

**Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission Regular Meeting
April 5, 2017**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission convened on April 5, 2017 in Room 4080 of the Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue. Commission Chair Eileen Norton called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. Vice-Chair Brendan Donckers, Commissioners Bruce Carter and Charlene Angeles were all present. Commissioner Hardeep Singh Rekhi participated via telephone, and Commissioner Vickie Rawlins was absent. Executive Director Wayne Barnett and staff members Anthony Adams, Polly Grow, Marc Mayo, Jenna Smith and Annie Tran were present. Assistant City Attorney Jeff Slayton was also in attendance.

1) Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Action Items

2) March 1, 2017 Regular Meeting minutes

Commissioner Carter moved to approve the minutes from the March 1, 2017 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Angeles seconded the motion. The March 1, 2017 Regular Meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

3) I-122 Contribution Limits interpretation

The Director explained to the Commission that it was possible to read I-122 in a way that would permit a participating candidate released from the contribution limit due to a high-spending opponent to collect \$500 from an individual contributor and \$100 in democracy vouchers, for a grand total of \$600. Non-participating candidates are bound by a \$500 contribution limit.

The Director said that such a reading creates serious constitutional question in light of *Davis v. FEC*, a case in which the Supreme Court struck down a section of McCain-Feingold that triggered different contribution limits for candidates for the same office. To avoid such constitutional infirmities, the Director urged the Commission to find that the overall \$500 contribution limit applied to both non-participating candidates and participating candidates released from the spending limit.

After some discussion, Vice-Chair Donckers moved to endorse the staff's policy interpretation that no candidate can collect more than \$500 in contributions from any individual contributor. Commissioner Angeles seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Carter asked whether staff was keeping a list of potential amendments to the initiative, and the Director confirmed that staff was tracking these issues.

Discussion Items

4) Case No. 16-2-1228-1

5) Late-filing penalty for Vote Sawant Committee (\$150)

The Executive Director informed the Commission that these are related holdover items that have not been appealed, and the fine has been paid.

These items grew out of a complaint filed with the Public Disclosure Commission alleging that the Vote Sawant Committee failed to abide by several rules during her 2015 campaign. The Executive Director said that most of these violations were either not worthy of fines or had been resolved with the \$1,500 in penalties levied against the committee in the 2015 election cycle. However, the complaint did highlight one issue that had not been dealt with in 2015, and so he assessed a \$150 late-filing penalty.

6) I-122 status report

Rene LeBeau was absent, and the Director indicated that there was not much news to report. He did share, however, that two disbursements had been made since the last Regular Commission meeting, and that thus far the Commission had redeemed 6,099 vouchers, and disbursed \$152,475.

The Chair was curious as to how the outreach process for I-122 was proceeding. The Director informed the Commission that outreach was going well, and that the staff had just entered into a contract with the Department of Neighborhoods to assist with the outreach process.

7) Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director updated the Commission on the status of the Statement of Financial Interests collection process. A total of 1,763 forms were due to be collected, 951 were still outstanding. Mr. Barnett also informed the Commission that the posting to replace Strategic Advisor/Investigator Kate Flack, who will be retiring in June 2017, has been posted to the City's website. Lastly, Mr. Barnett mentioned that the search for a new Commission member to replace Commissioner McKay remains open.

The Regular Commission meeting for April 5, 2017 adjourned at 4:31 p.m.