

**Election Commission  
City of Aurora, Colorado  
April 5th, 2023  
6:00 p.m.  
Virtual Meeting**

**Call to Order:** Mike Seufert called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m.

**Roll Call:** City Clerk Kadee Rodriguez called roll.

*Members Present:* Scott Irvin, Bill McCartin, Molly Barrett, Lori Gimelshteyn and Mike Seufert

*Staff Present:* Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk; Dave Lathers, Assistant Senior Attorney; Council Member Marcano

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Scott Irvin motioned to approve the 03-15-2023 minutes, Bill McCartin seconds. Motion passed.

**General Business:**

**Discussion on Official Statement from Election Commission:** Council Member (CM) Marcano discusses two of the amendments brought forward through the Charter Review Committee including the timing of elections and making elections transparently partisan. CM Marcano explained that the three main reasons for these amendments are to provide more information to the electorate, increase transparency and to increase voter turnout. With moving elections to even years has dramatically increased voter turnouts. Kadee explains the cost implications of moving elections to even numbered years. Bill McCartin explains that making ballots too long may lead to ballot fatigue. CM Marcano explained that in his research and in observing Castle Rock and Parker that ballot fatigue was not a problem. Bill McCartin expresses further concern with voter fatigue and when it comes to judges. Molly Barrett questions how partisan voting would decrease negativity. CM Marcano explained that negative mailers are much more effective when there's no party affiliation. Molly then asks if there were political parties would there be primary elections. CM Marcano explained that he would not want primary elections. Molly explained that school board elections and other smaller elections are not automatically put into the even year, and would that still be the case? CM Marcano answered that the City of Aurora can't control when school board elections are, but that the state legislature is also discussing moving school board elections to even years. CM Marcano and Kadee then explained what the timing process would look like if approved. Lori Gimelshteyn asks for clarification on the expenses of moving the election to even years. Kadee sent out and explained the exact expenses to the commission. Lori agrees that decision fatigue is a real problem that needs to be considered, and that moving to even years would be more difficult for voters to get to know candidates. Lori recommends that rather than moving the election year that a study should be done on why voter turnout is lower in municipality races and solve the problem through education to the voters. CM Marcano explains that voting fatigue is a problem as well and that more elections can lead to this. Bill expresses two other

concerns including the noise of campaigning and that it could be a misconception to declare that just because someone declares their party that you know where they stand.

**Miscellaneous Items:** The Election Commission decided to hold a special meeting on April 12<sup>th</sup> an 6:00 pm. The Commission agreed on assembling an onboarding process and information for future members for the Election Commission, which will be discussed at future meetings.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Scott Irvin to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Bill McCartin. The meeting is adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Irvin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Scott Irvin, Chair