

**Election Commission
City of Aurora, Colorado
January 18th, 2023
6:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting**

Call to Order: Molly Barrett called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Roll Call: City Clerk Kadee Rodriguez called roll.

Members Present: Scott Irvin, Molly Barrett, Lori Gimelshteyn, Mike Seufert

Staff Present: Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk

Election Commission Candidates Present: Faisal Mohammad, Bill McCartin

Approval of Agenda: Lori Gimelshteyn motions to approve the agenda, Molly Barrett seconds. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes: Molly Barrett motioned to table approval of the 9-21-2022 minutes to the next meeting, Lori Gimelshteyn seconds. Motion passed.

Interviews for Appoint to Election Commission Vacancy:

Mohammad Faisal: Mohammad described how he previously worked with the Centennial Election Commission and recently moved to Aurora. He is fascinated with local government infrastructure and the election process. He described how he studied Ward 2 during the redistricting process. Ward 2 was his focus, as he was to disseminate information to the community. Mohammad questioned what Aurora's policy is. Scott explained. Mohammad stated that he is a member of the Citizen's Advisory Commission on Housing and Community Development and wants to get more citizens involved with elections. He stated he knows what ranked choice voting is, described that it makes the election more competitive, and that he likes it.

Bill McCartin: Bill explained that over the last four years the Commission has accomplished a lot, including redistricting. There are some issues in the next four years that he would be very interested in wants to continue his work on the Commission. He described that after four years you need a break, and a month was long enough for him. Regarding the Ward scenario question, Bill explained that his concern, after looking at the original numbers, was the same concern he had when the Election Commission was tasked with reviewing campaign finances. It was the Commission's job, but they were not allowed to do it. Another issue was looking at the growth potential which was underestimated in the previous scenarios. Bill stated that he is part of the Arapahoe Citizens Redistricting Advisory Commission.

Regarding ranked choice voting, Bill explained that he is opposed to it, saying it is a perversion of the thing that has made America great for over 200 years. 1 person 1 vote. He explained that it is basically saying that your first choice wasn't good enough, what's your second choice; and that it is a terrible disservice to voters. He stated there are so many pitfalls and is very manipulative. He explained that access to voting starts with informing citizens about elections. There are a lot of drop boxes, most are very accessible, and that there are many VSPC locations in Aurora.

Sometimes some areas, particularly Murphy Creek, are not accessible. He stated that in this last election there were more drop boxes in that area. Bill stated that he originally did not support mail ballots, but when looking at different mail-in ballot states, Colorado is far and above the rest in voter integrity and security. He said it saves a lot of money than having to man so many precinct voting locations. Bill asked what the plan was for the appointment and when the Commission expected to submit a name to Council for final decision. Scott explained that the Commission will take time to discuss. They will be as quick as possible but also make sure they are being very thorough. Kadee explained that the next Study Session is 2-06-2023 and the Council meeting will be 2-13-2023.

Election Commission Deliberation on Appointment to Vacancy: Lori stated that at this time she is ready to make a vote between the two candidates. Scott explained that he really liked the first gentleman but does not think that Mohammad was ready for the Commission. Scott explained that he likes Bill because he has been consistent and very helpful. The Commission agreed they have made their decision. Scott nominated Bill as the Election Commission's nomination for reappointment, Molly seconds. Motion passed.

General Business:

2023 Ward Redistricting: Kadee explained that Council unanimously approved scenario 5, and that all Counties have been updated on changes. She discussed how the planning team is currently correcting all maps online.

Ward Realignment Recommendation Deadline: Kadee explained that CM Marcano proposed a new ordinance that passed which would give clarification on when redistricting needs to be done. She reviewed exact ordinance verbiage with the commission.

Miscellaneous Items:

2023 Election Commission Meetings and Goals: The Commission agreed to change the next meeting to February 22nd at 6 p.m. Scott explained that he wants the Commission to set goals and put together a timeline for when things need to be established. Kadee offered to put together a timeline of important deadlines for the 2023 elections. She confirmed that the IGA will be presented to the Election Commission for the 2023 elections.

GERP Update: Molly explained that she did the election certification process for the General Employees Retirement Planning (GERP) Board election. She signed off on the winning candidate and explained the process to the Commission.

Adjournment: Motion by Scott Irvin to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Molly Barrett. The meeting is adjourned at 7:14 p.m.



Scott Irvin, Chair