



**City of Mount Rainier
Board of Elections Meeting
City Hall
One Municipal Place
7:15pm
5 May 2015**

Minutes

Attendees:

Maxine Drakeford; Abby Greenwell; Karl Jones; Ophelia Baxter; Matt Weber; and Dina Williams

Approval of May 1 Minutes

- Abby made a motion to approve minutes.
- Dina seconded the motion.

Presentation to City Council-Unofficial Results:

- MRBOE read unofficial results to City Council.
- Official results will be available and presented on May 11 during the swearing in ceremony.
- Election results will not change much from unofficial result totals.
- Preliminary counts indicate largest turnout in years (perhaps ever) with more than 500 votes cast.

Election Day Debrief

- **Voter Feedback**
 - ✓ Voters logged complaints about the railing on the wheelchair ramp—there is no railing on both sides of the first section of the ramp.
 - ✓ About 10 voters complained about the polls being upstairs.
 - ✓ Several voters said they liked the Eastern Star Hall used as a voting location in the past.
 - ✓ Some voters preferred the upstairs location, remarking it was more bright and roomy compared to the Eastern Star Hall.
- **Candidate Feedback**
 - ✓ Candidates complained about where they were instructed to set up election tables. Per election rules, candidates must be at least 100 feet from the door. Although this rule is county and state-wide, candidates found the 100-foot rule to be confusing.
 - ✓ Candidates noted they liked having coffee, bagels, donuts, and water available.
- **General Observation**
 - ✓ Voting was generally busy throughout the day.
 - ✓ Overall, there was a good turnout, especially compared to previous elections.

Election Season Debrief

- It was agreed that MRBOE would produce a report to present to City Council.
- City Council, City Lawyer, and MRBOE must revisit Charter and Election Procedures point-by-point to identify discrepancies and ways to clarify and improve
- There is a steep learning curve for the Board of Elections. It would be helpful to convene as much in advance as possible, and meet after the election ends.

- It was unclear from the beginning who MRBOE is accountable to, who from the City serves as the liaison, and who answers inquiries, such as attorney, city staff, mayor, or Council,
- Next election season it must be made clear to the Council, Mayor, City Staff, and Candidates that the MRBOE is an autonomous body that is free from political pressure.
- Election season must be more inclusive--encouraging candidate entry, and free from Council involvement in helping their favorite candidate. Yes, endorsements are normal in the election process, but city resources must not be used in supporting one candidate over another.
- City sponsored forums must be clarified as to write-ins
- Write-in process must be reviewed and amended.

Action Items

- KC will collect any remaining absentee ballots and close out PO Box.

Next Meeting

- Next meeting is scheduled for Sunday May 10 (Mother's Day) at 7:00pm to complete the final election count.

Adjournment

- The meeting ended at 8:45pm.