

Resolution to Propose New Legislation for Election of Precinct Committee Officers (PCOs)

The new, Top-Two Primary and associated RCW caused excessive resources to be expended by the King County Elections Operations Staff. Nearly three-fourths of the time that Operations staff expended was on counting PCO ballots. The Top-Two Primary law did not include a threshold for election as in past years. Therefore, one write-in vote resulted in many new PCO elections.

Whereas, as reported by the Elections Operations Supervisor and Elections Director, all 363,197 ballots were reviewed for write-in PCO names – declared and undeclared, resulting in 3 precinct recounts for declared write-ins and 125 precinct tiebreakers for undeclared write-ins (accomplished by lot draw);

Whereas, 60 King County Election Operation staff members spent nearly three weeks reviewing and counting ballots; an additional recount and canvass board were also conducted after certification of the Primary Election.

Whereas, 363,197 ballots were only 34.86% of the total number of registered voters in King County – an increased voter turnout would have consumed more resources;

Therefore, be it resolved, that new legislation be enacted for electing PCOs in time for the 2010 Primary Election that uses a similar procedure as that used for judicial positions:

- If a PCO candidate files and draws no opposition, declare that candidate duly elected
- If a PCO candidate files and draws opposition, place their names on the ballot with declared write-in capability only. In a contested election, a simple majority is required for election.

Therefore, be it further resolved, that if this resolution is passed that it be signed and sent to the King County Council Members, King County Executive, King County Elections Director, and every State Senator and Legislator in King County for consideration.

Passed unanimously at the King County Central Committee Meeting on September 23, 2008

Seattle Labor Temple, 2800 First Avenue, Seattle, Washington

Signed by Susan C. Sheary, Chair 9/23/2008