

From: [Wise, Julie](#)
To: [Balducci, Claudia](#); [Camenzind, Krista](#); [Cooper, Adam](#); [Dembowski, Rod](#); [Domingo, Cindy](#); [Dunn, Reagan](#); [Evans, Larry](#); [Fowler, Jonathan](#); [Gayton, Chandler](#); [Gill, Karan](#); [Goff, Tom](#); [Gossett, Larry](#); [Kohl-Welles, Jeanne](#); [Lahmann, Grant](#); [Lambert, Kathy](#); [Logsdon, Kristina](#); [McDermott, Joe](#); [Muhm, Jeff](#); [Pichette, Tyler](#); [Sanders, April](#); [Smith, Sara](#); [Upthegrove, Dave](#); [von Reichbauer, Pete](#); [Wilson, Susan](#)
Cc: [LeVan Hodson, Kendall](#); [Busch, Carolyn](#); [Hamacher, Patrick](#); [Porter, Samantha](#); [Case, Janice](#)
Subject: New State Election System
Date: Monday, June 10, 2019 3:38:00 PM
Attachments:

Dear Councilmembers,

I want to share some information with you regarding the new state voter registration and election management system. As you may remember, the Secretary of State's Office secured funding to implement a new, real-time solution in order to prepare for same day registration, which takes effect later this month. They have spent the past 11 months working with their vendor, BPro, and Washington's 39 counties to get the "VoteWA" system off-the-ground for the Primary Election.

Without a doubt this project has been the most challenging of my career. I have spent the past several months voicing serious concerns with the system, as have other counties – we haven't been able to fully test it and the basic functionality is simply not there. My staff have spent many hours supporting this project (as an aside, KCIT has also been invaluable) and trying to get it to a workable place – and they are unanimous in their belief that the risks of going live with this statewide VoteWA system (as it sits today) are too high, we cannot afford to lose voter's trust.

This past week, the VoteWA Executive Steering Committee voted on whether or not to Go Live with the new system. I was one of five counties that voted no, three counties voted to go live. However, the Secretary of State has decided to go ahead anyway. Over the past few days, my team has evaluated every alternative and workaround we could think of, and there is simply no choice but to go live with VoteWA with everyone else.

Let me be very clear. I am deeply concerned about this system. While I believe it will ultimately be a good solution, it simply isn't ready yet. There is a very real possibility that voters may not get their correct ballot or a ballot at all. There is a very real possibility that online registrations may disappear. And, as of right now, many of the critical quality control mechanisms we have used in past elections, simply aren't available. What is important to remember, however, is that this decision will not impact our tabulation system. We can continue to have the utmost confidence in ballot counting and results.

So, that's where we are. I'm very sad to have been put in this situation and to feel like we have no other choice but to move forward with an incomplete, not fully functional product. Here at King County Elections our guide is always what is best for our voters and it's extremely disheartening to be forced into a decision that runs counter to that.

Know that my department will be doing everything we can to make this work. Our team is already deep in contingency planning mode and I will continue to update you as we get closer to mailing Primary Election ballots. If you have questions or would like to talk in more detail about this concerning situation, I am always available.

Sincerely,

Julie Wise

Director

King County Elections

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