

**KING COUNTY**  
**APPLICATION FORM FOR CITIZENS ELECTION**  
**OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

(A resume may be submitted in addition to a completed application form)



**King County**

**PLEASE NOTE:** *Information provided on this form will be a public record subject to free and open examination by any person under the Washington State Public Records Act (RCW 42.56.250). However, while we will disclose the applicant's name, the applicant's address, phone number and email address will be redacted.*

Thank you for your interest in serving on the King County Citizens' Election Oversight Committee. Individuals selected to serve on a King County board or commission will also be required to complete a King County Ethics Program Financial Disclosure Form within two weeks of being nominated to serve on a King County board or commission. Individuals appointed to serve on a board or commission that is overseen by an agency independent of King County government are exempt from the financial disclosure filing requirement.

**Name:**

Ming Fai Tsao (Stanley)

**Preferred Contact Information:**

Address	101 West Olympic Place, Apt 815
City, State, Zip Code	Seattle, WA, 98119
Home Phone	See Cell Phone
Work Phone	See Cell Phone
Cell Phone	206-226-5567
Email Address	stanley@connectionsgroup.org

**Position you are applying for:**

King County Citizens' Election Oversight Committee – Representative from the Chinese-speaking community

**If you are applying for a position where you would be the representative of an organization (all positions except positions representing language minorities and registered voters), please provide a written statement by the entity designating you as their representative on the CEOC (this can also be provided as an attachment):**

**King County Council District (Please type an "X" in the box to the right of your district)**

1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  Don't Know

**Please explain why you feel you are the most qualified candidate for this position.**

To whom it may concern,

It is a pleasure to submit my qualifications in response to the King County Citizens' Election Oversight Committee – Representative from the Chinese-speaking community position.

While working as the Vice President at The Connections Group, I had the privilege to work on and completed many successful community outreach and engagement projects connecting residents, hard-to-reach and language populations with local services, programs, and benefits that their government and communities can offer them. It's my goal and strong belief that any successful government will need to connect communities to information they need to know, provide simple creative messages in various formats and languages, and deliver services on time and on budget.

In one of the most successful community education programs in Washington State, I had the opportunity to work with King County Elections on numerous projects between 2002 and 2016 and gained a lot of insights as to how standards, procedures, equipment and technologies (sometimes mandated by federal, state or county legislations) could impact the running of our local elections. From educating voters to "Be Informed" and on how to reduce errors with their mail-in ballots, I was able to participate in various research projects, devised community messages, and produced media in English and other languages which resulted in reducing the costs of elections to county government. Previously, three major voter errors constantly resulted in hours of more costly ballot processing – waiting until the last minute to send in one's ballot, failing to sign one's name on the outside envelope, and writing in comical names.

I believe one of the best strategies to be accountable to our diverse communities is not through a "one-size-fits-all model", but through a multifaceted approach. These best practices could include but not limited to the following principles:

- Understanding and respecting communities' needs, and protecting their rights and privacy.
- Presenting the information in plain language and in voters' native languages.
- Making sure hard-to-understand and technical terms/topics are explained simply, allowing for many comments and questions.
- Finding relevancy and examples for many hard-to-reach and underserved communities to access voting information and exercise their democratic rights.
- Personalizing the elections experience and interactions with individuals, small groups, and at locations voters feel safe to participate in election activities, express their opinions, and build relationships with their County government and their departments.

I would like to seek the King County Citizens' Election Oversight Committee – Representative from the Chinese-speaking community position where my Chinese language (read and write, Cantonese speaking) and election related experiences can help to provide better oversight, engage and connect with our diverse King County populations if needed.

**Have you served on the CEOC previously? If yes, please note the dates and the number of terms, and whether you have served in a leadership position:**

No, I have not served on CEOC previously and am applying for the first time.

**Please share how you meet the qualifications required to be a CEOC Member as listed here:**

- 1. A working knowledge of local or state government elections operations and management, demography, technology and organizational management.**
- 2. A strong commitment to an accountable, transparent, well-managed and efficient elections operation in King County.**
- 3. A willingness to commit the time necessary to attend committee meetings and activities such as observing elections.**
- 4. A nominee or appointee to the committee shall not hold elective public office or be a candidate for election to public office, other than as a precinct committee officer. (Do you hold an elective office?)**
- 5. Good oral communication skills as well as interpersonal skills and ability to work well in a group situation.**

1. I am currently working as a project manager at the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods and had worked on various consulting and community engagement projects (within the last five years) with these selected local and state government departments:

- King County Community and Human Services
- King County Elections
- King County Sheriff's Office
- Seattle City Light
- Seattle Department of Neighborhoods
- Seattle-King County Public Health
- Seattle Public Utilities
- Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission

2. I had the opportunity to work with King County Elections on numerous voter engagement projects for more than 10 years. Projects included conducting focus groups, assisting in message development, designing voter outreach programs, providing consulting services for getting reluctant voters to actually fill out a ballot and vote, creating media partnerships and executing county-wide media placement campaigns in different languages. Last year, Governor Jay Inslee signed a package of measures approved by the State Legislature aimed at increasing voter access across Washington State and here in King County. These new measures included:

1. Washington State Voting Rights Act
2. Automatic Voter Registration
3. 16 and 17 Years Old Pre-Registration
4. Same Day Voter Registration

Through 2019 and beyond, as these new measures will be introduced to King County voters, it will be my honor to be able to work with King County Elections and provide the oversight as the department works with various stakeholders and community members for implementation.

In addition, I am currently on the boards of APACEvotes ([apacevotes.org](http://apacevotes.org)) and Equal Rights Washington ([equalrightswashington.org](http://equalrightswashington.org)) which are community advocacy organizations and share the same goal(s) of having an accountable, transparent, well-managed and efficient King County Elections' operations.

3. I am willing to commit the time(s) to attend committee meetings and activities such as observing elections.

4. Currently, I am not holding any elective public office, not a candidate for election to public office, and not a precinct committee officer.

5. I have immigrated twice, first from Hong Kong to Canada and then from Canada to the US. I have lived in Seattle and King County since 2001. I have worked in both private and public capacities and have been on four different boards (World Affairs Council, SafeFutures Youth Center, APACEvotes and Equal Rights Washington). I am direct, committed and good at seeing problems before they become crises. I have worked with minority coalitions, various community groups, governments and the private sector. Finally, I can speak and work in English and Chinese.

**PERSONAL INFORMATION (OPTIONAL)**

The King County Council and the King County Executive are committed to inclusiveness and outreach to all King County residents to ensure that King County boards and commissions are reflective of the community we serve. Providing information in the section below is voluntary but will assist in achieving this goal.

**Race/Ethnicity**

Race/Ethnicity:	Chinese/Asian
Gender:	Male
Sexual Orientation:	Straight

**Do you have a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act? (Please type an "X" in the boxes that apply to you)**

Yes  No

**Generation Range:**

30 or younger  31-41  42-52  53-63  64-74  75 or older

**Person to Notify in Case of Emergency (OPTIONAL)**

Name	
Home Phone	
Work Phone	
Cell Phone	

**Agreement and Signature**

By submitting this application, I affirm that the facts set forth in it are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Name <i>(typed or signature)</i>	(Stanley) Ming Fai Tsao
Date	June 10, 2019

**Please return completed form to:**

*(You can either mail your completed form to us; scan your completed form then email it to us as a PDF attachment; or after filling out the form and typing your name on the signature line, save the completed form to your hard drive and then attach the completed form to an email.)*

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Please contact (206) 296-1000, TTY Relay: 711, or (206) 296-1024**