

Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission Special Meeting

January 8, 2025

The January 8, 2025, Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission (SEEC) Special Meeting convened in Seattle Municipal Tower Room 4080 and remotely. Chair Zach Pekelis, Vice-Chair Susan Taylor, and Commissioners Kristin Hawes and Jonathan Schirmer participated via Webex. Commissioners Bobby Forch, Rich Shordt, and Chalia Stallings-Ala'ilima were absent. Executive Director Wayne Barnett and staff members Fedden Amar, Cliff Duggan, Randal Fu, René LeBeau, and Jennifer Martinez were present. Staff Chrissy Courtney and Polly Grow participated via Webex as well as Assistant City Attorney Gary Smith.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Final Action Items

1. Adoption of December 4, 2024, Commission Regular Meeting minutes

The Chair asked if there were any corrections to the December 4, 2024, Commission Regular Meeting minutes. Hearing none, the motion to adopt the minutes as written was made by Commissioner Hawes and duly seconded. The motion passed unanimously with four ayes.

2. Election of 2025 Vice-Chair

Commissioner Hawes made the motion to nominate Commissioner Schirmer to serve as the 2025 Commission Vice-Chair. The motion was duly seconded. The motion passed unanimously with four ayes.

Discussion Items

1. Review of Commissioner Applicants

The Commissioners reviewed several applications for the Commission-appointed Commissioner position and selected three candidates to interview. The Executive Director will

contact and invite Jayson Morris, Vivian Vassall, and Sean Waite to the February Commission Regular Meeting.

2. **DVP Report**

Ms. LeBeau introduced a new temporary staff member. Jennifer Martinez will be joining the staff as a public relations specialist assisting Fedden Amar with outreach communications.

Ms. LeBeau reported out on the 2025 Election Cycle preparation work.

3. **Executive Director's report**

The Executive Director has reached out to the Mayor's Office and the Council President's Office regarding replacements for Commissioners Chalia Stallings-Ala'ilima and Richard Shordt respectively.

The Executive Director requested authorization from the Commission to advise the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) that the City of Seattle will again have an upcoming Democracy Voucher Program ballot measure. The letter will request the PDC take the lead on any complaints or concerns that are received regarding the ballot measure. As the Commission has already taken a position, the Executive Director believes it is best practice for the Commission to avoid any appearance of a conflict of interest.

The Chair stated that the Director had the Commission's consensus to notify the PDC.

Since there was no further business, the January 8, 2025, SEEC Commission Special Meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.