

**Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission Special Meeting
August 14, 2017**

A special meeting of the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission convened on August 14, 2017 in Room 4080 of the Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue. Chair Eileen Norton called the meeting to order at 4:02 P.M., Vice-Chair Brendan Donckers and Commissioners Bruce Carter and Hardeep Singh Rekhi were in attendance. Commissioner Charlene Angeles participated via telephone. Commissioner Vickie Rawlins was absent. Executive Director Wayne Barnett and staff members Anthony Adams, Polly Grow, Rene LeBeau, Marc Mayo, Jenna Smith and Annie Tran were present. Assistant Seattle City Attorney Jeff Slayton was also in attendance.

1) Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Action Items

2) Rule regarding releasing Democracy Voucher candidates from the spending and contribution limits

The Chair invited Position 8 candidates Sara Nelson and Jon Grant, and Katherine Bobman from Teresa Mosqueda's campaign, to address how the Commission should implement I-122's total spending cap when it has released a candidate from the primary election spending limit. Because Ms. Nelson had another engagement, the Chair invited her to address the Commission first.

Ms. Nelson told the Commission that limiting a candidate who had been released from the cap in the primary to \$300,000 overall, so that a candidate who spent \$200,000 in the primary would have only \$100,000 to spend in the general, struck her as punitive. She said limited a participating candidate to \$150,000 in the general election seemed the fairest alternative. She

said that lifting the caps for all time after they had been lifted for the primary would favor candidates who could raise or spend the most money early on.

The Vice-Chair asked whether it would change her analysis if one campaign asked for relief from the spending cap and the other didn't. Ms. Nelson said she thought that was an unlikely scenario, and that it didn't change her analysis.

Katherine Bobman spoke next for the Teresa Mosqueda campaign and she too advocated for the Commission to split the spending cap between the primary and general elections, permitting candidates to spend \$150,000 toward each election.

Mr. Grant spoke third, and said that he too believed candidates who had the lid lifted in the primary should have \$150,000 to spend in the general election.

Commissioner Carter asked Mr. Grant whether he was advocating that the Commission ignore the \$300,000 cap in I-122. Mr. Grant referred to his campaign's letter, which made the case that the \$300,000 cap had been lifted, and the Commission had the power to impose a \$150,000 cap for the general.

The Vice-Chair asked Mr. Grant the same question he'd asked Ms. Nelson. Mr. Grant also said that scenario would never exist.

Abbot Taylor, the treasurer for Lorena Gonzalez and Teresa Mosqueda's campaigns, asked whether Ms. Gonzalez would have \$150,000 or \$300,000 to spend in the general, depending on what the Commission decides today.

The Chair asked for an executive session to get legal advice at 4:28.

At 5:08, the Commission returned from executive session. The Chair said that the Commission took no votes and made no decisions in the session.

Commissioner Rekhi moved to have the Director draft a rule that would suspend the spending limit between the time that the lift is granted and the time the spending limits are reinstated, so anything that happens during that period of time won't count against the spending limit. The goal is to place the person back in the same position they were at when the lift was granted with respect to the spending limit. The Chair seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3) I-122 status report

Rene LeBeau reported that the office had received approximately 30,000 Democracy Vouchers from approximately 9,000 participants.

She said that a new temporary staffmember would be joining the voucher program the following week.

She added that the Commission was going to cosponsor a candidate debate.

4) Executive Director's report

The Director informed the Commission that the investigator position remained unfilled.

In response to a question from Commissioner Carter, the Director said that the staff lacked the resources to maintain a calendar listing candidate forums, or to create a platform for those hosting forums to populate a calendar on the Commission's web site.

The August 14, 2017 Special meeting of the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission adjourned at 5:18 P.M.