sound reproduction or material of any kind, delivered hereunder, constitutes an infringement of any copyright, patent, trademark, trade name, or otherwise results in unfair trade practice.

Nothing contained within this provision shall affect and/or alter the application of any other provision contained within this agreement.

PART 3: INSURANCE

The selected Consultant shall furnish Commercial General Liability, to include Products and Completed Operations, in the amount of \$1,000,000 combined single limit; \$2,000,000 aggregate. In addition, evidence of Workers' Compensation and Stop-Gap Employer's Liability for a limit of \$1,000,000 shall be provided.

Such policy/policies shall endorse King County, and its appointed and elected officials, officers, agents and employees as additional insureds.

King County reserves the right to approve deductible/self-insured retention levels and the acceptability of insurers.

PART 4: CORRECTIVE ACTION

If the County determines that a breach of contract has occurred, that is the Consultant has failed to comply with any terms or conditions of this Contract or the Consultant has failed to provide in any manner the work or services agreed to herein, and if the County deems said breach to warrant corrective action, the following sequential procedure will apply:

- A. The County will notify the Consultant in writing of the nature of the breach;
- B. The Consultant shall respond in writing within three (3) working days of its receipt of such notification, which response shall indicate the steps being taken to correct the specified deficiencies. The corrective action plan shall specify the proposed completion date for bringing the Contract into compliance, which date shall not be more than ten (10) days from the date of the Consultant's response; unless the County, at its sole discretion, specifies in writing an extension in the number of days to complete the corrective actions;
- C. The County will notify the Consultant in writing of the County's determination as to the sufficiency of the Consultant's corrective action plan. The determination of sufficiency of the Consultant's corrective plan shall be at the sole discretion of the County;
- D. In the event that the Consultant does not respond within the appropriate time with a corrective action plan, or the Consultant's corrective action plan is determined by the County to be insufficient, the County may commence termination of this Contract in whole or in part pursuant to Section IV.B;

- E. In addition, the County may withhold any payment owed the Consultant or prohibit the Consultant from incurring additional obligations of funds until the County is satisfied that corrective action has been taken or completed; and
- F. Nothing herein shall be deemed to affect or waive any rights the parties may have pursuant to Section IV, Termination Clauses, Subsections A, B, C, and D.

PART 5: ASSIGNMENT/SUBCONTRACTING

- A. The Consultant shall not assign or subcontract any portion of this Contract or transfer or assign any claim arising pursuant to this Contract without the written consent of the County. Said consent must be sought in writing by the Consultant not less than fifteen (15) calendar days prior to the date of any proposed assignment.
- B. "Subcontract" shall mean any agreement between the Consultant and a Subcontractor or between Subcontractors that is based on this Contract, provided that the term "subcontract" does not include the purchase of (i) support services not related to the subject matter of this contract, or (ii) supplies.

SECTION V - ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & REQUIREMENTS

- A. Non-Discrimination in Benefits to employees with Domestic Partners

King County's Equal Benefits (EB) Ordinance 14823 states that to be eligible for award of contracts at a cost of \$25,000.00 or more, firms must not discriminate in the provisions of employee benefits between employees with spouses, and employees with domestic partners. The successful Contractor, bidder or proposer shall be required to complete a Worksheet and Declaration form. Compliance with Ordinance 14823 is a mandatory condition for execution of a contract. The EB Compliance forms, and Ordinance 14823 are available online at: <http://www.metrokc.gov/finance/procurement/forms.asp>

- B. Disclosure – Conflict of Interest

King County Code Chapter 3.04 is incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein and the Consultant agrees to abide by all the conditions of said Chapter. Failure by the Consultant to comply with any requirements of this Chapter shall be a material breach of contract.

1. The Consultant covenants that no officer, employee, or agent of the County who exercises any functions or responsibilities in connection with the planning and implementation of the scope of services funded herein, or any other person who presently exercises any functions or responsibilities in connection with the planning and implementation of the scope of services funded herein shall have any personal financial interest, direct or indirect, in this Contract. The Consultant shall take appropriate steps to assure compliance with this provision.
2. If the Consultant violates the provisions of Section V (1) or does not disclose other interest required to be disclosed pursuant to King County Code Section 3.04.120, as amended, the County will not be liable for payment of services rendered pursuant to this Contract. Violation of this Section shall constitute a substantial breach of this Contract and grounds for termination pursuant to Section IV (B) above as well as any other right or remedy provided in this Contract or law.
3. The King County Board of Ethics maintains a website that provides information regarding King County ethics requirements. To review specific areas of the Code of Ethics that relate to contractors and vendors, follow this path: <http://www.metrokc.gov/ethics/>, and access 1) The Code of Ethics, "Employee Code of Ethics 3.04", and 2) Advice and Guidance "Doing Business with Contractors, Vendors, Clients and Customers". Under "Employee Code of Ethics 3.04", there are two areas of the code that speak specifically to contractors: 3.04.060 B1 (attempting to secure preferential treatment) and 3.04.120 (disclosure of interests by consultants requirement). There are other sections under conflict of interest, 3.04.030 that are directed to employees and govern their relationships with contractors.

