

Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) Blue Ribbon Review Panel

Meeting Minutes April 11, 2007

The first Meeting of the Blue Ribbon Review Panel to discuss the Implementation of Ranked Choice Voting in Pierce County was held on April 11, 2007, 6 pm at the Election Center, located at 3009 South 36th Street in Tacoma.

Pat McCarthy, Pierce County Auditor, began the meeting at 6:10 pm with a welcome and introduction. Each panel member and election staff member introduced themselves.

Present were:

Panel Members

Jeff Even	Office of the Attorney General
Katie Blinn	Office of the Secretary of State
Nathe Lawver	Pierce County Democratic Party
Deryl McCarty	Pierce County Republican Party
Ruth Bennett	Libertarian Party of Washington State
Kevin Phelps	Chamber of Commerce
Dennis Jones	Pierce county Veterans Advisory Council
Nancy Pearson	League of Women Voters of Washington
Dan Eberle	Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment

Election Staff

Pat McCarthy	Pierce County Auditor
Keri Rooney	Chief Deputy Auditor
Lori Augino	Elections Manager
Michael Rooney	Elections Supervisor
Rebecca Brauhn	RCV Support Staff

Also present were 12 persons representing the general public.

The Mission Statement was presented and the Ground Rules for the meetings were covered along with confirming the schedule of the remaining meeting dates and topics to be discussed:

April 25, 2007 6pm	Candidate Filing for Office
May 9, 2007 6pm	Hardware/Software
May 23, 2007 6pm	Vote by Mail/Polling Place Considerations
May 30, 2007 6pm	Education and Outreach

Pat continued with an overview of Pierce County Elections 101 as we operate to-date with facts, figures, equipment, dates and standards.

An overview of Ranked Choice Voting 101 was presented with the notation that Pierce County will be the first county in the state to implement RCV.

Jeff Even raised a question about future council regulations. Pat responded that there were none at this time but that we would be seeking the input of the Blue Ribbon Review Panel on that issue.

Dennis Jones had a question about the counting/tabulating process. Pat responded that we need to work with a software consultant to resolve this issue.

Pat pointed out that we are on a “fast track time line” and indicated that we are working with our present software vendor. She also noted that our vendor, Sequoia Voting Systems will be available at a future meeting to address the panel and answer questions.

Katie Blinn noted that a new choice of software, aside from what we already have, could take up to four years to test and certify.

Lori Augino mentioned that in the future we may need to purchase more hardware from our existing vendor to accommodate the additional ballots that RCV will require .

The second half of the meeting was presented by Lori Augino.
RCV-Candidates Filing for Office Scenarios.

This will be the subject for discussion at our next meeting April 25, 2007 6 pm.

Three scenarios were considered and Lori requested that each member study them and come to the next meeting prepared to discuss the pros and cons.

Katie Blinn shared that there is a great deal of case law surrounding the issue of primary elections, political parties choosing nominees, and related filing conflicts.

Lori then covered minor and independent party filing guidelines from the Filing for Elected Office in Washington State document.

Prior to the next meeting, panel members were asked to:

- Review the three scenarios
- Read Amendment No.3
- Read Filing for Office document
- Prepare feedback

Pat concluded the meeting with a thank you to all panel members, and explained that at the end of each meeting we will introduce the topic for the next meeting. This will be the panel’s homework for review and consideration.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30.