

## **Election Commission**

Hybrid Meeting  
October 18, 2023  
6:00 p.m.

**Call to Order:** Bill McCartin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Cecilia Zapata called roll.

*Members Present:* Bill McCartin, Molly Barrett, Lori Gimelshteyn

*Members Absent:* Scott Irvin, Mike Seufert

*Staff Present:* Cecilia Zapata, Deputy City Clerk; Minsoo Song, Community Outreach Coordinator

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Molly Barrett motioned to approve the 9-20-2023 minutes, Lori Gimelshteyn seconds. Motion passed.

### **General Business:**

**Voter Engagement Discussion:** Bill explained that the Commission has identified Aurora to have only a 30% participation rate in municipal elections. The Commission would like to work with city departments and other boards to come up with ways to increase voter engagement.

Minsoo introduced herself to the Commission and explained her role within the city and as the liaison for the Immigrant and Refugee Commission. She described how her office manages city wide language access plans and identified that they could expand their collaboration with local ethnic media sources as well.

Bill asked Minsoo how the immigrant community views elections and whether it is of high priority to them. Minsoo answered that historically the local immigrant and refugee community has not participated in local elections due to the language barrier and finding time to vote because most have multiple jobs.

Lori offered the idea that translators should be at ward meetings so individuals can engage and ask questions. Molly stated that ballot language is complicated in English and understood that it would be very hard for the immigrant or refugee population to understand. Molly expressed concern that it may be intimidating for residents to come to the city for that service. Minsoo explained there are natural helpers that identify existing community leaders but expressed concern that leaders may not remain neutral.

Bill asked where the largest concentration of immigrant communities is. Minsoo answered that there are high concentrations everywhere, but the different concentrations are composed of various ethnic groups. The Commission thanks Minsoo for attending and for her help in increasing voter engagement particularly in the immigrant & refugee community.

Cecilia shared a list of the city's efforts related to elections and voter engagement. She asked the Commission to put a list together of suggestions to be taken into consideration by the city. The Commission briefly reviewed the election webpages on the city's website. They requested to be notified and invited to the ballot integrity and accuracy tests hosted by the counties.

**Miscellaneous Items:**

**Campaign Finance:** Bill asked if people are still having problems reporting their finances. Cecilia explained that there were a lot of questions at the beginning because the system was so new, but problems are handled promptly. The Commission asked to see the system, and Cecilia went through the campaign finance system with the commission.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Bill to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Molly. The meeting is adjourned at 7:10 p.m.



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Mike Seufert, Vice Chair