C. Recycled/Recyclable Products

It is the policy of King County to use recycled materials to the maximum extent practicable (King County Code Chapter 10.16). Consultants able to supply products containing recycled materials that meet performance requirements are encouraged to offer them in bids and proposals and to use them wherever possible in fulfillment of contracts.

The Consultant shall use recycled paper for the production of all printed and photocopied documents related to the fulfillment of this Contract and shall ensure that, whenever possible, the cover page of each document printed on recycled paper bears an imprint identifying it as recycled paper. If the cost of recycled paper is more than fifteen percent higher than the cost of non-recycled paper, the Consultant may notify the Contract Administrator, who may waive the recycled paper requirement. The Consultant shall use both sides of paper sheets for copying and printing and shall use recycled/recyclable products wherever practical in the fulfillment of this Contract.

D. Proprietary Rights

The parties to this Contract hereby mutually agree that if any patentable or copyrightable material or article should result from the work described herein, all rights accruing from such material or article shall be the sole property of the County. The foregoing shall not apply to existing training materials, consulting aids, check lists and other materials and documents of the Consultant which are modified for use in the performance of this Contract.

E. Supported Employment Program

King County encourages the creation of supported employment programs for developmentally and/or severely disabled individuals. The County itself has such a program and is actively seeking to do business with those contractors and consultants that share this employment approach. If your firm has such a program, or intends to develop such a program during the life of this contract, please submit documentation supporting this claim with your bid/proposal/qualifications. If you have questions, or need additional information, please contact Ray Jensen, Community & Human Services, Developmental Disabilities Division, (206) 296-5268 or the County's Business Development and Contract Compliance Section at (206) 205-0700.

SECTION VI - MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS/AUDITS

- A. The Consultant shall maintain, and shall require any sub-consultant to maintain, accounts and records, including personnel, property, financial and programmatic records and other such records as may be deemed necessary by the County to ensure proper accounting for all project funds and compliance with this Contract. All such records shall sufficiently and properly reflect all direct and indirect costs of any nature expended and services provided in the performance of this Contract. The Consultant shall make such documents available to the County for inspection, copying, and auditing upon request.
- B. All records referenced in subsection (A) shall be maintained for a period of six (6) years after completion of work or termination hereof unless permission to destroy them is granted by the Office of the Archivist in accordance with RCW Chapter 40.14, or unless a longer retention period is required by law.
- C. The Consultant shall provide access to its facilities, including those of any sub-consultant, to the County, the state and/or federal agencies or officials at all reasonable times in order to monitor and evaluate the services provided under this Contract. The County will give advance notice to the Consultant in the case of fiscal audits to be conducted by the County.
- D. The Consultant agrees to cooperate with the County or its designee in the evaluation of services provided under this Contract and to make available all information reasonably required by any such evaluation process. The results and records of said evaluation shall be maintained and disclosed in accordance with RCW Chapter 42.17.
- E. If the Consultant received a total of \$500,000.00 or more in federal financial assistance during its fiscal year from the County, and is a non-profit organization or institution of higher learning or a hospital affiliated

with an institution of higher learning, and is, under this Contract, carrying out or administering a program or portion of a program, it shall have an independent audit conducted of its financial statement and condition, which shall comply with the requirements of GAAS (generally accepted auditing standards), GAO's Standards for Audits of Governmental Organizations, Programs, Activities, and Functions and OMB Circulars A-133 and A-128, as amended and as applicable. Consultants receiving federal funds from more than one County Department or Division shall be responsible for determining of the combined financial assistance is equal or greater than \$500,000.00. The Consultant shall provide one copy of the audit report to each County division providing federal financial assistance to the Consultant no later than six (6) months subsequent to the end of the Consultant's fiscal year.

SECTION VII – REQUIRED FORMS


The following completed forms will be required from the selected contractor, prior to contract award:

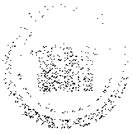
- A. King County Personnel Inventory Report
- B. Affidavit and Certificate of Compliance with King County Code 12.16
- C. Statement of Compliance - Union or Employee Referral Agency Statement (if applicable)
- D. King County Code 3.04.120 and Consultant Disclosure Form
- E. 504/ADA Disability Assurance of Compliance and Corrective Action Plan
- F. Equal Benefits Compliance Declaration Form

Copies of these forms are available by contacting the King County Procurement and Contract Services Division. They are available in paper form, or may be obtained via e-mail. Please contact Cathy Betts at 206-263-4267 or Roy L. Dodman at 206-263-4266, or by sending an e-mailed request to cathy.betts@metrokc.gov or roy.dodman@metrokc.gov.

