



King County

**Metropolitan King County Council
Employment and Administration Committee**

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Items:		Name:	Miranda Leskinen
Proposed No.:	2021-0197	Date:	May 25, 2021

SUBJECT

Proposed Motion 2021-0197 would, subject to appointment by the Employment and Administration Committee, confirm the appointment of Linda Grez, who resides in Council District Three, to the Citizens' Elections Oversight Committee (CEOC), as a jurisdictional representative from a junior taxing district or a city with a population of under twenty thousand, for a one-year term to expire on May 25, 2022.

BACKGROUND

The King County Council created three Citizens' Elections Oversight Committees to help the Council and the Executive address previous issues of performance and to rebuild public confidence in elections. The first was created in July 2003¹. They worked over the period of one year and produced a final report containing 116 recommendations. The second Citizens' Elections Oversight Committee was created in April 2005². They worked for one year and produced a report containing 60 recommendations. The current, non-expiring committee was created in May 2006.³

The ordinance establishing the current committee also set forth as its mission: "to help King County restore and maintain public confidence in elections." The ordinance further directs the CEOC to make recommendations to the Council to:

- "Improve performance of the King County elections division"; and
- "Help ensure that accountability and performance of the elections division is provided in a transparent manner that is meaningful to the residents of King County."

In September of 2018 the Council took action⁴ to update the membership of the CEOC. In addition to increasing the number of and changing the composition of CEOC members, the ordinance changed the mission of the committee to "help King County maintain public confidence in elections."⁵

¹ Ordinance 14711

² Ordinance 15157

³ Ordinance 15453

⁴ Ordinance 18795

⁵ Thereby eliminating the term "restore." The ordinance increased the membership from 14 to 16 members. The following representatives were eliminated in the new ordinance: the representative from an

Under King County Code chapter 2.53, sixteen members represent named types of organizations or sectors of the community, including two at-large King County registered voters, and one ex-officio, nonvoting member representing the Secretary of State's office. Table 1 lists the current membership of the CEOC and the organization or constituency they represent.

Table 1: 2021 CEOC Membership (as of March 2021)

Member	Organization/Constituency
Kyle Vixie Chair	Registered voters
Stanley Tsao	Chinese-speaking community
Nanette Sullivan Vice Chair, Election Monitoring	Municipal League Foundation
Allison Feher	League of Women Voters
Stuart Holmes (interim)	Office of Secretary of State
Hillary Coleman	Registered voters
Eliseo Juarez First Vice Chair, Voter Participation	Spanish-speaking community
Quynh Pham	Vietnamese-speaking community
Stefan Sharkansky	King County Republican Party
Julie Kang	Korean-speaking community
Jeffrey Manson	King County Democratic Party
<i>Vacant</i>	Jurisdictional representative from a junior taxing district or City with a population of under 20,000
Jayson Todd Morris Vice Chair, Best Practices	Disability community
<i>Vacant</i>	Academic institution with knowledge

independent research and policy institute, one representative from the Washington State Democratic Party and one representative from the Washington State Republican Party. The following representatives were added to the new ordinance: one representative from the disability community, one representative from the Spanish-speaking community, one representatives from the Korean-speaking community, one representative from an academic institution who has knowledge of elections, one representative who has experience in technology, and one representative from a nonpartisan organization in King County that promotes equality and advancement of blacks or African Americans, such as the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle. The representative from a junior taxing district was amended to be a jurisdictional representative from a junior taxing district or a city with a population of under twenty thousand. One ex officio member representing the Washington State Association of County Auditors was eliminated as well. In addition, of note for the purposes of this staff report, the Elections “division” was replaced with “department.”

	of elections
Seth Orr	Representative who has experience in technology
Maya Manus	Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle

APPOINTMENT APPLICANT INFORMATION

As noted in Ms. Grez’s application materials, she has extensive knowledge of local and state elections processes stemming from decades of community organizing experience and leadership roles, including experience as a former Commissioner from 2008-2019 for the Si View Metropolitan Park District. Included in Ms. Grez’s application materials is a letter of support for Ms. Grez’s appointment as the jurisdictional representative to the CEOC from the Executive Director of Si View Metro Parks (Si View Metropolitan Park District).

ANALYSIS

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

INVITED

- Linda Grez, Applicant for appointment to the CEOC
- Erin Arya, Staff Liaison to the CEOC

ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Motion 2021-0197