

Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission Special Meeting

January 11, 2018

A special meeting of the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission convened on January 11, 2018 in Room 4096 of the Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue. Commission Chair Brendan Donckers called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. Commissioners Bruce Carter, Eileen Norton and Hardeep Rekhi were in attendance. Commissioner Charlene Angeles joined via telephone. Vice Chair Vickie Rawlins was absent. Executive Director Wayne Barnett and staff members Polly Grow and Rene LeBeau were present. Assistant City Attorneys Jeff Slayton and Gary Smith were also in attendance.

1) Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Action Item

2) Executive Director's compensation

The Chair took the Commission into executive session at 3:07 p.m. to review the Director's performance.

When the Commission returned from executive session at 4:20, Commissioner Norton moved that Mr. Barnett be awarded a four percent increase in salary, on top of the Annual Wage Increase. Commissioner Carter seconded the motion. The increase to the Director's compensation was approved unanimously.

Discussion Items

3) I-122 legislative changes

The Director said that his goal was to have a package of legislative changes delivered to the City Council by early April 2018. He also said that the office was retaining an independent

firm to evaluate the program, looking at both candidates who did and did not use the program, as well as members of the public who did and did not use the program.

The Executive Director introduced a memo that included nine potential changes to I-122. Some of the potential changes included: mailing out Democracy Vouchers later in the calendar year, excluding inactive registered voters from the list of people to be mailed vouchers, changing the process for releasing candidates from the spending limit, and updating the thresholds for Statements of Financial Interest filings.

Commissioners discussed at length the mechanism for adjusting the contribution and spending limits to account for inflation. They asked the Director to consult with those who drafted the initiative before proceeding. Commissioners also expressed eagerness to amend the language around lifting the spending caps.

4) I-122 status report

Rene LeBeau told the Commissioners that work had begun on the report summarizing the program's first year. Ms. LeBeau told the Commission that the I-122 advisory group was meeting soon to provide input on the program evaluation.

5) Executive Director's report

The Director told the Commission that the Mayor's office had identified filling the opening on the Commission as a high priority, and said he hoped to have word soon on a new commissioner to fill the vacancy on the Commission.

The Chair asked whether his fellow commissioners would be willing to move the February meeting from its scheduled time because he would be out of town on February 7. Commissioners agreed to hold the February meeting on the 9th.

The special meeting for January 11, 2018 adjourned at 4:37 p.m.