SECTION VIII – BID SUBMITTAL CHECKLIST

- A. One (1) signed copy of entire RFQ package.
- B. One (1) signed copy of any Addendum that was issued. (If it has signature box at bottom of first page, it must be returned.)
- C. One (1) unbound copy of qualification submittal response marked "Original."
- D. Five (5) copies of qualification submittal response.
- E. Complete the Bid Identification Label below (or reasonable facsimile) and attach it to a prominent place on the exterior of the submission envelope, box, etc.

URGENT – SEALED BID ENCLOSED	
Do Not Delay – Deliver Immediately	
U R G E N T	 King County Procurement & Contract Services Section Exchange Building, 8 th Floor 821 2nd Ave, EXC-FI-0862 Seattle, WA 98104-1598
	King County
	Bid No. RFQ 150-05RLD
	Bid Title Turnaround Team for King County Elections
	Due Date
Vendor	
	U R G E N T



King County

August 22, 2005

Dear Executive Sims,

Today, we received an elections briefing in a special meeting of the Committee of the Whole. Dean Logan discussed improvements being made in preparation for upcoming elections. While we are pleased with the attention being given to improving our elections process, we continue to have some concerns that we would like to bring to your attention.

First, we ask that the turn-around team manage our next election. You "enthusiastically received" the Independent Task Force on Elections' advice. Now we ask that you implement their recommendation by giving the turn-around team full authority over the upcoming general election on November 8, 2005. To be truly effective, the turn-around team must be comprised of election experts who have the qualifications to run our elections processes.

Furthermore, we ask that the turn-around team report jointly to the Council Chair and you as the Executive; copies of all correspondence also should be given to all Councilmembers.


Second, we ask that you reconsider the decision about the four recruiters for the upcoming elections. We believe the recruiters should contain both Republican and Democrat members. As stated today, a change has been implemented where party affiliation is no longer considered. This is one position where party affiliation is important as both sides need their representatives included to give added assurances of open and transparent elections. A bi-partisan group would have more credibility with the electorate.

The Republican Party has provided names of individuals with the background and experience to fill these positions. If those names are not acceptable to you, then please work with Ross Marzolf, Executive Director of the King County Republican Party, at 206-399-1785 to get additional names.

Third, we were surprised that your Chief of Staff, Kurt Triplett, was absent from this briefing. It was our understanding that Mr. Triplett was scheduled to be available at this meeting. His presence this morning would have been informational and helpful.

We are pleased that many of the Election Division problems are being addressed. These positive steps, coupled with our requests and future efforts by all involved parties will ensure our elections are fair, honest, and transparent.

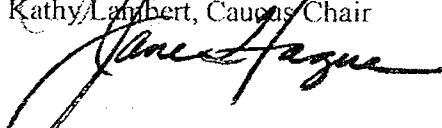
We look forward to working with you on these issues.



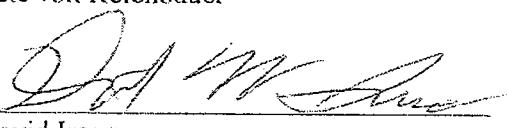
Kathy Lambert, Caucus Chair



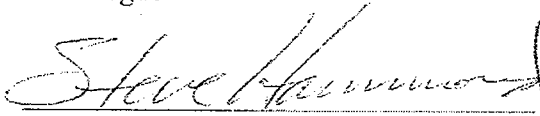
Pete von Reichbauer



Jane Hague



David Irons



Steve Hammond



Reagan Dunn

**Executive's Independent Task Force on Elections
Recommended Policy & Legislative Changes**

Recommendation	Methodology
Consider a long-term Change in elections governance and accountability.	Place elections administrator under direct supervision of a separately elected official.
Institute vote-by-mail and regional voting centers in 2006.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eliminate the "neighborhood" polling places and replace them with regional facilities. 2. Convert King County to all-mail ballots, those that need to vote in person use centers.
Reformation of recount process.	During recounts two elections observers may closely observe the work of elections officials.
Adjust the primary date.	Schedule the primaries for the first Tuesday of June to allow staff more time to prepare for the General Election in November.
Reduce the number of elections.	Reduce the number of elections from six to four to allow for "breathing room" between cycles.
Simplify the restoration of voting rights.	New legislation would automatically reinstate the voting rights of felons upon release.
Reformation of Recount legislation.	When a recount is necessary, there should be only one recount and that should be by hand.
Deadlines for receiving votes.	All votes, except out-of-state and military ballots, should be received by 8 p.m. on election day.

Additional Positions Approved for Elections Section

Position Title	Status
• Training Coordinator	recruitment in progress*
• Recruiter	recruitment in progress*
• Webmaster	recruitment in progress*
• IT Systems Specialist	recruitment in progress*
• IT Systems Manager	filled
• Administrative Specialist III	filled
• Administrative Specialist II (5 positions)	filled

Elections Support Positions (not in the Elections Section)

• Quality Assurance Coordinator	filled
• Quality Assurance Specialist	applicant declined offer
• Records Specialist	recruitment in progress*

* According to executive staff, these positions will be filled by the primary.